



Longfellow House Bulletin

Volume 11 No. 2

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Longfellow House and the National Park Service

December 2007

Longfellow House Archives Cataloging Complete At Last

After sixteen years of painstaking and meticulous work, archivists have finished cataloging the multigenerational collection of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and his extended family's papers in the Longfellow House archives. Skilled professionals have examined and organized over 700,000 documents – letters, journals, manuscripts, and drawings – from the Longfellow, Appletons, Danas, and Wadsworths. Twenty-two corresponding finding aids, most of which are now available on the Longfellow National Historic Site website, provide researchers with an indispensable tool for learning about this extraordinary collection and for locating materials.

Since 1991, the National Park Service's Northeast Museum Services Center staff, which catalogs collections throughout the

region, has worked together with the Longfellow NHS museum staff to complete this monumental project. The team combed through unsorted and inadequately stored papers, categorizing and filing them in acid-free folders. Archivists then labeled each folder and listed it in a finding aid. Sometimes they cross referenced the historic items by listing them in more than one finding aid.

Without the cataloging and finding aids, these documents would be lost to scholars of American culture and history.



Catalogers of the House archives (left to right): David Vecchioli, Margaret Welch, Anita Israel, Jennifer Lyons, Lauren Malcolm, 2007

Each finding aid includes an overview of its subject, biographical information, and an index of the particular collection's con-

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Treasuring Family Heritage: A Brief History of the House Archives

During his lifetime, Henry W. Longfellow and his family treasured their personal documents, and they created an informal archives in their home. In addition to collecting books for his vast library and preserving his own papers, the poet saved his children's, parents', and other relatives' letters, journals, manuscripts, photographs, and drawings.

Before the twentieth century, letter-writing served as the major form of non-face-to-face communication. Longfellow himself is said to have written more than 15,000 letters in his lifetime. Gathered in the library, the family often read aloud letters they received, such as those they enjoyed from the oldest son, Charley, as he traveled through Japan.

Aware of their families' legacies, both the



Longfellow family members at the dedication of Longfellow Park (left to right): Harriet Spelman Longfellow, Elizabeth E. Dana, Edith Longfellow Dana, Mrs. Daniel Chester French, Annie Allegra Longfellow Thorp, Ernest Longfellow, 1914

Longfellow and Dana families (which Henry's daughter Edith married into) consciously worked to create their own history. They kept papers going back as far as the

early seventeenth century. Because of the House's connection to George Washington, people offered Longfellow memorabilia associated with the first president. He accepted a lottery ticket signed by Washington.

After Henry's death in 1882, his daughter Alice Longfellow remained in the House. She and her siblings paid homage to their father through their stewardship of his property. They and their children envisioned the House as a museum to educate and inspire the public. In 1913, to preserve and manage the property, they formed the Longfellow House Trust. They valued the House not only as an excellent example of architecture, but also as a memorial to Henry Longfellow and George

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House Archives Cataloging Complete *(continued from page 1)*



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All images are from the Longfellow National Historic Site collections, unless noted otherwise.

tents. The finding aid describes groups of documents and highlights individual items of particular interest. Some family members for whom many records exist, such as the poet's son Charley Longfellow and his cousin Mary King Longfellow, have finding aids devoted to them. Other finding aids encompass an entire family, such as the Dana and Wadsworth-Longfellow families.

All together the extensive House archives – comprised of materials from 1650 to 1972 – offer a unique view of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century American history. Through the eyes of various family members, scholars can read firsthand accounts of the Revolutionary, Barbary, and Civil Wars. They can glimpse nineteenth-century American art and culture, and social movements such as abolition, women's education, historic preservation, and socialism. The collection also illuminates the daily lives of the occupants of the House.

Over the years as the cataloging progressed, the archives have attracted increasing numbers of researchers. Since the late 1980s, the number of researchers using the archives has grown from a mere handful each month to over 600 so far this year.

