

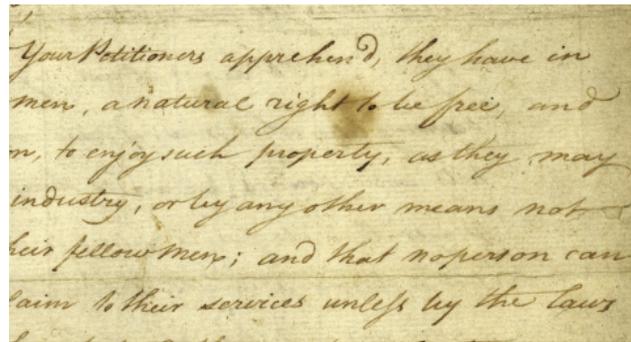
MHS Miscellany

Number 92 / Spring 2007

AT WWW.MASSHIST.ORG NOW PRIMARY SOURCES ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

THE MHS is proud to announce the launch of *African Americans and the End of Slavery in Massachusetts*, a selection of digitized primary source materials available at www.masshist.org/endofslavery. The new site features 117 items

from the Society's collections, including historical manuscripts and early printed works, that offer a window into the lives of African Americans in Massachusetts from the late 17th century through the abolition of slavery under the Massachusetts



Excerpt from a petition for freedom to Gov. Thomas Gage, His Majesty's Council, and the Massachusetts House of Representatives for June 1774. The petition proclaims that slaves have "in common with other men, a natural right to be free." Jeremy Belknap papers, collections of the MHS.

SEE INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE MISCELLANY

MHS Events Listing for the spring and summer, illustrated and in color! pp. 6 & 7.

A revised edition of the Society's most famous publication, *The Education of Henry Adams*. See the back cover.

MHS cooperation with the Russian embassy in celebration of 200 years of U.S.-Russian diplomatic relations and of JQA as the first U.S. ambassador to Russia. pp. 8 & 9.



Periodical newsletter of the



Massachusetts Historical Society

Constitution in the 1780s. While the materials provide insight into the vital role that African Americans, both enslaved and free, played in the state and local life of colonial Massachusetts, the site focuses on the struggle for personal liberty in the Commonwealth—a struggle that is central to a full understanding of our national history.

Color images of manuscripts and published materials—including handwritten letters and poems of Phillis Wheatley, America's first African American female poet, and the only remaining copy of Samuel Sewall's *The Selling of Joseph* (1700), the earliest antislavery pamphlet published in New England—appear alongside fully

Website, page 2

MHS Council

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MHS Miscellany, no. 92
Periodical Newsletter of the
Massachusetts Historical Society

Address:

1154 Boylston St. Boston MA 02215
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Hours:

The MHS reading room is open to
the public free of charge, Monday
through Friday, 9 AM to 4:45 PM,
and until 7:45 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.

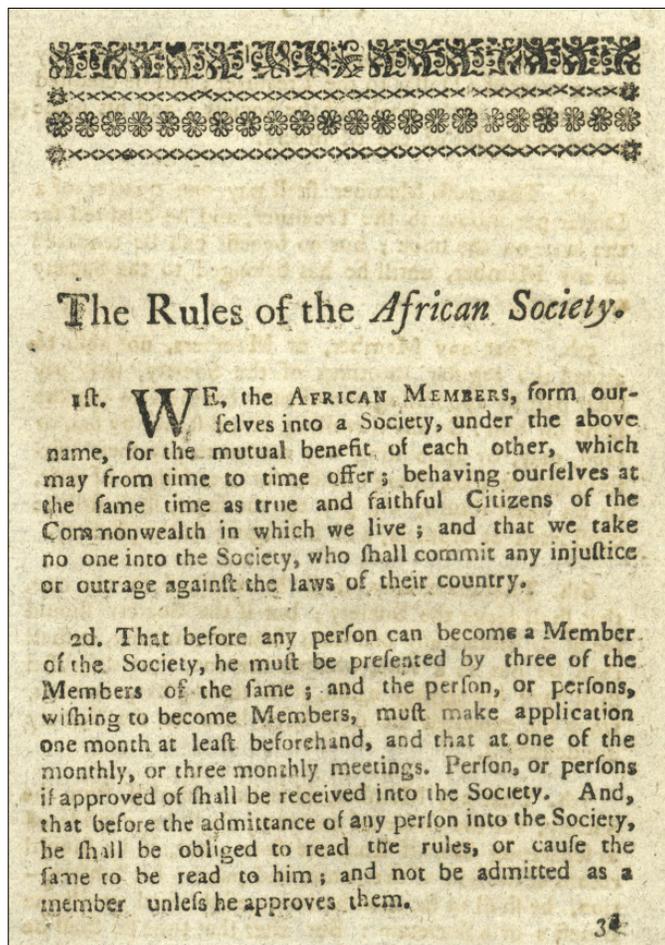
Website, from page 1

searchable transcriptions. Other highlights include manuscript petitions of African Americans requesting their freedom, warrants and depositions for runaway slaves, bills of sale and account books documenting the domestic and international slave trade, and materials relating to Elizabeth Freeman and Quock Walker, the subjects of the two landmark legal cases that brought an end to slavery in Massachusetts. The site also includes a series of letters that MHS founder Jeremy Belknap assembled in 1795 after Virginia abolitionist St. George Tucker sent Belknap a letter posing a set of questions on the history of slavery. Belknap circulated Tucker's queries to a number of prominent Massachusetts citizens. John Adams, Edward A. Holyoke, Nathaniel Appleton, and James Winthrop, among others, shared their

thoughts with Belknap, who published them in the *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society* in 1795.

