



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

September 2021 Volume XXVI, Number 1

Note from the President

Thanks to our dedicated and capable members, the Colonial Society did not slow down during the pandemic. We extended our programming and expanded our audience.

We missed the elegant intimacy of 87 Mount Vernon Street but thanks to ZOOM we were able to bring our Members, our speakers, and a wide range of interested participants together from throughout the globe. On a cold December day Carla Gardina Pestana of UCLA began our virtual programming, speaking from her home in sunny southern California about (appropriately) Colonial New England from a Global Perspective.

Nancy Seasholes joined us in February to talk about her *Atlas of Boston History* (2019), which covers Boston's development from the Ice Age to the present, with the earlier chapters featuring contributions from Society Members including Robert C. Anderson, Mark Peterson, Katherine Grandjean, Dane Morison, Joseph Bagley, J. L. Bell, Kerima Lewis, Benjamin Carp, and Robert Allison, all of whom were able to join the discussion.

Jean O'Brien had been slated to speak at our April 2020 Stated Meeting, as part of our commemorations of the 400th anniversary of arrival of the Pilgrims at Patuxet. As with other Plymouth 2020 programs the pandemic forced its postponement. She joined in April 2021 from her home in Minnesota to talk about her book (with Lisa Blewett) *Monumental Mobility: The Memory Work of Massachusetts* (2019).

In addition to our Stated Meetings, we hosted a series of book talks by our Members. Edward S. Cooke, Jr.'s book *Inventing Boston: Design, Production, and Consumption 1680-1720* (2019) was the focus of a panel on material culture, featuring Ned Cooke, Gerald W. R. Ward, and Barbara Ward, with Ned speaking from New Haven and the Wards from Portsmouth, and an audience stretching to the Antipodes.

Peter Mancall joined us from southern California to talk about his *Trials of Thomas Morton* (2019), and Boston's City Archaeologist Joseph Bagley told us about his new

book, *Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them* (2021).

The quality of our Members' work, and the range of topics our speakers address, are not new. What was new with these programs was being able to reach a wider audience, including our many non-resident Members, and the ease with which our speakers and far-flung audience could engage. ZOOM allowed us to bring speakers and audience together from around the globe. It also allows for our programs to be recorded easily, and kept on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Colonial-Society-of-Massachusetts-175605605802588>) and on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/Mu6SSLrDqDQ>) where they will continue to engage Members and new friends. Special thanks to Member Bob Mack, whose technical expertise has made it possible for us to reach this wider audience. It would not be possible without him—it certainly would not be as much fun.

One new program was the annual Donald Friary Lecture, inaugurated in May by a panel discussion featuring Mary Beth Norton, Benjamin Ray, and Emerson "Tad" Baker, on the Salem Witch Trials, which drew an audience of five hundred from across the United States and Canada

Open Hours for Members

Wednesdays, 10am – 2pm

Starting September 22

We invite you to spend some time in the elegant rooms of our headquarters at 87 Mount Vernon Street. Bring your laptop or your lunch. Plan to meet a friend. The dining room will be available for eating or working, and the library and drawing room are comfortable places to settle in with a book (including browsing our own members library). We will provide wifi, as well as tea and cookies.

R.S.V.P. to Curator Meghan Gelardi Holmes at mmgelardi@gmail.com.

as well as Puerto Rico, Panama, and Australia and New Zealand. It was a tremendous discussion that set the tone for our future Friary Lectures, created in honor of our longest-serving President, Don Friary. Stay tuned for next year's Friary Lecture, and coming programs which our Program Committee, chaired by Anne Cecere, has planned for 2021-2022.

Our Graduate Forum, organized this year by the tireless Marla Miller, was a great success. It was nearly a week of programs for this year's graduate presenters, and Moderator Linda Kerber. Our curator, Meghan Gelardi Holmes, gave the graduate students a virtual tour of 87 Mount Vernon Street. Congratulations, and thanks, to Marla Miller and to the other members of the Graduate Forum committee—Susan Lively, Alice Nash, Bob Gross, and Ann Little, and to the participating graduate students, whom we hope will continue shaping early American history.

The success of our on-line programs has spurred us to continue them, even when we are able to gather again at 87 Mount Vernon Street. As this newsletter goes to press, we are having a camera installed in our meeting room, to allow us to stream and record our programs. We look forward to welcoming Members back to 87 Mount Vernon, and also to welcoming a new audience for early American history to Colonial Society programs through the digital platforms of Facebook and YouTube.

While we reach a wider audience, we also want to bring more of our Members into 87 Mount Vernon Street. To that end, we will host an open house for Members and guests on Sunday, October 3, from 1 to 4. Join us for a tour of the House and to reconnect with other Members. We plan to open the house for visitors one Sunday each month, and our Curator, Meghan Gelardi Holmes, is eager to show what she has found in exploring our archives and collections.

