



# The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

September 2012 Volume XVII, Number 1

## Letter from the President

Dear Members:

This year has brought two outstanding publications to add to the Colonial Society's long series—volume two of *The Papers of Francis Bernard: Governor of Colonial Massachusetts, 1760-69* and *New Views of New England: Studies in Material and Visual Culture, 1680-1830*. We will salute these landmark volumes at two special events in the Society's house at 87 Mount Vernon Street. On Wednesday, October 24, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. we will launch *New Views of New England* with a panel discussion chaired by the volume's editors, Martha J. McNamara and Georgia B. Barnhill, with several contributors participating. On Thursday, December 20, our regular 3:00 p.m. Stated Meeting will feature a presentation by Colin Nicolson on Governor Bernard. On both occasions there will be refreshments, autographs, book sales, and lively discussion. I encourage you to join us as we explore significant aspects of early New England history.

Looking ahead, we are very pleased to cosponsor with the Winterthur Museum a conference on Boston furniture from Wednesday, March 6 to Friday, March 8, 2013. We hope that many of our members in Delaware and surrounding areas will be with us at Winterthur for this program. Our Editor of Publications, John Tyler, and I serve on the Selection Committee for the conference and its anticipated publication, as well as on the Executive Committee of the parent organization, *Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture*, a collaboration of eleven institutions that will present exhibitions, develop new databases, and plan programs throughout 2013 to focus attention on the remarkable production of furniture in Massachusetts from the 17th century to the present. The Colonial Society views this as a sequel to our 1972 conference on Boston furniture that result in our highly regarded, widely read, and long out-of-print 1974 publica-

tion, *Boston Furniture of the Eighteenth Century*. Fittingly, our member Brock Jobe, who as a graduate student contributed "The Boston Furniture Industry, 1720-1740," to the earlier conference and volume, has spearheaded the March conference and the entire *Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture* program.

Sincerely,

DONALD R. FRIARY  
President

## 2013: The Year of Massachusetts Furniture

The next Colonial Society conference, cosponsored with the Winterthur Museum, will concern "New Perspectives on Boston Furniture, 1630-1860." It will take place at Winterthur, Delaware, from March 6 -8, 2013. Long-time CSM members will remember that our last conference on this subject took place in 1972 and resulted, in 1974, in Volume 48: *Boston Furniture of the Eighteenth Century*, edited by Walter Whitehill, Brock Jobe, and Jonathan Fairbanks. The volume remains the Colonial Society's all-time best seller, and if you are lucky enough to own an original copy, you should hold onto it, because it is now quite valuable! We hope there will be a sufficient number of publishable papers given at the conference on topics within the CSM's cut-off date (1830) to create a similar volume, and if the contributors are prompt in turning in their essays, it may well be possible to bring it out on the fortieth anniversary of Volume 48.

For much of its history, Boston, Massachusetts, ranked among the nation's leading furniture-making centers. Between 1630 and 1860, local shops generated a staggering output, producing in total hundreds of thousands of objects of every description, from lavishly upholstered sofas to humble kitchen chairs. Talented arti-

sans met the furnishing needs of townspeople and also shipped furniture to customers in distant ports.

The conference is part of a much larger initiative, the brainchild of our Fellow Member Brock Jobe, entitled "Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture," in which he has achieved the extraordinary feat of persuading nine Massachusetts cultural institutions to cooperate (the Concord Museum, Historic Deerfield, the Fuller Craft Museum, Historic New England, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the North Bennet Street School, Old Sturbridge Village, and the Peabody Essex Museum) in addition to the Colonial Society and Winterthur, his home institution.

Historic Deerfield will lead the parade of events in the fall of 2013 with an exhibition on western Massachusetts furniture opening on Saturday, September 28. The Massachusetts Historical Society will follow shortly after on October 4 with a major exhibition of Boston furniture from private collections selected by our Fellow Members Gerald Ward and Robert Mussey. An exhibition on cabinetmaker William Munroe and Concord Federal Furniture will open October 10 at the Concord Museum. Old Sturbridge Village will complete the whirlwind of fall events on October 19 by focusing on the work of Federal cabinetmakers Nathan Lombard, Ebenezer Howard, and Oliver Wight. A final event will occur in June 2014 at the Peabody Essex Museum with a major show and catalog of the work of Salem cabinetmaker Nathan Gould.

In addition to these exhibitions, "Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture" also will include compiling an Internet-accessible database of five thousand records of documented Boston furniture, built from 1630 to 1930, to be housed at Winterthur as part of their Decorative Arts Photographic Collection. The database is modeled on a similar project, the Rhode Island Furniture Archive, at the Yale University Art Gallery. Meanwhile the curatorial staff at the Museum of Fine Arts will be working on their own on-line catalog of Massachusetts furniture of nearly five hundred records.

The program of the March 2013 conference on Boston furniture follows. Registration will open on October 1 at the Winterthur website [www.winterthur.org](http://www.winterthur.org).

