



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

October 2003 Volume 8, Number 1

Conference on New England Slavery and the Slave Trade Scheduled for April 21-23, 2004

THE DATE for the Colonial Society's next conference, New England Slavery and the Slave Trade, rapidly approaches. Occurring on April 21-23, 2004, the Conference will replace the usual April stated meeting for the Society. The plenary session, opening the conference on Wednesday evening will take place in the historic surroundings of Old South Meetinghouse. Concurrent sessions will follow all day Thursday and Friday morning at the Boston Athenæum and Suffolk University Law School. The Society will host a reception for those giving papers at 87 Mount Vernon Street on Thursday evening, April 22, followed by dinner at the Union Club, at which all CSM members are welcome. A suite of rooms has been reserved at reduced rates for out-of-town conference participants at the Parker House.

On September 1, the Program Committee composed of Ira Berlin of the University of Maryland, James Horton of George Washington University, and Joanne Melish of the University of Kentucky began sorting through the many proposals received for papers to be given at the conference. Other recent conferences on related topics give reassuring evidence that, once again, the Colonial Society has picked a hot topic. "Slavery / Anti-Slavery in New England" was the subject of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife held in Deerfield, Massachusetts, on June 20-22, 2003. Though over half the papers given at Deerfield fell beyond the 1825 cut-off date for the Colonial Society conference, a number were directly relevant including a stand-out essay by the organizer of the Dublin Seminars, Peter Benes. Benes used probate inventories to draw a picture of "Slavery in Boston Households, 1647-1770." Ruth Herndon and Ella Sekatu, both participants in the CSM's previous conference *Reinterpreting New England Indians and the Colonial Experience* continued their research into pauper apprenticeship among Native Americans in Rhode Island. A number of familiar faces were in the audience at Deerfield including CSM Editor of Publications John Tyler, Fellow Member Bob Hall (an

early advocate of our own conference), and this year's CSM New England Regional Consortium Fellow John Sweet of The Catholic University of America.

Local arrangements for the conference are being handled by John Tyler and Marilyn Richardson representing the CSM, Bob Allison, Robert Bellinger, and Beth Bowers from Suffolk University, Beverly Morgan-Welch from the Museum of Afro-American History, and Marty Blatt from the National Park Service. The committee is working on developing walking tours of Beacon Hill and the African Meetinghouse, as well as a special exhibit at Suffolk University related to the conference theme. As always, the Colonial Society intends to publish a selection of the conference proceedings.

Ceremony Honors First Woman Member

AT A SPECIAL joint meeting in Madrid on October 3, 2003, the International Institute and the Real Academia de la Historia honored the life and achievements of Alice Bache Gould on the fiftieth anniversary of her death. Miss Gould, the daughter of Benjamin Apthorp Gould, the Colonial Society's first president, was elected an honorary member of the CSM in 1947, thus becoming its first woman member. Raised in Argentina while her astronomer father was charting the stars of the Southern Hemisphere, Miss Gould sharpened in linguistic skill and acquired an affinity for Spanish culture. Having studied as an undergraduate at the recently founded Bryn Mawr College and done graduate work in mathematics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Miss Gould taught navigation at the Great Lakes Naval Training School during the First World War. She later became interested in the early history of Barbadoes, and while stopping in Spain on her way to a holiday in Italy, she first explored the Archive of the Indies in Seville to see what she could learn about how Columbus first discovered the island. Thus began forty-two years of research concerning the voyages of Columbus. Samuel Eliot Morison memorably described Miss Gould as "a distinguished gray-haired lady, dressed usually in black bombazine with a vintage hat, striding resolutely into the

Archive of the Indies to find some document for me that the archivist insisted did not exist." On her mother's side, she descended from Col. Josiah Quincy, and consequently, her great grandfather was president of Harvard and the first mayor of Boston. A quintessentially Boston figure, Miss Gould was known in Spain, not only for her research, but for her many benefactions including the founding of an orphanage in Simancas, where a city square is named in her honor. She is buried in the British Cemetery in Madrid, and Kathleen Le Mieux, the organizer of the commemorative ceremonies has arranged for the restoration of her tomb as well. John W. Tyler, CSM Editor of Publications, wrote a letter of greeting on behalf of the Colonial Society that was read to the members of the Real Academia de la Historia and joined them in paying tribute to her many accomplishments.