The Colonial Society owes its continued vitality to the commitment of its Members. Thank you all for your support—in our Annual Appeal, on our committees, and in joining in our programs. The work members do on our committees and in other ways is invaluable. I look forward to joining with each of you as the Colonial Society continues to share the news of early American history.

Robert J. Allison

A Report from the Curator

By Meghan Gelardi Holmes

On my first day at the house, Robert Mussey, Chair of the House Committee, was accepting delivery of a restored Vose sofa, which is now located in the library. An

auspicious beginning! This sofa, which donor Henry Channing once suggested be dropped into the ocean, rejoins our important collection of classical Boston furniture, including three other pieces firmly attributed to the furniture shop of Isaac Vose. The delivery crew placed the sofa in the library, and we admired the new black horse-hair upholstery, which looks so sharp against the elegant carved seat rails and brass tacking.

Our collections of furniture and artwork, including this Vose sofa, tell two important stories: one of increasingly skilled makers and savvy consumers in early 19th-century Boston; and another about changing tastes and a changing Boston in the 1950s, when most of our collections came to the Colonial Society. We are lucky that Walter Whitehill rescued so many of these pieces from obscurity or disposal. As your new curator, I look forward to sharing more stories about these objects and artworks in ways that meet the needs of the Society and our membership.

To that end, I have been doing a little bit of research into our collection of paintings. If curators are allowed to play favorites—and I think we are—I am very taken with Rembrandt Peale's copy of "The Cumaean Sibyl." The painting was donated to the Colonial Society in 1958 from the estate of William Crowninshield Endicott. At the Endicott house in Salem, the painting hung over the sideboard in the dining room. At 87 Mount Vernon Street, it welcomes visitors to our headquarters, a token of Boston's early 19th-century love affair with Italy and Italian works of art. The painting came about when, in the winter of 1829, Peale traveled to Rome to set up a studio. He spent over a year copying the works of Old Masters to present them ". . . to his countrymen as substitutes for the originals, which are beyond all price, and can never be seen but in a distant country." The original of our painting is a 16th-century work by Italian Baroque artist Domenichino (1581-1641) that hangs in the Galleria Borghese. When Peale returned to the United States in 1831, he held an exhibition of his Italian copies at Sully and Earle's Gallery in Philadelphia; his version of "The Cumaean Sibyl" was one of 27 paintings on view. I do not yet know how the painting made its way to the Endicott family, but I feel lucky that it greets me every time I enter the building, a fitting anchor to our front hall.

Another work with Italian connections is "Faith," a bust by renowned sculptor Hiram Powers. The House Committee determined it was time to conserve this important piece, and Robert Mussey's report in this newsletter discusses both the conservation project and the history of this artwork. I am lucky to be working with an active, expert House Committee who tackles these projects with zeal.

While these important conservation activities proceed, I have undertaken a significantly less flashy task. As part



A second sofa from the hand of Isaac Vose has been recently reupholstered and now graces the library at 87 Mount Vernon Street.



Raphael Peale's painting of the "Cumaeen Sibyl" hangs in the front hall of the Colonial Society's headquarters.



A nineteenth-century photograph of the dining room of the William Crowninshield Endicott house at 365 Essex Street in Salem showing Peale's "Cumaeen Sibyl" above the sideboard. Photograph by John L. Gardner, II. 1893. Courtesy of Historic New England.

of my goal to learn the collections, I embarked upon a comprehensive inventory of 87 Mount Vernon Street. Between January and August, I surveyed each room, matching objects to catalog records. This included entering all relevant information about each item into our brand-new, web-based collections database. While this kind of project might not hold the same appeal as one that results in a newly refurbished object for your appreciation, the work is necessary and useful.

There are always some odd finds when you conduct an inventory. Inside a desk in the Channing Room, I discovered a lock of William Ellery Channing's hair, labeled and tucked into an envelope. It makes a nice pair with Louisa Storrow Higginson's slipper, located on the fourth floor. Odd they may be, these relics are a reminder of the power of objects as physical manifestations of the past.

Our history is not just embedded in our collections, of course. So much of it is stored within our membership.

Collectively, your historical knowledge is vast—of the history of early New England, but also of the way the Colonial Society itself has grown and changed. The interests and activities of the Society reflect what we, as historians, care about and find relevant to understanding our present. To that end, I am pleased to share with you a new project that we are kicking off this fall. Sam Redman, Associate Professor and Director of the UMass-Amherst Oral History Lab and Public History Program, is teaching a graduate class on methods in oral history. The Colonial Society will serve as the field service project for his students, who will conduct interviews with 10 to 12 of our members in an effort to record that institutional memory. I am really delighted by this collaboration, and I think it has potential to expand and grow—the possibilities for using these interviews to tell our story, to each other and to future scholars of early New England, are legion.