The Sewell C. Biggs  
Winterthur Furniture Forum  
New Perspectives on Boston Furniture, 1630-1860  
March 6-8, 2013

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

1:00-2:00 pm: Registration, Winterthur Visitor Center

2:00-2:10 pm: Welcome, Copeland Lecture Hall, Winterthur  
Brock Jobe, Professor of American Decorative Arts,  
Winterthur

2:10-2:30 pm: Forty Years of Boston Furniture Scholarship:  
From "Boston Furniture of the Eighteenth Century" to  
Today: A Reminiscence  
Jonathan L. Fairbanks, Director, Fuller Craft Museum,  
Brockton, MA

2:30-3:45 pm: 17th-Century Boston Furniture: Tools and  
Techniques  
Video-Assist Demonstration  
Peter Follansbee, Joiner, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth,  
MA

3:45-4:15 pm: Afternoon Break

4:15-4:45 pm: Early 18th-Century Boston Case Furniture  
Edward S. Cooke, Jr., Charles F. Montgomery Professor  
of American Decorative Arts, Yale University, New  
Haven, CT

4:45-5:15 pm: Boston Japanning: Case Studies  
Christine Thomson, Private Conservator, Salem, MA,  
and Tara Cederholm, Curator, Brookfield Arts Founda-  
tion, Salem, NH

5:15-5:45 pm: Mrs. Oliver's Chair, Boston Design in 1732  
Gregory Landrey, Division Director for Library, Collec-  
tions Management, and Academic Programs, Winterthur

6:00-7:30 pm: Boston Furniture at Winterthur exhibition  
Winterthur Galleries

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

8:00-8:45 am: Registration, Visitor Center

8:45-9:15 am: Introductory Remarks, Copeland Lecture Hall,  
Winterthur  
J. Thomas Savage, Director of Museum Affairs, Win-  
terthur

9:15-10:00 am: Boston and Its Craft Community, 1630-1860  
J. Ritchie Garrison, Director, Winterthur Program in  
American Material Culture, University of Delaware

10:00-10:30 am: 'Such Ruins Were Never Seen in America,'  
The Looting of Thomas Hutchinson's House at the  
Time of the Stamp Act Riots  
John Tyler, Editor of Publications, Colonial Society of  
Massachusetts, Boston, MA

10:30-11:00 am: Morning Break

11:00-11:30 am: Boston or New York? Revisiting the  
Apthorp-Family and Related Sets of Queen Anne Chairs  
Philip Zimmerman, Museum Consultant and Independ-  
ent Scholar, Lancaster, PA

11:30-12:15 pm: A Scotsman, Thomas Chippendale, and the  
Green Dragon Tavern: Connecting the Dots  
Kemle Widmer, Independent Scholar, Newburyport,  
MA

- 12:15–2:00 pm: Lunch
- 2:00–3:30 pm: The Turret-Top Tea Tables and Card Tables of Boston  
The Robert Francis Fileti Endowed Lecture/Video-Assist Demonstration  
Brock Jobe, Professor of American Decorative Arts, Winterthur, and Allan Breed, Cabinet- and Chairmaker, Rollinsford, NH
- 3:30–4:00 pm: Afternoon Break
- 4:00–4:30 pm: Pigeonholes and Patriots: Desks in Colonial Boston  
Gerald W. R. Ward, Senior Consulting Curator and the Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture Emeritus, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 4:30–5:00 pm: Windsor Furniture-Making in Boston: A Late but Innovative Center of the Craft  
Nancy Goyne Evans, Independent Furniture Historian, Hockessin, DE
- 5:00–5:30 pm: Samuel Gragg, Chairmaker: New Discoveries  
Michael Podmaniczky, Private Conservator, Wilmington, DE
- 5:30–8:00 pm: Reception  
Galleries Reception Area

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

- 8:45–9:00 am: Welcome, Copeland Lecture Hall, Winterthur  
Wendy A. Cooper, Lois F. and Henry S. McNeil Senior Curator of Furniture, Winterthur
- 9:00–9:30 am: The Best Workman in the Shop: Cabinet-maker William Munroe of Concord  
David F. Wood, Curator, Concord Museum, Concord, MA
- 9:30–10:00 am: The Sideboards of Benjamin Bass, Jr.  
Morrison Heckscher, Lawrence A. Fleischman Chairman of the American Wing, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
- 10:00–10:30 am: Boston Classical Furniture: A (Nearly) Forty-Year Reflection  
Page Talbott, Principal, Remer & Talbott, Bala Cynwyd, PA
- 10:30–11:00 am: Morning Break
- 11:00 am–12:00 pm: Classical Excellence in Boston: The Work of Isaac Vose, 1815–1825  
Clark Pearce, American Arts Advisor and Independent Scholar, Essex, MA, and Robert Mussey, Conservator and Independent Scholar, Milton, MA
- 12:00–1:30 pm: Lunch
- 1:30–2:15 pm: Early Boston Piano-Making: The State of Scholarship

- Darcy Kuronen, Pappalardo Curator of Musical Instruments, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 2:15–2:45 pm: Boston Furniture Makers and the New Social Media, 1830–1860  
Kelly L'Ecuyer, Ellyn McColgan Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
- 2:45–3:15 pm: Afternoon Break
- 3:15–3:45 pm: Furniture Industry in East Cambridge, ca. 1850–ca. 1900  
Nancy Carlisle, Curator, Historic New England, Boston, MA
- 3:45–4:15 pm: Boston Furniture for Public Spaces  
Caryne Eskridge, Lois F. McNeil Fellow, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, Class of 2013
- 4:15–5:00 pm: Framing the Interior: The Entrepreneurial Career of John Doggett  
Richard Nylander, Curator Emeritus, Historic New England, Boston, MA
- 5:00–5:15 pm: Concluding Remarks  
Brock Jobe, Professor of American Decorative Arts, Winterthur

*An Exciting Discovery at the  
Society's House*

Elton W. Hall, Curator

Those who frequent the Colonial Society's house are well aware that the furnishings constitute a gallimaufry comprising a wide variety of styles and periods, some pieces in period, and others not. Some items are of considerable artistic or historical interest, while others are merely serviceable. Few of our objects have been subjected to curatorial scrutiny by scholars with the appropriate expertise, although as members mill around at Society events, there are often comments that certain things appear to be worth a closer look. But our essential or at least scheduled tasks often impede follow-through on thoughts that arise during cocktail receptions.

