



Longfellow House Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 2 • A Newsletter of the Friends of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters & the National Park Service • December 2011

Longfellow House Participates in National Commemoration of the Civil War

With its wealth of Civil War collections, the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site has joined a national commemorative effort to mark the 150th anniversary of the deadly and brutal war that tore the nation apart. The site offers a unique vantage point on the war and has a remarkable variety of Civil War primary sources and array of material culture.

Letters between family and friends written during the war, Henry and Charley Longfellow's journals, account books, hundreds of period photographs and books, carefully compiled scrapbooks, ephemera, military paraphernalia, and artifacts in the House reveal the lives of those on the battlefield and those involved at home.

Henry Longfellow's oldest son, Charley, joined the Union Army as did other rela-

tives and neighbors. Distraught by the war, Henry composed powerful anti-war poems and contributed money to the Union cause and to black regiments. Charley documented the detention camps in scrapbooks with photographs from both the North and the South. Family and friends took part in day-to-day activities on the home front to aid the Union soldiers.

For this five-year remembrance of the war, the National Park Service has launched a comprehensive Civil War website, and state and local historical societies are hold-



ing special exhibits and programs. House staff have used this sesquicentennial to re-examine all the myriad materials from the Civil War in the House archives and to reflect on how the war affected Henry W. Longfellow, his family, relatives, friends, and the larger community around them, as you will see in the articles

throughout this special issue of the *Bulletin*.

All the photographs and images reproduced in this issue reside in the House archives, including the one above from Alice Longfellow's patriotic envelope scrapbook.

Charley Longfellow in the Union Army

Along with other sons of wealthy Bostonians, Charles Appleton Longfellow, the poet's oldest child, yearned to fight for the Union in the war between the states. "Charley" did not share his father's literary interests, but displayed an early fascination with soldiering and longed for adventure. Although Henry Longfellow was an ardent abolitionist, he felt his son was too young to go to war and — having recently lost his wife in a tragic accident — couldn't bear the thought of also losing his son.

Henry's brother Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow worked for the U.S. Coast Survey charting borders in Maine and Mexico. Henry sought his help in distracting young Charley: "Charley is eager for the war, as you will find." Henry wrote to his brother on August 30, 1862. "I wish you would make [him an] assistant on the Coast Survey, to keep him quiet. I will pay his salary."

But on March 10, 1863, without a word



Charley Longfellow in 1st Massachusetts Artillery uniform, White Oak Church, Virginia, March 30, 1863

to his family, eighteen-year-old Charley left his home on Brattle Street in Cambridge and headed to Washington, D.C., to enlist as an artillery man for the Union Army.

Four days later a letter from Charley, with its characteristic lack of punctuation, arrived at the House and confirmed his whereabouts as well as his father's suspicions. "Dear Papa," he began, "You know for how long a time I have been wanting to go to the war I have tried hard to resist the temptation of going without your leave but I cannot any longer, I feel it to be my first duty to do what I can for my country and I would willingly lay down my life for it if it would be of any good God bless you all. Yours affectionately Charley."

On March 17, 1863, Henry shared the news with his best friend, Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner, and tried to make the best of the situation: "You will be sur-

(continued on page 4)



Friends of the Longfellow House- Washington's Headquarters

Board of Directors

Heather S. Moulton, *President*
Elizabeth F. Potter, *Clerk*
Robert C. Mitchell, *Treasurer*
Annette Benedetto
Peggy Blumenreich
Hope Cushing
Diana Der-Hovanessian
Barclay Henderson
Sarah B. Joliffe
Rona Kiley
Linda Almgren Kime
Laura Nash
Lynne Spencer

Advisory Board

Ruth Butler
LeRoy Cragwell
Diana Korzenik
Richard Nylander
Stephen D. Pratt
Marilyn Richardson
Marc Shell
Charles Sullivan

Administrator

J.L. Bell

Newsletter Committee

Glenna Lang, *Editor, Writer & Designer*
James M. Shea



National Park Service

Myra Harrison, *Superintendent*
James M. Shea, *Museum Manager/Curator*
Lauren Downing, *Administrative Officer*
Nancy Jones, *Education and Visitor Services*
Anita Israel, *Archives Specialist*
David Daly, *Collections Manager*
Lauren Malcolm, *Museum Technician*
Scott Fletcher, *Facility Manager*
Beth Wear, *Management Assistant*



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

Longfellow Family Life During the Civil War

Abundant letters and journal entries from Henry Longfellow and family as well as published memoirs by friends provide a good picture of the day-to-day activities on the home front at 105 Brattle Street from 1861 to 1865.

Only a few months after the Civil War broke out, on July 9, 1861, Henry's wife, Fanny, died from serious burns after her summer dress caught fire while she was preserving locks of her children's hair with hot sealing wax. In trying to save her, Henry too suffered burns, but he was so emotionally scarred he could not attend her funeral. He brought his two youngest daughters – Edith, seven and a half years old and Annie Allegra, five and a half – to his neighbors'

house and asked Mrs. Dana to "take my two little girls and keep them with you and your children till all is over."

Henry remained reclusive for a long time. "I am very reluctant to decline any invitation coming from you...." Henry explained to Richard Henry Dana Jr. on November 17, 1862, "I do not feel up to seeing many people together, and particularly strangers ... I should rather avoid even the proposed visit. You must not think me morose; I am only morbidly sensitive and depressed; It takes a long time to recover from such things. Does one ever recover wholly?"

Longfellow's personal tragedy did not keep him from being deeply moved by current events. He often corresponded with friends and family about the horrors of slavery and the war he hoped would end it. "Of the civil war I say only this," Henry told Frances Farrer, May 8, 1862. "It is not a revolution, but a Catalinian conspiracy. It is Slavery against Freedom; the north wind against the southern pestilence. I saw lately, at a jeweler's, a slave's collar of iron with an iron tongue as large as a spoon, to go into the mouth. Every drop of blood quivered! The world forgets what Slavery really is!"

The Longfellow children – Ernest, 17, Alice, 12, and the two littlest – heard about the war through their oldest brother Charley's letters from the battlefield and also from their neighbors. Henry's sister Mary

Longfellow Greenleaf and her husband, James Greenleaf, brought news directly from the South. Before the war they had been cotton buyers in New Orleans. Because of the tensions leading up to the war, the partnership of Greenleaf and Hubbard, a Southerner, dissolved in May 1860. During this time, the Greenleafs traveled occasionally between their two homes in New Orleans and at 76 Brattle St. in Cambridge.

