



**The Trial
of
Anthony
Burns**

ENGLISH

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TheatreEspresso 

The Trial of Anthony Burns

Before the Civil War, many people in Massachusetts supported the abolitionist movement, which opposed slavery. But because of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, state judges in free states like Massachusetts were required to return runaway slaves to their owners in the South.



In 1854, a slave named Anthony Burns escaped to Boston where he lived as a free man until he was captured and placed on trial. Before the trial, local residents gathered at Faneuil Hall for a freedom rally that erupted into a violent riot outside the Courthouse, where Burns was held.

During the trial, Richard Henry Dana and a team of Boston lawyers fiercely defended Burns' right to freedom. As a judge, Edward G. Loring felt obligated to follow the Fugitive Slave Law and ruled that Burns must be returned to his Southern master. His decision enraged citizens across Massachusetts, and inspired many people across the North to become abolitionists. Outrage over the Burns case made it a key event leading to the Civil War.

Maxkamadayntii Anthony Burns

Ka hor Dagaalkii Sokeeye, badi ba reer Massachusetts waxay taageereen dhaqdhaqaaqii bi'inta is-addoonsiga. Se Xeerka Addoonka Goosta ee 1850 dartiis, waxa ay garsoorayaasha gobollada, gaar ahaan Massachusetts, ku qasbanaayeen celinta addoomada ka soo goostay Koonfurta.



Robert Morris

Edward G. Loring ayaa ka fursan waayay raacista Xeerka Addoonka Goosta; wuxuu na xukumay in Burns loo celiyo ustaadkiisii reer Koonfureed. Waxaa xukunkaas ka cadhooday muwaadiniin reer Massachusetts ah; wuxuu na xukunkaasi dad badan oo Woqooyiga ku nool u wacay in ay noqdaan is-addoonsi bi'iyayaal. Dhacdada Burns waxa ay ka mid noqotay dhacdooyinkii ugu waaweynaa ee horseeday Dagaalkii Sokeeye.

Anthony Burns, oo ahaa addoon, ayaa 1854 u soo goostay Boston, halkaas oo uu si xor ah ugu noolaa illaa la soo qabtay, oo maxkamad la soo taagay. Maxkamaddii horteeda, waxaa Faneuil Hall-ka isugu soo baxay dad degaan ah oo xornimada u banaanbaxaya. In yar ka dib, banaanbixii wuxuu isu badalay muddaharaad rabshado wata.

Richard Henry Dana iyo koox qareenno reer Boston ah ayaa si diirran u difaacay xuquuqda xornimo ee Burns. Se Garsoore

The Trial of Anthony Burns starts in 1858, four years after the Burns trial, when the Massachusetts Legislature tried to remove Loring from his position for his unpopular decision in the Burns Case. In the play you will act as a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. You will view a dramatization of the case, interview characters, debate the issues with your classmates, and vote on whether or not Loring will keep his position as judge.

Questions to consider

- Should a judge be punished for enforcing a law that many people believe is immoral?
- Who should decide what is moral and what is immoral?
- What are the implications of removing a judge who makes an unpopular decision?
- Is it more important to follow the law or your own conscience?
- Should a state have to follow a federal law that goes against its own local laws?
- Should the life of one man be placed in jeopardy to help others? If so, under what circumstances?

Arguments for

Arguments against

Maxkamadayntii Anthony Burns waxay bilaabmatay 1858, afar sano ka dib markii Burns maxkamadda la soo taagay, xilligaas oo Sharcidejinta Massachusetts ay Loring ku eryeen go'aankii uu ka qaatay Kiiska Burns. Ruwaayaddan adigu waxa aad matalaysaa qof ka mid ah Sharcidejinta Massachusetts. Kiiska ayaad dhagaysan doontaa, waxaad na warsan doontaa jilayaasha, wali ba ardayda fasalkaaga ayaad la doodi doontaa, ka dibna go'aan ayaad ka gaadhi doontaa in Lorin uu garsoore sii ahaado iyo in kale.

Bal isweydii?

- Garsoore raacay sharci dad badani xumo u arkaan dartiis ma lagu ciqaabi karaa?
- Yaa go'aamin kara waxa xun iyo waxa san?
- Maxaa ka dhalan kara eryidda garsoore qaatay go'aan aan la wada jeclaysan?
- Ma sharciga in aad qaadato ayaa ka muhiimsan damiirkaaga oo aad raacdo?
- Gobol ma qaadan karaa sharci federaali ah oo ka hor imanaya shuruuca gobolka?
- Nolosha hal qof khatar ma la galin karaa si loo badbaadiyo dad badan? Haddaad haa tiri, xaaladahee bannaan in sidaas la yeelo?