From time to time the activities of another organization direct our attention to something in the house. Such was the case when the Metropolitan Museum of Art sought the loan of the two Pembroke tables from Newport, Rhode Island, for their John Townsend exhibition. We were happy to cooperate with the museum staff, even to the extent of having them restored for the occasion. Our feeling was that it was a project that should be done eventually, and what better time to do it than when the

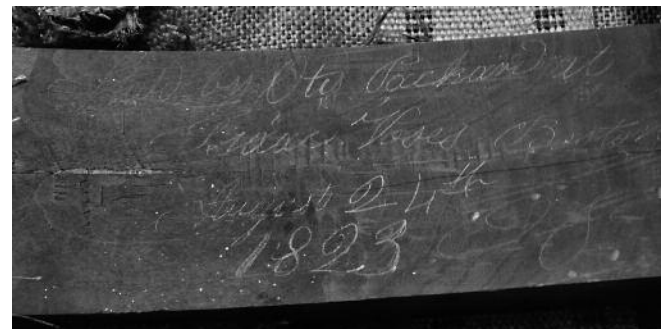
tables can make a significant contribution to the field and to a sister institution?

Initial planning for the forthcoming inter-institutional project, *Four Hundred Years of Massachusetts Furniture* raised the question of what might we have that would be useful. It is no surprise that the leadership of the project includes numerous Colonial Society members through their affiliations with the participating institutions. Among them are Gerald Ward of the Museum of Fine Arts, and Brock Jobe of the Winterthur Museum, who sought an audience with the Council to request our involvement, and a tour of the house to “case the joint.” That preliminary reconnaissance led to a visit by Robert Mussey and Clark Pearce, who are concentrating on Boston Empire furniture as their contribution to the project, for there are some very promising pieces of Boston Empire that came from the home of Francis Parkman at 50 Chestnut Street.

In his report to the Society’s 1955 Annual Meeting, Walter Whitehill announced that the furnishing of our house had been significantly advanced by a generous gift from the grandchildren of Francis Parkman: Mrs. John Forbes Perkins, Mrs. Alexander S. Nielson, Mrs. Daniel Sargent, and John Templeman Coolidge. Although Parkman had been dead for sixty-two years, the contents of the house had remained generally undisturbed as it had been occupied for many years by his niece, Miss Elizabeth Parkman Cordner. In addition to his study with all its furnishings and curios, the house contained much of the handsome and solid Empire furniture that Parkman had inherited from his father and grandfather. Walter reported that the grandchildren had given, “so much of his household furniture that the reading of a detailed list would unduly hinder the progress of this meeting.” He did mention some of the highlights, which included the sideboard, serving table, and china cabinet in the dining room, a sofa and console table in the front hall, the gigantic secretary bookcase in the meeting room, and the furniture to completely equip a bedroom in appropriate Empire style. He went on to note that, “in many odd corners of the house objects from 50 Chestnut Street have made themselves very much at home.”

Walter was of course delighted with this gift for its quantity, quality, and historical association, and it was pleasing to be able to note that Francis Parkman had lived just long enough to be a resident member of the Colonial Society during his last year. He hastened to inform Georgina P. Howland, donor of the house, about the gift. She replied enthusiastically:

“The news contained in your letter is the most delightful I have heard in a long time. How simply



wonderful! A special joy comes to me individually since Mrs. Perkins is a very dear friend and since association with her and her family—Parkmans and Coolidges either one—would have always been particularly welcome to my mother and father, not to mention Perkinses. It binds the last generation of friendship together in a most happy way. And for the house itself nothing could be better. I hope it will inspire other gifts of an equally gratifying character. I can't help thinking, too, how lovely it is for people to know that such a dignified and cherishing destination is there if they don't know what to do with family treasures.

“Thank you so much for telling me.”

For fifty-seven years the Parkman gift has provided pleasure and convenience to the Colonial Society, but it had not attracted much in the way of scholarly attention. On 22 February Messrs. Mussey and Pearce with their bright lights, cameras and tool kits arrived at the Colonial Society and were soon joined by most of the House Committee. After wishing George Washington a happy birthday, they went right to work. During a brisk walk-through, four pieces of furniture particularly caught their eyes, all from the Parkman family: the china cabinet and sideboard in the dining room, the sofa that began its service in the front hall, but as its century-old fabric became increasingly tattered was removed to the seldom frequented third floor, and the sleigh bed. Based on their years of research on and examination of the work of early nineteenth-century Boston furniture makers, they confidently attributed all four pieces to the shop of Isaac Vose, the leading Boston furniture maker of that period, based on the quality of the workmanship and methods of fabrication.

When they arrived at the sofa, they were immediately struck by its excellent quality and with the exception of the upholstery its superb state of preservation. There is extensive carved decoration on the frame, all very crisp and tasteful. The fact that the carving goes around to the back of the rear legs shows that it was intended to be free-standing out in a room rather than against a wall. There is no evidence of any damage or repair, and the finish is original. In view of the badly deteriorated state of the upholstery, I invited them to go into it if they thought there was a chance of learning something useful by doing so. Appreciatively, they went ahead and opened the back, where they found a supporting piece running from the center of the rear seat rail to the crest rail. When they directed their light on that, a pencil inscription appeared.