Sometimes the war found its way into the Longfellow children's playtime. With their friends they recreated Lincoln's assassination and even gave Trap the dog a role.

Henry wove the war into his unpublished "Little Merrythought," an ongoing saga for his children that mirrored their household

and lives. "Owing to the war our dear dolls were obliged to go without tea and without new dresses," he wrote. "Their house-keeping expenses were very large and instead of gold and silver, they made use of paper money from 'Byam's Bank.'"

Feeling that his

young daughters "had outgrown having a nurse but still needed some sort of womanly supervision," as Henrietta Dana Skinner recalled in *An Echo from Parnassus* in 1928, Henry hired Hannah Davie, from England, to be their governess. Miss Davie set up school at Craigie House in 1863. "To keep his daughters company," Henrietta wrote, "Mr. Longfellow invited three or four children of friends and neighbors to come over daily and share the children's studies and pastimes...." She herself was one of them.

Pictured in the photograph above are, from left to right, Robert "Toto" Percy Fisher Ames, Henrietta Dana (?), unknown, Edith Longfellow, Miss Hannah Davie, Josie Ames, Fanny Horsford (?), and Annie Longfellow. Toto Ames was the only boy in the Longfellow's home school.

In 1864 Henry began meeting weekly with his friends James T. Fields, James Russell Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and Charles Eliot Norton to work on translating Dante's *The Divine Comedy* from Italian into English. Known as the Dante Club, it became a kind of therapy for Henry, helping to return him to society and his work.



Miss Davie's school with Toto Ames
and Edith and Annie Longfellow, 1863/64

Interview with a Friend...Meet Carol Bundy

Carol Bundy lives in Cambridge and, for part of her childhood, grew up across from the Longfellow House on Brattle Street. Before curating the current exhibit on the Civil War at the Massachusetts Historical Society, she wrote *The Nature of Sacrifice: A Biography of Charles Russell Lowell, Jr., 1835-64*. "Charlie" Lowell, a Union officer killed in the Civil War, was her great-great-great uncle and a nephew of James Russell Lowell.

Longfellow House: How did you come to write your book about Charlie Lowell?

Carol Bundy: I came upon the story when we were clearing out my grandmother's house. A sword box showed up with the three swords of the three nephews of James Russell Lowell who had died in the Civil War. My family mythology had largely forgotten them. I became interested in Charlie as a chance to explore the issue of what happens when your country is in crisis. How do you respond? Do you completely give yourself up to the cause?

LH: What was Charlie Lowell involved in before the war?

CB: He was looking at things like how to improve conditions for workers. How do we make industrialism with a human face? Do you give workers a share in the ownership of the company? Charlie wasn't alone in this. These were all ideas in the 1840s and '50s having to do with how do you reform education, how do you reform the industrial workplace? It was a reforming age. Slavery was just one piece of this. It became the dominant piece and overwhelmed everything else.

LH: How did you research for the book?

CB: The family letters are fascinating partly because Charlie Lowell's mother, Anna Cabot Lowell, was an amazing lady. She was extremely well-educated. When her husband went bankrupt, she ran a school and basically saved her family. If she hadn't had to do that, I have no idea where she would have taken her talents. Her letters become even more interesting the better you understand the whole period between 1820 and 1870. At the level at which I was working, you have to read the larger history and figure out how the Lowells fit within it.

LH: Did you get a sense of the network of people living here in Cambridge?

CB: The world was a lot smaller then so people tended to know each other. Because there were only a limited number of places where you could go to university, people overlapped. If you were going to university, you often went to the Boston Latin School

as a prep school. Lowell knew a huge number of boys because he had been to Boston Latin. Then he ended up at Harvard.

If your family went to live in Europe for two years, you just left school. People tended to live within families and next to other related families. If you grew up with cousins your own age, there might be a little school or a tutoring set up for all the cousins.

In the case of the Lowells, Elmwood, down at the end of Brattle Street, was the grandfather's house. James Russell Lowell, the youngest of the children, lived there and cared for his father and mother. Lowell knew the Transcendentalists, Longfel-



low, and other poets. He had been very involved in the early anti-slavery movement, so he knew Sumner and many abolitionists, like the Shaws and Lydia Maria Child.

LH: How did people use their connections to help one another during the war?

CB: Massachusetts Governor John Andrew was originally from Maine. He was an evangelical Christian, and an abolitionist. He was an outsider to the power structures within Boston and quickly realized he needed allies to help him build relationships. One of these was Colonel Henry Lee, a cousin of Charlie Lowell's mother and therefore a cousin of a lot of people. Lee played a critical role in building the relationship between the radical Andrew and the sources of essential funding from Boston businessmen. When the war broke out, Henry Lee was crucial in finding officers for regiments. You would apply to him: "Dear Cousin Harry, Little Willie has volunteered, and I'm terribly worried about his moral character. It would be so good if he could

be in Colonel Greene's regiment because I know he would be looked after." Those are the kinds of letters you'll find. You'll also find letters from Lee to a colonel saying, "These young men I know to be good, fine, upstanding young men" or "This fellow comes from a very fine family, but he's rotten to the core. Don't take him." He was instrumental in guiding many young men to their commissions. Because so many of them died, I think he felt terribly guilty about that for the rest of his life.

LH: Did the men want to volunteer? Were they passionate about the cause?

CB: You couldn't have done it without being passionate, although many of them had different passions. Some were quite conservative and were fighting to preserve the Union rather than against slavery. Many of them fought because their great grandfather had fought in the Revolution or had gone to the Constitutional Convention. That sense of having a personal stake in the fate of the nation was a very palpable feeling.

LH: What was Charlie Lowell's experience in the war?

CB: Charlie joined the Regular Army in Washington, D.C., which was made up of professional soldiers. Sumner pulled strings to get him into the cavalry. Lincoln had called for 75,000 volunteers after the fall of Fort Sumter. In 1863 Charlie took a leave of absence to return to Boston to recruit and command a volunteer cavalry regiment. In battle he turned out to be ridiculously lucky and incredibly brave. He had thirteen horses shot from under him during one campaign. Even after he was mortally wounded, he was strapped into his saddle and lead the charge at Cedar Creek. He lived long enough to know there was a victory. His entire regiment filed past his bed before he died at dawn. He had a glorious military career. That he had military talent came as a complete surprise to everybody. He was a small wiry guy.

LH: What can we learn from stories that haven't been told before?

