

MHS Miscellany

Number 89 / Fall 2005

MHS PUBLICATIONS GO DIGITAL

A grant of nearly \$300,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities will allow the MHS to create electronic versions of 35 of its most frequently used publications. Additional support from the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press will underwrite the digitization of 10 more volumes. The project grows out of a new NEH plan to encourage electronic editions of documentary volumes; the Society's proposal was the only one the Endowment funded in 2005. In special recognition of the Society's initiative, the NEH, in addition to awarding the grant, also designated "Founding Families" a "We the People Project for Promoting Knowl-

edge and Understanding of American History and Culture."

Through the project—"Founding Families: Digital Editions of the Papers of the Winthrops and the Adamses"—the Society will digitize about one-ninth of its major publications since its first in 1792 and develop new procedures for issuing many of its future titles electronically as well as in print. The Society already makes back issues of *The Massachusetts Historical Review* available on its website, www.masshist.org, and a new CD-ROM, *Colonial Collegians: Biographies of Those Who Attended American Colleges before the War for Independence* (see next article), includes electronic versions of the 18 volumes (to date) of *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*. Since the Society brought out its first publication, it has issued nearly 400 book-length works including edited documents, reference volumes, essay collections, monographs, periodicals, and other titles.

The "Founding Families" project includes all 6 volumes to date of the *Winthrop Papers* and 38 volumes of the *Adams Papers*. The Winthrop series currently carries the story of the family of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's first governor from 1498 to 1654, five years after his death (additional volumes are in the works). In addition to the *Winthrop Papers* a related title, *The Journal of John Winthrop, 1630-1649*, edited by Richard S. Dunn, James Savage, and Laetitia Yeandle, a 1996 Harvard University Press publication in association with the Society, will be a part of the initiative.

The published papers of the Adams family are also a collaboration of the Society, which holds most of the documents and is responsible for the



No one wrote more engaging letters than Abigail Adams. Her early correspondence appears in "Founding Families: Digital Editions of the Papers of the Winthrops and the Adamses." Benjamin Blyth portrait of Abigail Adams, 1766.



See the conference schedule for “Remaking Boston: The City and Environmental Change over the Centuries,” to be held in May 2006 at the Massachusetts Historical Society, pp. 6–7.



“The Town of Boston in New England by Captain John Bonner, 1722.” Engraved and printed by Francis Dewing, Boston, New England, 1722; facsimile, engraved and published by George G. Smith, Boston, 1835.

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1154 Boylston St. Boston MA 02215
617-536-1608 www.masshist.org

Hours:
The MHS reading room is open to
the public free of charge, Monday
through Friday, 9 AM to 4:45 PM,
and until 8 PM on Thursdays.

For more information:
Please call ahead or check the website
for directions, information about
collections, reading room policies,
holiday hours, and special events.

Masthead illustration:

“Plan & Elevation of the Tontine
Crescent, now erecting in Boston.”
From the *Massachusetts Magazine*, 1794.

The MHS occupied the Tontine
Crescent from 1794 until 1833.

editing, and Harvard University Press, which handles production and distribution. “Founding Families” will include the *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams* (5 volumes including a supplement), the *Papers of John Adams* (13 volumes including one due out shortly), the *Adams Family Correspondence* (7 volumes to date), the *Legal Papers of John Adams* (3 volumes), the *Diary of John Quincy Adams* (2 volumes to date), and the *Diary of Charles Francis Adams* (8 volumes to date). It will omit only two of the published Adams volumes, both devoted to family portraits. During the course of the project the Adams Papers editorial staff expects to bring out two more volumes in the series; it is preparing these volumes in conformity with the “Founding Families” protocols in order to facilitate integrating them into the project.

The Society’s Department of Publication and Research Programs and Adams Papers staff are sharing responsibility for “Founding Families.” Since the start of July, Senior Associate Editor Ondine Le Blanc and Technical Specialist Holly Hendricks from the Department of Publication and Research Programs have worked with C. James Taylor, editor in chief of the Adams Papers, to plan the digitization of the volumes through an outside vendor. At the same time they are preparing a plan to encode the electronic files with information that will highlight themes in much the same way as an index, explain textual ambiguities such as indirect references to individuals and events, and untangle spelling mysteries. Other staffers from both departments will become involved in “Founding Families” at a later date.

