

The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

September 2025 Volume XXX, Number 1

From the President

Robert J. Allison

What a tremendous range of programs the Colonial Society has hosted this past year!

Member **Len Travers** opened our calendar with a presentation on his book *The Notorious Edward Low: Pursuing the Last Great Villain in Piracy's Golden Age*, showing us that the era of piracy was not so golden. A great book, and thank you to Len for writing it and for sharing it with us.

Blake Grindon, the Colonial Society's New England Regional Fellowship Consortium Fellow, shared her work on "The Death of Jane McCrea: Sovereignty and Revolutionary Violence in the Northeast." Jane McCrea's death at the hands of Native American allies of the British during General Burgoyne's invasion of New York in 1777 brought New England into the field, a tangled story through which Grindon is exploring the frontier in the Revolutionary era.

The NERFC is a consortium of 30 New England research institutions, which awards scholars grants to use the resources of these repositories. The Colonial Society does not have a research collection, but our support allows one Fellow each year to focus on the colonial era (which we define as pre-1820) and mine the scholarly resources in the five New England states.

The Revolution's 250th was the focus of three additional programs. **Robert A. Gross**, author of *The Minutemen and Their World*, and Colonial Society President **Robert Allison**, author of *The American Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*, squared off to discuss "Patriots versus Loyalists: Which Side are You On?" drawing from the resources the Colonial Society has published—the papers of Thomas Hutchinson and Francis Bernard on one side, Josiah Quincy on the other, as well as *Ebenezer Parkman's World* available on our website. On the eve of Patriots Day, **J. L. Bell**, author of *The Road to Concord* and keeper of the Boston 1775 blog, exploded the many myths around Joseph Warren's unknown informant on April 18, 1775. Who told Warren that the British were on the march? To answer these questions, check out the events on our YouTube channel!



J. L. Bell offers insights on what Warren knew and how he learned it.

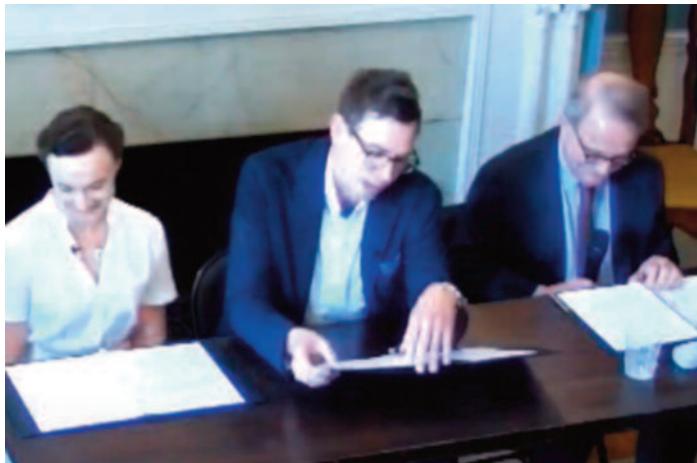
Our Donald Friary Symposium offered a key into the Archives of Revolution, with Members **Karin Wulf**, Director of the John Carter Brown Library, **Scott Casper** of the American Antiquarian Society, and **Paul Erickson** of the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan showcasing their extraordinary collections and the work each of these remarkable archives is doing to make their collections available to scholars, students, and the broader public. Thank you to **Anne Cecere** and the program committee for planning these programs, and for organizing next year's roster of events.

Printer John Dunton launched *The Athenian Gazette* in 1691, later named *The Athenian Mercury*, inviting readers to submit questions on any topic, which would be answered on printed broadsheets circulated in London coffeehouses. He prepared for questions of fact or philosophy (Who was Cain's wife? What is a star? Why do dolphins follow ships?) but he quickly began receiving questions on love, courtship, and marriage. Dunton filled twenty bound volumes with the questions and answers, which Mary Beth Norton has edited down to one brief volume, *"I Humbly Beg Your Speedy Answer."* Our three readers—**Laura Rocklyn** as the questioner, and **Jeremy Beazlie** and **Peter Drumme** as the voices of

Member Mary Beth Norton introduces her new book, “*I Humbly Beg Your Speedy Answer*”: *Letters on Love & Marriage from the World’s First Personal Advice Column*, drawn from queries to the 17th-century *Athenian Mercury* of London.



chusetts, to oversee their three historic properties. Meghan leaves us in very good shape, having created a database of our collections and overseen the restoration of many of our pieces of art. Happily, she remains a Member of the Society, and will continue to serve on the House Committee. Thank you to Meghan, and to all of our Members for your generous support of the Colonial Society.



Asking and answering the timeless questions of how to find love and happiness were Laura Rocklyn, Jeremy Beazlie, and Peter Drummey.

Athenian wisdom—brought the problems and solutions to the heart’s mysteries to life in this session sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Our public programs, our publications, our Graduate Student Forum, support of the *New England Quarterly*, are all made possible by the generosity of our Members, past and present. One of the most significant gifts the Colonial Society received was **Georgina Paine Fisher Howland**’s gift of her birthplace, 87 Mount Vernon Street, in 1954. The House gives us elegant surroundings in which to meet, and it has been a real joy to show the House to visitors at our

Open Houses (first Sunday of every month from October to May, 1 to 3).

