



# Longfellow House Bulletin

Volume 1 No. 2

A Newsletter of the Friends of the Longfellow House

June 1997

## Longfellow Archives Throw New Light on Japan's Meiji Period

On May 10, 1871, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote to his elder son, Charley, "Uncle Tom has returned, says he saw you in New York; and wonders why you want to go to Japan when you can go yachting in the *Alice!*" That month, Charley sailed from San Francisco, arriving in Yokohama in July. He did not think it would be a long visit, but, in fact, he stayed a year, and then a second year. He even built an "expensive" house in Tokyo (a project for which he dipped into his inheritance from his Appleton grandfather).

During the past year, at the Longfellow House, Christine Laidlaw, an art historian who recently finished a Ph.D. dissertation for Rutgers University entitled "The American Reaction to Japanese Art, 1853-1876," and her husband, Angus, have been editing and annotating the details of Charley Longfellow's visit to Japan in the early 1870s. With the assistance of Lauren Malcolm and Jim Shea, curator and manager of the House, they have transcribed his letters and those of the family to him in Japan, studied his journals, and culled through the



Charley Longfellow in Japan, 1872; after descending Mt. Fuji, in photo on right, Charley is second from left.

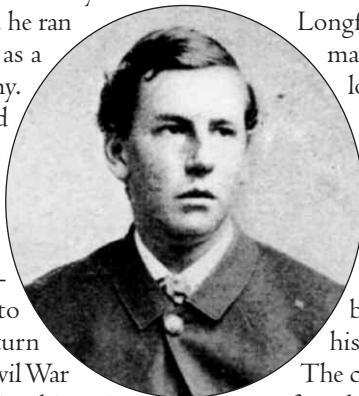
more than 400 photographs from the trip found in the Longfellow House. Many of the photographs were taken by the finest photographers of that time in Japan. The photographs document Charley's visits to Kobe, Nagasaki, Osaka, Hokkaido, Kyoto, as well as climbing Mt. Fuji and going out to meet the people of the Ainu country, where Charley (mistakenly) anticipated

finding "women suckling bear cubs, fattening them, worshipping them, and then eating them." (letter of Sept. 13, 1871).

In the upcoming months the fascinating results of this work, including a large number of the photographs, will be published and made available through the Friends of the Longfellow House, funded by the Jean S. and Frederick A. Scharf Foundation.

## New High-School Curriculum Features Charles Longfellow

Charles Longfellow, the poet's elder son, was the adventurer in the family. In 1863 when he was nineteen, he ran away from home to enlist as a private in the Union Army. He suffered typhoid and malaria, and was wounded in the back at Mt. Hope Church, Virginia, after which his father and brother went to Washington to bring him home to recuperate. Upon his return home, Charles created a Civil War room in the house featuring his uniform, swords, guns, and photographs.



An innovative new curriculum for high school students is being developed at the Longfellow House based on these materials and Charles Longfellow's Civil War experiences. Tentatively titled *Coming of Age in a Time of Turbulence* the curriculum will encourage students to make use of primary sources such as Charles's journals, his letters home, scrapbooks, photographs, as well as his uniform, swords, and guns. The curriculum will also include letters from his sisters as a way of examining different gender roles in wartime.

Kelly Fellner, Education and Visitor Services Coordinator at the Longfellow National Historic Site, said there is a lack of curriculum units using primary sources for high school students. She is developing this pioneering project with the help of NPS staff Liza Stearns and a local teachers' advisory board which includes Carolyn Kemmett, a student in the graduate program of museum studies at Tufts University; Margaret Von Gonten, Curriculum Coordinator for the Cambridge Public Schools; Mary Page and Lorie Taylor, Cambridge School of Weston; Larry Metzger, Winsor School in Boston; and Frances

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## Interview with a Friend. . . Meet Stanley Paterson

by Ruth Butler

On a cold, sunny March day I drove to Nahant to interview Stanley Paterson, treasurer of the Friends of the Longfellow House. I knew the way. Long ago I looked for a house in Nahant, and in the process became curious about a large yellow house with fine classical detail on the water's edge. To my surprise, the trip today was to satisfy that old curiosity. As Stanley and I talked in a small nineteenth-century salon modeled on an earlier room in the Derby House of Salem, we took occasional breaks to look at Stanley's own architectural creations: a ballroom with a round-headed window copied from Mt. Vernon which framed the sea and the North Shore beyond to perfection, a room decorated with cast plaster friezes and ceiling coffers, works of Stanley's own making. Then there was the dining room with decorations after Robert Adam. I rapidly understood at least one reason Stanley Paterson has been drawn to the Longfellow House.

