



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

October 1997 Volume 1, Number 2

The President's Corner

87 MOUNT VERNON is quiet now. For the last several months the dumpster at our front stairs has been full, vans have crowded the driveway and workmen have been hammering. Today we have no more dumpster, no more workmen and no more noise. We have finished the renovations on the rear portion of the house. As those of you who attended the reception already know, the new apartments are beautiful and *they are rented!*

What should be our next step? In the coming months, I intend to ask the Council to reflect on the future of the house. How can we best use 87 Mount Vernon to further the goals of our Society? We need your advice. Should we attempt to restore the Bulfinch portion of the house to an historic period? If so, what period? Should all the rooms be restored? To the same period? What should our policy be on the use of the house? I would appreciate your thoughts.

Under direction of John Tyler and Linda S. Rhoads, our publications program proceeds apace. Elizabeth Dubrulle's report on the Hutchinson Papers ought to fill us all with great expectations for the success of that project. As always, we invite and encourage members to suggest other publication projects.

Education, while a relatively new venture for us, is already paying dividends. We had a very successful teacher workshop last year, and more programs are planned for the coming year. The Society was also pleased to assist in Boston's "People and Places Program" of the National Park Service.

We have accomplished a great deal, but much is left to be done—more publications, more education programs, restoration of the house. Our agenda exceeds time and resources available. I find that a comfortable thought. After all, what is to be disdained more than idleness? No fear of that happening at 87 Mount Vernon.

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Ell Renovation Completed

by ELTON W. HALL

ABOUT ten years ago the House Committee, then chaired by Vice-President Daniel Coquillette, met to discuss the Society's house, its condition, its future, and the possibilities for turning it into a major asset for the Society rather than allowing it to remain merely a major expense.

Any large, old house requires constant maintenance, and the cost of repairs at 87 Mount Vernon Street was commensurate with its age and magnitude. The Society had always been careful to do what was necessary for the preservation of the house, but it had not had a "good going over" since 1955, and from that time on, maintenance that could be safely deferred generally was. Moreover, the house was under-used. Five meetings a year and storage of publications and records constituted the Society's use. Space was rented to the Archives of American Art and an apartment provided for the caretaker. The only benefit of that light traffic was that wear and tear was minimal. Yet it seemed to the committee that we had not only an opportunity but an obligation to make better use of the building.

The Council took the view that what we really had was three properties: the Bulfinch house of 1806, the ell of 1867, and the carriage house of 1806. Because the carriage house was separate and needed substantial work just to stabilize it, the decision was made to renovate it into a handsome single-unit dwelling which would produce a stream of income to provide for its maintenance and contribute to that of the main house. That was done, and after five years of successful operation, the decision was made to go ahead with the next step, which was to renovate the ell into rental property.

Consultation with architect Jim Block and several realtors led us to choose two residential units, a flat on the ground floor and a duplex on the second and third floors. Working within the confines of the existing structure and with a concern for preservation of the old Codman billiard room on the second floor and the goal of producing apartments that would be suitable for the neighborhood, the historic setting, and the kind of ten-

ant we hoped to attract, Block did an excellent job in working out a fine scheme within a difficult site.

The duplex consists of an entrance hall with powder room, living room, library or office, dining room, and kitchen on the second floor. There are two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a porch on the third floor with a landing suitable for a small office and an attic on the fourth floor. The flat has one bedroom with bathroom, a living/dining room and a kitchen, with a store room across the entrance hall. Both are finished to an appropriate level of restrained elegance.

Naturally, as word of the project spread, there was considerable interest in the units, and when the job was complete at the end of July, tenants moved right in on the first of August. Much credit is due to the contractor, Jim Intinerelli, and his careful construction team for the quality of the workmanship they provided. Particular thanks go to Don Wing, who represented the Society throughout the project. Through his extensive construction experience he was able to save us a great deal of money, meet unexpected problems with imaginative solutions, and produce some of the finish woodwork that would have otherwise been unobtainable.

The results of this project are that a major portion of our building has been brought to first class condition, a long list of deferred maintenance has been eliminated, the space has become an asset to the Society and to the neighborhood, and the income produced by it will provide funds to ensure the preservation of the Bulfinch part of the house, which we consider among our highest obligations.