For the past five years we have been fortunate to have **Meghan Gelardi Holmes** as our Curator, overseeing the House. As a testimony to the work she has done for the Colonial Society, Meghan is now moving on to a new challenge, as Executive Director of the National Society of Colonial Dames of Massa-



Georgina Paine Fisher Howland

Donald Friary Symposium

Thank you to **Karin Wulf**, the Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, for organizing our Donald Friary Symposium. The Friary Symposium is held in honor of President emeritus Donald Friary, and in May, Karin Wulf led a lively discussion on what is new in the Archives as we begin commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Revolution.

Scott Casper, President of the American Antiquarian Society, noted that this institution is in Worcester because of the American Revolution, as printer Isaiah Thomas moved his press out of Boston before April 19, 1775, continued printing *The Massachusetts Spy* from Worcester, and began the American Antiquarian Society in 1812 to provide the essential source material for understanding the Revolution.

The William L. Clements Library in Ann Arbor holds the papers of Generals Thomas Gage and Sir Henry Clinton, and its exhibit “Bloody Work” displays the letters that began the war. Gage received a letter from Lord Dartmouth on April 16, 1775, telling him do more to suppress the rebellion, and the next day drafted orders to Colonel Francis Smith to seize the weapons at Concord. **Paul Erickson**, Randolph G. Adams Director, shared that the Clements Library is digitizing the Gage papers, and is also having University of Michigan political science students mount an exhibit on the political thought of *Common Sense* using the Clements’s hundred editions of the pamphlet.



Paul Erickson, Karin Wulf, and Scott Casper tell us what is new in the archives as we approach the Revolution’s 250th, at the Donald Friary Symposium.

Karin Wulf spoke of the Bicentennial as a time when new scholarship emerged, with Congress funding a ten-volume series of new interpretations of the Revolution, and making a commitment to transcribing and publishing primary documents. Scott Casper pointed to the digitization of the AAS Revolutionary manuscripts, organized by Colonial Society Member **Jeffrey Griffith**. History, Karin Wulf said, is being made in the archives, and thanks to all for preserving these collections and making them available.

Colonial Society at the American Historical Association

At our centennial Annual Dinner in 1992, Edmund Morgan challenged the Colonial Society to publish primary documents, and to encourage younger scholars. We had long been publishing primary documents, but systematically encouraging younger scholars was a new task. We had our first Graduate Student Forum in 1999, and some 200 rising scholars have come to 87 Mount Vernon since then to share their work.

Member **Mary Beth Norton**, moderator of the 2011 Graduate Forum, and past president of the American Historical Association, suggested doing more with our Graduate Forum alumni who are now early on in their academic careers. She scanned the list of alumni, and identified several candidates to form panels at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in New York.

Mary Beth Norton herself moderated a great discussion of “Complicated Loyalties in the Revolutionary Era,” with Jacqueline Reynoso (CSM 2014, California State-Channel Islands), Christina Carrick (CSM 2015, Papers of Thomas Jefferson), and G. Patrick O’Brien (CSM 2018, University of Tampa).

Joyce Chaplin (CSM Moderator 2024) moderated a Roundtable on Early American environmental history with Hannah Anderson (CSM 2017, University of Arkansas—Little Rock), Zachary Bennett (CSM 2017, Norwich University), Kate Mulry (CSM 2012, Cal State—Bakersfield), and Josh Kercsmar (CSM 2012, Preserve Rural Maine).

Both panels drew large audiences and provoked lively discussions! Thank you to Mary Beth for having the idea, and to all the participants for making the sessions so interesting. We have proposed two panels for the 2026 AHA meeting in Chicago.

A Brief Report from the Curator

Meghan Gelardi Holmes

When you next visit 87 Mount Vernon Street, I encourage you to admire our recently restored vestibule. This proj-



Isaac Vose 1824 firescreen

ect, which aimed to address the remaining water damage from the winter of 2015 (along with some other items), has long been in the works and we are glad to see it completed. The restoration includes new flooring, which we selected to match the early-twentieth-century black and white floor tiles. Those tiles were likely chosen to mimic what may have been original marble flooring. Our historic paint analysis indicated that the baseboards were painted black in the earliest period of the house—less common today, but a useful choice to reduce the appearance of dirt and scuff marks—and we restored that original look, with striking results. Finally, you might notice that the exterior portico ceiling is now painted a robin’s egg blue, a popular choice in New England homes from the Federal period forward.

The newest addition to the Society’s collection is a handsome firescreen made by Isaac Vose in 1824. Firescreens were a common household furnishing in the nineteenth century; they were used to direct the heat of the fire and protect sensitive skin, especially on the face, from direct heat. Our previous firescreen was in poor condition and this Vose example is both in much better condition and a better match for the time period of the house. We now have five objects in the collection made in Isaac Vose’s workshop.

