

Longfellow House – Washington's Headquarters

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Longfellow House – Washington's
Headquarters National Historic Site



Junior Ranger



Cambridge, Massachusetts

Welcome



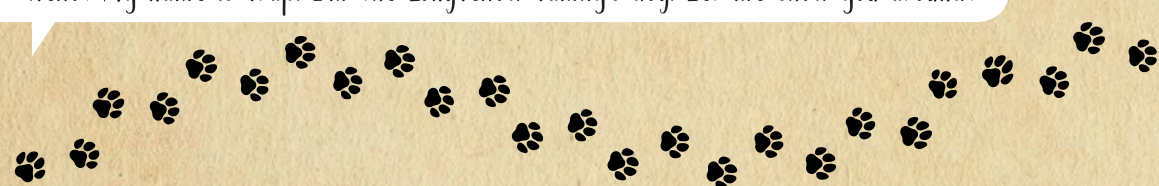
TO GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
HEADQUARTERS & HENRY
WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW'S
FAMILY HOME

This house has seen 250+ years of American history.

- 1759**
The house was built in 1759 for the wealthy Vassall family. Later, the people they enslaved, including a couple named Tony and Cuba and their children, fought for their own freedom.
- 1775 - 1776**
The house was General George Washington's first headquarters of the Revolutionary War. This is where he shaped the Continental Army and learned how to be a leader.
- 1837**
In 1837 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow moved into the home and began renting rooms. He published over 400 poems in his lifetime, including "Paul Revere's Ride."
- 1843**
Henry and Fanny Longfellow take ownership of the home.
- 1882**
Henry Longfellow passes away.
- 1972**
The Longfellow family preserved the house and all of their belongings as a museum. They gave it to the National Park Service in 1972.

