



# Longfellow House Bulletin

Volume 15 No. 1

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

June 2011

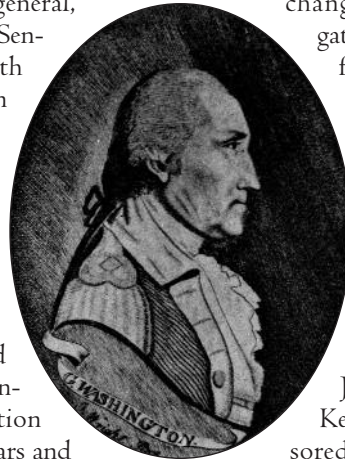
## Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site!

To the delight of the National Park Service and the Friends of the Longfellow House, on December 22, 2010, President Obama signed into law a bill changing the formal name of the yellow Georgian mansion at 105 Brattle Street, Cambridge, to Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site. The new name will communicate to the public General George Washington's eight-month occupancy of the House and its significance not only to our nation's history but also to Henry W. Longfellow and his family.

Upon hearing the news, historian David McCullough expressed his enthusiasm: "The full historic importance of the grand old, yellow clapboard house on Brattle Street, Cambridge, is conveyed at last by its new official name. It is a welcome change

indeed, and entirely in the spirit of the worthy poet and the great general, and also, let's not forget, of Senator Ted Kennedy, who, with his abiding love of American history, did more than anyone to bring attention to and urgently needed government support for this prime national treasure."

NPS Superintendent Myra Harrison and Site Manager Jim Shea agreed that the name change will increase the House's connection to its Revolutionary War years and highlight the original intent of the Longfellow family's donation of the property to the Park Service nearly forty years ago.



George Washington, engraving by Joseph Wright, 1790

Efforts to bring about the name change began in 2004. Having gathered widespread support — from literary groups, preservation societies, and the Longfellow descendants — for several years, the proponents approached Senator Kennedy's office. The late Edward M. Kennedy introduced the bill in the Senate in July 2009. After Kennedy's death, Senators John Kerry and Paul Kirk, Kennedy's successor, co-sponsored the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site Designation Act, which the  
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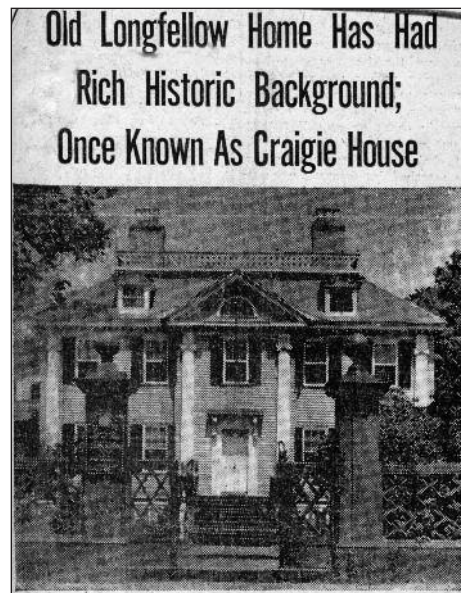
## Through the Years the Many Names of 105 Brattle Street

Despite some additions over the centuries, the House's original structure has changed relatively little, but the name by which people refer to 105 Brattle Street has constantly evolved since it was erected in 1759. Past and present owners, its uses, and the memories it evokes have all been reflected in its name.

When he was only twenty-one years old, John Vassall Jr. received a large plot of land across from his uncle Henry Vassall's home on what was then called the King's Highway and, with inherited wealth, proceeded to build a home. No documents exist to establish whether he designed the house himself or hired an architect, such as Peter Harrison. During his fifteen years living there, people knew his residence as the "Vassall House," although it was often confused with the nearby Henry Vassall House. By 1774, John Vassall Jr. was one of the largest landholders in Cambridge. Because of his Loyalist sympathies, in September

of that year he abandoned his mansion and soon fled the country.

On July 2, 1775, the new Commander-



Cambridge Tribune, May 23, 1941

in-Chief of the army of the United Colonies, George Washington, arrived in Cambridge and spent two weeks at Wadsworth House in Harvard Yard before moving into the empty "Vassall House," as he first called it. He occupied it as his residence and headquarters through March 1776. When writing letters from the House, Washington and others officially called their location "Headquarters Cambridge" or the "Camp at Cambridge."