In 2024, we conserved a commemorative handkerchief, which is copper-printed with a facsimile of the Declaration

of Independence. I am pleased to report that this object will be included in the Concord Museum's upcoming exhibition, "Transformed by Revolution," and will be on view at the museum from October 3, 2025 through February 22, 2026. The textile is a highlight of the CSM collection and we are glad to be able to share it with a wider audience, via the thoughtful and carefully stewarded exhibition program at the Concord Museum.

Of course, all of these activities are made possible by the expertise and guidance of the House Committee, with whom I have been so lucky to work. The Committee's membership has grown to ten and I am so grateful for the time, energy, and expertise they offer to the Society.

As you might know, I left the Colonial Society at the end of July to take a new role as the Executive Director for Properties and Collections at the National Society of the Colonial Dames in Massachusetts. The NSCDA-MA stewards three historic properties, including Prescott House (located on Beacon Hill, just around the corner from 87 Mount Vernon Street). It was an absolute pleasure to serve as Curator for the CSM for these past five years, and I look forward to being an active member of the Society for years to come.

From the Editor

Sally Hadden

These are exciting times, for much is happening in the realm of Society publications and our website. Book designers are now hard at work on the first volume of the "Papers of John Hancock," edited by Society Member **Jeffrey Griffith**, and after proofs are reviewed and the letters indexed, it should go to the printers later this fall. Look for the book to arrive in your mailbox in the New Year. This volume focuses upon Hancock's family relations and his early activities, first as a student at Harvard College and later as a merchant growing in experience. His 1760-1761 voyage to London gave him a better appreciation of transatlantic commerce and the position Boston occupied among the British Empire's far-flung outposts. Hancock's travels also prepared him to take over the family business when his uncle Thomas died, leaving the young man in charge of a growing trade network with many moving parts. This Hancock volume draws to a close in 1769, but fear not—work continues on copyediting volumes two and three, which will likely reach the design stage in 2026. To witness this project moving into production is tremendously satisfying, and Jeffrey's hard work juggling tasks across multiple volumes simultaneously is amazing.

As I mentioned in last year's Newsletter, it was always

going to be a horse race between the Hancock project and the Gookin project as to which would reach print first. "The Writings of Daniel Gookin," edited by Society Members **Adrian Chastain Weimer** and **David D. Hall**, is at the copy-editing stage and should go to book designers later this fall, with a 2026 publication date. The readers' reports for this project were effusive: scholars will "treasure the documents retrieved from the Massachusetts State Archives and other repositories" that make a "valuable contribution" to our understanding of seventeenth-century New England. As my predecessor said more than once, CSM publications seem to arrive in bunches. 2026 promises to have a rich harvest.

Several new projects were launched this year under the guidance of the Publications Committee. Members **Ken Minkema** (chair), **Bob Anderson**, **Catherine Brekus**, **David Hall**, **Chris Jedrey**, and **Celeste Walker** gave the green light to publishing the "Reports of Boston's Night Watch, 1763-1803" (located in the Boston Public Library and scattered through the Boston Town Records collection). This project will be edited by **Nicole Breault** of University of Texas-El Paso (and a former CSM Graduate Forum participant). The volume will feature the primary sources that undergirded her dissertation on the same subject as a doctoral student of Member **Cornelia Dayton** (University of Connecticut). The Night Watch reports include appointments, petitions, plans for building construction, orders, receipts, journals of individual watch members, and court depositions. Their observations about Boston's sometimes seedier side will make for interesting reading and will move our publication series toward a more inclusive picture of the past, one that has usually emphasized the educated, devout, or politically active.

Another fresh perspective we will soon see in print is "The Journal and Letters of Nathaniel Cutting," edited by **William Stinchcombe** and **Micah Alpaugh**. The Cutting materials are held by the Massachusetts Historical Society. Cutting grew up in eighteenth-century Massachusetts, worked as a merchant's clerk then went to sea at age nineteen when the Revolutionary War commenced. He spent the war engaged as a sailor on ships that held letters of marque, which licensed private vessels to function as privateers, attacking and seizing enemy vessels. The work was risky: he ended up in an English prison for ten months of the war. Cutting's diary, however, covers his life after the war, when he found it difficult to get work as a ship captain during Massachusetts's financial woes of the 1780s. Cutting's diary starts when he attempted to become a mercantile broker in France for New England commodities like whale oil, used for illumination. He was always a man on the move: Cutting's travels took him across the Atlantic on a slave trading voyage from Europe to Africa and ultimately to St. Domingue (Haiti) in the Caribbean just years before the

outbreak of revolution on that island. Cutting eventually found steady work in government posts: as a U.S. consul in Le Havre, secretary to the commission that negotiated the Louisiana Purchase in Paris, and later as a clerk in U.S. War Department. Though he became a landlubber, Cutting remained a man of the sea and a New Englander wherever he was. His formative experiences during the Revolution colored his many post-war connections and friendships. The editorial work on the volume is well-advanced and I am excited by this colorful project entering the publication pipeline.

New material is ready to be added to the Society website as part of *Ebenezer Parkman's World*, which launched last year. In 2025, the editorial team completed transcriptions of another batch of lay relationships of faith and confessions (79 pages, originals held at the American Antiquarian Society), Parkman's "Natalitia" (123 pages, also at AAS), and the records of the Marlborough Ministerial Association (186 pages, held by the Marlborough First Church). Society Members **Ross W. Beales Jr.** (Professor Emeritus, College of the Holy Cross) and **James F. Cooper** (Director, New England's Hidden Histories), working with Dr. Anthony T. Vaver (Local History Librarian, Westborough Public Library), report that they are now working through the Breck Parkman Diary, and beyond that, that their team of volunteers is transcribing and proofreading still more material to add to the collection. The delay in uploading new material is that our website is in transition; look for these uploads in 2026 after the website upgrade is complete.

For many years, the Society website has been under the management of Scribe, but this year they recommended that the site be updated to conform to changing online standards, work they did not wish to pursue. The Website committee, led by Member **Robert Mack**, had conversations with several companies before deciding to entrust the task of building a new Society website and its management to Agile Humanities Agency of Toronto. We're encouraged by the numerous sites they have constructed for academic institutions and scholarly societies that require accuracy, accessibility, and security. After numerous conversations with Society members and extensive investigation of our current site as well as our future needs, Agile's technicians have begun the process of building our new website. Once we've had an opportunity to test the new site and suggest improvements, it will be time to migrate our materials to a new home. Expect changes to the Society website's appearance and functions in the New Year.

As ever, if you (or a friend!) have a project you would like the Colonial Society to consider publishing, please contact me at editor@colonialsociety.org and review our guidelines for what to include in a proposal at <https://www.colonialsociety.org/node/3384>. I would be delighted to hear from you.



President Robert J. Allison presents the John Winthrop Prize to Adrian Chastain Weimer

John Winthrop Prize

The John Winthrop Prize each year recognizes the best book on the 17th century. We were delighted to present the 2024 Winthrop Prize to **Adrian Chastain Weimer**, Colonial Society Member and Professor of History at Providence College, for her *A Constitutional Culture: New England and the Struggle Against Arbitrary Rule in the Restoration Empire*. This innovative, elegantly written, and much-needed constitutional history focuses on the Massachusetts colonists' response to threats to their charter rights in the post-Restoration world. Mining archives – local/personal/colony specific, English – with a vigor and thoroughness no one else has done, Weimer integrates early English and New England history. Thanks to her writing skill the monograph is a bit of a page turner.

Created through the generosity of Member **John Winthrop**, the Winthrop Prize is awarded each year, after the recipient has been selected by a committee of distinguished historians, chaired by **Francis Bremer**. Professor Bremer will be stepping down this year, having overseen the creation of the Prize. He and John Winthrop have our thanks for creating this distinguished recognition of the superb work being done to keep the always-relevant 17th century before us. Having received the prize, Professor Weimer has agreed to chair the committee to select future recipients.





Left to Right: Erica McAvoy, Xiaohan Wang, Chris Parsons, Beth Poyer, Peter Mancall, William Morgan, Megan Griffiths, Karl Nycklemoe, Tingfeng Yan

Report on the Graduate Student Forum

Ann Little

The 2025 Colonial Society Graduate Student Forum convened on the afternoon of May 29 for a tour of the society's Charles Bulfinch-designed headquarters by our curator **Meghan Gelardi-Holmes**, and a discussion about academic publishing convened by **Sally Hadden**, our Editor of Publications.

The following morning, on May 30, we returned to hear papers on the subject of Law and Empire by Tingfeng Yan of the University of Chicago on "Constitutionalism in favor of an energetic government: Constitution and administration in 17th- and 18th-century Anglo-American thought," and by Karl Nycklemoe of Stony Brook University on "Empires: European Navigation and Imperial Expansion in the Upper Mississippi." Another panel on Women and Power featured papers by Megan Griffiths of Queens University (Ontario) on the subject of "Possessed and Confessing People in New England Witchcraft Events," and by Beth Poyer of the University of Buffalo on "Women and the Eighteenth-Century Musket Trade in the colonial Southeast and Gold Coast."

After lunch, we returned for a panel on Revolutionary Words, featuring Notre Dame English Department's Xiaohan Wang on "From Politeness to Politics: Reciprocity and Franklin's Republican Conversation," Erica McAvoy of the University of New Hampshire on "Unrequited Freedom: Black Agency in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 1750-1820," and Indiana University's William Morgan on "Revolutionary Black Power: The Origins of Abolition in Revolution-

era Print Culture." All of the students performed with aplomb, observing carefully their time limits and offering helpful suggestions to one another.

Finally, our Vice President and member of the Graduate Student Forum program committee **Susan Lively** introduced our special guest, Member **Peter Mancall**, Distinguished Professor of History and Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at the University of Southern California. Professor Mancall then shared his thoughts and encouragement on the various student presentations. He noted several shared themes among their papers, such as the chronological drift of early America into the nineteenth century, and a focus on agency, literacy, and a yearning for freedom among the subjects of their analysis. He noted with appreciation the deep engagement with their primary sources he saw in all their papers, rather than an emphasis on theory. He concluded with a mixture of hopes and fears: Professor Mancall fears that early America as a historical pursuit may be well on its way to a "world we have lost," to borrow a turn of phrase from Peter Laslett. But he left the students with the hopeful reminder that "earning a Ph.D. is earning a temperament," an orientation towards the world. It is learning a craft that encourages students to be independent in their thinking.

