Longfellow House Bulletin

Volume 16 No. 1 • A Newsletter of the Friends of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters & the National Park Service • June 2012

Society of the Cincinnati Aids House Ties to the American Revolution

The Massachusetts chapter of the Society of the Cincinnati, which promotes scholarship on the American Revolution, recently awarded the House several important grants, making possible Revolutionary War-related research, conservation, and events. These funds helped conserve three letters in the House archives from George Washington, two of which he wrote during his time here at Headquarters and one while president. The Society also funded a lecture at the Cambridge Forum on "Washington, Longfellow, and the Jewish Community at Newport" by Ted Widmer in honor of longtime Longfellow Friend Frances Ackerly, and a gathering at the House, known as a "museum muster," of Boston-area historical organizations with an interest in Washington and the Siege of Boston.

To preserve the rights and liberties for which they had fought and to foster the friendships forged during the American Revolution, Continental officers and their French counterparts who had served together founded the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783. The Society took its name from the Roman hero Cincinnatus, the citizen-soldier who was called twice to lead his country in war. Victorious each time, he declined offers of power and position to return to his home and farm. Known as the "Cincinnatus of the West," George Washington was elected the Society's first president-general and held this position until his death in 1799.

Andrew Craigie's Society of the Cincinnati teacups with his initials on one side

These cups with Andrew Craigie's initials and the Society emblem are in a glass-front cabinet in the House parlor. Longfellow may have bought them at a Craigie estate auction. Craigie was an original member of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati.

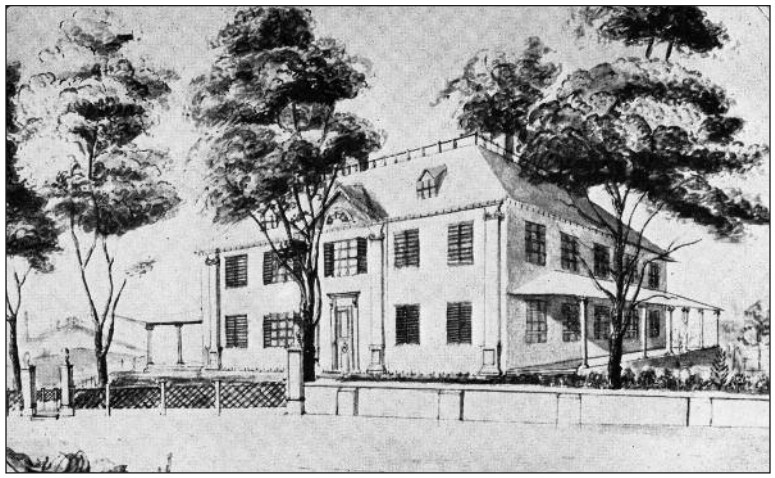
Andrew Craigie: Apothecary General and Land Speculator

Born in Boston in 1754 to Scottish ship captain Andrew Craigie and Elizabeth (Gardner) Craigie of Nantucket, Andrew Craigie Jr. attended the South Latin School in Boston. Here he formed lifelong ties with fellow schoolmates who would later become prominent American citizens, such as William Eustis, Christopher Gore, and William Scollay.

In his teens Craigie was apprenticed to an established apothecary. Shortly after the Revolutionary War broke out, in April 1775 – when Craigie was only twenty-one – the Massachusetts Committee of Safety appointed him to take command of "medical stores" and dispense rations, such as bedding for hospitals. It is unclear how Craigie managed to get this position of great responsibility at such a young age. Like most apothecaries at the time, he probably had some medical and surgical training. Documents, however, confirm that he assisted in caring for the wounded at the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775.

In July 1775, George Washington, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, arrived in Cambridge and moved into 105 Brattle Street which the Vassalls, who were Tories, had fled. This remained Washington's residence and headquarters through March 1776 during the Siege of Boston.

On January 1, 1777, Congress reorganized the army's medical department and created the Office of Apothecary General. They installed Andrew Craigie as its first head. The new Apothecary General served mostly in and around Philadelphia, making sure that General Washington's troops were properly supplied with medicines. During the Continental Army's encampment at Valley Forge from December 1777 until June 1778, Craigie accompanied Washington as his



Perspective drawing of the Craigie House at 105 Brattle Street, by Charles Warner, 1815

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All images are from the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site collections, unless noted otherwise.

Craigie House Connections to Black Lewisville

From roughly 1820 to 1877, descendants and relatives of the African-American Peter and Minor Lewis family comprised much of Cambridge's earliest black settlement. Located on, abutting, or close to lands once part of the northern edge of Andrew Craigie's estate, the settlement was called Lewisville for several generations. Other black residents nearby had lived on the former estate or had worked for Craigie or his Tory predecessor, John Vassall.