Two years after Washington's occupancy, in the fall of 1778, the Massachusetts legislature passed a law confiscating the property of men who had worked for the royal government or had absented themselves from the state. In 1781 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts sold 105 Battle Street to Nathaniel Tracy, a wealthy merchant and privateer under Washington's command. Facing bankruptcy, Tracy sold the house in 1786 to Thomas Russell, another wealthy

*(continued on page 4)*



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Printed by Newprint Offset, Waltham, Mass.



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

## Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

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Senate passed overwhelmingly in May 2010. In the House the bill's main sponsor was Congressman Michael Capuano, whose district includes the historic site.

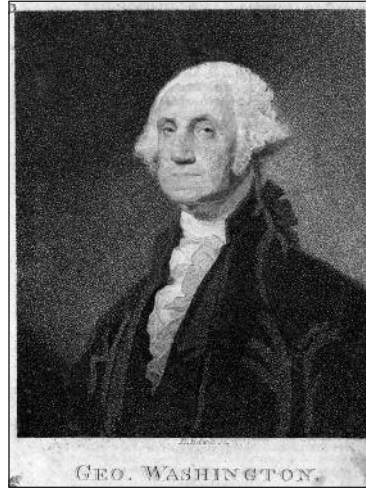
The Friends of the Longfellow House were particularly active in campaigning for the name change, spearheaded in part by treasurer Robert Mitchell, who hoped it would help preserve this component of the site's history. Friends' president Heather Moulton voiced the group's gratitude "to our members of Congress for sponsoring the bill ... and pushing it forward."

Although the official name has changed, the House will remain furnished as it was when the Longfellow family transferred the House and its contents to the Park Service in 1972. The Longfellows had collected and installed in the House many items related to Washington and the Revolution. A bust of Washington stands inside the front door, and images of George and Martha Washington are displayed throughout the House. Henry Longfellow himself memo-

rialized the former occupant of the home in his 1845 poem "To a Child," noting that "Once, ah, once, within these walls,/ One whom memory oft recalls,/ The Father of his Country, dwelt...."

Even before the name change, NPS staff at the site had incorporated Washington's time at the House into their programs and interpretation of the site. They organized events along with their community partner, the Friends of the Longfellow House, that included Washington-themed house tours and an annual lecture on the House's significance in the nation's Revolutionary War history.

Frances (Frankie) Appleton Smith Wetherell, Longfellow's great-granddaughter, reacted to the advent of the name change: "When I think about how much the Longfellow family treasured George Washington's connections to their beloved home, I know how happy they would be that their two names will be forever linked at this historic house."



Print by D. Edwin, 1790s

## Korzenik & Paterson Research Fellowships Awarded

This year the Friends of the Longfellow House have awarded the Korzenik Fellowship to Klara Szlezák, a lecturer and Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at the University of Regensburg, Germany, and the Paterson Fellowship to Régine Thiriez, an independent researcher and scholar of photography in China, who received her Ph.D. from the École Pratique des Hautes Études of the Sorbonne in 1994. The fellowships provide support for work in the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters archives and collections.

Szlezák will conduct research for her dissertation called "Creating Pasts in Nineteenth-Century Writers' Houses in New England." It focuses on the role these houses have played and continue to play in creating and reinforcing the cultural memory of their occupants, and, more broadly, of New England. She will feature the Longfellow House and several other houses. Szlezák anticipates using the Alice

Mary Longfellow and Longfellow House Trust papers as well as the photograph, print, and postcard collections.

Thiriez's project will investigate "Photographs of China Collected by Charles Appleton Longfellow in 1873-1874." She notes that the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters China photographs complement forty-six similar prints of China, which she previously studied at Salem's Peabody Essex Museum. Charley Longfellow gave these prints to his cousin Alexander Wadsworth (Waddy) Longfellow, who donated them to the museum in 1914.

In the House archives, Thiriez will examine photographs as well as Charley Longfellow's unpublished journals and Waddy Longfellow's diary. She hopes there will be enough material for a publication devoted to Charley Longfellow's collections in addition to providing information about the photographs for her forthcoming book, *Early Photography in China: A User's Guide*.

## Interview with a Friend ... Robert Mitchell, Friends' Treasurer

Retired from Clark University as a professor of geography with a specialty in environmental economics, Robert Mitchell has served on the Board of the Friends of the Longfellow House since 1997. For years he has been a leading advocate of including the House's history as Washington's headquarters in the official name.