In the early 1990s, two notable scholars came to the House archives seeking information for their forthcoming books. Diana Korzenik was working on Fanny Appleton Longfellow's interest in art, and Stanley Paterson sought supporting material for his transcriptions of Henry Longfellow's unedited journals. During their time at the House, they recognized the value of studying documents in situ and the urgent need to catalog and preserve the archives. In large part to lobby for and raise the necessary funds, they helped found the Friends of the Longfellow House.

In the mid 1990s the Friends and Senator Edward M. Kennedy helped to obtain a base increase in funding from Congress, allowing the Longfellow NHS to hire more museum staff to care specifically for the collections and cataloging. In 1999 the LNHS hired full-time archives specialist Anita Israel. Although the House has had

to compete nationally for money by region and park, since 1991 the House has received funding every year from the National Park Service for cataloging. Approximately \$1.5 million in federal funds have gone into the entire cataloging project.

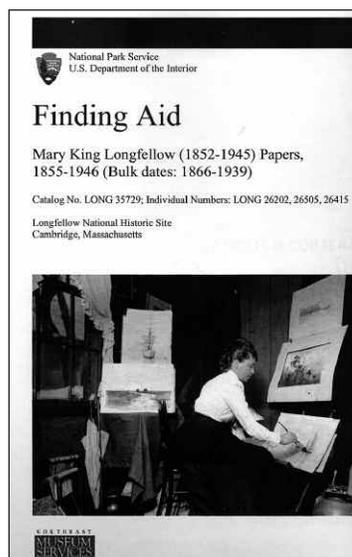
In 1991, with no idea as to the extent of archives, a regional NPS team was hired to catalog some of the documents at the House. They first examined and organized Alice Longfellow's papers as well as architectural drawings found in the House. Fanny Longfellow's correspondence had already been microfilmed, but her journals and drawings remained to be sorted.

Based on a year's work, in 1992 the archivists estimated there were 100,000 papers. They had found some of these documents stored in boxes in the basement, but most were scattered throughout the House on office shelves or in drawers and closets.

By 1993 the team had moved all family papers to one central location in the basement, and for the first time they had completed a full inventory. They increased their estimate to an astounding 678,000 papers.

As part of the major House rehabilitation, from 1998 to 2002 the basement was modernized as a state-of-the-art research and storage facility. Historic furnaces were documented and then replaced. Moveable and stationary shelves were installed in the basement vaults to hold museum objects, historic books, and acid-free storage boxes. New climate controls throughout the collection storage areas ensure the preservation of all these materials.

Yet there is always more to be done. In addition to the now over 700,000 documents, the House also holds more than 35,000 museum artifacts as well as a remarkable collection of 12,000 historic photos. These collections are still in the process of being cataloged. Some finding aids created before 1996 await conversion to an electronic format that will enable them to be launched online. When this takes place – probably within the year – people all over the world can have full knowledge of the contents of the House archives.



Interview with a Friend... Meet Ann Hitchcock, NPS Curator in Washington

In 1980 when the National Park Service first established the chief curator position in their Washington office, they chose Ann Hitchcock. Since then she has worked to develop policy, procedures, strategies, and systems to manage the museum collections throughout the Park Service. She has an undergraduate degree in anthropology and art history, and a Master's in anthropology with a specialization in museum studies. Now both a curator and a special assistant in cultural resources, she spoke to us via telephone from Washington, D.C.

Longfellow House: How did you come to this work? What were your interests?

Ann Hitchcock: As an undergraduate at Stanford, I volunteered at the Stanford Museum, cataloging Cypriot pottery collections. I went on to train in archaeological field work and particularly enjoyed the related laboratory activities. After graduate school, I worked at the Museum of Northern Arizona for six years and interned at the Smithsonian Institution and the British Museum. Then I moved to Canada where I was assistant chief curator at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature and contributed to the development of the national catalog system in Canada. Next, I moved to Washington to be chief curator of the NPS.

LH: What exactly does the chief curator do?

