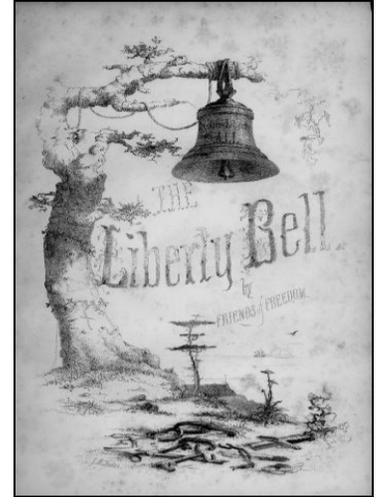




Anti-Slavery Archival Collections and Research Center



The Liberty Bell, cover

Anti-Slavery Research Collections

Abolitionists sought out poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), his family members, and friends at the family home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Friends and visitors included Richard Henry Dana, Jr., Charles Sumner, James Russell Lowell, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Lydia Maria Child, Lunsford Lane, and Josiah Henson. Their correspondence, pamphlets, and family journals constitute a significant anti-slavery research collection, now available to researchers at the on-site research center. In 2006 the National Park Service recognized the significance of the archival collection by designating the site as a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom research facility.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and the Anti-Slavery Movement



Sumner and Longfellow

Longfellow's *Poems on Slavery* (1842) and his journals, letters, and account books document his anti-slavery efforts and contributions. Personal journals and extensive correspondence document his close ties with many abolitionists, especially U.S. Senator Charles Sumner, the primary promoter of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Detailed account books record the family's financial support to former slaves and to institutions providing education and support to those seeking freedom.

March 1855 Account Book [excerpt]

13	W. Lang. ed. church	5.00
24	W. Nassal	10.00
..	For "Ida May" slave	6.00
30	Proletarian slave	5.00

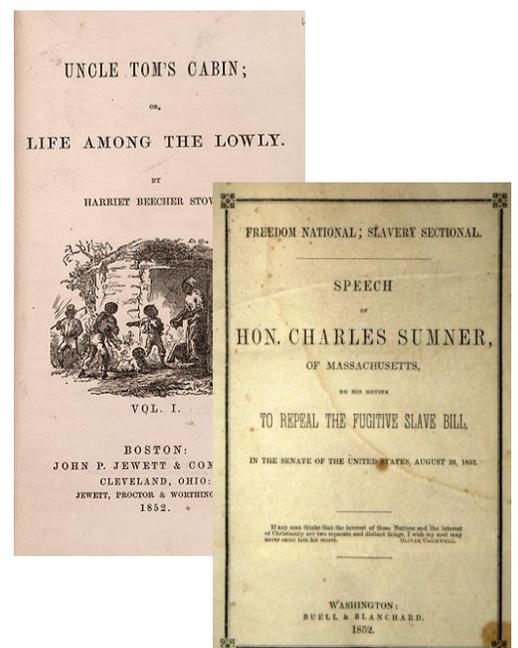
June 1856 Account Book [excerpt]

13	Anti Slavery Branch 20	5.00
..	So. Soc. - slave	5.00
15	Church in Wash.	15.00
20	Mich. Negro School	15.00

Longfellow Family Library, Papers, and Pamphlet Collection

On June 2, 1854 Henry Longfellow wrote to Charles Sumner: "To-day is decided the fate of Burns, the fugitive slave...Dana has done nobly; acting throughout with the greatest nerve and intrepidity..."

Henry and his wife, Fanny Longfellow, Rev. Samuel Longfellow, Richard Henry Dana Jr., and other friends and relatives gathered books, clippings, pamphlets, speeches, and other source materials documenting the developing national crisis. Their personal journals and letters provide context for the collection as well as candid first-person viewpoints of daily events. Detailed finding aids for both individual and family papers are available to researchers online at www.nps.gov/long/historyculture/collections.



The Liberty Bell

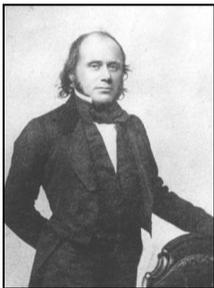
Longfellow wrote poems including “The Norman Baron” (1845) and “The Poet of Miletus” (1846) for the abolitionist periodical and fundraiser, *The Liberty Bell*, published by Friends of Freedom, American Anti-Slavery Society.