As I close this report on my curatorial initiatives of the past year, I want to invite you to join me at 87 Mount Vernon Street this upcoming year. We have been isolated in our homes, and when we can, I will be glad to meet you in person and spend time together at our headquarters. You'll see the invitation for members to drop in on Wednesdays, and I hope you will do so. When you visit, plan to peek into the kitchen, where we have mounted an exhibit on the former residents of the house, namely the Lee-Paine family who occupied 87 Mount Vernon Street between 1816 and 1955. Nina Howland, the generous donor of the property, said in her memoir, "Six generations of us have lived in the house, since Great Grandmother Lee and her children took up their abode there with 'Uncle Sawyer'; and even by the time I can first remember it, in the early 1890s, it seemed more like an ancestor itself than just an ordinary house."

I am glad to be your new curator and I look forward to meeting you and working together to continue to enjoy and to make meaning of this special house and its collections.

A Brief Report on Publications

By John W. Tyler

My predecessor as editor, Fritz Allis, had a wry Yankee sense of humor and was wont to say: "Colonial Society publications are like bananas, they come in bunches." Although you have received only one printed volume since the Annual Meeting in December (*The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson, Volume Three*, covering just ten months of 1770, the year of the Boston Massacre), there are a number of volumes underway that should appear after the first of the year.

First among them will be the final volume, number six, of the Bernard Papers, edited by our Fellow Member Colin Nicolson of the University of Stirling in Scotland. This volume covers the period between Sir Francis Bernard's departure from Massachusetts August 1, 1769 until his death in 1779. During that time, Bernard was a key advisor on imperial affairs and, as Colin demonstrates, was particularly influential in shaping the ministry's response to the Boston Tea Party, especially the Massachusetts Government Act of 1774. Bernard suffered a stroke in December 1771, and the tempo of his correspondence slows after that, so volume six is a bit thinner than earlier volumes. It has already been broken into pages, and Colin, meticulous scholar that he is, is preparing his own index. The uniformly excellent level of scholarship throughout the series will make this set of volumes an indispensable aid in understanding Massachusetts politics in the 1760s.

Volume Four of *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson* will follow on very quickly in the new year, since it is already at the designer's now. It picks up the story in November 1770 with the acquittal of the soldiers in the trials following the Boston Massacre and continues through June 1772. With hindsight we can see that these twenty months were among the calmest of his administration. When the evidence provided at the trials failed to substantiate the claim that British soldiers had provoked the conflict, public opinion, at least in the country towns, turned away from the Patriot leadership in Boston. Hutchinson's commission as governor finally arrived in March 1771, and Hutchinson could begin to use what little patronage there was available to a royal governor to build support for his administration. He also tried to turn a temporary rift between Samuel Adams and John Hancock to promote mistrust between the House of Representatives and their newly chosen agent Benjamin Franklin. He was also able to bring to a conclusion a long-running dispute with the General Court about its meeting place and return the Court to Boston.

Over the years the Colonial Society has published the records of a number of Congregational churches, as well as those of two of Boston's most prominent Anglican communities (Trinity Church and Kings Chapel), but we have never thus far ventured to print any Quaker documents. The town of Dartmouth (which in the colonial period encompassed modern-day New Bedford and Westport) was located on the southern coast adjoining the border of heterodox Rhode Island. Thus it was a safe refuge for many groups who wished to avoid the supervisory eyes of Boston's Puritan establishment, be they Native Americans, freed Blacks, or religious dissenters. The records of the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends from the 1690s until well into the twentieth century are being digitized and transcribed through the active

efforts of the Dartmouth Historical and Arts Society. The CSM will publish the records of the men's and women's meetings from the society's founding through the American Revolution, annotated and edited by Thomas Hamm of Earlham College. These should appear in a two-volume set in the late spring.

Although CSM members may treasure their finely printed and bound copies of our publications, that is not the format in which most researchers consult them, at least since June 2017 when the Society made all of its publications freely available in digital form through our website. Since that time, nearly 715,000 people have visited the site, and traffic has been steadily growing with peaks and valleys that reflect the advent of a new publication or the seasons of the academic year.

Over 600,000 of those visitors consulted something within the publications section of the site, and 40,000 used our search function to find something within it. Other busy features of the site include activities, membership, and our new documents section with roughly 5,000 page views each.

Our conference volumes are the ones most frequently consulted with *Boston Furniture, 1700-1900* easily leading the way with 51,000 views. *Seventeenth-Century New England* follows with 37,000 view and *Medicine in Colonial Massachusetts* with 34,000. Conference volumes generally lead documentary collections, but it should be noted that *The Correspondence of John Cotton Jr.* places seventh on the overall list (16,000 views) and *The Eighteenth-Century Records of the Boston Overseers of the Poor* is ninth (13,000). I hope that news brings some satisfaction to those who labored so hard on the *Overseers* volume, which was easily the most complex project of my term as editor. Other top documentary collections are *The Records of the First Church in Boston*, *The Sermon Notebook of Samuel Parris*, and the initial volumes of both the Francis Bernard and Thomas Hutchinson Papers. It should be noted, however, that although the top five volumes (all conference proceedings) account for 30 percent of all page views, there is a long tail to the list of 90 plus volumes contributing the other 70 percent.