AH: In 1980 NPS had curators in the parks and supported park museums through the regional offices and the interpretive design center at Harpers Ferry. However, the field curators had asked for a curatorial leader in the Washington Office – a chief curator. As chief curator, I established a museum management program in headquarters where we coordinated policy, provided technical guidance to the parks, and developed a strategy to address the most urgent collections management needs in parks, such as backlog cataloging and improving storage and exhibit conditions. Congress supported the strategy and provided funding for parks to catalog their backlogs and address preservation and protection deficiencies. We revised and automated the cataloging system, increasing public access, and made other improvements.

LH: Tell us about the NPS's museum collection. What portion is archives?

AH: The general public often doesn't realize that the NPS has one of the largest museum operations in the world. We have over 124 million museum items, of which

84 million are archival. These include personal papers, as you have at Longfellow House, as well as manuscript collections and organizational records, such as records from Thomas Edison's laboratory. We also have resource management records (for example, field notes, photographs, maps, archaeological assessments, and historic structures condition reports) that document work relating to both natural and cultural resources on NPS land.

LH: Not all these archives are still at their original sites. In 1972 when the NPS



took over the Longfellow House, there was less emphasis in keeping all archives at their sites. What has changed since then?

AH: Manuscripts and historic photographs were included in park collections from the beginning, but in 1972 NPS policy advised parks to deposit large manuscript and photographic collections in archives or libraries outside the parks. By 1978, however, policy encouraged acquisition of large archival collections that supported the park's mission if the park could provide appropriate housing and staffing for the collection and ready access for research.

LH: What's the next step for the NPS regarding archives and how they are used?

AH: NPS plans to increase efficiency in processing archival collections servicewide and to continue to refine the information about these collections and make them readily available to the public. The Longfellow House staff has taken this approach in cataloging archival collections and creating finding aids so that the public has access.

LH: We've certainly seen the number of researchers grow because of our cataloging.

AH: The emphasis needs to be on com-

pleting the basic finding aid, the collection-level catalog record, and automated descriptions at series, subseries, and other levels of intellectual control so that the public is aware of what we have. As researchers use the collections and provide more insights, we add that information to our records. The public becomes part of the process and actually helps us to refine the information.

LH: Absolutely. We learn so much about our archives from researchers and visitors.

AH: One of my main visions is that the finding aids for all NPS archival collections as well as the collection-level catalog records will be available on the web.

LH: Since we put our finding aids online, international research requests have increased dramatically.

AH: The internet is key to providing information on park collections. My hope for the future is that more and more parks will put their collections data on the NPS Web Catalog. The virtual exhibits that the NPS museum management program creates in cooperation with parks also raise public awareness of the collections. What you've done in putting finding aids on the web is extremely important, as is posting them with NUCMC [the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections operated by the Library of Congress]. Providing cross-references to finding aids on related non-NPS websites helps to disseminate the information as well. For example, you could link your finding aids with the Longfellow papers at Harvard. I also hear from other parks that posting collections information on the web results in more informed research questions from the public, making the research process more efficient. Researchers really know much more about what they are seeking and what they can expect to find at a particular site.

LH: Yes, the internet helps us serve people better.

AH: This is why NPS created the Web Catalog. I hope more parks will participate and post their finding aids here and on their own websites. The ultimate goal is to provide information about NPS collections to the public for research, exhibits, education, and school programs. All our effort to preserve and document park collections is justified when it leads to that important part of our mission – to provide these resources for the benefit of future generations, adding to their knowledge of the world and their enjoyment of it.

History of the House Archives *(continued from page 1)*

Washington, who used the House as his home and headquarters from July 1775 to April 1776.

Three trustees managed the Longfellow House Trust, which allowed any family member alive at the inception of the trust to live in the House. In 1917 Alice Longfellow's nephew Henry (Harry) Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, grandson of the poet, moved in and made the yellow house on Brattle Street his home for the rest of his life.

In 1919 Harry convinced family members to change the provisions of the trust so that the House would stay as it was when the poet lived there. Not only the historic home and grounds, but also the furnishings, personal items, the library, papers, photographs, and Henry Longfellow's correspondence would all remain intact.

In essence, Harry Dana became the House's first curator. He took a particular interest in organizing his grandfather's papers and library. To build the archives, Harry encouraged members of his extended family to deposit their personal papers, books, special clothing items, and photographs at the House.

