



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

September 2017 Volume XXII, Number 1

Letter from the President

Dear Members:

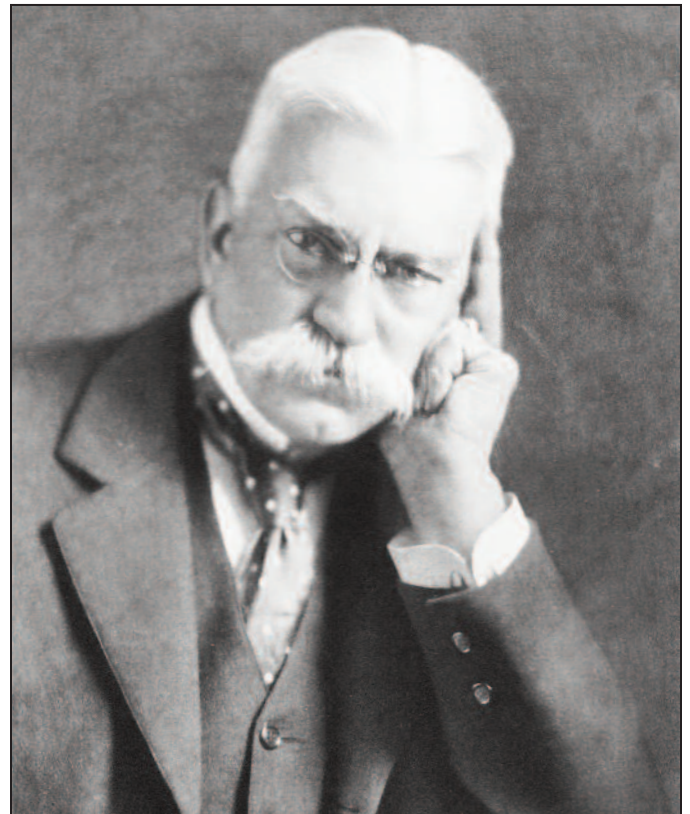
THIS HAS BEEN a year of celebration for the Colonial Society. Our 125th anniversary has been observed in a number of programs. It will culminate in a festive Quasquicentennial Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Harvard Club on Thursday, November 9, when our Honorary Member, Mary Beth Norton, Mary Donlon Alger Professor of American History at Cornell University and President-Elect of the American Historical Association, will be the principal speaker.

A major celebration earlier this year was the launch of our new website that raises the visibility of the Society not only among our members, but in the larger scholarly community. www.colonialsociety.org now makes the Colonial Society's scholarship fully accessible not merely to our membership, but to a world-wide audience free of charge. All our published volumes, including those out of print, may now be called up on the internet for easy reading on a desktop, a laptop, or an I-pad. Every footnote is only a click away. Our entire backlist is searchable by a name, a place, or a word. We are all grateful to our Editor of Publications John Tyler and Chair of our Committee on Publications Kenneth Minkema for bringing the new website to fruition.

Please mark Thursday, November 9, on your calendars for the Society's Quasquicentennial Annual Meeting and Dinner. I encourage all members, near and far, to join us for a memorable evening. We are inviting all past participants in our Graduate Student Forum to be with us at this event, so that we can meet and learn from the emerging generation of scholars in early American history.

On behalf of the Colonial Society's Council, I thank you for your continuing interest and participation in the life and work of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

Sincerely, Donald R. Friary, *President*



A Biographical Sketch of Our Founder: Henry Herbert Edes, 1849-1922

MANY MEMBERS of the Colonial Society are aware that our society's origins are embedded in the extremely circumscribed membership policies of the nineteenth-century Massachusetts Historical Society. For much of its life, the number of members in the MHS was so restricted that Brahmin infighting was intense whenever there was a vacancy; surviving members would scheme and maneuver with Machiavellian dexterity to advance the cause of their favorite candidates. In 1892, fourteen gentlemen, who had grown tired of waiting for a call from the Elysian Fields of the MHS, met at the in-

stigation of Henry Herbert Edes and agreed to found a new organization dedicated to research into the history of the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth colonies, as well as the publication of records and documents pertaining to those two places. And so, the Colonial Society was born.

In many ways, Edes would have been an ideal member of the MHS. He had dedicated every moment of his leisure time to genealogical and historical research, with a list of publications that spilled over several pages. His forebears on both sides included passengers aboard the *Mayflower* and his great-great uncle was Benjamin Edes, the printer of the *Boston Gazette*, the principal mouthpiece of the patriot cause in the years leading up to the American Revolution. But he lacked a crucial credential: he did not have a Harvard degree.

Edes's father died when he was just two-and-a-half. For much of his early life, he and his mother lived with his grandfather in Charlestown and were supported by the charitable gifts of his uncles. When the last of his uncles died, he was the sole support of his mother and two sisters. For the first eighteen years of his career, he worked for the Everett Mills, but in 1889 he became manager and treasurer of the Conveyancers Title Insurance Company of Boston.

Edes published his first note in the *New England Historic and Genealogical Register* at age 19 and became a member of the NEHGS that same year. Most of his early publications concerned the city of his birth: 120 volumes of Charlestown City Records, Wyman's *Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown*, and *The History of the Harvard Church* (Charlestown's sole Unitarian parish during the period 1816-1907). In 1893, he completed the second volume of the *Annals of King's Chapel from the Puritan Age of New England to the Present Day*, a work begun by Henry Wilder Foote. Thereafter, nearly all Edes's notes and ar-

ticles appeared in the *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*.

The list of civic organizations to which Edes belonged was almost as long as that of his publications: the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Historical Association, the Bostonian Society, the Bunker Hill Monument Association, the Cambridge Historical Society, the Essex Institute, the Unitarian Historical Society, and the historical societies of Maine, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin. The crowning laurel, membership in the Massachusetts Historical Society, did not come until 1919, three years before his death. Perhaps this last achievement was facilitated by the fact that Harvard had awarded him an honorary master's degree in 1906 and he had been editor of the Harvard Quinquennial Catalogue since 1916.

Edes married Grace Williamson of Boston in 1896, the daughter of an eminent Boston lawyer, who shared his passion for historical research, and they often worked together long into the night, each the other's best critic and proofreader. They set up housekeeping in Cambridge, where their home was renowned for congenial gatherings of Boston and Cambridge intelligentsia, often mixing both young and old. Edes himself was famous for putting his guests at ease and drawing out the best in them conversationally. In the quaint language of an earlier age, Alfred Johnson wrote, "their generous board left naught to be desired in the way of material things." A person of broad culture, Edes loved old operas, often playing arias he learned by heart for his guests. An assiduous collector of eighteenth-century prints, he helped to found the da Vinci Club of Boston, whose president at one time was Richard Morris Hunt.

Nearly all Edes's obituaries comment on his prepossessing appearance. He was tall, and his wide white

Quasquicentennial Annual Meeting and Dinner

We encourage all Members and Graduate Forum alumni to gather for a grand celebration of the 125th anniversary of the society at the Harvard Club, Back Bay, Boston, Massachusetts on **Thursday, November 9, 2017, 6:00 pm**. The evening will include our annual meeting, cocktails and dinner, followed by remarks by Mary Beth Norton, Mary Donlon Alger Professor of American History at Cornell University, and president-elect of the American Historical Association.

Invitations will be in the mail in October.

If you have any questions please contact Beth Bower at bbower@salemstate.edu or 978-542-3321.

moustache contributed to his almost military bearing. He cut quite a figure on State Street since he persisted in the correct business attire of his youth long after it was fashionable: a tall silk hat, an immaculate white standing collar, a cutaway coat, pearl gloves, and a cane.

Edes was the Colonial Society's first editor, establishing the format of its publications and choosing our tasteful blue and gold bindings. Even when it was decided in 1904 that the amount of work involved in the Society's publications exceeded what a volunteer editor could accomplish (a development he did not entirely approve of), Edes continued as treasurer and the CSM's motivating force. According to his memoir in the American Antiquarian Society's *Proceedings*, "He conducted its finances, planned its publications, arranged its meetings, and selected its members." (So, the authoritarian methods of Walter Whitehill had ample precedent!) Apparently, his operating principle was, as he once remarked to Alfred Johnson, "Things don't usually happen of themselves. If you wish events to shape themselves as they should, you must see to it that they do."

Perhaps Edes's most lasting contribution to the Society came from his work as treasurer. He foresaw that dues alone could not sustain the cost of publications, even in the early days when the Society had no permanent abode with bricks and mortar to maintain. He was a persuasive solicitor of gifts and bequests, because he rarely asked anything of others that he was not ready to do himself. At the time of his death in 1922, the Colonial Society had twelve named funds, including one established by his fellow members in his honor. Through his will, Edes established at least two additional funds: the Martha Rebecca Hunt Fund of \$3,000, and the much larger Sarah Louisa Edes Fund (named for his mother) that became available to the Society after the death of his last surviving daughter in 1944. By that time, the Sarah Louisa Edes Fund had reached \$61,000, over a quarter of the endowment at that time.

Edes was quite explicit that no fund he established should be named after him, preferring to honor his mother instead: "If I have ever done anything in my life worthy of commemoration, it is attributable to the devotion and self-sacrifice of my mother, whose unflinching interest in my work was always an encouragement to high endeavor and greater zeal. Such a life as hers, — of helpfulness and generous and unselfish devotion to others, — her kindred, her friends, the poor, and the suffering in every walk of life, deserves this permanent memorial, which is in consonance with her nature, since it will forever be helpful to others in a field in which she herself was deeply interested."

"Although no loss is irreparable," commented one fellow member at the time of Edes's death, "few societies have been as indebted to one person so much as the Colonial Society to Mr. Edes. . . . From [a] small, but well-planned beginning came into being one of the most effective historical societies in the country, a society whose publications have been models of bookmaking and have preserved a mass of valuable material, and whose influence has been markedly great in stimulating an interest in colonial history."

Graduate Forum 2017

Nine graduate students gathered at the Colonial Society's 2017 Forum to share their research, leading members of the Society on explorations of political thought, religion, nature, and portrait art in early America. Society Members Jane Kamensky, James F. Cooper, Mary Sarah Bilder, and Thomas Paine moderated the lively panel discussions, and the graduate students and audience were treated to an insightful closing commentary by Moderator David Hackett Fischer.

The Graduate Forum is always an opportunity to learn about new areas of inquiry in early America. This year's Forum also included one participant, Tyler Rotter, who is studying at the University of Southern Mississippi under Kyle Zelner, an alumnus of the first Graduate Student Forum in 1999.

Thanks to Robert Gross and Susan Lively for selecting the participants, and to all the Society members who attended and participated.

Mark your calendar—next year's Graduate Forum will happen on **Friday, June 8, 2018**, with Richard D. Brown, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History, University of Connecticut, Emeritus moderating.

2017 Graduate Forum Participants

Asaf Almog *University of Virginia*

Timothy Pickering on Race and Slavery: Looking for a Conservative National Consensus in the Early Republic

Hannah Anderson *University of Pennsylvania*

Lived Botany: Households, Ecological Adaptation and the Origins of Settler Colonialism in Early British North America



David Hackett Fischer, *Earl Warren Professor of History, Brandeis*; Hannah Anderson, *University of Pennsylvania*; Deborah Charnof, *Graduate Center, City University of New York*; Whitney Barlow Robles, *Harvard*; Janine Yorimoto Boldt, *William and Mary*; Tyler G. Rotter, *University of Southern Mississippi*; Deborah A. Fisher, *Penn State*; Asaf Almog, *University of Virginia*. Not shown: Zachary Bennett, *Rutgers*; Ryan Tobler, *Harvard*

Zachary Bennett *Rutgers University*

Flowing Power: Rivers, Energy, and the Transformation of New England, 1600-1800

Janine Yorimoto Boldt *William and Mary*

The Art of Plantation Authority: Domestic Portraiture in Colonial Virginia

Deborah Charnoff *The Graduate Center, City University of New York*

Men Set on Fire: Algernon Sidney, John Adams and Anglo-American Republicanism

Deborah A. Fisher *Penn State*

The Colonial American Janus - Mythological Characters in John Singleton Copley's Portraits

Whitney Barlow Robles *Harvard*

Curious Species: How Animals Made Natural History, 1700-1820

Tyler Rotter *University of Southern Mississippi*

'A Firme and Perpetuall League': Reevaluating Religion, Politics, and War in Early New England, 1630-1690

Ryan G. Tobler *Harvard*

Purity in the Ordinances: John Cotton, Puritan Emigration, and the Politics of Religious Practice

New England Beginnings: Guest Scholars Program

Our partners at New England Beginnings have initiated a new Guest Scholar Program. Scholars of seventeenth-century history have agreed to make themselves available for a modest fee for talks and discussions via teleconferencing, Skype, FaceTime, or similar technologies. High schools can use technology to bring an expert into their classrooms, and churches and civic organizations can learn about how the latest scholarship sheds light on how New England and the Congregational Way began.

The speakers have agreed to waive their normal fees in lieu of a modest payment to New England Beginnings for the support of its expenses. High schools will be asked to pay \$100; all other groups pay \$200 for an "appearance" lasting up to one and a half hours (with question and answer period).

Scholars participating in the program are: Kimberly Alexander, Massachusetts Historical Society Fellow; Robert Anderson, independent scholar of the Puritan migration; Emerson (Tad) Baker, Salem State University; Margaret Bendroth, Congregational Library & Archives; Ashley Bissonnette, Eastern Connecticut State University and Mashantucket Pequot Museum; Francis J. Bremer, Millersville University of Pennsylvania; James F. Cooper, Congregational Library & Archives; Michelle Marchetti Coughlin, independent scholar; Linford Fisher, Brown University; Scott Douglas Gerber, Northern Ohio University; Katherine Grandjean, Wellesley College; Kathryn Gray, University of Plymouth (UK); Polly Ha, University of East Anglia (UK); David D. Hall, Harvard Divinity School; Timothy D. Hall, Samford University; David Luper, Puget Sound University; Ken Minkema, Yale University; Paula Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; Sarah Rivett, Princeton University; David Silverman, George Washington University; Lori Stokes, independent scholar; Baird Tipson, Gettysburg College; Abram Van Engen, Washington University of St. Louis; Adrian C. Weimer, Providence College; and Michael Winship, University of Georgia.

Those wishing to engage one of the scholars should visit www.newenglandbeginnings.org for a complete list of topics and contact Francis J. Bremer, coordinator of New England Beginnings using the "Contact" link on the website indicating the scholar to be invited and the approximate dates requested.

Keeping House Within and Without

Elton W. Hall, *Curator*

The Colonial Society has just over three hundred objects that we consider to constitute our collection. They range from our important paintings and fine furniture down to rather trivial items, some of which would more appropriately be considered office equipment or kitchen utensils, but for some reason were taken up into the catalog. Frankly, we have never drawn too fine a line. We have not determined how many chips and cracks a Canton plate may have before it ceases to be an art object and becomes kitchenware, or whether a particular piece of seating furniture is an antique or merely office furnishing, as long as it served its intended purpose. But as our conservation program progresses, it becomes increasingly important to fully understand the importance and material condition of everything that we consider to be part of our collection and to make sure that everything in the house that should be included is. As we have become aware, changing times and tastes have upgraded some things to "museum" status, and probably sent others tumbling the other way. We are now in the midst of a series of steps to attain that understanding.

The process began a couple of year ago with an appraisal of the contents of the house by Skinner, Inc. We then began a series of examinations of the various types of materials within our collection. The purpose of these was to determine the present condition of each piece giving particular attention to its stability, recommended treatment and level of priority. The first of these was carried out by our fellow member and member of the House Committee Robert Mussey, a retired furniture conservator, who generously contributed his time and experience to surveying and preparing a report on our furniture. That was followed by a survey of all of our oil paintings except for those which we have recently had conserved. That survey was carried out by Carmichael Art Conservation, the conservators who recently did such a nice job on the landscape in the dining room, and that over the fireplace in the meeting room, which was illustrated in the last issue of the Newsletter.

Ever since he became Chairman of our House Committee, Richard Nylander has been especially enthusiastic over our collection of mirrors. In this one house may be found nine impressively large mirrors, some undoubtedly made in Boston, and all in unstable condition. They are very heavy, securely affixed to the walls, difficult to

move, and until last year, no one currently involved with the Society had ever seen their back sides. Under the direction of Richard and Robert, a team of experts and professional artifact handlers took them off the walls so that they could be examined and photographed.

After considering various factors including both commercial and historical value, importance to the decoration of the house, stability, and our conservation budget, the House Committee recommended the conservation of one of the two great mirrors in the Drawing Room that came from the estate of William Crowninshield Endicott. Because of the great size of the mirror and the difficulty of moving it, the conservation will be carried out at the house this fall by Wendy Kochanowski, a conservator highly skilled in working on objects decorated with gold leaf.

Last May President Donald Friary made arrangements with Leslie Paisley of the Williamstown Art Conservation Center to spend two days at the house examining approximately seventy of our works of art on paper. The collection actually includes many more than that, but since time is money that could also be spent on treatment, we eliminated from the survey some items that we considered of no historical value and had been determined by Skinner, Inc. to be of no commercial value so that Leslie could concentrate on the things that are important to the house or to our cultural history. The report was particularly helpful in that she explained ways in which we could make the best use of available funds as we determined how to move the conservation program along. For example, many prints, while not in ideal condition, could be stabilized in reasonably good condition by being re-matted and framed with archival quality materials and methods at far less expense than full conservation treatment.

While all of this planning and surveying consumed much of our time and conservation budget this past year, we did manage to have one magnificent piece of furniture restored to pristine condition. The Emmons and Archbald pier table of about 1815, which was part of the Parkman family gift, had been in a sorry state indeed. Whether or not it had lost its original marble top before its arrival at the house is not recorded, but at least as early as 1975 it had only a sheet of cardboard over it, which is why it was never in a part of the house frequented by the members. At the time of the structural renovation of the house about 1990, the contractor, as a gesture of contrition for an accident involving another piece of furniture, had a new marble top made for the table. Unfortunately, he did not consult with the Society about it with the result that the marble he chose was far from appropriate. In addition, the frame of the table was in a generally rickety



Pier Table by Thomas Emmons & George Archbald, Boston, ca. 1820-1824. Property of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

Photo: David Bohl.

condition with loose joints, loose and missing veneer and moldings, and some of the brass inlay was discolored or missing. In February, Chris Shelton, who had previously restored the bed and bookcase pictured in last year's Newsletter, took delivery of the table and restored it to fine condition. Meanwhile, Robert Mussey set out to find an appropriate piece of marble for the top. It was not easy because dealers in marble do not generally stock stone of the thickness required. After many visits, Robert found a stone dealer who had some old marble salvaged from a restoration job at a courthouse that was exactly the right thickness and color for our table. He made a pattern of the top of the frame, and had a piece cut to the precise dimensions. We are indeed fortunate to have one of such knowledge and persistence on the House Committee, and not for the first time we thank Robert heartily.

On the exterior of the house, the east side of the roof is the current major project, continuing around the house following the restoration of the south façade after the great snow storm of two years ago. There had been deterioration of the slates, and some leaking around the chimney on that side. As part of the repair, a cricket was constructed on the up-roof side of the chimney to keep water, leaves, and any other refuse from accumulating and retaining water.

In all our work on the fabric of the house beginning with climate control on the first two floors, through the restoration of the snowstorm damage and now into the re-

pair of the roof and flashing, our fellow member Lynne Spencer, a preservation architect experienced in dealing with Bulfinch buildings, has been invaluable, combining as she does a thorough understanding and appreciation of the past with knowledge of the best of the present-day practices and materials. So generous has she been with her contributions of time and expertise that we wanted to express our gratitude in some appropriate, tangible way. At the last meeting of the House Committee, we presented her with an impression of the wood engraved portrait of the house by the well-known artist, Thomas W. Nason. That engraving was originally commissioned in 1956 by Walter Whitehill on behalf of the Colonial Society as a token of gratitude to Georgina Howland for her gift of the house.

Under the leadership of our neighbors at 89 Mount Vernon Street, Shep Perkins and Lisa Mullan, the retaining wall and the iron railing at the front of both properties are being restored. It is a large and costly project, and it is essential that both sections be done together. At a casual glance from a distance, the railing would have seemed to be holding up well, but under close examination, it was clearly in urgent need of attention.

Among all the various things that the Colonial Society is, we are homeowners, and absentee owners at that. As all of you who own homes know, that brings a variety of requirements, some of which are recurring and occa-

sionally vexing. Appliances reach the end of their useful lives and must be replaced. Water appears where it shouldn't and sometimes doesn't where it should. Utilities fail, meters need to be read, and tradesmen need access to the house to fix them. To deal with all such problems we are extremely fortunate to have as an ally our fellow member and tenant, Samantha Nelson, who is Executive Director of Boston By Foot, with an office at 87 Mount Vernon Street. She and her staff provide a responsible presence in the house during the normal business hours. In addition to admitting those who come to the house on one kind of business or another, they maintain vigilance over the property, reporting any unusual conditions to Don or me or Street & Co. if we cannot be reached. They don't hesitate to take the initiative themselves and dog—the phone company for example—relentlessly until the service is restored. They are very gracious to us in all our dealings, and we appreciate their presence very much.

New Members 2016–2017

Resident Member:

Margaret Burke, of Concord, Director of the Concord Museum

Tara Cederholm, of Salem, NH, curator of The Crosby Company

Elizabeth M. Covart, of Boston, history blogger and producer of Ben Franklin's World podcast

Geoffrey McCullough, of Hingham, Boston attorney

Thomas Michie, of Boston, Russel B. and Andree Beauchamp Stearns Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts

Christine Thomson, of Salem, conservator

Alexander (Toby) Webb, of Boston, President of S & Co., Inc., Boston

Non-Resident Members:

Andrea Cremer, of California, writer of historical fiction and former Associate Professor at Macalester College

Emily Blanck, of Glassboro, New Jersey, Associate Professor of History at Rowan University

Eileen Chang, Professor of History, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York

Ruma Chopra, of San Jose, California, Professor of History at San Jose State

Jared Hardesty, Assistant Professor of History, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

Jonathan Den Hartog, of St. Paul, Minnesota, Associate Professor of History at University of Northwestern at St. Paul

Cassandra Good, of Charlottesville, VA, Associate Editor, Papers of James Monroe

Eliga Gould, Chair of the History Department at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire

Ann Little, Professor of History at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

News of Members

Virginia DeJohn Anderson's new book, *The Martyr and the Traitor: Nathan Hale, Moses Dunbar, and the American Revolution*, was published this June by Oxford University Press.

Edward "Ted" Andrews, Associate Professor of History at Providence College, published an article titled "Tranquebar: Charting the Protestant International in the British Atlantic and Beyond," in the January 2017 edition of *The William and Mary Quarterly*.

Georgia Barnhill has curated an exhibition at the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester: *Drawn from Nature and on Stone: The Lithographs of Fitz Henry Lane*. The exhibition, for which there will be a catalogue, is open from October 7 through March 4. Lane is widely recognized as one of the finest marine painters of the nineteenth century, and the Cape Ann Museum owns a fine collection of his paintings.

James B. Bell published *Anglicans, Dissenters and Radical Change in Early New England, 1686–1786* (Palgrave, 2017) and contributed Chapter 9, "North America, 1662–1829" to *The Oxford History of Anglicanism, Volume II, Establishment and Empire, 1662–1829* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Richard Bell received a National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Award in support of his manuscript-in-progress, a study of kidnapping and the domestic slave trade.

Peter Benes's new book, *For a Short Time Only: Itinerants and the Resurgence of Popular Culture in Early America* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2016) received the 2017 George Freedley Memorial Award for an exemplary work in the field of live theatre or performance by the Theatre Library Association in New York City. In other news, Peter gave a talk on eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century watercolor and embroidered family trees at the "Art of Remembrance: Family, Art and Memory" in the Deerfield-Wellesley symposium in March 2017. He is now preparing a study of the Middle Eastern and European origins of the twin hearts decorative motif in these documents now found in private and public collections as well as those now posted on the Internet. He asks any CSM member who know of examples of this design to contact him.

David Bosse, Librarian and Curator of Maps at Historic Deerfield, had an article, "The Earliest Printed Maps of Springfield, Massachusetts," published in *Imprint*, the journal of the American Historical Print Collectors Society (Vol. 40, No. 1, Spring 2016). In April 2017 he organized a one-day symposium, "Plants and Place: Native Flora in Western Massachusetts," at Historic Deerfield to highlight the conservation of an 1817 herbarium in the collection.

Helen Breen has published about ninety articles on the history of Lynnfield in the *Lynnfield Advocate* (advocate-news.net) since October 2015. Emphasis is on the "old town" agricultural legacy and the community's rocky transition to an upscale suburb. Lynnfield's population tripled in the 1950s, spurred on by available acreage and the building of Route 128.