CB: I think what's so hard about the Civil War is that it's so massive. We tend to tell the same stories over and over, partly because we're all desperately trying to get the sweep. I think there are different stories to learn in different parts of the country. The North has largely forgotten the Civil War. Although the North won the war, New England was fundamentally transformed afterwards. There was a more humane America that was lost in that war.

Charley Longfellow in the Union Army *(continued from page 1)*

prised, and not surprised, to hear that Charley has joined the Army; and is now in Washington! As I would not give my consent, he went without it.... He is at 'Camp. Battery A. Mass. Artillery. Brooks Div. 6 Army Corps' and as he has so very decided a taste for this kind of life, I think it would be unwise to recall him by any coercive means. Now what is the best thing to be done? If you could see Capt. [W.H.] McCartney, either by going to Camp or by asking him to call on you, when in town, that would seem to be the first step. If he stays, I want him to stay as an officer, if possible." As an officer, Charley would be placed in better social company and have better living quarters. Through government officials, one obtained a commission to become an officer.

In addition to using Sumner's political connections to procure a commission for Charley, Henry prevailed upon his friend and publisher James Thomas Fields, a nearby neighbor of the governor on Charles Street in Boston. "What I want you to do for me," Henry asked on March 21, 1863, "is to see [Mass] Gov. Andrew, to-day if you can, and ascertain if it is possible to get a commission of any kind for Charley. He is enlisted as a private in Battery A. Mass. Artillery, under Capt. McCartney, and is now with the army on the Rappahannock. If he could get a Lieutenantancy in that Corps, I should be gratified."

Unaware that his father was pulling strings to make him an officer, Charley was perfectly content with his rank. McCartney wrote to Sumner that the "prospect of obtaining the commission as above from our Excellent Govenor [sic] is very great. Young Longfellow is not aware of the true position he holds in the Batt'y. And I'm inclined to believe that he would not leave the Batt'y if he were considering his prospect of a commission, and so thoroughly satisfied is he with his position. Allow me to add, Sir, that it is a source of extreme gratification, to me, to find that my efforts on his behalf [are] resulting so satisfactorily to him, his parents and friends, and particularly since it has resulted in such

an agreeable ... association with you."

Before Henry heard back from Fields, he received the good news: "I have a telegram from the Potomac tonight saying that Col. Sargent has nominated Charley for a promotion already, so we need do nothing about it," Henry told Fields two days later.

"He seems to be making his way rapidly.... I only hope he will stick to the Artillery...." In the artillery rather than in the infantry, Charley would be further back – perhaps behind a hill – from the musket fire.

Families of wealth and prominence could procure higher ranks and safer positions in the army for their sons. When Capt. McCartney realized Charley was the son of the world-renowned poet, he quickly saw to his promotion. Henry wanted to express his appreciation to the Battery's commanding officer for helping Charley.

"If it is not against the Rules and regulations of the War Department," he wrote to Sumner on April 5, 1863, "I wish you would order your wine merchant to send a basket of Champagne to Capt. McCartney, with my compliments...."

By April 1 – within two weeks of arriving at camp – Charley was offered a commission as a second lieutenant in the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry. The glamor of fighting on horseback, rather than marching on foot through mud, greatly appealed to him. "I suspect that my dear little 'aunt' is at the bottom of this commission," he noted to his father. Charley was referring to his aunt Harriot Sumner Appleton, who was then engaged to Greely Stevenson Curtis, a lieutenant colonel in this very regiment.

Henry Longfellow was relieved by this promotion and set about outfitting his son properly. "Charley writes always in high

spirits. I have sent him two boxes, with clothes and outfit. Neither has reached him. I have also sent him a servant and two horses, and hope for better luck this time." Henry told Sumner on April 27, 1863. All the necessary clothes and equipment cost the doting father almost \$800.

To Henry's delight but not Charley's, his regiment spent most of its time remaining in camp and guarding supply wagons, thus staying out of the way of combat. Burdened with paperwork and unhappy with life in camp, Charley complained, "It was mighty stupid coming back to this camp again, it is ten times as pleasant to be in the field on the march."

In June 1863, Henry received news that Charley, now nineteen, was seriously ill with "camp fever." He rushed to his son's hospital bedside in Washington. Under medical leave, Charley returned with his father to Massachusetts and spent the summer recuperating by the seaside in Nahant. By mid-August he was ready and anxious to rejoin his regiment in Virginia.

In September near Culpeper, Charley met heavy combat for the first time. The tone of his letters home changed: "... they may talk about the gaiety of a soldier's life

but it strikes me as pretty earnest work when shells are ripping and tearing your men to pieces." During the Mine Run Campaign near New Hope Church, Virginia, Charley was at the forefront of the battle. A bullet pierced his back and nicked his spine without becoming lodged. "[G]ot plugged [sic]," he recorded in his journal.

As soon as the telegram bearing news of his son's injury arrived, Henry Longfellow set

out with his younger son Ernest to find Charley. They managed to get a military pass to go through army lines into Virginia to search for the wounded son. Although Charley intended to return to the army, his wounds took a long time to heal, and he was honorably discharged. Exchanging letters and photographs, Charley kept in touch with his army friends, documenting in scrapbooks his unit's role in the war.



Charley's scars and his later tattoo, c. 1874



Charley Longfellow, wounded, 1863

Longfellow Relatives and Friends Fighting for the Union in the Civil War

Not only Henry's son Charley Longfellow, but four other family members and many friends also enlisted in the Union Army. With strong feelings against slavery and with loyalty to the Union, they entered the Massachusetts regiments with fervor. If states could not meet the quotas mandated by the federal government, Lincoln's 1862 law required that each state institute a draft. The draft called up men — usually working-class or immigrants — who could not afford \$300 to hire a substitute.

The young men in Longfellow's circle willingly joined the Union Army. Wealth and connections helped these enlistees secure higher and safer positions. Money and influence also bought extra care when soldiers were sick or injured.

In Massachusetts, Harvard University students and alumni flocked to the war. The 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was known as the "Harvard Regiment." Out of two thousand Union regiments, it suffered the fifth highest number of casualties during the war.

Stephen Longfellow, Henry's troubled nephew from Portland, Maine, enlisted in September 1862 as a private in this regiment. Raised by his aunt Anne Longfellow Pierce after his father died, he was twenty-seven-years old and a Harvard graduate. After incurring wounds at Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania, he was discharged for disability in January 1865 with the rank of sergeant. During the war Henry corresponded with Stephen, sent him money, and on December 18, 1862, asked his friend — nurse Sarah Ames — to "enquire for him," adding "I hope he may have the good fortune to be in your Hospital."

