LEWIS HAYDEN and the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

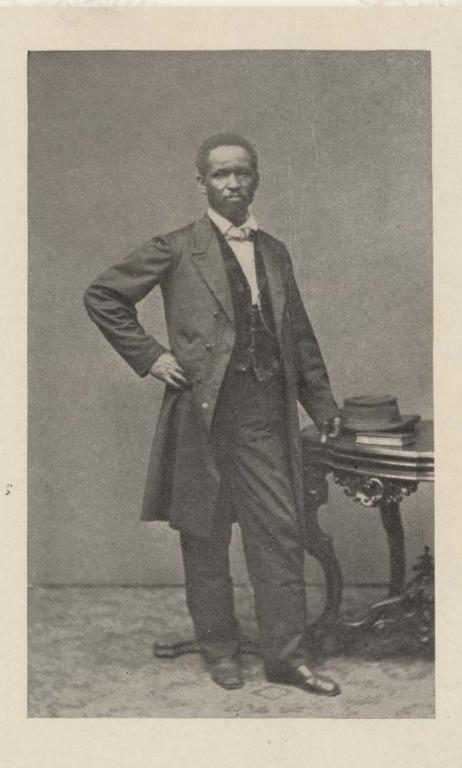
ewis Hayden died in Boston on Sunday morning April 7, 1889.

His passing was front- page news in the New York Times as well as in the Boston Globe, Boston Herald and Boston Evening Transcript.

Leading nineteenth century reformers attended the funeral including Frederick Douglass, and women's rights champion Lucy Stone. The Governor of Massachusetts, Mayor of Boston, and Secretary of the Commonwealth felt it important to participate.

Hayden's was a life of real significance — but few people know of him today. A historical marker at his Beacon Hill home tells part of the story: "A Meeting Place of Abolitionists and a Station on the Underground Railroad."

Hayden is often described as a "man of action." An escaped slave, he stood at the center of a struggle for dignity and equal rights in nineteenth century Boston. His story remains an inspiration to those who take the time to learn about it.



Lewis Hayden Houghton Library, Harvard University MS A M 2420(14)

HAYDEN'S EARLY YEARS

I belonged to Reverend Adam Rankin, a
Presbyterian minister in Lexington Kentucky."

— Lewis Hayden

Lewis Hayden's early life reflects the devastating effects of slavery on black families.

In his own words

Hayden was born into slavery in Kentucky around 1811. Unlike many who escaped on the Underground Railroad, he did not remain in the shadows. On a visit to Boston Harriet Beecher Stowe interviewed Lewis and other fugitive slaves. His story – in his own words – traces a history of cruel separation from parents and siblings.

The fate of Hayden's parents

My mother was of mixed blood — white and Indian. She married my father when he was working in a bagging factory near by. After a while my father's owner moved off and took my father with him, which broke up the marriage.

A man made proposals of a base nature to {my mother}...She would not consent to live with this man...and he sent her to prison, and had her flogged and punished in various ways, so that at last she began to have crazy turns.

The Hayden children sold by Kentucky Minister Adam Rankin

When he was going to leave Kentucky for Pennsylvania, he sold all my brothers and sisters at auction. I stood by and saw them sold. When I was just going up on the block, he swapped me off for a pair of carriage horses...It was commonly reported that my master had said in the pulpit that there was no more harm in separating a family of slaves than a litter of pigs...



This newspaper ad for a carriage and pair of gray horses is possibly related to the sale of Lewis Hayden, February 9, 1826. Courtesy of the Kentucky Room, Lexington Public Library



Illustration of a Kentucky slave auction from the first edition of Uncle Tom's Cabin Newberry Library Digital Collections



Harriet Beecher Stowe Library of Congress

A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin

Harriet Beecher Stowe's book *Uncle Tom's Cabin* included the fictional story of Cassy, a slave who kills her son to save him from slavery. To answer skeptics she included a similar, real life story from Lewis Hayden in her book, *A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Remembering his mother he said "She sprung and caught my arms, and seemed going to break them, and then said 'I'll fix you so they'll never get you.'"

LEWIS HAYDEN AND HENRY CLAY

Kentucky statesman Henry Clay played a significant role in the life of Lewis Hayden. One of the most prominent politicians in nineteenth century America, Clay served as a Senator, Speaker of the House, and Secretary of State under President John Quincy Adams.

