



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

September 2007 Volume III, Number 1

Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Members:

WHEN you elected me President of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts last November, I was delighted and flattered to step into the chair once held by George Lyman Kittredge, Frederick Jackson Turner, Samuel Eliot Morison, Kenneth Ballard Murdock, and my dear friend Bill Bond. I was also pleased and relieved to know that I was to lead an organization in very good fiscal and operating condition, thanks to the stewardship of the Council and my predecessors, Fred Ballou and Bill Fowler. The Society's publications and conferences are highly regarded in the profession and ably administered by Editor of Publications John Tyler. We are a very strong institution that continues to maintain fine traditions, as an historical organization by nature should.

A distinguished past should lead to a promising future. As I have in the last few months begun to learn more about the Society, I have been able to identify areas where the Council might act to assure our future. Publications are at the very core of our mission and our activity. Their quality is unquestioned, but their distribution has been limited. To promote both forthcoming publications and our extensive backlist, the Council has recently established a Marketing Committee that is chaired by David Case. CSM publications have always relied on endowment income. To make certain that that flow continues, the Council has created a Development Committee chaired by Fred Ballou that will seek ways to increase income from our Annual Fund and through bequests from our members. We trust that both these initiatives will foster an even stronger Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

With thanks for your continuing interest in the Colonial Society,

Sincerely,

DONALD R. FRIARY

President

Past Presidents of the CSM

The Colonial Society has had only 19 presidents in its 215-year history. Unless you've recently taken down your Hundredth Anniversary Handbook from that dusty section of your bookshelf, you may not be aware of quite what a distinguished lot they are.

There seems something remarkably apt that the longest-serving President was Samuel Eliot Morison from 1925 to 1938, a fruitful period for the Society that led to the founding of the *New England Quarterly*. Morison lived from 1887 to 1976, winning two Pulitzer Prizes, two Bancroft Prizes, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. His doctoral dissertation on Harrison Gray Otis, the Society's one-time neighbor at 85 Mount Vernon Street, became his first book. He was a member of the Harvard History Department for forty years beginning in 1915. He is perhaps best known for his several titles on the early European voyages of discovery, a subject that combined his love of history with sailing. (It was Morison's ambition to drop anchor in every known landfall of Columbus.) During World War II, he joined the Naval Reserve as an official historian, producing in 15 volumes *The History of Naval Operations in World War II*, an achievement recognized by his promotion to the rank of Rear Admiral.

A number of CSM members can still recount encounters with the Admiral in the stacks of Widener Library dressed in jodhpurs and riding boots. (As he recounted in *One Boy's Boston*, it was his custom to ride on horseback from his home on Brimmer Street to Cambridge.) Another member recalls a set-piece lecture on the Spanish American War when Morison, describing the news in 1898 that the Spanish fleet had departed from El Ferrol for parts unknown, ended with the declaration, "Consequently, my family did not go to Nahant that year," suggesting a solid Brahmin unwillingness to run additional risk in the pursuit of frivolous pleasure.

Most CSM members, however, first met the Admiral when reading his best-selling *History of the Growth of the American Republic* that he co-wrote with Henry Steele Commager. Morison was justly renowned as a literary stylist. He believed that historians had "neglected the lit-

erary aspects of their craft. They have forgotten that there is an art to history writing." Every sentence that Morison published, he first tested by reading it aloud to family members in his Brimmer Street study.

Although one might well expect to find distinguished historians among the roster of CSM presidents, George Lyman Kittredge, the well-known scholar of Renaissance literature was the Society's third president, serving from 1900 to 1907. Kittredge (1860-1941) is perhaps best remembered for his critical edition of the works of William Shakespeare, texts that continued to be regarded as the most authoritative version long after the editor's death. Another Harvard professor, Kittredge was remembered there for the thoroughness of his approach to Shakespeare's plays and a painstaking interest in philology. Kittredge came to Harvard by way of first teaching Latin at Phillips Exeter and, like many schoolmasters, never received a Ph.D. When challenged about this lack of credentials, Kittredge is reported to have asked, "But who would examine me?"