Two members of Henry Longfellow's Dante Club had loved ones fighting for the Union. Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.'s son Oliver Jr. was an officer in the "Harvard Regiment." James Russell Lowell's nephew

Charles Russell Lowell attained the rank of colonel and was fatally wounded at the Battle of Cedar Creek in Virginia.

Henry's in-laws, the Appletons, also served in the Union Army. Nathan ("Naty") Appleton Jr. — half-brother to Henry's wife, Fanny Appleton Longfellow, but only a year older than their son Charley — graduated from Harvard in 1863 and served as a second lieutenant with the 5th Massachusetts Battery, rising to the rank of captain. He fought at Rappahannock Station, the Wilderness, Mine Run, and Spotsylvania, where he was wounded. He was present at the Battle of Five Forks and Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Naty visited his wounded nephew Charley at New Hope Church in Virginia.

A Cambridge boy and Harvard graduate well-known to Charley and the rest of the family, Benjamin William Crowninshield became a captain in the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry in 1862 at age 25. Lt. Albert Kintzing Post joined the 45th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Post had been an 1863 Harvard classmate of Nathan Appleton Jr.

Henry Longfellow contacted his friend Senator Charles Sumner about extended family, such as Samuel Appleton Appleton, Charley's second cousin: "I have been requested to write to you on behalf of young Sam

Appleton, son of Samuel and grandson of Webster," he inquired on June 23, 1862. "He is now on the staff of some General (name forgotten — in the vast multitude) [where he] has distinguished himself, and of course can present testimonials. He wishes to enter the Army, and, I believe, the only way is through the Senate, by aid of yourself or Mr. Wilson." Samuel became a first lieutenant in the 12th Massachusetts.

Harriot Appleton, Charley's aunt, married Greely Stevenson Curtis, who was instrumental in raising Massachusetts volunteers during the Civil War. He joined the 2nd Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in May 1861 before transferring to the Army of the Potomac, where he served at South Mountain and Antietam. He fought at Gettysburg after which he returned home with malaria and never fully recovered.



Nathan Appleton Jr., 1863

In a show of fondness, Charley had his photograph taken with a friend from his home state — Daniel Harry L. Gleason — while they served in the same cavalry unit together. Born in 1841, Gleason grew up in Holden, Massachusetts, and knew Charley before the war. In September 1861 Gleason enlisted as a private in the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry. He was discharged three years later because of wounds received in action.

Longfellow's neighbors and friends the Danas also had relatives in the Union Army. There are many photos in the House archives of Captain George Hazen Dana, second cousin of Richard Henry Dana III. R.H. Dana III later married Edith Longfellow.

One of the Longfellows' women neighbors left Cambridge to help the Union. An accomplished sculptor and wife of portrait painter and abolitionist Joseph Ames (who painted Henry W. Longfellow), Sarah Fisher Clappitt Ames served as a nurse in Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. She was responsible for the temporary hospital established in the U.S. Capitol. The photo of her son Robert "Toto" Percy Ames was taken in Washington with a soldier



Capt. Howard & "Toto" Ames, 1863

identified by Charley Longfellow only as "Captain Howard." In 1868 Sarah Ames executed a marble bust of Lincoln that stands in the Capitol today.



Stephen Longfellow, 1863



Charley with Daniel H.L. Gleason, 1863

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Civil War Poems

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow incorporated the issues of the times and his strong emotions about them into his poetry. He composed five poems concerning the Civil War, including his most famous epic verse, "Paul Revere's Ride." Penned in April 1860, a full year before Fort Sumter was bombarded and forced to surrender to South Carolina troops, "Paul Revere's Ride" served as a warning of the impending war and a call to arms to stop the evils of slavery. (For more on this, see our June 2009 issue.)

During the Civil War itself, on Decem-

Christmas Bells

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

ber 25, 1864, Longfellow wrote "Christmas Bells" after his son Charley was wounded in battle and Lincoln had won reelection. It affirms the poet's faith in life despite the horrors of the conflict. Later set to music – but without the powerful fourth and fifth anti-war stanzas – the poem inspired the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." John Baptiste Calkin slightly rearranged the remaining five stanzas in 1872 and came up with the memorable melody. This carol is still sung today.

First published in 1866 in the *Atlantic Monthly*, Longfellow's austere poem "Killed at the Ford" concerns the senseless waste of war and the suffering it inflicts, especially upon women who lost their sons, as the last stanza demonstrates:

*And I saw in a vision how far and fleet
That fatal bullet went speeding forth,
Till it reached a town in the distant North,
Till it reached a house in a sunny street,
Till it reached a heart that ceased to beat
Without a murmur, without a cry;
And a bell was tolled in that far-off town,
For one who had passed from cross to crown,—
And the neighbors wondered that she should die.*

Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, inquired of his friend Henry Longfellow if the death of his twenty-four-year-old son, Nathaniel Bowditch, at Kelly's Ford, Virginia, in March 1863 had suggested this poem. He had run into Longfellow in Boston at the station where he was welcoming back his wounded nephew, Captain Henry Pickering Bowditch, while the poet was arriving with his wounded son, Charley.

Longfellow replied in a letter to the elder Bowditch on March 23, 1866: "The poem you speak of was not a record of any one event which came to my knowledge, but of many which came to my imagination. It is an attempt to express something of the inexpressible sympathy which I feel for the death of the young men in the war, which makes my heart bleed when ever I think of it. How much I have felt for you I cannot tell you, particularly on that cold December night when I came back with my son, and saw you at the station and knew that yours would come back to you no more. Pardon me for touching that wound; it is only that I may tell you how deep the impression is. It from was such impressions that the poem came to my mind."