**Ruth Butler:** I know that you were one of the founders of the Friends group. Why was that; how did you find Longfellow?

**Stanley Paterson:** A colleague, Carl Seaburg, and I have been working together for a long time. First we wrote a biography of the Boston merchant and philanthropist Thomas H. Perkins, published by Harvard in 1970. We've done other things too, and in 1990, we brought out a big book on the history of Nahant, published by the Nahant Historical Society. And, of course, Longfellow summered in Nahant for years. So we had to look at Longfellow.

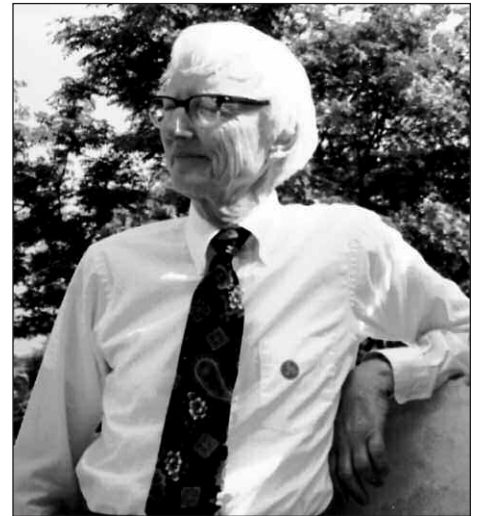
**R.B.** I begin to see a path that could have led you to Brattle Street.

**S.P.** Well, not exactly, because the bulk of Longfellow's own papers are at Harvard.

**R.B.** You mean the letters?

**S.P.** Also the diaries, as well as the letters to Longfellow. But we also went over to the Longfellow House— must have been ten years ago or more—we wanted to look at Fanny Appleton's papers. We ended up with more than a chapter in the book on Longfellow.

**R.B.** I would love to see the book—[a request easily fulfilled and which produced a thick, richly illustrated volume full of those particulars of an old and rich resort that forever fascinate]. Stanley, this is a very serious work, but somehow you don't strike me as a historian.



**S.P.** No, but it's been my hobby for more than forty years. For the Nahant book, I was inspired by a plaque in the Nahant church to the founders of the church. I would sit there every Sunday and look at that thing, and there were all the names of the great families of Boston. I thought it would be fun to learn more about them. There were probably about a dozen Appletons, so off I went to the Boston Athenaeum and I just got sucked in. Then eventually I went to the Mass. Historical Society, and finally to Houghton Library at Harvard. It was convenient that Houghton had published Longfellow's letters. The incoming letters, which are also at Houghton, are not published, but they are indexed. It has 5,000 correspondents in it, and there are probably 50,000 letters. Charles Sumner alone wrote Longfellow over 450 letters. And there are the journals—I think about forty volumes.

**R.B.** How was his handwriting?

**S.P.** Excellent. Apparently there was a movement at Harvard to publish the journals, but the project never got off the ground. So I thought that would be kind of fun. I've been working on it for about four years.

**R.B.** That is a wonderful project. How many years do the journals cover?

**S.P.** Oh, the journals go from his youngest days to his death. But I'm only working from the period when he began his affiliation with Harvard. I pick the journals up about 1837, and right now I've finished them up to the time of Fanny's death in 1861. But I'll go to the end of his life. I intersperse his writing with material from the journals of the people with whom he



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Ackerly, a distinguished educator and a Friend of the Longfellow House.

According to Kelly, the curriculum is now in the planning stage, with funding, development, and promotion to follow soon. She is exploring a possible collaboration with one of the southern Civil War sites in the National Park Service.



