

The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

September 2018 Volume XXIII, Number 1

Dear Colonial Society Members:

HE By-Laws of our Society provide for four standing committees—Publications, Finance, Auditing, Nominating—to fulfill our mission and to meet our fiduciary responsibilities. We also have ad hoc committees created by the Council from time to time to plan and implement programs and to engage our membership in our common purpose of promoting the study and understanding of the history of Massachusetts, New England, and the nation—the Walter Muir Whitehill Prize Committee, House Committee, Membership Committee, Development Committee, Marketing Committee, Graduate Student Forum Committee. Each of these committees performs valuable, indeed essential, service to the Colonial Society. The Council is grateful to all committee members for contributing to the smooth operation of the Society.

This year we welcome a new committee that will chart important future directions for the Colonial Society. The Website Committee, chaired by Bob Mack and including Jim Baker, Beth Bower, Jeff Cooper, Tom Knoles, Ken Minkema, with John Tyler and myself as ex officio members, will undertake the exciting, yet daunting, task of realizing the full potential of our new website. The website certainly offers information about the Colonial Society, notably our calendar of events, but its principal feature is the digitized, searchable presentation of the 89 volumes that we have published since 1895. These have already proven useful to scholars for research and to teachers and students exploring early American history. We have been gratified to observe that our website audience is international.

As we continue to publish print volumes of early Massachusetts (including Maine) documents and conference proceedings, each will be made available, free of charge, to a worldwide audience. We will also enter on the website transcripts of other documents that are of real interest, but too brief to fill an entire volume. The first of these, Joseph Ward & Reforming the Empire, 1773,

with an introduction by Neil York, a transcription of the document, and a facsimile of the original letter, may now be found by clicking Documents on the website. I encourage you to do so and to think of other significant documents that we might make available to scholars and students.

We are embarking on a promising new chapter in the history of the Colonial Society.

Sincerely,
Donald R. Friary
President

Continuing Care for our Collections

Those of you who have faithfully read this newsletter year after year know that we have been steadily plugging away at improving the condition of the many, varied objects with which the house has been furnished. Most of the objects in our possession arrived here soon after we acquired the house in 1955. They all came from private homes and had served their intended purposes for many generations in some cases. Thus, they generally showed the wear and tear one would expect from careful but prolonged usage. Everything was pretty much in the same condition, and the overall effect was something akin to the elderly college professor, whose tweed jacket, although originally of good quality, now had chamois patches on the elbows and slightly frayed cuffs. It was a look in which Walter Whitehill, who was the principal force in the furnishing of the house, was very comfortable. In fact it was the look of his own home, a genteel shabbiness.

To the members active when we acquired the house, it was a palace. They had previously had nothing and were nomads, moving from place to place for their meetings. The new home freshly painted and furnished was a delight. But as the decades passed, the older members who were used to ancestral homes filled with old things

drifted on and were succeeded by younger members with different taste. There was a change in the feeling about the house's appearance, and the notion of genteel gradually gave way to shabby as the operative word. Simultaneously, a new awareness of the importance of some of the things in the house arose among the members of the Council, perhaps encouraged by a request from the Metropolitan Museum of Art for the loan of two Newport tables. We had been thinking that it would be nice to have them restored but felt no urgency about it because we still thought of ourselves as publishers, and the stuff in the house was good enough for our purposes. However, the request from the Metropolitan Museum provided a reason to do it at once rather than at some undetermined future time. A subsequent request for the loan of three chairs and some engravings for an exhibition on the classical style produced a similar response from the Council. And so out of our willingness to be cooperative with other organizations and make our possessions useful to others as well as to ourselves, a conservation program was born. That part of it has persisted, and it gave us all a good deal of pleasure to see two beautifully restored pieces of our Vose furniture recently on exhibition at the Massachusetts Historical Society, and images of seven pieces of our furniture included in the book Rather Elegant Than Showy, by Robert D. Mussey, Jr. and Clark Pearce, that accompanied the exhibition.

The needs of almost 400 objects that have lain dormant for a half-century cannot be addressed at once. Conservation requires many hours of labor by highly skilled hands, which come at a substantial price. We needed to establish priorities and did so with factors of cultural importance, stability of the fabric, importance to the décor of the house, and commercial value being the basis for prioritization. Since many of our paintings qualified on all four points, we began with them. This year we sent two more paintings to Carmichael Art Conservation for treatment.

The larger of them, a nocturnal harbor scene, is well known to those who frequent the house, for it has hung for many years in the meeting room. Although it originated as a dark and mysterious scene, years of accumulated grime and darkened varnish had rendered it considerably more mysterious than the artist intended. Through the interest and support of Robert Severy, it is now considerably more legible, and even the artist's signature, A. Laini, may now be seen. This painting is of particular interest to us because it had been part of the Paine family's household décor and remained in the house when they left. An old photograph shows it hanging in the front hall.