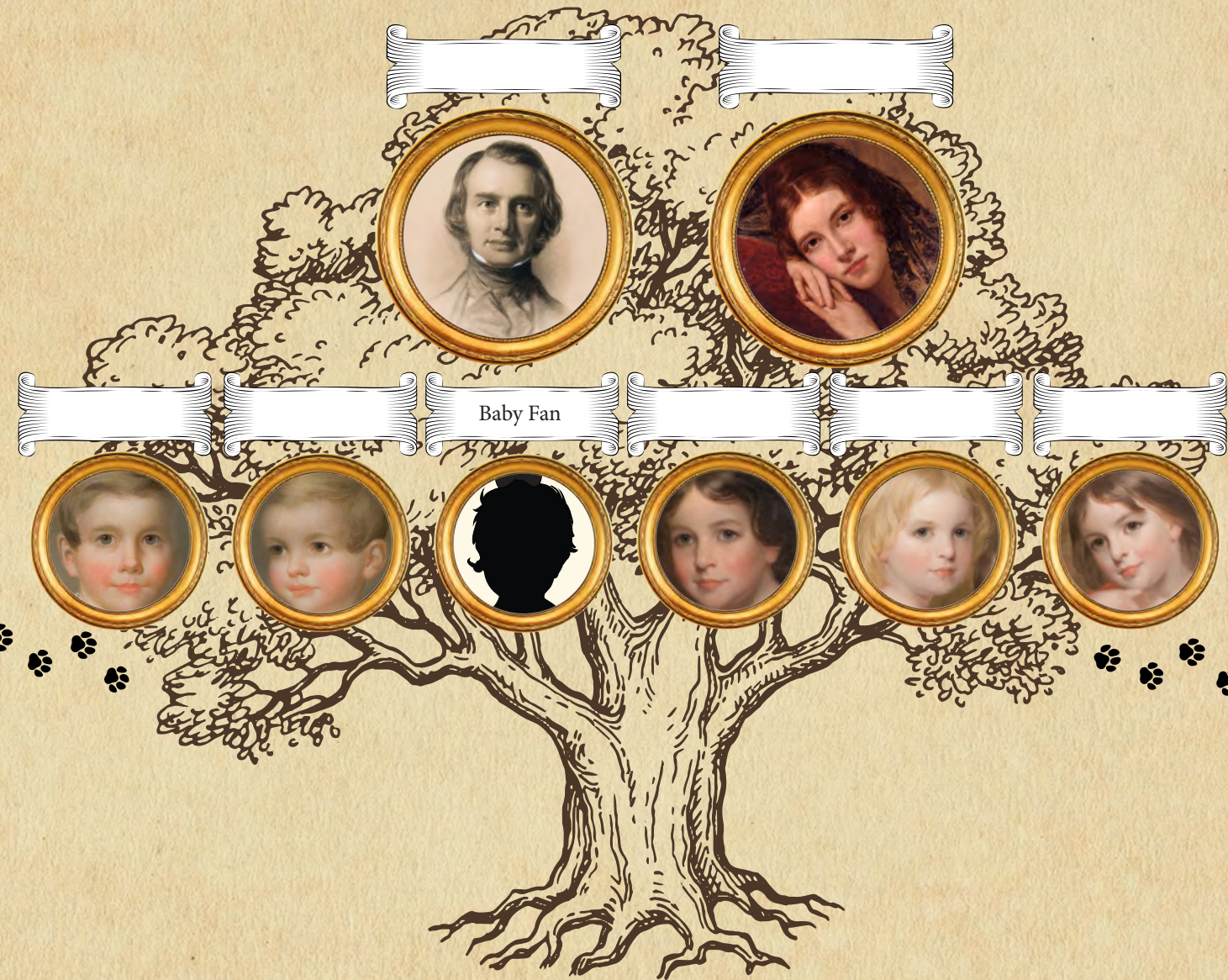


Hello! My name is Trap. I'm the Longfellow family's dog. Let me show you around!



Family Tree

After the tour, look at the pictures of these family members. Write down their names on the scrolls.



NAME BANK

Charley Henry Alice Sanny
Edith Erny Annie Baby Fan

Use this book to explore the site, inside and out! Pick one of the options below:

1

GO ON A HOUSE TOUR and complete the activities marked with the quill pen plus one additional activity.

2

COMPLETE SIX ACTIVITIES of your choice. If you have any questions about the activities ask your guardian or a Ranger for help.

Dining Room



The Children's Hour by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

From my study I see in the lamplight,
 Descending the broad hall stair,
 Grave Alice, and laughing Allegra,
 And Edith with golden hair.
 A whisper, and then a silence:
 Yet I know by their merry eyes
 They are plotting and planning together
 To take me by surprise.
 A sudden rush from the stairway,
 A sudden raid from the hall!
 By three doors left unguarded
 They enter my castle wall!



Henry wrote this poem about his daughters! Keep an eye out for the broad hall stair and the three doors left unguarded as you explore the house.



FOUND IT!

How do you think Henry Longfellow would describe you?

your name

an adjective – a word describing your personality

a characteristic – think hair color, eye color, or a favorite piece of clothing!



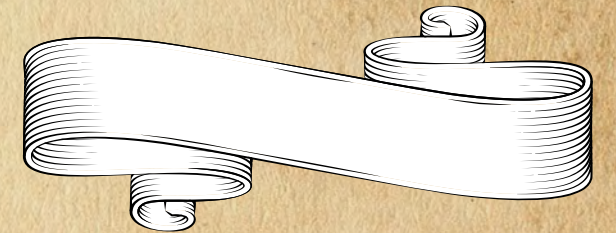
Front Entry

To a Child by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Once, ah, once, within these walls,
 One whom memory oft recalls,
 The Father of his Country, dwelt.
 And yonder meadows broad and damp
 The fires of the besieging camp
 Encircled with a burning belt.
 Up and down these echoing stairs,
 Heavy with the weight of cares,
 Sounded his majestic tread;
 Yes, within this very room
 Sat he in those hours of gloom,
 Weary both in heart and head.



Henry wrote this poem about a person he admired. Who is it?



"Weary" means tired. Why might George Washington have felt weary?

What makes you feel weary?

What is something Washington learned while he lived here?

Study



Favorite Objects



Before he was a General or a President, George Washington was a wealthy Virginia planter, politician, and slaveholder who became well known as an army officer. In 1775, Washington was the newly appointed commander of the Continental Army.

One of Henry Longfellow's favorite objects was this plaster bust of George Washington he bought in 1844.

What was your favorite object in the Longfellow House? Describe or draw it below.



What is your favorite object in *your* house? Describe or draw it below.



Study Up!

Observe the room closely. Can you check off these boxes?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIND a cannonball | <input type="checkbox"/> FIND a drawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIND a picture of Henry | <input type="checkbox"/> FIND a mirror |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIND an animal | <input type="checkbox"/> FIND something you have in your house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LISTEN for the ticking of a clock | <input type="checkbox"/> FIND bamboo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIND something from a different country | <input type="checkbox"/> FIND a sculpture |

Slavery at 105 Brattle St.