Another early president of the Society was Frederick Jackson Turner (1861-1932), arguably one of the most influential historians of the early twentieth century. Best known for his 1893 American Historical Association address, "The Influence of the Frontier in American History," Turner's name has always been associated with the history of the West, but not many are aware of his 12-year teaching stint at Harvard from 1910 to 1922. Turner was once quoted as saying, "The history of the United States has been written in Boston, and it has been written badly"; it is not known what his colleagues in the Harvard History Department made of that statement! An undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Ph.D. recipient from Johns Hopkins University, Turner had great influence as a teacher of other historians, opening the study of history beyond the narrow confines of past politics and diplomacy to include many aspects of what is now described as "social history." He too won a Pulitzer Prize in 1933 for *The Significance of Sections in American History*.

Mention of a few of the more recent presidents of the Society, now deceased, will stir the memory and affections of many members: Augustus P. Loring Jr., famous for his hospitality and generous benefactions to many Boston institutions; Clifford Shipton, admired for his meticulous scholarship and graceful style; Fritz Allis Jr., known for his sparkling wit and generosity to younger scholars; Andrew Oliver, who brought lawyerly acumen and social grace to the president's chair; and William H. Bond, remembered for his courtly civility and his reinvigorating vision of what the Society might be. We are all in their debt.

A Brief Report on Publications

By the time you receive this newsletter, those members who requested a copy of Volume III of *Portrait of a Patriot: The Major Political Papers of Josiah Quincy Jr.* should be receiving it soon. When you crack the spine of this new volume you are in for a fascinating read. In *The Southern Journal*, Quincy provides a lively account of his travels throughout the Southern colonies on the eve of the American Revolution. Quincy undertook the trip partly to recover his failing health and partly as a special mission for the Boston Committee of Correspondence to gauge the depth of patriot sentiment throughout the South. A lawyer by trade, Quincy makes a number of astute observations about the legal status of slavery, and is prescient in his forecast of the difficulties slavery will cause by driving a wedge between North and South. But Quincy also paints a lavish picture of social life in Charleston and the Low Country where all doors were open to a person of his status and breeding. Readers will enjoy Quincy's tart observations on the dissipation of the Anglican clergy and his worldly-wise comparisons of the *mores* of Southern women.

Lest you think you somehow missed Volume II of Quincy, it should follow shortly on the heels of Volume III. In Volume II, CSM Vice-President Dan Coquillette provides a carefully transcribed and annotated edition of Quincy's manuscript *Law Commonplace Book*. As Dan explains in his introduction, in an age before law schools, young lawyers learned their trade by placing themselves under the tutelage of a senior member of the profession who would prescribe a suitable reading list. The apprentice lawyer would then make careful notations from the books he read, cross-referencing them with one another. These commonplace books would then become a useful tool once young lawyers began to practice, guiding them to the appropriate precedents in English common law relevant to any particular case. Quincy's *Law Commonplace* reveals not only his acute aptitude for the law but also the sophisticated resources for legal study available in Boston in the 1760s and will be an appropriate accompaniment to Volumes IV and V of Quincy, a newly annotated edition of his *Reports of Cases Argued and Adjudged in the Superior Court of Judicature of the Province of Massachusetts Bay between 1761 and 1772*, which Dan hopes to have ready within the next year.

Given the lively debate that currently surrounds the question of "original intent," it is perhaps not too surprising that several justices of the United States Supreme Court requested copies of Quincy Volume I. Nor is it surprising that one of Quincy's Latin legal maxims should already have been cited in a recent Supreme Court decision!

Appearing perhaps sometime this winter will be the first volume of *The Papers of Sir Francis Bernard, Governor of Massachusetts, 1760-1769*, edited by Colin Nicolson of the University of Stirling in Scotland. The Bernard Papers are

arguably one of the two most important sources about Boston politics in the pre-Revolutionary period (the other being *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*; see below.) Colin Nicolson first proposed the project to the Society in 2002 and has been working feverishly to bring out the first volume in such a short time. For those unfamiliar with the way documentary projects evolve, the first step entails collecting copies of as many extant letters as possible. This effort involves untold library hours and much correspondence. In time and work, the collection phase can truly be said to be the base of the iceberg—the foundation below the waterline that no one ever sees. Nicolson has assembled over 4,000 items in Bernard's hand. The Colonial Society will publish only a fraction but the rest will be calendared, thus saving future scholars from needing to duplicate the same task.