**Longfellow House:** How did you first come to know the House?

**Robert Mitchell:** I read a brief article in the *Cambridge Chronicle* mentioning the state of the archives and the rich, deep, and amazing holdings. Then Ruth Butler, a good friend and neighbor and Friends' Board member, suggested that I might be interested in joining the Board, and I concurred.

**LH:** You've worn many hats on the Board and been involved in many ways. Much of the success of the fellowship program has been due to your work.

**RM:** The program was established because of founding chair Diana Korzenik's initiative. The Board agreed this would be a terrific thing to do. We run the fellowship competition using current or former Board members with relevant academic expertise. The goal is to help scholars, particularly young scholars, in the humanities with a small stipend for travel to Cambridge. We choose on the basis of the fit between their project and the resources in the archives. These fellowships have helped make the archives and collections more widely known.

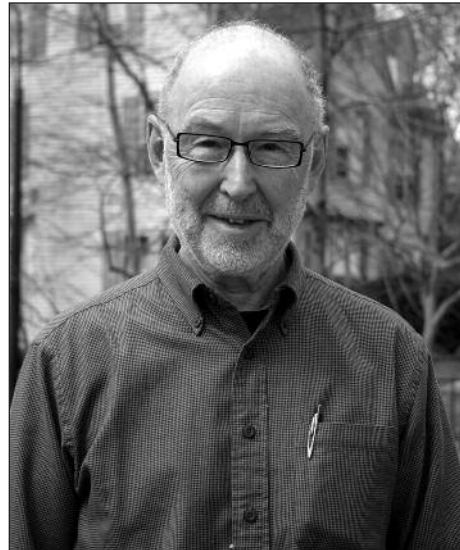
**LH:** How did you become interested in George Washington?

**RM:** I was a history major in college and studied European history. I always thought I could pick up American history on my own. When I retired in 2000, my interest turned to history, especially the eighteenth century in Cambridge. In learning about the Longfellow House, it quickly became apparent that major historical eighteenth-century events occurred right in this house. I became very interested in Washington because of that connection.

**LH:** Among the Friends, you've been a leader in the cause of the name change. You were at the first NPS meeting about this in April 2004, where we strategized and made a list of whom we should contact.

**RM:** Quite a few years ago, I proposed changing the name at a Friends' Board meeting. After that it went nowhere since it was clear that some members of the Board were very negative about including Washington because he didn't own the House and had

only lived in it for a year. I waited until things became more propitious. Because of the tremendous Longfellow component of the House – its presentation, its ownership, its memories – some people who are close to the House naturally tend to value that aspect very much. They feel that honoring Washington, who is already honored in so many ways, would diminish the Longfellow memory. On the contrary, it would continue the homage that Longfellow had paid to the Washington occupancy. This memory is now unknown to so many people. Longfel-



low would likely have encouraged the commemoration of the Washington connection.

One of the particular things that interested me and I thought was persuasive was the terms under which the Longfellows had incorporated their non-profit status in their forming of their trust and in their act of giving the House to the U.S. government. They stated the House had three features: It was Longfellow's home, it is a prime example of Georgian architecture, and it had been Washington's headquarters.

**LH:** How did you gather support to change the name?

**RM:** It was always up to the NPS staff, and, in fact, it was their gentle encouragement and support that helped to turn the tide. The membership of the Board gradually changed and included people more sympathetic to the cause, and, of course, I wasn't the only one on the Board in support of the idea [of including Washington in the name]. Frances Ackerly was a very early supporter. Before I came into the picture, she was transcribing the diary of a Revolutionary War soldier – that resides in the House archives – and spoke about it to

the Cambridge Historical Society.

**LH:** Why might it be nationally important for people to know of Washington's connection to the House?

**RM:** Washington's coming to Cambridge was critical to the Revolutionary War in many ways. The Siege of Boston was already underway. Washington was serving as a Virginia delegate to the Second Continental Congress when they voted to appoint him commander of the New England troops besieging Boston. Everything hinged on his success. After two weeks in Cambridge, he made this house his headquarters.