At the end of the project in 2008, the Society will make “Founding Families” available free on its website, www.masshist.org. The MHS is also discussing a proposal to make the Adams Papers segment of the project available in conjunction with the papers of other leading figures from the Revolutionary era as part of the subscription service of a university press.

MHS, NEHGS PUBLISH DIGITAL *Colonial Collegians*

Wouldn’t it be convenient to be able to retrieve any of the nearly 3,000 sketches in *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates* with only a few keystrokes? That question underlies a new digital publication. In collaboration with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the MHS is issuing *Colonial Collegians: Biographies of Those Who Attended American Colleges before the War for Independence*. *Colonial Collegians* will appear as a CD-ROM in November.

Although *Colonial Collegians* began as a project simply to digitize *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates*, scholars and genealogists who open it up will discover a happy surprise. Over the course of several years of work the project grew—and then grew some more. It now has entries not only on the 2,928 boys and men who attended Harvard College in the classes of 1642 through 1774, the last to graduate before the start of the Revolution, it also includes information on every other known undergraduate at any colonial college as well as on most known medical students. In addition to Harvard, the disk contains entries for Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Princeton, Rutgers, the University of Pennsylvania, the College of William and Mary, and Yale. For these schools, all known non-graduates are here as well all graduates. There is even information on the graduates and non-graduates of the medical school at Columbia, the graduates of the medical school at the University of Pennsylvania, and 20 presumed alumni of William Tennent’s Log College. All told, there are approximately 5,800 entries.

There are sketches of the famous (for example, Cotton Mather, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison) and the infamous (for instance, con man Tom Bell and revolutionary turncoat Benjamin Church). There are entries on many men who received courtesy or honorary degrees from Harvard College—for instance George Washington, whom the school assigned to the class of 1749 when

it conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws in 1776. And there are pieces on men for whom only the last name has survived—notably Southworth, Harvard class of 1772, who dropped out of school before his first name found its way into the college records.

The disk includes the full text of all the sketches in the 18 volumes (to date) of *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*, as well as the 1,443 individual entries through the class of 1774 in Franklin Bowditch Dexter's *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College* and the 480 profiles through the same year in *Princetonians*, by James McLachlan and others. Biographical data on those who attended the other colonial colleges is more difficult to find than for the former students of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, but using published alumni directories and



The second Harvard Hall was the focal point of activity at the college for nine decades until it burned to the ground in 1764. The students who studied and lived here are among those who appear in Colonial Collegians: Biographies of Those Who Attended American Colleges before the War for Independence.

BREMER WINS BOOK AWARD

Beeson Divinity School and Samford University have awarded Francis J. Bremer the 2005 John Pollock Award for Christian Biography for his book *John Winthrop: America's Forgotten Founding Father* (Oxford University Press, 2003). Bremer, who is a professor at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, is also the editor in chief of the Society's *Winthrop Papers* series. He relied heavily on the Society's collections and publications in writing his biography of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's first governor.

other sources members of the MHS's staff compiled a list of more than 900 men who attended these schools. It then searched biographical dictionaries, town histories, and genealogies in the public domain for usable sketches, finding about 300 of them. For the remainder, and for about 200 early non-graduates of Harvard and Yale—a total of about 800 men—there are capsule biographies that record whatever information we have discovered.

The entries are fully searchable. An index also allows users to call up entire college classes or individual sketches within each class.

The project has been a marvelous opportunity for members of the Society's staff to work with their counterparts at NEHGS. It has benefited particularly from the genealogical sophistication of Henry B. Hoff, the editor of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, and the commitment of Robert J. Dunkle of the NEHGS staff. It has also profited greatly from the generosity of James McLachlan and Ann D. Gordon, who allowed us draw on their research, and of Princeton University Press, which permitted us to reproduce material under copyright. At the Society, Seth Vose, Cherylinne Pina, Holly Hendricks, Ondine Le Blanc, and Conrad Edick Wright have all devoted much of their time to *Colonial Collegians*.

