



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

September 2016 Volume XXI, Number 1

Letter from the President

Dear Members:

A YEAR AGO the Colonial Society faced several major challenges. Restoration of the severe storm damage of 2014-2015 was about to begin in a race against the onset of another winter. Many furnishings at 87 Mount Vernon Street were in need of conservation treatment. Our ample basement storage space for publications was near capacity. And our ambitious plan to make every Colonial Society publication available to all, free of charge, threatened to overload our existing website.

These daunting challenges have been met. A mild winter made it possible to repair the substantial ice damage to our Society's house under the watchful eyes of our House Committee, ably chaired by Richard Nylander, with significant expertise and time commitment of member Lynne Spencer. The House Committee also began to address conservation needs with expert assistance from member Robert Mussey, who guided the treatment of two major pieces of Boston furniture made in the shop of Isaac Vose for the Parkman family. Two paintings were conserved, thanks to the generosity of members David Burnham and Robert Severy.

Publications storage reached emergency status when we learned, on short notice, that the University of Virginia Press would close its warehouse and ship all of our volumes to Boston. John Tyler, Toby Hall, and I continue to search for solutions, but interim measures have freed enough space to accommodate the shipment from Charlottesville.

Last December, discussion at a meeting of the Committee on Publications indicated that the Society and our widest audience would be best served by the creation of a

new website to make available our digitized publications at the level of quality that has been maintained for over a hundred years by the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. An anonymous donor came forth to offer a one-to-one challenge grant of \$20,000 to match gifts received by December 31, 2016. Our Development Committee chaired by Susan Lindsey Lively moved into high gear in January, issued an appeal to all members in April, and reached the goal early in June, thanks to the generosity of so many members. In the meantime, Kenneth Minkema, Chair of the Committee on Publications, and John Tyler have been diligently developing the new website that will bring our Society into the 21st century.

I thank all the committees and individuals and generous donors who have done so much in the last twelve months to meet our challenges and achieve our goals.

Sincerely,

DONALD R. FRIARY
President

A (Very) Brief Report on Publications

Boston Furniture, 1700-1900, edited by Fellow Members Brock Jobe and Gerry Ward, will be the only Colonial Society Publication this calendar year. Production slowed when a key member of the team, who had been gathering the over 460 photographs that illustrate the volume, suffered a heart attack. She's doing fine now, but Brock and Gerry needed to jump in to sort out permissions with the various lending institutions and that set us back several months. The designer, Paul Hoffmann, formerly with the Stinehour Press and the designer of a number of

CSM volumes, has now completed his work. The final layouts of the manuscript have been sent to an indexer who has already begun her task, and John Tyler, Editor of Publications, has begun to solicit bids from printers to produce the book. The book is likely to appear in the late fall as a printed work and six months later as an e-book via the new Colonial Society of Massachusetts website. Like other CSM publications, the University of Virginia Press will distribute the printed book, which will retail for \$75.

Throughout the spring and summer, Scribe, Inc. has been proceeding with the digitization of the entire Colonial Society backlist. All 85 volumes that the Society has published since 1892 have now been scanned and checked and will be posted on the new website as soon as it is ready later this fall, where they can be consulted online or downloaded by anyone around the world. (As a point of reference, volumes 4 and 5 of *The Papers of Francis Bernard*, the only CSM publications available electronically so far, were receiving as many as 1500 hits a month during the first six months after they appeared. It's hard to imagine that library consultations of any of our books neared that total, so the CSM is reaching a brand-new audience.)

Chairman of the Publications Committee Ken Minkema and John Tyler, assisted by Robert Mack and Jim Baker, the Society's techno-gurus, have been guiding the designers at Scribe, Inc. through the first stages of the new website. The website will unroll in several phases. The first version will not only have a more contemporary look, but should be easier for visitors to navigate. As noted above, it will feature all our publications for easy consultation. The second stage of website development will involve facilitating the development online of crowd-sourced documents, as CSM Editors Jeff Cooper and Ken Minkema have been doing so successfully with the diary of Samuel Phillips, pastor of the First Church in Rowley from 1651 through 1696. They have assembled over thirty volunteers, including several ministers, a number of professors, a few genealogists, university librarians, several grad students and a number of history-loving retired people, who hail from all over the US and Canada, as well as Switzerland; Cambridge, England; and St. Andrew's, Scotland. According to Cooper, "All were very respectful of the importance of the project, and eager to do a good and accurate job."