The events that happened in this building are extraordinary. Washington confronted Dr. Benjamin Church, one of the most trusted Massachusetts patriot leaders, with evidence that he was a spy for the British. A three-person committee appointed by Congress and headed by Benjamin Franklin arrived for ten days of meetings with Washington and New England state officials. John Hancock and John Adams were among the many patriot leaders and local gentry whom he entertained. Phillis Wheatley, the well-known African-American poet, was invited by General Washington to come to the headquarters.

Washington also made crucial decisions here in conjunction with the leadership of the Continental Congress about such important things as creating what turned out to be the navy, and reorganizing the Continental army and militia. In addition to these public occurrences, we know of Washington's own internal struggles while he was in the House. His letters to trusted confidantes, including his brother, reveal a man who is struggling with anger, disappointment, and fear of failure, which was a huge thing for him.

**LH:** How do you think the name change will affect the House?

**RM:** I hope it will help continue the memory of the site as Washington's Headquarters. Until the last fifty years, someone contemplating the House wouldn't have imagined changing the name because it wasn't needed. Everyone knew it was Washington's Headquarters. Postcards in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries typically referred to the House as Washington's Headquarters and Professor Longfellow's House. I also hope it will raise the visibility of the House at a time when National Park entities are competing for resources. It's important for this double memory to be public and well-known.

# Through the Years the Many Names of 105 Brattle Street

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merchant, as a way out of debt.

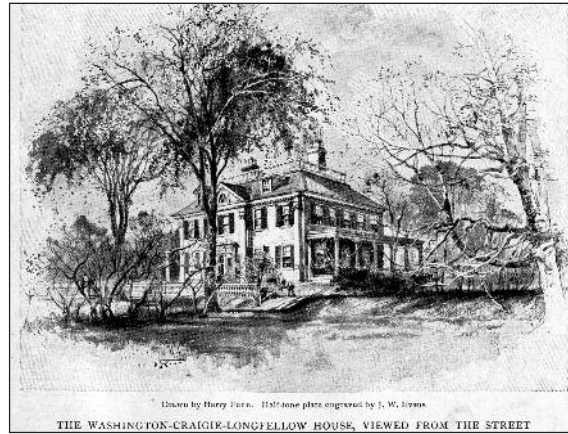
In 1791 Andrew Craigie, the first Apothecary General of the United States, bought the House from Russell, who had never actually lived in it. For nearly a quarter-century after Craigie's death in 1819, his widow took in boarders, two of whom were Harvard College professors Jared Sparks and Henry Longfellow. After Washington's departure from "Headquarters Cambridge" until 1835, we do not know what the owners or the public called the House.

Well aware of Washington's tenure at the House, Sparks edited the first three of his twelve volumes of Washington's letters here. He relished the thought of working on these books in the very rooms where the general had once penned letters. Following the publication of the first volumes in the mid-1830s, the House was referred to — in such periodicals as *The Family Magazine* in 1843 — as "Washington's Headquarters in Cambridge."

In 1843 Nathan Appleton bought the House from Mrs. Craigie's estate as a wedding gift for his daughter Fanny and her husband, Henry Longfellow. In the New England tradition of calling a house by its previous owner's name, the Longfellow family referred to their home as "Craigie House" or "The Craigie." In his letters Henry most often chose to say "The Craigie." Fanny and Henry (and other immediate family) sometimes humorously spoke of "Castle Craigie," which may origi-

nally have connoted Mr. Craigie's extravagant lifestyle. On special occasions and in correspondence, the Longfellow family also used "Washington's Headquarters." To this day some Longfellow descendants say "Craigie House" to designate their ancestral home.

By the mid-1850s Longfellow's poetry had brought him international fame, and his House gained an association with its literary owner. Period photographs and publications began to identify the House as Longfellow's House with or without other names. An 1852 issue of *Gleason's Pictorial Drawing-Room Companion*, an illustrated magazine published in Boston, ran a piece with an image of the House captioned "Wash-



"Washington-Craigie-Longfellow House," *Century Magazine*, 1907

ington's Headquarters at Cambridge, Mass., The Residence of Professor Longfellow."

In the 1860s, in anticipation of the 1876 Centennial, people often publicly referred to the House as "Washington's Headquarters." From this point on into the mid-twentieth century, numerous books, articles, and photographs depicted places associated with Washington and the American Revolution, and they frequently featured the House and its grounds. In 1873 a series of commemorative stereo-views, however, were produced for the Centennial celebration of the American Revolution, yet these views of the House refer to it solely as Longfellow's House.

