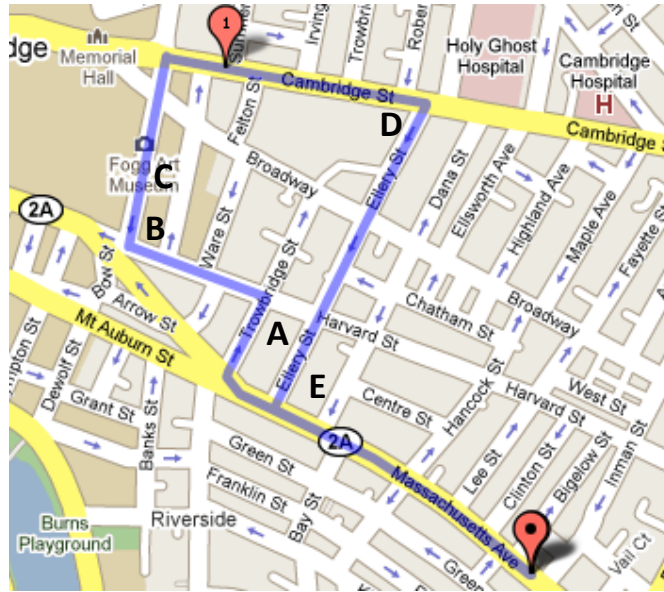
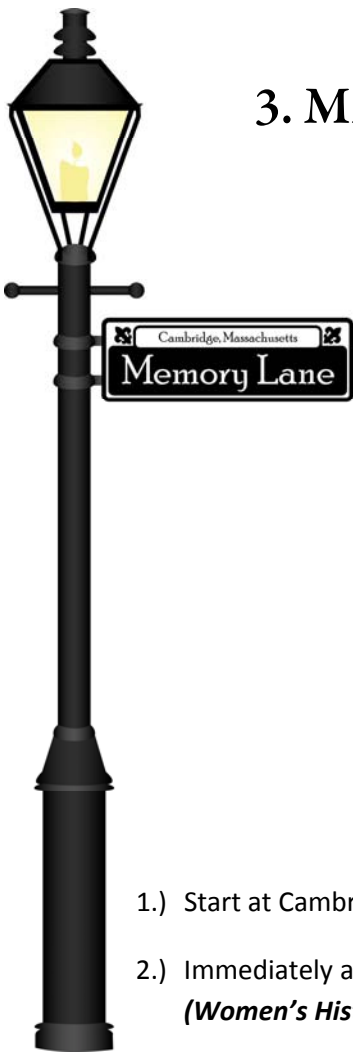


3. Mid-Cambridge Women's History Walk – 2 Miles



- 1.) Start at Cambridge City Hall, walking west on Mass Ave. towards Harvard Square (.4 miles)
- 2.) Immediately after Crate and Barrel Furniture, turn right onto Trowbridge St. (.1 miles)
(Women's Historical Site A; Harriet Jacob, Exact address on Trowbridge St. unknown.)
- 3.) After 1 block, turn left onto Harvard St. (.2 miles)
- 4.) Turn right onto Quincy St. There will be a small park with benches on your right. (.2 miles)
(Women's Historical Site B; Cantabrigia Club, 20 Quincy St., now the Harvard Faculty Club.)
(Women's Historical Site C, Elizabeth Cabot (Cary) Agassiz, 36 Quincy St., now part of Harvard Art Museum.)
- 5.) Turn right onto Cambridge St. You will be walking behind Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School and the War Memorial Recreation Center on your right (.3 miles)
- 6.) Across from Youville Hospital, turn right onto Ellery St. (.4 miles)
(Women's Historical Site D; Cambridge Public Library, Filament/Firmament art installation opening Fall '09)
(Women's Historical Site E; Charlotte Fiske Bates, 10 Ellery St.)
- 7.) Turn left onto Mass Ave. and continue until you return to City Hall (.4 miles)

Memory Lane Walks created by the



CAMBRIDGE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

In Collaboration with:



Community Development
Department



Office of the Mayor

Please use crosswalks and use caution in construction areas.*

*May affect length of walk.

More information, including references, along with many other women's histories, can be found on the **Cambridge Women's Heritage Project Website** (<http://www.cambridgema.gov/cwhp/>)

A. Harriet A. Jacobs (b. ca 1813 in Edenton , North Carolina; d. March 7, 1897 in Washington D.C.)

Abolitionist, escaped slave

Born into slavery in North Carolina, Harriet and her brother John were orphaned at a young age and became the slaves of the Norcom family. In order to avoid the sexual attentions of her new owner, she formed a liason with a white man and bore him two children but became fearful of their future when he failed to free her children. She escaped from his house in 1835 and spent the next seven years hiding in an attic above the storeroom in the house of her grandmother (a freed slave) and coming out only to see her children who lived in the house. During this period of hiding, she read, wrote and sewed.