A canon lawyer from the Midlands, Bernard was the cousin by marriage of William Wildman, the second Viscount Barrington, long-standing Secretary of War. Although he may have owed his initial appointment as Governor of New Jersey to family connections, Bernard by all accounts acquitted himself well there before coming to Massachusetts. Nicolson has provided his own portrait of Bernard in *The "Infamous Governor": Francis Bernard and the Origins of the American Revolution* published by Northeastern University Press in 2001, a book that won praise not only for its mastery of the details of Massachusetts politics in the 1760s but was also equally knowledgeable of events transpiring at the seat of power in London at the same time.

Next up after *The Bernard Papers* will be *The Letters of John Cotton Jr.* (1638/39-1699). The son of John Cotton, one of the most admired clergymen of the Founding Generation of New Englanders, John Jr. had a career marred by sexual scandal, but nevertheless remained the minister of the Plymouth Church from 1669-1699. He counted among his correspondents many of the leading figures of both the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies. He also wrote at a time when most authors assumed their letters would be circulated far beyond the addressee, thus his letters read more like newsletters than private correspondence, and they are full of the tumultuous events of their time: King Philip's War, the Dominion of New England, and the merger of the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies. Fellow member Kate Viens is now melding together the different styles of the volume's two editors, Sheila McIntyre and Len Travers, and the project will soon be bid out among designers and printers.

CSM Editor of Publications John Tyler finished up work this summer on the first volume of his own project, *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*. Hutchinson succeeded Bernard first as acting governor when Bernard left the province in 1769 and then as governor in his own right from 1771-1774. During the 1760s, Hutchinson fell from being regarded as one of the province's most admired public servants to become "the most hated man in America."

His dogged defense of the supremacy of Parliament was more than the Patriots could bear, especially from a native son of Massachusetts. Although a smaller collection than the Bernard Papers—2,200 letters as opposed to 4,000 for the latter—the Colonial Society intends to publish about 800 letters in four volumes. This first volume will cover the period from 1741 to December 1766. A draft of the volume will be circulated to a distinguished list of CSM members for review before it begins production.

The CSM has been blessed in recent years with several veteran editors, who no sooner have they completed one project than they are back with a proposal for another. Such has been the case with Fellow Member Neil York of Brigham Young University, one of the two series editors for *The Quincy Papers*. His next work will be *The Writings of Henry Hulton* (1731-1790). Hulton was a member of the American Board of Customs Commissioners, appointed as part of the Townshend reforms of 1767. In addition to his letters, York will also include Hulton's 397-page manuscript history "Some Account of the Proceedings of the People in New England from the Establishment of a Board of Customs in America, to the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1775," now part of the special collections department of the library of Princeton University.

Further afield will be *The Collected Writings of John Hull* (1624-1683), silversmith, shipowner, captain of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, member of the Court of Assistants, and perhaps most importantly treasurer and mint master during the crisis of King Philip's War. Fellow members David Hancock and Mark Peterson are the editors of this project, still in its early stages.

Members may be interested to know that the Publications Committee has begun discussion about the digitization of some CSM publications. Although the Colonial Society will always continue to bring out the handsome blue-and-gold hardbound books we are known for, the advantages of digitization for scholars are so considerable that we are considering publishing in both formats. While traditional indexes are limited by the imagination and insight of their compilers, researchers using digital editions can develop their own combinations of words and phrases to guide them to exactly the material they seek. A number of questions surround digitization: should all CSM publications be digitized? Or just new publications and not the backlist? How much a burden will digitization place on a small staff and a tight budget? Should we reduce the number of titles we publish in order to do so in both formats? Will availability in digital format cut into book sales? Should digital editions be marketed through the CSM website or another source? Or perhaps digital editions of our books should be available for free as a public service? If you have thoughts on these or related subjects, please contact Pauline Maier, chair of the Publications Committee at pmaier@mit.edu or John Tyler, Editor of Publications at jtyler@groton.org.