The "black Vassalls" were among the first blacks to own property in the vicinity. In 1783 when Massachusetts outlawed slavery, Tony Vassall, a former slave of the white Vassall family who built and owned 105 Brattle Street until 1775, petitioned the courts for property. The court awarded him a pension, allowing him to buy a house in 1787 at the corner of Shepard Street and Massachusetts Avenue, two blocks north of Lewisville. Tony Vassall worked for Craigie as a "horseman," or coachman, and became a well-known figure in Cambridge. Mark Lewis, a former slave and no relation to the "Lewisville" Lewises, also owned property near the Craigie estate and, until his death in 1808, farmed land he rented from Craigie.

Adam Lewis, a laborer, may have been the first member of the extended Peter Lewis family to arrive in Cambridge. Circa 1815 he married Tony Vassall's daughter Catherine Vassall, who had been born into slavery at 105 Brattle Street. Tony Vassall's presence in the neighborhood may have helped lure Peter and Minor Walker Lewis and their nine children to Cambridge from Barre, Massachusetts, in 1821. In 1830 they purchased a one-acre lot on Garden Street near Walker Street from Craigie heir Samuel Haven. The Lewis children and their in-laws bought adjacent lots and built four houses and a family tomb in the area, becoming the core of Lewisville.

Lewisville began its decline in the era of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Sometimes meeting in Lewisville under the leadership of Enoch Lewis, Peter and Minor's oldest son, the Cambridge Liberian Emigration Association urged freed blacks to settle in Liberia. In November 1858, fifty-five emigrants sailed from Baltimore for Liberia, hoping "to establish institutions of civil and religious liberty." Of the twenty-three that were members of the Cambridge Liberian Emigration Association, fourteen were from Cambridge's Lewis family.

In October 1858 Longfellow's account book shows a contribution to "Negroes to Liberia." The Lewises departed the following month.

For information in this article and throughout the issue, we are grateful to Susan Maycock & Charles Sullivan and their Building Old Cambridge: Architecture and Development, *forthcoming from MIT Press.*

Korzenik & Paterson Research Fellowships Awarded

This year the Friends of the Longfellow House have awarded the Korzenik Fellowship to Jon E. Taylor, associate professor of history at the University of Missouri in Columbia, and the Paterson Fellowship to Angela Shpolberg, who received her Ph.D. in linguistics from Odessa National "I.I. Mecnikov" University in the Ukraine. She published articles on linguistics and taught Russian language and literature at Odessa University until she came to the U.S. in 1997. Both fellowships provide support for work in the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters archives and collections.

Taylor will explore the roles of Alice Longfellow, William Sumner Appleton Jr., H.W.L. "Harry" Dana, and Anne Longfellow Thorp in the historic preservation movement in twentieth-century United States. He argues that historians have overlooked the roles that Dana, Thorp, and Alice Longfellow played, and that little is known about William Sumner Appleton's involvement in the preservation of the Longfellow House. Taylor will examine the Alice Mary Longfellow Papers, the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana Papers, and the Longfellow House Trust Records.

Through the memoirs of Emma Goldman, Louise Bryant, Dorothy Thompson, and others, Shpolberg has studied foreigners' impressions of the Soviet Union between 1917 and 1930. In her project, she would like to include Harry Dana's eyewitness accounts of the Soviet Union during his five visits between 1927 and 1935. Shpolberg has already made several preliminary visits to the site's archives, and she believes Dana's observations "will greatly enrich her research." She will focus on the H.W.L. Dana papers which include correspondence, travel papers, drafts of articles, research notes, and photographs he brought back from the Soviet Union, where he was particularly interested in and wrote about Soviet Theater.

Interview with a Friend … Stephen Pratt, Craigie Family Descendant

Born in 1926 in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, Stephen Pratt is a descendant of Andrew Craigie's family and was active in the Friends of the Longfellow House. Pratt's father, Frederick Haven Pratt, wrote a short history of his ancestors entitled *The Craigies,* published in 1941 by the Cambridge Historical Society.

Longfellow House: How exactly are you related to Andrew Craigie?

Stephen Pratt: Through his sister, since he had no direct descendants. He had two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary. They both married Bossenger Foster. After Elizabeth died, he married Mary. Elizabeth Craigie Foster was my great-great-great-grandmother.

LH: In the House archives there are hundreds of letters between your father and Harry Dana, Longfellow's grandson. How and when did your father meet him?

SP: In the 1930s and '40s, my dad got in touch with Harry Dana because of his interest in Craigie and the House. He and Harry both loved languages, and both had studied Greek. They used to trade little notes in Greek and had a good relationship.