The website is arranged into nine topical areas, including the Slave Trade, Lives of Individual African Americans before 1783, the Struggle for Freedom, and the Legal End of Slavery in Massachusetts. Each section includes links to the digital images of documents related to that topic and a brief essay that provides context for the documents. A search tool allows users to search the entire site, including the document descriptions and transcriptions. A bibliography of published and electronic resources, including a link to the subject guide “Collections Relevant to African American History at the Massachusetts Historical Society: An Overview,” by Beth A. Bower, is also available.

The culmination of a 10-month project, *African Americans and the End of Slavery in Massachusetts* was funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act grant as administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.



This pamphlet, printed in 1796, outlines the rules of the African Society, a Boston group of African Americans organized to provide a form of health insurance and funeral benefits, as well as spiritual brotherhood, to its members.

Laws of the African Society. By the African Society, Boston, 1802. Collections of the MHS.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 3,600 manuscript collections at the MHS make it a destination for researchers from around the world; this would be true even if we made no extra effort to support and stimulate scholarship. But our mission does not allow us to be passive: we must *promote* the study of American history. Over the past 20 years, under the leadership of Conrad Edick Wright, the body of programs and fellowships that serves this goal has grown considerably. In recognition of this impressive roster and its importance to the mission, the Society has established a separate Research Department. Headed by Conrad, Research will receive the attention it deserves.

What the department encompasses is indeed wide-ranging and substantial. Research will manage more than 30 fellowships, including long-term, regional, and short-term awards; over 30 seminars in early American, immigration and urban, and environmental history; and conferences such as last year's "Remaking Boston." As the Worthington C. Ford Editor of Publications, Conrad will oversee and edit the *Massachusetts Historical Review* and *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*.

A Research Committee has convened to advise and guide the new department. Council member Lia Poorvu will serve as chair. The other members of the committee to date, including Charles Capper, Frederick Grant, Marilynn Johnson, Jane Kamensky, Richard Miller, Miles Shore, and Reed Ueda, put a range of expertise and points of view at the department's disposal.

What the future holds for Research will be determined by an intersection of committee deliberations, the strategic plan now reaching conclusion, Conrad's unflagging zeal, and available resources. In anticipation of setting an agenda for the next five years many ideas have surfaced. For stability, the fellowships need full and permanent endowment. We need to increase stipend amounts, which are in some cases barely minimal, and housing and private study spaces would certainly improve the experience and productivity of fellowship recipients. The seminars, which could benefit from endowment as well, also need increased funding to underwrite speaker expenses. We will consider adding a new series—possibly one on women's history in cooperation with the Schlesinger Library. A strengthened presence for the *MHR* is also under review, since it is our primary vehicle for demonstrating to a broad audience our commitment to new scholarship; we may increase the publication rate, enlarge the contents, and offer prizes for articles.

With renewed energy and appropriate support the possibilities are enormous.

—Dennis Fiori, *director*

THE BELKNAP SOCIETY

In the years immediately following the Revolutionary War, the Reverend Jeremy Belknap, conducting research on his history of New Hampshire, observed that "many papers which are daily thrown away may in future be much wanted, but except here and there a person . . . , no one cares to undertake the collection." He concluded that "public repositories for historical materials" were needed and eventually went on to found The Historical Society that later became the Massachusetts Historical Society. His model, to invite a small group of individuals who had "a sincere interest in the organization and would work to strengthen it," is a model that has sustained the MHS into the 21st century.

Today, as in the 18th century, too few individuals understand and value the importance of collecting and preserving materials for the study of history. While the MHS is fortunate that its endowment covers 70 percent of operating revenue, it must make up the difference through grants, dues, and charitable gifts. The Annual Fund provides vital operating revenue for the MHS, allowing the library to remain free and open, supporting "public lectures on history that educate the public" (a priority for Belknap), and underwriting the cost of caring for its incomparable collection. Several years ago, in honor of the Society's most generous annual contributors, the MHS launched the Belknap Society. This year, the MHS has expanded the Belknap Society to include all those who give \$1,000 or more each year to strengthen the promotion of history literacy, and continues to recognize Annual Fund donors at all levels with gratitude.

The Annual Fund goal for fiscal year 2007 (which runs July 1 through June 30) is \$365,000—a 20 percent increase over the past fiscal year. With just two months left to achieve that goal, we are in the home stretch: our final FY07 appeal will be arriving in your mailbox shortly. We are grateful to the many hundreds of members and friends who have already made their gift this year. If you have not yet made your gift to the Annual Fund, we hope that you will give as generously as you can. To learn more about all the Annual Fund recognition levels, including the Belknap Society, contact the MHS development office or visit our website: www.masshist.org/contribute. Again, thank you for your wonderful support of and commitment to the MHS!

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT IN BOSTON: A HISTORY

A Share of Massachusetts for £25

The illustration below is an original receipt to William Pyncheon for land in the colony of Massachusetts as distributed by the Massachusetts Bay Company. It begins, "Recd the 29th of August 1629 of mr William Pincheon the summ of twenty five poundes for his adventure towards Londons plantation in Massachusetts Bay in New England in America. . . ." The difficult-to-decipher receipt does not allow Pyncheon a specific plot of land, but rather his £25 bought an allotment "to him as to every of the adventurers proportionable to each man his underwriting as shall be concluded and agreed upon." The receipt is signed by George Harwood, who was apparently the treasurer of the company at this time.