The inscription was difficult to read. There were sev-

eral lines to it, with words and dates that were at first obscure. Everyone in the room took a turn at deciphering it, and most made some contribution. Eventually Robert and Clark got it: “Stuft by Otis Packard at Isaac Voses Boston August 24th 1823 OP.” Jubilation filled the room. Instantly, what had been a tattered old sofa of good proportion and outstanding carving, but in a style that does not produce much excitement in the auction rooms, became a monument in the history of Boston furniture making. This documented piece may now serve as the basis of attribution for other furniture suspected of coming from the Vose shop. Scholars can go for a decade or a lifetime without making such an important discovery. The sofa is at the top of the line for its kind. We know by whom, when, and where it was made and upholstered, and it has descended in a distinguished family, one that is of special interest to the Colonial Society.

Much work remains to be done. Robert is searching for evidence by which the member of the Parkman family who placed the order for this sofa may be identified and its early history of ownership traced until it arrived at 50 Chestnut Street. To be fully informed, you will have to attend the Furniture Forum: “New Perspectives in Boston Furniture” at the Winterthur Museum 7-8 March 2013. Meanwhile, we are proceeding with reupholstering the sofa so that we may return it to a more visible location in our house and make it available should it be needed for exhibition at one of our sister institutions.

### *A Brief Report on Publications*

Since the last edition of the Newsletter, two new books have joined the select fellowship of blue-and-gold bindings on many library shelves: volumes 81 and 82 of the Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Volume 81 carries forward our edition of *The Papers of Francis Bernard, Governor of Colonial Massachusetts* through the years 1764 and 1765. In addition to Bernard's meticulous recounting of the Stamp Act riots, this volume also describes the growing quarrel between Bernard and Surveyor General John Temple concerning the governor's interference (as Temple saw it) in the enforcement of the Acts of Trade. A lively sub-chapter of the Temple-Bernard affair concerns the forcible rescue of the sloop *Polly* when she was seized by customs officials on the border of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The award of Mount Desert Island to Bernard as his personal fiefdom had just the effect the Massachusetts General Court intended by luring Bernard into strong advocacy for Mass-

achusetts claims to Maine lands beyond the Penobscot, which were then in dispute with Nova Scotia. Thereafter, Bernard plunged robustly into speculation in lands in the newly-opened territory. The series editor, Fellow Member Colin Nicolson of the University of Stirling in Scotland, delves so deeply into the details of the Stamp Act Riots that scholars will soon learn that Volume 81 is the go-to source on the subject, nicely synthesizing the earlier research of Fellow Members Edmund Morgan and Pauline Maier, as well as Dirk Hoerder, a German scholar of crowd behavior. The riots convinced Bernard that affairs in Massachusetts were beyond government control as he hinted at the need for troops (but would not request them himself), pleaded with officials for recall and prepared for immediate flight to Castle William and beyond. Bernard during the Stamp Act crisis makes Kaiser Wilhelm look brave and resolute in face of the German Revolution of 1918. One is reminded of Churchill's dictum about the Kaiser "At every crisis the Kaiser crumpled. In defeat he fled; in revolution he abdicated; in exile he remarried."

The manuscript of Volume 3 of Bernard's *Papers* is already being broken into pages and should be ready, after careful indexing, for distribution early in 2013.

This past winter Nicolson and the CSM Publications Committee agreed to extend the *Papers of Francis Bernard* beyond its original five-volume format to include a sixth volume covering Bernard's later role in imperial affairs. Patriots may have thought they had driven out an interfering and officious governor when Bernard set sail for England on August 1, 1768, but the King and Privy Council regarded his term in Massachusetts as a success; they rewarded him with a baronetcy and a pension. In London, Bernard became regarded as an expert on imperial affairs, as he and Lord Hillsborough, the secretary of state for colonial affairs, began to draft plans for reforming the administration of Britain's American colonies and Massachusetts in particular. Although their plans came to naught, Bernard continued an active correspondence through 1772 when he suffered a stroke. Thereafter, his letter-writing diminished until his death in 1779.

Members who requested a copy should have received in mid-August *New Views of New England: Studies in Material and Visual Culture, 1680-1830* edited by Fellow Members Georgia Barnhill and Martha McNamara. It contains eleven essays presented at the Conference on New England Visual Culture jointly sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society and the CSM in fall 2007. The pleasures of reading this volume are well described by McNamara on its dust jacket: "Ceramics manufactured in Portugal and Mexico City grace the table of a Maine merchant in 1683. An ivory miniature of 'Mum-

bet,' the African-American servant in the Sedgwick family of western Massachusetts is passed as a gift from one Sedgwick to another. The 'inexplicable auricular and optical illusion' of the 'Invisible Lady' entertains crowds in Boston and Salem, pushing them to test the boundaries of their perceptions. These are just some of the images of early New England deftly sketched and plumbed for meaning by the authors in this collection of essays. What emerges is a view of New England that is not only *new*, but one that encourages us to rethink the boundaries drawn around and between regions, cultures, and intellectual disciplines."

The contents, again as described by McNamara, include, "Essays on the archaeology of seventeenth-century Maine settlements; the geographical knowledge of Salem sailors and ship captains; the mid-eighteenth-century cartographic depictions of Boston; and the built environment of Maine in the early nineteenth century. . . . Other essays explore domestic exchange and its role in the formation of New England's regional identity by examining the belongings of Loyalists displaced by the American Revolution; the inter-familial production and exchange of miniature portraits; the intellectual and material inheritance symbolized by a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles; and the elaborately staged seventeenth-century funeral rites carried out by Boston's elite." Surely with such varied fare, there is something within *New Views* to pique the appetite of any reader of New England history.