Lewis Hayden married Esther Harvey and the couple had two children. Henry Clay purchased

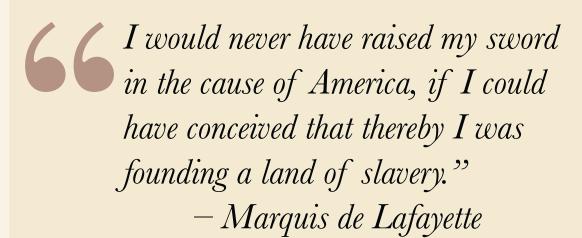


Henry Clay ended Hayden's first marriage by selling his wife and child. Clay believed that slavery was wrong but favored gradual emancipation and "colonization" in Africa. U.S. Senate Collection

Esther and one child. Later he sold them and Hayden never saw his wife and child again. Hayden's other child died in Kentucky.

Brush with Greatness

As a teenager Lewis Hayden encountered another historical figure. On a visit to Lexington, Kentucky the **Marquis de Lafayette** noticed fourteen-year old Lewis along the parade route and bowed in his direction. Hayden greatly valued Lafayette's gesture of recognition. "That act burnt his image upon my heart so that I shall never need a permit to recall it. I date my hatred of slavery from that day."





Marquis de Lafayette. We picture Lafayette in eighteenth century dress. This 1834 portrait reflects changing fashions around the time of his visit to Kentucky. Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives

ESCAPING SLAVERY



Why do you want your freedom?" "Because I'm a man."

- Lewis Hayden to Calvin Fairbank

Hayden made plans to escape from slavery with the help of abolitionists Delia Webster and Calvin Fairbank.

Intrigue

Lewis Hayden remarried after the sale of his first wife. An owner leased him to Lexington Kentucky's Phoenix Hotel as a waiter for the racing season. Expecting to be sold and separated from family once again, Hayden planned an escape.

Calvin Fairbank, a ministerial student, hired a carriage and driver. Lewis and his wife Harriet posed as servants, "or passed as white lady and gentleman, veiled and cloaked." Harriet's son hid under a seat. The Haydens made it to Canada and freedom.



Kentucky tollhouse. Lewis and Harriet Hayden departed in a carriage on the Maysville Road. Their disguise reportedly included an application of white flour. On a risky journey thirteen tollhouses separated them from freedom at 5-mile intervals. Bullock Photographic Collection, Transylvania University Library

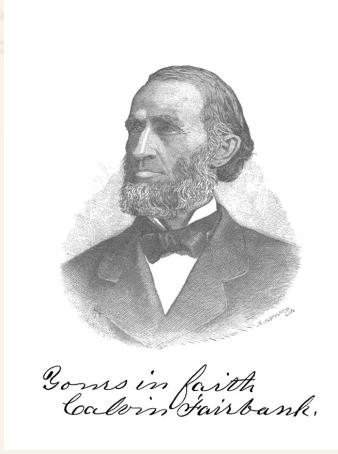
FOR SALE,

A rate bagging weaver and farm hand, any one wishing to purchase such a negro will apply to the subscriber.

WM. A. WARNER, Lexington, jan 4, 1840. 71-4w. (Intelligencer copy 4 weeks.)

> Observer & Reporter, Lexington, Ky 1/22/1840; pg. 3, col. 7

"For Sale Likely Negro Male" Hayden was sold three times before escaping Possibly this 1840 ad was for the sale of Lewis Hayden. Courtesy of the Kentucky Room, Lexington Public Library