## Washington-Longfellow Birthday Celebration

was meeting. It begins to look like a three-volume project.

**R.B.** How much of your work have you done in the House?

**S.P.** Well, first of all, I have to explain Henry's brother Sam published the journals—the whole forty volumes—shortly after Henry's death. But, as you might expect, he left off everything controversial, blanked out most of the names, etc. When we compared it to the original, we found he had cut it about in half. So that's where we started. As far as the House goes, I started working there seriously in the same period that Jim Shea arrived and when Diana Korzenik was doing her research on Fanny. The most important part of the collection is the papers of Fanny and her sister Mary, and Sam and Stephen Longfellow, and all the family connections. Then there are letters from Sam to Mary [Longfellow Greenleaf] that are interesting to put in—lots of talk about the Craigie House.

**R.B.** When the Longfellows lived there, did they speak of it as the "Craigie House?"

**S.P.** Oh, of course, in fact, they spoke of it as "Craigie Castle."

**R.B.** Have there been many changes since your experience ten years ago on the Nahant book and your more recent period of research on the present book?

**S.P.** When I went back about three years ago, I found Jim Shea was at the Longfellow House, and he had made a great number of changes. He has a deep instinct as a curator and an archivist, and now there is a good curatorial staff at the house. It has made all the difference. Jim's found a mass of materials which wasn't evident before. And that's when I met Diana. We were working there, side by side, down in the cellar on the letters, one thing led to another, and we started the Friends group.

*In 1847 when the call went out for American writers to create a new brand of national literature, Longfellow reflected in his journal, "We shall have a composite one, embracing French, Spanish, Irish, English, Scotch, and German peculiarities. Whoever has within himself most of these is our truly national writer, In other words, whoever is most universal is most national."*

On February 22, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 190th birthday was celebrated in keeping with an annual tradition: a wreath was solemnly laid upon his grave in Mt. Auburn Cemetery. In order that as many people as possible might witness the ceremony, it took place on the Saturday preceding Longfellow's actual birthday, February 27. Most of those attending were Friends of Mt. Auburn Cemetery or Friends of the Longfellow House. The family was represented by Frankie Wetherell (great-granddaughter of Anne Longfellow Thorp). A reception at the cemetery followed the wreath-laying ceremony.

Afterwards, people enjoyed a special tour of the Longfellow House, focusing on how the Longfellow family celebrated Henry's birthday, as well as George Washington's. In honor of Washington's birthday, Jim Shea brought out artifacts from the collection, including some of Washington's letters written in the House. Those present had a chance to reflect upon the Longfellow family's appreciation of their home having once served as Washington's headquarters.

## Frank Buda Remembered

The Longfellow House lost one of its oldest and best friends with the death of Frank Buda, a longtime guide and curator at the house, on February 23, 1997. Mr. Buda spent his entire working life at the Longfellow House. He started as a chauffeur for Harry Dana, the grandson of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and later managed the historic home for the Longfellow Family Trust when it first opened the building to the public in the 1930s. He stayed on as a guide and chief of visitor services when the National Park Service assumed responsibility for the property in 1972.

A resident of Cambridge for nearly all his 81 years, Mr. Buda was raised in the "marsh" area of the city in the shadow of the Longfellow House. His connection to the house was a family affair. His father had mowed the lawn there, and his children sometimes served as tour guides. He and his wife named their daughter, born on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's birthday, Evangeline.

Mr. Buda liked to show visitors the ironstone dishes from which Longfellow ate, the folding desk and quill pen he used for writing, and the famous armchair made out of the wood of the "spreading chestnut tree" that Longfellow referred to in his poem "The Village Blacksmith."

"You don't find too many houses as authentic as this one," Mr. Buda boasted in a 1981 article in *The Boston Globe*.

"Mr. Buda exemplified the tradition of hospitality by which the Longfellow House

was known in the poet's time: welcoming all visitors with warmth, urbanity, intelligence and tact, bringing them into an understanding of the poet through his guided tours of the house," one admirer wrote to the National Park Service when Mr. Buda retired in 1985. "Who knows how many thousands, from this country and all

parts of the world, were enriched by his knowledge and insights, and carried home with them an unmistakable impression of Longfellow's life and character."