The users of the website divide almost equally between men and women. Our viewers are predominantly 55 and older, but over 30 percent of the readership are ages 18 through 34, suggesting an important student component. Not surprisingly, 82 percent of viewers come from the United States, with the United Kingdom and Canada adding another 7 percent. Visitors from non-anglophone countries are relatively few, but we have had page views originating as far afield as Tajikistan, Togo, and Chad. Massachusetts leads all other states with 18 percent, with California second with 8.5. Boston itself accounts for 17 percent of the traffic and New York follows with 7 percent.

How viewers arrive at the website is another important question. Eighty-five percent arrive "organically" via a search engine. Only 11 percent come directly to our website without a search engine involved. A further 3 percent are referred from some other source. At the moment 79 percent are first-time visitors, but the number of repeat visitors should grow as people become more familiar with the website. Overall usage seems quite healthy for a relatively young site.

There is no doubt that the Society has broadened its audience. Seven hundred eighteen thousand visitors in four years seems a mighty number, especially when one reflects that probably fewer than 100 libraries maintain complete sets of our publications. Such outreach is an accomplishment Henry H. Edes and the other founders could never have imagined.

Judicial Record Transcription Project Begins

In April 2021, the Colonial Society and the Ames Foundation joined forces to make important Massachusetts judicial records more fully available to scholars and the public. Massachusetts has one of the most complete runs of early high court decisions, stretching from the 1690s to the 1780s, contained in the proceedings of the Massachusetts Superior Court of Judicature (the forerunner of today's Supreme Judicial Court). The SCJ judges heard all types of suits, from admiralty and probate to crimes of every description. The wealth of material—over 22,000 pages in all—has in fact hampered scholars who wanted to delve into the court's records, for no index (save by suitor's last name) existed to the information contained in its many volumes. The Early American Court Records project will turn a previously little used legal history resource into one that scholars can access around the globe.

Led by Professor Sally Hadden, a director of the Ames Foundation and CSM member, a team of graduate students at Western Michigan University is processing the minutes to create multiple entry points into the data. The first step is a full transcription of the SCJ proceedings using high-resolution images of the volumes' content, followed by annotation using more than 60 fields to parse the information into discrete categories. The annotations are then verified and captured in spreadsheet form, and the spreadsheets uploaded into a relational database that permits researchers to make complex queries of the data (e.g., show all cases involving female plaintiffs from Essex County; retrieve all cases that include innkeepers or tavern owners). The transcriptions, annotations, and database

will eventually be placed onto the Internet for free access by all. Generous support by the CSM is underwriting the transcription portion of this undertaking. Ames director Daniel Coquillette and Ames Literary Director Mary Sarah Bilder, both CSM members, are also supporters of the Early American Court Records project.

Report of the Development Committee

By Anne Grimes Rand

The Colonial Society's membership stepped forward with strong support of the Annual Fund, contributing nearly \$30,000 to advance the Society's mission of publication, research and fellowship. In addition, a special gift from the John Winthrop Charitable Trust will support a biennial award to a person contributing to our knowledge of the early history of the Colonial era. The Society's robust educational efforts are supported by a strong endowment built by generous contributions over many years. A memorial gift from the Joseph Peter Spang III Trust received this spring was a welcome addition to the Society's resources. As the first Curator at Historic Deerfield, Peter's career reflected lifelong commitment to research in the architecture and decorative arts of the colonial era. His generosity to the Colonial Society will support our efforts to share scholarship and insights into early American history for years to come. Members of the 1892 Associates continue this tradition by leaving a planned gift to the Colonial Society to sustain future efforts. Members of the 1892 Associates include Frederick D. Ballou, Daniel R. Coquillette, Georgia B. Barnhill, Robert W. Mack, D. Brenton Simons, and John W. Tyler. We thank these dedicated colleagues for their foresight and generosity. If you are interested in ensuring the Colonial Society's legacy of scholarship and collegiality with an estate gift, please reach out to a member of the Development Committee: Peggy Burke, Toby Hall, Henry Lee, Alan Rogers or contact Anne Grimes Rand at arand@usscm.org.

The Restoration of "Faith"

By Robert Mussey

One of the Colonial Society's most important art collections, a marble sculptural bust representing the classical virtue of *Faith*, will return home in September after cleaning and conservation at the Arlington studio of Jessica Chloros of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. It was executed and signed ca. 1866-1873 by Hiram Powers (1805-

1873), one of America's preeminent sculptors of the nineteenth century. It is fitting that it appears to have descended directly in the family of the original purchaser Henry Greenough (1807-1883), younger brother of the equally famous sculptor Horatio Greenough (1804-1852). The donors to the Colonial Society in 1958 were Henry's great-grandsons, William G. Nickerson Jr. and Henry Greenough Nickerson, who had inherited it from their mother.