A full transcription and description of the stock is available on the Society's website at www.masshist.org/objects/2003/july.cfm. Collections of the MHS.

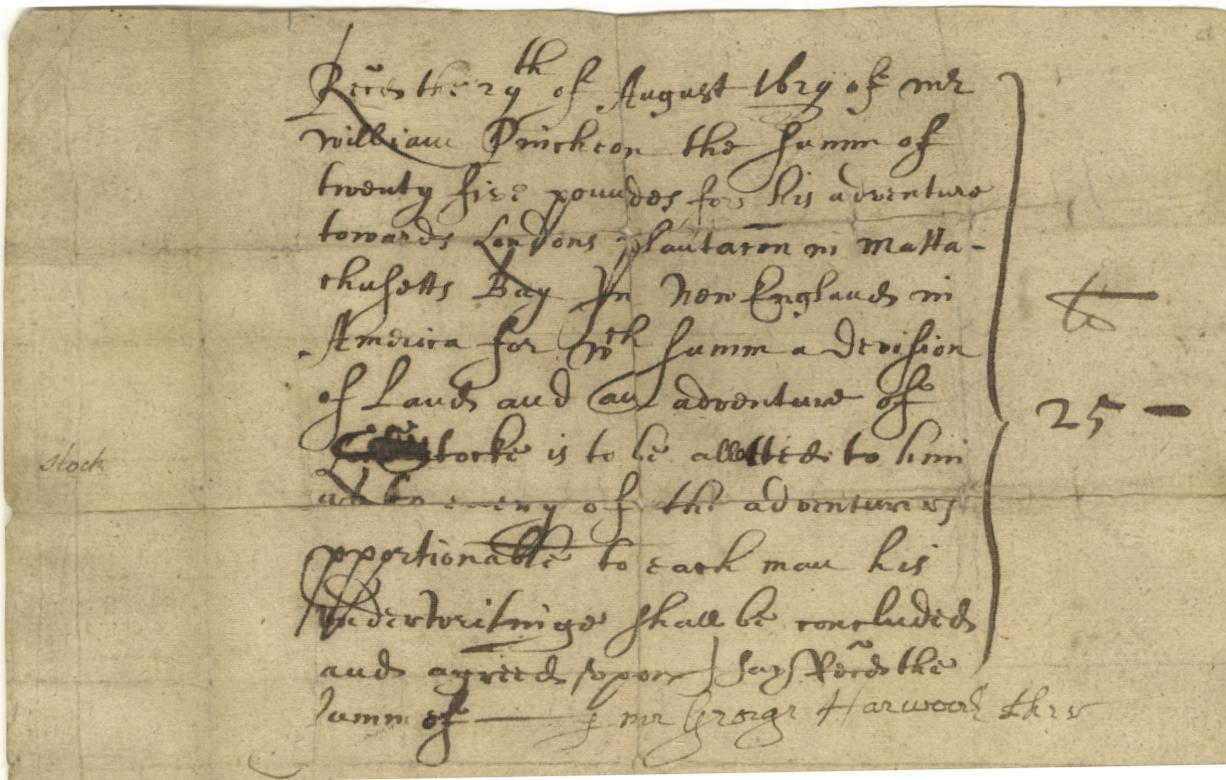
Did you know that before Massachusetts was a colony it was an investment? In 1629, the Massachusetts Bay Company capitalized itself through the sale of shares of stock. The following year, the company settled Boston and the surrounding towns. Investing has played an important role in the history of Massachusetts ever since.

Thanks to generous support from several benefactors, the Society has undertaken a book-length study of local investing. *Investment Management in Boston: A History* will focus on some perennial problems, such as the challenge to control risk while achieving strong returns. These goals were as familiar to the treasurers of 17th-century Harvard College as they are to modern money managers, although the range of possible investments has grown in ways that were unimaginable more than three centuries ago. Between 1693 and 1713, when Thomas Brattle was the college's treasurer, for instance, the school invested primarily in rent-producing real estate. Today, the range of potential investments, from timber to derivatives, seems endless. The

development of mutual funds, the centerpiece of the financial industry in Boston today, will receive particular attention.

To lead the project, we have retained David Grayson Allen, an historian and consultant who brings very strong credentials to the assignment. A graduate of the University of Utah, he earned his Ph.D. in American legal history at the University of Wisconsin. After eight years as a documentary editor—including five at the Society working on the Adams Papers and a year-long fellowship at Harvard's Charles Warren Center—he changed gears in 1981 to become a cofounder of the Winthrop Group, a pioneering historical consultancy. In 1990 he launched his own consultancy, Allen and Associates. Over the years, he has served nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and businesses, including many companies in the financial services industry.

Allen plans to devote the next four years to *Investment Management in Boston*. We look forward to the book's release in about five years.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Adams Family Correspondence, volume 8

The Adams Papers project is pleased to announce the publication of the newest book in their award-winning *Adams Family Correspondence* series. Volume 8, which covers the period from March 1787 to December 1789, opens with John and Abigail Adams eagerly planning their return to Massachusetts from Great Britain, frustrated by John's lack of progress in his diplomatic mission. Arriving home in mid-1788, they anticipated a

ing up. John Quincy, Charles, and Thomas Boylston all studied at Harvard during this period, causing their anxious parents considerable concern over the temptations of college life. After John Quincy's graduation in the summer of 1787, he began his legal training, and Charles followed suit in 1789. Perhaps most importantly, daughter Nabby presented the family with two new members—the first grandchildren of the Adams clan.