Colonial Collegians is available for \$79.95 plus a handling charge. For NEHGS Members and MHS Fellows and Members there is a special price of \$50.00 plus a handling charge. If you are eligible for the special MHS price, please contact Cherylinne Pina, 617-646-0513; cpina@masshist.org. Everyone else should order through the Sales Department at NEHGS. See its pages on the Genealogical Society's website, www.newenglandancestors.org, or call toll-free 1-888-296-3447.

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RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED 2005–2006

Two scholars have received long-term 2005–2006 MHS-NEH fellowships and 18 have won month-long short-term grants in the Society's annual research fellowship competitions. Eight more scholars have received traveling fellowships from the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, of which the MHS is a member. The Consortium consists of 15 historical agencies.

For a list of this year's fellows visit our website, www.masshist.org. For information on our fellowships for 2006–2007, see the enclosed announcements or visit the fellowship page on our website.

* * *

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TAKE WORKING “VACATIONS” AT THE MHS

The activity described in the Director’s column resulted in the busiest summer yet for the Society’s education staff. In addition to 6 teacher fellows who were in residence for four weeks and 20 seminarians who were with us for a week, 7 college or graduate students and a high school student worked with us this past season.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



As I write this column school bells are ringing. It is back to class again. This fall 26 teachers are returning to their students after spending part of their summer in enrichment activities at the MHS. Thanks to the Sidney A. Swensrud Foundation and the Charles Francis Adams

Charitable Trust, 6 of these talented educators each spent a month at the Society working with the MHS staff to develop curriculum materials based upon our collections.

In addition, thanks to support from National Endowment for the Humanities, the Society also sponsored four week-long seminars for teachers. We recruited master faculty for these classes: Bernard Bailyn (Harvard), David Hancock (University of Michigan), Pauline Maier (MIT), and Richard D. Brown (University of Connecticut). Judging by their evaluations, our teacher fellows enjoyed their stay with us, and they are looking forward to sharing their experiences and the materials they developed at the MHS with their students.

Educational outreach has become a key component of the MHS mission. We have barely begun, but already we can see the impact of our efforts. To have these teachers among us has helped to create new energy within the Society—K–12 teachers, librarians, archivists, editors, and scholars working in partnership at America’s oldest historical society to improve the teaching of American history. Building on this great success, we are already planning for next year.

* * *

Our three Adams fellows were Ronald Blackington, who teaches United States history and language arts at Wareham Middle School, Robert Chisholm, who teaches U.S. history at Monument High School in South Boston, and Stacia Smith, who teaches U.S. and world history to seventh- and eighth-graders at Paxton Center School. Blackington will use the profiles he gathered about members of the Long Room Club (a proto-Sons of Liberty organization) to deepen his students’ understanding of the historical characters who populate Esther Forbes’s *Johnny Tremain*. Chisholm, who immersed himself in the papers of John Adams and Robert Treat Paine, Paul Revere’s engravings, and various depictions of the Boston Massacre, will help his students understand the function and effect of propaganda in the events surrounding the shooting. Students will have an opportunity to demonstrate their historical/political savvy when they assume their roles in the unit’s culminating mock trial. With her “The Real New England Patriots,” Smith reveals that sports can be a handmaiden to history. Having assembled materials on the key “players” of the pre-Revolutionary era, she will have her students compile “stats” to create a “program” modeled after the *Gameday* programs sold at New England Patriots’ football games.

Sven Holch, a third-grade teacher at the Brookwood School in Manchester, Michael Buckley, a history teacher at Shawsheen Regional Vocational Technical High School, and Diane Lane, a library media specialist at Ephraim Curtis Middle School in Sudbury, were this year’s Swensrud fellows. Holch, in a project subtitled “The Power of Words,” introduces his budding historians to the strange yet oddly familiar world of 18th-century broadsides, including advertisements for slaves arriving from Africa, the text of an act to prevent “profane cursing and swearing,” and an elegy written in memory of Boston’s first public school teacher, Ezekiel Cheevers. Having gathered primary sources on the battles of Lexington and Concord, Buckley is prepared to introduce his classes to the British understanding of the colonial countryside, colonists’ modes of communication (such as committees of correspondence), and British and colonial interpretations of the battles. Lane pursued her interest in Horace Mann and the history of public school reform in Massachusetts.

