
ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

W. T. G. Morton’s Dana, Maritime Attorney

With his vision compromised by measles acquired during his junior year at Harvard, Richard Henry Dana, Jr. (1815–1882, see above left) sought relief by sailing from Boston in 1834 around Cape Horn to California and back. He recorded his 2-yr odyssey “before the mast” (i.e., in the seahands’ quarters in the ship’s bow). In 1840 he not only published his diaries as a best-selling book, Two Years before the Mast, but also passed the Massachusetts bar. Specializing in maritime law, Dana forsook water for ether by 1853 to serve as an attorney to W. T. G. Morton when the latter sought congressional recognition (see above right) for his... Discovery of the Anaesthetic Properties of Ether. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the Anesthesiology Reflections online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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