The next publishing season for the CSM looks to be just as busy as the last. Not only is it likely to include the third volume of *The Papers of Francis Bernard*, but also the first volume of *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*. Editor of Publications John Tyler and his Associate Editor for the Hutchinson Project, Elizabeth Dubrulle, have been working on this first volume for over a decade in the few off-duty moments that Tyler's full-time teaching job at Groton School and his other work for the Colonial Society allow. The volume begins with a letter to his wife from London written on April 13, 1741 and ends December 31, 1766. Existing letters are frustratingly scant until his appointment as Chief Justice in 1760, and even then don't begin to survive with any satisfying frequency until the time of the Stamp Act in 1765. Hutchinson's prose is clear rather than eloquent, but the letters are rich with his insights in the actions and characters of his contemporaries. When reading them, one is reminded of Hutchinson's remark while writing the third volume of his *History of the Colony and Province of Massachusetts-Bay*: "I tell [James] Otis and the others that I shall be revenged on them long after I am dead." Highlights of the first volume include Hutchinson's long battle to establish a stable circulating medium for Massa-

chusetts, his precarious relationship with Thomas Pownall during the French and Indian War, the controversy over his appointment as Chief Justice, the Writs of Assistance case and the Boston merchants' legal assault on the customs service, his redrafting of the General Court's petition against the Stamp Act, the destruction of his Boston town house on August 26, 1765, and his efforts to win compensation for his losses either from the General Court or from the Crown.

Sometime in the fall of 2014, a sixth volume of *Portrait of a Patriot: The Major Political and Legal Papers of Josiah Quincy Junior* should begin production. The Publications Committee originally projected only a five-volume series ending with Vice-President Dan Coquillette's two-volume, newly-annotated edition of Quincy's *Reports of Cases Argued and Adjudged before the Superior Court*, however, any series of Quincy's *Major Political and Legal Papers* seemed incomplete without inclusion of his many newspaper essays (some written under pseudonyms) upon which his reputation as one the leading Patriot spokesmen in Boston depended. Fellow Member Neil York, editor of the first volume in the *Quincy Papers*, agreed to take on the task at the urging of Publications Chair Pauline Maier. The volume will include as well as Quincy's newspaper writing, his letters (some of which were incorporated by Susan Eliza Quincy in her 1825 biography) and will culminate in a reprinting of his 1774 pamphlet *Observations on the Act of Parliament Commonly Called the Boston Port Bill*.

Douglas Winiarski of the University of Richmond continues to work away on *The Memoirs of Josiah Cotton* (1680–1756), who was the son of John Cotton Jr., whose correspondence we printed in Volume 79 of our Publications. Cotton spent his life working in Plymouth as a schoolmaster, county court justice, and Indian missionary, while managing a large farm. In 1726, Cotton began compiling a family history for the moral edification of his children. Over time, the manuscript evolved into a sprawling memoir in which the Plymouth magistrate commented on a wide range of notable events, from paper currency debates and imperial warfare to regional religious controversies and local intrigue. From 1727 until his death in 1756, Cotton retreated to his study on his birthday to record the "remarkable occurrences" of the previous year. Each annual narrative moved outward from personal and family business, to local events in Plymouth and the surrounding communities of southeastern Massachusetts, to regional political and religious developments, and, finally, to news spanning the British empire.

Fellow Members David Hancock and Mark Peterson are nearly finished transcribing the Account Books of John Hull (1624–1683), silversmith, mintmaster (who cre-

ated the Pine Tree Shilling), and paymaster of Massachusetts forces during King Philip's War, but there is still much annotation left to do.

So the publications schedule for the next few years is quite full, but we are always looking for new projects. If you know of a promising early Massachusetts manuscript collection (and even better, have a potential editor in mind), please contact either Pauline Maier, chair of the Publications Committee (pmaier@mit.edu) or our Editor of Publications (jtyler@groton.org).

## A Note for CSM Authors

All Colonial Society authors are cordially reminded that the Society maintains a library of signed works by its members at its headquarters. In the midst of all the excitement of publishing a new book, please remember to send a signed copy to 87 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. If you have forgotten to do this in the past, previously printed books are welcome as well. The collection, which includes some of the best-known works in early American history, constitutes an impressive part of the Society's second-floor library.

## News of Members

**Francis Bremer** – retired from teaching in June 2011, but continued to research seventeenth-century Atlantic puritanism. In April he had a research fellowship at Trinity College, Dublin. His book *First Founders: America Puritans and Puritanism in an Atlantic World* (University Press of New England) appeared in May. Another book, *Building a New Jerusalem: John Davenport, A Puritan in Three Worlds*, will be published by Yale University Press in October of this year. He is currently working on a book examining the many uses of shared lay religious experiences in the seventeenth-century Atlantic world.

**Georgia Barnhill** – would like to announce her retirement from the American Antiquarian Society as director of the Center for Historic American Visual Culture. She edited the Colonial Society's most recent volume *New Views of New England*. She also edited *With a French Accent: American Lithography to 1860* published by AAS this past spring. She will be turning her attention now to a long-time interest in the history of illustration for American literature, 1790 to 1880.

**Ben Carp** – during the past year has written “Did Dutch Smugglers Provoke the Boston Tea Party?” *Early American Studies* (Special Issue: Anglo-Dutch Revolutions), 10, 2 (spring 2012): 335–59 and “Franklin and the Coming of the American Revolution,” an entry in *A Companion to Benjamin Franklin*, edited by Fellow Member David Waldstreicher (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011). His current research concerns the destruction of civilian buildings during the Revolutionary War.

**Joyce Chaplin** – was appointed to the Administrative Board of the Papers of Benjamin Franklin, jointly published by Yale University and the American Philosophical Society; edited *Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography*, Norton Critical Edition (New York: W. W. Norton, Jan. 2012); and will soon publish *Round About the Earth: Circumnavigation from Magellan to Orbit* (New York: Simon & Schuster, Nov. 2012).