LH: Did you ever meet Harry Dana?

SP: I only visited Harry Dana once upstairs in his garret here in 1943 or 1944. He was very gracious. My dad asked him if he could show us the House, although he was already very familiar with it because of his research and writing for the pamphlet he wrote called *The Craigies*. My dad instilled in me a sense of pride about the House and our family connection to it. I was very honored to be let in by Mr. Dana and have him tour us around.

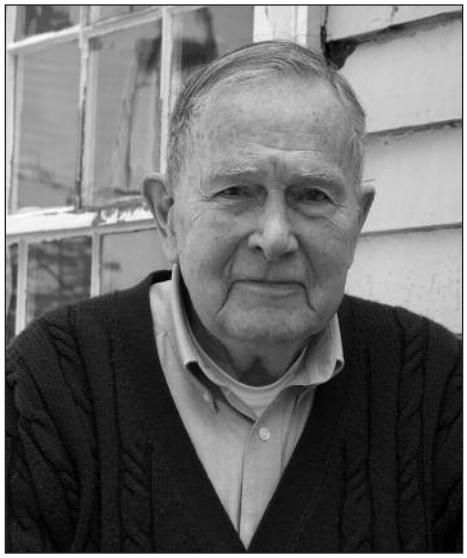
LH: What do you know about Andrew Craigie's secret child?

SP: My father was interested in Mary Allen and wrote about her. My sister was too and was the first to go down to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where Mary Allen ended up. Craigie paid very little attention to Mary Allen. He supplied the cash for sending her to the Bethlehem school, and once he took her up to New York State to his friends, where she stayed for a while. For a long time the poor girl didn't know who her mother was and thought Craigie was her uncle. Mary Allen died in Bethlehem, and my sister and I went down there to visit the site. There's a beautiful new church there where we went to an Easter service. I suppose Craigie would have had a hard time acknowledging the child.

LH: Who were the people who attended Harry Dana's exhibit and lecture on Craigie at the House in 1941?

SP: Besides members of the Cambridge Historical Society, there were Craigie family members. I was in touch with one of them, my aunt Elizabeth Clark. She had married Dr. Irving Clark and had a nice big house up in Worcester, where my grandfather lived and my father grew up. My grandfather, Sumner Pratt, had a little business on the main street in Worcester that sold mostly woolen-manufacturing machinery.

I learned a lot about the Craigie family



history through my father's research and book. Craigie left the House on New Year's eve in a sleigh. He was headed up to Worcester and then to Burlington, Vermont, where Craigie was having a meeting about his land dealings there. My grandfather Haven was in the sleigh as well and got off in Worcester. Every place they stopped, he made a mention of it in his diary. Craigie owned a lot of land up in New York State, but I don't know all the details.

LH: How was Craigie making money from these land deals?

SP: I think it was somewhat underhanded. During the American Revolution, he had access to a lot of things, including paper money that nobody thought was worth much. People invested in specie, but not many people invested in paper, except Andrew Craigie. Somehow he saw far enough ahead that he invested in this money, and he made out like a bandit. He used the profits to buy land. As far as I know, none of the land continues to be in any branch of the family.

LH: In the end, he did not die a rich man.

SP: That's right. His wife lived at the House quite a while after he died, and she was rather eccentric. There's a story about her tossing cherry blossoms out the window. People were watching her and didn't know anything about the family or that she was living alone in a great big house.

LH: Can you describe Bossenger Foster and his relationship with Craigie?

SP: They were closely involved in many ways. Foster lived across the street in the old Henry Vassall house. His name was on the enemies' list for the British because he operated a bar on State Street in Boston, which was a meeting place of the Revolutionaries.

LH: What were Craigie's activities before the revolution?

SP: He was a medical person, but where he got his medical training no one has discovered. He was known to have tended to soldiers' wounds at Bunker Hill.

LH: We are delighted to have things in the House that were once owned by or related to Craigie, which you donated.

SP: There was a pair of alabaster urns in my house when I grew up that had come from Craigie's estate and had been in the exhibit that Harry Dana put together at the House. I donated one of these. It's nice to get it back to the House.

I also donated a lot of Craigie family papers, including the letters between Harry Dana and my father. One document was from the Boston Marine Society because Craigie's father was a [ship's] captain. There were letters from Henry's father, Stephen Longfellow, a lawyer who advised Craigie heirs about their property in Maine.

LH: What has been your more recent relationship with the House?

SP: I had been here a few years before Jim Shea arrived [in 1992]. After that, I brought my sons and my wife here a number of times. In the mid '90s, at Christmas time, my family and I gave a little concert in the library. I played the violin, my wife was on the piano, and my son played the flute. It's a nice grand piano that belonged to Alice Longfellow.