Horatio was among the earliest American artists who followed the allure of Italian art and established himself in Florence where he spent virtually his entire working career. He was the son of David Greenough, a wealthy Boston real estate purchaser, developer, and investor. Members will probably be most familiar with David's later house in Jamaica Plain, the historic Loring-Greenough House. The high-flying Greenough was able to fund oldest son Horatio's Harvard education, but by the time Henry was a student there, his father's finances had become embarrassed and hopelessly entangled. Henry withdrew before graduation and spent some years teaching in Massachusetts. But through his friendship with Washington Allston, he secured an initial commission to design the Orthodox Church in Cambridge.

Henry followed his older brother and sailed in 1829 for Florence where he studied painting for several years under an Italian master. Horatio was already established there as a promising sculptor. As sons of a privileged upbringing in a wealthy Boston family, both lived there in style, made friends with prominent American artists, authors, and grand-tour visitors, and influenced an entire generation of later aspiring American artists. These included Hiram Powers, son of a poor farm family of Vermont who had moved to a town near Cincinnati when he was a boy. Showing early talent there as a modeler and sculptor, he too made the pilgrimage to Florence in 1837. In his initial years there, the older Horatio helped sponsor and promote his promising career.

Powers eventually became the most financially successful of this entire generation of American sculptors. Although best known for *The Greek Slave* of 1843 depicting a nude classical female with chained wrists, and *The Fisher Boy* of 1846, his most lucrative commissions were of "ideal" classical female busts and figures like *Faith*. These were produced in his extensive studios in Florence in which he employed a growing number of modelers, "blockers" to rough out marble blocks, and finishers, with Powers often tooling only the final finish. In his later years, assistants may have produced the entire sculpture start to finish, especially copies.

Faith was produced originally as part of the trio *Faith, Hope, and Charity* for the wealthy Rhode Island investor Marshall Woods of 62 Prospect Street in Providence, whose house is now the grand three-story Woods-Gerry



The newly-restored bust of "Faith" by Hiram Powers returns from the conservator's workshop.

House. From Woods's initial request to Powers in about 1852, it took over a decade for the sculptor to actually produce the three models. The final versions in marble followed in the next eight years. Although all three are basically similar, they vary in the direction of their gazes and other details. "Hope was the bud, Faith, the flower, Charity the fruit . . ." according an 1869 article on Powers. All three were popular and produced in quantity as lucrative items fourteen copies of *Faith* were made over a decade, but the exact date of the Colonial Society's example is unknown. Other versions are at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Smithsonian Institution Museum, and the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum.

In 1833, Henry returned to Boston to assume management of and redeem his family's affairs. After his father's death in 1836, he spent years untangling his father's hopelessly confused finances. The next year, he buttressed his family's fortunes and status when he married Frances Boott, daughter of a wealthy London merchant and cousin of the prominent Boston merchants and textile manufacturers. The couple returned to Italy in 1844. Much of their time was spent traveling in southern Europe and enjoying a favorite Austrian health spa. They also spent a great deal of time with Margaret Fuller and her husband and with the Brownings.

Henry and Frances finally returned to Boston in 1850, including with a *de rigueur* collection of "Old Master" Italian paintings. At least one of his paintings, *Young Boy Selling Kindling Wood*, by Bernhard Keil (1624-1687), a Danish artist working in Rome, was donated by a descendant to the Museum of Fine Arts. Henry Greenough was active in the decade following as a Cambridge architect working principally in Italianate style. Commissions included a house for his brother Horatio's widow after she returned to Boston, which a neighbor recalled as "a beautiful house with a broad hall, and parlors well suited to the fine copies of Italian pictures which hung on the walls."

Faith, originally modeled by Powers in 1852, was likely purchased by Henry Greenough sometime between 1866 and 1875 though details are unknown. Its probable descent was likely to his daughter Frances Greenough (1843-1939) who married the wealthy Arthur Welland Blake of Brookline; to her daughter Beatrice Frances Blake, who married William Gifford Nickerson Sr. of Dedham (1879-1914); to her sons, William Gifford Nickerson Jr. (1909-2001) and Henry Greenough Nickerson (1912-1980). Confirmation awaits examination of Middlesex and Norfolk County probate files, which has been prevented by Covid-19 office shutdowns. Examination of a collection of Henry's letters at Yale also awaits reopening.

Powers preferred marble from Seravezza marble quarries because of their extremely uniform whiteness. Greenough's example had accumulated 150 years of grime and was disfigured with "tide lines" of old cleaning solutions that had run down and puddled. Conservator Chloros, who has many years experience working on stone sculpture, cleaned these off with steam from distilled water and with organic solvents. This has restored *Faith* to her perfectly white overall complexion. A line of small pits running from her forehead over her head and which probably traces an original flaw in the marble, was cleaned to remove old yellowed filler, and new filler with marble dust and conservation resin was used to replace it.