In his poem "Cumberland" – which first appeared in the December 1862 *Atlantic Monthly* and then with other poems in *Birds*

of *Passage* in 1863 – Longfellow portrayed a pivotal battle in the Civil War. The sail powered wooden-hulled USS *Cumberland*, launched on May 24, 1842, at the Boston Navy Yard, was rammed and sunk by the ironclad Confederate CSS *Virginia* (previously known as the USS *Merrimack*) at Newport News, Virginia, on March 8, 1862. The clash between the two ships was a turning point in naval history. In this verse Longfellow set the stage for this first conflict between metal and wood:

*Then far away to the south arose
A little feather of snow-white smoke,
And we knew that the iron ship of our foes
Was steadily steering its course
To try the force
Of our ribs of oak.*

In the last verse Longfellow celebrated "brave hearts that went down in the sea" without surrendering and congratulated the "brave land" that possessed "hearts like

A Nameless Grave

*"A soldier of the Union mustered out,"
Is the inscription on an unknown grave
At Newport News, beside the salt-sea wave,
Nameless and dateless; sentinel or scout
Shot down in skirmish, or disastrous rout
Of battle, when the loud artillery drove
Its iron wedges through the ranks of brave
And doomed battalions, storming of the redoubt.
Thou unknown hero sleeping by the sea
In thy forgotten grave! With secret shame
I feel my pulses beat, my forehead burn,
When I remember thou hast given for me
All that thou hadst, thy life, thy very name,
And I can give thee nothing in return.*

these" when the sloop was sunk. Perhaps the bard was also thinking of the uncle for whom he had been named, who had died under similar circumstances in the Battle of Tripoli in 1804.

In 1864 Longfellow read a newspaper description of a burying ground in Newport News where on the head-board of a soldier's grave were the words "A Union soldier mustered out." Ten years passed before the poet used the account for his sonnet "A Nameless Grave," written on November 30, 1874.

In his book *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: Portrait of a Humanist*, Edward Wagenknecht called the sonnet "a musing piece ... which expresses the humility that any sensitive man must feel before one who has given everything he had for a cause."

Alice Longfellow's Scrapbook of Patriotic Civil War Envelopes

Like many other Americans just prior to and during the Civil War, Alice Longfellow, the poet's oldest daughter, collected envelopes printed with patriotic illustrations. She stored her collection – now in the House archives – of one hundred, three-by-five-inch envelopes in a leather-bound scrapbook made especially for this purpose. In gold embossed letters, the album's spine sported the words "Civil War Cachets." Cachet referred to the printed design on the envelope commemorating a special event.

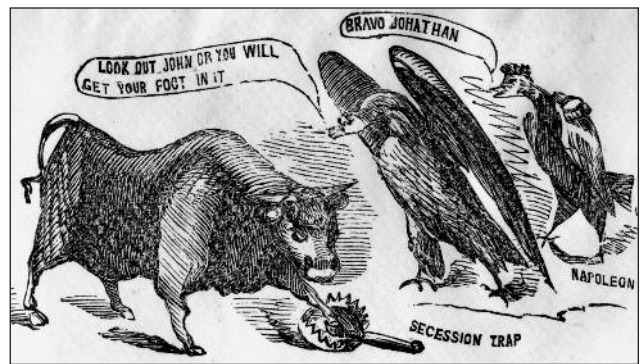
Both the North and the South produced this patriotic memorabilia. The envelopes were first designed for containing and sending letters in the mail and therefore kept the printed images in the corner or on the left-hand portion of the envelope's front side. But by 1861 people acquired them only as souvenirs. As the envelopes turned into collectors' items, images ran across the entire front side and sometimes the back as well. In the Confederacy, when paper became scarce, Southerners reused wallpaper and book pages to make envelopes or turned old envelopes inside out and used them again.

Manufacturing of these cachets began in the mid-1850s before the war broke out and continued during the war. One hundred and sixteen printers in thirty-nine cities – with a large concentration in New York and Boston – are known to have produced patriotic envelopes with pro-Union imagery. Charles Magnus, a general lithographer in New York whose work resembled that of Currier & Ives, and James Magee in Philadelphia were two of the leading envelope printers. Currier & Ives did work for other firms and may have done the bulk of the work for Charles Magnus.

Many of these commemorative envelopes were printed in black ink only, while others chose to use red and blue, often to display the colors of the American flag. Executed in various styles, the subject matter of the cachets ran the gamut from decorative patriotism to biting propagandistic satire. Many of the images resemble political cartoons, with explanatory labels and incisive captions.

Manufacturers tried to encourage collecting. One Hartford printer issued an album cover to promote the hobby. It depicted a gentleman, with a top hat and big carpet-bag, reading a newspaper with the bold headline: "A collection of Union envelopes in a few years from now will form a most valuable and pleasing curiosity, and will be sold at double the original cost."

More than sixty envelopes in Alice's patriotic envelope collection display illustrations of flags and people, most of whom are women. Like the members of The Bee (see page 9), the woman (left) sews for the troops above the motto, "Our hearts are with our brothers in the field." The flag-bearing woman (above) brandishes a sword and declares, "Shame on the dastard who would dim the lustre of a single star." Slaves figure on a number of Alice's envelopes. The image (below) shows Fort Monroe – under the command of General Benjamin Butler – a safe haven in Confederate Virginia for escaped slaves, whom he



termed "contraband of war" to justify not returning them to Southern slave owners.

Most similar to a political cartoon, an 1863 envelope (above) conveys Britain's dilemma about whether or not to recognize the Confederacy. It portrays Britain as John Bull, the U.S. (called "Jonathán" before "Uncle Sam") as an eagle, and Napoleon III. Another graphic (far left) shows the devil on a bale of cotton as "The innocent Cause of all the trouble."

Approximately 4,100 of these patriotic Civil War envelopes with various styles and political themes can be found in the holdings of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Fort Monroe Designated a National Monument

On November 1, President Obama made Virginia's historic Fort Monroe a national monument to be managed by the National Park Service.

Built in Hampton, Virginia, between 1819 and 1834 in part by enslaved labor, Fort Monroe served as a passageway to freedom during the Civil War. Escaped slaves found safe haven here at this Union-controlled fort in the midst of Confederate territory.

The President's designation of this monument reflects the will of a broad coalition of local and national organizations. Hundreds of citizens at town hall meetings, local elected officials including Hampton's mayor, Governor Bob McDonnell, and most members of the Virginia congressional delegation supported protecting historic Fort Monroe.



Longfellow Family's Civil War Collections

Period photographs along with the vast family correspondence, contemporary books and publications, official documents, ephemera, and artifacts from the war comprise the major Civil War collections currently at the House. All of these items were acquired over time by the extended Longfellow family.

The Civil War was the first American conflict to be extensively visually documented. Equipped with early and cumbersome cameras, photographers hovered around battlefields, barracks, or set up studios where soldiers could have their portraits made. Some soldiers had their pictures taken close to home, such as Benjamin Crowninshield who sat in front of a painted background in the Whipple Studio at 96 Washington Street in Boston. Nathan Appleton Jr. posed in the field for Gorman & Jordan, Army Photographers. Stephen Longfellow put on his uniform after the war to be photographed in Brookline, Massachusetts.

