

THE FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2014 45th Year Issue #5

Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Boyden Library, 10 Bird Street, Foxborough, MA
(Enter Baker Street entrance)

The Foxborough Historical Society Presents:

The Caning of Senator Charles Sumner: The Assault That Drove America to Civil War

Guest Speaker: Stephen Puleo

Early in the afternoon of May 22, 1856, ardent pro-slavery Congressman Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina strode into the United States Senate Chamber in Washington, D.C., and began beating renowned anti-slavery Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts with a gold-topped walking cane.

Brooks struck again and again—more than thirty times across Sumner’s head, face, and shoulders—until his cane splintered into pieces and the helpless senator, having nearly wrenched his desk from its fixed base, lay unconscious and covered in blood.

It was a retaliatory attack. Forty-eight hours earlier, Sumner had concluded a speech on the Senate floor that had spanned two days, during which he vilified Southern slave owners for violence occurring in Kansas, called Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois a “noise-some, squat, and nameless animal,” and famously charged Brooks’s second cousin, South Carolina Senator Andrew Butler, as having “a mistress. . . who ugly to others, is always lovely to him. . . . I mean, the harlot, Slavery.”

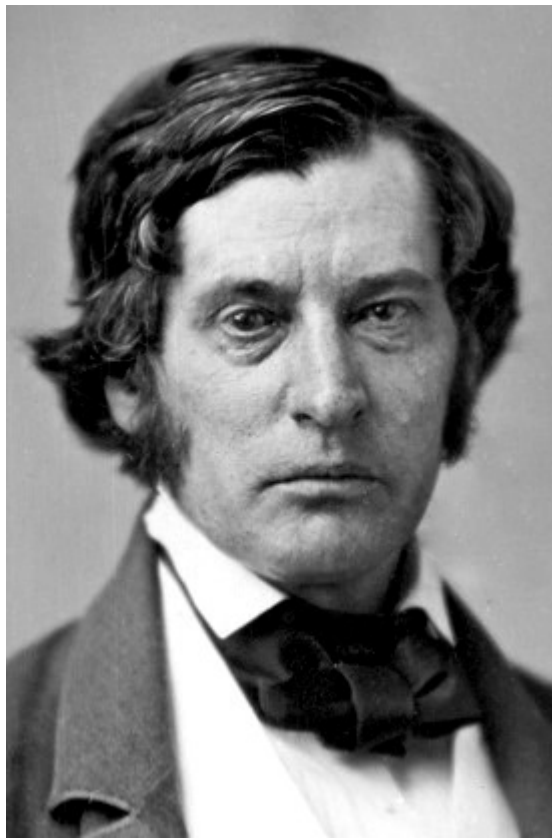
Brooks not only shattered his cane during the beating, but also destroyed any pretense of civility between North and South.

One of the most shocking and provocative events in American history, the caning convinced each side that the gulf between them was unbridgeable and that they could no longer discuss their vast differences of opinion regarding slavery on any reasonable level.

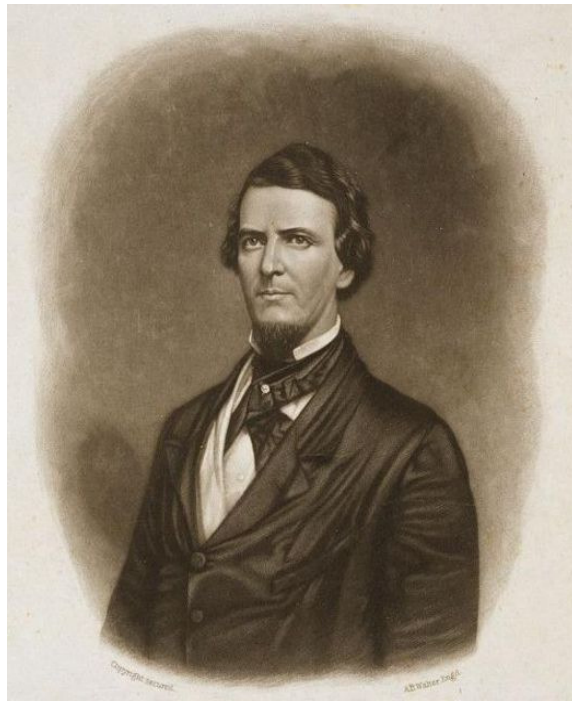
Stephen Puleo, author of *The Caning: The Assault That Drove America to Civil War*, tells the incredible story of this transformative event. While Sumner eventually recovered to some extent after a lengthy convalescence, compromise had suffered a mortal blow. Moderate voices were drowned out completely; extremist views accelerated, became intractable, and locked both sides on a tragic collision course.

The caning had an enormous impact on the events that followed over the next four years: the meteoric rise of the Republican Party and Abraham Lincoln; the Dred Scott decision; the increasing militancy of abolitionists, notably John Brown's actions; and the secession of the Southern states and the founding of the Confederacy.