Mr. Buda was a familiar figure in Harvard Square, which he called "the crossroads of the world," and led walking tours of the area. He

enjoyed sketching and ballroom dancing at the Wonderland Ballroom.

Mr. Buda was buried on February 27 which was Longfellow's birthday. At the funeral mass at St. Joseph's Church in Belmont, poems by Longfellow were read, and a jazz band played. The funeral procession passed through Harvard Square and down Brattle Street past the Longfellow House on the way to Cambridge Cemetery.

Mr. Buda leaves two daughters, a son, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. The family has established a permanent Frank Buda Memorial Fund and designated the Friends of the Longfellow House to receive the funds which will be used for projects he would have favored. His interests were wide-ranging and included encouraging scholarly work on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



## Alice Longfellow as Preservationist: From Mount Vernon to Brattle Street

The following is a brief overview of a paper by Kelly Fellner, Longfellow NHS's Education and Visitor Services Coordinator, entitled "Alice M. Longfellow: Preserving a Colonial Past," presented at the Second National Women in Historic Preservation Conference in Mesa, Arizona, on March 10, 1997.

Beginning in 1879, in her late twenties, Alice, Henry's eldest daughter, began to focus her attention on club work and organizations. She first worked as a member of the organizing committee for the "Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women," which would later become Radcliffe College. Alice divided her work between education and her other love, colonial history. Working from the ideals put forth by the Colonial Revival movement, Alice promoted the preservation of historic sites, and ideas from America's colonial past that would serve to educate a rapidly changing population. This is expressed through her work with the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Cambridge Historical Society, and her family's home in Cambridge.

Alice served as Vice-Regent for Massachusetts of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association (MVLA) from 1880 to 1928. Her work at Mount Vernon included restoring Washington's library. She acquired books, draperies, and furniture—even loaning her own Chippendale desk and bookcase, which today is on display in her bedroom at the Longfellow House. In 1898 she documented the work of the founding members of the association in "The Appeal of Mount Vernon." In addition to detailing the early efforts of its founder, Ann Pamela Cunningham, and members, including Edward Everett, Alice explained the mission of her generation: "The ladies have always preferred to keep in the plain path and preserve the picture of an old-time plantation dwelling, filled with the genius of the place, which speaks more strongly to every listening ear through the simplicity of the surroundings. . . ." The MVLA proved to be good training for Alice, and prepared her for the manage-

ment of the family's home in Cambridge.

Like her parents, Alice worked with other family members to maintain the historic sense of the house, while not being adverse to alterations. Alice and her architect cousin Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, Jr. (Waddy) collaborated over a fifteen-year period to make the alterations, which included modernizing utilities, updating the kitchen and adding bathrooms, and creating the second floor porch



Left to right: Mina Edison, Harvey Firestone, Thomas A. Edison, Alice Longfellow, Henry Ford, and Clara Bryant Ford at the Wayside Inn, c. 1924

and garden sitting area that connected the house and formal gardens. In his alterations, Waddy made considerable effort to blend any new work into the existing fabric of the building. Alice also hired landscape architect Martha Brooks Hutcheson in 1904. Of her work Hutcheson stated, "The Longfellow Garden at Cambridge I overhauled entirely. . . . I reset box [wood hedges] in the Persian pattern which the poet had originally planned, for sentiment, which pleased Miss Alice Longfellow very much. Then I added arbors, gates, fence, etc. making of it a garden which Miss Longfellow could go to and, if she chose, close the gates to visitors as she grew older."

Alice's work on the house combined her love of the Colonial Revival style with her progressive ideals. The house was now a blend of public and private, that would stand as a tribute to both George Washington and her father, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Alice organized birthday parties and colonial balls for family members. On Bunker Hill Day in 1889, Alice hosted a group of "working women of the Boston stores," who toured the house and gardens and sat on the piazza. For more than twenty

years, Radcliffe students gathered for a party in the gardens each Memorial Day. The largest gathering organized by Alice, however, was in 1907 on the centenary of Henry Longfellow's birth.