Harry also added to the archives by purchasing objects and papers related to the House's history. From auctions and antiquarian dealers such as Goodspeed's, he bought materials originally belonging to his two grandfathers, Henry Longfellow

and Richard Henry Dana Jr, as well as his historic artifacts from the House during the American Revolution. He also employed a newsclipping service.

From the time he took up residency in the House, Harry received requests from writers and scholars to come to the House to research. With his cousin Anne Longfel-

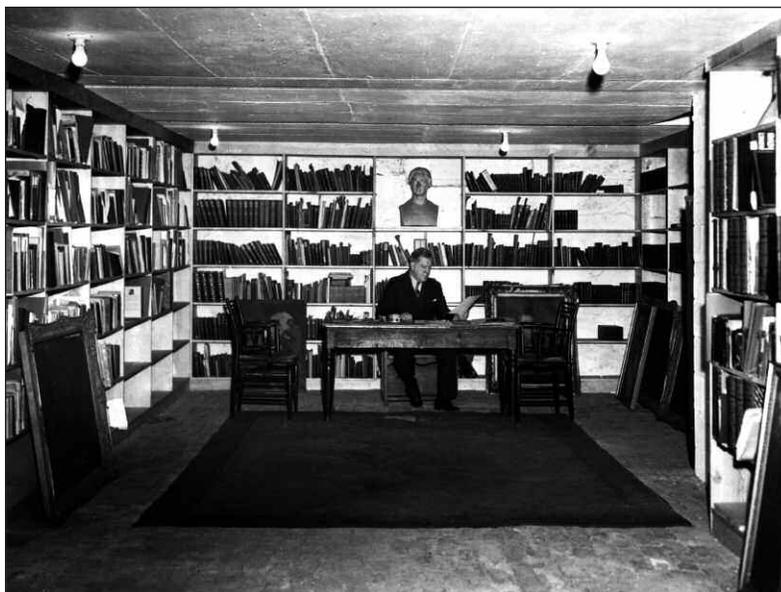
will be able to give the place the impress that you want before you cash in your chips ... get good and busy on the matter..."

In 1945 Harry Dana hired Thomas de Valcourt to serve as librarian and curator of the House, a job he would hold for the next twenty years. Frank Buda, who had worked as Harry Dana's chauffeur, assisted with researchers and gave tours of the House. When Harry died in 1950, the House continued to serve as an active archives for many scholars from across the United States and around the world.

In 1956, in a move that Harry Dana would not have approved, the Longfellow House Trust deposited a portion of Henry Longfellow's papers at Harvard University. Sixteen years later the trust officially sold them to Harvard for one dollar. All the other family papers, however, remained in the House.

In 1972 the Longfellow House Trust donated the House with all its furnishings, objects, library, and family papers to the National Park Service. When the NPS took over, staff members began to prepare the House for the public. They started by cataloging objects on exhibit in the furnished rooms and inventorying Henry Longfellow's family library. The trust gave the NPS \$200,000 as an endowment, which was spent on the most critical conservation needs.

Finally, in 1991, the Northeast Museum Services Center staff arrived to help catalog the documents that Harry Dana and his family had preserved and collected. (See top story on page 1.)



Harry Dana in the basement archives, Longfellow House, 1942

low Thorp as a fellow gatekeeper, he enforced strict rules and asked researchers to sign an agreement stating that anything they published from their research at the House would first be approved by Thorp and Dana. Harry kept careful records of who came to research, where they were from, and the subject of their study.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Harry corresponded frequently with his cousin William Sumner Appleton regarding various objects from the Longfellow, Appleton, and Dana families. As the founder in 1910 of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (recently renamed Historic New England), Appleton cared for other historic properties. Acquiring items through auctions, gifts, and family estates, he offered papers, photographs, and other historic artifacts to Harry for the House.

