



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

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From the President

By Robert Allison

Four extraordinary poets came together for our first program. Three poets were with us at 87 Mount Vernon Street; the fourth, Phillis Wheatley Peters, published her *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* in 1773. To mark the 250th anniversary of its publication, Danielle Legros Georges, Colonial Society Member and former Boston Poet Laureate, and Artress Bethany White invited eighteen contemporary Black women poets to “re-imagine” Wheatley’s poems. Their collection, *Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Re-imagine the Verse of Phillis Wheatley Peters* (Pangyrus, 2023), includes Wheatley’s original poems each with a contemporary reinterpretation or “re-imagining.” The editors were joined in reading Wheatley’s poems and contemporary reinterpretations by poet, artist, and Colonial Society friend L’Merchie Frazier in a fascinating and inspiring evening, hearing old and new poems for the first time, and hearing again the voice of Phillis Wheatley.

The year 2023 also marked the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. If you attended the commemorations, you might have noticed that the introductory videos featured British Consul General Peter Abbott and me welcoming attendees from the Colonial Society’s parlor, a suitable venue for filming (though each of us expressed different opinions on the evening’s events). At our Stated Meeting later that week, James Fichter from Hong Kong University spoke about his new book, *Tea: Consumption, Politics, and Revolution 1773-1776* (Cornell, 2023), a book Mary Beth Norton hails as “unique” and “definitive,” and Benjamin Carp hails for its “prodigious research.”

Scholars hoping to do more prodigious research in New England archives will be advised to check out the video of our program on “Research Opportunities in New England: Tips and Tricks from the Archives.” Libby Bischof, Professor of History and Director of the Osher Map Library and



Left to right: Artress Bethany White, Danielle Legros Georges, L’Merchie Frazier

Smith Center for Cartographic Education at the University of Southern Maine, chair of the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium of which the Colonial Society is a member, joined with Jeanne Solensky from Historic Deerfield, and Member Karin Wulf, Director of the John Carter Brown Library, for this program on using archives and on the value of the NERFC. Though the Colonial Society does not have an archive, we support the NERFC and every year support a Fellow researching New England before the Revolution in one of its 29 member archives. For more on the NERFC see <https://www.masshist.org/fellowships/nerfc/>

New discoveries in archaeology brought Christy Pottroff, an assistant professor of English at Boston College, and Don Slater, an archaeologist who teaches at Phillips Academy, to tell us of their work identifying the site of poet Anne Bradstreet’s house, which she watched burn down in 1666. Slater and Pottroff have identified a still-standing house as having been the house Bradstreet and her family moved to after the fire, and they have found on the lot the site of the house immortalized in Bradstreet’s poem. They brought to the Colonial Society some of the artifacts recovered from the site they are working to secure from development. It was a reminder, as was the fire of 1666, of the fragility of life and history.

Our February and April Stated Meetings were connected by the Winthrop Prize. Kirsten Silva Gruesz traveled to Boston from her home in southern California to receive

the 2023 Winthrop Prize for her book *Cotton Mather's Spanish Lessons* (discussed later in the newsletter). Then, in April, Member Adrian Chastain Weimer from Providence College came to talk about her new book, *A Constitutional Culture: New England and the Struggle Against Arbitrary Rule in the Restoration Empire* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023). These were two extraordinary presentations—and at our Annual Meeting this year Adrian will receive the 2024 John Winthrop Prize.

The Donald Friary Symposium in May focused on public history. Member Nonie Gadsden led a discussion on “Re-Examining Eighteenth-Century Decorative Arts in Museums Today,” with R. Ruthie Dibble from the Peabody Essex Museum, and Yale doctoral candidate Lilly Higgins discussing material culture and changing exhibit mores. Thank you to Nonie for leading the conversation.

If you missed these programs, you can still watch them on our YouTube page, which you can find through the website under “Events” at colonialsociety.org, and you can check our Facebook and LinkedIn pages for updates! Thank you to Anne Cecere and the Events Committee for planning these great events, and to Bob Mack and the Website Committee for keeping our technology working! The Colonial Society only has three paid employees—all are part-time. Most of what we do relies on the time and talent of our Members, and we are grateful for their support, both in organizing and presenting at events, and in helping to support our activities. Our publications reach an expanding audience, our support of the *New England Quarterly* and the NERFC are vital to continuing scholarship, and the Graduate Student Forum now has more than 180 alumni.