News from NERFC

YOU WILL RECALL that the Colonial Society now participates in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, a collaborative of sixteen regional research libraries and centers and of societies both learned and historical. At its spring 2003 meeting, NERFC representatives awarded fellowships of \$5,000 each to nine scholars who have chosen to work in the collections of at least three participating institutions. Projects cover a range of topics, from women's abolition fairs, to the Brothertown Indians, to Shays's Rebellion, to the North Atlantic fisheries.

Each year one fellowship carries the name of the Colonial Society. We are happy to report that this year's CSM NERFC Fellow is John Wood Sweet, newly appointed assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His *Bodies Politic: Negotiating Race in the American North, 1730-1830* is forthcoming from Johns Hopkins University Press.

Professor Sweet is in the midst of an imaginative, wide-ranging project, "American Dreams: Communities of Interpretation in the Atlantic World, 1620-1850." "To grasp how Americans' understandings of dreams have changed over time," Professor Sweet reports, "I focus on seven case studies of dreams, visions, or apparitions drawn from a broadly defined North American world. These cases range from the mystical visions of a seventeenth-century Spanish nun to the medical theories of a Revolutionary-era Philadelphia physician, from the sixth-century text that long dominated western dream interpretations to nineteenth-century gambling manuals that used dreams to predict winning lottery numbers." Another aspect of his work centers on religious approaches to direct revelation, including strategies and

belief systems developed by Puritans, Quakers, Congregationalists, and evangelicals.

Mark your calendars. John Wood Sweet will address the CSM membership at our February meeting.

2002 Whitehill Prize Awarded

THE JUDGES of the Walter Muir Whitehill Prize in Early American History—fellow members Edmund S. Morgan, Bernard Bailyn, and Robert Middlekauff—awarded the \$2,500 Whitehill Prize to Simon Smith, a professor of history at the University of York, in Great Britain, for his essay "Gedney Clarke of Salem and Barbados: Transatlantic Super-Merchant." The essay is scheduled to appear in the December 2003 issue of *The New England Quarterly*.

Submissions for the 2003 prize are due on 31 December 2003 and should be addressed to Linda Smith Rhoads, Editor, *New England Quarterly*, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215. Guidelines are available on the CSM website.

New Members

Please welcome the following individuals elected as members during the past year:

RESIDENT MEMBERS

James Stephen Goldman, a graduate of Boston College Law School, recently passed the Massachusetts Bar Exam. He currently works for Hale & Dorr, where he is an associate in the Government Investigations and Litigation Practice Group. Nominated by Daniel R. Coquillette.

Karen Nipps has been Senior Rare Book Cataloger at Houghton Library since 1996, where her responsibilities include both original cataloging and supervising ongoing projects. Her research interests are focused on American colonial printing. Nipps is presently putting the finishing touches to a biography and bibliography of the printing output of Lydia Bailey. Nominated by Leslie A. Morris.

R. Todd Romero is a doctoral candidate at Boston College, working under Fellow Member Alan Rogers. He participated in the 2000 Graduate Student Forum and presented an essay at CSM's New England Indians Conference in April 2001. His dissertation is entitled *Making War and Minting Christians: Masculinity, Religious Change, and Anglo-Indian Relations in Seventeenth-Century New England*. Nominated by Charles L. Newhall.

D. Michael Ryan is Associate Dean of Students at Boston College. Ryan attended Boston College and was in the United States Army for ten years. His avocation is eighteenth-century colonial history and he is a volunteer at the Minute Man National Historical Park, where he conducts or participates in some twenty different programs, including first-person performances of Capt. William Smith, Col. John Cuming, and Dr. Charles Russell. Nominated by Stephen Ridge, Jr.

D. Brenton Simons has been a member of the staff of the New England Historic Genealogical Society since 1994. He is currently the Assistant Executive Director, with responsibility for the publication of all periodicals, books, and CD-ROMs, and for the NEHGS website. Nominated by Ralph Crandall and Henry B. Hoff.

C. James Taylor is Editor in Chief of the Adams Papers. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and has twenty-eight years of experience as a documentary editor, most recently as project director and editor of *The Papers of Henry Laurens*. He came to the Adams Papers upon the successful completion of the sixteenth and final Laurens volume. Nominated by Celeste Walker.