Appleton worried about what would become of the House when Harry died. On June 25, 1934, Appleton wrote to Harry: "You may remember that you have on occasion wondered what would become of this society after my death. Let me return the compliment by saying that I have often wondered what would become of the Craige house after your death. I hope you

Alice Longfellow to Harry Dana,

March 15, 1917:

"...and have been over all the loose papers. They are now all sorted, labelled, and tied up with stiff board, so they can be easily looked over. When you come on, we can decide on the best forms of permanent cases. I have also had a shelf made for the card catalogue in the passageway, and hope the books can be settled, and the catalogue completed before long. I am anxious to have everything in good order as possible, as the next generation will have less time and patience for this wearisome work..."

Edith Longfellow to Charles Longfellow,
January 19, 1872:

"...That was a splendid letter of yours. How good it was of you to write so much, and it was so interesting. It took the better part of an evening for Alice to read aloud to Papa, Annie and me, while we followed you up on the map from place to place, which made it a great deal more interesting..."

Some Treasures from the House Archives

To convey an idea of the variety and extent of the holdings in the Longfellow House archives, here are a few samples of its many treasures.

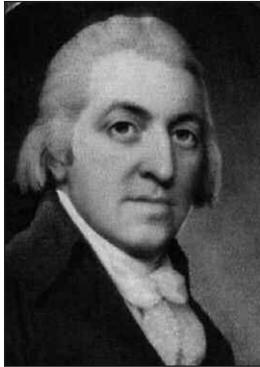
Letters of Annie Adams Fields, in the Henry W. Longfellow Family Papers

Annie Fields (pictured here), wife of publisher James T. Fields, became central to Boston literary circles. She wrote about many of her lifelong friendships with various literary personages, including Henry W. Longfellow. After her husband's death, she had a Boston marriage with author Sarah Orne Jewett, which lasted for the remainder of her life. Annie Fields corresponded with a number of Longfellow and Dana family members, such as Henry, Alice, Edith, Annie, Ernest, and Samuel Longfellow.



Letters of Mary (Polly) Allen, in the Mary Allen-Andrew Craigie Correspondence

Henry Longfellow first lived in the House in 1837 as a boarder of Elizabeth Craigie, the widow of Andrew Craigie who had bought the House in 1791. Elizabeth Craigie died in 1841, and in 1843 Henry and Fanny Longfellow received the House as a wedding gift from the bride's father. Years later, Henry began finding let-



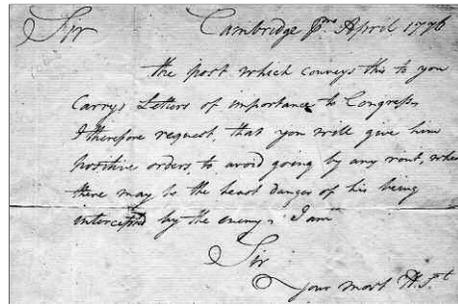
ter after letter of mysterious origin hidden in the stairs leading to the basement. Eventually, he discovered a box stuffed into a compartment above the basement stairs with more than one hundred letters addressed to Andrew Craigie (see image below), the earliest of which was dated January 1797. Apparently, these often affectionate letters detailing the writer's daily life were written by Polly Allen (who sometimes called herself Mary). Allen appears to have been Craigie's eighteen-year-old illegitimate daughter.

George Washington's last letter written in the House, in the Henry W.L. Dana Collection

Until a few years ago, this particular letter – one of many that Washington wrote during his nine-month occupancy of the House – was both unpublished and unknown. Researching at the house for his book *1776*, David McCullough discovered this oversight. Written from "Headquarters Cambridge" and dated April 1776, the letter (see top right) to Nicholas Cooke, the Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island, reads: "The post which conveys this to you carries letters of

importance to Congress. I therefore request, that you will give him positive orders, to avoid going by any rout, where there may be the least danger of his being intercepted by the enemy."