one Spoon shovel 12/ one Dury fork 8/ --- 1 0 0
 one pitchfork 8/ one mortar 22 - 16/ --- 1 4 0
 one Garden scraper 12/ one weed puller 4/ --- 0 16 0
 one large Brass kettle 60/ one and Dury old 20 - 3 15 0 - 10 5 0
 one Copper Pott 3 10 0 one half bushel 12/ --- 4 2 0
 one quart Copper pott. 15/ numbers cream Col. plate 12/ --- 1 7 0
 one old yellow Bed wt. 35 lb at 4/ --- 7 0 0
 one old Cart & pair of Slug wheels --- 10 0 0
 one old plow 40/ one large bathing Tub 60/ --- 5 0 0
 one old Double Slay incomplet --- 5 0 0
 one single D. 60/ one small Iron tooth Arrow 20/ --- 4 0 0
 one small beach body 20/ one small Ironstone 24/ --- 2 4 0
 one brass hat 36/ one 1/2 of Hoops chains 60/ --- 4 16 0
 one plow chain --- 3 10 0
 one negro woman of about 40 years of age --- 177 5 0
 one negro boy about 8 years ---



- ONE old feather bed
- ONE old plow
- ONE large bathing tub
- ONE crowbar
- ONE negro woman of about 40 years of age
- ONE negro boy about 8 years

Negro, noun: A word once used to describe an African-American person. Now outdated and offensive.

Historians use documents, like this one, to learn about people from the past. It lists everything - and everyone - the Vassalls (the white family who first owned this house) considered to be their property.

LOOK at the last two lines of the document where two people are listed.

HOW OLD is the woman?

HOW OLD is the boy?

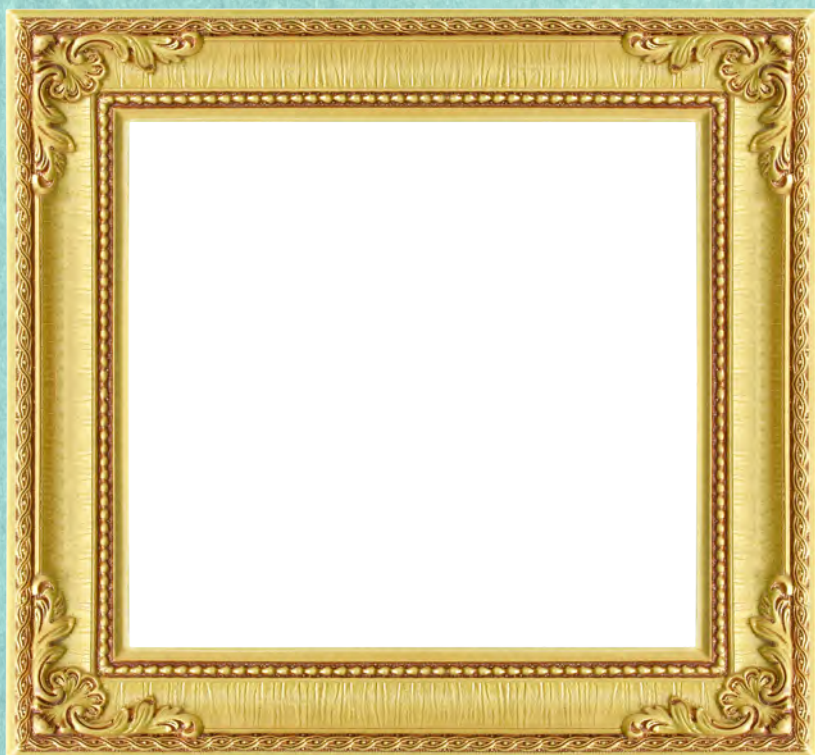
WE THINK the woman's name was Cuba and the boy might have been one of her sons. Why are these two people on a list of Vassall family possessions?

Slavery was a racist system in which enslaved people were treated like property. Enslavers tried to control every aspect of enslaved people's lives: who they got to live with, how they worked, what they ate, and much more. The Vassalls enslaved Cuba and her family. Before the Revolutionary War, the Vassalls fled this house and left Cuba and at least 7 other enslaved people. Eventually, Cuba and her family were able to seize their own freedom. Cuba's children went on to advocate for African-American children to have access to schools, the end of slavery (known as abolition), and other issues important to the free Black community in greater Boston.

WHAT'S something you'd like to change in your community?

Arts & Letters

There are a lot of portraits of close family and friends in the house. Draw a portrait of someone important to you and label who you drew.



Portrait, noun:
A photo or painting of a person

Circle the words that describe them.

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Smart | Creative | Tall |
| Funny | Responsible | Short |
| Generous | Laughing | Young |
| Helpful | Gentle | Old |
| Brave | Thoughtful | Sensitive |
| Caring | Athletic | Quiet |
| Kind | Adventurous | |

Write a Letter

Fanny Longfellow wrote hundreds of letters to family and friends. She wrote about current events, her interests and her daily life. Write a letter to a friend about your visit.