Daniel Coquillette's book, co-written with Bruce Kimball, *On the Battlefield of Merit*, volume one of the Bicentennial History of Harvard Law School, has led to the dedication of a memorial to the enslaved peoples whose labor made the original endowment of Harvard Law School possible. The second volume, also with Kimball and covering the second century of the School's history, *The Intellectual Sword*, has been accepted by Harvard University Press, and will be published next year.

Liz Covart is now the Digital Projects Editor at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture at the College of William and Mary. She will continue to host and produce "Ben Franklin's World: A Podcast About Early American History" through the Institute.

Patrick Griffen has a book coming out in November with Yale University Press called *The Townshend Moment: The Making of Empire and Revolution in the Eighteenth Century*.

Ed Hanson has changed centuries and continents for his latest project—*Wandering Princess: Hélène of France, Duchess of Aosta, 1871–1951* (Fonthill Media, 2017).

William M. Fowler Jr.'s book, *The Steam Titans: Collins, Cunard and the Epic Battle for Commerce on the North Atlantic* (Bloomsbury Publishing) appeared on 8 August. It tells the story of a transatlantic fight to wrest control of the globe's most lucrative trade route between 1815 and the American Civil War.

John McCusker continues to forge ahead with several research projects. Most notably there has been progress with his book on "Mercantilism and the Economic History of the Early Modern Atlantic World," which is under contract with Cambridge University Press. Within the past twelve months he presented five papers: two on the distilling industry generally and two on George Washington as an entrepreneur, one aspect of which was his establishment of a very successful distilling business at Mount Vernon! The fifth paper was published online as part of the initial release of the George Washington Financial Papers Project; it is titled "To 'arrange my accounts' — Fulfilling the Last Wishes of George Washington." Some of the work on these papers was accomplished during his stay as Visiting Research Fellow at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Carl Nold was selected as one of forty-eight international participants in the sixty-sixth annual Attingham Summer School, which examined the architectural and social history of the historic house in Britain and its contents, gardens, and landscape setting. The three-week long program visited more than thirty country houses.

Micah Pawling, an assistant professor of History and Native American Studies at the University of Maine, has published, "W last kwey (Maliseet) Homeland: Water-scapes and Continuity within the Lower St. John River Valley, 1784–1900," in *Acadiensis* (Journal of the History of the Atlantic Region), Summer / Autumn 2017.

Carla Gardina Pestana published a new book, *The English Conquest of Jamaica: Oliver Cromwell's Bid for Empire*, with Belknap this spring. It was chosen as a *Financial Times* summer reading recommendation! A related article, in the *Journal of British Studies*, also appeared: "State Formation from the Vantage of Early English Jamaica: The Neglect of Edward Doyley," *Journal of British Studies*, 56:2 (July): 483–505. She also extended the argument of her Protestant Empire book in a Routledge Handbook essay: "Protestantism as Ideology in the British Atlantic World," in *The World of Colonial America: An Atlantic Handbook*, edited by Ignacio Gallup-Diaz.

Lynn Rhoads is relishing the many joys of a Berkshires' retirement while pursuing her professional associations through board service to nonprofits in Boston and western Massachusetts as well as editing projects with talented scholars, near and far.

Neal Salisbury has revised his edition of Mary Rowlandson's *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God*, to be published by Bedford/St. Martin's in September 2017.

Charles Sullivan and **Susan Maycock** published in November 2016 *Building Old Cambridge: Architecture and Development* (MIT Press), an extensively illustrated, comprehensive history of the residential neighborhoods, commercial activity, parks, and academic institutions around Harvard Square from 1630 to the present.

John Stillgoe published *What is Landscape?* with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press in 2015.

Katheryn P. Viens was named Director of Research at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Alicia Crane Williams was elected, in October 2016, a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. Her book, *The Babson Genealogy, 1606-2017, Descendants of Thomas and Isabel Babson*, was published in August 2017.

Conrad Edick Wright and **Katheryn P. Viens** edited *The Future of History: Historians, Historical Organizations, and the Prospects for the Field* (Massachusetts Historical Society, 2017), available in print and as an e-book from www.masshist.org.

Conrad Edick Wright passed the position of the Massachusetts Historical Society's Director of Research to Katheryn P. Viens and the Worthington C. Ford editorship to Ondine E. Le Blanc at the end of June. He then became the MHS's Sibley Editor. In January, the University of Massachusetts Press published his new, edited volume, *Pedagogues and Protesters: The Harvard College Student Diary of Stephen Peabody, 1767-1768*.

L. Kinvin Wroth retired as Professor of Law at Vermont Law School, effective June 30, 2017, and was appointed Professor of Law Emeritus there effective July 1. He served the law school as Dean and, subsequently, as President and Dean from 1996 until 2004 and continued as a tenured faculty member until retirement. He will remain active at the law school in various research and professional projects.

Neil York's article on "Natural Rights Dissected and Rejected: John Lind's Counter to the Declaration of Independence" appeared in August in the *Law and History Review* (vol. 35, no. 3). It had been available online for a couple of months previously.