**Richard P. Gildrie** – retired from the Department of History and Philosophy at Austin Peay State University in 2010.

**Philip Gura's** *The American Antiquarian Society, 1812–2012: A Bicentennial History* has just been published. In April, Farrar, Straus and Giroux will bring out his *Truth's Ragged Edge: The Rise of the American Novel*.

**Thomas Horrocks** – assumed the position of Director of the John Hay Library at Brown University, effective July 9, 2012.

**Christopher Hussey** – reports his essay on the Warren Farm is now revised, completed with edits, and in the hands of the Pilgrim Society Publication Committee. They are exploring publication venues, and it may appear in a future issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly*. The full document with all the appendix materials is on file (hard copy and digital) at Pilgrim Hall. He also made a presentation on the Warren family and farm to two third-grade sections of the Runkle School in Brookline.

**Michael Kammen** - published *Digging Up the Dead: A History of Notable American Reburials* (University of Chicago Press). It touches upon the history and burial sites of Roger Williams, Sam Adams, George Whitefield, Nathanael Greene, and many others.

**Rick Kennedy** is one of the editors of the multivolume edition of Cotton Mather's massive *Biblia Americana*, which is being published simultaneously in America and Germany. He received a fellowship this summer at the MHS to support the work. Volume one has already been published, edited by Fellow Member and General Editor Reiner Smolinski, and subsequent volumes are in prepara-

tion. Rick's latest article is “Historians as Flower Pickers and Honey Bees: Cotton Mather and the Common-place-Book Tradition of History” in *Cotton Mather and Biblia Americana—America's First Bible Commentary*, edited by Reiner Smolinski and Jan Stievermann (Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baker Academic, 2010), 261–276.

**Daniel Mandell** – received a long-term NEH-AAS fellowship through May 2013. His project is a study of the evolution of the notion of equality in America, circa 1600–1880, and his research at the AAS will focus on the period 1790–1850. Several short pieces he has written will appear within the next year: “Massachusetts” and “Rhode Island,” in *Native America: A State-By-State Historical Encyclopedia* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO Greenwood, 2012); “Turned Their Minds to Religion: Oquaga and the First Iroquois Church, 1748–1776,” *Early American Studies*, Spring 2013; and “A Natural & Unalienable Right: New England Revolutionary Petitions and African American Identity,” in *Remembering the Revolution: Memory, History, and Nation-Making from Independence to the Civil War*, eds. Robert Aldrich et al. (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press) to be published circa August 2013.

**William Martin** – writes, “I will be publishing my tenth novel, *The Lincoln Letter*, on August 21. It's the fifth adventure to feature Peter Fallon, the Boston antiquarian who's been getting himself into tight fixes since *Back Bay*. He is searching for Abraham Lincoln's lost diary. It doesn't have anything to do with colonial history, but it does feature Massachusetts men Charles Sumner and Oliver Wendell Holmes, along with members of the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Did you know that a few months before he performed his most noted deed, John Wilkes Booth had an agent buy a lot for him in the new lands of the Back Bay, at 133 Commonwealth?”

**Marcus McCorison** – has published a short book with the Society of Printers (Boston) entitled *Percy Grassby, 1882–1972, An Outsider Inside Boston's World of Print*. Grassby, a fine draughtsman and engraver on wood and metal, was a participant in Boston's years of typographic renaissance. He also has in press a biographical sketch of Benjamin Tighe, 1895–1975, of Worcester and Athol, who was an extremely talented book scout.

**Jane Nylander** – was elected a trustee of Old Sturbridge Village and is chair of the board's Collections Committee, which she acknowledges is an interesting experience twenty-five years after leaving OSV's curatorial staff.



# *Annual Appeal, 9/1/2011 - 8/31/2012*

The Annual Fund complements our endowment and rental income, members' dues, and sales of books to maintain the Society's financial position and the high quality of our publications and programs.