The second painting restored this year has been generally unknown to members because its unstable condition precluded its exhibition. It depicts a classical courtyard with groups of figures, said to be an eighteenth-century painting from the school of Panini. While we know nothing of its history, in its nicely conserved condition it makes a handsome addition to the décor of the drawing room.

The great 400 Years of Massachusetts Furniture project of a few years ago directed our attention to our furniture, and, as previously reported, we have had four pieces of Boston mahogany furniture restored. This year we have had two mirrors conserved. There is a pair of very large mirrors on either side of the fireplace in the drawing room that were originally made for George Peabody of Salem, and came down in the family to William Crowninshield Endicott, from whose estate they came to our house in 1958. The frame of the one to the right had been trimmed along the bottom, presumably to make it fit between a ceiling and whatever it had been set upon. While restoration of the bottom piece was a more complicated and expensive project than we were inclined to undertake at this time, there were other losses and areas of instability requiring prompt attention. We engaged Wenda Kochanowski, a very capable conservator of decorative arts, to come to the house and clean, stabilize, and restore as much of the frame as was practical.

When the William Ellery Channing Memorial was established at the Colonial Society, we acquired a great variety of objects associated with him and his ancestors. Most of the pieces were assembled in a room on the third floor that we called "The Channing Room." Among them was a magnificent mirror, which just barely fit between the chair rail and ceiling. It was notable for a very handsome oval painted panel of a scene from classical mythology. Some agricultural elements suggest Ceres. When Richard Nylander was conducting his research on John Doggett for the 2013 Winterthur Furniture Forum, the mirror caught his eye, and he remembered that he had in his files a photograph of a twin to this mirror, which is in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the Department of State in Washington, DC. The frame is of eastern white pine and is believed to have been made in Boston, but there is as yet no attribution. We all looked at it with a fresh point of view and made the decision to have it conserved and moved to the second floor where visitors to the house could see it. Sue Jackson was engaged to conserve the frame, cleaning the surface, consolidating loose gesso, and in-gilding as necessary. The elliptical painting of a mythological scene was sent to Carmichael Art Conservation for the removal of a few spots of house paint, cleaning, and resurfacing. The re-



Harbor Scene by Moonlight by A Laini.



Classical courtyard scene, school of Panini.



Panel from Channing mirror by an unidentified artist.

assembled piece now hangs between the two windows in the drawing room.

As reported in the last Newsletter, we engaged Leslie Paisley of the Williamstown Art Conservation Center to survey part of our collection of works of art on paper. In order to make the best use of her time, we eliminated from the survey all items that neither had any relevance to the purposes of the Colonial Society nor were deemed by the Skinner appraisal to have no commercial value. That winnowing left approximately sixty-five items which, over the course of two days at the house, Leslie examined and provided a written report.

The report began with some general observations about the collection and the conditions in the house. We are, of course, pretty well aware of them, but it's always helpful to have it all set down in an organized fashion. She made some general suggestions of things we can do to ameliorate the conditions in which much of the collection is kept. Most of them have to do with protecting the material from mechanical, light, soiling, and insect damage. She also established levels of priority for each picture she examined, and then she made comments and recommendations on the individual pieces. It is a very helpful report and together with the Skinner appraisal gives us a basis for going into action.

She made two particularly helpful suggestions. The first was that our conservation dollars would go a lot further if we took items that were stable and simply remounted and re-matted them with archival quality material. That would protect them from further deterioration at a much lower price than conservation. The other suggestion regarded things in the collection that have no potential use to the Colonial Society and no commercial value. She pointed out that conservation schools have a continuing need for old works of art on paper that can be used to train their students. Working on real objects of various historic materials is by far the best way for students to learn. There are many that would welcome the gift of our unwanted paper for that purpose. That would be a much better use than simply having them remain in the house indefinitely for no constructive purpose. Of course should we pursue that suggestion, any item we chose to offer would be subjected to our standard deaccessioning procedure.

With all these factors in mind, we have begun the task of identifying works on paper to determine the order in which to proceed. An obvious choice was the two well-known Hogarth prints "Beer Street" and "Gin Lane" that have hung in pulp mats in the dining room for many years. The next time you see them, they will be encased in archival quality materials.

A Brief Report on Publications

The spring and summer of 2018 have been a very busy time for publications at the Colonial Society. Fellow Member Chuck diGiacomantonio completed his draft of Volume 89: The Insurgent Delegate: Selected Letters and other Writings of George Thatcher. Thatcher was a member of the first Federal Congress representing what was then the District of Maine. He served through the Revolution of 1800 and later accepted appointment as justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. A bit of a homespun philosopher and autodidact, Thatcher breaks many of the preconceptions we have of the aristocratic hauteur Massachusetts Federalists. He was initially enthusiastic about the revolution in France, but later turned away in revulsion. A free thinker, he corresponded with Joseph Priestly and other founders of Unitarianism, for which he paid a penalty at the polls with his Calvinist neighbors. Thatcher was a tireless opponent of slavery and the builtin advantages the Constitution gave to slaveholding states. He was also an advocate of independent statehood for Maine, though he regretted that Maine's admission to the Union necessitated the expansion of slave power as part of the Missouri Compromise.

