

O. impeach

Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Brian,

To understand Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial please read Chapter 4 "Worthy of Plutarch": William Pitt Fessenden vs. Charles Sumner, 1865-1870"

Profiles in Character: Hubris vs. Heroism in the U. S. Senate, 1789-1990 (discussed on "Booknotes," Feb. 15, 1998). On Sat, Oct. 3, I published a letter in the Washington Post, entitled "Remember Sen. Fessenden", pointing out that J.F.K.'s account of the Andrew Johnson Impeachment trial is fiction, not history.

E. J. Dionne relied on Kennedy's account of Edmund Ross as the Senator who saved Johnson, and so did Michael Beschloss at least twice (Sat., Nov. 19 on ABC just minutes after President Clinton was impeached (over)

and on Mon, Dec. 21 on the Lehrer Report). And about a week ago on C-Span you noted an Op-Ed article that was based on J.F.K.'s mistaken account of Edmund Ross's heroism.

Pitt Fessenden, buried in an unmarked grave in Portland, Maine, almost single-handedly prevented Andrew Johnson's conviction. But Fessenden defined a high misdemeanor as an act "menacing towards Congress or to the laws of the country."

I now live in Georgetown and am walking, exercising and watching C-Span after my operation-procedure for prostate cancer, known as brachytherapy (radiated seed implants), on Nov. 17.

Keep up the good work,