In 1849, she moved to Rochester, and then to New York City to which her brother had also escaped. There she worked for Cynthia Willis who bought her freedom for three hundred dollars after Jacobs was frightened by hearing of the arrival of her former owner in that city. A Quaker abolitionist, Amy Post, urged her to write the full story of her life. Returning to Boston, she began to write her biography, entitled *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself*. After the civil war, she lived in Cambridge for five years, renting a house on Trowbridge street that she ran as a boarding house for two years for Harvard students from 1870 to 1872. She then spent three additional years in a house on the corner of Story and Mount Auburn streets before moving to Washington D.C., where she spent the rest of her life.

B. Cantabrigia Club (founded Oct. 28, 1892, flourished late 19th century)

Educational and philanthropic woman's club

The Cantabrigia Club was founded in 1892 as an outgrowth of classes for women that discussed current events under the leadership of the club's first president, Estelle M. H. Merrill, a newspaper woman who published a column under the name "Jean Kincaid." After discussing the evils of sweatshops, the women decided to form a club with the aim of "encouraging mental and moral development." The first meeting was held on October 28, 1892 at 20 Quincy Street in Cambridge and the club's headquarters were later constructed at 100 Mount Auburn Street. According to Jane Croly, the historian of women's clubs, Merrill organized the club to present regular lectures on topics that ranged from current events to art and science. By 1896, the Cantabrigia Club became involved in education, instituting a Radcliffe Scholarship Fund to benefit a Cambridge student. The club extended to philanthropy and for a time maintained a settlement house in the city and contributed a "Cantabrigia free bed" to the Cambridge Hospital.

C. Elizabeth Cabot (Cary) Agassiz (b. December 5 1822 in Boston, d. June 27, 1907 in Arlington Heights)

First President of Radcliffe College, educator, science writer

Through her sister, who had married a professor of Greek at Harvard, she met the Swiss naturalist, Louis Agassiz, who had begun a brilliant career teaching at Harvard and who founded the Museum of Comparative Zoology . The two married in 1850 and she took on the role of stepmother to his three children by his first marriage. Five years later, she opened a girls' school in their home at 36 Quincy Street Cambridge where Louis Agassiz and a number of other Harvard professors lectured. The school provided a small income and addressed the need for the education of young women until 1863 when the school closed. Elizabeth Agassiz took notes on her husband's lectures and published introductory texts on natural history with her stepson, the oceanographer and antural historian, Alexander Agassiz. In 1865, she co-authored a record of her husband's expedition to Brazil, *A Journey in Brazil*.

After Louis Agassiz's death in 1873, Elizabeth joined six other women in an attempt to persuade Harvard to open its doors to women. The result was the Harvard Annex, founded in 1879, which later became Radcliffe College. She threw her influence to those who believed that women students should be offered the same courses as the men and be taught by the same professors. At the age of 72, she accepted the first presidency of Radcliffe and remained at its head until 1902.

D. Cambridge Public Library, Filament/Firmament (opening Autumn 2009)

Working with the Cambridge Arts Council, the Cambridge Women's Commission presents *Filament/Firmament*, an award-winning, two-story public art installation for the Cambridge Public Library by local artist Ellen Driscoll, which visually honors women's contributions to the life of the city.

E. Charlotte Fiske Bates (b. November 20 1838 in New York City. d. 1916)

Author, Poet, Translator, Teacher

Charlotte Fiske Bates was born in New York City. From the time she was nine, she lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was educated in the public schools of Cambridge and began to write poetry when quite young. For the first twenty-five years of her life she taught in private schools. She offered private instruction from her own home at 10 Ellery Street in the 1860s. Bates corresponded with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from 1866 to 1882 and assisted Longfellow in compiling *Poems of Places* in a series of small volumes between 1875 and 1878, making ten translations for the work. She also edited the *Longfellow Birthday-Book*. She is best known for *The Seven Voices of Sympathy* (1881) a compilation of Longfellow's prose and poetry. She issued a selection of poems from English and American authors in the *Cambridge Book of Poetry and Song* (1882). In the late 1880s, she began to publish her poetry in *Lippincott* magazine and *Century* magazine on a regular basis and moved to New York City although she kept her ties to Cambridge.