A Call for Proposals

The Publications Committee would like members to know that they are always looking for good ideas for future publishing projects for the Colonial Society. Although we do not publish monographs, ideas for new documentary editions or subjects for future conferences are particularly welcome. We are especially happy when suggestions come from prospective editors willing to undertake the labor (with no remuneration) of transcribing and annotating the material they propose, but we are also always on the lookout for collections of early Massachusetts documents that would have wide scholarly interest, even if you don't have an editor in mind. Sometimes the Publications Committee can recruit the right person for the job. Please write with your suggestions to either Publications Committee Chair Pauline Maier (pmaier@mit.edu) or Editor of Publications John Tyler (jtyler@groton.org.)

A CSM Miscellany

On April 2, 2007, President Donald Friary and Editor of Publications John Tyler received two guests from Thailand at the Colonial Society's House at 87 Mount Vernon Street. They were Sawitree Charoenpong, Assistant Professor of History, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, and Songthama Intachakra, Associate Dean for Graduate and International Affairs, Thammasat University, Bangkok. They were accompanied by William S. Jenrette of the Office of Language Services, U. S. Department of State as part of State Department-sponsored visit that included other stops at the Harvard University History Department and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Their chief goal that morning was to learn more about the Society's outreach programs to graduate students and K-12 teachers, but as conversation became more general, they were very curious about the term "Boston Brahmin." What exactly did it mean? Friary and Tyler offered some suggestions about Boston's historic trade connections with the Far East and the endogamous habits of Hinduism's highest caste. But what exactly would you say, if asked the question?

On April 23, Editor of Publications John Tyler represented the Colonial Society at a meeting convened by the Bostonian Society to discuss ideas for the development of a Liberty Tree Park on the site of "the great elm in the south part of town," which became the Patriot rallying point from the Stamp Act Riots in August 1765 until the siege of Boston when British troops splintered it into firewood. It may surprise some members to know that the junction of Essex, Washington, and Boylston Streets was once considered the "south part of town," but the only way a visitor would now recognize the site of the Liberty Tree

is by noting a bas-relief of the tree carved into the turn-of-the-twentieth-century façade of the building now occupied by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Historian Alfred Young, who has written extensively on popular rituals and the urban crowd during the American Revolution, gave the keynote address about the historic association between trees and the concept of liberty, followed by comments from Fellow Members Jane Kamensky of Brandeis University and Nina Zannieri of the Paul Revere Memorial Association. Plans for the site included replacing the several small trees now there with one large shade tree (The original tree reputedly could shelter a crowd of hundreds beneath its branches.) and erecting a copy of the memorial obelisk designed by Paul Revere in May 1766 to commemorate the repeal of the Stamp Act. Revere's obelisk (designed to be illuminated from within) was first displayed at the Liberty Tree before it caught fire while being transported to Boston Common for celebrations there.

Fellow Members Jeff Cooper of Oklahoma State University and Kenneth P. Minkema of the Jonathan Edwards Papers, the joint editors of CSM Vol. 72, *The Colonial Church Records of the First Church of Reading (Wakefield) and the First Church of Rumney Marsh (Revere)*, made headlines in the *Boston Sunday Globe* this summer when they were on hand on July 10 to authenticate long-missing church records from the Congregational Church in Rowley, Massachusetts. The records had been placed for safe-keeping in a safe deposit box at the First National Bank in Ipswich in 1966 and then forgotten. Earlier this year when the bank closed, church officers were notified, and they, in turn, asked Cooper and Minkema to be on hand when the manuscript was examined. Cooper and Minkema were delighted to proclaim its authenticity and described the book as among the most important sets of New England church records they had ever seen. Later that same day the two spoke to a gathering at the First Church in Wakefield on the unique value of its own recently-published records and the importance of record-keeping for Puritan churches in general.

Bequests to the CSM

Members of the newly-formed Development Committee (see *The President's Letter* elsewhere in this issue) hope that both Resident and Non-resident Members will remember the Colonial Society when they are doing their estate planning. This past winter the Council was gratified to learn of the gift of \$10,000 from the estate of our beloved Past President William H. Bond. In 2004, the Colonial Society received a distribution from the estate of Francis Foster (deceased 1966) of \$71,955, the result of proceeds from the sale of land on Martha's Vineyard. Also in 1966, the Society received \$15,000 from the estate of the well-known historian of early America, Carl Bridenbaugh.