The names "Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House," "Washington-Craigie-Longfellow House," and "Craigie-Longfellow House" first appeared in late nineteenth-century guidebooks and articles. In 1907 the *Century Magazine* published a major piece on the House's history entitled "The Washington-Craigie-Longfellow House." *The Cambridge Tribune*, May 23, 1941,

**Fanny Longfellow to Nathan Appleton, September 1843:**

"It [the House] is, moreover, very interesting to us for its associations of which we have lately had very exact information from Mr. Sparks.... Yesterday we had a thorough explanation of the American lines & Bunker Hill, Prospect & Winter hills under Mr. Sparks inimitable guidance who gave a more vivid idea of the revolutionary days than I had before...."

began its feature on the Longfellow home's historic background with: "A national shrine second only in fame to Washington's home at Mt. Vernon, the Craigie-Longfellow House...." [For a photo of the article, see page 1]

"The Longfellow House" name, most commonly used today, seems to have gained popularity in the late 1940s, probably due to the publication in 1948 of the House's first guidebook, *The Longfellow House: History and Guide* by Harry Dana, the poet's grandson. The Maine Historical Society calls the poet's birthplace in Portland "The Longfellow House" and distinguishes it from his adult home in Cambridge, which they call "Craigie House."

In 1972 when the National Park Service assumed ownership of the Brattle Street property, Congress designated it the "Longfellow National Historic Site," although many still called it the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House after the three longest-term occupants. Soon a sign at the historic home's gate will display the House's official title: Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site. Already NPS staff are mastering answering the phones with this new name.

**Henry Longfellow to Stephen Longfellow, July 5, 1841:**

"I began yesterday to read Washington's letters from Cambridge, as yesterday was the date of the first of them. He came to Cambridge July 2, 1775, took command of the army on the 3rd, and wrote his first letter on the 4th. It will be a pleasure to read, here in the Headquarters, the letters he wrote sixty-six years ago, perhaps in this very room, certainly in this very house."



Stereograph with "Longfellow Residence" above and "Washington's Headquarters, Cambridge" below, 1856-59

## Harry Dana and “Chronicles of the Craigie House”

For years Henry (“Harry”) Wadsworth Longfellow Dana lived in his poet-grandfather’s house and researched, collected materials for, and wrote portions of a history of 105 Brattle Street called “Chronicles of the Craigie House.” His aunt Alice Longfellow, Henry’s oldest daughter who lived in the House until her death in 1928, began the book project. Harry took up residence – and the project – in the House while Alice was alive and lived there off and on until he died in 1950.

In the last version of his outline, Harry characterized the book as: “The biography of a New England house. A cross-section of American history from the 18th to the 20th Century – Colonial Days, American Revolution, Anti-Slavery Movement, the Civil War, the Golden Age and the Indian Summer of American Literature – seen from the focus point of a house that was an active center in all these movements.”

Harry’s outline put forth his plan: The book’s Prologue would paint the historic scene, including “the King’s High Way along the River Charles” and “the land where [Longfellow’s] house was situated.” With four main sections on the House’s long-term residents – Vassall, Washington,

Craigie, and Longfellow – “Inter-chapters” in between sections would provide house-related Revolutionary War stories or anecdotes like “Edward Everett practicing oratory” as Mrs. Craigie’s boarder. The Epilogue would cover topics during Alice’s time at the House, such as “Radcliffe Commencement Exercises,” and “Twelfth Night parties.” Harry planned to illustrate the book with “pen-and-ink sketches, plans and maps, made by Longfellow and the others who lived here and by rare portraits reproduced here for the first time.”

Harry filled numerous boxes with a wealth of carefully identified and organized family papers along with historical documents and prints he acquired at auctions and

antiquarian dealers, such as Goodspeed’s in Boston. The images of Washington on pages 1 and 2 were recently rediscovered among Harry’s papers and notes that he stored in these boxes in the House archives, where he spent much time working on the project.

In 1939 Harry finished and published part of the manuscript as an illustrated forty-two-page booklet called *The Craigie House: The Coming of Longfellow (1837-1841)*, reprinted from the proceedings of the Cambridge Historical Society where he presented it. “This being approximately the one-hundredth anniversary of the coming of Longfellow to the Craigie House,” the minutes record, “the President introduced Mr. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, the grandson of the poet, who read a most interesting account of Longfellow at the Craigie House. Passages from unpublished Longfellow journals and letters written in the house formed a considerable part of this important paper.”