I was here at the time when the House was greatly in need of many improvements and could use the help of a Friends organization. Sometime around 1994, I went to the first meeting [to found the Friends] where Diana Korzenik took the lead. Glenna [Lang] was there, and five or six other people. I became a member of the newly formed group and was on the Board of the Friends of the Longfellow House.

Andrew Craigie: Apothecary General and Land Speculator

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army as the medical procurer and deliverer.

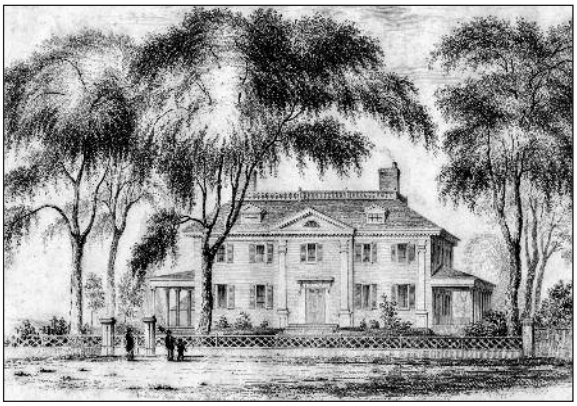
After mustering out of the army in 1783, Craigie went into the wholesale drug trade in New York. Although people addressed him as "Doctor Craigie," he never officially became a member of the Medical Society. At the same time, he served as a director of the first Bank of the United States in Philadelphia. For his various endeavors, Craigie traveled back and forth between Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.

Not all of Craigie's business practices were savory. Between 1787 and 1790 he also speculated in real estate. He and William Duer (who had helped Alexander Hamilton establish the Bank of New York) joined in the Scioto Company's notorious land ruse in Ohio. The company sold land in the newly opened territory to French immigrants before paying for it or obtaining titles. When the immigrants arrived in Ohio, they discovered that the company had cheated them.

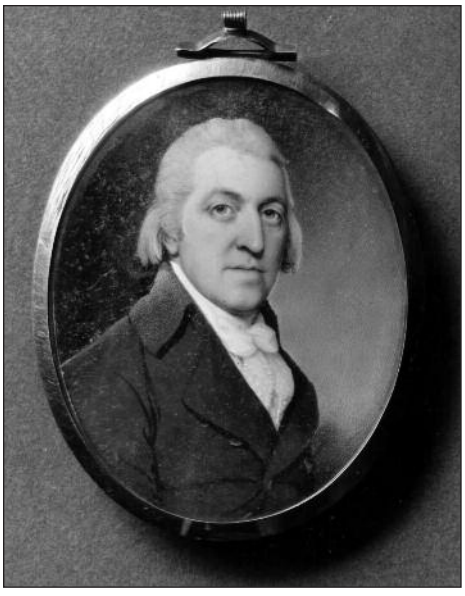
In his 1877 *History of Cambridge*, L.R. Paige described Craigie as a secretive and manipulative businessman. "Remember my caution respecting the purchase of the farm," Craigie wrote to his brother-in-law and business associate Bossenger Foster on October 10, 1790, "not to have it known for the present."

Beginning in 1790, many letters between Craigie and Foster chronicle the negotiations and purchase of a sizable tract of land – with two large Georgian houses at 94 and 105 Brattle Street and four smaller outbuildings – which they referred to as "the Estate at Cambridge" or "my Cambridge Hobby Horse." In March 1791 Craigie bought the 150-acre estate at a reasonable price from Thomas Russell to whom Nathaniel Tracy – a wealthy merchant and privateer under Washington's command – had sold the house in 1786, although Russell never lived in it.

The deed for Craigie's acquisition listed the estate as a set of properties with distinct usages, such as meadow and pasture, which originally comprised the Henry Vassall estate. Foster, who had married Craigie's sister Elizabeth, was to live in the house at 94 Brattle Street. For almost a year before Craigie moved into 105, Foster oversaw the repair and lavish outfitting of the mansions and landscaping of the grounds.



Washington's Headquarters, Cambridge, Present Home of Mrs. Craigie, c. 1820 - 1835



Andrew Craigie, c. 1800. The original is at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Mass.

Historical receipts and legal documents in the House archives demonstrate Craigie's substantial and sometimes questionable real-estate wheelings and dealings in New York, Vermont, Maine, and Cambridge. In 1792 Craigie joined with two other men to purchase 100,000 acres of land in Ontario County, New York, from the merchant and signer of the Declaration of Independence Robert Morris. In 1795 Morris sold additional tracts of land in New York State to Craigie, who in turn sold 43,000 acres in Vermont to Bossenger Foster in 1798. Morris's land speculation led to his bankruptcy and several years in debtors' prison.