Over the intervening years, these gifts have grown significantly with the Society's other endowment funds and help underwrite the CSM's many activities from publishing to maintaining the House at 87 Mount Vernon Street to special programs for graduate students, as well as K-12 teachers and students. The Colonial Society has been such fertile ground for new ideas in recent years that the Council is often faced with hard choices concerning which projects to underwrite. Including the Colonial Society in your will can help assure future growth.

Conserving Our Furnishings

By Toby Hall

With the Society's house now in good repair, we are focusing our attention on its contents. The house was never intended to be furnished as an historic house, open to and interpreted for the public. The goal was to furnish it comfortably for the use of the Society, with as little expenditure of the Society's funds as possible. When Mrs. Howland gave us the house in 1955, many large old houses on Beacon Hill and in the Back Bay were being broken up as the next generation moved to the suburbs. Some of the large, heavy furniture was unsuitable for modern houses, but fitted in quite nicely at 87 Mount Vernon Street. Walter Whitehill had no trouble securing their gifts. With the passage of a half century, some of the things that came to us are in need of conservation.

We have undertaken a program for the care of our possessions, prioritizing the work based on three factors: the historic and cultural importance of the piece, its importance to the décor or use in the house, and its stability. To date our labeled John Townsend Pembroke table together with its mate of undetermined make have been beautifully restored in connection with the Townsend exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Five etchings and engravings were cleaned, deacidified, and re-matted, and five pieces of seating furniture have been reupholstered.

Lance Mayer and Gay Myers of the Lyman Allyn Museum have restored two of our portraits, beginning two years ago with a portrait of Edward Channing by Chester Harding. Harding had a very productive sojourn in Boston in 1822 painting a great many portraits of socially prominent people and so is important to us. The portrait of Mary Robinson Chaloner Channing, grandmother of William Ellery Channing, by Robert Feke was restored in time for the 2006 Annual Meeting. Feke, the details of whose life remain obscure, was active as a painter for only the decade of the 1740s and is known by only about seventy paintings. Consequently, any painting by him is especially deserving of the best care. These historically and artistically important portraits were in such shabby condition



The Society's portrait of Mary Robinson Chaloner Channing as painted by Robert Feke and recently restored.

as to be unsuitable for display. They are now stable, handsome, and making a fine contribution to the look of the house.

New Members, 2006-2007

Frances M. P. Burnham, of Cohasset. Frances Burnham has a long-standing interest in Massachusetts history. Among the many organizations she supports is Plymouth Plantation, where she currently serves as a member of the Board of Overseers.

Lorna Condon, of Amesbury. Lorna Condon has been on the staff of Historic New England since 1985 beginning as the Associate Archivist and becoming Curator of Library and Archives in 1990, a position she still holds. Active in a number of professional and community organizations, she has served on the Board of the Massachusetts Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records, as Vice President of the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, and President of the Friends of the Amesbury Public Library.

Anthony J. Connors, of Westport. Anthony Connors recently received his Ph.D. in history from Clark University.

His dissertation is a study of the early phases of the industrial revolution in New England focusing on the largely-neglected role of the “ingenious machinists,” most notably Paul Moody in Massachusetts and the Wilkinsons in Rhode Island. He is currently pursuing an earlier interest in the role of tobacco in Thomas Jefferson’s life and career. To further that project, he was awarded a short-term fellowship at the International Center for Jefferson Studies in Charlottesville.

Joseph F. Cullon, of Worcester. Joseph Cullon is an Assistant Professor of Early American History at Dartmouth College. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, with a dissertation entitled “Colonial Shipwrights and their World: Men, Women and Markets in Early New England.” He is the author of numerous book reviews and was a participant in the Colonial Society’s 2002 graduate student forum. In 2005, he was awarded the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Post-Dissertation Fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society.

Susan J. Goganian, of Boston. Susan Goganian is a lecturer in Public and Oral History at Suffolk University. She served as Director of Public Programs and Education and as Site Director at the Bostonian Society, developing and coordinating programs for schools, museum visitors, and the community. She serves on the board of Directors of the Boston Women’s Heritage Trail and of MYTOWN.