Revolution 250

On Evacuation Day, a gathering of history-minded people at the Shirley-Eustis House signed an agreement to form Revolution 250, an organization that will promote the New England anniversaries of the American Revolution. Revolution 250, with three dozen member organizations, grew from discussions which began around the dining room table at 87 Mount Vernon Street, initiated by Fellow Members Bob Allison and Martha McNamara.

Revolution 250 has created three committees to focus on Historic Preservation, Education, and Commemorations. How can we use these anniversaries to improve the way history is taught, and to preserve landscapes, buildings, and documents for future generations? At the moment Revolution 250 is creating a master plan to achieve these goals over the next decade, and is engaging new partners in the enterprise.

Comments, ideas, and engagement are welcome from Colonial Society members. Contact Robert Allison, who has been elected chair of Revolution 250 (rallison@suffolk.edu)

The Massachusetts Historical Society has agreed to serve as Revolution 250's fiscal sponsor. A web-site is in the works, but you can follow us on Facebook: Revolution 250.



CSM Vice-President Bob Allison marshals the troops for Revolution 250.

Report on Publications

2017 may be the first year in the Colonial Society's history when its publications have been entirely digital. For over a year and half, the Society had been working closely with Scribe Inc. of Philadelphia to scan and digitize all 88 volumes of its publications. This was a heroic undertaking, since over the course of 125 years, our books have been printed in variety of formats and fonts. The accuracy of the optical character recognition needed to be checked carefully, and new functions added. Just one search can turn up references in all 88 volumes: no more searching different indices for different years, or volume by volume! Hovering over the number for a footnote will instantly bring up the reference; no more checking the end of the essay or the back of the book! And perhaps best of all, the content of our books is now available for free to anyone in the world at any time.

The dissemination of these works online was made possible by the creation of a new website, which went live in early May. Since that time, the website has received, on average, between 90 to 110 visits per day, primarily to use its search function and publications page, suggesting that, for the moment at least, the new website is primarily a research tool. On a sleepy day in August when the editor happened to check on the website at 9 AM, one reader from North Carolina was perusing "Sarah Bucknam's Testimony" concerning the disappearance of 12 silver trenchers, an item from the Henry Dunster Papers, part of the *Harvard College Records*, Volume 49. Another reader from Indiana was studying Fellow Member Jeannine Falino's essay, "The Pride that Pervades All Classes," an analysis of Paul Revere's customers in *New England Silver and Silversmithing*, Volume 70.

Most visits are the result of an "organic search," meaning that someone typed words into a search engine that led them there. About a quarter of visits come from a "direct search," i.e. with no intervening website or search engine. Not surprisingly, the heaviest use comes from the Anglophone world: 78% from the United States, 5% from Great Britain, 2.9% from Canada, 2.4% from India, and 1.2% from Australia, but we have also had visitors from Germany, South Korea, France, Italy, and Brazil. A quarter of visitors use their mobile phones to visit the site, and the site is most heavily used just before noon and between two and four, although use does not seem to be limited particularly to weekdays.

Meanwhile, the Colonial Society continues to print handsome, hardbound books in the way it has always done; the only difference is that prior to printing, the digital files are coded so that the ebook version of a new volume can appear at the same time as the printed edition or shortly thereafter. In case you missed it, *Boston Furniture, 1700-1900* is now available online and website traffic suggests that Brock Jobe and Allan Breed's "Boston Turret-top Tea Tables" is the most frequently consulted essay.

Forthcoming publications include Fellow Members James Bell and James Mooney's *King's College Chapel Records*, which differ from the usual church records since the founding of King's Chapel in Puritan Boston was part of a larger late Stuart design to bring Massachusetts under closer imperial control during the period of the Dominion of New England. The intrusion of the Church of England into the heart of New England Puritanism was hardly welcomed by the locals, but King's Chapel soon became the preferred place of worship for royal officials and members of the military. The *King's Chapel Records* also contain important information on the poorhouse, smallpox, and the marriage of free blacks.

William diGiacomantonio will be submitting a completed manuscript later this fall for *The Correspondence of George Thatcher*. Thatcher was a lawyer, judge, and member of the first Federal Congress representing the District of Maine. A staunch Federalist, Thatcher was the last original member of Congress still serving in 1800 when he chose not to stand for reelection. Thereafter, he was an associate justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. He helped to write the Maine state constitution when it achieved statehood in 1820, but moved to Newburyport, Massachusetts, before returning to Biddeford, Maine, the place of his death. He was a leading figure promoting Unitarianism in the United States and helped to found Bowdoin College.

Douglas Winiarski continues his work on *The Memoirs of Josiah Cotton & Allied Documents*. Cotton retreated to his study annually on New Year's Day to write the history of the past year within his family, the Plymouth Colony, and the wider world. Cotton was also an active missionary to the surrounding Native American community. The second volume of *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson, 1767-1768* is now being proofread. Hutchinson's letters for this period reveal the impact on Massachusetts of political paralysis in England, where the white-hot party animosity caused by John Wilkes prevented the ministry from making any concerted re-

sponse to the nonimportation agreement and challenges to imperial authority made by the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Further ahead are — *The Papers of Sir Francis Bernard*, vol. 6, edited by Colin Nicolson; *The Diary of the Rev. William Bentley* (of Salem), edited by Thomas Knoles; *The Samuel Phillips Diary* (of Rowley) edited by James F. Cooper and Kenneth Minkema; and *The Account Books of John Hull*, edited by David Hancock and Mark Peterson. In conjunction with the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, several members of the Colonial Society are forming an international and intercultural team to undertake a new edition of William Bradford's *Of Plimoth Plantation*.