Doodaha raacsan

Doodaha diiddan

March 1854: Anthony Burns, an escaped slave from Virginia, arrives in Boston.

Wednesday, 24 May: Burns is arrested as a suspect in a jewelry store robbery. At the Courthouse, Burns is confronted by his owner, Charles Suttle. Burns acknowledges Suttle by calling him “master.”

25 May: Attorney Richard Henry Dana offers to defend Burns. Burns refuses, as he fears his punishment will be worse if the case goes to trial and he loses. But Wendell Phillips convinces Burns to move forward with the trial, despite doubts that Burns will win the case.

26 May: Over 2000 abolitionists meet at Faneuil Hall. The crowd marches to the Courthouse and breaks down a door. In the chaos, a guard named James Batchelder is killed. Nine or ten attackers are arrested.

27 May: The mayor orders U.S. troops to guard the Courthouse, making it difficult for Burns’ lawyers to enter. Meanwhile, Reverend Grimes arranges to purchase Burns from Suttle to avoid a trial and secure Burns’ freedom. He collects money from local supporters.

29 May: Suttle’s lawyer informs him that it is illegal to buy or sell a slave in Massachusetts. Suttle backs out of the agreement with Grimes. The court proceedings begin.

29-31 May: Burns’ lawyers try to prove that Burns is not the same man who escaped from Virginia. They present nine witnesses who testify that they saw Burns in Boston before the date that Suttle claims he escaped.

1 June: Judge Loring announces his decision. Based on Burns’ conversation with Colonel Suttle on the night of his arrest (when Burns called him “master”), his identity is established. Loring orders Burns to return to slavery in Virginia.

2 June: Burns is brought to a ship bound for Virginia. The city is placed under martial law for most of the day, as 50,000 people line the streets to witness Burns’ departure.

March 1854: Anthony Burns, addoon ka soo goostay Virginia, ayaa yimid Boston.

Arbaco, 24 May: Burns waa la xidhay isaga oo lagu tuhmay inuu dahable wax ka xaday. Isla gudaha Maxkamadda, Burns waxaa la hor keenay mulkiilahiisii, Charles Suttle. Burns ayaa Suttle gartay oo ku yiri, “ustaadow”

25 May: Qareen Richard Henry Dana ayaa goostay inuu Burns maxkamadda ka hor difaaco. Burns taas waa diiday, isaga oo ka cabsi qaba in ciqaabtu ku badanayso haddii maxkamad la soo taago. Se Wendell Phillips ayaa Burns inuu maxkamadaynta oggolaado kula taliyay, waxba yuusan ku guulaysan ba e.

26 May: In ka badan 2,000 oo is-addonsi bi’iyayaal ah ayaa ku kulmay Faneuil Hall-ka. Waxay u dhaqaaqeen dhanka Maxkamadda, waxay na jabiyeen albaab. Rabshaddii, ilaaliye James Batchelder ayaa lagu dilay. Sagaal ama toban weerarka soo qaaday ayaa xabsiga loo taxaabay.

27 May: Duqa-magaalada ayaa amray ciidan in ay ilaaliyaan Maxkamadda, taas oo adkaysay in qareennada Burns ay maxkamadda soo galaan. Iyadoy taasi jirto, Wadaad Grimes ayaa abaabulay sidii Burns looga gadan lahaa Suttle si maxkamadaynta loo hakiyo, Burns-na uu xor u noqdo. Lacag ayuu dadka degaanka ah ka soo uruuriyay.

29 May: Qareenka Suttle ayaa isagaas ku wargeliyay in Massachusetts ay mamnuuc ka tahay kala iibsashada addoomada. Suttle waxa uu ka baxay ballanqaadkii uu la galay Grimes. Sidaas ayayna Maxkamaddu ku furantay.

29-31 May: Qareennada Burns ayaa ku dooday inuu Burns ahayn kii ka soo baxsaday Virginia. Sagaal markhaatiyaal ah ayay keeneen, kuwaas oo caddeeyay in Burns uu joogay, oo ay ku dhex arkeen, Boston muddo ka horraysa muddadii uu Suttle sheegtay inuu ka soo baxsaday.