The Adamses, through their agent Cotton Tufts, purchased the Vassall-Borland estate in Braintree to serve as their home upon their return from England in 1788. John later dubbed it "Peacefield," in commemoration of the 1783 Peace of Paris, though the Adams family through the generations has come to know it as the Old House. It is currently part of the Adams National Historical Park, operated as a museum by the U.S. Park Service. This illustration, a wash drawing by E. Malcom (1798), is the earliest depiction of the house. Courtesy of the Adams National Historical Park.

quiet retirement running their farm, the recently purchased Vassall-Borland estate, later known as the Old House (today a part of the Adams National Historical Park). But they barely had time to unpack and arrange the furniture before they were pulled back into the public sphere by John's election as the first vice president under the newly ratified Constitution. Settling in New York City in 1789, John and Abigail found themselves once again at center stage in American political life.

Meanwhile, John and Abigail's children were grow-

As always, the Adamses serve as prescient and thoughtful observers of the world around them, from the manners and mores of English court life to the political intrigues of the new federal government in New York. These letters also, however, comment on the more intimate day-to-day domestic concerns of a New England family. With more of the candor that marks all of the Adamses' correspondence, this volume offers the unique perspective of this preeminent family on a crucial period in American history.

EVENTS IN THE SPRING

Wednesday, April 4

CINDERELLA'S FAMILY: STEPFAMILY TRADITION IN 18TH-CENTURY NEW ENGLAND

Lisa Wilson, Connecticut College

Brown Bag Lunch

Thursday, April 5

THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CULTURE, 1750–1790: PATTERNS AND PROCESS

Stephen Marini, Wellesley College

Comment: Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut

Boston Early American History Seminar

Tuesday, April 10

THE LIMITS OF RESTORATION: HISTORY AND ECOLOGY THROUGH TIME IN MAINE'S MERRYMEETING BAY

Matthew Klinge & John Lichter, Bowdoin College

Comment: Steven Rudnick, University of Massachusetts—Boston

Boston Environmental History Seminar

Thursday, April 26

THE NEWEST AFRICAN AMERICANS: IDENTITY AND INCORPORATION AMONG RECENT WEST AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS TO THE U.S.

Marilyn Halter, Boston University, & Violet Johnson, Agnes Scott College

Comment: Mary Waters, Harvard University

Boston Immigration and Urban History Seminar

Wednesday, May 2

ONLINE TOOL DEMO: FINDING PATTERNS AND RELATIONSHIPS IN YOUR RESEARCH DATA

Holly Hendricks, Massachusetts Historical Society

Brown Bag Lunch



Susan Woodward Haven (1807–1868) and William Emerson lived in New York City following their marriage, raising three children. Both portraits attributed to Thomas Seir Cummings, watercolor on ivory, collections of the MHS.

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 P.M. Reception at 6:00 P.M.

EMERSON FAMILY LIVES

Ronald A. Bosco and Joel Myerson

Lecture: free and open to the public

Bosco and Myerson will discuss how they began to research and to write *The Emerson Brothers: A Fraternal Biography in Letters* (Oxford University Press, 2005). Their talk will include how they located original Emerson family manuscripts at a descendant's house on Long Island, decided whether to do a selected edition of letters or a more formal biography, assisted the transfer of the manuscripts to the MHS, and other successes and pitfalls.

Bosco and Myerson are also the editors of the recent MHS publication *Emerson Bicentennial Essays* (2006), a collection of historical and literary essays by prominent Emerson scholars, based upon a conference held at the MHS in 2003. Ronald A. Bosco is Distinguished Professor of English and American Literature at the University at Albany, SUNY, and general editor for *The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. Joel Myerson is Carolina Distinguished Professor of American Literature, Emeritus, at the University of South Carolina, and textual editor for *The Collected Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson*.



William Emerson (1801–1868), the elder brother of Ralph Waldo, attended Harvard College (1818) and Harvard University (1821). He married Susan Woodward Haven (above right) in 1833, the same year these miniature portraits were made.

& SUMMER AT THE MHS

Wednesday, May 23, 5:00 P.M.

ANNUAL MEETING

Business meeting begins at 5:00 P.M., followed by a reception

At last October's Annual Meeting, the Fellows approved a bylaw change that frees the meeting from its fall time frame. Beginning this year, the Society's Annual Meeting has been moved to the spring. Despite the brief duration since last year's meeting, many important items are on the agenda. All Fellows and members are encouraged to attend. Please stay for the reception that will follow the meeting.

- ⇒ Help the Society chart the future for the MHS as we debut our strategic plan.
- ⇒ Vote on the last phase of the proposed bylaw revision.
- ⇒ Learn about the donation of an important private collection of Adams family papers. Known as the Adams-Hull collection, samples of this collection, which numbers nearly one hundred pieces, will be on display at the reception.
- ⇒ An acknowledgement of the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Dowse Library, one of the Society's finest collections of books and our largest artifact.

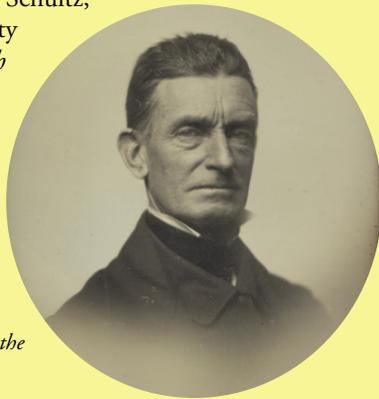


The annual meeting will be held at 1154 Boylston Street, seen here in a 1923 photograph from the Fenway, by C. P. Shepardson. Collections of the MHS.