A Report on Fundraising

For the Development Committee, 2016 was a busy year during which we focused our attention on meeting the challenge of the anonymous donor who gave \$20,000 in honor of Pauline Maier. This challenge grant was the center of a fundraising effort to make it possible for the Colonial Society to upgrade its website in order to give students and scholars around the world access to digital, fully searchable versions of the Society's remarkable list of publications. Not only did we successfully meet this challenge but by December 2016 we had raised \$52,330 towards this goal (including the original challenge grant) thanks to the very generous support of our membership and a much-appreciated donation from the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. We celebrated this success during a festive get-together in May 2017, during which we officially launched our new website and John Tyler, our intrepid Editor of Publications, ably demonstrated its wonderful capabilities.

Having achieved our goal of raising enough money to fund our new website, the Development Committee has now turned its attention to planned giving. We are very grateful for the annual support of our membership and were happy to note that our annual giving results maintained healthy levels even during our push for funds for our new website. We are grateful to the Colonial Society's members for their recognition, through their gifts, of the importance of the annual work of the Society and their willingness to support it. Further information will be forthcoming about ways that the current membership

can ensure, through endowed gifts, that the work of the Society can be underwritten in perpetuity, following the fine philanthropic tradition of members from our past such as Henry Herbert Edes (memorialized elsewhere in this newsletter), Quincy Adams Shaw, Benjamin Apthorp Gould, and Robert Charles Billings. As we prepare for this initiative, we wish to thank our members for their ongoing and generous support.

The Colonial Society Needs Your Help

Two important initiatives of the Colonial Society depend on simply getting the word out. Together with the *New England Quarterly*, we award annually the Walter Whitehill Prize of \$2500 for a distinguished essay on early American history (up to 1825), not previously published, with preference being given to New England subjects. The prizewinning essay is also published in the *Quarterly*. While the Colonial Society is proud of the recent winning essays, there have been some years when the judges have elected not to make an award. By spreading the word about the prize, CSM members can help broaden the field of applicants and guarantee that the prize goes to an essay truly worthy of Walter Whitehill's name. It is important to note that the prize is NOT limited to graduate students; anyone at any age or level of the profession can submit an essay. Details for applicants can be found on the "Activities" page of www.colonialsociety.org.

Members should also keep in mind the research grants of the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. Twenty-two New England cultural agencies offer at least eighteen awards each year. Each grant provides a stipend of \$5,000 for a total of at least eight weeks research at three or more participating institutions. The Colonial Society underwrites a special award for a project on the history of New England before the American Revolution. Information on how to apply can be found either on the Colonial Society website or www.nerfc.org.



THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

87 Mount Vernon Street

Boston, MA 02108

Calendar

All meetings take place at 87 Mount Vernon Street at 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

November 9, 2017 • Quasiquicentennial Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at the Harvard Club, 374 Commonwealth Avenue, and an address by Mary Beth Norton, Mary Donlon Alger Professor of American History at Cornell University and president-elect of the American Historical Association.

December 21, 2017 • “*The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright: Violence and Communities of Women in the Northeast Borderlands*,” Ann M. Little, Professor, Department of History, Colorado State University.

February 15, 2018 • “Billets and Barracks: The Quartering Act and the Coming of the American Revolution” John G. McCurdy, Professor of History, Eastern Michigan University.

April 19, 2018 • *The Townshend Moment: The Making of Empire and Revolution in the Eighteenth Century*, Patrick Griffin, Madden-Hennebry Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

Gifts to the Annual Fund 2016 – 2017

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Amalie M. Kass
Charles S. Maier

Frederick Jackson Turner Circle

Frederick D. Ballou
Daniel R. Coquillette
J. Ritchie Garrison
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Sustaining Circle

Anonymous (2)	Paul J. Erickson	William K. Martin	Reiner Smolinski
Robert J. Allison	Jonathan Beecher Field	Kenneth P. Minkema	Lynne Spencer
Virginia and Fred Anderson	Dennis Fiori and Margaret T. Burke	Christopher Monkhouse	Lee T. Sprague
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Walter Muir Whitehill Prize Fund

William M. Fowler, Jr.
Barbara Lambert

William M Fowler, Jr., Outreach Fund

Harvey I. Steinberg

For Conservation of a Landscape Painting

Robert Bayard Severy

**Additional Contributions to the Website Challenge Grant
September 22, 2016 – August 24, 2017**

(Since the last Newsletter)

Anonymous
Barbara Lambert
Ondine E. LeBlanc
Charles Maier
Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati
Martha McNamara
Richard Melvoin
Eric B. Schultz
Caroline F. Sloat

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