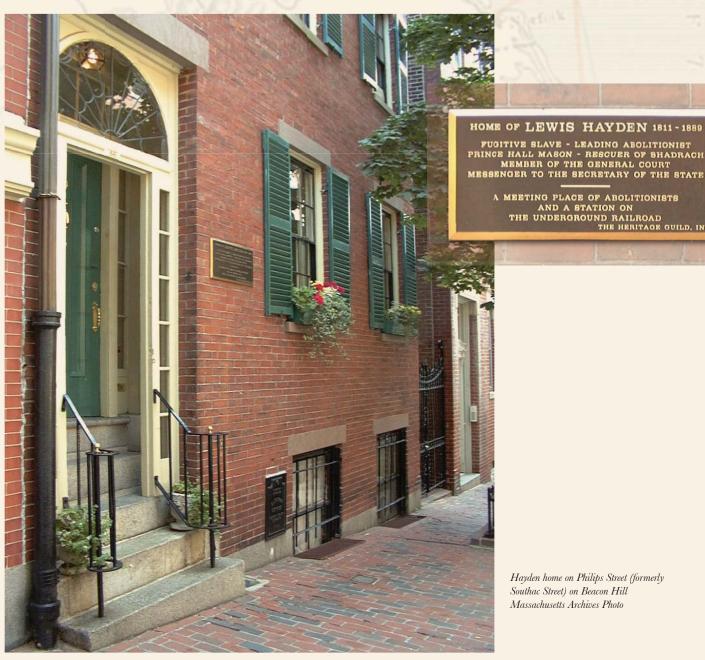


Calvin Fairbank was sentenced to fifteen years at hard labor for his role in the Hayden's escape. Lewis raised \$650 for his release after four years, ten months, and twenty-four days. Delia Webster received a two-year sentence that was soon commuted. Fairbank wrote a lighthearted account of his time in prison. "My head shaven close, I dressed in stripes and put to sawing stones." University of Kentucky Archives

THE TEMPLE REFUGE

ewis Hayden settled in Boston in 1849 after spending chusetts. Abolitionists helped finance this house as a stop on the Underground Railroad. A secret tunnel connected it to a neighboring home. Located on Beacon Hill, it had been a rooming house. The elegant doorway reflects a later remodeling.

From this home Lewis and Harriet Hayden helped over 100 fugitive slaves. Harriet took responsibility for the boarding house. Lewis opened a clothing store on Cambridge Street that served the needs of runaways facing the cold Boston winter. Abolitionist Henry Bowditch called Hayden's home the "Temple of Refuge."



Hayden home on Philips Street (formerly Southac Street) on Beacon Hill Massachusetts Archives Photo

THE CRISIS

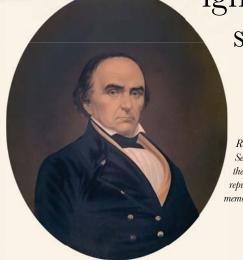


Senator Henry Clay introduces the Compromise of 1850 one of the most contentious issues in U.S. Senate history. Library of Congress

Stop the debate and drop the subject. If we do this the Compromise will be recognized as the final settlement."

— Senator Stephen A. Douglas, on slavery and the Compromise of 1850

Victory in the Mexican War of 1846-1848 brought vast new lands to the United States and ignited a toxic debate over the spread of slavery.



Renowned as an orator, Massachusetts Senator Daniel Webster's support for the Compromise of 1850 clouded his reputation at the time and in historical memory. U.S. Senate Collection

Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison made opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law a central theme in the pages of his newspaper the Liberator. Garrison later called Hayden "my staunchest ally." Metropolitan Museum of Art



About the Compromise of 1850

The free state of California would balance the slave state of Texas. The territories of New Mexico and Utah would decide on slavery for themselves. The slave trade (but not slavery) would end in the District of Columbia. Under the Fugitive Slave Law private citizens faced a \$1,000 fine or six months in prison for assisting runaways. Fugitives would appear before a federal commissioner paid \$10 for ruling against the slave and \$5 for supporting a claim of freedom.

The Compromise of 1850

Henry Clay brokered the "Compromise of 1850" in an attempt to settle the issue of slavery and avoid civil war. (Details below.) He offered some concessions to the North and some to the South. One provision intensified conflict. A strict Fugitive Slave Law mandated the return of runaways from the North. As "slave catchers" appeared in Massachusetts black and white abolitionists forged new levels of cooperation.

Emergence of Lewis Hayden

Hayden quickly became a leader in resisting the Fugitive Slave Law. Although relatively new to Boston, he had unique qualities: an impressive capacity for growth, a dignity that earned credibility with black and white Bostonians, and rock steady re-



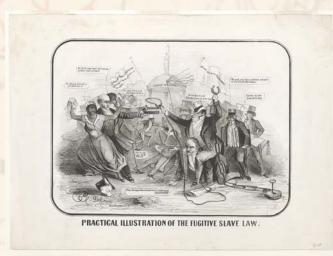
liability in a crisis. A "man of action" he combined intelligence with physical courage. Some African-Americans called him the "Tavern of Strength." To children he was "Papa Hayden."

CONDUCTOR ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

All they want is one from Boston...to show the discontented ones at home that it can be done."

— Abolitionist Wendell Phillips on "slave catchers"

As a center of abolitionism Boston became a symbol and target for southern slave hunters. Four incidents of resistance – involving Lewis Hayden – gained national attention.



Practical Illustration of the Fugitive Slave Law. Library of Congress

Robert and Ellen Craft

In a celebrated escape Ellen Craft pretended to be a male plantation owner traveling north for medical treatment, accompanied by a male slave (her future husband William.) For a time they took refuge with Lewis and Harriet Hayden. Ellen's success on the lecture circuit attracted the attention of "slave catchers." Hayden put dynamite in his cellar and threatened to blow the house up if they tried to enter.

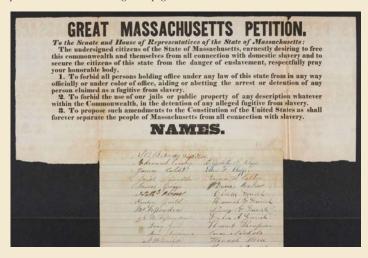


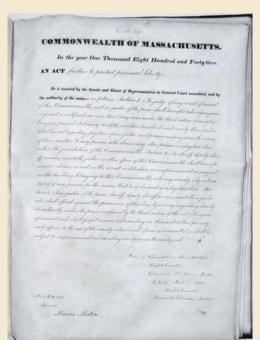
Ellen Craft had a light complexion. Pretending to be seriously ill she covered her face with bandages during a long journey north. She hid her inability to read or write by wearing dark glasses (to suggest poor eyesight) and bandaging her right arm to avoid signing documents. New York Public Library

Setting the Stage: the "Latimer Law"

In 1843, escaped slave George Latimer was held under an earlier version of the Fugitive Slave Law. Abolitionists protested with 65,000 petitions weighing 150 pounds and rolled into the State House. In response, the legislature passed a "Personal Freedom Law" prohibiting the holding of escaped slaves in Massachusetts jails. By denying secure facilities it encouraged later rescue attempts.

Latimer petition, 1843. The "Latimer Law" reflects the language in this petition. The text and some signature pages remain. Massachusetts Archives





An Act further to protect personal liberty, 1843. The "Latimer Law" banned the detention of escaped slaves in Massachusetts jails. Massachusetts Archives

FROM WORDS TO DEEDS

The great majority of our citizens...in the main approve, and are prepared, in all respects, to sustain" [the Fugitive Slave Law.]

- President Millard Fillmore.

Shadrack Minkins

Runaway slave Shadrack Minkins was seized while working at Cornhill Coffee House in 1851. He was held at in the Suffolk County Courthouse. A mob broke into the lightly guarded courtroom and freed Minkins. Several witnesses identified Hayden as a key leader. He helped transport Minkins fifteen miles to safety in Concord but was arrested on his return.

Escape

Traveling in a carriage with one black and one white horse, Hayden, Minkins, and John J. Smith arrived at the Concord home of Ann Bigelow in the middle of the night. After a hasty breakfast her husband Francis drove Minkins to another stop on the Underground Railroad in Leominster.

Sales thus day.

PURSUANT to an advertisement affixed to the door of the Court House of the city of Nor-

folk,

WILL BE SOLD,

At Public Auction, before the Court House, at 12 o'clock, on MONDAY, the 23d inst.,

Negro Man Shadrach and Negro Woman Hester and her children Jim and Imogene, by virtue of a wiit of fieri faciss against the goods and chartels
of Martha Hutchings and Edward DeCormis, at suit of
Joseph Cowperthwaite, assignee of the President, Directors & Co. of the Bank of the United States.

jy 18—tds WM. B. LAMB, Serg't.

(Beacon copy.)

18/19

Ad for sale of Shadrack Minkins in Norfolk Virginia Massachusetts Historical Society



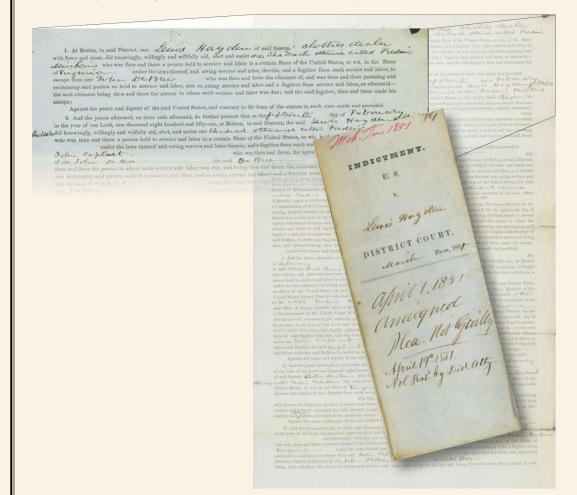
The benign countenance of abolitionist Ann Bigelow in old age. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library

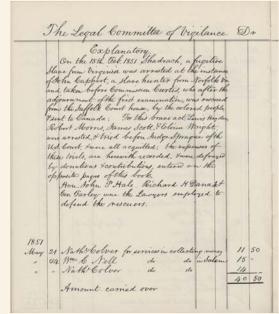


Shadrack Minkins was taken to the Bigelow home in Concord. Courtesy Concord Free Public Library

Federal Indictment of Lewis Hayden, April 1, 1851

Hayden and seven others were arrested but the jury deadlocked in Hayden's trial. Thirty years later it was revealed that one juror - Ann Bigelow's husband Francis - had assisted in the rescue of Shadrack Minkins. National Archives





Vigilance Committee Records

The Vigilance Committee raised funds to resist the Fugitive Slave Law. This Treasurer's Account shows that Lewis Hayden and other activists were reimbursed for trial expenses after the Shadrack rescue. Hayden's name appears frequently in the records for activities assisting fugitive slaves. Courtesy of the Bostonian Society

FEVER PITCH

There must be "united and persevering resistance to this ungodly and anti-republican law."

— Lewis Hayden

Opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law became increasingly violent as the country came apart over the issue of slavery.

Thomas Sims

April 3, 1851 brought the arrest of fugitive slave Thomas Sims in Boston. Lewis Hayden participated in a rescue attempt. Like Shadrack Minkins, Sims was held in the Suffolk County Courthouse. Abolitionists piled mattresses under a courthouse window hoping that Sims could jump to freedom. New iron bars and a heavy guard prevented escape. Sims was forcibly returned to Savannah, Georgia where he received 39 lashes in a public square.

Signature page from Thomas Sims petition to the Massachusetts General Court Making his mark with an "X," Sims unsuccessfully requested legislation to mandate a jury trial in his case.

Massachusetts Archives



Anthony Burns

Spectacular protests accompanied the arrest of Anthony Burns in 1854. While abolitionists held rallies at Tremont Temple and Faneuil Hall, a rescue attempt began at the courthouse. After a wild struggle with rocks, battering rams, knives and pistols, guard James Batchelder was mortally wounded. Burns was returned to slavery.

Lewis Hayden was arrested but not tried in this case. He had manned a battering ram and discharged a pistol during the melee.

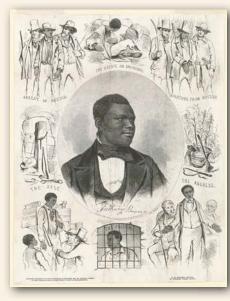
> Eight artillery companies, militia units and police escorted Burns from the courthouse past large crowds chanting "shame." Lamp posts were draped in black and sailors jeered from the rigging of ships. Cayenne pepper rained down on troops from one office window. Boston Athenaeum



Whereas, Elward Greely Commenced by Monochards: Whereas, Elward Greely Luge of Probate in and be the County of Sulfolk, has caused an inhabitant of this Commenced by the base of the tenoral of the said Loring from the office of Judge of Probate, and as in duty bend will very pray. Marnes Marnes Marnes Marnes Marnes Miller Baston Monos Medican Monochary Monochary

Petition for the Removal of Judge Loring, 1855
Lewis Hayden's name appears on this petition to the Massachusetts
legislature requesting the removal of Judge Edward G. Loring, who
ordered the return of Anthony Burns to slavery. In 1857, after a
prolonged dispute over the issue, Loring was removed.
Massachusetts Archives