Roberta Zonghi is the Keeper and Head of the Department of Rare Books at the Boston Public Library. She received her M.L.S. from Simmons College and is affiliated with the American Library Association, the New England Printing History Association, the Manuscript Society, the Bibliographical Society of America, and the Society of Printers. Nominated by Toby Hall.

NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS

Cornelia H. Dayton is an Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. She is a graduate of Harvard College and received her Ph.D. in history at Princeton University. She is the author of *Women Before the Bar: Gender, Law, and Society in Connecticut, 1639-1789*, and is currently working on a project about mapping migration into pre-revolutionary Boston. Nominated by Celeste Walker.

Mary Beth Norton is Mary Donlon Alger Professor of American History at Cornell University. She is the author of *The British-Americans: The Loyalist Exiles in England*; *Liberty's Daughters: The Revolutionary Experience of American Women*; and *In the Devil's Snare*, her most recent book about the Salem witch trials. Nominated by Pauline Maier.

What Are They Doing?

SMALL POX in Washington's army; seventeenth-century women's deathbed narratives; the persistence of Native American identity; the intersections between biography and history; the material culture of bible and song. These are just some of the topics and approaches explored by this year's participants in the Colonial Society's fourth Graduate Student Forum, held on 12 May 2003.

Many participants in previous Graduate Student Fora are now teaching in universities and colleges across the nation. Some have produced books; others are preparing them. We now boast an alumni list of thirty-six, and they show up as speakers in Colonial Society conferences and as applicants for NERFC fellowships. So that you can trace the progress of this year's attendees, their names, affiliations, and projects are listed below.

- Alexis A. Antracoli, Brandeis University: "The Excellency and Usefulness of Those Scriptures": The Bible in Colonial Massachusetts, 1620-1776
- Shelby M. Balik, University of Wisconsin-Madison: Backsliders, Sinners, and Saints: Writing the Laity into New England's Religious History
- Ann M. Becker, Stony Brook, State University of New York: Smallpox in Washington's Army: Statistical and Anecdotal Discernment of the Disease
- Jonathan Den Hartog, University of Notre Dame: Biography and Belief: The Case of Caleb Strong
- Shannon Duffy, University of Maryland: Thomas Hutchinson's *History of Massachusetts-Bay* and the Creation of an American Gentry
- Jason Eden, University of Minnesota: Beyond Survival: Native Americans in Southeastern Massachusetts and Bermuda, 1620-1750
- Heather Kopelson, University of Iowa: Religious Citizenship and Dissenting Identity in Late Seventeenth-Century New England and the British Atlantic
- Peter Leavenworth, University of New Hampshire: Taste and Cultural Hierarchy in American Popular Music, 1770-1825
- Sarah Rivett, University of Chicago: Invisible Testimony: The Inward Domain of Women's Religious Narrative in Seventeenth-Century New England

Fellow CSM member Bernard Bailyn, Adams University Professor and James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History, Emeritus, chaired the day's events. At their conclusion, he brought his Atlantic World perspective to bear on his comments. Characterizing historians by national proclivity, he suggested that the French pursue grand ideas in their practice of history, Germans are wont to build conceptual

frameworks, while the English find a vein and proceed carefully and painstakingly to mine it. American historians, by contrast, are always hoping to blow the field wide open.

Of course the American approach poses difficulties for graduate students because their expectations of themselves exceed the confines of their role. Professor Bailyn identified some of those constraints. First, the sheer volume of materials now accessible, given the decade's technological advances, is daunting to any neophyte researcher. The amount of secondary literature graduate students are expected to master has mushroomed too, which has resulted in an increasing tendency toward scholasticism. Finally, the researchers' inexperience often means that only after coming to the end of their projects are they able to formulate their questions.

Certainly the graduate students in attendance were heartened that such an eminent historian understands their difficulties. But understanding is not excusing. Each student will want to do his or her best to rise to new challenges, and in so doing will alter the course of the profession in years to come.

Thanks to Bob Allison, Mary Sarah Bilder, Stephen O'Neill, Pauline Maier, and Lynn Rhoads for organizing and/or moderating sessions. The Society of Colonial Wars graciously provided funds for graduate students' travel expenses.

Because the Society will be running a conference in the spring of 2004, no Graduate Student forum will be held next year.