While the House archives contain some studio portraits by the famous photographer Matthew Brady, most photos in the collection are “cartes de visite” – relatively inexpensive small albumen prints mounted on cards for sending and trading – by various Northeast photographers. Not only used as calling cards, carte de visite photos of many people were available for purchase. For example, Charley bought several of prisoners of war (see page 10), one of General Sherman, and even one of Jefferson Davis.

Newspapers and magazines, such as *Punch* and *Harper's Weekly* also saturated their publications with visual documentation of the war. Both amateur and professional photographers would capture images. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* must have received so many unsolicited photos that they felt it necessary to ask submitters to identify the subject of their work: “Notice To Photographers,” they announced, “We shall be much obliged to our photographic friends if they will write in pencil the name and description of each picture,

together with their own home and address. This notice is rendered necessary from the fact that so many photographs are sent to us from friends throughout the country without one word of explanatory matter...” So that images could be printed in periodicals and dailies, artists made engravings from the photos.

The Longfellows saved many of these complete publications, which now reside



Charley's “Civil War Room” at 105 Brattle Street, Cambridge, 1864

in the archives. From their letters and these periodicals, we sense the family closely following news of the war and keeping up to date. Upon his return home, Charley carefully put together two Civil War albums of photographs of relatives, friends and famous figures (e.g. Union Generals Custer and Kilpatrick and “Rebs” A.P. Hill and J.B. Stuart) as well as newspaper clippings gathered by other family members too.

Also in the collection are Charley's many books pertaining to the war – some of which he read in preparation for enlisting. In 1861, when Charley was only seventeen and too young to sign up, his uncle Greely Curtis had given him two books on cavalry tactics. A letter in the archives refers to this

gift from Curtis. While in the army, Charley chose to read titles such as *Summary of the Art of War* by Baron De Jomini, General and Aid-de-Camp of the Emperor of Russia, as well as the army-issued *Army Officers' Pocket Companion and Manual for Staff Officers in the Field*. Over the years, other Longfellow family members added more Civil War books to the library – from *Personal Memoirs of Gen. W.T. Sherman* (1890) to *Memoirs of the War '61: Colonel Charles Russell Lowell, Friends and Cousins* (1917).

When Charley returned to his family's house in Cambridge, he installed a Civil War room, decorated with his wartime equipment and memorabilia. In the room he hung his two swords, a bugle, and cap, along with photos of Union soldiers and scenes from the war. Following his travels to Asia in the 1870s, he converted the room to his Japan Room. This photograph of the Civil War room can be found in the House archives as well as dozens of others from the war.

Numerous certificates and documents in the archives provide information about the family during war. Two 1861 certificates name Richard Henry Dana Jr. United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts.

The first appoints him to a term through the end of the next Senate session, and the second extends his term for four years. Both are signed by Abraham Lincoln, President, and William H. Seward, Secretary of State. Less prestigious but equally interesting is a pass allowing Henry and Ernest



Pictured above: Charley's Civil War cap, belt, and rifle, with insignias

Longfellow to cross military lines to search for the wounded Charley.

Because there are hundreds of letters between the Longfellow, Appleton, and Dana families, many more letters in the House archives remain to be re-examined, such as the lengthy correspondence between

Henry's brother Alexander W. Longfellow and his brother-in-law James Greenleaf, as well as letters from the Dana family women.

The Bee: Young Women Aid the Union Troops

Young women at home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, wanted to contribute to the Union effort during the Civil War. In 1924 Mary Towle Palmer took up the task “reluctantly yet gladly” of writing a memoir of a group begun in November 1861 by sixteen teenage girls as a weekly club to sew for the Union soldiers. Palmer belonged to this group for more than sixty years. Her book, *The Story of the Bee*, privately printed at the Riverside Press in Cambridge, affords a peek into the lives and times of these young ladies.

“In Cambridge there was a passionate fire of patriotism,” Palmer explained. “Her sons went forth to battle. Their little sisters, full of wonder and only half understanding the darkness of the cloud that had come across the sky, were moved to help as their elders were doing. Groups of women of various ages began meeting to sew and knit for the soldiers and to make lint by scraping old linen to be applied to bleeding wounds at the front; a dressing for wounds not tolerated in the present day.”

Palmer quotes a club-mate’s reminiscence: “One Wednesday in the early summer of that year [1861] we petitioned stately Miss Lyman (our school teacher) to omit the usual poetry recitation and let us devote the forenoon to making blue flannel shirts, for which there was imperative demand. She cordially consented, and we worked like beavers in the school-room over our self-imposed task, beginning with cheerful chatter which, as the hours passed, became more and more subdued, backs and fingers wearying with the unaccustomed work. I remember well the triumph with which Sue Whitney waved aloft the completed shirt. I remember that we bent with renewed and grim vigor over our own garment, to be not far behind her.”

After this the girls “organized themselves into a working unit and adopted the name of ‘The Banks Brigade’ in honor of General Banks, who at the time led the Massachusetts forces at the front.”

“From that time until the end of the Civil War,” Palmer recalled, “[we] met every Friday afternoon, choosing that day because of its freedom from study, for we were school-girls of fourteen and fifteen.... We met at four at the houses of the members, with supper at six or half-past six. Our mothers

the new hospital with bedding, towels, and night-clothes,” wrote Palmer, “and the Bee (as it was now called) found plenty of employment for its energetic fingers. Besides this, the Bee had protégés down on the marsh with large and needy families.”

“For four years the Bee met once a week

from November to May, and thereafter for fifty-eight years it has rarely failed to meet every fortnight.” The Bee added members over the years and grew to include sixty-four women. From this total, Palmer stated, “... twenty-six are still in the world, and enough are in Cambridge and able to work to make meetings of the Bee useful and enjoyable.

Probably we shall bravely go on until the members have become reduced to a very few, and the symphony will end with a gradual silencing of music.”



Members of “The Bee,” 1863

presided at the table, but fathers and brothers were, from the beginning, banished to regions unknown.... During the Civil War, we were never without our knitting, steadily making blue socks with red-and-white borders, knitting while we studied our lessons and while we recited them, knitting while we walked or talked or played.”