The week long event featured speeches, pageants by school children in Boston and Cambridge, a public meeting of the Cambridge Historical Society at Sanders Theater, and a special exhibit at the Cambridge Public Library. The grand event of the week was a tour of the Longfellow House. The library assisted by giving out tickets for the event. When the four hundred tickets available were snatched up in one day, Alice issued another four hundred. By the end of the day on February 27, almost 1000 people had gone through the house. The *Cambridge Tribune* described the scene: "Signs over the doors gave the ancient as well as the present names of the rooms. The visitors entered by the front doors, looked into the parlor, passed through the front hall, study and library, looked into the dining room which was General Washington's kitchen, and went out by the west side door on to the driveway."

Alice Longfellow's work helped to shape the house into its role as a public shrine, and lead her to other projects, including work with Henry and Clara Ford on the restoration of the Wayside Inn. Alice became the ambassador for the house, and a living link between a romanticized past and uncertain future as the country entered the twentieth century.

*"...a spacious house with elegant, tasteful, yet simple furniture. [The Longfellow] received me most kindly and warmly. Their library was Washington's bedroom; and as I was sitting at the window, Mrs. Longfellow close by me and a beautiful landscape in view, I felt the whole was a sweet poem."  
—Francis Lieber, encyclopedist and author, letter to his wife, August 1843*

## House Director Receives Regional Award

On April 9, the Longfellow House's own director, Jim Shea, was awarded "Regional Cultural Resources Manager of the Year" by the National Park Service for distinguished service in the area of cultural resources. Jim was nominated by the House staff and the Friends, and his name was in competition with managers from the entire Eastern region—from Maine to Virginia.

The award recognizes the work Jim has done at the Longfellow House. It was announced at the National Park Service's annual curator's conference which took place in Long Branch, New Jersey. This award puts Jim in the running for the a further national award offered by the National Park Service.

## Recent Donations

The Longfellow House is most grateful for the following recent donations:

Mrs. Harry Paul of Port St. John, Florida, has given us a copy of *Longfellow's Wayside Inn, A Camera Impression* by Samuel Chamberlain (1938).

Pat Pratt donated her personal collection of black and white photographs of the restored Longfellow House garden, as well as other documents concerning the gardens before, during, and after the National Park Service became custodian of the Longfellow House. Mrs. Pratt was chair of the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club Longfellow House Restoration Project. This work was based on the historical garden research which was carried out by Diane K. McGuire starting in 1966.

Stephen Pratt donated the research materials of his father, Frederick Haven Pratt, used in his 1942 book, *The Craigies*. The papers also include eighteenth-century primary documents of Andrew Craigie, one of the original residents of the House.

Nell Barnitz Nilson donated forty four letters written during the 1880s and 90s by Samuel Longfellow, Henry's brother and biographer who was a Unitarian minister and Transcendentalist. Samuel, a resident of the House after Henry's death, penned these letters to his friend Harry Wilson Barnitz, an artist who studied under Thomas Eakins.

## Evangeline Turns 150

A number of events and exhibits commemorate this year's 150th anniversary of Longfellow's epic poem *Evangeline*. On April 28 as part of their Women's Film Festival, the Brattle Theatre showed the 1929 silent movie *Evangeline* starring Dolores Del Rio and directed by Edwin Carewe with an updated soundtrack of Del Rio singing the title song.

The Longfellow House currently has a special exhibit on popular culture surrounding the *Evangeline* poem, which includes such artifacts as sheet music signed by Dolores Del Rio, *Evangeline* china plates, various editions of this beloved verse, and the actual pencil used to write the poem. In addition, the House hopes to have poetry readings and guest speakers to celebrate *Evangeline*.



Alice Longfellow, age 8, dressed as *Evangeline*, c. 1858

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Summer Festival.** Volunteers are needed on Sundays from June 15 to September 21 to help with set-up and break-down of the chairs and equipment, to staff the Friends information table, and to greet people at the front gate.