Thanks to Former Curator Meghan Gelardi-Holmes, Administrator Mary Blunt, President Bob Allison, Vice President Susan Lively, and all of the Program Committee members: Marla Miller, Alice Nash, Susan Lively, and, most of all, chair of the program committee Christopher Parsons.

Report from the Membership Committee

Susan Lively

The Membership Committee (Sally Hadden, Susan Lively, JonPaul McBride, and Matthew Wilding) welcomes the sixteen new Members who have joined the Colonial Society of Massachusetts this year.

Brooke Barbier, founder and owner of Ye Olde Tavern Tours
Kelley R. Brown, a Massachusetts History Teacher of the Year

Christina Carrick, documentary editor

Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, professor of history at Roger Williams University

Rebecca Fraser, historian, journalist, and broadcaster

Ricardo Herrera, military historian of the American Revolution and the early republic

Eve LaPlante, journalist and author

Edward G. Lengel, former director of the Washington Papers Project

Kevin Loughlin, retired doctor at Brigham and Women's Hospital and scholar of the history of medicine in eighteenth-century New England

Peter Olsen-Harbich, Associate Director of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies

Peter Onuf, Senior Research Fellow at the Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies and a former professor of history at the University of Virginia

Jack Rakove, William Robertson Coe Professor of History and American Studies and Professor of Political Science and (by courtesy) of Law, emeritus, at Stanford University

Nikki Stewart, executive director of Old North Illuminated

Ira Stoll, journalist and editor and founder of FUTURE-OFCAPITALISM

Artress Bethany White, essayist and poet

Michael Winship, professor of history at the University of Georgia

A full list of the Society's members, including affiliations and interests, can be found by clicking on the "Membership Site" button on the Colonial Society's website at <https://www.colonialsociety.org>.

Nominations for membership should be sent to Susan Lively, Chair of the Membership Committee, at membership@colonialsociety.org. To be considered by the committee, nominations must include letters from two current Members and the nominee's curriculum vita, including the nominee's contact information.

Member News

Member **Joseph M. Adelman** has been named a Visiting Senior Fellow in the Brown 2026 Presidential Initiative at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Advanced Study at Brown University. He will spend the 2025-2026 academic year there working on a project about the history of the free press in the United States from the perspective of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Ross W. Beales Jr., published "If My Said Dauters Shall Marry": Probate Provisions for Single Women in Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Westborough, Massachusetts," in *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era* 30 (2025), 63-82.

Although there are dark clouds hanging over our country, **T. H. Breen** had a very productive year. Pearson Group issued a thoroughly revised new edition of his American History textbook "American Stories," and in March 2026, Uni-

versity of Virginia Press will publish his "American Revolution on Trial: The Farmers and the Aristocrat." In August, he will lecture to a historical society in Vermont on the "Great Maple Sugar Bubble of 1789."

Francis J. (Frank) Bremer is stepping down as chair of the CSM's Winthrop Book Prize committee. He is finishing work on *The Oxford Handbook of Puritanism*, an essay collection he is co-editing with Ann Hughes and Greg Salazar, as well as *Dialogues, Poetry, Correspondence and Other Writings by William Bradford*, which he is co-editing with Kenneth P. Minkema, David A. Lapher, and Kathryn N. Gray for the Colonial Society. In 2026, Brandeis University Press will publish a completely revised and expanded fiftieth anniversary edition of *The Puritan Experiment: New England Society from Bradford to Edwards*. He is working on a biography of William Bradford and continues to gather information for a study of women in the development of puritanism.

Frank Cogliano has been active doing media work in anticipation of the Semiquincentennial. He was the historical consultant for *Thomas Jefferson*, a six-part documentary produced by Glass Entertainment Group that aired on the History Channel in February. In July, he appeared on BBC Radio 4's *You're Dead to Me* in an episode on the American War of Independence with the comedian Patton Oswalt. He is the historical consultant for a two-part documentary on the American Revolution as part of the *Lucy Worsley Investigates* series that will air on the BBC and PBS in the spring of 2026. He is currently completing a book with Peter Onuf, *Jefferson's Moment*, to be published by Liveright in May 2026.

Nym Cooke continues to write and edit chapters for his forthcoming book *A Joyful Noise: Protestant Sacred Music in New England, 1720-1820*. His Memorial Libraries Research Fellowship at Historic Deerfield last fall led to a substantial essay on the varied musical activities of Deerfield's Justin Hitchcock (1752-1822); part of this essay will appear in *A Joyful Noise*. Meanwhile, Nym's inventorying of pre-1821 sacred music in New England libraries and historical societies continues, with the contents of five recent inventories about to be added to the 26 already in his database at earlyamericansacredmusic.org.

Eric Jay Dolin's book—*Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution*—won the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in American History Book Award for Adult Nonfiction. Dolin was also inducted into the International Pirate Hall of Fame, mainly as a result of his book *Black Flags, Blue Waters: The Epic History of America's Most Notorious Pirates*. Dolin recently handed in his next book, which will be published this June, about a fascinating and dramatic shipwreck in the Pacific Ocean in the early 1800s.

Thomas Hamm has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of Earlham College. He retired after 36 years on the Earlham faculty in 2023.

Peabody Essex Museum curator **Dan Finamore** has been working with many PEM colleagues to prepare a major new installation in the museum's East India Marine Hall. It celebrates the bicentennial year of that building's creation. The team has selected more than 400 objects collected by the museum in its earliest years (when it was known as the East India Marine Society), and has plumbed the vast archives to present historical and contemporary perspectives on how these objects were acquired, displayed, and perceived by the visiting public. Central to that approach is a series of oral interviews by historians, artists, and members of descendant communities, whose perspectives will be delivered via smartphone. The gallery is slated to open in December.

Donald Friary presented an amply illustrated lecture to the Hurricane Island Archaeological Field School, 12 miles out in Penobscot Bay, on "One Family's [Don's own] Life and Work on Hurricane Island, Maine, 1875-1879." It is now on YouTube and Don is adapting it for publication as an article.

Philip F. Gura's latest book, *Reading with the Transcendentalists: Ten Works that Made a Movement*, will be published by the University of Massachusetts Press.

Managing the Society's publications pipeline keeps **Sally Hadden** preoccupied, but she found time to deliver a paper at the 2024 International Symposium on AI and Humanities Research, held in Taipei, Taiwan. The project she leads on behalf of the Ames Foundation and the Colonial Society, editing *The Record Books of the Massachusetts Bay Superior Court of Judicature: ca. 1690-1780*, yielded two published volumes covering the Revolutionary War's maritime cases and lawsuits heard between 1760 and 1762. They are available online at <https://amesfoundation.law.harvard.edu/MassSCJ/> and will join the Colonial Society's website once it is fully rebuilt.

Daniel Mandell spent the last year teaching at Assumption University in Worcester, and published two pieces: "The Ambivalent History of Indigenous People and U.S. Citizenship," *TIME* online, October 14, 2024, and "The Founders Knew Great Wealth Inequality Could Destroy Us," *TIME* online and in print as "The Founders Saw the Dangers of Concentrated Wealth," July 7, 2025, p. 25. He also gave a talk in Acton, Massachusetts, on "The times are exceedingly altered: The Revolution and Southern New England Indians," for Acton250 and Friends of Pine Hawk, Acton, on December 5, 2024.

Louis P. Masur recently published *A Journey North: Jefferson, Madison and the Forging of a Friendship* (Oxford University Press 2025). It tells the story of a six-week journey they took through the upper Hudson and New England in the spring of 1791.

A Journey North: Jefferson, Madison and the Forging of a Friendship (Oxford University Press 2025). It tells the story of a six-week journey they took through the upper Hudson and New England in the spring of 1791.

Christina Michelon is now the Pamela and Peter Voss Curator of Prints & Drawings at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She was previously Associate Curator of Special Collections at the Boston Athenaeum.

Mary Beth Norton has edited letters submitted to the *Athenian Mercury* in London in the 1690s and has published, with Princeton University Press, "*I Humbly Beg Your Speedy Answer*": *Letters on Love and Marriage from the World's First Personal Advice Column*. Some of the correspondence and answers from the *Mercury* were reprinted in London in *The Athenian Oracle*, in three, later four, volumes in the early 18th century and under that title were sold by American booksellers throughout the 18th century, as is evident from notices available online. In addition, her *WMQ* article from 2016, "The Seventh Tea Ship," will appear in the Omohundro Institute's volume of selections in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Revolution.

Jessica Parr (Northeastern University) has received two University of Oxford fellowships in support of research for a third manuscript project. The first is a Visiting Research Fellowship from Merton College. The second is a Fellow-in-Residence award from the Rothermere American Institute. The awards are for Trinity Term 2026 (late April – the end of June).

Last spring Bob Allison and **Jeff Pearlman** gave a lecture on the background and details of the first naval battle in American history. Given at the historic Bellingham-Carey House in Chelsea, the room was crowded with history buffs and those who yearned to learn more about this important engagement in the opening weeks of the American Revolution.

David M. Powers participated in the Gateway to Early Modern Manuscript Sermons (GEMMS) conference in Boston, delivering the paper "Preachers, Hearers, Readers and Scribes" in October 2024. His presentation will be published in *Renaissance and Reformation* as "Some Quirky Features of John Pynchon's 1640 Sermon Notes."

Asheesh Kapur Siddique's book, *The Archive of Empire: Knowledge, Conquest, and the Making of the Early Modern British World* (Yale University Press, 2024) received the Louis Gottschalk Prize from the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and was runner-up for The British in India Book Prize sponsored by The British in India Historical Trust.

D. Brenton Simons OBE was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate in History by the Board of Trustees of An-

derson University in Anderson, South Carolina. He will also serve as Convocation speaker there in early September, addressing the legacy of the Revolutionary War. Simons was President and CEO of American Ancestors (previously New England Historic Genealogical Society) from 2005 to 2024, and he continues there as President Emeritus and Chief Stewardship Officer.