News of Members

Maury A. Bromsen received the President's Medal from Brown University on March 12, 2003, in recognition of his lifetime dedication to collecting and preserving books and manuscripts relating to colonial Spanish America. He has recently donated to the University his collection of portraits, iconography, and manuscripts related to the famed liberator of South America, Simon Bolivar, and these materials are now displayed in the Maury A. Bromsen—Simon Bolivar Room at the John Carter Brown Library. The President's Medal is the highest honor a Brown president may bestow and has been awarded only six times since its inception in 1994.

A Brief Report on Publications

VOLUME 71 of the Colonial Society Publications, *Reinterpreting New England Indians and the Colonial Experience*, the proceedings of the CSM conference held

at Sturbridge in April 2002, will soon be on its way to the printers. Thus, members can anticipate another blue and gold bound volume appearing in their mailboxes sometime in the early winter. Edited by Colin Calloway of Dartmouth College and Neal Salisbury of Smith College, the volume integrates the latest academic scholarship on the subject with writings by various members of the Native American community about their own past. As well as an introduction by the editors, the volume includes: "Chickwallop and the Beast: Indian Response to European Animals," by Virginia DeJohn Anderson; "A Little Shall I Say": Translation and Interculturalism in the John Eliot Tracts" by Joshua David Bellin; "Falling 'into a Dreame': Native Americans, Colonization and Consciousness in Early New England," by Ann Marie Plane; "The Changing Nature of Indian Slavery in New England, 1620-1720," by Margaret Newell; "Colonizing the Children: Indian Youngsters in Servitude in Early Rhode Island," by Ruth Wallis Herndon and Ella Wilcox Sekatu; "Recovering Gendered Political Identities: Local Struggles and Native Women's Resistance in Colonial Southern New England," by Trudie Lamb Richmond and Amy E. Den Ouden; "'This Once Savage Heart of Mine': Joseph Johnson, Wheelock's 'Indians' and the Construction of a Christian/Indian Identity," by Tammy Schneider; "The Church in New England Indian Community Life: A View from the Islands and Cape Cod," by David J. Silverman; "We, as a tribe, will rule ourselves': Mashpee's Struggle for Autonomy, 1746-1840," by Daniel R. Mandell; and "A Precarious Living': Basket Making and Related Crafts Among New England Indians," by Nan Wolverton. The University of Virginia Press (as they are now called) will distribute the volume for us.

Vice-President Dan Coquillette and Fellow Member Neil York are putting the finishing touches on their multi-volume project concerning Josiah Quincy, Jr., the talented young lawyer and publicist for the patriot cause. The core of the project is a newly annotated edition of Quincy's *Reports of Cases Argued and Adjudged In the Superior Court of Judicature, 1761-1772*. Because Massachusetts lawyers habitually refer to the page numbers used in the historic 1865 first edition of the book, the CSM edition will reproduce the pages of the Russell & Russell printing in facsimile with Coquillette's new annotations on facing pages. The two-volume CSM edition will also carry a general introduction by Coquillette and include a comparison with legal reporting in other countries. (Quincy's were the first systematic efforts at legal reporting in mainland British North America.) Quincy also kept a manuscript legal commonplace book that was closely related to the *Reports*. It will be printed as a separate volume and also include a new transcription of Quincy's journal of his tour to the Southern colonies. Neil York has transcribed another manuscript common-

place book as well; this one includes passages culled from Quincy's political and historical reading. York also includes a new transcription of Quincy's last-minute journey to England in the hope of averting the coming conflict. York and Coquillette's talented research team has turned up much additional information about the way law was practiced in Boston in the decade before the Revolution, and the project will also contain an index of all lawyers practicing in the town at the time.

CSM members have long been waiting for the missing volume 68, *The Eighteenth Century Records of the Boston Overseers of the Poor*. Fortunately, we can report significant progress over the summer. Assistant Editors Anne Decker Cecere and Jane Ward have completed their careful collation of the transcription and manuscript for Fellow Member Eric Nellis, who can now review and adjust his introduction and notes accordingly. The records reveal the intimate face-to-face administration of the poor law in Boston, whereby the Overseers advanced money out of their own pockets to the deserving poor in their wards. Those judged "undeserving" were committed to the workhouse, where conditions were grim if the number of those fleeing the institution is any guide. Not surprisingly, large numbers of the poor are women, children, and freed slaves. Thus, historians of those groups can look forward to a new source of information to mine.