Writing in a lively narrative style in present tense, Harry brought to life the time when “Mr. Longfellow” – as he refers to his grandfather – looked for a place to live in Cambridge until the death of Mrs. Craigie in whose house the poet rented rooms. Harry drew from letters to and



Harry Dana & research assistant Bill Gedrits in vault, c. 1938-1942

from Longfellow, his conversations recalled by others, depictions of servants and characters at Craigie House or in the neighborhood, newspaper accounts, and more – all meticulously footnoted. Henry Longfellow himself kept a “Notebook on the Craigie House” from which Harry quotes extensively, with page numbers duly noted.

“The present writer, Harry acknowledged, “in enlarging and carrying on the work which [Miss Alice Longfellow] began, wishes to express his deep indebtedness to her in every respect.”

Harry never completed the ambitious “Chronicles of the Craigie House.” He did, however, produce *The Longfellow House: History and Guide*, published in the April 1948 issue of *Old Time New England* magazine. Summarizing all four sections in the proposed book, it remains the only history of the House. It has been reprinted several times as a popular booklet for sale in the House bookstore. We encourage scholars to take up where Alice Longfellow and Harry Dana left off in this fascinating story of 200 years of social, cultural, and political history within one house.



Alice Longfellow in the House, 1890



Harry Dana working in the basement archives, c. 1942

### Harry Dana in “*The Craigie House: The Coming of Longfellow*,” 1939:

“One pleasant afternoon in May, 1837, a young Harvard professor [Mr. Longfellow], a newcomer to Cambridge, sets out in search of a secluded place to live... From the first [he] has been delighted with the whole surroundings of the Craigie House. He sets his heart on getting rooms there ... he hopes to find a quiet haven of refuge... Accordingly, he makes bold to present himself before the austere and somewhat terrifying Widow Craigie.”

## Longfellows' Art Objects Exhibited at Museums

A number of works of art from the collections at the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site are currently on view at other museums in the United States and Europe.

One of the most renowned museums in Florence, Italy, and home to Michaelangelo's sculpture *David*, the Galleria dell'Accademia has borrowed a marble bust by Lorenzo Bartolini of Frances Appleton, who later married Henry Longfellow, for their exhibition "Lorenzo Bartolini: Ideal and Natural Beauty." The exhibition runs from May 30 to November 6, 2011. The celebrated Florentine sculptor Bartolini modeled a bust of the young Fanny while she was traveling with her family in Italy in 1836.

For their exhibition called "The Orient Expressed: Japan's Influence on Western Art, 1854-1918" from February 19 to July 17, 2011, the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson is displaying items that Charles Longfellow brought back from his travels to Japan in the 1870s. They include photographs of Charley at his house in Yokohama and in Japanese garb, a Japanese fan-shaped painting (one of dozens of such paintings that decorated the ceiling in Charley's "Japan" room), two kimonos, and a screen. The museum will also exhibit an oil painting of Mount Fuji, located outside Tokyo, by nineteenth-century American artist Winkworth Allen Gay, who lived and painted in Japan.



Bust of Fanny Appleton by Lorenzo Bartolini, 1836

## Teacher Workshop on Siege of Boston

This July the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) together with Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site will offer a selected group of teachers a four-day workshop on "The Siege of Boston." During the American Revolution, American militiamen laid siege to the British-held city and ultimately drove the British troops out of Boston. Workshop attendees will develop lesson plans to present to teachers in their own school districts, further disseminating the knowledge they gain.

Recently digitized documents from the MHS collections provide a glimpse into the ways that soldiers on both sides of the war, local residents, and imprisoned loyalists were affected during this tense, uncertain, and critical time from April 1775 through March 1776. Personal accounts complement other MHS records of the commanders' strategies and the intended and unintended results of their decisions. Some of the accounts were written at 105 Brattle Street.

These primary sources will be used in conjunction with an exploration of Cambridge's historic landscape and the house that became General Washington's headquarters. Learning about the historic landscape will enable the teachers to better understand the historical documents, and the documents, in turn, will enrich the understanding of the historic landscape.

All these valuable resources will help teachers to engage students in material beyond what they would customarily study about the Revolutionary War.