Dear

Fanny's Monogram

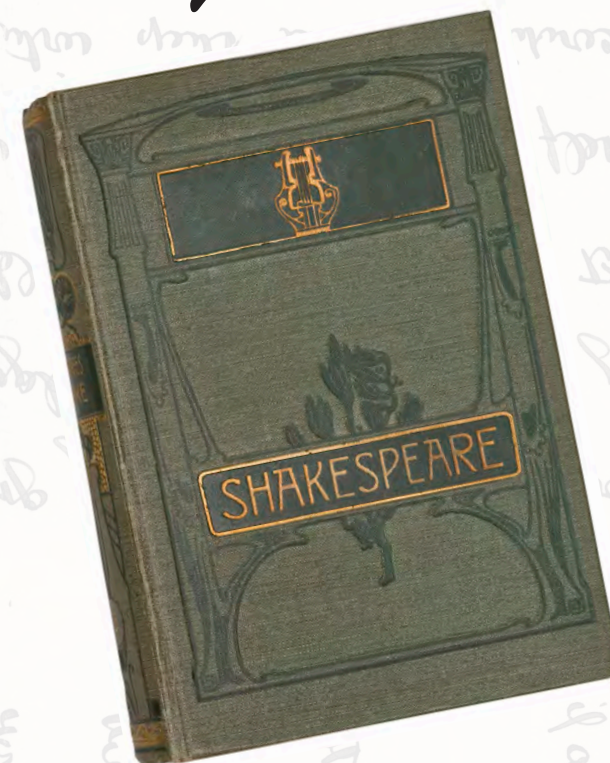


Sincerely,

..... Friends & Inspirations

Henry was inspired by other writers. One of his favorites was William Shakespeare.

WHO inspires you?



Charles Sumner and Henry Longfellow

Henry surrounded himself with his friends! His best friend was Charles Sumner. They spent their time talking about literature.

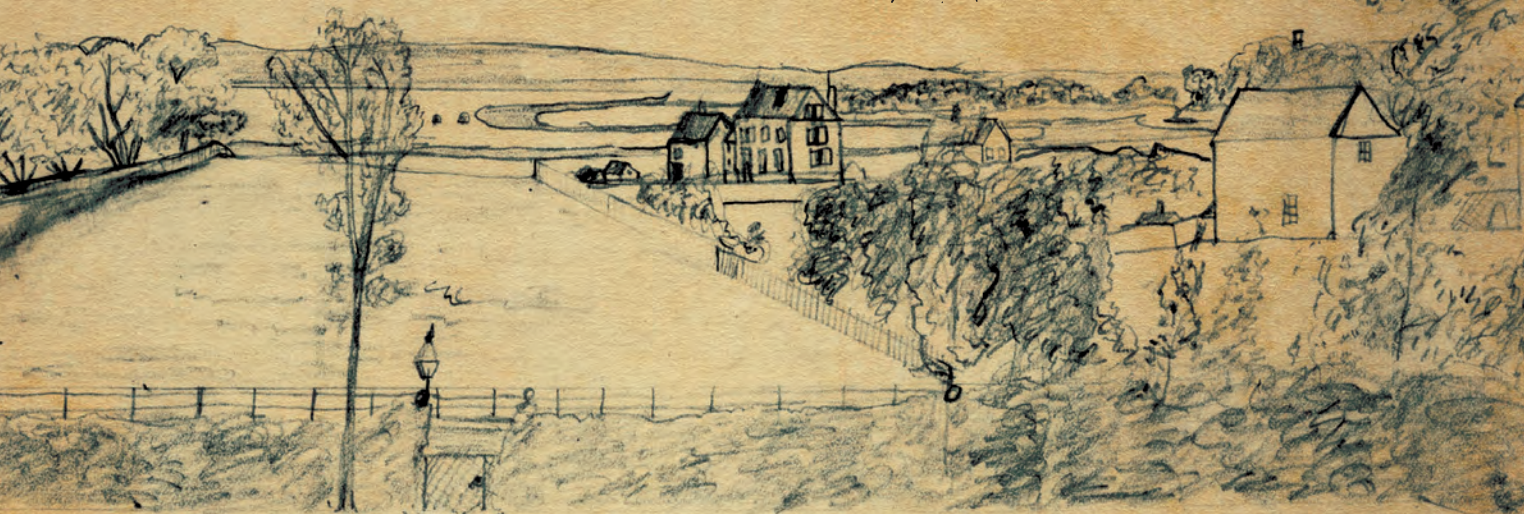


Inspiration, noun:
A person, idea or place that makes you want to do something.