The new website will eventually be able to accom-

modate shorter edited documents that, while worthy of annotation and preservation, were not long enough to merit treatment as full-length books. In the past, the Publications Committee had reluctantly declined to take on such projects because of the lack of a suitable format or unwillingness to shoehorn documents on disparate subjects into a single volume without a clear purpose or theme. With the new website, we should be better able to meet this need.

So even though the Colonial Society is printing just one title this year, we should soon be reaching new readers all around the world in exciting formats that Henry Edes or Walter Whitehill might never have imagined.

Conservation Continues at the Colonial Society

Elton W. Hall, *Curator*

As the Council of the Society continues to exercise its stewardship of all aspects of our property, increased attention is being given to our possessions. With reestablishment of the House Committee, now chaired by Richard Nylander, the expertise among our members in the area of care for collections is being gathered and focused on the needs of our collections. While not binding ourselves to any hard and fast rules, we have a good consensus as to the factors that inform our priorities as to the order in which we should proceed. Among them are the cultural and historical importance of each object, its stability, its usefulness as part of the decoration of the house, and its interest to those working in the field to which the piece belongs. The appraisal of our collections performed last year is also a significant consideration. One other particularly gratifying factor that can readily move any object to the head of the list is the interest of a member in seeing that object restored and providing the funds for its accomplishment. The four objects chosen for conservation this year reflect one or more of these factors.

Among the very few things we have that relate to the early ownership of the house, the brightest star is certainly the pastel portrait of Stephen Higginson, Jr. (1770-1834), the first owner (Fig. 1). Higginson was an enterprising and successful merchant who accumulated an

independent fortune early in his business career. He was well-known for his many public benefactions, as well as the large dinner parties and sumptuous evening entertainments he held when he and his young second wife, Louisa Storrow, moved into their new house at what is now 87 Mount Vernon Street. Alas, the Higginson family did not have long to enjoy their handsome mansion, because within a few years he was ruined by the embargo. He managed to stay in the house, aided by members of his family, until 1815, when the contents were sold and the property conveyed to William Sawyer. Financial distress was no stain on his character, however, and by 1818 he was living in Cambridge, where he was appointed steward (chief administrative officer) of Harvard University, a position that he held from 1818 to 1827. There he landscaped and enclosed the Yard, and was the first to build a house on Harvard land along Kirkland Street that became known as "Professors Row." He was also one of the citizens that got together to enclose Cambridge Common in 1830.

While attending an event at our house last spring, fellow member David Burnham quietly made it known that he would be interested in underwriting a conservation project, should we have one at hand. Almost simultaneously we learned that fellow members Susan Maycock and Charles Sullivan had a publication, *Building Old Cambridge: Architecture and Development*, about ready for the press. They were very much interested in using the Higginson portrait as an illustration, as it is one of only two known likenesses of him. Alas the ravages of time and dampness had greatly dimmed that star to the point that its illustration would flatter none of the parties involved. But here was an opportunity to conserve an object of great historical interest to the house, in time to be of service to two members who were making a significant contribution to knowledge, through the generosity of another member. The pieces all came together beautifully.

Conservation of pastel pigment on parchment with a strong water stain required special skills. We chose the Williamstown Art Conservation Center for the work. Don Friary delivered the portrait to their shop, where they did a remarkably good job of reducing the stain, stabilizing the work, and returning it to its contemporary frame, which they also conserved. We renew our thanks to David Burnham for making it possible for us to accomplish this restoration so promptly.

Those who attend Colonial Society meetings spend

more time seated in front of this landscape by an unknown artist than any other picture we have (Fig. 2). The painting was among the earliest gifts to the Society after we moved into the house, but we have no information about it whatever. There is surely a story attached to it, perhaps a biblical or literary reference, but all we can do is speculate. One thing we could be certain about is that it had once been restored, perhaps one might tactfully say in a conservation workshop rather than a conservation laboratory and a long time before it came to us. It had been lined and losses painted over. There were some bulges in the surface, and the varnish had turned yellow. We could be held responsible for some of the surface dirt. After all, for the first few years we were here we burned coal. To complete the sad picture, several pieces of the elaborate gilt gesso frame had parted, leaving gaps or reinforcing wires visible.

Our fellow member Robert Severy, who has already provided good service to the Society by supporting the conservation of another landscape that now brightens the appearance of the dining room, took note of this painting, observing its condition. He offered to underwrite its conservation with a gift in memory of his friend and our longtime Editor of Publications, Walter Muir Whitehill, who was responsible for the acquisition of most of the furnishings of our house. It was Robert who introduced us to Carmichael Art Conservation in Bedford, who did the work on both of these paintings. We have been very pleased both with their treatment of the paintings and with their detailed photographic and written documentation of their work, including specific reference to all the materials they employ. Once more, we thank Robert Severy for his contribution to the improvement of our surroundings.

As I have had occasion to mention before in these newsletters, an important project once in motion often leads to other useful accomplishments. The Four Centuries of Massachusetts Furniture undertaking stimulated a survey of our furniture to identify Boston pieces. That led to the identification of the Isaac Vose sofa, which in turn directed Robert Mussey's scrutiny to other pieces in high Boston Classical style, which after careful study he was able to attribute to Vose with confidence. For a forthcoming exhibition, the Massachusetts Historical Society has requested the loan of two of these, a child's bed and a bookcase, both of which were part of the gift of the grandchildren of Francis Parkman, which



Fig. 1. Stephen Higginson, Jr., by Charles Hayter, London, 1820, gift of Mrs. Augustus V. Tack



Fig. 2. Landscape by unknown artist



Fig. 3. Child's bed attributed to Isaac Vose, Boston, 1822-1825, gift of the grandchildren of Francis Parkman, Jr.

also brought us the Vose sofa. Because photographs for an accompanying publication would be required, the Collections Committee decided to move these two pieces to the head of the conservation list so that they could be presented looking their very best.

This French Empire style child's bed (Fig. 3) was probably made to the order of the Rev. Francis Parkman, for his son Francis Parkman, Jr., the historian who was a member of the Colonial Society during the last year of his life. While generally structurally sound, it had suffered from the dirt and superficial damage of almost two centuries of use. There were cracks, chips, bulges, and minor losses of veneer and molding. Scratches, abrasions, and sun bleaching as well as dirt and old wax marred the surfaces and obscured the figure of the mahogany. The ormolu mounts were dirty, and in places brass showed through the gold. The large ormolu mount on the front molding was missing, but there was a shadow and nail holes left behind, and by great good fortune, a replacement was found that exactly matched the evidence. Early in his examination, Robert Mussey noticed that the ormolu capitals at the head of the columns depict the fable of Little Red Riding Hood, adding an unusual and charming element. Thus released from its dismal appearance, the bed has become a delight. It is now set up in the third-floor room that was originally the master bedroom.

Those members who have been to the Society's house will probably recognize this bookcase, which is one of the major pieces of furniture in the dining room (Fig. 4). Robert considers it to be the finest known from the Vose shop. Like the bed, this piece had the kinds of losses and damage that one would expect to find on furniture of its age. There were a few additional problems such as binding doors and drawers, and spatters of paint. While there had been some superficial efforts to improve its appearance over the years, fortunately, as with the bed, there is no evidence that it was ever stripped of its original finish. The restoration was accomplished by gentle cleaning, securing loose veneer, replacing losses, color adjustment of sun-bleached areas with tinted wax, and a final polish. The brass parts were cleaned and coated with microcrystalline wax to retard future corrosion.



Fig. 4. Cabinet and bookcase attributed to Isaac Vose, Boston, 1822-1825, gift of the grandchildren of Francis Parkman, Jr.

The accomplishment of these four projects is a significant advance in our efforts to exercise proper stewardship of our possessions. Their selection represents the various factors by which we prioritize our projects, be they importance of the objects themselves, importance to the house, or importance to the field. We rejoice when all of the above apply. We also rejoice over the generosity of our members, in this case David Burnham and Robert Severy, which has allowed us to go ahead on two projects that otherwise would have been postponed.

A CSM Reading List

Peggy Baker and **Jeff Pearlman** both recommend Fellow Member Nat Philbrick's *Valiant Ambition*. Neither the usual history nor the usual biography, it is instead a captivating look at the divergent paths of George Washington and Benedict Arnold, as adverse circumstances (attributable both to the British, and even more memorably to an eerily dysfunctional Continental Congress) inspire one to greatness and the other to treachery.

Benjamin Carp wants to draw members' attention to two books they may have missed: *Propaganda 1776: Secrets, Leaks, and Revolutionary Communications in Early America*, by Russ Castronovo, and *Seasons of Misery: Catastrophe and Colonial Settlement in Early America*, by Kathleen Donegan.

Marla Miller writes about Ann M. Little's *The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright* (Yale University Press), "In Little's hands, Wheelwright becomes a vehicle for discussions of any number of subjects, from comparative imperialism to gender, authority and aging in colonial North America. The biographical lens makes it possible to convey important but comparatively abstract historiographical analysis through tangible life experiences."

John W. Tyler has been reading Andrew Lipman's *The Saltwater Frontier: Indians and the Contest for the American Coast*, which is less a work of new research than a reconception of the waters of Long Island Sound, Buzzards Bay, and Nantucket Sound as a highway for both indigenous people and settlers rather than a barrier that separated them. Some readers may be surprised to learn that Indians were equally as adept navigators as the English and Dutch. Lipman also takes advantage of recently translated Dutch sources to illustrate the ways in which New Netherlands interacted quite differently (and less successfully) with Native Americans than the New England colonies.

A Winter's Tale

The winter of 2014-2015 was unusually severe in coastal New England. Temperatures were unseasonably cold and snow came in torrents. As it accumulated on the roof of 87 Mount Vernon Street, the snow became a hazard for life

and property. Warm air inside the house, as it rose to the attic, melted snow on the roof. As the water coursed down that slope beyond the attic's warmth, ice formed at the roof's edge. We became alarmed when we noticed that the ice was pulling copper flashing from beneath the slate roof to project over the façade of the house. The ice dam at the roof's edge grew steadily and also projected over the façade. Finally, the dam gave way, taking window caps from the second floor and the cast iron railing from the porch roof. Fortunately, no one was in the path of this cascading ice and snow. We were relieved to discover no interior leakage or other damage in the house.

The Society's House Committee, chaired by Richard Nylander, worked with Curator Toby Hall to assess the situation. One committee member, Lynne Spencer, an architectural preservation specialist, guided us in mapping a solution. She obtained a price for rectifying the damage from Essex Restoration. Our insurance carrier agreed with the figure of \$103,290 and mailed a check for that amount less our \$5,000 deductible. By this time we were facing another winter and the Council decided to engage Essex Restoration as construction manager for the project so that work could begin quickly. Scaffolding rose and building craftsmen went to work on the roof. On the recommendation of the House Committee and with the approval of the Council, we took the opportunity to do additional work—reinforcing the roof frame, reslating the entire south roof, repairing and replacing our party wall with 89 Mount Vernon Street, etc.—to prepare the house for future winters. The unusually mild winter of 2015-2016 made possible the completion of the bulk of the work. Additional work—insulating the attic, chimney repairs—are under discussion to forestall future storm damage.

We are most grateful to Lynne Spencer of Spencer & Vogt Group, Architecture & Preservation for contributing significant time and her substantial expertise to this project.

Promoting Rhode Island's Heritage

By Albert Klyberg

After nearly three decades of cobbling together a consortium of Rhode Island museums and cultural groups, the project to create a collaborative state history museum in

a decommissioned power plant on the Providence waterfront came to naught when the commercial development partner decamped, citing insufficient state historic tax credits necessary to complete the work. Revived interest in the site, however, for nursing schools and administrative offices for Brown University, has created a new entity friendly to promoting Rhode Island history.

Since a small clause in the building's deed stipulated that no other activity could ever take place in the building without there being a history museum at the site, the new developers were forced to buy out the museum's interest. After negotiations, a multimillion-dollar fund has been established at the Rhode Island Foundation on behalf of the new Heritage Harbor Foundation. Beginning this December, the new foundation will make grants to organizations proposing to conduct programs about Rhode Island history similar to what would have once occurred at the site. In keeping with the definition of the field as conceived by a Rhode Island history roundtable in the mid-1980s, grants will go to public history activities delivering historical insights to the general public and school-age populations. A website, heritageharborfoundation.org, explains the process.

The ultimate goal of the new foundation is to raise the history literacy level among the state's population with a view toward encouraging broader civic engagement and promoting more perspective of time in the conduct of civic affairs.

CSM member Albert Klyberg is vice-president of the Heritage Harbor Foundation.

Graduate Student Forum

Since our first Graduate Forum in 1999, the Colonial Society has hosted 127 students, representing fifty-seven schools, at 87 Mount Vernon Street for a day of presentations, discussion, and scholarly engagement. The graduate students have the opportunity to engage with Colonial Society members and with one another as they share their pathbreaking research. For many of the presenters, this is their first formal conference presentation, and for most it is the only opportunity to engage with a cohort of scholars in their field.

We have been fortunate that so many of our members have participated—as senior scholars, as commentators, asking questions, providing tips for books or areas of

research, and as audience members. “It was a great opportunity to workshop my ideas and get feedback,” a participant at our most recent forum said.

Perhaps the greatest mark of the Forum's success is that so many of the participants are continuing to pursue the study of Early American, or Colonial New England history. They have returned to 87 Mount Vernon to present new work, they have sent their own students to present at the Graduate Forum, and at this moment seventeen have become elected Members of the Colonial Society.

Mark your calendars—our next Graduate Forum is May 19, 2017. David Hackett Fischer, University Professor and Earl Warren Professor of History at Brandeis, will be the Moderator.

Recent Books by Graduate Forum Alumni

Jared Hardesty (2011 Graduate Forum) *Unfreedom: Slavery and Dependence in Eighteenth-Century Boston* (2016)

Kate Grandjean (2005 Graduate Forum) *American Passage: The Communications Frontier in Early America* (2015)

Jonathan Den Hartog (2003 Graduate Forum) *Patriotism and Piety: Federalist Politics and Religious Struggle in the New Nation* (2015)

Heather Miyano Kopleson (2003 Graduate Forum) *Faithful Bodies: Performing Religion and Race in the Puritan Atlantic* (2014)

Ruma Chopra (2007 Graduate Forum) *Choosing Sides: Loyalists in Revolutionary America* (2013)

Kathleen Donegan (2002 Graduate Forum) *Seasons of Misery: Catastrophe and Colonial Settlement in Early America* (2013)

Linford Fisher (2007 Graduate Forum) *The Indian Great Awakening: Religion and the Shaping of Native Cultures in Early America* (2012)

Emily Blanck (2002 Graduate Forum) *Tyrannicide: Forging an American Law of Slavery in Revolutionary South Carolina and Massachusetts* (2012)

Richard Bell (2002 Graduate Forum) *We Shall be No More: Suicide and Self-Government in the Newly United States* (2012)

Sarah Rivett (2003 Graduate Forum) *The Science of the Soul in Colonial New England* (2011)

Julie Fisher (2014 Graduate Forum) and David Silverman (1999 Graduate Forum) *Ninigret, Sachem of the Niantics and Narragansetts: Diplomacy, War, and the Balance of Power in Seventeenth-Century New England and Indian Country* (2014)

New England Beginnings

New England Beginnings is a recently formed partnership of historical organizations and individuals to encourage and promote the cultures that shaped early New England. Four hundred years ago a major epidemic brought about by contact between Europeans and natives was transforming the region, leading to the virtual extermination of some tribes and the weakening of others. In 1620 the Pilgrims established a settlement at Plymouth, and over the next decade other English settlements occurred, culminating in the 1630 establishment of Massachusetts. The New England Beginnings partnership is focused on 1) using the best scholarship to tell these and other stories to the general public, and 2) enhancing accessibility of resources for future scholarship in the field.

The Colonial Society is a member of *New England Beginnings*, together with twenty other New England institutions, six international programs, and numerous scholars to encourage and promote activities that commemorate the cultures that shaped early New England. Only Fellow Member Francis Bremer's enthusiasm and wealth of scholarly connections could have brought together as coordinator such a diverse group of organizations to serve a common purpose. Although it was certainly founded with an eye on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims, *New England Beginnings* has become a much larger project involving the Native American experience, as well as the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

The current regional partners include: the American Antiquarian Society, the Boston Public Library, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Commission on In-

dian Affairs, the Congregational Library and Archives, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Harvard University Libraries Colonial North American Project, the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University, the Massachusetts Archives and Commonwealth Museum, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Massachusetts State Library, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the *New England Quarterly*, the Old South Meeting House, the Partnership of Historic Bostons, the Peabody Essex Museum, the Pilgrim Hall Museum, the Pilgrim Society, the Plymouth Antiquarian Society, Salem in 1630: Pioneer Village, and the Tomaquag Museum.

The story of New England is an international story that ties together English and Dutch elements and the introduction of African-American slaves from Bermuda in the 1630s. Reflecting that breadth, the *New England Beginnings* partnership included as International Partners: the Dissenting Experience Initiative, the Gateway to Early Modern Manuscript Sermons, the History of Independence Project, the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, the National Museum of Bermuda, and the University of East Anglia History Department.

Advancing these efforts as Participating Scholars are Sue Allan, the official historian of Scrooby Manor; Robert Allison of Suffolk University; Robert Charles Anderson, independent scholar; Emerson Baker of Salem State College; James Baker, independent scholar; Peggy Baker, independent scholar; Stephen Curry, the tribal archivist of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe; Linford Fisher of Brown University; Katherine Grandjean of Wellesley College; David D. Hall of Harvard Divinity School; Kevin McBride of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center; Paula Peters of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe; Lynn Rhoads, editor emeritus of the *New England Quarterly*; Len Travers of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth; Cedric Woods of the University of Massachusetts Boston Native American Indigenous Studies Center; and Walt Woodward of the University of Connecticut.

The first fruits of *New England Beginnings* can be found on its website, www.newenglandbeginnings.org. There you will find a special feature showing what was happening 400 years ago in Old and New England, as well as Holland, with particular emphasis on the epidemic of 1616 that devastated Native peoples in advance of the arrival of the Pilgrims. On the events page of the website, you will find a very full schedule of lectures tak-

ing place in and around Boston this fall, a photo tour of the Pilgrims' Leiden, and links to the websites of some of the organization's less well-known or further-flung partners. Anyone doing research on the Puritans will be extremely grateful for the very full bibliography Bremer provides in the "Explore Further" section of the website, where he has gathered together the very best titles on Native Americans, religious controversy and politics in England, and the new settlements in New England. If you haven't yet visited this website, you will want to do so soon, but keep checking back frequently as more and more of the participating websites begin to populate the calendar with their own events and add podcasts for viewers.

News of Members

David Grayson Allen's book, *Investment Management in Boston: A History*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2015. The book recounts about 400 years of investment management in the Boston area, beginning with the Harvard endowment, begun in the 1630s, to venture capital, private equity, hedge funds, and other alternative types of investments in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The book talks about the "Boston Trustee," the 100 years of Massachusetts legal history leading up to the creation of the mutual fund, and how pension funds in the 1970s and 1980s transformed Boston's financial community at the same time the "New Boston" was being created.

Jennifer Anderson received the John M. Murrin Prize (2015) from the McNeil Center for her article "A Laudable Spirit of Enterprise: Renegotiating Land, Natural Resources, and Power on Post-Revolutionary Long Island."

James Axtell published in March with Princeton UP *Wisdom's Workshop: The Rise of the Modern University*, which traces the genealogy of America's leading research universities from their medieval origins through Tudor and Early Stuart Oxbridge, America's colonial and antebellum colleges, the appearance of bona fide universities in the late 19th century, and the post-WW II multiversities.

Peter Benes published in 2016: *For a Short Time Only: Itinerants and the Resurgence of Popular Culture in Early America* (University of Massachusetts Press), which culminates a thirty-five-year study of strolling practices in the years 1686 through 1825. He also wrote "The New England Meetinghouse: An Atlantic Perspective," in *Building the British Atlantic World: Spaces, Places, and Material Culture, 1600-1850* (Edited by Daniel Maudlin and Bernard L. Herman) and "John Brenon: The Saga of an Eighteenth-Century Irish Showman," in *The Irish in New England: 2012 Annual Proceedings of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife*. His new work consists of completing the first detailed study of early American itinerant waxwork exhibitions (1785-1825). This coming October Peter will help celebrate in Worcester, Massachusetts, the fortieth anniversary of the Association for Gravestone Studies, founded in Dublin, New Hampshire, in 1976.

Mary Bilder's *Madison's Hand: Revising the Constitutional Convention* (October 2015) received the Bancroft Award, the Bradford Best Biography Award (SHEAR), and was named a finalist for the Washington Book Prize and the Library of Virginia nonfiction book award. She was also named Founders Professor, Boston College.

Timothy Breen will be spending the fall months as a resident scholar of the Humboldt Foundation at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Center for Advanced Study in Munich, Germany. He is working on a book for Harvard University Press entitled "An Appeal to Heaven: The American Revolution."

Helen Breen is writing a weekly column on Lynnfield history in the *Lynnfield Advocate* – over 40 columns so far with more to come, concentrating on the town's transition from sleepy farm community to upmarket suburb.

Benjamin L. Carp published "In Retrospect: Edmund S. Morgan and the Urgency of Good Leadership," *Reviews in American History* (March 2016): 1-18.

Jonathan Beecher Field has two forthcoming publications. In *Early American Literature* (the MLA's divisional journal), is "The Governor's Two Bodies: Polity and Monstrosity in Winthrop's Boston." This essay reads Winthrop's famous "City on a Hill" sermon against his reports of monstrous births from a disability studies perspective to argue that Winthrop imagines his ideal polity

as a perfect body, which moves him to represent dissent in the form of monstrous bodies. In turn, we see how this foundational text of American politics posits an able body as a precondition of citizenship, and in an edited collection from Cambridge University Press, *American Literature and the New Puritan Studies*, “Puritan Acts and Monuments,” an essay that surveys statues of 17th-century New England figures, to argue that ambivalence about the Puritan legacy locally gives way to an embrace of an iconic Puritan figure nationally, because it offers a coherent, Anglo-Saxon point of origin for the United States.

Donald Friary contributed the introduction and bibliography, as well as an essay, “New Ireland to New England: The McCormick Family’s Peregrinations from Ulster to New Brunswick to the Boston States, 1822 to 1935,” to the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife’s recently published proceedings of its 2012 conference, *The Irish in New England*. Other CSM members whose work appears in the volume are J. L. Bell on “Wemms et al.: The Enlisted Men at the Boston Massacre”; Peter Benes, “John Brenon: The Saga of an Eighteenth-Century Irish Showman”; Katheryn P. Viens on “Irish Labor Unrest on an Early Massachusetts Railroad”; and Gerald W. R. Ward, “Faces and Makers: The Irish Presence in Eighteenth-Century Boston Furniture and Silver.”

Philip F. Gura will publish *Man’s Better Angels: Romantic Reformers and the Coming of the Civil War* in spring 2017.

Thomas Horrocks published in February 2016, *The Annotated Lincoln* (Harvard University Press), co-edited with Harold Holzer. He will be co-teaching with John Stauffer a course this fall at Harvard Extension School on Lincoln as a writer.

Jane Kamensky has written a new book, *A Revolution in Color: The World of John Singleton Copley*, that Norton will publish in October.

Chris Magra is finishing his second book on the Atlantic dimensions of the American Revolution. Cambridge University Press will publish *Poseidon’s Curse: British Naval Impressment and Atlantic Origins of the American Revolution* this October. Magra traces how British naval impressment played a leading role in the rise of Great Britain’s seaborne empire, yet ultimately contributed significantly to its decline. Long reliant on appropriating free laborers to man the warships that defended British

colonies and maritime commerce, the British severely jeopardized mariners’ earning potential and occupational mobility, which led to deep resentment toward the British Empire. Magra explains how anger about impressment translated into revolutionary ideology, with impressment eventually occupying a major role in the Declaration of Independence as one of the foremost grievances Americans had with the British government. Magra is taking a short break from studying the Revolution. He has begun research on a book on chocolate manufacturing in colonial Massachusetts.

Daniel R. Mandell received the Missouri Humanities Council Distinguished Literary Achievement Award for his various books and articles on New England Native American history.

Stephen A. Marini has published two major articles: 1. “Whitefield’s Music: Moorfields Tabernacle, *The Divine Musical Miscellany* (1754), and the Fashioning of Early Evangelical Sacred Song,” *Yale Journal of Music and Religion*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (2016), 101-134. This essay is an extended version of a paper he delivered in June 2014 at George Whitefield at 300: An International Tercentenary Conference at Pembroke College, Oxford, sponsored by Aberystwyth University, the Manchester Wesley Research Centre, the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, and The Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University; and 2. “Music, Media, and Message: Transitions in Contemporary Evangelical Music,” in Jeffers Englehardt and Philip Bohlman, eds., *Resounding Transcendence: Transitions in Music, Religion, and Ritual* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), 163-189. This chapter represents work rather far afield from CSM interests. It was originally presented at a conference in 2007 sponsored by the Yale Institute for Sacred Music and Amherst College.