To support the continuing work of the Graduate Forum alumni, Mary Beth Norton (Graduate Forum Moderator 2011) suggested that the Colonial Society sponsor two joint sessions at the American Historical Association’s Annual Meeting in New York, January 2025. She combed through the roster of alumni and identified seven potential presenters—three on the American Revolution, and four on Environmental History, and invited them to create panels for the AHA. Both panels were accepted. Mary Beth agreed to moderate the Revolution panel, and Joyce Chaplin (Graduate Forum Moderator 2024) will moderate the Environmental History panel. This is an exciting new way for the Colonial Society to build on the charge Edmund Morgan gave at our centennial gathering, to “encourage new scholars.” Thank you to Mary Beth and Joyce for continuing to heed that call, and thank you to all our Members for your continuing support of the Colonial Society!

Ashley Bowen, Marblehead Mariner

President *emeritus* Don Friary has led walking tours of Salem as the Reverend William Bentley, the city’s great diarist, and he has appeared in the pulpit as Reverend Samuel Parris, the preacher who brought on the witch crisis. Now he has left Salem and the pulpit to create the character of Marblehead mariner Ashley Bowen (1728-1813). *The Journals of Ashley Bowen (1728-1813) of Marblehead*, edited by maritime historian Philip Chadwick Foster Smith in 1973, are the 44th and 45th volumes of the Colonial Society’s publications. Smith noted that Bowen was “a keen observer of the scene, a prolific diarist, a chronicler of events,” who fathered 14 children (by 3 wives), the last born just a month after Bowen’s 69th birthday. The Colonial Society volumes preserved Bowen’s diary; thanks to Don Friary for bringing him back to life!



Don Friary as Ashley Bowen



William Ellery Channing, aka Matthew Mees, and Open House student volunteers

William Ellery Channing’s “Reappearance”

Our April Open House happened to coincide with William Ellery Channing’s 244th birthday, so on April 7 we had our first Channing Fest! In addition to being introduced to the Colonial Society, our visitors were introduced to Channing, who lived two doors up from our house, and once performed a wedding at 87 Mount Vernon.



Channing cookies!

We were fortunate to find Matthew Mees, a skilled historical interpreter who took on the challenge of becoming Channing. We showed guests the Channing Bible, the portraits of Channing’s grandmother, uncle, and brother (in our parlor), and Matthew Mees spoke about Channing’s moral philosophy. Some guests even saw a lock of Channing’s hair, carefully preserved in Channing’s desk on the 3rd floor.

Some guests already knew Channing, including contingents who came from the First Church and from the Arlington Street Church (a statue of Channing sees them going in and coming out of that historic venue, built two decades after his earthly ministry ended). Our student volunteers have become especially interested in Channing, and the day was a special treat for all, topped off by a surprise—William Ellery Channing cookies.

A Brief Report from the Curator

By Meghan Gelardi Holmes

This year, we had an opportunity to add to the Colonial Society’s collection of objects and artworks, and I am delighted to report on our acquisition of a square piano. This piano was made by Alpheus Babcock (1785-1842), a premier Boston piano maker, in 1825. Babcock is particularly known for his invention of a one-piece cast iron frame, which allows pianos to withstand tension from the increased strings due to the addition of more octaves (although that innovation only shows up in a few of his surviving pianos, not including ours). To read more about Alpheus Babcock and the early piano industry in Boston, look for Darcy Kuronen’s essay, “Early Pianomaking in Boston, 1790-1830” in CSM Volume 88: *Boston Furniture, 1700-1900*. In addition to being a period appropriate addition to the house—it is likely the Higginsons or William



Square piano, Alpheus Babcock, Boston, 1825

Sawyer and Hannah Farnham Lee owned a similar square piano—I am pleased the piano makes another connection between our publications and our collections. And in a neat bit of twenty-first-century trivia, it was used in the 2019 filming of “Little Women.”

Conservation has proceeded apace in the interior of 87 Mount Vernon Street. We have continued our focus on re-upholstery, and re-covered the two sets of chairs in the dining room. One set of chairs and the dining table belonged to Samuel Eliot Morison (1887-1976), celebrated historian and longtime member of the Colonial Society. They were in his home at 44 Brimmer Street (also on Beacon Hill) until his death, when they were donated to the Society in Morison’s memory. The set was made by Potthast Brothers, Inc. (1892-1975), a prolific and well-respected cabinet-making shop in Baltimore (where Morison’s father and second wife were from). Potthast Brothers were known for their high-quality reproduction furniture, often made in the Colonial Revival style; they patented the slogan “The True Antiques of Tomorrow.”