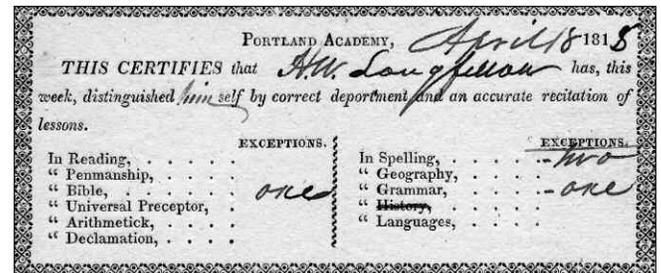
Report cards of Henry W. Longfellow, age eight, from Portland Academy, in the



Henry W. Longfellow Family Papers

Issued on April 18, 1815, one of eight-year-old Henry's school report cards (see bottom right): "This certifies that H.W. Longfellow has, this week, distinguished himself by correct deportment and an accurate recitation of lessons." Several exceptions were listed, however: one in Bible, one in grammar, and two in spelling.

On September 30th of that same year, Henry's teacher, N.H. Carter, wrote to him: "To Master Henry W. Longfellow this certificate is presented, as a memorial of his studious habits in school, his respectable rank in scholarship and his respectful, obedient and affectionate conduct towards me during the term he has been under my instruction."



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.

Helen Vendler, Harvard professor and author of numerous books on poets and poetry, taught a summer seminar on poetry. It was sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Fourteen teachers from around the country attended.

Thanks to an ongoing partnership between the House and the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science Archival Management program, **Amanda Bushnell** worked on the Pratt research papers for an internship at the House archives.

Friend of the Longfellow House, retired librarian, and recent graduate of the bookbinding program of the North Bennet Street School, **Barbara Halporn** is volunteering and constructing rare-book boxes for the House's historic book collection.

Peter Hatch, Director of Gardens and Grounds at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, toured the house, archives and, of course, the garden. He later spoke to the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House on Brattle Street in Cambridge.

H.W. Longfellow Family Papers Finding Aid

Although many of Henry Longfellow's papers moved from the House to Harvard University's Houghton Library, a substantial number still remain in the House archives. The finding aid for the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Family Papers describes and locates the items in this exceptional set of documents.

This collection contains not only diaries and correspondence of H.W. Longfellow, but also his children's and siblings' reminiscences of him. The papers, in addition, give insight into the daily life at both his home at Craigie House in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and his boyhood home in Portland, Maine.

The Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Family Papers include over three hundred letters the poet received from his family and such literary figures as Bronson Alcott, Edward Everett, James and Annie Fields, Sophia Hawthorne, Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, Alfred Tenyson, and John Greenleaf Whittier.

This finding aid covers other family

members' papers, including those of Ernest Wadsworth Longfellow and his family, Edith Longfellow Dana, Anne Allegra Longfellow Thorp and her family, Stephen Longfellow and his family, Elizabeth Longfellow, Anne Longfellow Pierce, Mary Longfellow Greenleaf and her family, Ellen Longfellow, and Anne Sophia Longfellow Balkam, among others. All in all, this finding aid represents more than twenty-one Longfellow relatives.

Many of these documents have stayed in the House since Longfellow's death in 1882, but Harry Dana brought the majority of these papers to the House archives in the twentieth century. Through his cousin Mary King Longfellow, he likely acquired the papers of Longfellow's sister Anne Longfellow Pierce from the Wadsworth-Longfellow House in Portland. Dana brought together his mother Edith's papers and his father Richard Henry Dana III's legal files. The descendants of Longfellow's daughter Anne Allegra Longfellow Thorp donated a portion of her personal papers. Dana and his research associates arranged the papers and added their notes.