NPS Site Manager/Museum Curator (and a Fellow of the MHS and member of the MHS Programs and Exhibitions Committee) Jim Shea and historian J. L. Bell will conduct major sections of the workshop. They will emphasize the stresses and strains of the long days when the British and Continental armies occupied opposite sides of the Charles River in addition to battles that never found their way into history texts and the reasons why. They will also address such questions as: how do you feed 20,372 men?

Chosen from schools in Arlington, Brookline, Chelmsford, and Dracut, Massachusetts, as well as from schools in Indiana and New York, six pairs of middle-school and high-school teachers will participate in the workshop. Teachers can use the documents and curricula as presented or adapt them for their own classroom needs. These educational materials will also be available on the MHS website, expanding the workshop's impact exponentially by allowing teachers everywhere to imagine how they can use the images and transcribed documents.

Funded by the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, the workshop will take place July 25 to 28 at the House and the MHS.

### 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.*

**Fernando M. Reimers** of the Harvard Graduate School of Education visited the House with colleagues from Colombia interested in Henry Longfellow's ties to Latin America: **Cecilia Maria Velez**, Colombia's former minister of education; **Guillermo Perry** and **Rodrigo Botero**, both former ministers of finance in Colombia; **Gina Parody**, former Colombian senator; and **Pablo Pulido** and **Luisa Pulido**, Advanced Leadership Fellows at Harvard University.

The **Cambridge Plant & Garden Club** held a two-day Garden Club of America Zone I Flower Show in the Longfellow carriage house. Open to the public, over two hundred people viewed the exhibition of twenty flower arrangements inspired by works of four Cambridge poets, including Henry Longfellow.

Brandeis and Harvard University professor **Mark Auslander** used the House and its history for his class "Remembering Slavery and the Slave Trade," studying Darby and Dorinda Vassall, John Vassall Jr.'s slaves; Billy Lee, George Washington's enslaved valet; and former slave Phillis Wheatley, the first published African-American poet.

## Frances Ackerly: An Appreciation

The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site lost one of its best friends with the passing of Frances Ackerly on March 18, 2011. Following her retirement as director of Buckingham, Browne & Nichols's middle school, Frances turned much of her energy to assisting the Longfellow House in countless ways.

In 1994 Frances was among the founding members of the Friends of the Longfellow House. "I remember vividly the Connecticut garden party of mutual friends where Frances and I met," Diana Korzenik, the chief organizer and first president of the board, recalled. "Frances had just retired and was exploring 'what's next?'" Diana described her love for the House and its need for a supporting citizens' organization. "Frances's eyes twinkled as she said 'I want to work with you,' and I knew she meant it."

A Friends board member from the beginning and head of its Political Advocacy Committee, Frances composed letters to Senators Edward Kennedy and John Kerry and Governor William Weld about the need for an increase in funding for the House

and the importance of keeping it open more hours and days for public visits. Frances traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with and gain the support of Senator



Frances Ackerly, honored by the Park Service in 2006, with husband Bill Ackerly who catapulted the Longfellow garden rehabilitation.

Kennedy's aides and office. "She's the one who really established the tie with Senator Kennedy," Diana pointed out. In 1998 Congress awarded the House a substantial base funding increase, and Kennedy remained an ardent advocate of the site.

Never shying away from the humdrum

chores of the Membership or Volunteer Committees, Frances also recruited other hard-workers Charlotte Cleveland and Nancy Fryberger to join the board. Frances was instrumental in the Longfellow garden rehabilitation. She initiated the project and helped see it to fruition when her husband, prominent psychoanalyst William Ackerly, "catapulted the rehab" with his contribution, as Diana put it.

With her passion for history, Frances gathered information in archives at Newburyport about Nathaniel Tracy, a brief owner of the House in the 1780s. She transcribed the diary of a Revolutionary War soldier and identified its writer. Historian Pauline Maier based a lecture on it. After Frances officially left the board in 2006 for health reasons, she continued to volunteer one

day a week in the House archives, painstakingly transcribing Charley Longfellow's letters and journals from his Asian journeys.

"Frances was a real friend of the Park Service staff, too. We will miss her," curator Jim Shea reflected. "She and Bill were always at our programs. They were big supporters."