Palmer noted one good deed that went awry: “Through the hot summer ... a group of girls made ‘havelocks.’ These havelocks were a sort of masculine sun-bonnet and were warranted to prevent sunstroke in the torrid South, and we declared at least one company of Uncle Sam’s soldiers should be thus protected. So we finished and sent off one hundred havelocks – and heard afterwards that the men used them to clean their rifles. As headgear their whiteness made too good a mark for the enemy.”

Two of the original sixteen founders of the group were Ruth Charlotte Dana and Elizabeth Ellery Dana, friends and backyard neighbors of the Longfellow family and a number of years older than the Longfellow daughters. Henry’s daughter Edith would later marry their brother Richard Henry Dana III.

After the war ended, Emily Parsons, the older sister of one of the members who had been an army nurse, helped establish what would become Mount Auburn Hospital. “Much sewing was needed to furnish

Longfellow House Bulletin Turns 15

With this issue, the *Longfellow House Bulletin* completes fifteen years of publication. Conceived in 1996 by Diana Korzenik, first president of the Friends of the Longfellow House, as essential to the Friends’ mission, it has informed both the public and researchers about the House collections and activities. Under the editorial guidance of scholars Ruth Butler and Marilyn Richardson, the *Bulletin* came to focus on breaking news at the House supplemented by supporting research articles in thematically related issues. Jim Shea, NPS Museum Manager, and Glenna Lang continue the endeavor.

The *Bulletin* is produced twice a year cooperatively between the Friends of the Longfellow House-Washington Headquarters and the National Park Service. All back issues of the *Bulletin* for use as records and research tools can be found on the websites of both the Friends and the National Park Service.

Prisoner of War Camps in the Civil War

Along with images of friends and family who fought for the Union, Charley Longfellow placed in his Civil War photograph albums (see page 8) shocking carte-de-visite-style photographs of Union soldiers who were prisoners of war – probably on Belle Island in Richmond, Virginia. These photos graphically capture the sickly and emaciated condition of the men who were held captive.

The captions on the back of both of these photographs tell us that these men had arrived by “Steamer New York” from Richmond, Virginia, on May 2, 1864, and were admitted to the “U.S. General Hospital, Div. No.1, Annapolis, Md.” One man was identified as “Private L.H. Parham, Co. B. 3rd W. Tenn. Cav.,” having died on May 11, 1864, and the other as “Private John Q. Rose - Company C, 8th Kentucky,” having died on May 4, 1864. Both captions state that the men died “from effects of ill treatment while in the hands of the enemy.”

Although we do not know exactly how or where Charley obtained the images of Parham and Rose and other Civil War prisoners, such pictures – many of which were taken by Baltimore photographer David Bachrach – were widely available for purchase. In his Civil War albums Charley also has a photo of Libby Prison’s best-known inmate, the eccentric Union Cavalry commander General H. Judson Kilpatrick, who had led the unsuccessful raid on Richmond in March 1864.

Opened on March 26, 1862, Libby Prison became one of the most famous and horrific Confederate prisons. In less than a year, it began serving as the headquarters for the Confederate States Military Prisons and the depot from which all prisoners were transferred to other facilities in or outside the city. Each day a greater number of prisoners arrived than departed. The prison population peaked at more than 4,000 with never fewer than 1,200 prisoners on each floor, averaging 400 men to a room.

In addition to the POW photos in Charley’s album, the archives contain a newspaper page from *Harper’s Weekly* on April 22, 1865, with an engraving of the Libby Prison by

A.W. Warren. Depicted after Union troops occupied Richmond and liberated the prisoners, the Union flag flies above the three adjacent four-story brick buildings with Union soldiers in the foreground.

Both the North and South maintained

prisoner of war camps, some of which were as cruel and inhumane as the concentration camps of World War II. After the war several investigations took place, trying to prove intentional abuse rather than just poor conditions. Many Confederate soldiers were prosecuted, but

only one was convicted and executed.

Among the many Civil War-related books at the House is a formal investigative report, conducted by the federal government in May 1864, on the atrocities of the war. Entitled *Reports of the Committee on the Conduct of the War: Fort Pillow Massacre & Returned Prisoners*, thirty-four pages cover the testimony of various people who observed the camps and the prisoners, in this case Union sol-

diers. The Longfellows acquired this official report, further evidence of their concern.

All together, on both sides, more than 150 prisons existed to house the overwhelming number of prisoners of war. Inmates were poorly fed, and disease was rampant

because of poor sanitation and overcrowding. An estimated 56,000 men perished in Civil War prisons, far more than in any battle during the war itself.

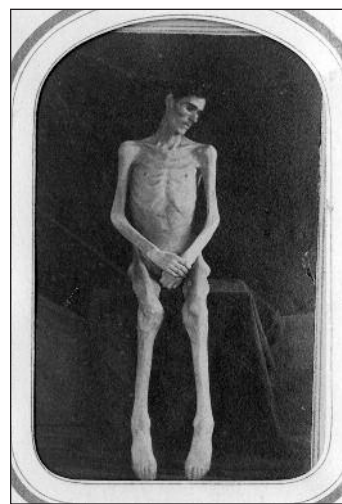
Andersonville, the most notorious Civil War prison, incarcerated nearly 33,000 men at its peak. Visitors to the prison remarked on the stench that filled the air. The prison’s insufferable

conditions claimed the lives of 13,000 men.

These materials and photos in the House archives present another opportunity to educate people about prisoner of war camps in the Civil War. Andersonville National Historic Site was designated by the U.S. Congress as a memorial to all POWs in American history. Its programs interpret the accounts of other Civil War camps in both the North and South.



Private L.H. Parham, 1864



Private John Q. Rose, 1864

Recent Research at the House

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

Dr. Aaron Lecklider, Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, examined Henry “Harry” Wadsworth Longfellow Dana’s papers for his study of “Sex and the Left in American Culture, 1920-1960.”

For a chapter in her Ph.D. thesis on the relation of Longfellow’s collection of art objects to his literary work, Christa Vogelius from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor came to the House to research. She was especially interested in Henry Longfellow’s poems devoted to the visual arts (such as *Keramos*) and his ceramics.

Winner of the Korzenik Research Fellowship, Klara Stephanie Szlezak of the University of Regensburg, Germany, came to find material for her dissertation entitled “Creating Pasts in Nineteenth-Century Writers’ Houses in New England.” She is examining a selection of houses once occupied by canonical nineteenth-century American writers throughout New England and now open to the public to reveal how these houses helped in the creation and reinforcement of cultural memory in the U.S.