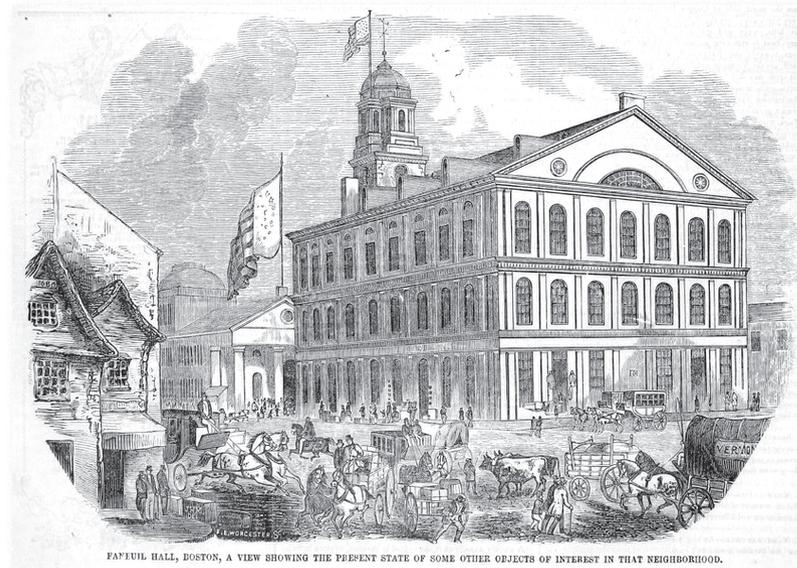
1 June: Garsoore Loring ayaa go’aankiisii shaaciyay. Iyada oo loo eegayo sidii uu Burns u la hadlay Kornayl Suttle habeenkii la soo dhixay (markii Burns ku yiri “ustaadow”), waxaa la ogaaday Burns ka uu yahay. Loring wuxuu Burns ku amray in uu Virginia ku noqdo.

2 June: Burns waxaa la saaray Markab ku socda Virginia. Ammaanka magaalada aad ayaa loo sugay maalintaas, maaddaama 50,000 oo qof ay u soo baxeen daawashada Burns oo noqonaya.

1. The initial charge against Burns – robbing a shop – was never brought up after his arrest. Could there have been another reason he was arrested? If so, what?
2. Did Burns' lawyers really think that he was a different person? If not, why did they try to prove that he was someone else?
3. If the Fugitive Slave Law required Loring to return Burns, how could he have decided to let him stay?
4. What evidence did Loring use to prove Burns' identity?
5. Besides defending him during the trial, what tactics did the abolitionists use to try to free Burns?
6. Why were so many people interested in the outcome of this trial?

CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE
OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,
 You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the
Watchmen and Police Officers
of Boston,
 For since the recent **ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN**, they are empowered to act as
KIDNAPPERS
 AND
Slave Catchers,
 And they have already been actually employed in **KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES.** Therefore, if you value your **LIBERTY**, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many **HOUNDS** on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.
Keep a Sharp Look Out for
KIDNAPPERS, and have
TOP EYE open.
APRIL 24, 1851.



1. Eedayntii hore ee Burns – inuu tukaan xaday – marna ba la isma weydiin xidhistii ka dib. Miyay dhici kartaa in sababo kale Burns loo soo xidhay? Hadday haa tahay, waa kuwee?
2. Qareennada Burns dhabtii miyay islaahaayeen Burns waa qof kale? Haddayna sidaas ahayn, maxay u lahaayeen Burns waa qof kale?
3. Haddii Loring ku qasbanaa raacista Xeerka Addoonka Goosta si Burns loo celiyo, sidee kale ayaa u bannaanayd inuu Burns ku joojiyo?
4. Caddayntee ayuu Loring ku ogaaday Burns ka uu yahay?
5. Marka laga yimaaddo in ay maxkamadda ka dhex difaaceen, siyaabaha kale oo ay is-addoonsi bi'iyayaashu Burns ku difaaceen maxay ahaayeen?
6. Maxay ku dhacday in dad badani xiiseeyaan go'aanka maxkamadda?

Abolition Movement: a social movement made up of people trying to end slavery in the United States.

Abolitionist: someone fighting to end slavery.



Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Compromise of 1850: an agreement reached by the U.S. Senate that established many controversial policies related to slavery.

Fugitive Slave Law: Part of the “Compromise of 1850,” this law required escaped slaves to be returned to their southern owners.

Kansas-Nebraska Act: Passed shortly before Burns’ arrest in 1854, this law permitted slavery in the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Abolitionists passionately opposed the expansion of slavery into U.S. territories, so they were outraged at the passage of this law.

Martial Law: a temporary rule by military authorities over civilians, such as in an area of military operations during time of war, or when civil authority has broken down.