Meeting Dates for 1997-1998

November 20: Annual Meeting and Dinner

December 18: Karen Ordahl Kupperman
New York University "Tacitus in America"

February 12: Len Travers
Massachusetts Historical Society "John Cotton
among the Indians"

April 23: Timothy H. Breen
Northwestern University "Equality in the British
Empire: James Otis's Radical Critique of John
Locke"



K-12 Education Effort Continues

At a meeting in late March 1996, the Colonial Society asked 40 Boston-area history teachers to identify their greatest obstacles in teaching early New England

history and describe ways in which the Colonial Society and the representatives of ten other historical societies and libraries also present could help resolve these problems. A clear consensus emerged among the teachers, who had been deliberately chosen to represent a cross section of schools—public and private, rich and poor, urban and suburban, secondary and elementary—that their greatest need was to be kept abreast of the most recently scholarly trends in the field through workshops.

Including among its membership many specialists in early American history who teach at Boston-area universities and colleges, the Colonial Society seemed ideally positioned to fill this need. The Society's House at 87 Mount Vernon Street would also provide an elegant and congenial setting for such workshops; its central location and proximity to public transportation routes also offered an additional advantage.

The first such workshop convened on November 15, 1996 and offered a remarkably strong program of speakers, drawn for the most part from Colonial Society ranks. The keynote speaker of the day was Bernard Bailyn, Professor Emeritus of Harvard University, who spoke on "Population, History, and the Forming of American Society."

In the first morning session, Benjamin W. Labaree, Professor Emeritus, Williams College, reflected on New England's maritime history, and Tony Kelso, Education Department Manager of Plimoth Plantation, talked about the Plymouth Colony. As an important aspect of both Labaree's and Kelso's talks, they identified key primary sources teachers might want to use in their classes and appropriate subjects for research by pre-college students.

In the second session of the morning, teachers heard the results of recent research undertaken by two CSM members. William Fowler of Northeastern University and President of the Colonial Society gave a precis of his recently published biography of Samuel Adams, emphasizing Adams's Puritan heritage as a key to understanding many of his political attitudes. Pauline Maier discussed her recent research into the origins of the Declaration of Independence showing how the many instructions from towns and colonial assemblies to their representatives at the Continental Congress helped shape the nature of America's founding document much more than is readily acknowledged.

The various breaks in the program and a luncheon, served compliments of the Society, afforded teachers a chance to renew acquaintances and make new friends among a group who were all committed to offering the very best experience possible for their students when learning about New England's early history. At this writing, plans are coming together for the second annual CSM workshop for K-12 teachers in the fall.



A Brief Report on Publications

Early in 1997, members of the Council of the Colonial Society and well-wishers from Houghton Library gathered at the Harvard University Archives to celebrate Bill Bond and Hugh Amory's achievement in preparing for publication a handsome facsimile edition of *The printed Catalogues of the Harvard College Library, 1723-1790*, Volume 68 of the Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. In the year that has passed since Volume 68 was first distributed, a number of favorable reviews have appeared. Colin Steele, University Librarian of the Australian National University Library, called it "A valuable addition to bibliophilic history and an essential source for studying eighteenth century intellectual trends as well as the history of Harvard."

Edwin C. Schroeder of Yale University, writing in *College and Research Libraries*, places Bond and Amory's work in the context of recent interest in the history of the book and was the only reviewer to note all the painstaking efforts that went into enhancing the legibility of the original catalogues through the use of digitized images and new computer technology.

Volume 69, *The Records of the Boston Overseers of the Poor, 1735-1795*, is now at the typesetters. Prepared by Fellow Member Eric G. Nellis of Okanaghan University College in British Columbia, the volume contains a long introduction describing the traditional methods of public poor relief employed in Boston and comparing them with the less compassionate and more utilitarian methods used in England at the same time. The Overseers themselves were usually rich merchants elected by the town meeting, who often financed payments to the poor out of their own pockets until reimbursed by the town. Nellis provides a complete list of all those who served as overseers from 1690 to 1795, an examination of their surviving financial records for the period 1742-1769, and a list of children bound out for indenture from 1758-1795.