Thomas G. Knowles, of Worcester. Thomas Knowles is the Marcus A. McCorison Librarian at the American Antiquarian Society, where he previously served as Curator of Manuscripts and Head of Reference Services. He has a Ph.D. in Classics from Rutgers and has continued to publish in the field, most recently in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* on “Student Notebooks at Colonial Harvard.” He is a frequent participant in the Dublin Seminar of New England Folklife, speaking particularly on the topic of New England diaries.

Catherine S. Menand, of Boston. Catherine (Kay) Menand was Director of Archives and Records Preservation at the Supreme Judicial Court. Her work there resulted in a judicial archive of pre-1860 court records for the use of researchers. She published *A research Guide to the Massachusetts Courts and Their Records* in 1987. She is the author of articles that have appeared in the *Massachusetts Law Review*, *Massachusetts Legal History*, the *Boston Bar Journal*, and the *Massachusetts Historical Review*. She is currently a member of the Council of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Carl R. Nold, of Boston. Carl Nold is the President and CEO of Historic New England. Before coming to Boston four years ago, he served as the Executive Director of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, where he organized and oversaw the a decade-long research project in

French Colonial History, resulting in the publication of seventeen volumes. He is an active participant and board member of many museum associations and currently serves as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Association of Museums.

Nathaniel Philbrick, of Nantucket. Nathaniel Philbrick’s most recent book is *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*. Named by the *New York Times* as one of the ten best books of the year in 2006, it was also a finalist for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize in History. After moving to Nantucket in 1986, he became interested in the history of the island and published *Away Off Shore: Nantucket and Its People*. He founded the Egan Maritime Foundation in 1995, and in 2000 published *In the Heart of the Sea*, a National Book Award winner, and, in 2003, *Sea of Glory*.

Edward L. Widmer, of Providence. Edward Widmer is the Director and Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library. He is an author and historian with a Ph.D. from Harvard College. His first book was *Young America: The Flowering of Democracy in New York City* and he has recently published a biography of Martin Van Buren. Before coming to Providence, he served as special assistant of President Clinton for national security affairs, and was the inaugural Director of the C. V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience at Washington College at Chestertown, Md.

News of Members

Mark Peterson, after eight years in the History Department at the University of Iowa, has joined the History Department at the University of California, Berkeley, where he will begin teaching this fall. He continues to work with Fellow Member David Hancock of the University of Michigan on editing *The Collected Writings of John Hull* for the CSM Publications and is completing a book on “Boston and the Atlantic World, 1630-1865.”

Brenton Simmons succeeded Fellow Member Ralph Crandall as executive director of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in December 2005 and in April 2006 was made president and CEO of the Society. Simmons’s book *Witches, Rakes and Rogues* was published in 2005 by Commonwealth Editions and was recently awarded the 2006 Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Simmons writes that many exciting things are going on at NEHGS, including a new strategic plan.

Joseph Peter Spang continues as trustee and Secretary of the Corporation of Historic Deerfield, Inc. In May 2007, he was re-elected Vice-President of the Massachusetts Historical Society for a one-year term. He has also chaired the Art Committee of the Society. He is a member of the

Council of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and also sits on the boards of the Lewis Walpole Library and the Deerfield Land Trust. Other non-profit endeavors include membership on committees of the Trustees of Reservations, Historic New England, and Edith Wharton Restoration.

Alden Vaughan has recently published *Transatlantic Encounters: American Indians in Britain, 1500-1776* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) and a related article in the June 2007 issue of *The New England Quarterly*.

Nicholas Westbrook has served since 2005 as the Vice Chair (the non-political chair) of the New York State Commission on Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the French and Indian War. Fort Ticonderoga will host the 2008 "signature event" honoring the extraordinary French victory there in 1758 despite five-to-one odds in favor of the British. More than 30,000 Massachusetts men (about 30 per cent of eligible single men at the time) served on the northern frontier during this crucial war that helped shape our American identity. In October 2006, Westbrook received the Katherine M. Coffey Award from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums for a "lifetime of distinguished service to museums."