Massachusetts Personal Liberty Act: In 1855, Massachusetts passed these laws in response to the Fugitive Slave Law and the public outcry over the Burns case. The laws guaranteed legal protection for runaway slaves, and made it difficult and costly for slave owners to prove their case in court. The act also called for the removal of any state official who aided in the return of runaway slaves.



Dhaqdhaqaaqa Is-addoonsi Bi’inta: Urur bulsho oo u istaagay bi’inta is-addoonsiga ka jiray Maraykanka.

Is-addoonsi Bi’iye: Qof bi’inta is-addoonsiga u heellan.

Isla-qaadashadii 1850: Go’aan ay isla qaateen Duqaytida Maraykanka oo jideeyay sharciyo badan oo khuseeya is-addoonsiga.

Xeerka Addoonka Goosta: Ka mid ah “Isla-qaadashadii 1850,” xeerkani waxa uu jideeyay in addoomada soo goosta lagu celiyo Koonfurta.

Xeerka Kansas-Nebraska: Xeer la qaatay in yar ka hor xidhistii Burns ee 1854, kaas oo jideeyay is-addoonsiga dhulalka Kansas and Nebraska. Is-addoonsi bi’iyayaashu way diiddanayeen baahidda is-addoonsiga ee Maraykanka, markaas aad ayay uga gilgisheen xeerkan.

Sharci Kadis ah: Sharci la soo rogo marka ay ciidanku ilaalinayaan magaalo, oo ay ciidanku gacanta ku hayaan dhul dagaal ka dhacay, ama mar kasta oo ammaanku faraha ka baxo

Xeerka Massachusetts ee Xornimada Qofka: 1855, Massachusetts ayaa qaadatay xeerar ay kaga hor tagayso Xeerka Addoonka Goosta, ka dib kiiskii Burns. Xeerarku waxay addoomada soo baxsada u oggalaadeen xornimo, waxayna adkeeyeen, oo qaali ka dhigeen, in mulkiilayaasha addoomadu maxkamadda horteeda ku guulaystaan. Xeerarku waxa kale oo ay jideeyeen in xilka laga qaado garsoore kasta oo celiya addoon soo baxsaday.

ANTHONY BURNS was a fugitive slave who escaped from Virginia to Boston, Massachusetts in 1854 at the age of 19.

RICHARD HENRY DANA was an abolitionist lawyer who defended Burns. Though he opposed the Fugitive Slave Law, he supported Judge Loring and opposed the State Senate's decision to remove him from his position.

REVEREND LEONARD GRIMES was a leader of the black abolitionist movement in Boston and pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church of Boston, known as the fugitive slave church.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON was a minister and abolitionist who strongly opposed the Fugitive Slave Law and believed in defending the freedom of escaped slaves at any cost. He was one of the major organizers of the attempt to rescue Burns from the Boston Courthouse.

JUDGE EDWARD G. LORING was both a Judge of Probate and the Commissioner presiding over fugitive slave cases in Massachusetts.

COLONEL CHARLES F. SUTTLE was the owner of the slave Anthony Burns.

OFFICER JAMES BATCHELDER was a Marshal's guard who was killed during the storming of the Boston Courthouse.

WENDELL PHILLIPS was a prominent abolitionist lawyer and orator. Because he was a key speaker at the Faneuil Hall meeting that ended in a riot, he was put on trial for his role in the failed attempt to rescue Burns.

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT, part of a prominent family in Concord, Massachusetts, was active in the abolitionist movement. Alcott's father, Bronson Alcott, was a member of the crowd who stormed the courthouse to free Anthony Burns. Author of *Little Women*, Alcott became a famous writer.

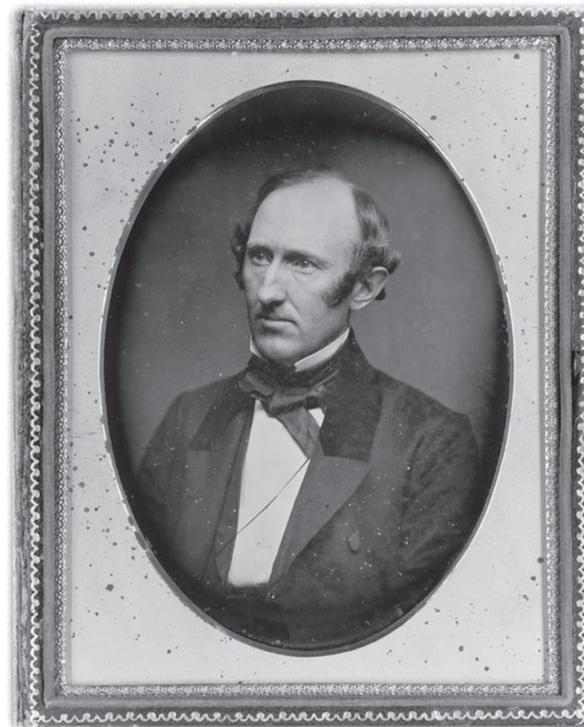


ANTHONY BURNS wuxuu ahaa addoon 19-jir ah oo ka soo goostay Virginia, yimid na Boston, Massachusetts 1854.