Fellow Members Len Travers and Sheila McIntyre say they hope to have their manuscript of the John Cotton, Jr. letters ready to go into production by this time next year. Cotton was writing at a time when it was the custom to share letters broadly. Thus, his letters are filled with the news of the day in late seventeenth-century Plymouth Colony and include details not only of his own troubled ministry, but also of King Phillip's War and the controversial Dominion of New England.

Other CSM projects are still too far from completion to assign a possible date of publication, but they include *New England Elegies*, edited by Ron Bosco; additional *New England church records* edited by Fellow Members Ken Minkema and Jeff Cooper; *The Select Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*, edited by CSM Editor of Publications John Tyler; and *The Papers of Sir Francis Bernard*, edited by Fellow Member Colin Nicolson.

News of the House

ELTON W. HALL

AS ALL of you who own homes know, repair and maintenance become a part of your life even when you think you have reached the end. To paraphrase an Osbert Lancaster cartoon, "Completion is just around the corner, but the corner continues to recede at an ever increasing pace."

Nevertheless, as we march along in pursuit of the corner, we pass various milestones. Over a year ago we completed the major elements of a massive structural and decorative refurbishment of our fine old house. Since then there has been a slow and not always steady effort to work our way down a punch list of relatively small details that need to be completed so that we can declare this part of the work finished. For example, it is taking all of our combined effort, imagination, skill, and persistence to counter some unseen and unidentified force that is opposed to the relaying of the stair carpet.

Two new projects concerning the fabric of the house have since engaged our attention. The slate roof on the carriage house has been patched and repaired over the years until it reached the point at which it made better sense to replace it. Visible as it is from a public way, the approval of the Beacon Hill Architectural Commission was required and secured. The work went ahead over the summer, once the extended rainy season passed, and that should take care of it for as long as anyone currently involved with the Society will have to worry about it.

Those who have roamed the house in search of plumbing facilities are aware that there is quite a range of fixtures from a very nice, new facility installed on the ground floor—even as the small chamber dubbed the Whitehill Memorial by Fritz Allis was carefully preserved—to an ancient tin bathtub on the fourth floor. There are bathrooms on the third and fourth floors, but they are of early Paine family vintage, and the soundness of some of the fixtures is nothing about which to be overly confident, despite their nostalgic visual appeal. Consequently, we are planning the refurbishment of the bathrooms, thinking that a house of such importance ought to have at least one complete facility in good order, and more importantly to insure that all water stays where it should be.

With the house in such good shape, we are now directing our attention to its contents. Most of the furniture and furnishings were given to the Society soon after we acquired the house in the late 1950s. There was never an intention to have a museum house, but simply to furnish it adequately and suitably for the Society's use. Among the gifts we received were some with significant associations: Francis Parkman, William Crowninshield Endicott and his ancestors, William Ellery Channing and his family, and later Samuel Eliot Morison. Naturally, we want to take proper care of our possessions and have decided to begin with paintings and furniture.

The twenty-two oil paintings in the house vary greatly in quality, condition, and significance of subject. We are having appraisals and proposals for conservation treatment prepared by some appropriate experts. With those in hand, we will prioritize the work based on the importance of each painting, its degree of stability, and position in the décor of the house.

While the Society normally sets its own agenda, we try to be responsive to the needs of our colleagues. A request from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York for the loan of a table for inclusion in an exhibition of the work of cabinetmaker John Townsend of Newport has prompted us to consider going ahead on its restoration long before we might otherwise have got around to it. Perhaps that will change our thinking about other furniture as well. But the main point is that we feel a responsibility to care for these things, and we intend to move ahead in an orderly fashion.

The end purpose of all this work is to carry out our responsibilities to those who have entrusted us with the house and its contents, and to maintain it all in a condition in which the house can make a real contribution to the work of the Society, to the field, and to the community around us.

Dates to Remember

Friday, November 21, 2003, 5:30 P.M.

Annual Meeting at 87 Mount Vernon Street
followed by dinner at the Boston Athenæum

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Thursday, December 18, 2003, 3:00 P.M.

Stated Meeting at 87 Mount Vernon Street

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Thursday, February 19, 2003, 4:30 P.M.

Stated Meeting at 87 Mount Vernon Street

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April 21-23, 2004

Conference on New England Slavery and the
Slave Trade (replaces April stated meeting)



THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS
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