Sharing the seminar room with our teacher fellows this summer were eight interns, who helped us gather and create materials for the “The Coming of the Ameri-

can Revolution, 1764–76: A Web-Based Timeline/Documentary History,” which the Society is producing with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Adam Cooke, a graduate student at the University of Texas, located documents in the MHS collections on the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill. Michael Hofrichter, a senior at Brandeis University, researched and identified documents related to George Washington’s appointment as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. Erica Herrmann, a senior at Rutgers University, drafted contextual essays, document descriptions, and biographical sketches related to the Boston Massacre. Erin-Claire Michaels, a junior at Wheaton College, worked closely with staff members to identify artifacts, portraits, maps, currency, and engravings for the website. Tom Gradel, a senior at George Washington University, researched both the First and Second Continental Congresses. Brian Hannon, who will be heading to the University of Edinburgh in the fall to study European history, researched and identified documents related to the Declaration of Independence. Elizabeth Sharp, a senior at Lasell College, researched members of the Sons of Liberty and drafted contextual descriptions of related documents. Julian Rhoads, a junior at the University of Chicago, staffed our summer seminars and transcribed documents for the timeline. Last but not least, Lee Berman, a student at the Fessenden School, worked for Peter Drumme on a related project researching members of Colonel Joseph Vose’s 1st Massachusetts Regiment and tracing the unit’s movements through the course of the Revolutionary War.

In July, 20 teachers from as close by as Boston and as far away as North Carolina, Virginia, and Michigan, participated in four thematic seminars organized around our

“Coming of the American Revolution” timeline website. The first two seminars took place the week of July 11–15. Bernard Bailyn (Harvard University) investigated colonial and pre-Revolutionary ideology with one class of 5 teachers. At the same time, David Hancock (University of Michigan) considered the economic dimensions of the era with a second group of the same number. The remaining seminars took place the week of July 25–29. Richard D. Brown (University of Connecticut) led a seminar focused on the social aspects of the era. Pauline Maier, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, led the week’s other seminar, which addressed governmental dimensions of the era.

In addition to their intense seminar experience, teachers developed primary-source-based lesson plans related to their topics. Projects pursued included: shopkeeper Harbottle Dorr’s revealing annotations of 18th-century newspapers; Henry Laurens’s economic incentives and disincentives to revolution; slave petitions and Abigail Adams’s entreaties for rights; and the crucial role of local committees of correspondence in spreading revolutionary zeal. One teacher found her seminar “intellectually stimulating,” while another noted that she had been “forced to question issues and documents more deeply.” Asked to compare ours to other opportunities for teachers, one seminarian commented that he appreciated the event’s “*Substance & Rigor*. No other program offers anything like the research experience that the MHS can provide.” Summarizing the best we hope to achieve with all of our educational offerings, a fourth teacher noted, “From a history standpoint this as *easily* the best I have attended. The collections, enthusiasm of staff and quality of seminar leaders and staff made this an excellent experience.”

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The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King Street, Boston on March 5th, 1770, by a party of the 29th Regiment (*Boston, 1770*), by Paul Revere. Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

REMAKING BOSTON

THE CITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE OVER THE C

Thursday, May 4

5:30–6:30 Keynote Address and Lowell Lecture

Brian Donahue, Brandeis University

“Remaking Boston, Remaking Massachusetts: The Coevolution of City and Countryside”

Lecture underwritten by a generous grant from the Lowell Institute. This lecture is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat contact Cherylinne Pina at (617) 646-0513 or cpina@masshist.org.

6:30–7:30 Reception

Friday, May 5

8:30–9:00 Registration

9:00–9:15 Welcome

9:15–11:15 *Session 1: The Country and the City*

Peter Gow, Beaver Country Day School

“Country Day Schools in the Landscape of Boston, 1893–1931”

James C. O’Connell, U.S. Department of the Interior

“How Metropolitan Parks and Parkways Shaped Greater Boston’s Development, 1893–1956”

David J. Soll, Brandeis University

“Milking the Landscape: Reforestation in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, 1850–1900”

Commentators: Sam Bass Warner, Jr., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and to be announced.