RICHARD HENRY DANA wuxuu ahaa qareen isaddoonsi bi'iye ah oo difaacay Burns. Inkasta oo uu diiday Xeerka Addoonka Goosta, haddana wuxuu difaacay Garsoore Loring si aan loo eryin, oo sharciiga gobolku u qaban.

WADAAD LEONARD GRIMES wuxuu ahaa hoggaamiye ka tirsan is-addoonsi bi'iyayaasha madowga ah ee Boston; waxa kale oo uu ahaa wadaad ka tirsan Kaniisadda 12d ee Babtistaha ah ee Boston, taas oo loo yaqaanay kaniisadda addoomada soo goosta.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON wuxuu ahaa wadaad kale iyo is-addoonsi bi'iye kaas oo si adag u diiday Xeerka Addoonka Goosta isaga oo rumaysan in geed dheer iyo mid gaaban loo koro difaacidda addoomada soo goosta. Wuxuu ugu horreeyay qabanqaabiyayaashii soo abaabulay in Burns maxkamadda laga furto.



Wendell Phillips

GARSOORE EDWARD G. LORING wuxuu ahaa Garsoore Go'aamiye ah iyo Sarreeye loo keeno kiisaska addoomada soo goosta ee Massachusetts.

KORNAYL CHARLES F. SUTTLE wuxuu ahaa mulkiilaha Anthony Burns.

ASKARI JAMES BATCHELDER wuxuu ahaa Maarshaal ilaaliye ah oo la dilay markii Maxkamadda Boston la soo hujumay.

WENDELL PHILLIPS wuxuu ahaa qareen caan ah iyo codkar. Maaddaama oo uu ahaa nin ku sharfan inuu khudbo ka jeediyo kulankii Faneuil Hall-ka ee rabshadda keenay, waxaa difaaciddii uu difaacayay Burns lagu hor keenay maxkamad.

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT, ka dhalatay qoys caan ah oo deggan Concord, Massachusetts, waxa ay si firfircoon uga qayb qaadatay dhaqdhaqaaqii is-addoonsi bi'inta. Aabbaha Alcott, Bronson Alcott, wuxuu ka mid ahaa dadkii isku dayay in ay Anthony Burns soo furtaan. Alcott waxay noqotay qoraa caan ah, taas oo qortay *Little Women*.

As Massachusetts Senators, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the following key players. Write down some questions that you may ask.

Judge Loring:

Wendell Phillips:

Richard Henry Dana:

Reverend Leonard Grimes:

Adigoo ka mid ah Duqaytida Massachusetts, waxaad warsan doontaa shaqsiyaadkan kore ee muhiimka ah. Sii qoro su'aalaha aad doonayso inaad weydiiso shaqsiyaadkaas.

Garsoore Loring:

Wendell Phillips:

Richard Henry Dana:

Wadaad Leonard Grimes:

TheatreEspresso performs at the John Adams Courthouse in Boston (in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Court), at the Lawrence Heritage State Park Visitors Center, and in schools and museums throughout New England. The company thanks Mass Humanities and the following foundations for their generous support.



Cabot Family Charitable Trust, Catherine McCarthy Memorial Trust Fund, Friends of Lawrence Heritage State Park, Foley Hoag Foundation, Immigrant City Archives, National Endowment for the Arts, C. Pringle Charitable Foundation, Nathaniel and Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation, and the White Fund

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Since 1992, **TheatreEspresso** has toured its educational dramas to schools, museums, libraries, and courthouses throughout New England. **TheatreEspresso's** work challenges students to make critical judgments, explore social relationships, reflect on the role of law and human rights in our society, and question accepted truths about the history of America. These plays confront students with complex situations, based on actual historical events, that provoke a variety of opinions and solutions. By asking students to consider themselves participants in the drama, the company engages students in examining contradictory events and testimony in order to reach their decisions.

TheatreEspresso does not advocate any one viewpoint, but hopes to compel students to relate historical events to contemporary issues. **TheatreEspresso** is in residence at Wheelock Family Theatre.



For further information, visit our website at
www.TheatreEspresso.org