On a personal level, Thatcher emerges from his letters as a devoted family man, always wishing to be home with his devoted wife and family in Biddeford, while he was away for long periods of time in Philadelphia, New York, or Washington, DC. Thatcher was absolutely incapable of passing a bookstore without picking up a title or two, eventually accumulating a library of over 12,000 titles that he stored in a twelve-by-twelve hut across from his office. Reading for Thatcher was not a purely intellectual pursuit; as well as imbibing the religious skepticism of the French Enlightenment, he insisted on raising his own children according to Jean-Jacques Rousseau's theories on education.

Handsomely designed by Paul Hoffman, formerly of the Stinehour Press but now working free-lance, Volume 89 will be full of illustrations in full color showing the various seats of the Federal government in its early years. To the delight of future researchers, *The Insurgent Delegate* will also have an index prepared by its author.

Following very close on the heels of Volume 89 will be Volumes 90 and 91, *The Colonial Records of Kings Chapel, 1686–1776*. The tireless work of Fellow Members James Bell and James Mooney, the editor and assistant editor respectively, *The Colonial Records of Kings Chapel* is a digest of several, sometimes overlapping, manuscript record books now on deposit at the Massachusetts His-

torical Society. Bell and Mooney have sorted out the originals from the copies and eliminated repetition for the modern reader. Genealogists will rejoice in the complete records of marriages, baptisms, and funerals for Boston's first Anglican parish. Some readers may regret the absence of "red meat" in these records, since they contain none of the disciplinary proceedings, confessions of faith, and theological disputes found in some of the records the Colonial Society has published on contemporary Congregational churches.

But Kings had a hard time with its Calvinist neighbors as evidenced by the note of panic that pervades the vestry minutes at the time of the Glorious Revolution and the expulsion of Sir Edmund Andros, one of the Chapel's chief patrons as governor of the Dominion of New England. When the vestry appointed a building committee to replace the first wooden building with the much larger present stone structure on the same site, they needed to acquire land from the adjacent town burying ground and the town school (no longer standing) for which School Street was named. The board of selectmen, dominated by Congregationalists, demanded so many refinements and improvements in the new school building that the vestry had expended nearly all the money they had raised for the new church before construction began. Although The Colonial Records of Kings Chapel contain only a list of drawings supplied by Peter Harrison, the new chapel's architect, and not the drawings themselves, it does contain a complete record of expenses from the builder.

Volume 91 contains a complete list of the books to the Chapel given in 1698 by the Bishop of London for the use of the Anglican clergy in New England that they might defend themselves in debate with their better educated Congregationalist peers. The library contains works by the Church Fathers, commentaries on the Bible, Greek and Roman classics, and a number of titles suggesting that Anglicans feared the threat of popery as much as their Congregationalist neighbors. About seventy per cent of these books, given by the Bishop of London, still survive in the Kings Chapel Collection at the Boston Athenæum.

As the American Revolution draws closer, fleeting glimpses of the political struggle that engulfed the town appear in the records. Probably to the chagrin of his Whig fellow clergymen, Henry Caner, the Anglican rector of King's, conducted the funeral of young Christopher Seider, who was shot by customs informant Ebenezer Richardson when a mob attacked Richardson's house on 22 February 1770. (The funeral procession, staged by the town's patriot leadership, was allegedly the

largest yet to take place in North America.) Richardson, the convicted murderer, also thought it wise to seek baptism from Caner while he languished in prison awaiting execution, though he eventually received a royal pardon. Just a few weeks after Seider's, Caner conducted another funeral for Patrick Carr, a young Irish laborer, who had been mortally wounded in the Boston Massacre.

The second volume of *The Correspondence of Thomas* Hutchinson, 1767-1769 should appear during the early winter. The year 1766 was a welcome respite for Hutchinson after the tumult surrounding the Stamp Act, but he found himself once again embroiled in controversy by early 1767. In February, the Massachusetts House of Representatives objected to Hutchinson, as lieutenant governor, attending meetings of the Governor's Council, regarding it as an unwarranted intrusion of the executive branch into the legislature. The subject of continuing abuse in newspapers, Hutchinson appeared to suffer some sort of nervous collapse in April and May, though he soon recovered by following a regime of moderate horseback riding prescribed by Patriot Doctor Joseph Warren. Imperial relations worsened when news of Charles Townshend's new revenue program, together with the appointment of an American Board of Customs Commissioners, arrived in midsummer. Boston flirted briefly with the nonconsumption of British goods as the appropriate response to the new duties, but when that approach proved unenforceable, the Boston town meeting adopted a more comprehensive nonimportation agreement on 5 March 1768, to be enforced by the merchants themselves.

For over a year in his letters to the ministry, Governor Francis Bernard had been subtly portraying conditions in Boston as so disordered that only troops sent from England could maintain civil order. The riot on 10 June 1768, following the seizure of John Hancock's sloop Liberty, sealed Boston's fate. The first of four regiments of redcoats disembarked on 1 October. Disputes regarding their quartering and conduct enlivened town politics throughout the winter. Despite Bernard's denials that he had never explicitly requested troops, the legislature was quick to blame the military presence on Bernard, and the situation worsened when the patriots published a number of letters written by Bernard to England that made clear the double game he had been playing. Recalled to London but awarded a face-saving baronetcy, Bernard left Massachusetts on 2 August 1768.

Hutchinson, now acting governor, had long hoped for the opportunity to attempt to reconcile conflicting political parties in his native province, using the friendships and political acumen he had built up during a long career of public service. The arrival of news of the promised partial repeal of the Townshend duties ought to have brightened prospects for a rapprochement, but the Boston merchants voted to continue nonimportation until all duties on trade, not just those of the Townshend Act, were repealed. When a number of merchants proved reluctant to go along with the extended nonimportation agreement, the merchants committee turned to harsher means of coercion. Despite the presence of British troops, Hutchinson felt powerless to protect the remaining importers without stronger Parliamentary legislation backing him up. Street violence continued to escalate throughout the winter, until tragedy marred the scene with the Boston Massacre on 5 March 1770.

One of the overriding themes of Volume 2 of *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson* is the continued anxiety and suspense experienced by Hutchinson and royal officials as they waited for a response from Parliament to the ever more provocative actions and resolves of the Massachusetts assembly, the Boston town meeting, and the confederacy of merchants. But no reaction was forthcoming. Parliament itself was deadlocked, as a very loose coalition of opponents seized on any issue that might embarrass the tottering ministry of the Duke of Grafton.

Fellow Member Tom Knoles, recently retired from the American Antiquarian Society, continues to work on the new edition of *The Diary of the Reverend William Bentley*, pastor of the East Church in Salem from 1783 to 1819. The first attempt to publish Bentley's diary by the Essex Institute from 1905 to 1914 resulted in four volumes, but nearly two-thirds of the manuscript was unprinted; what was printed seemed to focus on local concerns leaving behind the political and religious controversy that engaged Bentley. The Bentley Diary is one of the largest projects the Colonial Society has ever undertaken, and we hope Knoles will have his own first volume ready soon.

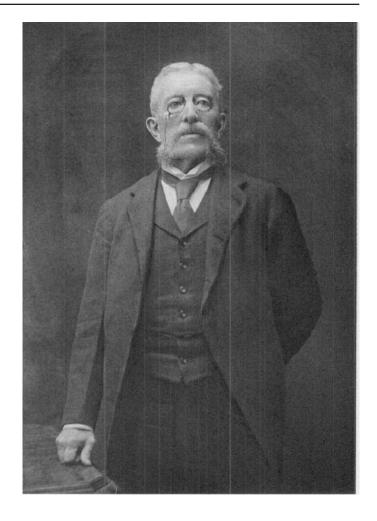
Fellow Member Douglas Winiarski, having won the Bancroft Prize, the Peter Gomes Memorial Prize, and the George Washington Prize for Darkness Falls on the Land of Light: Experiencing Religious Awakenings in Eighteenth-Century New England (a form of historical Triple Crown) is now free to finish up his work on The Memoirs of Josiah Cotton & Allied Documents, which should be ready to start the publication process sometime in 2019.

Colin Nicolson is at work on a sixth volume of *The Bernard Papers*. Although Bernard departed Massachusetts on 2 August 1769, he remained governor (with Thomas Hutchinson as acting governor) until the proclamation of Hutchinson's commission as governor-

in-chief on 14 March 1771. Thus, the two men maintained a rather full correspondence as Hutchinson dutifully reported on happenings in Massachusetts, while Bernard's advice would arrive 2-4 months later. Bernard and Lord Hillsborough also, during this period, worked closely on plans to reform the constitution of Massachusetts, proposing a royally appointed Council, the ability of the governor to remove uncooperative justices of the peace at will, and a different mode of selecting juries, who had been increasingly reluctant to convict anyone accused of the libel or assault of royal officials. Fears of war with Spain over the Falkland Islands put a stop to these reforms. (The ministry was reluctant to do anything that would risk its slender majority.) Bernard suffered a stroke in 1771 that put a stop to his letters, although he did not die until 1779.

Members of the steering committee for a newly annotated edition of William Bradford's Of Plimoth Plantation, a joint Colonial Society and New England Historic Genealogical Society project, met in Boston this fall to check on progress and assign responsibilities to the various editors (Francis Bremmer, Ken Minkema, Jeremy Bangs, Paula Peters, and Eric Raymond). The editors anticipate publication in various formats. The online edition will attempt to replicate as much as possible, in transcription, the actual appearance of the original manuscript, while the print edition will be more reader-friendly, but also carry the new annotations. The editors have their work cut out for them to complete the project in time for the 400th anniversary celebrations in fall 2020 of the Pilgrims' landing in Massachusetts, but the transcription itself is already two-thirds complete.

There are exciting plans afoot for further improvements to the Documents section of the Society's website. For over a year, the Society has been collaborating with New England's Hidden Histories, a program of the Congregational Library intended to preserve and publish the records of early New England churches. The CSM has subsidized and will eventually publish on its website the records of the First Church in Rowley, the Westborough Congregational Church, and an early manuscript version of the Cambridge Platform of 1648. The appearance of these documents will follow the format developed by Hidden Histories displaying side-by-side a fully searchable transcription and the corresponding page of the manuscript in facsimile. The three transcriptions mentioned above are already complete and are awaiting improvements to the website that will enable their publication.



George Nixon Black and
The House at Lobster Cove

The early years of the Colonial Society were an era for extravagant facial hair, and no one's sideburns were more luxuriant than George Nixon Black's. Black has recently come once again into prominence with the publication in the spring of 2017 of *The House at Lobster Cove*, a fictionalized version of his life by Jane Goodrich.

Black was born in Ellsworth, Maine, in 1828 to a family of merchants and timber barons. His father moved the family to Boston in 1854 following anti-Catholic violence there stirred by the Know Nothing Party. Black's father began quietly acquiring commercial real estate in their new home until he and his son became Boston's largest taxpayers. In 1883, in addition to the family house on Beacon Street overlooking the Common, George Nixon Black commissioned his friend and classmate Robert Swain Peabody to build Kragsyde, a shingle-style house perched on a seaside cliff in Manchester-by-the-Sea.



Kragsyde (demolished in 1928) soon became the acknowledged masterpiece and most frequently illustrated example of this quintessentially American style of summer house. When Jane Goodrich and her husband began to build an exact replica of the mansion on Swan's Island, Maine, in 1982, she commenced her research into Black's life that resulted in *The House at Lobster Cove*.

Among the things Goodrich discovered were the two great loves of Black's life: Francis Crowninshield, who died young of tuberculosis exacerbated by service in the Union Army during the Civil War, and Charles Brooks Pittman, a young assistant of the Olmstead Brothers, whom Black hired to design the landscape setting for Kragsyde. As a gay man in turn-of-the-century Boston, Black lived a necessarily reclusive life, but he did enjoy participation in a number of history-minded organizations, with the Colonial Society as a special favorite. (Black was elected a Resident Member in 1894, two years after the Society's founding.) Black assumed that he would predecease Pittman, his long-term companion, who was eighteen years younger than Black, but Pittman succumbed to the influenza epidemic following the end of the First World War. With his principal heir already dead, Black bequeathed his two houses to his brother, but the rest of his estate, after providing most generously for his domestic staff, was divided between a number of charitable institutions notably "without any restriction to use." Thus, in 1928, the Colonial Society received \$10,000 in cash, just short of a quarter of all its total assets in that year. Black also gave to the Society the papers of his great-grandfather, General David Cobb, which became one of the principal sources for Volumes 36 and 37 of the CSM Publications, "William Bingham's Maine Lands, 1790-1820."

Revolution 250

Revolution 250, the consortium of historical organizations that have come together to commemorate the events that brought on the Revolution, will bring to life the 1768 British occupation of Boston on October 6 and 7. More than 100 Redcoat reenactors will land at Long Wharf, march through the streets in what Paul Revere called "an insolent parade," and camp on Boston Common. This spectacle will launch a series of reenactments, educational programs, and efforts at historical preservation over the next eight years. Revolution 250 has grown out of discussions begun around the dining room table at 87 Mount Vernon Street, and now has more than forty partner organizations. Thanks to the Massachusetts Historical Society, Revolution 250 has hired a coordinator, Jonathan Lane. For more on Revolution 250, or to become a member, visit the website: https://revolution250.org/.

Graduate Student Forum

The 2018 Graduate Forum was one of the best. We do say that every year, and every year we are right. This year eight emerging scholars, representing both area schools such as Harvard and Boston College, and more distant institutions such as UC-Berkeley, the University of South Carolina, and SUNY-Stony Brook, introduced new areas of inquiry. The borderlands of Nova Scotia, freedom of contract and bound labor, French culture in early America, imperial reform in the British empire — the discussions ranged over the Atlantic and beyond. Society members offered comments, raised questions, and suggested sources and archives for future research. At the end of the day Richard Brown offered reflections on the students' work and on the future of colonial American history, both of which show great promise.

2018 Graduate Student Forum held Friday 8 June 2018

Session 1: Without Consent: Law and the Making of American Society 9 a.m.

Sonia Tycko, *Harvard*, "Captured Consent: Bound Service and Freedom of Contract in the Seventeenth-Century English Atlantic World"

Kevin Murphy, *SUNY Stony Brook*, "Coercion and Sworn Bonds in the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic"



Richard D. Brown and members of this year's Graduate Student Forum

Franklin Sammons, *UC Berkeley*, "Finance, Law, and the Political Economy of Dispossession"

Session 2: Face to Face and Far Away: Forming Communities in the Atlantic World 10:40 a.m.

John Morton, *Boston College*, "To Settle the Frontier on Sober Principles: Power, Faith, and Nationality in the New England-Maritime Borderlands"

G. Patrick O'Brien, *University of South Carolina*, "Gilded Misery": Loyalist Women, the Community of Suffering in Halifax, and Repatriation, 1775–1790"

Nicole Mahoney, *University of Maryland*, "Liberty, Gentility, and Dangerous Liaisons: French Culture and Polite Society in Early National America"

Session 3: Mapping Empire and Resistance in the Atlantic World 1:30 to 2:40

Peter Pellizzari, *Harvard*, "Empire Reformed: British Imperial Policy from Tacky's Revolt to the Boston Tea Party"

Catherine Treesh, Yale, "Committees of Correspondence: Organizing and Mobilizing Resistance Communities in the American Revolution"

3 pm Reflections:

Richard D. Brown, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History emeritus, *University of Connecticut*

Our next Forum is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 7, 2019. Marla Miller of the University of Massachusetts will be our moderator.

News of Members

Catherine Allgor has an essay, "Remember . . . I'm Your Man': Masculinity, Marriage, and Gender in *Hamilton*" in the newly-released volume from Rutgers University Press, *Historians on Hamilton: How a Blockbuster Musical Is Restaging America's Past*.

Robert Allison delivered the 2017 George Rogers Clark Lecture to the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington, D.C., discussing "Was the American Revolution Inevitable?" If you missed it, the lecture is available here: http://library.fora.tv/2017/10/27/2017_George_Rogers_Clark_Lecture_Was_the_American_Revolution_Inevitable. Samuel Eliot Morrison was the first Clark Lec-

turer, in 1975, and other Colonial Society members have subsequently appeared at Anderson House.

Bernard Bailyn and Robert Allison have edited *The Essential Debate on the Constitution: Federalist and Antifederalist Speeches and Writings* (Library of America, 2018), a collection of sixty essays, speeches, and letters from the ratification debates of 1787–1788. This great national argument centered on questions of power, and how to control it, with particular emphasis on the need for a Bill of Rights, the relationship between the state and national government, the dangers of unchecked Presidential power, religious liberty, and threats of corruption.

Helen Breen continues to write articles on the history of Lynnfield in the Lynfield Advocate (*advocatenews.net*) with emphasis on the "old town's" agricultural legacy and the community's rocky transition to an upscale suburb.

Daniel Coquillette was honored on June 12 by a special dinner at the Supreme Court of the United States, marking 34 years of service as Reporter to the Standing Committee on Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Department of Justice also gave him an Award for "Outstanding Service and Commitment to the Administration of Justice" and a letter of tribute from Rod Rosenstein for "service to the American Public."

Jonathan Den Hartog was promoted to full professor at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul, Minnesota, where he is also the Chair of the History Department. He published the chapter "The Cause of God, of human nature and posterity': John Jay and Justice in the American Revolution in Justifying Violence: Law, Virtue, and Violence in the American War for Independence, ed. Phillip Hamilton and Glenn Moots (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018), 243-263. He also published several book reviews. These included: Kyle Roberts, Evangelical Gotham: Religion and the Making of New York City, 1783–1860 in the Journal of the American Academy of Religion 85 (September 2017): 858-861, https://doi.org/ 10.1093/jaarel/lfx019; Daniel Dreisbach, Reading the Bible with the Founding Fathers, in Politics and Religion 10 (September 2017): 736-738, https://doi.org/10.1017/ S1755048317000384; Philip Gorski, American Covenant: A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present in the Journal of Church and State 60 (August 2018): 550-552, https://doi.org/10.1093/jcs/csy042

W. Dean Eastman and Kevin G. McGrath have edited and published a memoir of Eastman's father, Weston D. Eastman. Eastman's World War II Marine ground training experience is entitled *Strictly Scuttlebutt: From Ivy Hall To Duty Calls*. There is also an accompanying web-

site for the book at www.wdeastman.com. The website includes an expanded biography of Wes Eastman that includes his combat experience, and a Homefront section featuring a number of digitized artifacts, including ration cards, stamps, and tokens. There are also a number of World War II digitized pamphlets on Civilian Defense, on rationing (gasoline, home fuel oil, sugar, food), and pamphlets on cooking on rations, nutrition, Victory Gardens, canning, and more. A number of high schools have already included these materials in their World War II curriculum units.

William Fitzhugh continues, since 1987, to publish *The Concord Review*, a unique history journal at the secondary level. *The Review* has now published 1,296 research papers (average 7,400 words) by students from 45 states and 40 other countries in its first 118 issues. Information at tcr.org, or write fitzhugh@tcr.org.

Thomas Knoles has been named Librarian Emeritus upon his retirement after 28 years at the American Antiquarian Society. Tom, who has also served as Curator of Manuscripts at AAS, is editing a new, complete edition of the diaries, 1785–1819, of Rev. William Bentley of Salem to be published by CSM.

Karen Ordahl Kupperman's book *Pocahontas and the English Boys: Caught Between Cultures in Early Virginia* will be published by New York University Press in February 2019.

Patrick M. Leehey will retire as Director of Research at the Paul Revere House after 33 years of service. He will stay on as a part-time consultant assigned to specific projects.

Peter C. Mancall's *Nature and Culture in the Early Mod*ern Atlantic, the revised version of the Mellon Distinguished Lectures in the Humanities he gave at Penn, has been published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Daniel Mandell, Professor of History, has been appointed Distinguished Research Fellow at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri for 2018–2019. The Kinder Institute is an interdisciplinary center run by the history and political science departments with the mission of "reinvigorating civic education for the twenty-first century." Since its creation in 2014, it has blossomed into one of the most active intellectual centers in the region, with many undergraduate programs; seminars for secondary school teachers and the general public; visiting speakers and conferences; and fellowships for undergraduates, graduates, post-graduate researchers, and faculty scholars.

During his year at the Kinder, Prof. Mandell will participate in the Institute's many programs and begin a study of the evolving conundrum between individual and collective rights in the United States as highlighted by the history of Native American policies and laws.

Robert Mussey, together with Clark Pearce, was the curator of the exhibition Entrepreneurship and Classical Design in Boston's South End: The Furniture of Isaac Vose and Thomas Seymour, 1815 to 1825 at the Massachusetts Historical Society. A book by the same authors accompanies the exhibit, titled 'Rather Elegant Than Showy': The Classical Furniture of Isaac Vose (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society and David R. Godine, 2018), 293 pages with 339 color illustrations. Vose's designs incorporated elements of Greek, Roman, Etruscan, and Egyptian classical architecture and decoration, reinforcing Bostonians' identity as true heirs of ancient republican and democratic ideals. By the time of his death, Vose counted nearly every prominent Boston family as patrons. His furniture filled their houses as visible badges of their wealth, sophistication, and republican identities. Several pieces made by Vose in the Colonial Society's collection appear in both the exhibition and the publication. The book is available from David R. Godine, Publisher; MHS; and major booksellers.

Jane Nylander reviewed her fifty-seven-year career as the keynote speaker at the 2018 Textile History Forum in Marshfield, Vermont, on July 28. The published papers of the 2018 Forum include a complete listing of her ninety-eight published books, articles, and reviews. In preparation for her forthcoming book on visual features in New England parades, 1788–1940, she is seeking examples of surviving floats made prior to WWII. For a section on the counterculture, she especially seeks images and objects related to the Fantastics, the Squizaleers, the Bungtown Invincibles, the Spunkville Artillery, and other variants of the Antiques and Horribles.

Richard and Jane Nylander served as Consulting Curators for the exhibition *Fresh Goods: Shopping for Clothing in a New England Town, 1750–1900*, which opened at the Concord Museum March 1, 2018 and extended through August. The exhibition is part of the MASS Fashion collaboration and featured costumes and accessories from the museum's extensive collection.

Richard Nylander and Robert D. Mussey, co-authored "Classical Elegance for Lafayette's Visit to Boston, 1824" published in the Summer 2018 issue of *Antiques and Fine Art* magazine (https://www.incollect.com/articles/classical-elegance-for-lafayette-s-visit-to-boston-1824).

The article, which deals with the furnishings purchased by the city of Boston to outfit the Amory-Ticknor House for the "Guest of the Nation," coincided with the exhibition at the Massachusetts Historical Society and the publication by Mussey and Pearce mentioned above.

Micah Pawling received the 2018 Canadian Historical Association's prize for the best journal article in Indigenous History in 2017 for his essay "Wslastsk-wey (Maliseet) Homeland: Waterscapes and Continuity within the Lower St. John River Valley, 1784–1900," Acadiensis, vol. XLVI, no. 2 (Summer/Autumn 2017): 5-34.