Meanwhile, Craigie came up with a scheme that, unbeknownst to him, would lead to the development of East Cambridge and forever change the city in which he lived. As early as 1792, he'd had an idea to build a toll bridge across the Charles River from the vast roadless salt marshes of Cambridge to Boston's West End. From 1795 until 1803 Craigie accumulated three hundred acres in East Cambridge, often secretly through friends and relatives. By 1807 he owned, according to Paige, "almost the whole of East Cambridge," known then as Lechmere's Point, and formed the Canal Bridge corporation to finance the bridge project.

Bitter controversies ensued with rival speculators over the location of the bridge and the roads leading to it. Opened in 1809, the Canal Bridge competed with the West Boston Bridge for tolls and traffic. Craigie lobbied the Cambridge selectmen to change the plan for Mount Auburn Street so that it would attract traffic to his new bridge. Anticipating the profits from increased tolls, Craigie offered to pay for the road construction, but in the end, the town rejected the route.

Although he avoided prison, extravagant spending and losses suffered in land speculation placed Craigie in heavy debt. He borrowed large sums of money, including $15,000 from a Cambridge neighbor, as seen in an 1819 document at the House. Fearing arrest, he could only leave his home on Sundays when a summons could not be served.

When Craigie died of a stroke in 1819, he was one of the largest landowners in Cambridge. His Canal Bridge is now home to the Science Museum, and East Cambridge, once a salt marsh, is a vibrant neighborhood.

Colonel "Harry" Jackson to General Henry Knox, March 6, 1791

"Yesterday Dr. Andrew Craigie, made a purchase of John Vassall's house and farm at Cambridge, including the house of Harry Vassall in which W. F. Geyser lives, the whole making about 140 or 150 acres- for which he has given 3750 [pounds sterling] – it's a great bargain, is 50% under its value."

Andrew Craigie to Bossenger Foster, November 14, 1791:

"I shall be pleased on finding the house at Cambridge painted & put in order in the manner your taste shall direct, but would not have the rooms papered till I return as it is probable I may bring or order paper from New York. I find Mr. B– C–lately arrived from France – perhaps he has bro.t some of the newest fashion of paper if he has you will secure some of it."

Fashioning "Castle Craigie"

The Craigies transformed their mid-Cambridge estate into a picturesque farm, or *ferme ornée*, adorned with decorative elements and exotic and indigenous plants. Although the elegant mansion already stood on extensive grounds, Craigie's improvements to both the land and the mansion were so extravagant that the property earned the name "Castle Craigie."

Craigie substantially enlarged the Georgian mansion by moving the exterior rear wall ten feet – allowing for a hallway and a bigger parlor – and building a large ell on the back. He also added two symmetrical piazzas with rows of white columns to either side of the house and constructed an ice house, a heated greenhouse – the first in Cambridge – and a summer house ("an open tempietto") on the summit of the hill where the present-day Harvard Observatory is located. A letter from Bossenger Foster to Craigie also mentions "a Woodhouse [holding] thirty or forty cord of wood in it," a barn, and "the little House on the Hill put into order and fit for the Gardener's family to live in."

Craigie repaired an existing "Dam or Cause way" and dug out a low-lying area to improve drainage into the pond – complete with an island. (See image above right.) Elsewhere on the property, a spring bubbled up, and an aqueduct of hollow logs delivered water to the main house. Foster's letters to his brother-in-law discussed planting elm trees, sixty-two Lombardy poplars, and one hundred fruit trees.

One of Craigie's mirrors still in Longfellow's study

Part of the grounds of Castle Craigie were devoted to a working farm with pigs and other animals. Craigie owned a couple of other farms outside Cambridge as well. He was a charter member of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, a group of gentleman farmers who sought to increase farm production and crop yields through modern scientific techniques. Intended to benefit all farmers regardless of means, the society published papers promoting the practices of reforestation, crop rotation, and hedge planting. Craigie published a paper in 1803 entitled "The Benefit of Frequent Ploughing." The charter members included Samuel Adams, Charles Bulfinch, Christopher Gore, and John Codman – all gentleman farmers in Federal Boston who owned elegant country estates. In 1805 Andrew Craigie donated three acres of land to Harvard College to become part of its Botanic Gardens.

"Miss [Susanna] Hill on Craigie Island." A friend of Longfellow, Hill composed poetry here. Engraving by Prud'homme.