Complete List of Finding Aids for the Archives

- Richard Henry Dana III Papers, 1797-1947
- Elizabeth Ellery Dana Personal Papers, 1829-1940
- Dana Family Papers: Collected Manuscripts, Genealogies and Research Material, 1661-1960
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana Papers, 1744-1972
- Wadsworth-Longfellow Family Papers, 1610-1971
- Alice Mary Longfellow Papers, 1855-1965
- Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Sr. Family Papers, 1730-1950
- Mary King Longfellow Papers, 1855-1946
- Washington Allston Materials, 1798-1966
- Frederick Haven Pratt & Stephen D. Pratt Research Papers, 1783-1996
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Family Papers, 1768-1972
- Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr. Papers, 1864-1979
- Charles Appleton Longfellow Papers, 1842-1996
- Longfellow House Trust Records, 1852-1973
- Appleton Family Papers, 1752-1962
- Patricia R. Pratt Papers, 1759-1994
- The Reverend Samuel Longfellow Papers, 1792-1963
- Dana Collected Correspondence, 1808-1938
- Frances Elizabeth Appleton Longfellow Papers, 1825-1961
- Postcard Collection of the Longfellow Family, ca. 1870-1970
- Collection of Architectural Drawings, 1847-1936
- Mary Allen-Andrew Craigie Correspondence, 1797-ca. 1941

Longfellow House in the Media

The August 2007 issue of *Old-House Interiors* magazine featured two articles by Regina Cole about the House. Numerous color photographs by Eric Roth illustrated both "Longfellow's House" and "Alice's Garden."

In *Schoolroom Poets: Childhood, Performance, and the Place of American Poetry, 1865-1917*, Angela Sorby, a recipient of a research fellowship from the Friends of the Longfellow House, included a chapter on Longfellow. The book was published by the University of New Hampshire Press and was a Children's Literature Association honor book in 2007.

Hugh Howard and photographer Roger Strauss III combined biography and architectural history in their *Houses of the Founding Fathers: The Men Who Made America and the Way They Lived*. Washington's Headquarters in Cambridge (now LNHS) is one of the eighteenth-century houses they portray.

Based partly on research as a fellow at the House archives, *The Hispanic World and American Intellectual Life, 1820-1880* by Ivan Jaksic devotes two chapters to Longfellow's experience in Spain, his writings on Hispanic issues, and his Iberian and Latin American contacts.

Diana Korzenik in the *New England Quarterly* September 2007 reviews the Maine Historical Society's exhibit called "Drawing Together" and discusses family art making in the nineteenth century in her article entitled "That Is Best Which Liest Nearest: Longfellow Family Art, 1804-1924."

Cambridge Forum, a weekly public radio show recorded live in Harvard Square, presented a program on Longfellow. Dana Gioia, director of the National Endowments for the Arts, spoke on "Public Poet: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow," and John Barr of the American Poetry Foundation gave introductory remarks and moderated discussion afterwards. WGBH Network Forum offers the September 26th event online at www.cambridgeforum.org/cfweb.

Colleen Glenney Boggs's book, *Transnationalism and American Literature: Literary Translation 1773-1892*, was published this spring by Routledge (Taylor and Francis). Examining Longfellow as a translator and in translation, Boggs, now a professor at Dartmouth, researched at the House as a Korzenik/Paterson fellow in 2005.

A Public Resource: How the House Archives Are Used Today

In keeping with the tradition of Harry Dana and the Longfellow family, the staff at the Longfellow NHS continue to welcome the thousands of visitors who come to the House from around the world. The building, landscape, and collections serve not only as an attraction for tourists, but also as a resource and research center for scholars, students, teachers, and museums.

To assist all who come to research at the House archives, the NPS makes available the expertise of their full-time archives specialist, Anita Israel. With her extensive knowledge of the collection and her enthusiasm, Anita Israel is an indispensable resource herself.

Many of the distinguished scholars who have used the archives have written books and articles based largely or in part on their findings here. David McCullough used the archives for his book *1776*. Charles Calhoun and Christoph Irmscher have each recently published important books about Longfellow. Matthew Pearl wrote his bestselling work of historical fiction, *The Dante Club*, with the help of material from the archives.

Since 1999 the Friends of the Longfellow House have awarded two annual research fellowships, the Diana Korzenik and Stanley Paterson Fellowships. These fellowships provide funding to travel to and spend time in the archives, and have helped to reestablish the House as an important destination for scholars. Many of these fellows have published or are in the process of publishing their scholarly books.