11:30–1:00 *Session 2: Climate and Weather*

Lauri Bauer Coleman, Moravian College

“‘Whether the Weather’: Making Sense of Unusual Weather in Eighteenth-Century Boston”

Abraham J. Miller-Rushing and Richard B. Primack, Boston University

“Identifying Non-Traditional Historical Data Available for Climate Change Research”

Commentators: William B. Meyer, Colgate University, and Colin Polsky, Clark University

1:00–2:30 Lunch (on your own)

2:30–4:30 *Session 3: Land Use*

Jim Lambrechts, Wentworth Institute

“Preserving the Foundations of Historic Boston: The Tenuous Land Use Relationship between Groundwater and Wood Piles”

William B. Meyer

“A City (Partly) on a Hill”

Gayle Sawtelle, Princeton University

“A New Perspective on Whitehill’s Boston: Commercial Land Use in the Eighteenth-Century Port Town”

Commentators: Robert Allison, Suffolk University, and to be announced.

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, 4 TO 6 MAY 2006
THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ENTURIES

Saturday, May 6

9:00–11:00 *Session 4: Water and Waterways*

Robert Clarke, Peabody, Massachusetts

“The Great Sanitary Survey of Massachusetts: A World and National Precedent”

Dan Driscoll, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

“Reclaiming the Upper Charles River”

Peter K. Weiskel, U.S. Geological Survey

“Hidden Streams: The Water Resources of the Lower Charles River Watershed, 1630–2005”

Commentators: Joel Tarr, Carnegie Mellon University, and to be announced.

11:15–1:15 *Session 5: Boston Harbor*

Stephen T. Mague, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

“In Search of the Shawmut Peninsula: A Cartographic Comparison of Several Re-constructions of the ‘Original’ Boston Shoreline”

Michael J. Rawson, Stanford University

“Science, Nature, and the Making of Nineteenth-Century Boston Harbor”

Peter S. Rosen, Northeastern University

“The Evolution of Boston Harbor”

Commentators: Michael S. Dukakis, Northeastern University; Steven Rudnick, University of Massachusetts—Boston

Register online at www.masshist.org/events/conferences.cfm or use the form below.

Name _____
Address _____
Address _____

Affiliation _____
E-mail _____
Phone _____

Please register me for “Remaking Boston” at
___ \$75 for regular registration
___ \$45 for student registration

The papers under discussion at this conference will be available at the Society’s website a month before the program. If you need the papers to be mailed to you, the registration rate will be \$100 (regular) or \$70 (student).

SOCIETY TO DIGITIZE SLAVERY DOCUMENTS

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has awarded the Massachusetts Historical Society a grant to digitize primary sources that document “African Americans and the End of Slavery in Massachusetts.” The Society will present historical manuscripts, rare—in some cases unique—published works, artifacts, and visual materials that serve as a window upon the lives of African Americans in Massachusetts from the arrival of the first slaves on the ship *Desire* in 1638 through the abolition of slavery under the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780. Through true-color, large-format images, linked to searchable transcriptions and enhanced by contextual historical and biographical information, the MHS will make these unique or difficult-to-find materials available to the widest possible audience at our website: www.masshist.org.

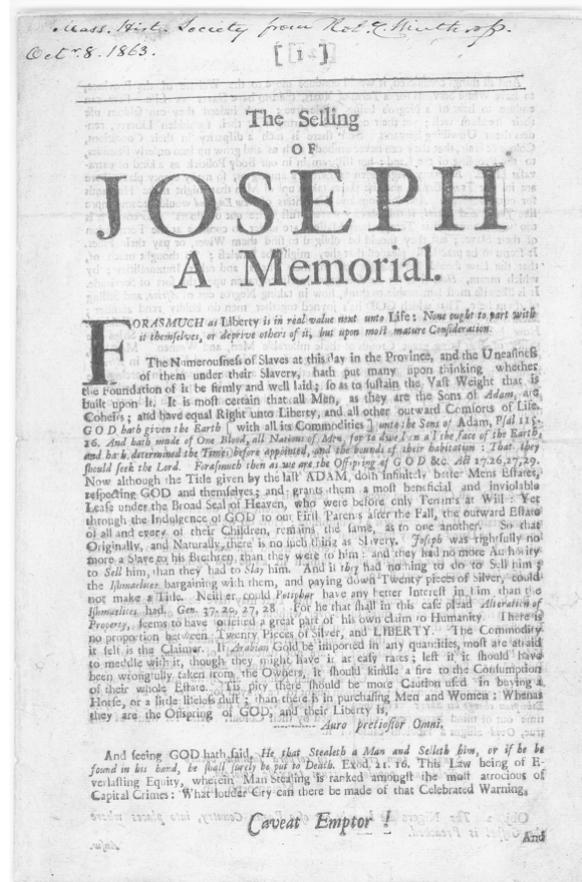
Highlights will include the Society’s unique copy of Samuel Sewall’s *The Selling of Joseph* (1700), the first antislavery tract published in New England; manuscript letters and poems of Phillis Wheatley, the first published African American poet; the flag and medallion of the Bucks of America,