Carla Gardina Pestana has published "Why Atlantic Piracy?" in *The Golden Age of Piracy: The Rise, Fall, and Enduring Popularity of Pirates*, ed. David Head (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2018), 15–31; "The Jamaica Maroons and the Dangers of Categorical Thinking," *Common-Place* 17:4 (Summer 2017): http://common-place.org/book/vol-17-no-4-pestana/; and an interview about her latest book, *The English Conquest of Jamaica: Oliver Cromwell's Bid for Empire* (2017), in *Junto: A Blog of early American History*, August 8, 2017. She has been elected President of FEEGI (Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction, and appointed to the editorial board of the AHR. With Molly Warsh, she will convene an Early Modern Global Caribbean Symposium at the JCB in September 2018.

Jenny Hale Pulsipher's second book, Swindler Sachem: The American Indian Who Sold His Birthright, Dropped Out of Harvard, and Conned the King of England, was published in June 2018 by Yale University Press. The result of a decade of research, the book tells the story of John Wompas, a Nipmuc Indian born in seventeenthcentury Massachusetts. Wompas, one of a handful of Native youth to attend Harvard, left college to become a sailor and speculator in Native lands. His actions brought him into conflict with colonial authorities as well as his Nipmuc kin, and his efforts to challenge colonial restrictions led him to cross the ocean and secure a royal audience with King Charles II. In Swindler Sachem, Pulsipher examines Indian-English struggles over Native land and sovereignty during an era of political turmoil in the English empire and reveals how one remarkable man navigated these perilous waters for the benefit of himself and his people.

Neal Salisbury has finished a revised edition of *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God, by Mary Rowlandson, with Related Documents*, published by Bedford Books in January 2018. He will be the Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the American Antiquarian Society in 2018–19.

Among other projects, he is currently completing a reexamination of the life of Tisquantum, aka Squanto, best known as the Indian who welcomed the first Plymouth colonists in 1621.

Len Travers's 2015 book "Hodges' Scout: A Lost Patrol of the French and Indian War," published by the Johns Hopkins University Press, will have a paperback edition in 2019. An article about New Bedford's black maritime community entitled "What Frederick Douglass Left Out" will appear in the "Proceedings of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife" later this year. He has begun a new book project, concerning a little-known encounter in 1723 between pirates and the Royal Navy off the southern coast of New England, and its grim aftermath.

Alden T. Vaughan recently published "Namontack's Itinerant Life and Mysterious Death: Sources and Speculations" in the *Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*. This article examines the short, dramatic — and often disputed — career of Chief Powhatan's envoy to England in 1608 and again in 1609; while returning to Virginia aboard the *Sea Venture*, Namontack survived its famous wreck on Bermuda but was killed there by a fellow Powhatan.

Tom Wilcox of Essex, Connecticut, currently Board Chair at the Connecticut River Museum (CRM), has agreed to temporarily step down from the board and become Interim Director while the museum board searches for a new permanent director. CRM, long accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, celebrates the cultural and environmental history of the 410-mile Connecticut River from its source at a small lake near the Canadian border to its estuarial mouth at Long Island Sound. A replica of Adriaen Block's 1614 vessel of discovery, *Onrust*, is a summer resident at the museum.

Neil York presented a paper on "The Elusive Quest for a Revolutionary American State of Mind: Boston After the Massacre" at Pembroke College, Oxford, on May 3rd. Stephen Conway, University College London, and CSM member Colin Nicolson, University of Stirling, acted as commentators.

Making History on the Common

It started with the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, holding its annual militia muster and election of officers on the Common on the first Monday in June since 1636. Now the Friends of the Public Garden have



partnered with other organizations to host "Making History on the Common" on the first Monday every June, bringing hundreds of schoolchildren to learn about colonial and early-American history.

Participating organizations include Historic New England, the Norman Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library, the City of Boston Archaeologist Joe Bagley, the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, and the Bostonian Society. This year, the Colonial Society sponsored artist Ross Miller's Native American fish weir project. Every year Ross Miller has schoolchildren rebuild a replica fish weir, which the Native People used to harvest small fish in the tidal areas of the Back Bay. He brings Native American musicians to lead the students in dances.

Despite the torrential rains on the first Monday in June of 2018, five hundred Boston schoolchildren participated in the events.



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

Boston, MA 02108

87 Mount Vernon Street

Calendar

- 15 November 2018 Annual Meeting (Members Only) at 6PM followed by dinner at the Somerset Club.
- 20 December 2018 "Billah's Story: Runaway Women in Eighteenth-Century America," Antonio T. Bly, Associate Professor of History and Director of Africana Studies, Appalachian State University.
- 21 February 2019 Stated Meeting, Speaker and Topic to be Announced.
- 18 April 2019 Stated Meeting Speaker and Topic to be Announced.
- 7 June 2019 Graduate Student Forum at 9 AM moderated by Marla Miller, Director of the Public History Program, and Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

All events take place at 87 Mount Vernon St., Boston MA 02108 at 3PM unless noted otherwise.

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