Numerous groups of schoolchildren make use of the archives: Some come with their class to tour the House and receive a special glimpse at samples from the archives. Others will experience Historic House Explorers, a forthcoming program to engage eighth graders in studying history through web-based research. NPS's Liza Stearns and Celena Illuzzi have developed a unit called "Charley Longfellow and the Civil War: Coming of Age in a Time of Turbulence" to teach students through analysis of original sources from the House and its archives, and from the Longfellow collection at Harvard.

For several years now, highly motivated seventh- through twelfth-graders from the Boston area who love history participate in an extracurricular group called the Concordant Volunteers. Based on their research at the House archives, they reenact various characters from the many occupants of the

Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House. They perform their pieces at summer and holiday programs at the House.

Teachers, too, come to the House archives in search of material for their curriculums. As part of a professional development program called Teachers as Scholars, groups of teachers attended seminars at the House on Longfellow and his work. Anita Israel guided participants



NPS curator David Daly in the House archives through the archives and described the resources and research possibilities.

The LNHS interpretive staff regularly scour the House archives to enhance their daily tours and to create special themed tours, programs, and exhibits. Many stories emerge from the family papers, which record aspects of daily life in the House,

including visitors, family gatherings, the pets, maintenance of the house and grounds, servants, and more. The staff incorporate quotations and evocative information from family journals and letters.

Enthusiasts from outside the NPS create special themed tours and programs as well. Art historian Deb Stein has produced a tour of the House's significant art collection. Musicologist Deborah Goss structured her program *Sweet Songs of Freedom*, performed in September as part of the Summer Festival, from materials in the House archives. Author Matthew Pearl gave his Dante Club tour to high school students from Manchester-by-the-Sea and surrounding towns, and later to senior citizens from Brandeis University's Lifelong Learning Institute. All had read *The Dante Club*, which made for lively discussion with the author afterwards in the carriage house.

Important museums borrow documents for their exhibitions from the Longfellow House archives. Most recently, Houghton Library at Harvard University and the Maine Historical Society displayed fascinating family papers from the archives for their Longfellow bicentennial shows.

The archives continue to build and grow. The NPS still accepts donations of relevant material connected to the House.

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 from among the several hundred who use the archives annually.

To study the effect of Chinese trade upon American writers and artists, Hsiu-ling Lin, Professor of English at National Taiwan Normal University, examined all objects at the House with a Chinese connection as well as photographs of China. In the process, she helped the NPS by translating Chinese texts and providing background information about the items.

Andrew Higgins, Assistant Professor of English at SUNY New Paltz, consulted the Wadsworth-Longfellow papers for a study of Longfellow's use of American history in his works and for Longfellow's sense of his ancestor's participation in the Acadian dispersion. Higgins read the comments of Longfellow's mother, Zilpah, and gathered information about William Longfellow (the original emigrant from England) and his role in the attacks on Canada in the 1690s as well as information about Stephen Longfellow, the first ancestor to move to what is now the state of Maine. Higgins sought comments they might have made about Acadia or the French.

For her dissertation on souvenir photography of the Meiji period, Mio Wakita came from the University of Heidelberg to search for photographs of Kusakabe Kimbei, a native Japanese photographer. She discovered two and possibly another in the Charley Longfellow photo collection at the House.

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 carved ivory page cutter, which belonged to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

In the days before newly printed books arrived with cleanly separated pages, Longfellow kept this objet d'art on his desk to cut the outer edge of the pages of a new volume or perhaps to open a letter. The ten-inch long cutter bears Henry's initials.

The page cutter came from Annie Longfellow Thorp, the poet's youngest daughter, who bequeathed it, in turn, to her daughter Priscilla Thorp Smith. Priscilla always kept it on her desk and eventually gave it to her daughter Frankie Smith Wetherell.

This year in honor of Henry W. Longfellow's two-hundredth birthday, Frankie generously donated the ivory page cutter to the Longfellow NHS, where it is on permanent exhibit on Longfellow's table in his study.



Longfellow National Historic Site, National Park Service

Longfellow 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

Since 1996, the Friends of the Longfellow House, a not-for-profit voluntary group, has worked with the National Park Service to support Longfellow 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, visit:

www.longfellowfriends.org

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