The Overseers also administered the almshouse for the so-called deserving poor and the workhouse for the lazy and improvident. Nellis supplies readers with the text of the Boston Workhouse Act, 1735, and the Workhouse Rules of Management, 1739. Social historians of the period will be particularly interested in the list of Almshouse Admissions, 1758-1795, for the biographical information it contains. Despite the fact that the Overseers volume reaches nearly 700 pages in manuscript form, it by no means exhausts all the valuable material in the Overseers' files which might be reproduced. Still awaiting a future volume are all the "warnings out" for the period and the institutional records of the Overseers from 1795 until the group's demise in 1822 at the hands of Boston's reform-minded mayor, Josiah Quincy, Jr.

Fellow Members and editors Jeanine Falino and Gerry Ward have been reviewing the various papers given at the New England Silver Conference on April 19, 1996 under the joint sponsorship of the Colonial So-

ciety and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Essays presented from which a volume of proceedings published by the Colonial Society will be drawn are: Richard L. Bushman, Columbia University, "The Complexity of Silver"; Edwin A. Churchill, Maine State Museum, "Glistening Reflections of Stability: The Roles of Silver in Early Maine"; Madeline Estill, independent scholar, "Colonial New England Silver Snuff, Tobacco, and Patch Boxes: Indices of Gentility and Gifts of Convention"; Jeannine Falino, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, "Silver Patronage in Suffolk County, Massachusetts"; Patricia Kane, Yale University Art Gallery, "Chasers, the Chase, and Other Scenes on Boston Rococo Style Silver"; Karen Parsons, Loomis Chaffee School, "'We owe something more than prayers': Elizabeth Porter Phelps's Gift of Church Silver and Her Quest for Christian Fellowship"; Mark A. Peterson, Harvard University, "Puritanism and Gentility in Early New England: Reflections on Communion Silver"; Janine Skerry, Colonial Williamsburg, "'Ancient and Valuable Gifts': Silver at Colonial Harvard"; and David Wood, Concord Museum, "'An influential and useful man': Samuel Bartlett of Concord."

This spring, we hope to receive from Vice-President Daniel Coquillette and Fellow Member Mark A. Walsh, the manuscript to a revised edition of Josiah Quincy, Jr.'s *Reports of Cases Argued before the Superior Court*. Quincy's *Reports* has long been a key source for both Massachusetts lawyers and historians of the revolutionary era. The projected edition will include the first new annotation and cross-referencing of cases since the *Reports* were first published over a hundred years ago. It will also include Quincy's legal and literary commonplace books, which exist only in manuscript at the Massachusetts Historical Society and have never been published.

Elizabeth Dubrulle, Assistant Editor of the *Select Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*, reports on the status of that project elsewhere in this Newsletter.



IN THOMAS HUTCHINSON'S FOOTSTEPS

by ELIZABETH DUBRULLE

Assistant Editor, *The Select Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*

POOR Thomas Hutchinson. Little did he realize when he boarded the *Minerva* for England on June 1, 1774, that he would never see America again. Born in Massachusetts in 1711, Hutchinson rose to great prominence in colonial politics, finally serving as governor of the colony from 1770 to 1774. His conservatism and respect for British institutions propelled him to the forefront of controversy throughout the 1760s and the early 1770s, as Massachusetts began to chafe under Britain's authority. By the time Hutchinson sailed for England on

a leave of absence, he was, for many, the most hated man in America. He never dreamed, however, that he would be unable to return to his native land, which is perhaps why he failed to safeguard several trunks of his papers (containing both his official and personal correspondence) which lay in the attic of his country estate in Milton. Consisting mainly of letterbook copies and drafts of letters to hundreds of correspondents in both Britain and America, these papers documented the growth of the revolutionary movement in Boston and Hutchinson's response to it.

In April 1775, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress authorized the confiscation of these papers. Radicals had long accused Hutchinson of misrepresenting events in the colony to his English correspondents. Now that the patriots had seized his correspondence, they could see for themselves what he had written and the extent of his involvement in the tumultuous affairs of the past decade and a half. Over the next few years, the Congress approved of the publication of selected passages of these letters (not always accurately transcribed) in order to blacken Hutchinson's name further and encourage support for the revolutionary cause.