Robert Martello is now the Associate Dean for Curriculum and Academic Programs at Olin College.

Marla Miller has co-edited with Max Page *It’s Bending the Future: Fifty Ideas for the Next Fifty Years of Historic Preservation in the United States* (UMass Press), a collection of brief “provocations” by leading preservation professionals, historians, writers, activists, journalists, architects, and urbanists on the future of historic preservation, to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Mary Beth Norton is president-elect of the American Historical Association and will be president throughout 2018.

Micah Pawling will publish “Wabanaki Homeland and Mobility: Concepts of Home in Nineteenth-Century Maine” in *Ethnohistory* 63:4 in October 2016.

Sarah Rivett, who specializes in early American and eighteenth-century transatlantic literature, (together with Sally Promey, Professor of American Studies and Religious Studies at Yale), is the co-winner of a five-year, \$500,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. This grant will support their project on material economies of religion in the Americas, from the pre-colonial period to the present day. The project is multi-disciplinary as well as multi-institutional, consisting of 36 collaborators at all ranks. This five-year enterprise will consist of three convenings in the United States and Canada, designed with the aim of creating ongoing international networks around shared intellectual, curatorial, and artistic work.

Richard Ryerson's book *John Adams's Republic: The One, the Few, and the Many* was published in September by Johns Hopkins University Press. He will speak about the thesis of his book at the Massachusetts Historical Society on November 16th.

David Silverman will publish this fall *Thundersticks: Firearms and the Violent Transformation of Native America* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press).

Caroline Sloat gave a paper at the Dublin Seminar based on the broadsides purchased by Isaiah Thomas from

Nathaniel Coverly in 1814. The conference topic was maritime New England and her paper related to the ballads with a maritime and naval theme.

Roger Stoddard has printed privately ten copies of his *Conventional Parts of the Book* with the Ascensius Press. He also contributed the “Foreword” to Glenn B. Skillin's *A Bibliography of Maine Imprints 1785-1820* (Maine Historical Society). His bibliography of Rodney Dennis's works is at the printer.

John Tyler will publish two articles this fall: an essay in the CSM's forthcoming *Boston Furniture, 1700-1900* on the looting of Thomas Hutchinson's house in 1765 and “Thomas Hutchinson: America's First Enlightenment Historian” in a special issue of the *Massachusetts Historical Review* celebrating Massachusetts historians.

Gerald W. R. Ward is now a curator emeritus at the MFA, as well as a consulting curator for the Portsmouth Historical Society and teaching again in the Sotheby's Institute of Art graduate program in New York. He is also seeking reelection for a third term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives as a Democrat representing Rockingham County District 28 (Portsmouth Ward 4).

Neil York presented a lecture entitled “Plato and the American President: Thirty-five as the Age of Eligibility,” at Oxford in June 2015. It was published in the January 2016 issue of *Soundings*. This past July, Routledge published his brief text, *The American Revolution, 1760-1790: New Nation as New Empire*, and Liberty Fund is publishing his critical edition of *The Crisis: A British Defense of American Rights, 1775-1776*, this fall.



THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

87 Mount Vernon Street

Boston, MA 02108

Calendar

November 17, 2017, 6PM, Annual Meeting followed by the Annual Dinner at the Somerset Club.

December 16, 2016, 3PM, Stated Meeting, Linford Fisher, Associate Professor, Brown University, "Native American Slavery in New England and the Caribbean."

February 16, 2017, 3PM, Stated Meeting, David Silverman, Professor of History, George Washington University, "Thundersticks: Firearms and the Violent Transformation of Native America."

April 20, 2017, 3PM, Stated Meeting, Kathleen Donegan, Associate Professor of English and Associate Dean of Arts and Humanities, University of California, Berkeley, "The Air of Truth: Plantation Emotions and the Staging of Reform."

May 19, 2017, 9PM Graduate Student Forum with David Hackett Fischer, University Professor and Earl Warren Professor of History at Brandeis, as Moderator.