the Commonwealth’s first Black military unit; and accounts, receipts, and other documents related to the African slave trade and the internal slave trade in colonial New England.

As a researcher who has made use of many of these items at the MHS noted in supporting the Society’s grant proposal, the “content of the materials provided will help to stimulate and inform a public discussion and shape scholarly research in ways that will further reveal the diversity and democratic tradition inherent in American history” and “will further help to educate the public by providing the evidentiary bedrock upon which non-professional historians and general readers can verify or examine claims made about New England slavery and African-American history.”

Under the federal Library Services and Technology Act, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners administers grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to libraries in Massachusetts. The Soci-

ety will conduct work on the grant between December 1, 2005, and October 1, 2006.



Title page of *The Selling of Joseph* by Samuel Sewall (1700).

SOCIETY PUBLISHES THREE BOOKS

Books dealing with every century since the European settlement of New England but the twenty-first are on the Society’s fall list of titles. The publication shortly of volume seven of *The Massachusetts Historical Review* will make the autumn’s harvest even more bountiful.

The first of the fall’s titles has already appeared. *Henry*

Adams & the Need to Know, edited by William Merrill Decker and Earl N. Harbert, published in August, presents 14 essays that articulate Adams’s ongoing preoccupation with knowledge, stressing his eclecticism and his need to clarify the role of critical intelligence in public life. Over the course of his long life, Adams (1838–1918)

investigated and wrote on an extraordinary range of subjects; *Henry Adams & the Need to Know* does full justice to the remarkable breadth of his interests and the acuity of his insights. Essays consider his engagement with politics, foreign affairs, history, literature, the arts, and travel as well as his relationship with many generations of his famous family.

John Winthrop (1588–1649), the progenitor of another famous Massachusetts family, is the central figure in the second of the Society's fall titles. *The World of John Winthrop: Essays on England and New England, 1588–1649*, edited by Francis J. Bremer and Lynn A. Botelho, offers eight pieces on such subjects as national character, religion, commerce, government, law, gender, and communications. Although Winthrop is a recurring character in this volume, its purpose is not primarily biographical. The collection's essays, the work of both English and American scholars, demonstrate the value of an integrated, transatlantic account of the Puritan world in which he lived.

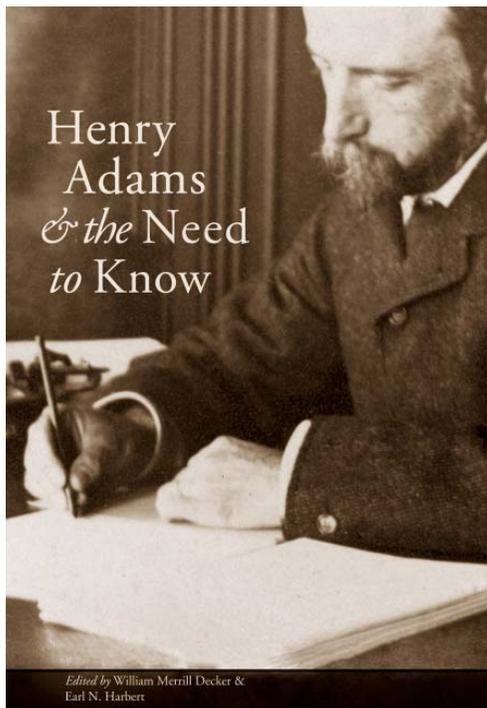
Robert Treat Paine (1731–1814) plays the lead in the