What are three things you like to do with your friends?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Then & Now



Cambridge Ernest June 12th 1855.

Erny Longfellow drew this when he was nine years old! It shows the view out the front window. What are three things that are different today? List them on the paper here.



Charlie & Erny Longfellow

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Cambridge in the County of Middlesex State Mass.
of Massachusetts enumerated by me, on the 17th day of September 1850. David C. Bigelow Ass't Marshal. 153

Dwellings—houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Description.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year. (Males only.)	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
			Age.	Sex.	Color.					
38		Hannah M. Donald	55	F						38
39	227 2476	Henry W. Longfellow	43	M		Prof. Harvard College	\$2000	Mass.		39
40		Fanny E. "	38	F				Mass.		40
41		Charley A. "	6	M					1	41
42		Ernest W. "	5	M					1	42

Searching for Servants

What do you do if you want to learn about someone from the past, but they did not write a journal or leave many written records? Historians are still able to learn a lot through historic documents, like census records. The census is a survey that counts every person living in the United States every 10 years.

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			Age.	Sex.	Color.					
1	227 2476	Mary Dunn	29	F				Massachusetts		1
2		Mary Patten	58	F				Ireland		1
3		Ellen F. May	26	F				Mass.		
4		John Means	51	M		Labourer		Ireland		

The Census

Let's go sleuthing in this census!

- WHAT YEAR** was this census record taken?
- WHAT TOWN** was this census taken in? **WHAT** state?
- CAN YOU FIND** the Longfellow family? Check off the names when you find them:

<input type="checkbox"/> Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	<input type="checkbox"/> Ernest W. Longfellow	<input type="checkbox"/> Ellen F. May
<input type="checkbox"/> Fanny E. Longfellow	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Dunn	<input type="checkbox"/> John Means
<input type="checkbox"/> Charley A. Longfellow	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Patten	

WHY DO FOUR PEOPLE in the Longfellow household (#2027) not have the same last name?

Let's focus on Mary Dunn and see what we can learn about her.

HOW OLD was she in 1850? So, in what year was she born? Where was she born?

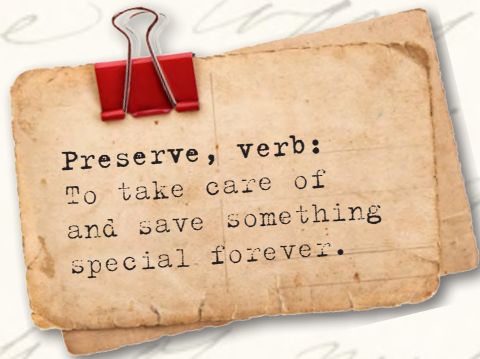
COULD she read or write? **WHAT** questions do you still have about Mary Dunn?

We know from family letters that Mary Dunn was employed as a nurse for young Charley and Erny Longfellow. She had a close relationship with the two boys, especially Erny. Mary Dunn was employed by the Longfellows from October 1846 – September 1850. She earned about 29¢ a day and lived onsite, most likely in the attic of the house.

Preserving & Modernizing

The poet's daughter, Alice, and grandson, Harry, loved history and wanted to make sure that this house was saved for future generations.

WHAT is something special you want to preserve?



In this house, we tell many diverse stories. We can do this thanks to the letters, journals, photos and artifacts that Harry Dana preserved. For example, many of the letters and journals Harry preserved tell us about the lives of Longfellow family members who may have identified as LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer+) and the community they built.

Alice, Henry's oldest daughter, lived in this house until 1928. She modernized the house as new technology was invented. Match the old technology to the new technology. (Draw lines to connect them)

Old Technology

New Technology

LAMP

AUTOMOBILE

OUTHOUSE

ELEVATOR

HORSE & CARRIAGE

LIGHTBULB

STAIRS

FAUCET



Mr. Longfellow and I
Thank you for visiting.
Come again soon!



Garden of Scavenger Hunt

SAW OR SMELLED a flower

HEARD a bird chirping

SAW a squirrel

FELT the breeze

HEARD an insect buzzing

TOUCHED a seed that fell from a tree

SAW a rabbit

FOUND your favorite color

SAW a bird

ADD your own

TOUCHED the biggest tree at the site

ADD your own

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CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

PRESENTED BY

AWARDED BY

Date Presented

G. Washington

Henry W. Longfellow

George Washington

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow