

**American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Dana, Richard Henry, Jr., Legal Papers, 1844-1878

LOCATION(S):

Mss. boxes "D"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

twenty-four boxes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

The Journal of Richard Henry Dana, Jr., ed. Robert F. Lucid, 3 vols. (Cambridge: Belknap Press, 1968)

Gale, Robert, Richard Henry Dana, Jr. (New York: Twayne Publishing, 1969)

Shapiro, Samuel, Richard Henry Dana Jr., 1815-1882 ([East Lansing:] Michigan State University Press, 1961)

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Worcester Law Library, 1996

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Richard Henry Dana (1815-1882) was born in Cambridge, Mass., on 1 August 1815, the son of Richard Henry Dana (1787-1879), an essayist and poet. Richard, Jr. entered Harvard College in 1831, but he left in 1834 and went to sea. His experiences became the subject of his book Two Years Before the Mast, published in 1840. Dana re-entered Harvard in 1836, and graduated in 1837. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1840. His book The Seaman's Friend (1841) was a manual of general and legal advice for sailors. In 1841 Dana married Sarah Watson (1814-1907) of Hartford Conn. and they had six children.

Dana first entered into practice in 1842 with his brother "Ned," Edward Trowbridge Dana (1818-1869). In 1848, this partnership was dissolved and Dana next entered into partnership with Francis Edward Parker (1821-1886). The majority of Dana's cases involved maritime disputes, and Dana frequently represented seamen who had been mistreated or deprived of their wages. He handled a wide variety of other legal work, however, including cases involving insurance claims, divorces, and occasional criminal trials. In 1851 Dana defended several men accused of participating in the rescue of Shadrach Minkins (-1875), a fugitive slave. Dana unsuccessfully argued for the release of Anthony Burns (1834-1862), another fugitive slave, in 1854.

Dana and Parker practiced law together until 1861, when Dana was appointed United States District Attorney for Massachusetts. Dana held this post from 1861 to 1866 and handled many cases arising from the Civil War, including several dealing with the assignment of prizes for captured Southern ships.

Dana returned to private practice in 1866, although he had carried on a few private cases during the war. In the same year, he was elected a representative in the Massachusetts legislature, where he served until 1868. In 1866 he also published a new edition of Henry Wheaton's Elements of International Law; he was subsequently sued for plagiarism by a previous editor of the work, William Beach Lawrence (1800-1881). Dana ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Congress in 1868. He retired from legal practice in 1878, and died in Rome on 6 January 1882.

This collection consists of Dana's files for more than six hundred of his cases from about 1844 to 1878. The files generally include documents retained by Dana's office and contain a wide variety of materials. Most common are Dana's notes on his arguments and on the statements of witnesses, but other items such as statements, depositions, summonses, correspondence, receipts, and papers gathered as evidence are also present. Copies of printed briefs and points frequently accompany cases argued before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court or federal courts. There are also some newspaper clippings pertaining to the cases.

The files were numbered in a roughly chronological sequence in Dana's office, and the collection is arranged in this same order. The numbers do not correspond to court docket numbers, and many numbers are absent. However, and it is not clear whether the missing numbers represent cases handled by Dana or by his partner, Francis E. Parker. There are no materials from Dana's involvement in the Anthony Burns rendition case in 1854, or from the plagiarism suit brought against Dana by William Beach Lawrence in 1866.

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**American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

RICHARD HENRY DANA, JR., LEGAL PAPERS, 1844-1878
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	5	708	1844	Island Wharf --extension of wharf
	6	709	1844	Pliny Miles --contract for bookselling
	7	710		Mrs. Bargery --estate (?)
	8	715		Dexter et al vs Godfrey
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- 1632 Brown vs. Mansfield

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- 1633 1856 Swift vs. Dennis
improper seizure of goods
- 1634 1856 Roshum vs. Landholme
mistreatment of seaman
- 1635 1857 Summer vs. Kitfield (3 folders)
unpaid debts--Manchester (Mass.) Fremont mass meeting
- 1637 United States vs. Howes
assault on seaman
- 1641 1856 Capen, Maria N.
guardianship
- 1643 1856 Thompson vs. Hansen
seaman left behind on voyage
- 1645 1856 Volmuth vs. Hathaway
medical malpractice
- 1646 1857 Mather vs. Brownell
contract
- 1647 1857 Nichols, Gordon vs. Grand Junction Rail Road
1648 payment for railroad equipment
- 1651 1857 Marcy vs. Parkman
damage to cargo--ship "Peter Marcy"
- 1653 1857 Central Bank of Brooklyn vs. Silloway
insurance claim
- 1654 1857 Pike vs. Schouler
contract
- 1655 1857 Blake vs. Exchange Insurance
insurance claim
- 1656 1857 Wills vs. Lyman et al. (2 folders)
charter of ship "Masconomo"
- 1658 Sims vs. Skolfield et al.
1659 seamen's wages--ship "Roger Stewart"
1660
- 1663 1857 Wood vs. Hayes et al.

estate--transfer of railroad stock

1664 1857 Hancock Free Bridge, petitioners
alterations to West Boston Bridge

1668 1858 Schooner "Marcia Tribou"
ship collision

Box 15:

1670 1857 Field et als. va. Chapman
1671 Brown vs. Saure
collection of debts after bankruptcy

1678 1857 Leland, Mary G. vs. Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.
life insurance claim

1682 1857 Commonwealth vs. Kalloch, Rev. Isaac
adultery

1687 1857 Merriam et al. vs. Stone et al.
payment for engineering work

1689 1857 "Le Voyageur de la Mer," Merriam et als. libellants (2 folders)
payment for ship construction

1690 1858 Swayne et al. vs. Barnard
cargo of whiskey

1693 1857 Bryant vs. B. & M. Railroad
employment[?]

1694 1857 Perkins et al. vs. Tremont Mutual Insurance Co. (2 folders)
insurance claim--ship "Orleans"

1695 1855 Willis, Hamilton vs. Robinson
debt

1700 1857 Ship "Sarah Starr," Hopkins et als., plaintiffs
payment for ship's provisions

1703 1859 Batchelder vs. City of Cambridge
sewers[?]

1705 1857 Thayer et al. vs. Lane et al.
bill of exchange, schooner "Imogene"

1706 Robbins Cordage Co. vs. McLoon
1707 Fearing et als. vs. McLoon

- debt for ship construction--"Young Mechanic of Rockland"
- 1709 1857 Booker vs. Boston Submarine Co.
seaman's wages
- 1710 Woodbury vs. Nason
contract
- 1711 1857 Driscoll vs. Hoyt
claim against New England Protective Union
- 1712 1857 Metcalf vs. Milford, Mass.
highway injury
- 1713 1857 Newhall vs. Newhall
insanity
- 1715 1858 Murdock vs. City of Cambridge
appeal of assessment
- 1717 1857 Murdock vs. City of Cambridge
trespass
- 1719 Snow et al. vs. Rogers
debt
- 1720 1857 Thwing vs. Washington Insurance Co.
insurance claim--ship "Carolus"
- 1722 1857 Hooper vs. Blanchard
payment for salvage of ship "A. Hooper"

Box 16:

- 1725 1857 Thayer vs. Mottett
contract
- 1728 1858 Slater vs. Hall
- 1729 1857 White vs. Sawyer
sale of ship
- 1731 1857 Tibbetts vs. Hayden et al.
debt for sail making
- 1732 1858 Hare vs. Gendell et al.
rent on land in Pennsylvania
- 1734 1857 "Le Voyageur de la Mer," Dexter et als., libellants

- ownership of ship
- 1737 1857 Scott vs. Hall et al.
bill of exchange
- 1738 1857 Hooper vs. Leckie
seaman's wages
- 1740 1858 Lane et al. vs. Cox
contract
- 1743 1858 Dodge vs. Essex Insurance Co.
insurance claim--cargo of grain
- 1744 1857 Bates et al. vs. New Ship
debt to ship joiners
- 1746 1858 Monroe vs. Charlestown, Mass.
personal injury
- 1747 1857 Pockin vs Roxbury Color and Chemical Manufactory
patent on "aluminous cake"
- 1748 1858 Rich et als. vs. Davis
inspection of pickled fish
- 1749 1858 Loring vs. Thomas
debt
- 1750 1858 Loring vs. Loring
divorce
- 1754 1860 Hill vs. Thayer et al.
sale of ship--bark "Warden"
- 1758 1858 Morrison vs. Ayres
bill of exchange
- 1760 1858 Kimball vs. Cargo of ahip "Anna Kimball"
ownership of cargo
- 1763 Pedrick, Moore vs. Bailey et al.
removal of awning
- 1766 1858 Williams, Hicks vs. Phillips et al.
1767 payment for repairs to ship "Ohio"
- 1770 1859 Ship "Ohio"
payment for repairs

- 1771 1858 Moore vs. Baker
contested will
- 1773 1858 Russell vs. Pomeroy et al.
widow's suit against executor of husband's will
- 1775 1857 Knowles vs. Davis
unlawful arrest for peddling without a license
- 1776 1857 Corner vs. Hugentabler et al.
debt[?]
- 1776 1858 Read vs. Seaman et al.
injunction--dissolution of partnership
- 1777 1858 Pearson et al. vs. Chapin
bill of exchange
- 1778 1860 Boyd vs. Urquhart
debt
- 1779 1858 Chamberlain vs. Bayley
sale of coal
- 1782 1858 Phillips vs. Dodge, Post
1783 contract
- 1785 1859 Crowell vs. Barreda
payment for ship charter
- 1786 1857 Parker, H.J. vs. Worthington
debt
- 1791 1857 Inspector General of Fish
1792 forfeit of pickled fish
- 1794 1857 White vs. Baker
contract-schooner "Juliette"
- 1795 1858 Martin vs. Skolfield
mistreatment of seaman
- 1796 Towne vs. Smith (envelope only)
- 1798 1858 Martin vs. Skolfield
seaman's wages

Box 17:

- 1800 1858 Washburn vs. Sturtevant
debt[?]
- 1802 Burrows vs. Gay, Witherlee
1803 pilot taken on voyage because intoxicated
- 1804 1858 Burrowscale vs. Darton
tort
- 1805 1859 Washington Insurance co. vs. Darton
insurance on brig "Molly Stark"
- 1806 1858 Foss vs. Richardson
patent on horse shoe
- 1807 1858 Pawtucket Bridges
bridge construction
- 1808 1858 Morse vs. Sturtevant
debt
- 1808-2 Sturtevant vs. Bartlett
- 1809 1865 Seccomb et al. vs. Provincial Insurance Co. (3 folders)
insurance claim--bark "Nautilus"
- 1810 1858 Provident Institution for Savings vs. Stetson
debt
- 1814 1858 Thayer vs. Sturtevant et als.
debt--rent
- 1817 1858 Foster vs. Peterson
arrest of seaman
- 1819 1858 Tremlett vs. Tremlett
sale of ship--brig Bloomer
- 1826 1859 Treadwell vs. Hanson
debt
- 1831 1858 Ship "Canada"
payment for ship
- 1832 1857 Fitchburn Rail Road
railroad service
- 1834 1857 Whiston, William
debt for carpentry work

- 1835 1857 Turner vs. Lyman
debt for charter of ship "Mary"
- 1836 1857 Upton, apointee of Lord and Frost
inclusion of machinery in sale of mill
- 1837 1857 Andre vs. Thayer et al.
contract--cargo of ship "Robert Harding"
- 1838 1858 McDonald vs. Kimball
seaman's wages
- 1840 1859 Wallis vs. Wallis
divorce
- 1844 Watertown Church case
membership in church
- 1859 1859 Melliss vs. Sanborn (2 folders)
mortgage
- 1860 Ship "Waverly"
- 1867 1859 Fulton vs. Merrill
contract

Box 18:

- 1869 1859 Caples vs. Condon
- 1874 1860 Fish vs. Urquhart
contract
- 1881 1860 Almeida, Mateus Luis, vs. Schooner "Wanderer"
- 1884 1860 Parsons et. al. vs. Manufacturers' Insurance Co.
insurance claim, bark "Arctic" and cargo
- 1888 1860 Dubosq vs. Bailey et al.
contract
- 1890 1860 Flanders vs. Stetson
contract--construction
- 1895 1860 Davis, John, vs. E.V. Brown
promissory note--mortgage
- 1900 1857 North Bridgewater, Mass.

		deed to town green
1901	1858	Chapin vs. Holton lease for store
1902		Bark "Constance" insurance claim
1904		Lozano et al. vs. Stearns debt
1906	1860	Gomes, Joseph deceased seaman's wages
1910	1860	Darton vs. Bark "Louisa Bliss" contract--shipwright
1912		Murdock vs. Cambridge damage to land
1914	1861	Adams vs. Johnson will of John Quincy Adams
1921	1861	Boston Gas Light Co. inspection of gas meters
1922		Pettingill vs. Boston and Lowell Rail Road injury to employee
1956 1957	1865	Burrill vs. Jewett et al. contract
1958	1862	Provost vs. Skolfield seaman's wages
1	1869	Holmes vs. Dyer fraud[?]
2	1866	Brig "Jennie Cushman" mortgage on ship
3	1865	"M. B. Stetson" salvage of ship
4	1866	"Young Mechanic" (United States vs. Grant)

- destruction of ship
- 5 1866 Howard et al. vs New Bedford Flour Mills
patent
- 7 1868 Capt. Weston
dismissal of military store-keeper
- 8 1869 Monument Bank vs. Globe Works
debt
- 9 Moore vs. Bond
payment of bond on shipment of wool
(also includes information on Price Charity case)
- 10 1867 Ryder et al. vs. Phenix Insurance Col.
insurance claim--bark "Dreadnought"
- 12 1869 Sun Mutual Insurance Col. vs. Hill
contract
- 14 1870 "Island City"
sale of steamer
- 15 1870 Stow vs. Peck Smith Manufacturing Col.
patent on machine for folding metal plates
- 16 1871 Willson Sewing Machine Company vs. Bellamy
- 17 1870 Dr. Faber's Claim
debt of Edmund L. Dana
- Box 19:**
- 18 1871 Flint vs. Norwich and New York Transportation Company (2 folders)
passenger on ship shot by militiaman
- 19 1871 Smith vs. Munroe et al.
breach of contract--captain of whaling ship "Mary"
- 20 1871 Carl, Lorenzo W.
Laying out road in Wellfleet, Mass.
- 21 1871 Stapleford, Capt.
captain relieved of command
- 22 1863 "Saxon"
steamer collision

- 23 1863 Essex Parish Case
property ownership
- 27 1873 Starrow vs. Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. (2 folders)
insurance claim
- 31 1872 United States vs. Pearson
duty on shingles
cf. no. 32
- 32 1872 United States vs. Stockwell (4 folders)
duty on shingles
- 33 1872 Flint vs. Hendley
will of John Hendley
- 34 1872 Cotter vs. City of Boston
land taken by city

Box 20:

- 37 1872 Gregg vs. Massachusetts Medical Society
refusal of membership to homeopaths
- 38 1871 "Java"
damages from steamer collision
- 39 1872 Metallic Compression Coating Company
vs. Fitchburg Railroad (2 folders)
fire damages
- 40 1871 Gray vs. Bellamy
patent on sewing machine
- 41 1873 Burnham vs. Parkhurst
contract (promissory notes)
- 42 1869 United States vs. Foster et al.
duty on shingles
- 43 1871 United States vs. John McAdam and sons
duty on lumber
- 44 1873 Commonwealth vs. Gloucester (3 folders)
Goose Cove Dam
- 45 1871 Bishop Seabury Mission vs. Estate of Mrs. Sarah Williams
payment of legacy

- 46 1870 Globe Works vs. Wright
payment for steam engines
- 48 1872 State National Bank vs. United States
49 commission to Dana to act as assistant to Attorney General
- 52 1875 Whiton vs. Spring
sale of brig "Lubra"
- 54 1872 Cutter vs. Heims
contract for construction work
- 55 1872 Cheever vs. Adams
lease
- 56 1871 "William G. Bartlett"
ship collision
- 57 1872 Old South Church
demolition of church

Box 21:

- 59 1873 Spencer vs. Spencer
divorce
- 60 1873 Swift, Delano vs. Sun Mutual Insurance Company (2 folders)
61 insurance claim--bark "Helen Mar"
62
- 63 1873 Coleman vs. Parker
ownership of trunk
- 64 1874 Rand et al. vs. Sanger et al.
estate settlement
- 65 1874 Rand et al. vs. Hubbell et al.
stock dividend
- 66 1874 Spring et al. vs. Blanchard
payment for ship's cargo--bark "Olivia Davis"
- 68 1875 Phelps vs. Bowles (3 folders)
libel published in "Springfield Republican"
- 69 1874 Healey, Mark, petition re Boston, Hartford and Erie Rail Road
payment of mortgage
- 70 1873 Stevens vs. Appleton

- bill of complaint--bankruptcy
- 71 1874 Brig "Surprise"
loss of ship's cargo
- 72 1876 Wood, Clark B., petitioner
land taken by City of Boston
- 73 1875 Campbell vs. Johnson
destruction of goods on consignment
- 74 1876 Freeborn et al. vs. Baker et al.
payment for repairs to brig "Ocean Bell"
- 80 1876 Rice, Sarah M. vs. John Coolidge
libel (adultery)
- 81 Gaffield vs. Tucker
- 82 1876 Mills vs. Bellamy (3 folders)
debt
- 86 1878 Belmont vs. Thayer et al.
investment in Eastern Kentucky Railway Company
- 88 1874 Parker vs. Whelpley
sale of brig "Henry Perkins"

Box 22:

Unnumbered Cases, 1851-1878

- 1851 Taylor vs. Edson
dispute over vote for moderator, Trinity Church, Bridgewater, Mass.
- 1851 Booth vs. Booth
divorce
- 1853 Round Hill vs. Frost
- 1855 Grant, P., et als., steamer "Hermann"
ship collision
- 1855 United States vs. Hopkins et als.
- 1855 Defendants' answers, various cases ca. 1855

- 1855 Roback, Dr. Charles W.
collection of debts
- 1856 Victor & Duckwitz vs. bark "Nelson"
- 1856 May & Co. vs. Marshall & Co.
- 1856 Ladd vs. McKinney
fraud in sale of land
- 1857 Dickinson vs. New England Screw Co.
contract--bill of exchange
- 1857 Holton, John, Estate
- 1857 McGlynn vs. Bartlett
debt for construction
- 1857 Whitney vs. Roberts
contract--promissory note
- 1858 Ivins, Richard et al. vs. William F. Conants et als.
bill of exchange from captain of bark "Oak Hill"
- 1858 Gibson, Easton and Frink vs. Gray
protested note
- 1859 Fearing et al. vs. Estate of Thatcher
debt
- 1860 Lawrence, Abbott
estate--bequest to Harvard College
- 186? brig "Clover"
- 1861 Croucher vs. Oakman
contract--seaman's wages

Box 23:

- 1861-68 Misc. U.S. District Attorney business
- 1861 (U.S.) Brander, John
cotton stored in Boston
- 1861 (U.S.) Seizure of Tobacco of Fisher & others
tobacco seized as contraband

- 1861 Price, William, Estate
use of bequest--Price lectures
- 1861 (U.S.) United States vs. Cochran, Asa F.
seizure of bark "Revolution"
- 1861 (U.S.) Gale, Capt. and "C.D. Pearce"
permission to send Gales from Virginia to Boston
- 1862 Brown et al. vs. Brigham
mortgage payments made with illegal liquor
- 1862 (U.S.) Capen's case
payment to postmaster
- 1862 Hathaway vs. Jones
seaman's wages
- 1862 (U.S.) Hopkins, Charles W.
estate--legacies to people in the South
- 1862 (U.S.) Rulings of Judge Sprague...respecting prize money
- 1862 (U.S.) Wallace, Mary
claim for pay of John Wallace, deceased seaman

Box 24:

- 1863 (U.S.) Baker vs. Grover & Baker Sewing Machine Co.
- 1863 Davenport, Benjamin, Estate
confiscation
- 1863 Ship "Invincible"
shipment of whale oil
- 1864 Ship "Ann Washburn"
proceeds of cargo
- 1864 (U.S.) Burgwyn, Mrs., estate
estate in North Carolina
- 1864 Dumain, H.F. (Commonwealth vs. Ann Gwynne)
child custody
- 1864 Gwynn vs. Bowles, et al.
libel printed in "Springfield Republican"
- 1864 (U.S.) Kelly, Zeno

- petition for pardon--slaving voyage
- 1864 (U.S.) Light-boat cases against Treasury dept.
- 1864 (U.S.) Schooner "M. O"Neil"
prize for captured ship
- 1864 (U.S.) Parker, Erastus O.
petition for pardon--mail theft
- 1865 (U.S.) Lathrop, Henry
oath of allegiance
- 1865 Lowell vs. Ritchie and Pierce
collection of duty
- 1865 Towne vs. Smith
debt
- 1865 (U.S.) Williams, J.D. and M. (6 folders)
payment of duty on imported champaigne
- 1865 (U.S.) Turner, Commodore
Prizes for steamers "Aries" and "Cherokee"
- 1866 Harford vs. Union[?] Railway Co.
- 1866 Smith, Robert W. vs. Mutual Life Insurance Co.
insurance claim
- 1866 French Case
- 1867 Grover and Baker Sewing Machine Co. vs. McCarthy
tax on sewing machines
- 1867 (U.S.) Haswell, Julius F.
photographs of Treasury Dept. receipts
- 1868 Charles River National Bank vs. J. W. Davis
forged check
- 1868 Parkhurst vs. Gloucester Mutual Fishing Insurance Co.
insurance claim--schooner "James Sayward"
- 1868 United States vs. Smith, Charles H. (2 folders)
fraud at State National Bank of Boston
- 1869 (U.S.) Barnes, John S.
claim for prize money, ships "Scotia" and "Mary Ann"

- 1869 Bramhall, W.T. vs. Sun Mutual Insurance Co.
insurance claim--ship "George Washington"
- 1869 Howe et al. vs. City of Cambridge et al.
- 1869 Phelps vs. Phelps
divorce
- 1869 Richardson, Mary et al. vs. Sarah S. Brackett et al.
estate--dispute re mortgage deed
- 1869 Seventh National Bank of Philadelphia vs. Chicopee Bank of
Springfield
bill of exchange
- 1869 (U.S.) Temple, Capt. William
claim for prizes
- 1872 Commonwealth vs. Town of Gloucester
construction of wharf
- 1873 Farlow et al. vs. Sterns et al. (2 folders)
loss of cargo of ice
- 1873 Osborn vs. Osborn
estate settlement
- 1874 Brig "Surprise," Thomas Scott, master
protest
- 1874 Ship "Henry Perkins"
mortgage
- 1875 Episcopal City Mission vs. William Appleton et als.
gift of land
- 1872-1878 Louisiana Mutual Insurance Co. vs. Nickerson (3 folders)
New Orleans Mutual Insurance Co. vs. Nickerson
claim on brig "Concordia"
- 1878 "Protest against Notary Public's Taking and Extending Ships' Protest"