Katheryn P. Viens has published “Mobs or the Martial Ideal? The Mutable Definition of Patriotism in Local Historical Narratives,” in *Remembering the Revolution at 250*, online at <https://doi.org/10.33823/a250.viii.425>. The article is based on her contribution to the 2022 Massachusetts Historical Society conference “Underrepresented Voices of the American Revolution.”

Artress Bethany White, Ph.D., published a new poetry collection, *A Black Doe in the Anthropocene: Poems*, with University Press of Kentucky (2025). The collection is based on plantation records housed at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill related to the planter family who enslaved and shared blood relations with members of her family between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Virginia and North Carolina. She presented the book on a panel entitled “Mining America’s Slave Archives: The Intentional Work of Transhistorical Black Poetry” at the 2025 Massachusetts Poetry Festival in Salem, MA. She was also awarded tenure at East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, PA.

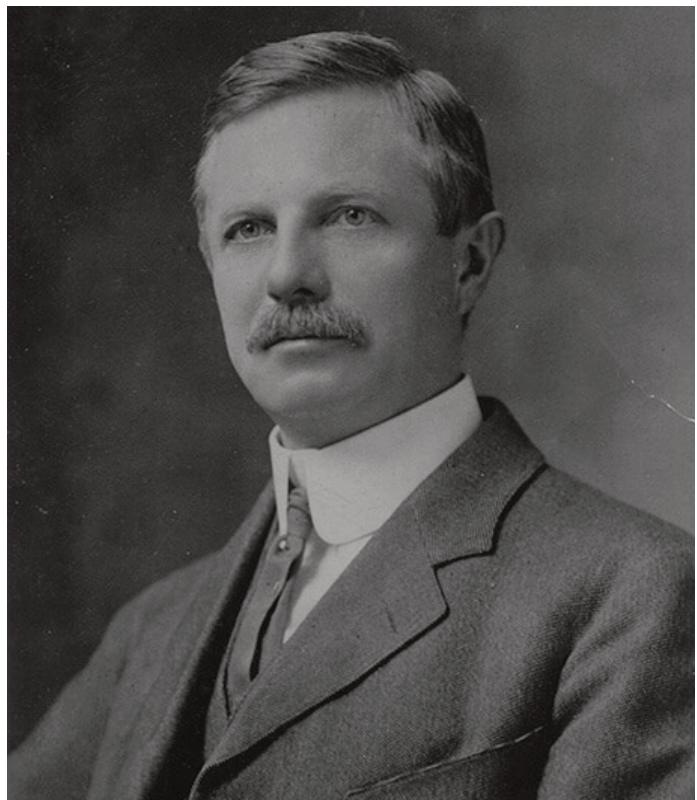
A Note of Thanks

Robert J. Allison

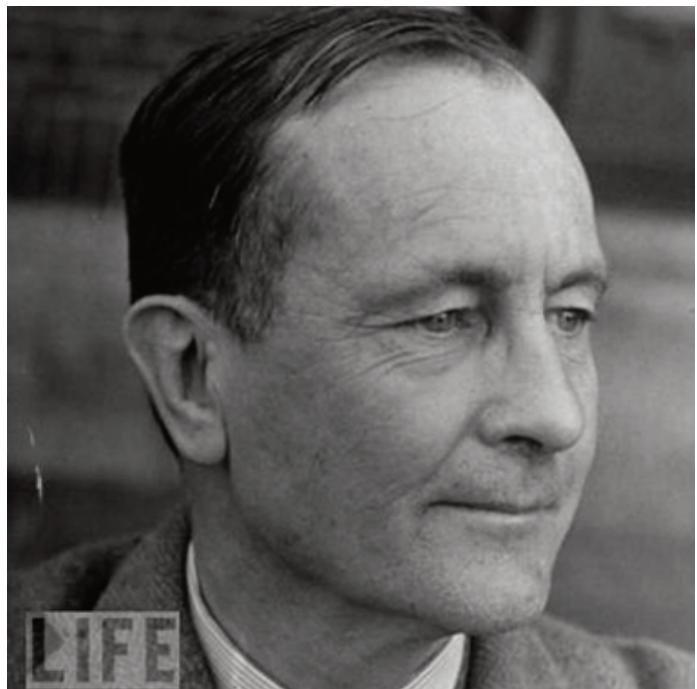
The Colonial Society is fortunate to have so many Members who give their time, their extraordinary talents, and their financial support for our mission. All who contribute to the Annual Fund, in any amount, are helping to sustain the Colonial Society as we continue publishing and supporting scholarship on early American history. To recognize the important contribution of past supporters, we have three special tiers for givers.

Contributors of \$500 or more to the Annual Fund join the **Frederick Jackson Turner Circle**, recognizing one of the 20th-century’s most influential scholars. Best known as a scholar of the frontier (legend has it that during his years at Harvard, he found a house whose porch faced west), Turner was Colonial Society President in 1915 and 1916.