I am also glad to highlight another recently conserved object—a commemorative handkerchief, copper-printed with a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence. This textile was made by two Scottish brothers, Robert and Colin Gillespie. The elaborate design features images of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson, as well as a scene of the Boston Tea Party and of the surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga; it likely takes inspiration from nineteenth-century prints of the Declaration. The conservation treatment, conducted by expert textile conservator Deirdre Windsor, allows us to better see the two-toned ink printing in brown and blue. It may be that the handkerchief was sold to commem-



Copper-printed handkerchief, "Declaration of Independence,"
Robert and Colin Gillespie, Scotland, c. 1821
(Photo courtesy Deirdre Windsor)

orate Lafayette's 1824 tour of the United States, which makes for a nice link to several other objects in our collection from that same historical moment.

These activities are made possible by the expertise and guidance of the House Committee, which has been chaired since 2019 by Robert D. Mussey, Jr., founder and now retired principal of Robert Mussey Associates furniture conservation firm. Under Robert's leadership, the Society has undertaken over 25 conservation projects and significantly increased the depth of our knowledge about the objects at 87 Mount Vernon Street. This fall, Robert is stepping down as chair and will be succeeded by David Wood, curator of the Concord Museum. Robert's careful and dedicated stewardship of the collections and building, as well as his remarkable knowledge of furniture, will be missed. I am thankful for the time and energy our members devote to the House Committee, and continue to feel extremely lucky to work with, and learn from, these leaders in the field. I look forward to David's tenure as House Committee chair.

As ever, I invite you to visit 87 Mount Vernon Street and spend some time in the house and with the collections. The Meeting Room is a special place to host a class session and the Dining Room can fit you and your laptop, or you and your colleagues, quite comfortably. Please write to me at cu-

rator@coloniaisociety.org and I would be glad to arrange access to the house for you. I hope to see you here sometime during the next year.

From the Editor of Publications

By Sally Hadden

One of the joys I have working as the Society's Editor is seeing projects germinate and progress to the point of publication, a process that requires years. Whether a planned publication yields the hoped-for result is not automatic. It takes dedication and the leadership of committed scholars who serve as project editors—not knowing what roadblocks may hinder them along the way—to start *and* complete a new addition to the Colonial Society's distinguished volume list.

I'm happy to report that another team of editors has reached the publication milestone this year. 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), the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Colonial Society, have published *Ebenezer Parkman's World* (<https://www.coloniaisociety.org/index.php/documents/ebenezer-parkman-world>). For over five years, Beales, Cooper, Vaver, and a number of dedicated volunteers have transcribed materials, created or collected by Rev. Ebenezer Parkman (1703-1782), connected to Westborough's early religious and local history.

Parkman was already a devoted recordkeeper before he took up the pulpit in Westborough. He began keeping a diary in 1719 while at Harvard and after he became Westborough's minister, he recorded details about events great and small. Little escaped Parkman's discerning eye. The diary constitutes one of the best sources scholars have about everyday New England life in the eighteenth century; indeed, Clifford Shipton, editor of Sibley's *Biographical Sketches of Graduates of Harvard University* starting in the 1930s, mined Parkman's diaries repeatedly for information about Harvard men. Shipton proclaimed the diaries a "meticulously kept record of daily life in a typical New England town" without parallel, a narrative of the "social history of Massachusetts provincial life nowhere equaled for length, for completeness, or for sustained interest." Transcribed, the diary extends well over one thousand pages. On the Colonial Society website, Parkman's diary is segmented into years, so that users may delve into particular eras that intrigue them. An ample introduction provides readers with background on Parkman's family, education, and diary habits. Other editorial information describes where the original Parkman materials are

housed, and illuminates decisions made by the team to flesh out Parkman's (sometimes highly abbreviated) notations.

Ebenezer Parkman's World, which went live on the Colonial Society's website this summer, contains more than Parkman's diaries. Over a dozen of Parkman's sermons, on topics ranging from children and disease to the Stamp Act crisis, are likewise available. Religious testimonies given by Westborough residents, documenting their conversion experiences or confessing their sins in the 1760s, 70s, and 80s, demonstrate the continuing importance of faith in an era marked by political upheaval. The website also contains a reproduction of the Westborough Church Record book, placing images of originals side-by-side with transcriptions, dating back to the first baptism in 1724. The sheer volume of Parkman material defies conventional publication between pasteboard covers, but online one can immerse oneself in Westborough's past. Indeed, given Parkman's connections in neighboring towns, the records offer insights not just about Westborough, but also Grafton, Marlborough, Shrewsbury, Southborough, and Upton. The project editors are to be congratulated for their attention to detail and devotion to this project over many years.

The complexity of uploading and formatting the Parkman materials has delayed online publication of Massachusetts Superior Court of Judicature records, previously expected to start this year. The first volume should appear in 2025.

As one records project crosses the finish line, I'm delighted to announce that a new one has launched and already made significant progress. The Colonial Society has agreed to publish a multi-volume edition of the papers of John Hancock, edited by Member Jeffrey Griffith. At first blush, it's surprising to think Hancock's written output has not received comparable treatment to the papers of contemporaries like John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, or Josiah Quincy; the dispersion of his correspondence to many locations doubtless derailed others who contemplated such a project. An edition of Hancock's papers will offer valuable information on many topics, from Hancock's shifting political views to the economic challenges posed by the Revolution to his business affairs. Over the past few years, Dr. Griffith has assembled a database of extant Hancock manuscripts and transcribed the majority of Hancock's letters; his immersion in the Hancock papers promises to yield new revelations.

I would be remiss not to thank members of the Publications Committee for their assistance over the past two years. I'm grateful for the generous counsel offered by Members Ken Minkema (chair), Bob Anderson, Catherine Brekus, David Hall, Chris Jedrey, and Celeste Walker in our discussions. Like me, the committee enjoys seeing projects take root, thrive, and come to fruition.

If you have considered publishing primary sources with the Society, I urge you to submit a proposal. The details for doing so may be found at <https://www.colonialsociety.org/node/3384>.

John Winthrop Prize

Did you know that Cotton Mather was the first Anglo-American writer to publish a book in Spanish? This was just one of the many surprises in Kirsten Silva Greusz's *Cotton Mather's Spanish Lessons: A Story of Language, Race, and Belonging in the Early Americas* (Harvard University Press, 2022), recipient of the John Winthrop Prize. Mather wrote two tracts aimed at converting Spanish-speaking Catholics in the New World, requiring him to learn Spanish with the aid of household servants, and to oversee the printing of these books in Boston.



President Robert Allison, Kirsten Silva Greusz, with Winthrop bust

In her extraordinary book, Greusz, a Professor of Literature at the University of California at Santa Cruz, examines reading, printing, translation, missionizing, and race-making across cultures in the Western Hemisphere, from Boston to Mexico, and La Florida to Peru, as she also explores the meanings of race and the varieties of language proficiency and multi-lingualism in the late seventeenth century, exploring the understanding of who is "an American"—a title first used by Cotton Mather.

We are grateful to John Winthrop, who endowed the Prize, to Francis Bremer and the committee for this exemplary choice, and to Professor Greusz for introducing yet another facet of Cotton Mather.



Left to right: Kevin March, Conor William Howard, Molly Leech, Joyce Chaplin, J.P. Fetherston, Boone Jackson Ayala, Meg Roberts

Graduate Student Forum

The Colonial Society’s annual Graduate Student Forum met in early June with six graduate students from around the United States and the U.K. Our guest speaker this year was CSM member Joyce Chaplin, the James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History at Harvard University. After a tour of the house on the afternoon of June 6, led by Meghan Gelardi-Holmes, the Society’s curator, we had a lovely late spring supper in the garden. The students, Professor Chaplin, and several of the local members of the Society then reconvened at the house the next morning, June 7, for a full day of fresh doctoral research and conversation.

The first panel on “Indigeneity & Identity in Acadia over the Longue Durée” featured papers by Kevin March of Boston College, on “The Mawooshen Ideal: Trade, Warfare, and Confederation in the Dawnland, 1570-1620,” and by Conor William Howard of Indiana University, who spoke about “Imagining a ‘Settler Indigeneity’ in Memories of Colonial Era Violence in the Early Republic.” Program Committee member Christopher Parsons of Northeastern University moderated the discussion with the audience.

The next panel on “The Business of Colonialism” was led by Molly Leech of University of Pennsylvania, speaking about “Unmaking Possession: Imperial Prospections and Indigenous Refusals in the Delaware River Valley, 1624-1655,” followed by Boone Jackson Ayala of the University of Chicago, who gave a paper called “‘No Other Than a Corporation’: Imperial Politics and the End of the Massachusetts Bay Company, 1676-1684.” Another Program Committee member, Alice Nash of the University of Massachusetts, offered comments and moderated the discussion afterwards.

After lunch and a great deal of lively conversation, we reconvened for the final panel on the topic of “Labor,

Leisure, and Sociability.” First, we heard from Meg Roberts of the University of Cambridge, who spoke on the subject “‘To Attend The Sick’: Women’s Nursing Labor in the American Revolutionary War.” This paper was followed by John Patrick M. Fetherston of the University of Maryland, who spoke on “Disorderly Presence: Black Sociability in Public Spaces of Eighteenth-Century British North America.” The discussion afterwards was moderated by another Program Committee member, Marla Miller of the University of Massachusetts.

Professor Chaplin’s summative comments suggested that the state—and future—of early American history were strong, judging by the fine papers from these young scholars. She drew attention to the wide range (on geographic and temporal scales, not least) and meticulous research that the paper-givers collectively reflected. And she applauded their awareness of the contemporary resonance of their subjects and interpretations, urging them not to lose sight of how the study of the past can, when done carefully and wisely, make important contributions to public understanding of where we are now.

Program Committee Chair Ann M. Little wishes to thank everyone at the Colonial Society for making the Graduate Forum such a welcoming and hospitable occasion for the students, especially Meghan Gelardi-Holmes, Treasurer Mary Blunt, President Bob Allison, Vice President Susan Lively, and all of her Program Committee members: Marla Miller, Alice Nash, Christopher Grasso, Susan Lively, and most of all Christopher Parsons, who went above and beyond the call of duty by mentoring some the students in advance of the event. He has also cheerfully agreed to chair the Program Committee in 2025.

Summer Teacher Institute

Fifteen Massachusetts teachers, ranging from elementary to high school, representing public, parochial, private, and charter schools, spent three days at 87 Mount Vernon Street digging into the Colonial Society’s publications, mining them for material to use in the classroom.



Bryce Spalding, Lexington High, and Sarah Cravedi, also of Lexington High.



Delving into online documents

Each day they met with Colonial Society Members Robert Gross, Daniel Mandell, and John Tyler, and also had presentations by Thomas Green/Wandering Wind, the vice president and historian of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag, and digital historian/doctoral candidate Dan Howlett, while Charlie Newhall and Gorman Lee helped the

teachers frame lessons out of the documents. Favorite topics included the Salem Witch Trials, King Philip's War, and the coming of the Revolution, and teachers became especially interested in Josiah Quincy ("How come we never heard of him?") and Thomas Hutchinson. In October the teachers will reconvene at the Colonial Society with Mary Beth Norton and Bob Gross to dig more into the Revolution and the Massachusetts Provincial Congress.

Each teacher will prepare a lesson based on the Colonial Society documents, and the organizers—Gorman Lee, Charlie Newhall, Bob Gross, and Bob Allison—will have a chance to see them in action. Thank you to Charlie and Gorman for launching the Teacher Institute, and to the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars for co-sponsoring! We cannot wait until next year!

One lesson: it was terrific to have all of our publications available digitally, but when the teachers started to dig in to the sources, they all wanted hard copies of the books!



Left to right: Charlie Newhall (Colonial Society/St. John's Prep), Christian Guarino (Arlington Catholic), Gorman Lee (Colonial Society/Braintree), Bryce Spalding (Lexington), R. Zachary Sanzone (St. Mary's of the Annunciation), Jason Scott (Abington), Hope Freindman (Lexington), Robert Gross (Colonial Society/University of Connecticut, Storrs), Sarah E. Cravedi (Lexington), Kim Frederick (Concord Academy), Sally Patton (Westwood), Jon Meagher (Blackstone-Millville), Michael L. Welch, Jr. (Sandwich), Mike Ryan (Needham), Jason Healy (Quincy), Colin Conkey (South Shore Charter), Tom O'Connell (South Shore Charter), Sean Smith (Weston), and Bob Allison (Colonial Society/Suffolk University)

Report from the Membership Committee

Please join the Membership Committee (Nonie Gadsden, Sally Hadden, Susan Lively, and JonPaul McBride) in welcoming the twenty new Members who have joined the Colonial Society of Massachusetts this year.

Joseph Adelman, Associate Professor of History at Framingham State University and Associate Editor of the *New England Quarterly*

Kimberly S. Alexander, Senior Lecturer and Director of Museum Studies at the University of New Hampshire

Friederike Baer, Professor of History at Penn State Abington

Abby Battis, Associate Director for Collections, Historic Beverly

J. Duncan Berry, independent art and architectural historian

Barry Arthur Cotton, independent historian

Jaimie Crumley, Assistant Professor in Gender Studies at the University of Utah

James Fichter, Professor in European Studies at the University of Hong Kong

Reed Gochberg, Associate Curator and Director of Exhibitions at the Concord Museum

Dror Goldberg, economist and economic historian at Open University, Israel

Edwin Grosvenor, President and Editor-in-Chief of *American Heritage*

Kevin Gutzman, Professor of History at Western Connecticut State University

Kristin Leahey, Assistant Professor in the School of Theatre at Boston University

Dan Lipcan, Director of the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum

James Kirby Martin, Professor of History, Emeritus, at the University of Houston

Johann Noh, Research Professor at the Institute for Sino-graphic Literatures and Philology, Korea University

Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, Associate Professor of History, Spatial Sciences, and Law at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law

Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia

James Shea, former Curatorial Director of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate

Richard Strum, Director of Education at Fort Ticonderoga

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>.

To nominate a candidate for membership, two current Members should send letters of nomination and the candidate's curriculum vita, including the candidate's contact information, to Susan Lively, Chair of the Membership Committee, at membership@colonialsociety.org.

Member News

Joseph M. Adelman published an essay in the newly released book, *American Revolutions in the Digital Age*, edited by Nora Slonimsky, Mark Boonshoft, and Ben Wright. Adelman's essay, "A busy, bustling, disputatious tone': News Anxiety in the Age of Revolutions and Today," explores the struggle to manage information in the Revolutionary era and the present. It connects the eras through an examination of the uses and limits of digital research databases that make accessible primary sources from the eighteenth century.

This spring, **Richard Batchelder** won his first Olivier Award and third Tony Award for co-producing *Dear England* and *Merrily We Roll Along*, respectively. Richard was also promoted by His Majesty King Charles III to Commander in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

Ross W. Beales, Jr., has published three recent articles that grow out of his research on the diary of Ebenezer Parkman (1703-1782), the first minister of Westborough, Massachusetts: "To Promote Civility and Benevolence': Rev. Ebenezer Parkman and an Acadian Refugee Family," *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* 51, no. 1 (Winter 2023), 67-89; "As My Outward Man Decays': The Aging of Ebenezer Parkman," *Australasian Journal of American Studies* 42, no. 1 (July 2023), 3-27; and "By the Providence of God Is Bereaved of Her Reason': An Eighteenth-Century Minister's Response to Mental Illness," in *Living with Disabilities in New England, 1630-1930*, eds. Nicole Belolan and Marla R. Miller (The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, *Annual Proceedings 2021*, Deerfield, Mass.: Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, 2024), 36-52.

Robert A. Bellinger was inducted into the Old Middlesex Chapter of the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution in July 2024. Dr. Bellinger joined the National Park Service project, "Experience of African Descendants During the American Revolution" to document historic African American communities associated with national parks located between the states of Virginia and Maine. The African Seed Exchange (ASÉ), founded and directed by Dr. Bellinger to research African horticultural contributions to American foodways, planted a demonstration garden at Middleton Place in Charleston, South Carolina.

He became a member of the Middleton Place 250 Committee to plan site-based events celebrating the American Revolution's 250th anniversary. He also joined the Concord250 Working Group planning a permanent memorial to commemorate those who worked for social justice and individual freedom, but whose voices have not always been heard, honored, or remembered in Concord.

Frank Cogliano published *A Revolutionary Friendship: Washington, Jefferson, and the American Republic* with Harvard University Press in February. He launched the book with a series of events in Virginia (including Mount Vernon and Colonial Williamsburg), Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Dallas. He spoke at the Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh on the Fourth of July and will speak at the National Library of Scotland in October. He is currently editing a volume of essays for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence for the University of Virginia Press and is co-writing a book on Jefferson with Peter Onuf.

Nym Cooke has just completed inventorying all the pre-1821 American sacred music (printed items and manuscripts) at the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. At 274 sources, the Clements collection of this material is the third largest of the 25 libraries Nym has inventoried, surpassed only by the collections of the American Antiquarian Society and the John Hay Library at Brown University. All the data in Nym's Clements inventory (189 pages' worth) will be added to his database, online at earlyamericansacredmusic.org. Now Nym gears up for a seven-week fellowship at Historic Deerfield, studying the musical activities of singing master and choirmaster Justin Hitchcock (1752-1822).

Eric Jay Dolin published *Left for Dead: Shipwreck, Treachery, and Survival at the Edge of the World* (Liveright, a division of W. W. Norton, 2024). It is about five men who were intentionally marooned on the Falkland Islands during the War of 1812. Eric is at work on another history, this one taking place in the Pacific a few decades later.

Leslie Eckel was recently promoted to Professor of English at Suffolk University. Her chapter on "Emerson, Reluctant Feminist" appears in the *Oxford Handbook of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, edited by Christopher Hanlon (Oxford UP, 2024). With Sonia Di Loreto (Università di Torino) and Andrew Taylor (University of Edinburgh), she is editing the *Collected Writings of Margaret Fuller*, which will be the first scholarly edition of Fuller's work, under contract with Edinburgh UP.

Donald Friary appeared, in character and in costume, at St. Michael's Church in the Town of Marblehead's Revolution250 weekend in September as the mariner and rigger Ashley Bowen, recalling in 1810 his ambivalence to the American Revolution, all based on the Colonial Society's

volumes 44 and 45, *The Journals of Ashley Bowen (1728-1813) of Marblehead*, edited by Philip Chadwick Foster Smith (Boston, 1973).