From 1819 to 1870 both the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Historical Society fought one another long and hard for possession of the papers. Eventually, they came to rest in the State Archives, where, during the mid-twentieth century, Fellow Member Malcolm Freiberg and Catherine Shaw Mayo diligently transcribed them and began the work of annotation. In 1991, CSM Editor of Publications John Tyler picked up where Freiberg and Mayo left off, with the intention of publishing a select edition of Hutchinson's correspondence spanning the years 1760 to 1774 (his letters after that date having been previously published in 1883).

When I joined the project in 1992, my first assignment was to search for additional Hutchinson letters which were not housed in the State Archives. John and I initially projected that I could finish my search over the summer, but six years and over a thousand additional letters later, we are only now nearing completion of the task. There are currently almost 2,400 letters written to or from Hutchinson in our files. The earliest is dated March 14, 1737, and the final letter is dated May 29, 1774. Although a majority of the letters remain in the Boston area, some have appeared in repositories as far west as California. Since many of Hutchinson's correspondents were British, England and Scotland also hold significant amounts of material. Consequently, when I was presented with the opportunity of spending several months in England while my husband completed his research for his dissertation in British history, I seized the chance to continue the search for Hutchinson letters on the other side of the Atlantic. With the generous support of the Council of the Colonial Society, I prepared to embark on my own journey to England.

My husband Hubert and I arrived in London in early November and found a small flat northwest of the city in the village of Hampstead. By London's famous Underground, I could easily reach the two largest collections of Hutchinson material in England: the Public Record Office and the British Library.

The Public Record Office's new facility at Kew (about half an hour outside of London) is an historian's dream. All documents can be ordered with the push of a button through an easy-to-use computer system. Researchers can browse in the bookstore or have a cup of coffee in the café for twenty minutes while the documents are retrieved; a beeper notifies readers when their documents are ready. Here was all of Hutchinson's official correspondence, conducted primarily with the Secretaries of State for the American Department (Lord Hillsborough [1768-1772] and Lord Dartmouth [1772-1775]) and the Board of Trade. Every scrap of paper Hutchinson sent to the ministry in his official capacity as lieutenant governor and governor has been preserved, including enclosures, envelopes, and duplicate copies.

The British Library, housed in the British Museum in central London, is an older, yet awe-inspiring facility. The reading room is located at the far end of George III's impressive library, which now houses the manuscript treasures of English history and literature. Every day I walked past two copies of the Magna Charta, Lewis Carroll's original hand-illustrated copy of *Through the Looking Glass*, and Paul McCartney's scribbled lyrics for "Let It Be." When I needed a break from transcription or proofreading, I wandered through the museum itself, which includes the Elgin Marbles, the Rosetta Stone, and countless Egyptian sarcophagi. The British Library's main Hutchinson holdings consist of his family papers, which include letters dating back to 1741, and his letterbook from 1774-1779. This letterbook contains copies of his outgoing correspondence during his last months in America and dispels the myth that he was forced to flee the country.

My work involved locating the material, having facsimiles made, transcribing the documents, and then checking the transcriptions against the originals. Our files already contained many of the documents I examined, but whereas we hold transcripts of Hutchinson's letterbook copies, these repositories hold the original documents themselves, as they were received by Hutchinson's correspondents. Since Hutchinson was a habitual reviser of his work, the contents of these receivers' copies often differed dramatically from the letterbook copies, making them all the more valuable to our work in presenting an authoritative edition of his correspondence. In addition, I found almost one hundred letters that were altogether new to us and not previously contained in our files.

After completing my work at these two institutions, I turned my attention to other possible holdings of

Hutchinson material. The Institute of Historical Research at the University of London served as an excellent reference library of other British holdings. The National Register of Archives, also in London, provided an outstanding nationwide database of manuscripts held in England, Scotland, and Ireland, as well as an incredibly knowledgeable and helpful staff.