The **Samuel Eliot Morison Circle** includes those who give \$1000 or more. Morison served as President of the Society from 1927 to 1937, and also chaired our Publications



CSM President Frederick Jackson Turner



CSM President Samuel Eliot Morison

Committee, and served as Vice President during his sixty-four years of Membership.

Georgina Paine Fisher Howland was born at 87 Mount Vernon Street, and in 1954 she gave the House, which had been in her family since 1815, to the Colonial Society. To honor this gift, one of the most significant in the Colonial Society's history, we recognize those who give \$2500 or more by placing them in the **Georgina Paine Fisher Howland Circle**.

The Colonial Society is deeply grateful to all who contribute to our **Annual Fund**. We are also grateful to our **1892 Associates**, who have remembered the Colonial Society in their estate planning. For more information on the 1892 Associates, contact Anne Grimes Rand, at 87 Mount Vernon Street, Boston 02108.

Thank you to all who contribute to the Colonial Society's mission!

Report from the Development Committee

Anne Grimes Rand

The Colonial Society continues to prosper, thanks to the generosity of its members. Support for this organization is demonstrated throughout the year in a robust menu of pro-

grams and publications. Our members share their expertise and generously contribute to the **Annual Fund**, providing \$73,986 in support of the society's mission. Leadership gifts to the **Samuel Eliot Morison Circle** totaled \$11,810, while the **Frederick Jackson Turner Circle** contributed \$7,600, and **Sustaining Circle** gifts raised \$13,526. The **Georgina Paine Fisher Howland Fund** has received gifts totaling more than \$15,000 from Christopher Jedrey and Jeffrey Griffith. We are grateful for special gifts, as well as donations made to support the **Walter Muir Whitehill Prize Fund**. Estate gifts are also an important source of support, and we appreciate the members of the **1892 Associates** for ensuring a bright future for the Colonial Society. Thanks to Frederick D. Ballou, Daniel R. Coquillette, Georgia B. Barnhill, Robert W. Mack, D. Brenton Simons, and John Tyler for including the Society in their estate plans. If you would like to support scholarship and future historians with a planned gift, please contact Bob Allison or Development Committee Co-Chairs Anne Grimes Rand (annegrimesrand@comcast.net) or Sue Goganian (susanjg@hotmail.com). It is because of the generosity of so many members through the years that the Colonial Society is able to support publications, teacher workshops, varied programs, and the camaraderie that is the hallmark of each gathering at 87 Mount Vernon Street.

Gifts to the Annual Fund 2024 – 2025

Georgina Paine Fisher Howland Circle

Christopher M. Jedrey
Jeffrey Griffiths

Samuel Eliot Morison Circle

Robert J. Allison
David Ames, Jr.
Thomas R. Appleton
David Henderson Burnham
Levin Hicks Campbell
Daniel R. Coquillette

Cornelia Hughes Dayton
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Joan H. and Michael R. Yogg

Frederick Jackson Turner Circle

Robert J. Allison
Lotte Bailyn (*in memory of*
Bernard Bailyn)
John G. L. Cabot
John Ritchie Garrison
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John W. Tyler
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Cary Carson	Robert W. Mack	Kevin M. Sweeney
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Wendy Ann Cooper	Dane A. Morrison	Alexander Webb III
Karina H. Corrigan	Charles L. Newhall	Thomas R. Wilcox
Michelle Marchetti Coughlin	Johann Noh	Nan Wolverton & Ed Hood
Ralph J. Crandall	Mary Beth Norton	Gordon S. Wood
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Samuel A. Forman	Nathaniel D. and Melissa Philbrick	Roberta Zonghi
Donald R. Friary	Thomas J. Putnam	
Richard P. Gildrie	Anne Grimes Rand	

Walter Muir Whitehill Prize Fund

William M. Fowler, Jr., Barbara Lambert

Special Gifts

Henry Lee

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 of Upcoming Events

November 20, 2025 • Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at 87 Mt. Vernon Street followed by dinner at the Somerset Club.

December 18, 2025 • Stated Meeting at 3:00 p.m. Member Mark Peterson, Edmund S. Morgan Professor of History, Yale University, will speak on “The Making and Breaking of the American Constitution: A Thousand-Year History.”

February 26, 2026 • Stated Meeting at 3:00 p.m. Kirsten E. Wood, Professor of History, Florida International University, will speak on “Accommodating the Republic: Taverns and Citizenship in the Early United States.”

April 16, 2026 • Stated Meeting at 3:00 p.m. Roger L. Hall, Director, Center for American Music Preservation, will speak on “More than Yankee Doodle: Songs of Patriotism and Protest in the American Revolution.”

June 4, 2026 • Donald R. Friary Symposium at 6:00 p.m. A conversation on the Material Culture of African-American History among three leaders in the field: Kabria Baumgartner, Dean’s Associate Professor of History and African Studies, Northeastern University; Alexandra Chan, archaeologist, author of *Slavery in the Age of Reason: Archaeology of a New England Farm*; and Kyera Singleton, Executive Director, Royall House and Slave Quarters. Thank you to Robert A. Hall for suggesting we host this conversation!



Left to right: Kabria Baumgartner, Alexandra Chan, Kyera Singleton