Report from the Membership Committee

By Susan Lively

Current members of the Colonial Society might not be aware that membership in the Society was originally limited to descendants of Massachusetts Bay or Plymouth colonists. Since 1950, when these rules were loosened, the Society has elected a much broader range of members. Today, the main criterion for membership in the Society is an interest in colonial Massachusetts. Our Resident Members, limited to 200 in number, live or work within 60

miles of Boston. Our Non-Resident Members, also limited to 200, live beyond this radius. Currently, the Society has 180 Resident Members and 127 Non-Resident Members. We also have 14 Honorary Members. The Membership Committee — Joyce Chaplin, Nonie Gadsden, Robert Hall, Susan Lively, and John Tyler — would like to take this opportunity to welcome our most recently elected members to the Society:

Richard D. Batchelder – A partner at the law firm of Ropes & Gray and a former Special Assistant District Attorney for Middlesex County

Karilyn M. Crockett – Chief Equity Officer for the City of Boston and Assistant Professor of Urban History, Public Policy & Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

L'Merchie Frazier – Director of Education and Interpretation for the Museum of African American History, Boston/Nantucket

Katherine Grandjean – Associate Professor of History at Wellesley College

Thomas D. Hamm – Professor of History at Earlham College

Lauren B. Hewes – Vice President for Collections at the American Antiquarian Society

Patricia Johnston – The Rev. J. Gerard Mears, S.J., Chair in Fine Arts at the College of Holy Cross

Gavin W. Kleespies – Director of Programs, Exhibitions & Community Partnerships at the Massachusetts Historical Society

Kathryn K. Lasdow – Assistant Professor of History, Language & Global Culture at Suffolk University

Gorman Lee – K-12 Director of Social Studies for Braintree Public Schools

Kerima M. Lewis – teacher of history at Massasoit Community College, Quincy College, and Emerson College

Amory L. Logan – a trustee at Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge and Assistant Treasurer of the Colonial Society

Byron Rushing – a former President of the Museum of African American History and a 35-year member of the Massachusetts General Court

Asheesh K. Siddique – Assistant Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Kenneth C. Turino – manager of Community Partnerships and Resource Development at Historic New England

Adrian C. Weimer – Associate Professor of History at Providence College

Serena R. Zabin – Professor of History at Carleton College

The Membership Committee was also pleased by the election of **William Fowler** and **Donald Friary**, both former Presidents of the Colonial Society, to Honorary Membership at our Annual Meeting in November 2020.

A full list of our members, including affiliations and interests, can be found by clicking on the “Members Only” button on the membership page of the Colonial Society’s website at <https://www.colonialsociety.org/node/23>.

The nomination of a candidate for membership in the Society requires letters from two current members. These letters of nomination and the candidate’s curriculum vita should be sent to Susan Lively, Chair of the Membership Committee, at 87 Mount Vernon St., Boston, MA 02108, who will forward them to the Membership Committee and then to the Council for review. The final step in the nomination process is the election of new members by the Resident Members of the Society. Though nominators no longer need to ascertain the genealogy of potential candidates, they are encouraged to acquaint them with the history, objectives, and business of the Society before nominating them to ensure their interest in membership.

News of Members

Scott Andrew Bartley published *Early Vermont Settlers to 1771: Volume 2 – Northern Windsor County (Hartford, Hartland, Norwich, Pomfret, Sharon, and Woodstock)* as the second volume in the NEHGS series of the Early Vermont Settlers at the end of 2020. He also published two articles. The first was “The Tilden Family of Lebanon, New Hampshire,” *New Hampshire Genealogical Record*, 33 (2021): 3-34, identifying the colonial roots of this family in Connecticut. The second was with Diane MacLean Boumenot, “Sorting Out the Several Daniel Lanphear Men,” *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 175 (2021): 139-47, that positively identified three different colonial men.

Mary Sarah Bilder published “Without Doors: Native Nations and the Convention,” *Fordham Law Review* 89, no. 5 (2021): 1707-59, describing the hitherto unknown visits of four Native Nation representatives to Philadelphia in the summer of 1787, and with fellow member Sharon O’Connor, *Appeals to the Privy Council from the American Colonies: An Annotated Digital Catalogue, Part 2* (Cambridge: Hein Publishing for the Ames Foundation, 2021) (containing all 519 appeals from the Caribbean and Canada to 1783), also available as a database at <https://amesfoundation.law.harvard.edu/ColonialAppeals/>.

Francis J. Bremer is Professor Emeritus of History at Millersville University of Pennsylvania and Coordinator of New England Beginnings. Last year saw publication of

his *One Small Candle: The Plymouth Puritans and the Beginnings of English New England* (Oxford) and *William Bradford's Of Plimoth Plantation, the 400th Anniversary edition*, co-edited with Kenneth Minkema and Jeremy Bangs, which was published by the Colonial Society in conjunction with the New England Historic and Genealogical Society. He is currently working on an edition of *William Bradford's "Dialogues," Poetry, and other Writings* with Kenneth Minkema and David Luper. He is editing a *Handbook of Puritanism* along with Greg Salazar and Ann Hughes for Oxford University Press. He is also working on a study of the role of women in puritanism in the Atlantic world.

Nym Cooke continues to inventory and describe pre-1821 sacred music sources in New England libraries. As an American Antiquarian Society short-term fellow, he was lucky to be one of a small group of scholars working at the AAS in Summer 2020. August 2021 found him at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the first of five places he'll be visiting on a New England Regional Fellowship Consortium grant. Anyone with leads to tunebook collections or important manuscripts that Nym might not know about—small city and town historical societies and private libraries included—is respectfully encouraged to contact him at nymcooke@gmail.com.

Sue Goganian was recently named President of the New England Museum Association, the regional membership organization that advocates for museums of all sizes. She is also serving as a commissioner on the Highland Park Study Committee, which will issue a report on the establishment of Highland Park in Roxbury as a local Architectural Conservation District. As director of Historic Beverly, she is happy to report that the organization successfully weathered the challenges of the pandemic, thanks in large part to great community partnerships.

Robert A. Gross has completed his long-running study of Concord, Massachusetts, in the era of Emerson and Thoreau. *The Transcendentalists and Their World* will be published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux on November 9, 2021, some forty-three years after the original contract was signed. It will be followed by a new, revised edition of *The Minutemen and Their World* from Picador press in spring 2022.

Sally Hadden has completed two essays, "Gun Laws in Early America: The Sometimes Contradictory Regulations of Gun Use in the Colonial South," edited by Jacob Charles, Joseph Blocher, and Darrell Miller, *New Histories of Gun Rights and Regulation: Essays on the Place of Guns in American Law and Society* (Oxford University Press, 2022) and "Police and Slave Patrols: A History of State-Sponsored White-On-Black Violence," in *The Ethics of Policing: New Perspectives on Law Enforcement*, edited by Benjamin Jones and Eduardo Mendieta (New York University Press, July 2021), in addition to her mem-

ories about Bernard Bailyn ("Reflections on Bernard Bailyn" *The Docket* 3, 4 (2020) <https://lawandhistoryreview.org/article/sally-hadden-reflections-on-bernard-bailyn/>).

Jared Hardesty published a new book, *Mutiny on the Rising Sun: A Tragic Tale of Slavery, Smuggling, and Chocolate*, in October. The book, a product of extensive collaboration with the Old North Church in Boston, reconstructs an eighteenth-century smuggling and slave trading ring. Jared's current research explores a community of Boston merchants who relocated to Danish St. Croix in the 1760s and 1770s.

Marla Miller had a year of firsts and lasts. In 2020-2021 she helped plan and lead, for the first time, the CSM Graduate Forum, which was also online for the first time in its history. In the spring she was honored to be named a Distinguished Professor of History at UMass Amherst. In Summer 2021, after 19 years as director of the Public History Program there, she handed the baton to public and oral historian Sam Redman; she looks forward to focusing on her own research and writing and public history practice.

Carl R. Nold was elected to the board of directors of The Frances Perkins Center, Newcastle, Maine. The organization acquired the Perkins Homestead for preservation and interpretation of the work and legacy of Perkins, the first woman Cabinet member and force behind Social Security, unemployment insurance, and other New Deal social justice programs.

Jane Nylander's new book, *The Best Ever! Parades in New England 1788-1940*, will be published in October by Bauhan Publishing in conjunction with Old Sturbridge Village. More than three hundred drawings, daguerreotypes, historical photographs, and detailed descriptions illustrate both the rich diversity and reassuring continuity of New England parade traditions ranging from the ratification of the Constitution to the eve of World War II. As part of its 75th-anniversary celebration, the Village is presenting an exhibition that will offer a close look at some of the rarest parade material. Special events scattered over a two-year period will bring to life a wide range of topics including New England's Antiques and Horribles. Captain Jehiel Stebbins of Spunkville may even appear!

James O'Toole (Boston College) has retired from teaching and has assumed the position of University Historian. His new history of Boston College will be published in the spring.

Jeff Pearlman, Revere (MA) historian, was featured on the Chronicle program last September. He spoke at length about the Revere Museum as well as giving viewers a look at the Rumney Marsh Burial Ground and the sixteen slaves interred within unmarked graves. Last May, Pearlman conducted a tour of the cemetery for professors Robert Bellinger and Robert Allison of Suffolk Univer-

sity. After the tour, Pearlman gave the professors a longer tour showing them the site of the Battle of Chelsea Creek, Slade's tidewater mill, as well as Christ's Church, which dates back to 1710.

Laurence Pizer was elected to the Plymouth Charter Commission, one of nine tasked with proposing changes to the present town charter or creating a new form of government. The pressure is on, considering that the original charter was the Mayflower Compact.