Bas relief, possibly of Andrew Craigie, in the Blue Entry above door to library, installed c. 1792, when Craigie enlarged the House

To adorn the interior of his mansion with fine art, in 1790 Andrew Craigie purchased two prints by John Trumbull, "Battle of Bunker Hill" and "The Death of General Montgomery" and hung them in the small room adjoining the kitchen. He placed a plaster equestrian statue of George Washington in the southwest room. In 1794 Craigie donated to Harvard College two oil portraits by John Trumbull of George Washington and John Adams that had originally hung in the House.

Craigie's account book from 1792 to 1794, donated by Alice Longfellow to the Cambridge Historical Society, lists purchases of luxury items such as carpets, glass decanters and wine, fancy clothes, spoons and a ladle made by Paul Revere, furniture made by Benjamin Frothingham, Irish linen, oysters, and "150 lbs. of beef, 96 lbs. of butter, and 18 lbs. of chocolate." Craigie entertained many visitors and often gave them tours of his grand home. He held sumptuous parties, such as a lawn party where hundreds of lanterns adorned the premises, or a ballroom banquet with mahogany tables and many toasts. After the latter, the servants reported cleaning up the broken shards of all the glasses.

When Craigie bought the estate, he kept several servants, enabling him to entertain in high style and maintain his property. Some of them, such as Tony Vassall, were previously enslaved people belonging to the Vassalls. Letters between Craigie and Foster in fall 1791 discuss hiring a "Mulatto Man" as a coachman or caretaker of horses, and whether to keep or dismiss Tony. Tony later bought a house near the Lewisville section of Cambridge. (See article on page 2.)

Of all African Americans, Cato Rawson appears most frequently in Craigie's account books, with many funds exchanged between them. Although Rawson lived somewhere else, he worked for both Craigie and Foster as a righthand man purchasing many items.

Diary of Nathaniel Cutting, shipmaster and native of Brookline, Mass. September 5, 1792:

"We set out ... to the house of Mr. Cragie [sic] in Cambridge, where we were cordially received and hospitably entertained by the modest and opulent proprietor. We walked up to his summer house, a pretty piece of ornamental architecture situated on an eminence, once a reservoir of ice, built by Nathaniel Tracy, Esq., when he was proprietor of and resided at this superb and delightful seat."

Mary Allen, Craigie's Illegitimate Daughter

The only known offspring of Andrew Craigie, Mary Allen (who was often called "Polly") was his illegitimate daughter. She was born in 1779 when he was a young officer in the Revolutionary Army stationed near Philadelphia. Polly's mother was a Philadelphia Quaker woman whose family forbade her to marry Craigie because he was not of the same religion.

Evidently, Craigie kept Polly's existence secret from most people, and for most of her life, Polly believed that Craigie was her uncle. Three decades after Craigie's death, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow came upon approximately one hundred letters signed "Polly" and addressed to "Andrew Craigie Esq.," which Craigie must have hidden in a box fitted into the tread of the underside of the cellar stairs.

Letters found above the cellar stairs, 1902 photo

Written in a cultivated hand from the time Polly was twelve until 1816 when she was thirty-seven, the letters revealed that although she never lived in his household, Craigie supported her throughout her life. As a girl, she lived with the family of Craigie's friend Joel Barlow, a poet and diplomat. Most frequently, Polly wrote sadly of the paucity of Craigie's letters to her, saying such things as "It has been ten months since you favored me with a few lines...."

Beginning in 1788, Craigie paid for Polly to attend the first U.S. private school for girls, run by Moravians in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Here she joined other daughters of men prominent in the American Revolution and made close friends, including Sally Colt of Rome, New York. Because Craigie had property holdings close by, he visited Polly from time to time. "How delightful to see you once a fortnight," she wrote. "How should I anticipate the day, alas when shall I see you again?"

Polly spent time with the Colt family and the families of other friends after her schooling was finished. The friends and parents wrote to her father, recounting how pleased they were to have Polly live with them.

As early as 1797, the principal of the Moravian school suggested that she remain at the Moravian community. In 1804 she returned to Bethlehem, and three years later she was received into the Church of the Brethren as a nun in the community. In Polly's letters to Craigie, she explained her growing religiosity and her contentment as a Moravian sister. Andrew Craigie continued to support her financially.

Although she often reported to Craigie the physical ailments she suffered, she lived a long life as the beloved and respected "Sister Polly" in Bethlehem and was in charge of the Single Sisters' Home in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. She taught embroidery and in 1816 opened one of the first Sunday schools in the nation. Only after both her parents had died did Polly learn her parents' true identity from Mrs. David Jackson of Philadelphia, a friend of Andrew Craigie. Mary Allen died in Bethlehem in 1849 and was buried in the Moravian churchyard.