Wednesday, June 6

"COULD I NOT DO SOMETHING FOR THE CAUSE?": THE BROWN WOMEN AND JOHN BROWN'S FEMALE NETWORK

Bonnie Laughlin Schultz,
Indiana University
Brown Bag Lunch



*John Brown.
Quarter plate
daguerreotype
attributed to John
Adams Whipple,
1856. Collections of the
MHS.*

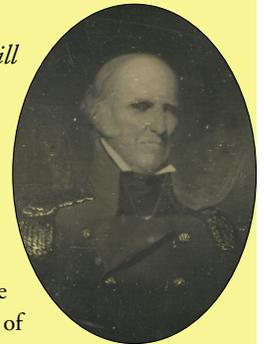
Friday, June 15

JOHN STARK: MAVERICK GENERAL

Ben Z. Rose

*Brown Bag Lunch, Battle of Bunker Hill
anniversary event*

MHS member Ben Rose is the author of *John Stark: Maverick General* (2007), a biography focusing both on Stark's character as well as on the important part he played in key battles of the Revolution. Special attention will be given to Stark's role during the Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775).



*John Stark (1728–1822). Hand-colored
daguerreotype (c. 1850s) of a portrait paint-
ing. Photo #1.131, collections of the MHS.*

Thursday, June 21

THE NECESSITY AND PRACTICABILITY OF GOOD-WILL

Amanda Moniz, University of Michigan

Comment: Peter Dobkin Hall, John F. Kennedy School of Government,
Harvard University

Boston Early American History Seminar

History Seminars: The MHS hosts three seminar series. Sessions are free and open to the public. Seminars involve the discussion of a pre-circulated paper available for a small subscription fee. Seminars begin at 5:15 P.M. and are followed by a light buffet supper.

Brown Bag Lunches: Join us at noon the first Wednesday of the month

for an informal discussion of the latest in research on Boston, Massachusetts, and New England—bring your own lunch. Over sandwiches, salads, & soup, we hear from researchers or staff members about a fascinating project—often in progress, sometimes complete. Beverages provided. Lunches do not involve pre-circulated papers.

For seminar papers, to reserve a seat for lunch, or for more information, contact Suzanne Carroll: scarroll@masshist.org or 617-646-0513.

RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES

Celebration of 200 Years

Louisa Catherine Adams

Silhouette of Louisa Catherine Adams (LCA), the wife of John Quincy Adams (JQA), first American minister to Russia. Silhouette by Henry Williams, 1809.

When JQA was sent from his post in Russia in 1814 to negotiate the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812, LCA followed him shortly thereafter. Her dangerous trip across Europe is recorded in her memoir, "Narrative of a Journey from Russia to France, 1815," currently on display at the MHS. The harrowing trip took LCA 40 days by carriage, accompanied by her seven-year-old son, Charles Francis Adams.

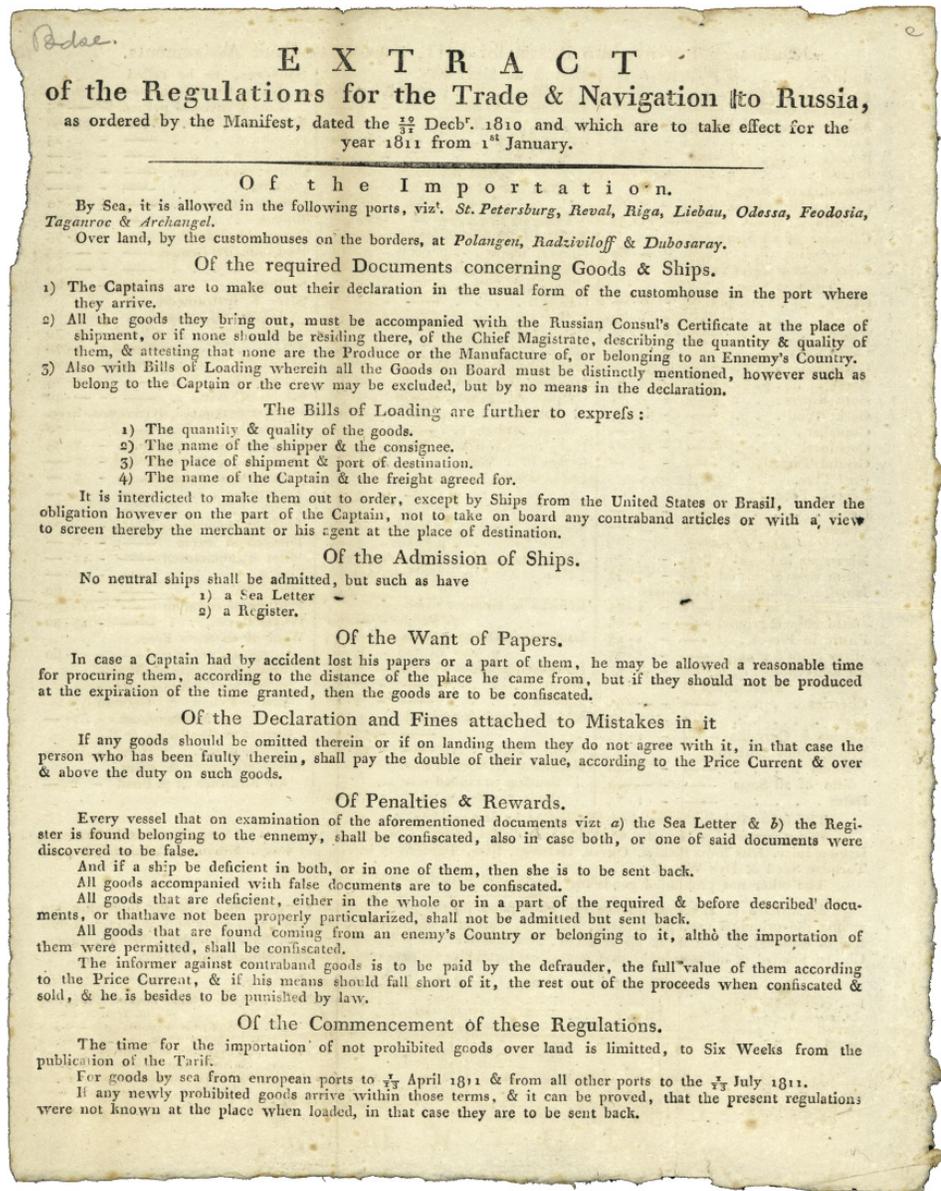
She vividly recounts her encounter with troops from the disintegrating Napoleonic Army amidst their retreat back to France from Russia. At first, the troops wished to seize the horses and carriage, thinking LCA a Russian, but she presented her American passport and obliged the troops by shouting "vive Napoleon."