Society's third autumn publication, an edition of his correspondence and other writings, 1774–1777. The book is volume three of the *Papers of Robert Treat Paine*, a contribution to the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*. Its editor, Edward W. Hanson, is the Society's former Senior Editor of Publications and coeditor (with our late director Stephen T. Riley) of the first two numbers in the series. This volume carries Paine's story from his service as a Massachusetts delegate at the First Continental Congress to the end of the national phase of his public career. The highlight of this period was the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, of which Paine was a signer. The documents in this volume are especially important for the insights they provide into the workings of the Continental Congress.

In the tradition established over its first six years, *The Massachusetts Historical Review* promises both to inform and entertain its readers in volume seven. An essay on Margaret Fuller and Caroline Dall reveals how these important feminist writers and reformers came to terms with the works and life of the English feminist Mary Wollstonecraft. A second essay, this one on Civil War general Benjamin Butler, shows how his antebellum experiences in local Massachusetts politics prepared him for the challenges he encountered as military governor of New Orleans. And a memorable photo essay depicts Brockton, Massachusetts, in hard times. The volume also includes an edited essay by Wendell Phillips on the Negro reparations issue and a review essay on recent books about American Transcendentalism.

Fellows and members of the MHS receive *The Massachusetts Historical Review* as a benefit of affiliation. To enter a subscription or order a back issue, call the Society at 617-646-0513 or e-mail cpina@masshist.org. Rates per issue: \$15.00 (individual), \$20.00 (institution), and \$25.00 (foreign).

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Henry Adams & the Need to Know, edited by William Merrill Decker and Earl N. Harbert, includes 14 important essays on the scholar, writer, political insider, critic, and traveler.

The University of Virginia Press is the distributor of all three of our new book titles. Each is available in hardcover for \$50.00 plus \$4.00 shipping for the first book and \$0.75 for each additional book. Address your orders to: University of Virginia Press, P.O. Box 400318, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4318. To place orders toll-free in the U.S., telephone 800-831-3406; toll-free fax, 877-288-6400. E-mail: vapress@virginia.edu. Website: www.upress.virginia.edu.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, 2005–2006

Slave life in early America, American Jewish culture, and the relationship between environmental history and the American Revolution: these are a few of the topics we will be discussing in seminars at the Society during the winter and spring. Once again, the Society will host three seminar series—in early American history, immi-

gration and urban history, and environmental history. Sessions begin at 5:15 P.M. and are devoted to the discussion of a pre-circulated paper. For information on subscribing to the series, please visit the seminars page on the Society's website, www.masshist.org, or call 617-646-0540.

Boston Area Early American History Seminar

2005

December 1 Cindy R. Lobel, Connecticut College, "The Empire of Gastronomy': New York City's Food Markets, 1750–1850."

2006

February 2 Richard J. Bell, Harvard University, "Escaping the Hangman, Breaking the Chains: Suicide, Slavery, and Criminal Justice in America, 1790–1810."

March 2 Karen Ordahl Kupperman, New York University, "Jamestown and Its Atlantic Context."

April 6 Mary Bilder, Boston College, "English Settlement and Local Governance."

May 11 Richard S. Dunn, University of Pennsylvania and American Philosophical Society, "The Demographic Aspect of Slave Life in America: Jamaica versus Virginia."

June 22 Jacqueline Carr, University of Vermont, "She hopes to get a Living yet for her Fatherless Children': Women, Work, and Property in Early Republic Boston."

Boston Immigration and Urban History Seminar

2005

November 17 Anne M. Brophy, Alexandria, Virginia, "Both a Fact and an Attitude': A Genealogy of 'Second Generation' in Early Twentieth Century Urban Policy."

2006

January 12 William R. Hutchison, Harvard Divinity School, "Strong Objections: Another Best-Selling Author Complains About Plagiarism."

January 26 Stephen J. Whitfield, Brandeis University, "Portraits of American Jewish Culture."

February 23 Christopher Capozzola, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "German Enemy Aliens in the First World War and the Making of Modern American Citizenship."