**Family Days.** If you love working with kids and families, we could use your help on August 16 and 17 during family days. We need help with tours and facilitating special activities, including watercolor painting, bookmaking, quill pen writing, and nineteenth-century games.

**Visitor Center.** A great opportunity on those hot summer days of July and August to meet our visitors from all over the world. A volunteer in the visitor center would help sell tour tickets and books, and answer questions for visitors. No previous experience is necessary—just a love of people.

**Special Tours.** Work with the Longfellow interpretive staff to develop and present thematic tours of the house and grounds. Of special interest would be tours of the gardens during the spring and summer.

**International Docent Program.** We are looking for interested people who speak another language fluently to lead tours in other languages. We would like to begin Japanese tours and gradually add others

For more details about any of these opportunities or to sign up, please call the Longfellow House at 876-4491.

## Recent Discoveries in the House

Two translators of Russian from Houghton Library visited the House recently to translate a newly discovered document dated 1766 which bears the signature of Catherine II, Czarina of Russia, and her General Fieldmarshal, Count Orlov. The document is a citation recognizing the outstanding military service of a Russian soldier. It is likely that it was brought back as a souvenir from the court of Catherine the Great by Francis Dana, an ancestor of Edith Longfellow's husband and an American ambassador to the court.

During a dinner party at the Langdon Hotel in London in 1868, the great American painter Albert Bierstadt presented an oil painting called "The Departure of Hiawatha" to Henry W. Longfellow. This painting, with the original menu affixed to the back, still hangs in the Longfellow House dining room. Recently, the Longfellow NHS staff discovered the letter from Bierstadt to Longfellow inviting him to this dinner.

Edith Longfellow's father-in-law Richard Henry Dana, Jr., author of *Two Years Before the Mast* and prominent Boston attorney, fought the Fugitive Slave Law and defended James Scott, one of the people who rescued Shadrach Minkins. The briefings, witness testimonies, and proceedings of Scott's trial have surfaced among Dana's many legal papers at the House.



## Two Sisters Remember the Longfellow House

by Virginia Wadsworth

Jim Shea, director of the Longfellow House, and I were recently treated to an enlightening and entertaining tour of the House by Fanny Longfellow's great nieces, two sisters, Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff and Isabella H. Halsted. Both have many fond memories of living in this house.

Joan, Isabella, and their sisters were first tutored in Manchester (or "Manch" as it was called by the family); then they came to Cambridge to attend the Buckingham School for Girls. Isabella stayed at the Longfellow House in 1923, then again in the thirties and forties with her family from late fall to early spring before returning to Manchester for the summer.

Their cousin Alice Longfellow lived in the House until she died in 1928. The story goes that Alice, the poet's oldest daughter, was annoyed with tour guides who invariably announced loudly that although her sisters had each married—one to a Dana, the other to a Thorp and lived nearby—"Alice never married." She had *chosen* not to.

When Alice was alive, there was still a large field in back of the house. It continued on to Craigie Street and was often used in later years for Punch and Judy shows and fairs with pony rides to raise money for worthy causes. The neighborhood dogs were exercised there, and the family dogs were also given freedom on the second floor balcony. Alice had to be convinced by Mr. Edison himself that electricity was perfectly safe. She had been adamant about using only gas lighting until then.

Isabella remembers herself at age nine desperately trying to open the front door so as not to be late to school. Failing to unlock it, she ran to the side door at the back of the house. When she screamed at the sight of the huge glowering bust of Zeus (still in the same place today), everyone in the house came running.

Isabella's and Joan's father was Charles Hopkinson, the eminent American portraitist, and their mother was Elinor Cur-

tis, whose mother was Harriot Appleton, Fanny Longfellow's half-sister. After Fanny died in 1861, Harriot (Mrs. Greely S. Curtis) helped Longfellow cope with his five children (her nieces and nephews) by visiting often, playing games with them, and taking them on excursions.

The Curtis family played charades and hide-and-go-seek with Dana and Thorp relatives as well as with Amy Lowell, Sumner Appleton, and others in the 1890s.