LCA's journal will continue to be on display through the summer in the Oliver Room at the MHS, as part of the larger exhibition on JQA.

Two hundred years ago this fall, Russia and the young United States established their first formal diplomatic tie; two years later, in October 1809, John Quincy Adams arrived in St. Petersburg as the first U.S. Minister to the Russian court. With the bicentennial of this friendship coming up, Russian and American officials are

making the MHS part of their plans for celebration.

MHS participation began last fall, when the U.S. Embassy in Moscow contacted the Adams Papers editors for information about JQA's papers. Deborah Guido-O'Grady, First Secretary and Director of Academic Exchanges for the embassy,



Extract of the Regulations for the Trade & Navigation to Russia, 1810, broadsheet. Collections of the MHS.



became aware of the Adams Papers collection when she discovered the Society's online presentation of JQA's diary (see www.masshist.org/jqadiaries). These volumes document both his experience visiting St. Petersburg as a teenager—as secretary and interpreter to Francis Dana—and his return there as minister in 1809.

The Society is contributing to the events this fall in a number of ways. The Education Department and the Adams Papers staff have provided extensive information to assist the embassy staff, including key materials to help in the development of a sculpture of JQA that the embassy will commission for display in Moscow; Adams Papers' Assistant Editor Hobson Woodward has supplied images and information for the sculptor. Editorial Assistant Sara Sikes has sent information to support a special feature at the embassy's website (see <http://usembassy.ru/200th/index.php>).

The MHS will join in the celebration activities directly as well. Planning has begun for a fall 2007 exhibition of materials about JQA in Russia, and Ambassador Yuri Ushakov has tentatively accepted our invitation to attend the opening on September 19. The MHS has also partnered with the U.S. Embassy to announce a Fulbright essay contest to honor JQA's diplomatic legacy: high school students from both the U.S. and Russia may submit essays that address the topic "In 1807, the U.S. and Russia agreed to establish official diplomatic relations. In your opinion, what has been the most significant example of U.S.-Russia cooperation over the past 200 years?" Winning entries from both countries will be published on the MHS website, and contest winners

THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO VISIT RUSSIA
"IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOHN QUINCY ADAMS"

This once-in-a-lifetime tour commemorates the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries by following Adams' historic mission in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

October 18–28, 2007

Tour lecturer: Historian Peter Lauritzen

Guest Lecturer in Moscow: Professor Andrey Isserov

A detailed itinerary will be mailed out soon. For advance information and to save a place on this "limited edition" trip, contact

Travel Anywhere

Phone: (800) 523-1650 • ssells@tvlanewhere.com

Or telephone Dennis Fiori at MHS: (617) 646-0520

Silhouette of JQA from Family of John Quincy Adams by Jarvis F. Hanks, Washington, March 25, 1829, collections of the MHS; photograph of the Bourse in St. Petersburg by Peter Sobolev, album 115, www.enlight.ru/camera.

will be recognized at both the September reception in Boston and a similar event for the Russian students in Moscow.

Finally, there will be a trip to Russia, "In the Footsteps of John Quincy Adams," for MHS members in October 2007. To join this trip, watch your mailbox for further information.

A VISION FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Over its history, the MHS has attracted many fine presenters to speak at its meetings and other events. Rarely, however, has a coherent vision guided the annual roster of programs. Now, this is changing. A new, interdepartmental Program Team is creating guidelines for the development and selection of all public events that the MHS sponsors.

This team, operating under the leadership of the Department of Education and Public Programs, will assess each potential program against a series of questions:

- ☞ *Does it foster interest in the study and significance of history?*
- ☞ *Does it reflect on the process of historical investigation?*
- ☞ *Is it intellectually sound, substantive, and stimulating?*
- ☞ *Does it tie into a larger theme of compelling interest?*
- ☞ *Is it a unique program for this geographical area?*
- ☞ *Does it have a connection to the collections or other resources of the MHS?*
- ☞ *Will it help to bring in new audiences and involve them more fully in the activities of the MHS?*
- ☞ *Does it help the public understand the mission of this organization?*

This active selection process will allow the MHS to bring its audiences programs that push beyond the standard stories and consider how those stories come to be. Many will examine the ways in which issues of the present color our views of the past, as well as how our versions of the past frame our thinking today. In addition, the team will develop strategies for generating revenue from programs and for offering professional development opportunities for educators in particular.