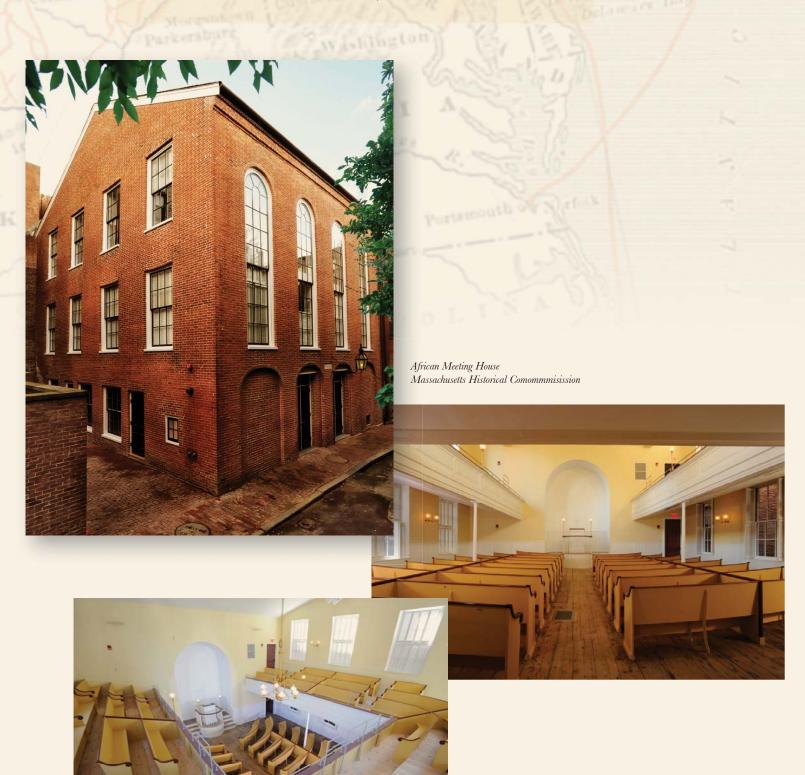
Burns had escaped from Virginia by stowing away on a Boston bound ship. He was arrested when working in a local clothing store. Massachusetts abolitionists later purchased his freedom. Library of Congress



CREATING A LEGACY

uring the Civil War, Lewis Hayden advocated the recruitment of African-American soldiers. When finally approved by federal authorities, he played a prominent role in recruiting three black regiments from Massachusetts.

The African Meeting House on Beacon Hill was a central place for organizing. Built by African-American workers in 1806, it is the oldest black church building in America. Today it is the home of the Museum of African American History.



FROM ACTIVIST TO STATESMAN

I am about to raise a Colored Regiment in Massachusetts. This I cannot but regard as perhaps the most important corps to be organized during the whole war."

- Governor John Albion Andrew

During the Civil War Lewis Hayden worked at the Massachusetts State House and played an energetic role in recruiting African-American regiments for the Union army.

Governor Andrew and Lewis Hayden

On his first trip to Massachusetts Lewis Hayden met a young abolitionist, John Albion Andrew. The two became life long friends. Andrew was elected as governor in 1860 and urged the Lincoln administration to allow black soldiers to fight. In 1863, after the Emancipation Proclamation, he received authorization. Massachusetts recruited three African-American regiments during the Civil War. Lewis Hayden recruited soldiers locally but also in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and by some accounts, in southern states.



Lewis Hayden The Liberator Files



Governor John Albion Andrew
Massachusetts State House Art Commission



Invitation to Governor Andrew for Thanksgiving Dinner Black and white abalitionists including

Black and white abolitionists, including Lewis and Harriet Hayden, urged the recruitment of black troops. In 1862 the Hayden's invited the "Great War Governor" to their home for Thanksgiving dinner and encouraged him to act. Massachusetts Historical Society

${\it Petition to Allow the Recruitment of Black Soldiers}.$

The Massachusetts Archives vaults contain several petitions on this issue. Many date from before the Civil War. Signed by Lewis Hayden, this one came shortly before approval of this historic milestone. Massachusetts Archives



Glory!

Each day thousands pass a familiar monument, opposite the Massachusetts State House. Some are unaware of its significance. The bas-relief by Augustus Saint-Gaudens commemorates the Massachusetts 54th Regiment and its commander Robert Gould Shaw. Hayden recruited soldiers for this regiment, made famous in modern times by the motion picture *Glory!*



This famous monument commemorates Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts 54th Regiment. Massachusetts Archives photo

A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

A good assortment of MEN'S and BOY'S CLOTHING of superior quality."

 Ad in The Liberator for Hayden's clothing store

Like all Bostonians Lewis Hayden needed to make a living. He chose work that forwarded the cause of freedom and equality

Materials Related to Lewis Hayden's Insolvency

Along with bills from creditors there are unpaid loans to abolitionist Wendell Phillips. At one point Phillips had fired Hayden as a speaker for Garrison's New England Anti-Slavery Society. Later Hayden served as a pallbearer at Phillips's funeral. Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives

Hayden's Clothing Store

For several years Hayden operated a clothing store on Cambridge Street. Profits allowed him to clothe escaped slaves and gave him status as a successful businessman. The Financial Panic of 1857 forced closure of the store and a filing for insolvency.

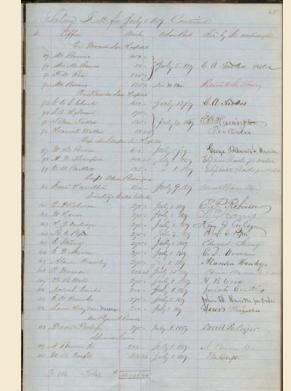


Messenger to the Secretary of State

In 1858 Hayden became a messenger in the Secretary of State's office at a salary of \$800. The appointment was significant, giving Hayden access to prominent abolitionist politicians during the Civil War. Hayden (appointed as a clerk in 1857) is believed to be the first African-American employee of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He remained a messenger for thirty years and was called "the old philosopher" by state house colleagues.

State Salary Role

Lewis Hayden's name and title of "messenger" appears at number 112 on this Massachusetts state salary role for July 1, 1859. Massachusetts Archives



An Act establishing the salary of the Messenger, 1859. Lewis Hayden's salary was determined by this legislation. Massachusetts Archives

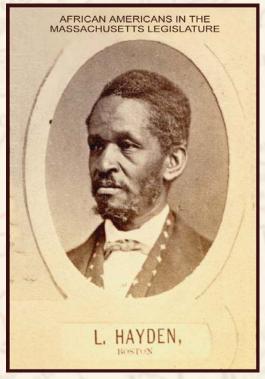


Massachusetts State House, 1850s. State Library of Massachusetts

	Commonwealth of Massachusetts.	64
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and	waterd by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, by the authority of the some, as follows:	
46	in 1. The salary of the Messenger in the en of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. be eight hundred dollars per annum;	
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PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY

After the Civil War, Lewis Hayden continued to serve in ways that influence life in Boston to this day.



Lewis Hayden State Library of Massachusetts

Election to the Massachusetts General Court

In 1873:Hayden was elected to the Massachusetts General Court and served one term. Among his interests was the issue of women's suffrage. Some abolitionists did not want to dilute their efforts and preferred focusing on the political rights of newly freed male slaves. Lewis and

Harriet Hayden also favored women's rights.

Journal of the House, Tuesday March 4, 1873

Reported proposal from Lewis Hayden and committee members for a constitutional amendment allowing women to vote and hold office. The effort was unsuccessful until the twentieth century. Massachusetts Archives TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1872.

The report of the committee on Manufactures, leave to have been withdraw, on the petition of the East Boston Gas Committee, and the second of the large for the day for to-morrow.