Jeffrey Griffith has been named the editor for the Colonial Society's forthcoming multi-volume project, *The Papers of John Hancock*. The collection will be the first curation of John Hancock's writings that have previously been difficult to access. While over 3,500 letters have already been assembled from over 80 different institutions, repositories, and collections, Griffith requests that if any members are aware of caches of Hancock material, that they please bring them to his attention.

Sally Hadden has published "London's Middle Temple and Law Students from the New World," in *English Law, the Legal Profession, and Colonialism: Histories, Parallels, and Influences*, edited by Cerian Griffiths and Łukasz Korporowicz (Routledge, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003315926-4> and "Gun Laws in Early America: The Sometimes Contradictory Regulations of Gun Use in the Colonial South," in *New Histories of Gun Rights and Regulation: Essays on the Place of Guns in American Law and Society*, edited by Joseph Blocher, Jacob Charles, and Darrell Miller (Oxford University Press, 2023). She also delivered papers at the British Legal History conference and the National Archives in London.

Chris Jedrey, Ken Minkema and **Andy Juchno** will have an article published in a forthcoming issue of *Connecticut History Review* based upon Chapter 42 of the Society's forthcoming edition of William Hubbard's *A General History of New England* (AGH), c. 1680. The article deals with the rise and fall of the New Haven Colony. They are the editors of this edition of AGH, the first since 1848, with the assistance of Bob Anderson as consulting editor.

Andy Juchno has published an article titled "Equality and Gradual Abolition in Early Republican Virginia," in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*.

Gavin Kleespies became the new executive director at Gore Place effective January 2. Kleespies was director of programs at the Massachusetts Historical Society. He succeeds Susan Robertson, who retired after 37 years.

Thomas Knoles continues transcribing and annotating the voluminous diaries of Rev. William Bentley of Salem, Mass. for the years 1785-1819, now planned as an online-only publication. Tom invites inquiries from anyone wishing to know if specific people or events are mentioned in the diaries or with more general questions about the project. He can be contacted at tknoles@gmail.com.

Karen Ordahl Kupperman published "How [Not] to Run a Colony in the Distant Past and the Future" in John L. Hennessy, ed., *History and Speculative Fiction* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2024). This is an Open Access book.

Daniel Mandell in spring 2024 taught two classes at Assumption University and one (on the American Revolution) at Worcester Polytechnic University. In summer 2024, he lectured on "Native Struggles and Adaptions in Southern New England" to the Colonial Society's Summer Institute for History Teachers; and, for the MHS Conrad Wright conference on citizenship, presented a paper on Native problems with citizenship in the century before Congress enacted the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act.

Louis P. Masur's new book, *A Journey North: Jefferson, Madison, & the Forging of a Friendship*, will be published next year by Oxford University Press. His previous book, *The Sum of Our Dreams: A Concise History of America*, is now available in paperback.

Garrett Dash Nelson will open the exhibition *Terrains of Independence* at the Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library in April 2025. The exhibition, curated by Nelson and produced by the Leventhal Center staff, will use maps to reconsider the Revolutionary War through the lens of locality and place. The exhibition asks why Boston and the surrounding towns in Massachusetts became the tinderbox of Revolutionary action, emphasizing themes such as the commercial geography of the city and its region, zones of spatial friction between classes and communities, and contestations over the environment. The exhibition is expected to be on display at the Central Library in Copley Square through January 2026.

Jeff Pearlman was pleased to deliver a lecture about the Battle of Chelsea Creek to the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce last June.

Carla Gardina Pestana published "Atlantic Mobilities and the Defiance of the Early Quakers" in the *Journal of Early Modern History* (28:3 [2024]: 187-208), continuing her long-standing fascination with Quakers. She was elected to membership of the American Antiquarian Society and to the presidency of the Association of Caribbean Historians. At UCLA, where she has taught since 2012, she was appointed to a one-year stint as Director of the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library and the Center for 17th- and 18th-century Studies; she will also serve as Clark Core Professor (with Gabriel de Avilez Rocha, Brown University), organizing three conferences in a series on the Early Global Caribbean.

David M. Powers has contributed an article on the "short-writing" of a colonial Massachusetts minister, "The Three Codes of Adonijah Bidwell," to *Studies in Manuscript Cultures* 41, to be published in October by De Gruyter for the University of Hamburg.

Benjamin Ray, Emeritus Professor at the University of Virginia, wrote a general article in *Commonplace* on John and Elizabeth Procter as portrayed in Miller's "The Crucible"

and as they appear in the historical records, bringing to bear a new set of considerations: <https://commonplace.online/article/reflections-on-the-relation-between-history-and-literature/>

Marjorie Salvodon's translation of *Désirée Congo* by Évelyne Trouillot will be published by the University of Virginia Press, as part of their CARAF Books series of Caribbean and African Literature Translated from French, in October 2024. It is a moving, lyrical novel whose strikingly realized characters enrich our understanding of the last confrontations between the Haitian revolutionaries and Napoleon's imperial forces—a conflict that resulted in the success of the largest slave revolt in recorded history and the independence of the first Black state in the Western Hemisphere.