March 30 Susan Eckstein, Boston University, "On Deconstructing and Historicizing Immigrant Generations: Cohorts and the Cuban Émigré Experience."

April 27 Keren R. McGinity, Brown University, "Winning at 'Assimilation?': How Feminism Changed the Meaning of Inter-marriage for Jews."

Boston Environmental History Seminar

2005

December 6 David Whelpley, Northeastern University, "Boston Harbor and Secondary Treatment: A Legislative History of §301 (h) of the Clean Water Act."

2006

February 7 David C. Hsiung, Juniata College and the Massachusetts Historical Society, "Environmental History and the American Revolution."

March 14 Philip Cash, Emmanuel College, "The Impact of Smallpox in Boston to 1803."

April 11 Jim Lambrechts, Wentworth Institute of Technology, "Recent Findings on Characteristics of Nineteenth-Century Fill in the Back Bay and the Fenway."

All environmental history seminars take place on Tuesdays, and all early American history and immigration and urban history seminars take place on Thursdays.

NEW READING ROOM PROCEDURES

The recent arrest of a researcher on the charge of cutting maps from early publications at another New England library has caused us to make some changes to our reading room layout and procedures to enhance the security of our collections. We will no longer permit patrons to bring personal belongings of *any* kind, including papers and research notes, into the reading room. This includes loose sheets of paper, notebooks, binders, folders, envelopes, and note cards; personal copies of books and books from other libraries; as well as bags, purses and cases. There are lockers in our lobby for the storage of such items. All outerwear (coats, jackets, sweaters, hats) also *must* be stored in lockers or on a coat rack in the lobby.

We will provide all patrons with colored notepaper and pencils for use in the reading room. The special paper will allow us to distinguish it from manuscripts and other materials in our collection. Researchers may still use laptop computers and digital cameras (without their carrying cases), but they must present all their notes, and any other materials that they are permitted to bring into the reading room, including computers and cameras, for inspection by the reference librarian on duty before they leave the area.

We regret the inconvenience that these new procedures may cause. We are here to assist researchers, but we also are the custodians of unique historical materials of extraordinary value that we must protect.

If you have any questions about any of the new reading room procedures, or if they present specific problems for your research, please contact Kim Nusco, our reference librarian (knusco@masshist.org or 617-646-0508) before your next visit to the Society.

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the Massachusetts Historical Society
a bequest*

is the simplest and most practical way to provide meaningful financial support for its future.

In 1918, a bequest from Henry Adams gave the Massachusetts Historical Society the right to publish *The Education of Henry Adams*. The book sold 12,000 copies within three months and received a Pulitzer Prize in 1919. Since that time, the Adams Fund, established from its royalties, has provided substantial annual income to support the Society's programs.

Your bequest, like that of Henry Adams, can strengthen the Society's endowment, helping the MHS continue to "collect, preserve and communicate" the priceless primary sources that we as Americans depend on to learn about our past.



For information on making a bequest, please contact:

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MHS PLANS ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

How has European settlement of Boston and surrounding areas affected the region's environment? How has the environment shaped human life here since the early seventeenth century? These two interrelated topics are at the heart of "Remaking Boston: The City and Environmental Change Over the Centuries," a conference the Society will host May 4–6, 2006.

Prof. Brian Donahue of Brandeis University will begin the program with the keynote address on Thursday, May 4, at 5:30. Donahue, the prize-winning author of *The Great Meadow: Farmers and the Land in Colonial Concord*, will consider how urban and rural development have interacted with each other and the environment in eastern Massachusetts over nearly four centuries. The Lowell Institute has underwritten Professor Donahue's talk, which is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat, contact Cherylinne Pina at 617-646-0513 or cpina@masshist.org.

Sessions over the next two days will consider the country and the city, climate and weather, land use, waterways, and Boston Harbor. These are topics that benefit from many different approaches. In organizing the program we have made a conscious effort to promote an interdisciplinary conversation.

For information on the conference and how to register for it, see the center pages of this issue of the *Miscellany* or visit the program's page on the Society's website: www.masshist.org/events/conferences.cfm.

You may now register online at www.masshist.org/events/conferences.cfm.

The program schedule appears on pages 6 and 7.

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