Her letters still reside in the House. Among the correspondence discovered here were also letters from people who had cared for her, such as the Colts and a director of the Moravian academy. Further research collected by Craigie descendant Frederick Haven Pratt, published in his *The Craigies: A Footnote to the Medical History of the Revolution,* and Longfellow family historian Henry ("Harry") Wadsworth Longfellow Dana in the 1940s shed more light on Allen's life in the Moravian community at Bethlehem and Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Recent Visitors & Events at the House

People from all walks of life have always come to the Longfellow House for cultural activities. Today the House continues to host numerous people and events. The following items represent only a small portion of what has taken place here recently.

In honor of **Charles Dickens's** 200th birthday, NPS ranger **Rob Velella** led special tours celebrating Charles Dickens and Henry Longfellow's friendship and focusing on Dickens's two visits to the U.S. and Longfellow's home. Rob described what happened in the rooms, pointed out the print portrait of Dickens, and explained the special exhibit that included Dickens's letter of introduction for **Charley Longfellow** to Dickens's son in India and **Samuel Longfellow's** copy of *American Notes.*

On March 15 to commemorate Evacuation Day, **J.L. Bell** – writer, historical consultant and blogger – gave a talk in the Carriage House called "Washington's Artillery: Remaking the Regiment Between Bunker Hill and Dorchester Heights."

Massachusetts teachers participating in a **Teaching American History** grant project came to learn about "Leadership and the American Revolution." With NPS staff they discussed George Washington and the creation of the Continental Army, Washington and slavery, and Washington's development as a military and political leader.

Longfellow House in the Media

In the November-December 2011 issue of *Harvard Magazine,* independent historian Anthony Connors profiled the owner of this House prior to Longfellow in a piece entitled "Andrew Craigie: Brief Life of a Patriot and Scoundrel: 1754-1819." Accompanying the article is a full-page photograph of a miniature portrait "of Craigie in his prime," painted in watercolor on ivory presumably by Archibald Robertson circa 1800. (See image on page 4.)

For the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, in February *The Atlantic* magazine published a commemorative issue and noted that "On December 20, 1860, the day South Carolina seceded from the Union, the January 1861 issue of *The Atlantic* came out, featuring Longfellow's [*Paul Revere's Ride*]." It referred to the poem as "The famous Revolutionary War poem that's really about slavery."

Elizabeth Craigie and Her Boarders at the House

Elizabeth "Betsy" Shaw of Nantucket married the wealthy Andrew Craigie in 1793, not long after he had transformed his property into a luxurious estate. A lovely twenty-one year-old woman eighteen years his junior, she was the intelligent and only surviving child of a Harvard-educated minister. She was fond of European literature and all things French. The newlyweds shared an interest in botany and horticulture.

Because of a previous quashed romance, theirs proved to be a loveless marriage. Frederick Haven Pratt wrote in his book about his ancestors, *The Craigies*: "Betsy Shaw's unhappy romance is well known: lovers separated by demurring parents.... For it must have been one or another of the twelve servants that saw the lady swoon when her banished lover's letter arrived, full of hope renewed." A story goes that Andrew Craigie witnessed this incident, read the letter, and took umbrage, leading to a "permanent estrangement."

Despite this, Pratt continues: "Entertainment and gaiety flourished under a young and charming hostess, and the Craigie coach-and-four was a familiar link between the centers of hospitality and fashion." Genius, fashion, and even royalty "flocked to the castle of the Craigies."

After Andrew Craigie died in 1819, his widow was embarrassed by her husband's debts. She became reclusive and refused to interact with family or community. She frightened neighborhood children with her strange attire, often "clad in a slate-colored dress and white turban," Harry Dana noted in his *Chronicles of the Craigie House*. Some people were shocked by her liberal speech and ideas. According to Henry's brother Sam Longfellow, "There was an awful whisper that she read Voltaire in the original."

For nearly a quarter-century, the Widow Craigie sold plants from the estate and took in boarders to help make ends meet. Seeking a room to rent, Henry Longfellow came to her house in 1837. "At first Mrs. Craigie refused...," Henry recalled in his *Notebook on the Craigie House*. "She said she had resolved to take no more students into the house; but her manner changed when I told her who I was. She said she had read *Outre Mer*, of which one number was lying on the side board."

In addition to young Professor Longfellow, Mrs. Craigie rented rooms to other young men who were to become prominent figures. Three of her boarders would go on to be Harvard College presidents, Josiah Quincy boarded at 105 Brattle Street before serving as mayor of Boston and then Congressman from Massachusetts. He was appointed president of Harvard in 1829. In the midst of a long political career, Edward Everett succeeded Quincy as head of Harvard from 1846 to 1849. Jared Sparks took over this position until 1853, but for most of his life he was a historian and minister. While living at Craigie House, Sparks edited the first three of his twelve volumes of Washington's letters. He relished the thought of working on these books in the very rooms where the general had once penned some of his letters.