David M. Powers, in spite of a demyelinating condition that has left him partially paralyzed, is identifying items related to William Pynchon to display for the 400th anniversary of Springfield, Massachusetts, in 2036.

Anne Grimes Rand continues at the helm of the USS Constitution Museum, navigating through stormy seas as the Museum has closed and reopened twice in the past year because of COVID-19. Despite these challenges, the Museum pivoted quickly to online activities, continuing to offer engaging programs for all ages and reaching 450,000 virtual visitors while their galleries were empty. The USS Constitution Museum received top recognition from the readers of USA TODAY through their 10Best award program, ranking #5 in the category of top history museums in America. As of Memorial Day weekend, the Museum is again pleased to be open seven days a week, sharing the stories of "Old Ironsides" to spark excitement about maritime heritage, naval history and the American experience.

Neal Salisbury published a review of Matthew Bahar's *Storm of the Sea: Indians and Empires in the Age of Sail* in the *William and Mary Quarterly's* April 2020 issue. He highly recommends the book to Society readers for the new perspectives it introduces on the early history of the far Northeast.

D. Brenton Simons was appointed by Governor Charles D. Baker in May 2021 as a member of the State Commission to Investigate the Seal and Motto of Massachusetts and has been sworn in as a Commissioner. He is also currently serving at Governor Baker's appointment as Vice Chair of the Plymouth 400th Anniversary; commemorations in 2021 will mark the 400th Anniversary of the Pilgrim Thanksgiving.

John W. Tyler participated in two podcasts about Thomas Hutchinson in 2021: one with Bob Allison for Revolution 250, the other for "Growing Patriots: The Podcast" on iHeart Radio. He also gave a Lowell Lecture at the Paul Revere House on September 14, "Such Ruins Were Never Seen in America: The Looting of Thomas Hutchinson's House at the Time of the Stamp Act Riots."

Gerald W. R. Ward's book, *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Genealogical Society* (2020), received the 2021 Award from the New England Society in the City of New York as a

"book of merit that celebrates New England and its culture." He is currently serving his fifth term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, and contributed entries on the work of the sculptor Richard H. Recchia to *Legacy and Future: The Story of RAA&M* (2021), a publication marking the centennial of the Rockport Art Association & Museum.

David R. Whitesell recently published "Addendum to Roger E. Stoddard's *A Bibliographical Description of Books and Pamphlets of American Verse Printed from 1610 Through 1820*," *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, vol. 115, no. 2 (June 2021): 205-32.

The Whitehill Prize

The winner of the 2020 Whitehill Prize is Cornelia H. Dayton, Professor of History at the University of Connecticut. Her essay is entitled, "Lost Years Recovered: John Peters and Phillis Wheatley Peters in Middleton." Dayton takes up the story of African-born poet Phillis Wheatley after she and her husband left Boston in 1780 for Middleton in Essex County. John Peters had come into possession of a substantial farm there where he had been enslaved as a child, but his tenuous legal position and the hostility of neighboring townspeople led to the loss of the land, and the family's decision to move back to Boston.

The Walter Muir Whitehill Prize of \$2500 is awarded annually by the Colonial Society for a distinguished essay on early American history (up to 1825), not previously published, with preference being given to New England subjects. The prize also includes publication of the essay as an article in the *New England Quarterly*.

CSM members who are college and university professors are especially encouraged to make sure their students are aware of the prize. For additional information, including prize specifications and a list of past winners, see www.newenglandquarterly.org.

Essays for the 2021 prize are now being accepted for consideration. All manuscripts submitted for the 2021 prize must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2022. The Society expects to announce the winning candidate in the spring of 2022. Entries submitted for consideration should be sent as a word attachment to neq@umb.edu. Hard copies may be sent to the Whitehill Prize Committee, c/o *The New England Quarterly*, Department of History, University of Massachusetts, Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125.

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To support the general charitable purposes of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

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



THE COLONIAL SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS
87 Mount Vernon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Calendar

October 3, 2021 • Open House, 1 - 4 pm, at 87 Mt. Vernon Street

October 14, 2021 • The Creation of the Paul Revere Heritage Site: A Conversation with George Comeau, Robert Martello, and Nina Zannieri (zoom from Canton, Mass.)

November 4, 2021 • Author Talk, Dane Morrison, Salem State University, *Eastward of Good Hope: Early America in a Dangerous World*

November 18, 2021 • Annual Meeting

December 16, 2021 • Stated Meeting, Robert A. Bellinger, Suffolk University, "Gardens of the Enslaved"

February 17, 2022 • Stated Meeting, Cornelia Dayton, University of Connecticut, "Lost Years Recovered: John Peters and Phillis Wheatley Peters in Middleton"

April 21, 2022 • Stated Meeting, our speaker will be the winner of the Winthrop Prize

May 19, 2022 • Donald R. Friary Lecture