Through these two sources, and building upon information which had been gathered while I was still in the United States, I discovered a few more collections of Hutchinson material. The National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh holds a single letter between the historian William Robertson and Hutchinson. The Staffordshire County Record Office houses the papers of William Legge, the second Earl of Dartmouth, a collection that contains several letters, some private and some official, to and from Hutchinson. The Sheffield County Archives holds several letters between Hutchinson and Massachusetts' long-suffering agent William Bollan as well as a single letter from Hutchinson to the Marquis of Rockingham. The House of Lords Record Office in Parliament has copies of all of Hutchinson's letters that had been presented to the Lords, focusing mainly on the mobbing of his house during the Stamp Act riots, the Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party. In addition, I contacted or visited the Edinburgh University Library, the East Sussex County Record Office, the Devon Record Office in Exeter, the National Maritime Museum, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and the Scottish Record Office, but alas, none of these institutions held relevant Hutchinson material.

These travels, and my husband's travels for his research, allowed us to see much of Great Britain. Although it was the coldest winter of our lives, we also enjoyed a glorious spring as England's famous daffodils and tulips transformed the gray surroundings. When we left the United Kingdom in June, every yard was filled with English roses and Londoners frolicked in the balmy sixty-degree weather. We never managed to get a glimpse of the Queen, but we were interested observers of the political revolution which swept a Labour government into power after eighteen years in opposition. Despite our love for England, we were glad to return to the United States, and I thought of Thomas Hutchinson, buried in a church in Croyden, just south of London, far from the country for which he pined.



Gifts of Furniture

Members are urged to remember the Society when disposing of period furniture or room-sized Oriental rugs which might be suitable gifts for the House.

Colonial Society of Massachusetts

News of Members

In response to the request for news of members' activities in the last *Newsletter*, the Colonial Society received two welcome communications from overseas.

Professor David B. Quinn of Liverpool, England, was awarded the John Carter Brown medal for his contribution to early American and expansionist history on October 10, 1996. A celebratory dinner at the John Carter Brown library in Providence also marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Hakluyt Society. Professor Quinn, a member of that organization for 50 years, was recently elevated to honorary status. The John Carter Brown Library recently published an essay of Professor Quinn's entitled *Sir Francis Drake as seen by his contemporaries* and in June 1995, the College of William and Mary awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.

Mauricio Obregón, historian and diplomat, is perhaps best known for his retracing of 14 voyages of discovery either under sail or in light planes. (He also holds the world light plane speed record.) Sr. Obregón is Colombian ambassador at large in the Caribbean, Honorary President of the Federation Aéronautique Internationale in Paris, founder and Honorary President of the Aéroclub of Colombia, a member of the Academies of History of Colombia, Spain and Cartagena; founder, trustee and Professor of History at the University of the Andes; founder and President of the Caribbean Naval Museum in Cartagena; President of the Colombian Oceanographic Commission; member of the Colombian Commission on Underwater Archaeology; a member of the Advisory Board of the Americas; and a columnist for *El Tiempo* in Bogata. Colonial Society members may also have seen Sr. Obregón either as host of the 1992 PBS/BBC "Discovery" series or in the 1996 National Gallery film on the Olmecs of Mexico. His most recent publication is *Siete Hechiceras* (1996), but he is at work on a manuscript tentatively titled, "The Forerunners: Greeks, Polynesians, Muslims, and Vikings."

Please send news of members' activities and accomplishments to: John W. Tyler, Editor of Publications, 87 Mount Vernon St., Boston, MA 02108.

New Members

December 19, 1996

Resident

HELEN BREEN: Ms. Breen been a teacher at Lynn Technical High School for thirty-five years. She is a member of both the Lynnfield and Massachusetts Historical Societies. At the MHS she has been a frequent

participant in the Boston Early American Seminar. In addition, she is a member of the Colonial Society's Education Committee. *Nominated by John W. Tyler.*

SCOTT C. STEWARD: Mr. Steward is an editor of *NEXUS*, a bimonthly genealogical magazine published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. A *cum laude* graduate of Harvard, he is the author of the bicentennial history of the Porcellian Club and a history of Fay School. His next book will be an illustrated history of the fancy-dress ball given by Mrs. William Vanderbilt in 1883. *Nominated by John W. Tyler*

Non-resident:

EMERSON W. BAKER, II: Prof. Baker is Assistant Professor of History at Salem State College, having received his doctorate from William and Mary in 1986. Both historian and archaeologist, he recently edited *American Beginnings* and is preparing a biography of Sir William Phips. *Nominated by Glenn B. Skillin.*

EDWIN A. CHURCHILL: Dr. Churchill is Chief Curator of the Maine State Museum at Augusta; A graduate of the University of Maine at Orono in 1979, he has been teaching history at the University since 1970, and at Thomas College since 1995. His specialties are American and Maine decorative arts, Maine craftsmen, and historical research pertaining to Maine and northeastern North America. *Nominated by Glenn B. Skillin.*

February 1997

Resident:

ANNE E. BENTLEY: Ms. Bentley holds a BFA from Syracuse and has been Conservator of Manuscripts for the MHS since 1973. While she has worked in almost all the Society's manuscript collections, she also oversees maintenance of the Society's building. She recatalogued and reorganized the Society's numismatic and museum collections, helped to prepare exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Boston Navy Yard, and authored the 1990 broadside "A Common Wealth." *Nominated by Celeste Walker.*

JAMES W. BRADLEY: Dr. Bradley received his Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. Currently Director of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., he has been a survey archaeologist for the National Park Service; Director, Division of Preservation Planning for the Massachusetts Historical Commission; and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. He is also the author of *Evolution of the Onondaga Iroquois: Accommodating Change, 1500-1655*. *Nominated by William M. Fowler, Jr.*

ANNE M. DECKER: Ms. Decker is the Assistant Editor of the Adams Papers. A graduate of Aquinas College in Michigan, she received her M.A. in History from Northeastern. While there, she was Editor of the history

department newsletter and an Editorial Assistant for *The New England Quarterly*. Ms. Decker also prepared two exhibitions at the MHS and oversaw the typesetting for volumes 9 and 10 of the *John Adams Papers*. *Nominated by Celeste Walker.*

PHILLIP JOHNSTON: Mr. Johnston is Vice-President for Museums at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities; previously he was Henry J. Heinz II Director of the Art Museums of the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh. A graduate of Baylor with Masters' degrees from Southern Methodist University and the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, he has published widely. His catalogue of the silver collections of the Cleveland Museum of Art contains silver assembled by Hollis French of Boston. *Nominated by Jane C. Nylander.*

BRENDA M. LAWSON: Ms. Lawson is the Associate Librarian and Curator of Manuscripts at the MHS. Her degrees include a bachelor of arts from Williams and a master's from Simmons in both Library Science and History. She is active in regional as well as national archival organizations. She has also edited letters of Robert Gould Shaw for the Society's *Proceedings*. *Nominated by Celeste Walker.*

CHARLES L. NEWHALL: Mr. Newhall teaches history in the elementary grades of the Lincoln, Mass., schools. He is particularly interested in the colonial history of Massachusetts. *Nominated by Alfred P. Putnam.*

JOHN W. ROWE: Mr. Rowe is President and CEO of New England Electric System. He took his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin. He is the former Chief Counsel for Conrail, was President of Central Maine Power and also President of the *U.S.S. Constitution* Museum. Currently, Mr. Rowe serves on the boards of such nonprofit institutions as Bryant College and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. His historical interest is the American republic's early history. *Nominated by William M. Fowler, Jr.*

STEPHEN T. SEAMES: Mr. Seames received his B.A. from the University of Maine, earned a state teaching certificate, and has done graduate work at Simmons in Library and Information Service. Before leaving Maine, he also worked in the Maine Historical Society's Manuscripts and Reference departments. Mr. Seames currently serves as the Military Archivist and Museum Director, Military Division, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in Worcester. *Nominated by Glenn B. Skillin.*

HARVEY STEINBERG: Mr. Steinberg is Senior Group Vice President of the Beacon Companies. He is a graduate of MIT and now serves as a director of the MIT Museum. Mr. Steinberg also acts as Executive Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the *U.S.S. Constitution* Museum. An avid collector of book and manuscript material pertaining to early American history, he also has considerable interest in historic building

restoration. *Nominated by William M. Fowler, Jr.*

LEONARD TRAVERS: Formerly Director of Museum Interpretation at Plimoth Plantation, Dr. Travers is now Assistant Director of the Center for the Study of New England History at the MHS. He received his Ph.D. from Boston University in 1992, and the University's press has published his first book: *The Brightest Day in Our Calendar: Independence Day in Boston, Philadelphia, and Charlestown, 1777-1826*. *Nominated by Conrad E. Wright.*