Rev. Samuel Longfellow, the poet’s brother, contributed “The Word” (1851), and “Hymn” or “O God, in Whom We Live and Move” (1856.)



The Liberty Bell, cover detail

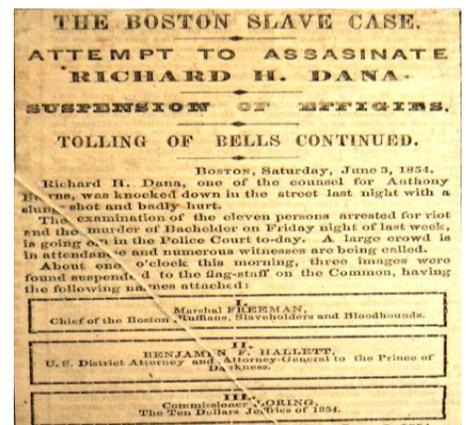
Dana Family Papers



Richard Henry Dana Jr. is best-known as the author of *Two Years Before the Mast* (1840), a narrative of sea voyages that heightened his sensitivity to exploitation. Graduating from Harvard Law School in 1839, he published *Cruelty to Seamen* and began practicing law, holding numerous public service positions, and serving as U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts. Dana helped found the Free-Soil party in 1848, a forerunner of the anti-slavery Republican party; and defended African-Americans who fought their return to slavery under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. He also defended those who assisted slaves and were subject to harsh punishments under the law. In later years he noted that his work on behalf of Shadrach Minkins and Anthony Burns was the “one great act” of his life.

Richard Henry Dana Jr.’s papers include correspondence, legal papers, fugitive slave rescuer trial transcripts, and rare pamphlets on abolition. One newspaper item in the collection details an attempt on Dana’s life by pro-slavery forces.

Henry W. L. Dana, grandson of both Longfellow and Richard Henry Dana Jr., compiled research material on the anti-slavery movement and a file relating to Longfellow’s *Poems on Slavery*.



New York Tribune, June 5, 1854

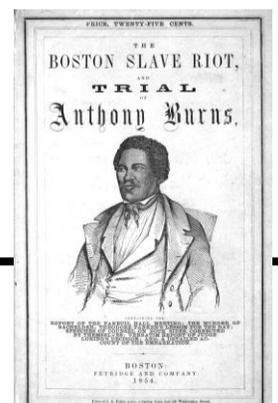
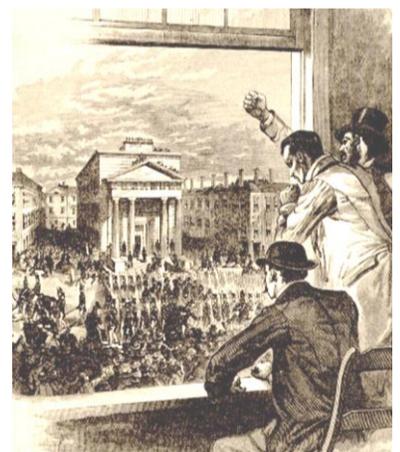
Fugitive Slave Cases

Shadrach Minkins

Shadrach Minkins escaped from slavery in Virginia in 1850, and sought refuge in Boston. In 1851, police captured and charged him under the Fugitive Slave Act, permitting slave owners to retrieve runaways from free states. Outraged Boston citizens seized Minkins and conveyed him to Canada and freedom. The collection includes Dana’s hand-written transcripts of the trial of Minkins’ rescuers.

Anthony Burns

In 1854 Dana represented fugitive slave Anthony Burns, the last slave captured and returned to slavery under the Fugitive Slave Act. After a failed rescue attempt in Boston, outraged citizens lined the streets yelling “Kidnapping!” as Federal officers marched Burns to the ship returning him to slavery. The case triggered massive opposition to the Act and hastened its repeal. Collections include documentation of the trial and resulting riots, a pamphlet on Burns’ life, and Dana’s speech on removing the officer who presided over the Burns case and returned him to slavery.



Using the Research Collections

The archival collections at the Longfellow National Historic Site are open to researchers by appointment only. Please visit www.nps.gov/long/historyculture/archives.htm to view and download the site finding aids in PDF format. To make an appointment to use the research collections, please call the archivist Monday through Friday at 617-491-1054.