## *Samuel Eliot Morison Circle*

Christopher M. Jedrey

## *Frederick Jackson Turner Circle*

Frederick D. Ballou

Daniel R. Coquillette

John Ritchie Garrison

Ebenezer Gay

Amalie M. Kass

## *Sustaining Circle*

Anonymous (4)	Robert Egleston	Pauline Maier	Nathaniel N. Shipton
Robert J. Allison	Jeannine Falino	William Martin	Caroline F. Sloat
Virginia and Fred Anderson	Norman Fiering	Marcus A. McCorison	Robert H. Smith
Thomas Appleton	Dennis Fiori	Drew R. McCoy	Reiner Smolinski
Rodney Armstrong	Donald R. Friary	Sheila McIntyre	Lionel Spiro
Prof. James Axtell	Susan J. Gogonian	Martha McNamara	Judge and Mrs. George R. Sprague
Bernard Bailyn	David L. Greene	Rick and Bunny Melvoin	John R. Stilgoe
Georgia B. Barnhill	Robert A. Gross	Catherine Menand	Charles M. Sullivan
Anne Bentley	Peter Haack	Kenneth P. Minkema	Kevin M. Sweeney
Beth Anne Bower	Elton W. Hall	Christopher Monkhouse	Bryant F. Tolles, Jr.
Helen Breen	Robert LaB. Hall	James David Moran	Thomas H. Townsend
Francis J. Bremer	John B. Hench	Leslie A. Morris	Len Travers
Gorham F. Brigham Jr.	James A. Henretta	Roger Moulton	Louis L. Tucker
Richard D. Brown	Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth H. Hills, Jr.	John Murrin	Norman P. Tucker
Thomas H. Buffinton	Henry B. Hoff	Karen Nipps	John W. Tyler
David and Frances Burnham	John M. Hoffman	Nicholas Noyes	William B. Tyler
Richard Bushman	Sytske Humphrey-Vreugdenhil	Richard and Jane Nylander	Gerald R. and Barbara M. Ward
Miriam W. Butts	Christopher Hussey	Sharon H. O'Connor	Edward L. Widmer
John Cabot	David B. Ingram	William B. Osgood	Thomas R. Wilcox, Jr.
Hon. Levin H. Campbell	Benjamin H. Irvin	James M. O'Toole	Alicia C. Williams
Charles F. Carroll	F. Washington Jarvis	Thomas M. Paine	Gordon S. Wood
Cary Carson	Ruth Oliver Jolliffe	Carla Pestana	Conrad E. Wright
David K. Case	Douglas L. Jones	Mark A. Peterson	L. Kinvin Wroth
Anne Decker Cecere	Patricia E. Kane	Jenny Hale Pulsipher	David A. Wylie
Charles E. Clark	Albert T. Klyberg	Anne Grimes Rand	Neil L. York
Anthony J. Connors	Thomas Knoles	John W. Reps	Hiller B. Zobel
Cornelia Hughes Dayton	William A. Koelsch	Linda Smith Rhoads	Michael Zuckerman
Claire Dempsey	Barry J. Levy	Alan Rogers	
Seymour DiMare	Susan L. Lively	Jesper Rosenmeier	
Anne Donaghy	Robert W. Mack	Neal Salisbury	
W. Dean Eastman		Eric B. Schultz	

### **In honor of Donald Friary**

Simons Family Foundation

### **Walter Muir Whitehill Prize Fund**

William M. Fowler, Jr.

### **William M. Fowler, Jr., Fund**

Harvey I. Steinberg

*We apologize for any omissions or errors in the above lists. Please contact us to note corrections. Thank you.*

**Thomas Paine** – is compiling a timeline of New England-China connections, which begin as early as 1784 with Samuel Shaw of Boston who opens the first American trading company in Canton. He includes Houqua, leading cohong merchant in Canton and friend of John Murray Forbes, who through him became the first Chinese investor in America by investing in early railroads. The 1848 lithograph showing the fountain in the Frog Pond at the opening of Lake Cochichuate public water supply shows the first Chinese person in Boston (next to Daniel Webster). Any leads on specific Chinese names associated with Boston and New England especially in the nineteenth century would be much appreciated. Copies of the timeline are available on request. He says his association with a Shanghai-based design firm piqued his interest in this now three-plus centuries of crosscultural exchange.

**Jesper Rosenmeier** – His book, *'Spirituell Concupiscence': John Cotton's English Years, 1584-1633*, will be published in September by Richard Kay Publications in Boston, Lincolnshire.

**Clem Silvestro** says that his scholarly interests have migrated from early America to learning more about the lives of his fellow combatants in World War II. His wife, Betty, died in October leaving him alone after sixty years of marriage. His grandson is a sophomore on the dean's list at Brandeis, and he and Clem's daughter Elizabeth and her husband, who live in St. Thomas, U.S. V.I., visit frequently.

**Caroline Sloat** – edited and selected the images for Philip Gura's *The American Antiquarian Society, 1812-2012: A Bicentennial History* (mentioned above.)

**John Tyler** – has joined the Cultural Resources Committee of the Trustees of Reservations.

**Alden Vaughan** – together with his wife, Virginia, published in May 2012 *Shakespeare in America*, a concise account of (to quote from the publisher's blurb) "how American culture has embraced the English playwright and poet from colonial times to the present . . . from the scholarly — criticism, editions of the plays, and curricula, to the light-hearted — burlesques, musical comedies, and kitsch." Massachusetts, of course, plays a prominent role.

**Nicholas Westbrook** – retired in spring 2009 after twenty years as director at Fort Ticonderoga. With the completion that year of five years of activities, programs and publications, he stepped down as Vice Chair (the non-political leader) of the New York State French &

Indian War Commission. On September 15, 2009, he was the sole American historian invited to speak at the international *Colloque* organized by the National Battlefield Commission and the Canadian Ministry of Defence to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battle on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City. His 2009 lecture was published in 2011 by the Sorbonne as "For the Encouragement of Able-Bodied, Effective Men. . . : La Levée d'une armée provinciale pour 'l'Invasion du Canada' pendant la Guerre de Sept Ans," in *La Guerre de Sept Ans en Nouvelle-France*, Laurent Veyssiere and Bertrand Fonck, eds. His current project is a close examination of the wartime experience and subsequent career of a young company clerk in the Connecticut provincial forces during the French & Indian War.

**David R. Whitesell** – left the American Antiquarian Society in March for the University of Virginia, where he is now Curator in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library; in Charlottesville he continues to teach two week-long courses annually at Rare Book School. Before leaving AAS he served as lead curator for its bicentennial exhibition, "In Pursuit of a Vision: Two Centuries of Collecting Americana at the American Antiquarian Society," which opened on September 11 at The Grolier Club in New York. He also served as editor for Fellow member Roger E. Stoddard's *A Bibliographical Description of Books and Pamphlets of American Verse Printed from 1610 through 1820*, published in August by Penn State University Press for the Bibliographical Society of America.

## *Graduate Student Forum*

Our Graduate Student Forum convened on April 27, with presenters from seven American and one Scottish universities discussing religion, warfare, slavery, natural and preternatural phenomena, friendship, and Masonry. Committee members Susan Lively, Bob Gross, and Bob Allison chose the presenters from more than twenty applicants—the largest pool so far. The presenters chosen benefitted from the comments and questions from Colonial Society members, and from commentators Martha McNamara, Bob Hall, and Jane Kamensky, and from Guest Moderator Jack Greene, who closed the day with his own reflections on the state of early American history.