Harry Dana, Longfellow's grandson, who later lived there when the Hopkinson family was in residence, did not approve of the girls and their Buckingham friends rac-



Isabella H. Halsted, left, with her sister Joan Hopkinson Shurcliff at the Longfellow House, 1997

ing noisily from room to room, up and down the double staircases, but he patiently endured it. When a young cousin broke a large ceramic stand in the parlor and was mortified, Harry merely said, "I hope the little boy wasn't scared." The children were fond of Harry and recognized his kindness.

"Counting heads" was a popular game in the 1920s. Joan and friends would gather in the library to see who could find the most heads of famous people on furniture, busts, or paintings. This activity kept them busy for a long time. Longfellow's study was also a good source of "heads," all well-known people and friends of the poet.

Joan's bedroom in the rear was called the blue room (before its current wallpaper). She loved this room with its view of the garden, tiles around the fireplace and a large standing mirror (still there).

Joan remembers finding a sealed vault in the cellar she had never known was there. It contained a lonely unopened bottle of Madeira with "To HWL" on it. Her memories of the House are mostly from 1935 to 1947. Then she married and moved away, after various gala parties at the House

around the wedding.

Joan and Isabella's mother, Elinor Curtis Hopkinson, once showed an English group around the House. One of the ladies admired the orange tree that stood inside the study. Mrs. Hopkinson asked her if she would like to take a leaf back to England. The lady treasured it always, as Longfellow was even more popular in England than America.

The Hopkinsons loved to entertain in the House. Each year two days before Christmas, they gave an informal ball from 8 P.M. to 1 A.M. A heavy cotton cover was placed on the carpet in the library and slip-

pery cornmeal was sprinkled over it for dancing. All the fireplaces were lit, and it became a tradition to serve apple pie and claret at midnight.

Other important gatherings included Isabella and Joan's sister Harriot Hopkinson's coming-out party in 1923 and a garden party with tables and delicate Japanese lanterns strung around. Joan also fondly re-

members tea time in the parlor every afternoon with friends and family attending.

For more information about the Hopkinson and Curtis families in Manchester, read Isabella's entertaining book *The Aunts* (Sharksmouth Press, 1992). Joan is currently writing a book about her grandfather Greely Curtis.

### 18th-Century Clock to Chime Again

The Dutch clock from the front hall stairs, our first "Adopted Object", is being repaired, thanks to funds provided by the Friends of the Longfellow House. The clock is expected back at the house by May in time for the summer season. The hand-carved figurines on the bonnet will be remounted, the casing and bonnet stabilized, the mechanisms put in working order, and the entire clock cleaned. Once again, for the first time in more than ten years, the chimes will sound in the front hall.

## Longfellow Summer Festival Schedule

Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. on the grounds of the Longfellow House

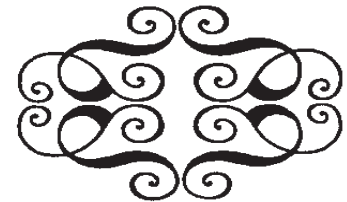
- May 18 Cambridge Women Poets
- June 1 Harvard University Poets featuring David Gewanter
- June 15 Claribel Aligria, Latin American poet
- June 22 International Poets from the Joiner Center featuring Kevin Bowen, Grace Paley, Le Luu, Bob Nichols, and Bruce Weigl
- June 29 Hawthorne String Quartet
- July 6 Poets Who Edit featuring Elizabeth Lund, Vivian Shipley, Lloyd Schwartz
- July 13 Longy School of Music Brass Quintet
- July 20 Lisa Suhair-Majaj, Arabic-American poetry  
Richard Fein, Yiddish poetry
- July 27 Longy School Opera Fest: opera scenes and arias, Donna Roll, director
- Aug. 3 Agni Magazine: "Emerging Poets"
- Aug. 10 Longy School: Arden String Quartet featuring Schubert's Death and Maiden Quartet
- Aug. 17 Armenian Children's Choir and children's poetry by X.J. Kennedy
- Aug. 24 Longy School: Woodwind Quintet, Vanessa Breault Mulvey, director
- Aug. 31 Boston Brass
- Sept. 7 Northeastern University Poets and Japanese Poetry
- Sept. 14 Cambridge Poets featuring local poets
- Sept. 21 Cambridge Poets featuring local poets



## Wallpaper Study To Be Conducted This Summer

As part of an ongoing effort to document the many layers of history at the Longfellow House, the National Park Service's Cultural Resource Center in Lowell, Massachusetts, will conduct a comprehensive wallpaper study this summer.

