Frances “Fannie” Courtney (1845-1911)

Frances “Fannie” Courtney was the daughter of Robert Courtney and Eliza Haynes Courtney. Though modernized, Fannie’s home still stands at the corner of Fourth Ave South and Church Street. When her father died in 1859, he left the management of the estate, including five enslaved people, to his wife Eliza. Even though the male members of her family fought for the Confederacy, Fannie, her sister Octavia, and their mother Eliza all supported the Union. When Federal troops entered Franklin in February 1862, Octavia was the first woman to welcome them, making national headlines as the “Tennessee Union Girl.” Soon afterwards, Octavia married a Union man and left for Nashville. Fannie remained in Franklin for the rest of the War and the title of “Tennessee Union Girl” passed to her. In September 1864, Fannie married Lieutenant Colonel George Grummond of the 14th Michigan Mounted Infantry. Following the Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864, Fannie and her mom Eliza cared for over one-hundred-twenty wounded Union soldiers in Franklin’s downtown Presbyterian Church. In March 1865, Fannie wrote detailed letter of her experiences from the battle to the United States Sanitary Commission, “…red flags were waving from unoccupied buildings, the seminaries, the churches, and every business house in town.” After the war, Fannie and her husband George, still a soldier in the United States Army, moved west to Fort Phil Kearney in northeastern Wyoming. In 1866, George was killed at the Fetterman Massacre. Alone and a widow at the age of 21, Fannie wrote about her experiences following the Fetterman fight. She married her second husband General Henry Carrington in 1871. Fannie died on October 17, 1911 in Hyde Park, Massachusetts at the age of sixty-six and is buried in the Fairview Cemetery in Boston next to Henry.