Elizabeth Shaw Craigie, 1790s

Over the years, other literary men rented rooms from Mrs. Craigie, including Park Benjamin – a poet, editor, and founder of several newspapers – and Joseph Worcester, one of the original lexicographers. His famous rivalry with Noah Webster was dubbed the "dictionary wars."

In 1841 Elizabeth Craigie died at age 69. Her 500 books and fine furniture were auctioned off in the Craigie House. Henry Longfellow continued to live at the House as its next owner along with his new wife, Fanny Appleton Longfellow.

Speaking to a gathering in the very house that his grandfather had inhabited for forty-five years, Harry Dana remarked: "Of the Craigie furniture, there still remain in this house eight parlor armchairs of French design with flowered upholstery. At Mrs. Craigie's death, a hundred years ago, in 1841, they were bought by Mr. Longfellow, as were the 75 volumes of her beloved Voltaire and some of her other French books, all of which have been kept here in this house ever since."

Recent Research at the House

The archives at the Longfellow House contain over 700,000 manuscripts, letters, and signed documents and is used extensively by researchers from around the world. Here are a few recent researchers from among the several hundred who use the archives annually.

Robert Lowell, a reporter for the *American Journal* in Webster, Maine, came to research the Longfellows who once owned the house that he now lives in on Longfellow Road in Gorham, Maine. Maps, photographs, and records in the archives show several Longfellows on the land. An eighteenth-century map revealed that one of the Longfellows' houses had been built later than previously determined.

Independent researcher Marlene Meyer perused the letters of Maria Theresa Gold Appleton, mother of Henry's wife Fanny Longfellow. Meyer is writing a biography of John Collins Warren, one of the most renowned American surgeons of the nineteenth century, whose wife was a close friend of Mrs. Appleton. Meyers discovered numerous mentions of the Warrens in Mrs. Appleton's letters.

Adding greatly to our knowledge of Henry Longfellow's support of American blacks, Avinoam Stillman, a senior at the Maimonides School in Brookline, Massachusetts, examined Longfellow's account books to learn about the black people to whom the poet had donated money. Several times Longfellow had contributed to "Lloyd, the 'Nubian Prince.'" Avi discovered that Leo Lloyd was an escaped slave who lectured in the Brooklyn, New York, church of Henry's brother Samuel Longfellow.

While a research fellow at the Reischauer Institute, Sumiko Sekiguchi from Hosei University in Tokyo researched Charley Longfellow's life and neighbors in Japan. She has donated to the archives two large maps depicting Tokyo during Charley's time there.

Spotlight on an Object

In each issue of the newsletter, we focus on a particular object of interest in the House collection. This time our spotlight shines on a Chippendale chair, ca. 1755-1775, on display in Alice's study. Craigie family members believed the chair came from England to the Province House, the official residence of royal governors in Boston, and from there was moved to Washington's Headquarters at 105 Brattle Street in 1775-1776. The chair remained in the House until Mrs. Craigie's death in 1841.

Speaking on October 28, 1941, at his exhibition of Craigie artifacts at the House, Longfellow's grandson Harry Dana announced his acquisition and return of the chair to the House: "Of equal interest is this Chippendale chair which is said to have been used by General Washington when this house was used during the first year of the American Revolution. It remained here while the Craigies were living here and was inherited from them by Mr. Iradell Hilliard and his sister, Katherine, who lives in Oxford, N.C. Three years ago, however, in 1938, by a joint gift of Craigie and Longfellow descendants, this Chippendale chair was brought back from Oxford to Cambridge and now stands once more in Washington's former Headquarters."

After re-examining documents in the House archives for this *Bulletin*, House staff realized the chair that Dana described was the one in Alice's study.

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site & the National Park Service

Longfellow House-Washington Headquarters National Historic Site joined the national park system in 1972. Its many layers of history, distinguished architecture, gardens and grounds, and extensive museum collections represent the birth and flowering of our nation and continue to inspire school children and scholars alike. The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House most notably served as headquarters for General George Washington in the early months of the Revolutionary War. It was later the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of America's foremost poets, and his family from 1837 to 1950.

For information about the Longfellow House and a virtual tour, visit:
www.nps.gov/long

Friends of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters

Since 1996, the Friends of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters, a not-for-profit voluntary group, has worked with the National Park Service to support Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site by promoting scholarly access to collections, publications about site history, educational visitor programs, and advocacy for the highest quality preservation.

To find out more about the Friends of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters, visit:
www.friendsoflongfellowhouse.org

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