Besides many outstanding examples of nineteenth- and twentieth-century wallpaper intact throughout the house, there are also over forty individual samples in storage. They were found over the years in closets and drawers around the House. Now, they will be studied in context with the various residents, uses, and changes within each room since 1759.



## The First Longfellow Lyceum Event


On April 9, 1997, Arthur Loeb, one of the Friends of the Longfellow House, led the Collegium Iosquimum in a wonderful evening of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century music. As director Jim Shea remarked after the concert, "It's like a dream come true—finally we are using the house as the Longfellows once did." The concert in the library was followed by a reception and special tours of the house.

The Friends conceived of the evening as a way of thanking donors who have made gifts to the house, as well as inviting others whom we hope will become supporters. The audience was enthusiastic, and every seat was taken. It is our hope that the community will become even more involved as we look toward the next century and a fully rehabilitated Longfellow House and grounds. Many asked, and were happy to be assured, that there will be future Lyceum events of a cultural nature for the growing community of benefactors.

*Henry W. Longfellow's Journal, May 1, 1857:*

*A bright, warm May-day. The children have a May-pole in the garden, and a feast in the summer-house; a half-a-dozen little girls with wreaths on their heads enjoying themselves demurely. Charley has gone off on horseback into the country. Erny plays with the young damsels. After all, holidays are hard things to manage in New England. People cry for more of them; but when they get them, they don't know what to do with them. It is not in their hearts to be merry. In the midst of it, out came Lieber [a German friend]. He said it made him sad to see the little girls going about the street with wreaths of artificial flowers in their hair. But at this season we have no others, save in greenhouses.*

## Upcoming Events

**Lecture and Booksigning by Gary Collison on Richard Henry Dana, Jr. and New England's First Runaway Slave.** On June 28, 1997 at 2 P.M., Professor Gary Collison of Pennsylvania State University will speak at the Longfellow House about his new book: *Shadrach Minkins: From Fugitive Slave to Citizen* (Harvard University Press, 1997). Notice of the book's publication immediately attracted the interest of the staff at the Longfellow House as Richard Henry Dana, Jr., a young lawyer in 1851 when Minkins was arrested in a Boston coffeehouse, was to be engaged in preparing a petition of habeas corpus in collaboration with Robert Morris, the first black man admitted to the Massachusetts bar. After Professor Collison's talk, Paul Blandford of the Longfellow National Historic Site Staff will present material that has come to light in the Dana papers at the Longfellow House since Professor Collison's book was published. Books will be available, and Gary Collison will sign books after both presentations. 

**Family Days** Saturday and Sunday August 16 and 17 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. the House will feature special tours and programs for people of all ages. Activities will include watercolor painting in the gardens, croquet, and storytelling. Sunday's program will be followed by children's music and poetry (see Summer Festival listings).

## Adopt-an-Object Program

Help us tend to our most critical priorities by donating specifically to an object in need.

Our Rococo-Revival pier glass wall mirror, dating from around 1850, is displayed in a conspicuous position in the side hall of the Longfellow House and is in noticeably poor condition. It needs to have missing pieces replaced, loose sections refitted, the flaking gilt gesso surface stabilized, and the whole cleaned of films of dirt and grime accumulated over a century.

Repairs are estimated to cost \$6000. Won't you help restore this beautiful historic pier glass?



Join us as a Friend and help support an international collection of Fine & Decorative Arts, Rare Books, Letters, and Historic Photographs representing three centuries of American History...

- |  |  |
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Make checks payable to:

*Friends of the Longfellow House*

105 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

For more information, call (617) 876-4491.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Special area(s) of interest in the Longfellow House: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like someone to call me about volunteer opportunities.

*Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.*

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