Karen Ordahl Kupperman will be our guest moderator at next year's Graduate Student Forum—Friday, May 10, 2013.

## Recommended Reading

**Bob Allison** was inspired by the bicentennial of the War of 1812 to read more about Edmund Quincy's biography of Josiah Quincy—the son of our Josiah Quincy. This Josiah Quincy was an outspoken opponent of the War of 1812, and is still the only Mayor of Boston to become President of Harvard (hence he is called the President, to differentiate him from his father, the Patriot). Asked in the Fall of 1814 what he thought the Hartford Convention would produce, Quincy said, “A great pamphlet!”

**Frederick Ballou** recommends *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul* by John Barry and *The Sugar Barons: Family, Corruption, Empire and War in the West Indies* by Matthew Parker.

**Francis Bremer** enjoyed David D. Hall, *A Reforming People: Puritanism and the Transformation of Public Life in New England* (Knopf, 2011); Michael Winship, *Godly Republicanism: Puritans, Pilgrims, and a City on a Hill* (Harvard, 2012); and Evan Haefeli, *New Netherland and the Dutch Origins of American Religious Liberty* (Penn, 2012).

**Levin Campbell** strongly recommends *Planting an Empire: The Early Chesapeake in British North America* by Jean B. Russo and J. Elliott Russo (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). It describes the beginnings of Virginia and Maryland up to the 1760s. It is succinct (227 pages) — a readable and balanced overview, incorporating main themes developed in the extensive scholarship up through the past 60 years regarding trade, economics, rise of an elite, impact upon Native Americans, slavery, etc. of this region. As one who admires readable, coherent but also careful and scholarly historical writing, he found the book an absolute delight for one who enjoys books accessible to general readers. It contains a fine Essay on Sources at the end.

**Thomas Horrocks** suggests *President James Buchanan and the Crisis of National Leadership*, recently published by Nova Publications.

**Rick Kennedy**, as one of our few West Coast members, feels duty-bound to recommend John Kessel's *Spain in the Southwest: A Narrative History of Colonial New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, and California* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2002), which Rick describes as a “subtle, empathetic, and open-minded history of the Spanish empire's aspirations.”

**Mary Beth Norton** liked Sarah Pearsall, *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century* (Oxford University Press).

**Carl Nold's** stack of books for summer reading contained two titles he thought especially good: *A Landscape History of New England*, Blake Harrison and Richard W. Judd eds., (MIT Press, 2011) is a compendium of essays dealing with how New Englanders have viewed and shaped the land of the region over time. It is a wide-ranging work that looks at both urban and rural settings to suggest how the land has been important in both practice and myth, from pre-history to the recent past; and *Dr. Joseph Warren: The Boston Tea Party, Bunker Hill, and the Birth of American Liberty*, by Samuel A. Forman (Pelican Press, 2011) provides a fresh examination of our somewhat forgotten founding father, bringing as much life to the namesake of Roxbury's Warren Street as the historical record allows. The appendix examining the veracity of Warren relics held by some of our most important historical organizations is fascinating.

**Thomas Paine** likes Tom Truxes' *Defying the Empire: Trading with the Enemy in Colonial New York* (Yale, 2008) and Eric Hinderacker, *The Two Hendricks: Unraveling a Mohawk Mystery* (Harvard University Press, 2010). Both were stunningly fresh interpretations of their topics. Truxes' was especially fine, and written with a gripping concision.

**Clem Silvestro** describes A.N. Wilson's *The Elizabethans* as “a wonderful account of this period of British history.”

**Caroline Sloat** recommends Nicole Eustis's *1812: War and the Passions of Patriotism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012).

**Nicholas Westbrook** - My current favorite is Stephen J. Hornsby's outstanding *Surveyors of Empire: Samuel Holland, J.F.W. DesBarres and the Making of the ATLANTIC NEPTUNE* (McGill / Queens University Press, 2011). The book is elegantly written, designed and produced. I assume that the subtitle aspires to name recognition via *Neptune*. In fact the book is about *much* more: the development of imperial cartography, understanding the geographical consequences of the British victory in 1763, settling colonial boundary disputes, surveying the interior of Maine and maritime Canada (to assist land speculation) while neglecting to survey the interiors of other colonies (which might have had military benefit by the 1770s!), etc., etc. Designing and publishing the *NEPTUNE* concerns only one chapter of seven.



THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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### *Dates to Remember*

October 24, 2012 Publication launch for *New Views of New England*, 5-7 P.M.

November 15, 2012 Annual Meeting at 6 P.M. followed by dinner at the Somerset Club

December 20, 2012 Colin Nicolson, University of Stirling, Scotland, “Negotiating British Imperialism: Gov. Francis Bernard and the Stamp Act Crisis, 1764-67” at 3 P.M.

February 21, 2013 Ruth Herndon and Amílcar E. Challú, Bowling Green State University, *Mapping the Boston Poor: Inmates of the Boston Almshouse, 1795-1815* at 3 P.M.

March 6-8, 2013 Boston Furniture Conference, Winterthur, Delaware

April 18, 2013 Stephen Marini, Wellesley College, “Regular Singing Reconsidered: Local, Regional, and Transatlantic Origins of the Psalmody Reform Movement in New England, 1698-1728” at 3 P.M.

May 10, 2013 Graduate Student Forum, Karen Ordahl Kupperman, guest moderator