The Program Team will also look into how well the MHS broadcasts the presentations it chooses to sponsor. Given the statewide and national significance of our collections, it is time to explore the possibilities for bringing our programs to audiences beyond the Back Bay. Through collaborations with partnering institutions, the MHS can appear at larger venues in the Boston area and in other regions of the state and country; through current audio and visual technology, the MHS can reach readers, listeners, and viewers everywhere. Webcasts, podcasts, online transcriptions, and televised broadcasts are all potential paths of distribution.

EDUCATION OUTREACH

Although supporting the teaching of history is not new to the MHS, having a formal Department of Education and Public Programs is. By finally recognizing the important work the institution already does in this area, we will be able to do it with clear goals and strategies. Overall, the new department aims to strike a balance between serving area teachers and students and serving a national—and international—audience that can benefit from online access to the Society's collections.

Several continuing efforts already allow teachers to visit 1154 Boylston Street, where they work with manuscript documents, enjoy discussion with eminent historians, and develop innovative curricula. These include fellowship programs supported by the C. F. Adams Trust and the Sidney A. Swensrud Foundation, Teaching American History seminars (in which the MHS participates with other historical organizations), and the Teachers as Scholars program. All immerse Massachusetts teachers in the study of historical events and issues by using our collections as key resources. Quite often these teachers will bring their classes to see original manuscript documents, an experience that has no substitute. Our staff also benefits from this arrangement by observing how and why students learn from primary sources.

The reality is, of course, that most teachers and students will never be able to visit the MHS for one-day educational programs simply because of geographical limitations. With our outstanding collections of national importance, then, the focus turns to making documents and associated curricula, such as the projects developed by the Adams and Swensrud Fellows, available online.

The largest project undertaken by the Department of Education and Public Programs is a web-based timeline that uses digitized documents, contextual essays, and educational components (including full curriculum units) addressed to teachers and students. *The Coming of the American Revolution* website, scheduled for launch in 2008, is funded by a Teaching and Learning Resources Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Once completed, this project will become the core of educational outreach efforts at the MHS, at other locations, and online. Workshops and more intensive programs for educators will draw on this exceptional resource, and the MHS will provide opportunities—through conferences and online forums—for teachers and students to share ideas on using the website in their own preparation and research. In this way, the website will continue to expand and be enriched by the experiences of users in classrooms and communities across the country.

Adams, from page 12

Adams's progress on the final version of the text was slow. Before long he began to make notes for some changes in the margins of copies of the draft, and a number of these copies have survived. In 1912, though, he suffered a stroke that ended any realistic possibility of completing the work to his satisfaction. He apparently misplaced the annotated copies, possibly due to the memory loss that followed from the stroke. In 1916, anxious to settle the book's future, he gave a new copy indicating a small number of changes to Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, a former student of his and at the time the president of the MHS. In a cover note, he instructed Lodge to have the Society publish the book posthumously. Adams died on March 27, 1918; the MHS-Houghton Mifflin edition appeared the following September.

The 1907 draft had suffered from all the flaws that authors used to expect to find in printer's proofs. Before the days of computers, and before the days of spell-check software, many different kinds of typographical errors riddled page proofs. At least as much to the point, the manuscript Adams had sent to the typesetter had apparently never received a careful editing. There were misspellings, omissions in punctuation, inconsistencies in the use of italics and capitals—all errors that a careful copyeditor ought to find. All told, there were perhaps 1,000 errors.

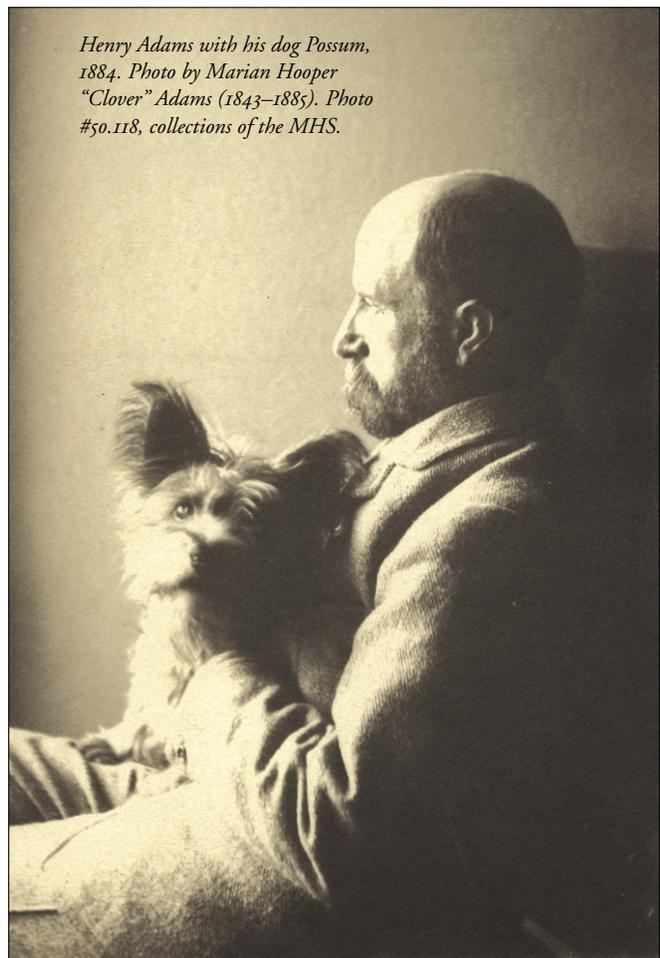
Shortly after Adams's death, Lodge placed the copy of the *Education* he had received in 1916 in the hands of Worthington C. Ford, the Society's editor of publications. Ford determined that Adams's marginalia could not resolve the typographical problems he saw. Moreover, American fashions in writing had changed considerably since 1907, and the draft Adams had typeset 11 years before looked antique to Ford's eyes: some of Adams's spelling and punctuation posed particular problems. The edition the Society and Houghton Mifflin brought out in September 1918 was, consequently, substantially modernized and Americanized. We will never know whether Adams would have approved of Ford's changes; we do know that almost every page in a book of more than 500 looked different from what the author had expected.