### *Longfellow House in the Media*

On December 19, 2010, Jill Lepore, Harvard history professor, wrote an opinion piece in the Sunday *New York Times* entitled "Paul Revere's Ride Against Slavery." Its page-wide illustration bore the caption "Exceeding Gratitude, Longfellow!" Lepore reminded readers not to "take the politics out of Longfellow" – his poem "was a rallying cry for the coming Civil War." She quoted Martin Luther King Jr.: "We still need some Paul Revere of conscience to alert ... every village of America that revolution is still at hand."

For his latest book, *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, 1830-1900*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian David McCullough found material in the House and its archives on Americans with high aspirations who went to Paris to study and experience another culture. Published in May, the book portrays two people with strong connections to the House: politician and Longfellow's best friend Charles Sumner and portrait artist George P. A. Healy. One of Healy's earliest paintings – of Fanny Longfellow – and six others are in the House art collection.

### *Recent Research at the House*

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

Koji Deriha and Masato Tamura from the Historical Museum of Hokkaido and Professor Koji Yamasaki from Hokkaido University came to study our collection of photographs of the Ainu people that Charley Longfellow acquired in Japan in 1874. The researchers explained there is little knowledge of origin or source, or history of ownership of the Ainu photos in Japan, unlike those in the U.S. Only recently have the Japanese become interested in Ainu history and the provenance of these photos.

For his forthcoming book on Charles Sumner, U.S. senator and Longfellow's closest friend, Harvard professor John Stauffer read the many letters from Charles Sumner in the House archives. Stauffer is the author of eight previous books, whose subjects include antislavery and social protest movements and interracial friendship.

The fifteen students in Nancy Holcomb's Suffolk University class on "Boston's Historic Homes" spent the entire semester at the Longfellow House. They did much of their research in the House archives in preparation for their final projects.

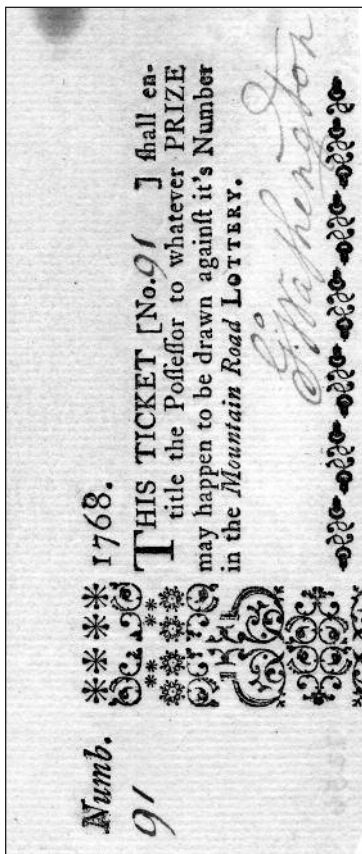
Robert Arbour, doctoral candidate in American Literature at Indiana University and 2010 Paterson Fellowship recipient, studied the Civil War's influence on nineteenth-century American poetry, especially on the Fireside Poets. He read Charley Longfellow's Civil War papers to study the war's effect on Longfellow and his family.

## Spotlight on an Object

In each issue of the newsletter, we focus on a particular object of interest in the House collection. This time our spotlight shines on a 1768 lottery ticket, autographed by George Washington, in an envelope addressed to “Professor Longfellow/Cambridge.” With black ink Henry Longfellow labeled the envelope: “Autographs of Washington.”

Presumably having received two tickets as a gift, Longfellow gave one to his friend the Swiss composer Sigismund Thalberg, to whom he wrote on January 5, 1857: “Enclosed I have the pleasure of sending you the autograph of Washington, which I promised you on Saturday, and which I am very happy to add to your collection. It is a curious autograph, being, as you see, the signature to a Lottery Ticket! It has also the advantage of a date.”

George Washington organized the Mountain Road Lottery to raise funds to build a road through the Allegheny Mountains in Virginia to a proposed resort in what is now Hot Springs, Virginia. The lottery was unsuccessful, but the tickets for this and other lotteries in which Washington was involved have become important items.



## Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

This 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. Built by John Vassall Jr. in 1759 and owned from 1791 to 1843 by Andrew and Elizabeth Craigie, the house 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 national historic site and a virtual tour, visit:*

[www.nps.gov/long](http://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 the 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, visit:*

[www.friendsoflongfellowhouse.org](http://www.friendsoflongfellowhouse.org)

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