Henry Longfellow's Support of the Union and Black Regiments

Henry Longfellow's entries in both his account book and his journal evidence his support for Union soldiers and their cause. He also donated to supportive associations, including the Sanitary Commission (a private relief agency created by the federal government to aid sick and wounded soldiers) and the Emancipation League. But a number of account book entries also demonstrate his contributions specifically to black soldiers and black regiments – generous amounts for such items as “colored soldiers,” “contraband,” and “Tennessee Refugees” (probably to help freedmen in East Tennessee made destitute by the war).

“In town,” Henry noted in his journal on May 28, 1863 “Saw the first black Regiment, or Regiment of Blacks, march through Beacon St.! An imposing sight; with something wild and strange about it, like a dream. At last the North consents to let the Negro fight for his own freedom.”

Henry's friend and neighbor in Cambridge, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, served as colonel of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, later known as the 33rd United States Colored Troops (USCT), the first Union regiment composed of former slaves. “Until the blacks were armed, there was no guaranty of their freedom,” Higginson

declared in his *Army Life in a Black Regiment*. “It was their demeanor under arms that shamed the nation into recognizing them as men.”

For many years, Henry had also been quite well acquainted with the family of Robert Gould Shaw, commander of the first Northern regiment of black troops. Gould's parents were the Boston abolitionists Francis George Shaw and Sarah Blake Sturgis Shaw.

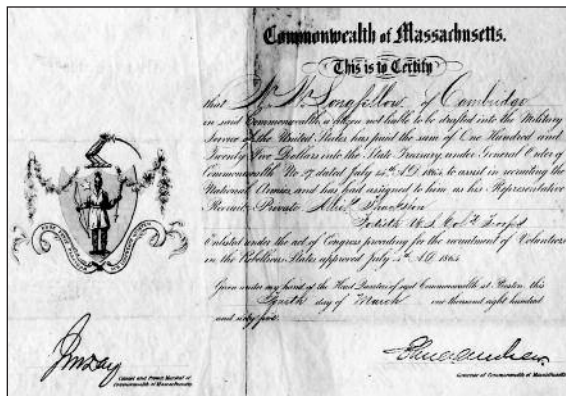
Governor John Andrew chose young Robert Gould Shaw to raise and lead the first regiment of black troops in a Northern state. Previous black regiments consisted mainly of freed slaves in occupied areas. Shaw recruited free blacks from New England and beyond.

Colonel Shaw was sent to take part in the operations against Charleston. In July 1863, he led the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, along with two white brigades, in an assault on Confederate Fort Wagner. Hig-

ginson's 33rd USCT participated. In the unsuccessful charge, the black troops proved capable of standing up to enemy fire but lost about one quarter of their men, including Col. Shaw. The rebels were so outraged by the Union arming blacks that they buried Shaw in a common grave with his black enlisted men. Shaw's parents, however, felt that was what their son would have wanted.

When the war was over, Longfellow continued financial support for the education of freedmen and Tuskegee and Hampton Institutes. In 1867 he listed in his account book a one-hundred-dollar donation to a “college in Tennessee,” i.e., Fisk University.

Henry not only gave money for a monument to the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, but also sought subscriptions from his friends to put “the young hero on his bronze horse in front of the State House.”



Certificate of Henry Longfellow's \$125 donation to the 40th Colored Regiment in Tennessee, July 14, 1865

Longfellow House in the Media

The Dante Society of America has devoted its 2010 Annual Report to the study of Longfellow's work on Dante. The more-than-300-page report incorporates twelve essays written by scholars in the field plus a previously unpublished essay by Henry (Harry) Wadsworth Longfellow Dana entitled “Longfellow and Dante,” recently transcribed and edited by Christian Dupont, an independent Dante scholar.

In 1971 Joseph Chesley Mathews, professor of English at the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Dante specialist, compiled a bibliographical catalog of the Dante-related volumes in Longfellow's library. Dupont's newly edited version of this catalog is also in this special volume as is a new short story called “A Dante Club Reunion” by Matthew Pearl, author of *The Dante Club*, a historical novel about Longfellow's translation group.

The Dante Society of America originally met in 1881 at Longfellow's House with Henry as its host and first president. They still meet and have a library at the House.

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.

New Friends Board member **Rona Kiley**, an advocate for **Teach for India**, brought a number of Indian students from Harvard University to tour the House and see photos and journals from Charley Longfellow's trip to India in 1868.

Steven O'Shaughnessy, head of the preservation carpentry department at the **North Bennet Street School** in Boston – one of the nation's premier woodworking schools – brought his class to study various architectural elements of the House.

In the summer and fall, the House collaborated with a number of organizations on educational programs, including “The Siege of Boston” with the **Massachusetts Historical Society** and “Boston Women: The Struggle for Freedom, 1760-1860” with the **Boston National Historical Park**, **Old South Meeting House**, and the **Paul Revere House**. Held at the House, more than thirty teachers participated in these workshops.

Since the House changed its official name last December, many more visitors have come to learn about George Washington's Headquarters. Among them were the **Colonial Dames of Texas**, the **Sons of the American Revolution's Boston Chapter**, the **Rhode Island National Guard's Judge Advocate General's Office**, and historian **Nathaniel Philbrick**, who came to research for a forthcoming publication.

Spotlight on an Object

In each issue of the newsletter, we focus on a particular object of interest in the Longfellow House collection. This time our spotlight shines on a mechanical wind-up toy from the late 1870s. A little under ten inches tall, the painted metal and wood figure is dressed in an army costume made of fabric. Modeled after Civil War General Benjamin F. Butler, a U.S. Congressman and later governor of Massachusetts, this toy bears a strong resemblance to the man. When wound with a key on the right hip, it “walked” on small rollers under its feet.

Angering many in both the North and the South, Butler was one of the most disliked generals of the war. He became the first to identify slaves who ran away into Union lines as “contraband of war.”

Although we do not know how this object came to the House, the toy has its original box with a notation on the label indicating a price of “3.50,” equivalent to \$62 today. Also printed on the box is the name of the toy’s designer, Arthur E. Hotchkiss, and the patent date, 1875.

Clockwork or mechanical toys were some of the most wondrous and expensive playthings for children in the late nineteenth century. In the United States, the Ives Manufacturing Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut, was known for the finest examples of these intricate miniature replicas — mechanical figures that appeared to walk.



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

Friends of the Longfellow House-
Washington Headquarters
105 Brattle Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