The project the Society undertook in 2001 sought to produce a book in keeping with Henry Adams's expectations when he wrote the *Education*. There is no way to channel Adams, no way to know how he would have resolved every apparent editorial problem in the 1907 printing. Nonetheless, by using other Adams publications and his correspondence from the time as guides, the editors—Edward Chalfant, Professor Emeritus of English at Hofstra University,

and Conrad Edick Wright, the Society's Ford Editor of Publications—have determined the author's preferences on scores of points. For example, they have identified more than 60 spots in the 1907 draft where sentences did not parse and words presumably went missing. They have also drawn on marginalia from four surviving copies to insert changes Adams clearly wanted to make.

The result of these efforts is a perfected version of the *Education*. Clearer and easier to read than either of its two predecessors, it does justice to one of the enduring texts of American letters. Introductory notes and an extended postscript review the book's fascinating history and explain the author's reasons for writing it.

The hardcover book, which appeared on the 100th anniversary of the 1907 draft, is available through the Society's distributor, the University of Virginia Press, for \$34.95 plus handling. For ordering information, see the Society's website, www.masshist.org/in_print/



Henry Adams with his dog Possum, 1884. Photo by Marian Hooper "Clover" Adams (1843–1885). Photo #50.118, collections of the MHS.

THE EDUCATION OF HENRY ADAMS

A CENTENNIAL VERSION

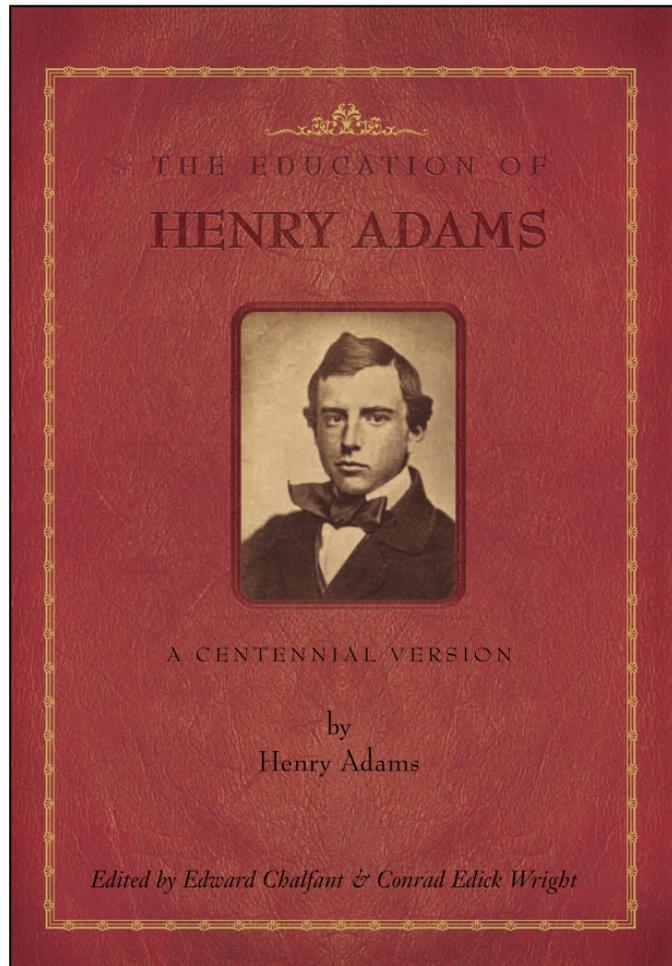
The MHS does not decide to re-edit a Pulitzer Prize-winning book every day. In fact, since only one book by the Society has won the award, we rarely have the opportunity to do so. Early this year, though, we concluded a project that resulted from such a decision in 2001. It is a new edition of *The Education of Henry Adams*.

The *Education* became an American classic almost immediately after the Society published it posthumously in collaboration with Houghton Mifflin Company in 1918. The following year, it won the Pulitzer Prize for biography or autobiography. There was a time when it seemed that almost every American high school or college student read at least a portion of the book. As recently as 2003, a board of critics the Modern Library assembled named the *Education* the best non-fiction work of the 20th century.

Why would anyone re-edit such a book? A book that has satisfied its readers for decades? A book that is already widely available in print and online? The answer lies in the hundreds of defects that mar every previously available edition: the new edition aims to rectify as many of these problems as possible.

The *Education* first appeared in print as a draft in 1907, when Adams arranged for a printer to typeset the book's manuscript, which he had been working on for a couple of years. He planned to share the text with friends whose judgment he trusted before revising it for publication. A shipment of 100 copies arrived at his residence in Washington, D.C., by February 20, when he began to mail them to his confidants.

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