A bill to authorize the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance was company to hold real estate, which had been passed to be inc. of the day for the day of the day for the day for the day for the day for the day of the day of

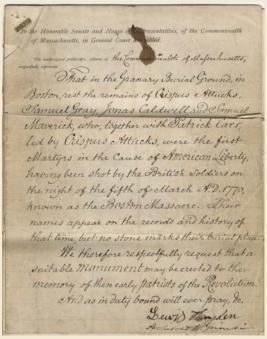
Messrs. Parsons, Griggs and Woods of the Senate; and Wooman Messrs. Stone of West Brookfield, Allen of Lynn, Hayden of Boston and Hutchinson of Boston, of the House, from the committee on Woman Suffrage, reported a resolve providing for an amendment of the constitution, to secure the elective franchise and the right to hold office, to

Commemorating the Boston Massacre

In 1858 abolitionists began the annual commemoration of the Boston Massacre to recognize Crispus Attucks, of black and native ancestry, the first to die in the American Revolution. Many activists in the black community submitted petitions for a monument to Attucks. Eventually a monument recognizing all victims was placed on Boston Common. Lewis Hayden played a prominent role in this effort.



Paul Revere's copper engraving plate for the Boston Massacre image is on display in the Commonwealth Museum's Treasures Gallery. Massachusetts Archives



Hayden Petition

Lewis Hayden's petition for a monument commemorating Crispus Attucks and the Boston Massacre. Massachusetts Archives





Boston Massacre Memorial, 1889 Massachusetts Archives photos

A LIVING LEGACY

He has been foremost in every struggle for equal public rights. He was a man that had pride of race uppermost in his efforts of reform, but never forgot the rights of other races."

- Mark R. DeMortie, friend of Lewis Hayden

Boston's African Methodist Episcopal Church

was filled to capacity for the 1889 funeral of Lewis Hayden. At her death, four years later, Harriet Hayden left a bequest to Harvard College that supports the education of students of color to this day.

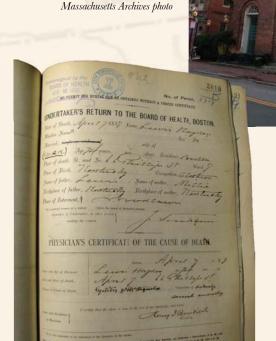
The Lewis and Harriet Hayden Scholarship

Harriet Bell Hayden was a partner in all of Lewis's activities. She died on December 24, 1893. Since her only son died in the Civil War, Harriet left her estate, valued at "some four or five thousand dollars," to Harvard College to found a

MRS. HARRIET HAYDEN.

The above is a very greet portrait of
Mrs. Harriet Hayden I recently deceased), the wife of the well-known
Bostonian, Lewis Hayden, who died
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damping institutions. She was a
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circle of friends and acquaintances.

scholarship for black students. By the terms of her will a medical student would be preferred. The fund remains active to this day, a living legacy from the life of Lewis and Harriet Hayden.



The African Methodist Episcopal Church on Charles Street in Boston,

site of Lewis Hayden's funeral.

Death Certificate for Lewis Hayden, 1889. City of Boston, Registry

LEWIS HAYDEN DEAD.

A SLAVE WHO RECAME A LEADER A MANONG HIS PEOPLE.

BOSTON, April 7.—Lewis Hayden, whe died to-day, was one of the most widely known and highly-respected colored citizens or this city. His life was notable as including active particlpation in many of the events, local and national, connected with the agitation for the abolition of slavery. He was born a slave in Kentucky about the year 1816, and in 1844 made his escape to Canada. In 1845 be made his first visit to Boston. On this occasion he made an address which attracted so much at tention that he was engaged by the Anti Slavery Society to lecture in Now-England and New-York. In 1843 he came to Beston to reside, and his residence became the headquarrent could be supportant conference were held beneath

At one time he was engaged in business in the circ, his stock of souds having been clearly been as the continuous and the circ. A both the continuous and the continu

Ehe New Hork Eimes Published: April 8, 1889

New York Times obituary for Lewis Hayden, April 7,1889.

The Bequest of Harriet Hayden to

Cleveland Gazette obituary for Harriet Hayden, February 24, 1894. Courtesy

of the Ohio History Connection

Harvard College, 1894
"The net income of the fund shall be used each year to aid needy and worthy colored students in the Harvard Medical School, if any such there be...If there be no such student in the Medical School in any year, the net income of the fund shall be used to aid any poor and honest colored students who may happen to be in any of the departments of Harvard College." Harvard University, Recording Secretary's Office

throw all men that I thought shaplen of Boston in the Country of Suffells, under of Surjeton of Boston in the Country of Suffells, under of Survey the stand Survey muchi, publish and declare their is to so my look Will, suching all others by met to herefore medit.

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