LAUREL THATCHER ULRICH: Prof. Ulrich is James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History and Professor of Women's Studies at Harvard University. Celebrated for her book *A Midwife's Tale*, she is also author of *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650-1750*. Currently she is collaborating with Emma Lou Thayne on *All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir*. *Nominated by Roger E. Stoddard.*

KATHERYN P. VIENS: Ms. Viens is Director of the Old Colony Historical Society at Taunton. She earned her master's in American History at Northeastern and interned on the *New England Quarterly*. From there she went to the MHS Publications Department for three years before accepting the Taunton position. *Nominated by Conrad E. Wright.*

DONALD YACAVONE: A graduate of Claremont Graduate School, Dr. Yacavone is Associate Editor of Publications at the MHS. His primary scholarly interest is mid-nineteenth-century America, but he has actively sought funds to support the Winthrop Papers project. *Nominated by Conrad E. Wright.*

Non-resident

KAREN PARSONS: Ms. Parsons graduated *magna cum laude* from Amherst College and received her M.A. from the University of Delaware Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. She has been a guest curator at the Porter-Phelps Huntington House Museum in Hadley, Mass., worked as a research intern at Colonial Williamsburg, and has served as Curator of the Hadley Historical Society. Having taught oral history in a number of venues, she now teaches American History at the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn. An author of several articles, she lectured at the Colonial Society's Silver Conference. *Nominated by Elton W. Hall.*

April 19, 1997

Resident

PEGGY M. BAKER: Ms. Baker is the Director of the Pilgrim Society as well as their Curator of Manuscripts. She holds a masters degree from the University of Michigan in Latin and History, as well as an MSLS from Wayne State. Before coming to Plymouth, she held positions at the Walter P. Reuther Library, the

Dearborn Historical Museum, the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, and the Jonathan Bourne Public Library in Bourne, Mass. *Nominated by Christopher Hussey and Peter Gomes.*

MARTHA J. MCNAMARA: Prof. McNamara is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Maine, where she teaches cultural history and the history of New England. A graduate of Boston University, she received a Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship. She is a Director of the Vernacular Architecture Forum and the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Currently, she is preparing a study of the relationship between courthouse architecture and changes in the legal profession. *Nominated by Celeste Walker.*

LESLIE A. MORRIS: A graduate of the University of Chicago Library School, Leslie Morris became Curator of Books and Manuscripts at the Rosenbach Museum and Library. She has been Curator of Manuscripts in the Harvard College Library since 1992. Active in a variety of professional associations, she has also authored numerous papers concerning library and bibliographic issues. *Nominated by William M. Fowler, Jr.*

MARILYN RICHARDSON: Ms. Richardson is a freelance scholar and curator of African-Americana. She has been a curator at the African Meeting House/Museum in Boston. Specializing in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, she has written numerous essays and edited the essays and speeches of the Black political writer Maria W. Stewart for publication by the Indiana University Press. Most recently she helped prepare a traveling exhibit, combined with a 600-page anthology and a 28-minute video, on the working life of African-Americans in New England from colonial times to 1945. *Nominated by Robert L. Hall.*

JOANNE CHAISON: Ms. Chaison received her undergraduate degree in U.S. Social and Cultural History from SUNY, Buffalo. She has since earned an M.A. in History and an M.S. in Library and Information Services. She joined the Antiquarian Society as a rare book cataloger in 1981, became Head of Reader Services in 1987, and was promoted to Research Librarian in 1994. In 1987, she created the exhibit "Curiosities and Wonders: The Evolution of the Modern American Circus" at the Museum of Our National Heritage. *Nominated by Linda Smith Rhoads.*



All the spaces for Resident Membership in the Colonial Society are nearly full. Letters of nomination describing the qualifications of new members should be sent to Nathaniel Niles Shipton, Registrar, 1 Whitney Road, Shirley, MA 01464. Please include the home address of the person you are nominating.