This Year's Graduate Student Forum

April 27, 2007

A harried group of graduate students mid-way through their dissertations were perhaps a little taken aback to hear Fellow Member Gordon Wood tell them they would never again have more time for research and scholarly reflection than they do presently. That wasn't perhaps what they expected to hear, but there was no mistaking the interest Wood took in their presentations and the wise and encouraging comments he had for each. Wood capped the day with his own reflections on how the world of early American studies has changed during his lifetime. The rift between popular and academic audiences for historical writing now seems wider than ever, and despite the fact early American history has been enriched by the study of Indians, slavery, and the Atlantic world, historians now seem reluctant to make generalizations about America and the American character. There is a fear of writing about "origins," he said; few are willing to take on questions of teleology and American exceptionalism. Wood also reminded graduate students of Honorary Member Bernard Bailyn's maxim that the best historical questions go from Point A (somewhere in the past) to Point B (somewhere closer to the present.) Therefore, they should not neglect a clear sense of chronology when telling a story.

In the first session of the day on "Acculturation," Craig Miller of the University of Buffalo spoke on "Skulking, Scouting, and Society on the New England Frontier, 1630-1750," Edward Andrews of the University of New Hampshire on "Prodigal Sons: Indigenous Missionaries in the British Atlantic, 1640-1790," and Linford Fisher of Harvard University on "Colonial Conversions: American Indians and Acculturation in 18th-Century New England." Fellow Member William M. Fowler Jr. commented.

In the second session on "New England Ideology and the Wider World," Christine LaHue of Ohio State University talked about "The Resurrection of John Wise: Congregational Republicanism and Popular Mobilization in New England, 1770-1783," Steven Tobias of the University of Washington, "Engaging Sacred Africa: Productions of the Secular within the Context of the U.S.-Barbary Conflicts," and Karen Ursic of the University of Iowa on "The Legal History of Women in Early Ohio, 1780-1840." New Member Ted Widmer of the John Carter Brown Library provided comments.

After lunch, in a session on "Revolution," Ruma Chopra of the University of California reflected on "Loyalist Persuasions: New York City, 1776-1783," James C. David of William and Mary on "Dunmore's New World, 1770-1798," and Philip Mead of Harvard University on "He who dares the scene with indifference is worse than an infidel': Landscapes and National Identity in the Diaries of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign Participants." Fellow Member June Namias, formerly of the University of Alaska Anchorage, commented.

All the participants stayed at the Parker House courtesy of the Colonial Society and enjoyed a convivial dinner at 87 Mount Vernon Street the night before. The Society thanks Vice-President for Outreach Bob Allison of Suffolk University for organizing this highly successful event.

By Popular Request

Few mysteries of the Colonial Society inspire quite so much interest as the recipe for Fish House Punch served following its stated meetings. So here is the recipe as photocopied by a first-generation Xerox machine and annotated in Fritz Allis's inimitable handwriting:

Dissolve in a large punch bowl 3/4's of lb. of fine granulated sugar.

Then add the following ingredients in the order named:

1 quart lemon juice, 2 bottles of dark Jamaican rum,
1 bottle of brandy, 2 quarts of water,
and 4 oz. of Peach brandy.

Pour the mixture over a crystal hard block of ice and allow it to stand for an hour, stirring occasionally.

This recipe makes 60 4-oz. servings, about a year's worth for the Society!

CSM Dates to Remember

November 15, 2007 – CSM Annual Dinner Meeting and cocktails at 87 Mount Vernon Street followed by dinner at the Boston Athenæum.

December 20, 2007 – A screening and discussion of Fellow Member David Ames Junior's video on King Philip's War.

February 21, 2008 – Fellow Member Pauline Maier will speak on “‘We the People . . . do ordain and ratify . . .’: Massachusetts towns and ratification of the U.S. Constitution”.

April 17, 2008 – Marla Miller of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will speak on her recent book *The Needle's Eye: Women and Work in the Age of Revolution*.

May 2, 2008 – Graduate Student Forum with Gary Nash, Professor Emeritus of the University of California at Los Angeles as distinguished guest.



THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS
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