After serving as President & CEO of American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society for eighteen years, D. Brenton Simons assumed the new role of President Emeritus & Chief Stewardship Officer in January 2024. He was succeeded as CEO by his longtime associate and fellow Colonial Society member Ryan J. Woods. In June, Brenton was invested as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Anglo-American history at a ceremony with former UK Prime Minister Sir John Major KG CH at the British Residence on Beacon Hill. Brenton also serves as President of the American Patrons of St. George's Chapel (Windsor Castle) and as President of the International Congress of Genealogical & Heraldic Sciences.

John W. Tyler is *contemplating* one or more additional volumes of *The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*. CSM members are probably aware of two volumes of his letters and diary compiled by his great-grandson Peter Orlando Hutchinson in 1884. These are a rich source of material for Hutchinson's life from his arrival in England in 1774 until his death in 1780, but much was omitted and the annotation is not up to modern standards. A new, more complete edition of this material would rehabilitate Hutchinson's reputation by revealing just how hard he labored to prevent conflict between Great Britain and her colonies after his arrival in London. While most of the material is available online and work could be done remotely, Tyler is seeking a younger person to assist with the project in order to carry it through to its conclusion should he not be able to do so. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact him at jtyler1776@gmail.com.

Mark Valeri writes: "Oxford UP has published a book of mine on cultural changes in New England, 1650-1765: transformations in Anglo-Protestant perspectives on non-Protestant religions (including Islam and Indigenous American traditions), different approaches to missions to NE Indigenous groups, and shifting notions of religious lib-

erty. The book is called *The Opening of the Protestant Mind: How Anglo-American Protestants Embraced Religious Liberty.*"

Ryan J. Woods was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of American Ancestors (aka New England Historic Genealogical Society) in January 2024. He has served on the staff of the Society in other capacities for the past 18 years. Ryan is also presently serving as a Commissioner of the Special Commission for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as Secretary-General of the 36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences.

From the Development Committee

The generosity of the Colonial Society's membership is a wonderful tribute to the vibrancy of the Society and the activity underway. Support for the Annual Fund grew 25% in 2023-2024, exceeding \$40,000! The Annual Fund raised \$40,812 to advance the Society's mission of publication, research and fellowship. Leadership gifts in the Samuel Eliot Morison Circle increased to \$16,877 while the Frederick Jackson Turner Circle contributed \$8,150. The Sustaining Circle donated \$15,235 plus \$550 for the Walter Muir Whitehill Prize Fund. The Society's robust educational efforts are supported by a strong endowment built by generous contributions over many years. 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 contact one of the Development Committee Co-Chairs: Anne Grimes Rand at arand@usscm.org or Sue Gogonian at sgogonian@beverlyhistory.org.

Gifts to the Annual Fund 2023 – 2024

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Amendments to Prior Years' Reports

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Richard D. Brown

Sustaining Circle 2021 - 2022
Richard D. Brown
Carl R. Nold

Sustaining Circle 2022 - 2023
Richard D. Brown

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 21, 2024 • *Annual Meeting* at 6:00 p.m. at 87 Mt. Vernon Street followed by dinner at the Somerset Club.

December 19, 2024 • *Stated Meeting*. Fellow Member Len Travers, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, will speak on “The Notorious Edward Low: Pursuing the Last Great Villain of Piracy’s Golden Age.”

February 13, 2025 • *Stated Meeting*. Blake Grindon, 2023-2025 Patrick Henry Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, will speak on “The Death of Jane McCrea: Sovereignty and Violence in the Northeastern Borderlands of the American Revolution.”

March 20, 2025 • *Special Event*. Fellow Members Robert A. Gross, James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History Emeritus, University of Connecticut, and Robert J. Allison, Professor of History, Suffolk University, will discuss the American Revolution from the opposing viewpoints of the Patriots and the Loyalists.

April 17, 2025 • *Stated Meeting*. Fellow Member J. L. Bell will speak on “The Mystery of Joseph Warren’s Informants.”

May 8, 2025 • *Donald R. Friary Symposium*. “Archives and Revolution.” A conversation led by Fellow Member Karin Wulf, Beatrice and Julio Mario Santo Domingo Director and Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, Professor of History, Brown University, with Fellow Members Scott E. Casper, President, American Antiquarian Society, and Paul Erickson, Director, Clements Library, University of Michigan.

June 2025 • *Graduate Forum*. Date TBA.