As a result of the caning, the country was pushed, inexorably and unstopably, to war. Many factors conspired to cause the Civil War, but it was the caning that made conflict and disunion unavoidable five years later.



Senator Charles Sumner



Congressman Preston Brooks



SOUTHERN CHIVALRY — ARGUMENT VERSUS CLUB'S.

50 YEARS AGO IN FOXBOROUGH

[News extracted from the Foxboro Reporter]

FEBRUARY 1964

- Reports may seal fate of Center and Carpenter schools; buildings unsafe after June say experts, State Inspector.
- Big Gene Conley rests for Red Sox spring training. He is at his Birch Tree Road home for the next two weeks.
- Advisory Committee to recommend new 20 room elementary school. The Board of Selectmen plan to purchase 11.9 acre tract on South St. from Mrs. Elsie Curry.
- Heavy snow storms add two more feet of snow upon a countryside already blanketed by an earlier storm.
- Edwin C. Guy named Young Man of the Year at the Distinguished Service Award banquet of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.
- Dr. Charles Dean has renovated the former William Fuller residence at 43 South St. where he will now have his dental office which was located on School St.
- School salaries cut upheld by Advisory Committee.
- Medical Society surveys Foxboro Physician needs.
- Aulis twins get warm welcome in Washington

Foxborough Historical Society Officers & Board Members

President: Charles Clifford 543-8403 Vice President: Jean Prendergast
Clerk: Janet Roxborough 942-1482 Treasurer: Mary Anne Baker 543-8945
Directors: Past President Robert Hicks, Ralph Guimond,
Joan Stafford and Lauren Bitar
Program: Patrick Lyons 543-3728
Newsletter/Membership: Paul Godin 543-7945

Ask a friend to join, Family = \$10.00, Individual = \$8.00/yr
Meetings 4th Tuesday, September to November & January to May
at the Boyden Library, 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall is open every Wednesday evening, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
On the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon.

2013-2014 Foxborough Historical Society Membership

Christian	Arcaro	Jonathan	Glover	Patrick	Lyons
Jack	Authelet	Carolyn	Godin	Regina	Lyons
Marge	Authelet	Paul	Godin	Terry	Lyons
Mary Anne	Baker	Ruth E.	Goold	John	Marrone
Lauren	Bitar	Audrey	Greeley	Kathy	Marrone
Emelie	Bonin	Bill	Grieder Jr.	Linda	McCoy
Jeanne	Bonneau	Kathy	Grieder Jr.	Peter J.	McDonough
Earle	Brown	Ralph	Guimond	Marie	Meisner
Sandy	Brown	Bruce	Hainsworth	Ron	Meisner
Diane	Bryant	Pat	Hainsworth	Mary	Morrison
Kenneth	Bryant	Heather	Harding	Glenn H.	Mott
Catherine	Burgess	Steve	Harding	Sheila	Mott
Chuck	Burgess	Gail	Hayes	Arthur	Muldoon
Diane	Cahill	Janet F.	Haynes	Alice	Murphy
Francis	Cahill	Gayle	Hicks	Tenny	Nevins-Fleming
Marlene	Carr	Robert	Hicks	Robert	Plumer Jr.
Ann	Childs	Carolyn N.	Hirsch	Joanne B.	Pratt
Charles A.	Clifford	Ernest G.	Hirsch	Dr. Jean	Prendergast
Joan	Clifford	Kristin	Hovey	Burleigh	Prosser
Ginny	Coppola	Will	Hovey	Deborah A.	Ranaldi
Donald	Cosgrove	Edna	Hunt	Janet	Roxborough
David	Crimmins	Ralph	Hunt	Joseph	Roxborough
Marie	Crimmins	Dave	Ingram	Jennifer A.	Savickis
Al	Daniels	Penny	Ingram	Jean L.	Schmidt
Doris	Daniels	Ted	Inman	Cynthia	Scott
Elizabeth	Davison	Charles	Kastrenos	A. Lee	Scott
Ellen	Dean	Wendy Lou	Kastrenos	Roger	Smith
Paul	Dean	Jeffrey	Keith	Michael R.	Smith
David	Downs	Kristen	Keith	Sally	Souza
C Paul	Dumas	Robert	Lanpher	Joan E.	Stafford
Kenneth	Elovitz	Edward	Leonard	Nancy B	Sullivan
Patricia	Elovitz	Roberta	Leonardi	Charles D.	Tebbetts III
Cynthia	Ferguson	Joe	Lewicke	Ray	Toomey
Ed	Ferguson	Marsha	Lewicke	Suzanne	Toomey
Diane	Finnegan	Annette	Liljegren	Mary	Waltuck
Francis	Finnegan	Warren	Liljegren	Morey	Waltuck
Deb	Flattery	George W.	Lillyman	George	Yelle
Steve	Flattery	Linda	Lyons	Janet	Yelle

Note: Every effort was made to include all paid members on this list. If someone was omitted, please accept my apologies. Inform me and corrections will be made in the March newsletter. Thank you! Paul Godin