

MHS Miscellany

Number 99 / Fall 2010

BOSTON UNDER SIEGE

For a tense 11-month period between April 1775 and March 1776, British troops occupied Boston and, after the Battle of Bunker Hill, the peninsula of Charlestown. During this time, American militiamen (who would become part of the Continental Army when it was established in June 1775) effectively contained the troops, preventing the British from expanding their reach further into the colony. This stalemate is known

Army, seized and fortified Dorchester Heights, just outside Boston, on the night of March 4, 1776. Using captured artillery from Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point, Washington's forces aimed cannons at British ships anchored in the harbor. On March 17, 1776, the British were finally forced to evacuate Boston.

In the coming months, scholars, educators, and history enthusiasts will find more resources



as the Siege of Boston. With the town in upheaval, many residents fled while Loyalists from the surrounding countryside moved in. Conditions within the blockade were harsh for all who remained. Although the British maintained control of Boston Harbor, provisions dwindled as soldiers and civilians alike waited for supply ships to arrive. The siege continued until George Washington, commander of the Continental

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educators. The story of the Siege of Boston continues to fascinate those studying the American Revolution; with these new web-based initiatives, the MHS can now share its pieces of this story with a larger audience than ever before.

Supported by funding from the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, the MHS will present on its website more than one dozen accounts from individuals personally affected by the siege. The Siege of Boston: Eyewitness Accounts from the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society will be available later this fall at www.masshist.org/online/siege. Some 300 manuscript pages of letters, diaries, and statements detail the experiences of soldiers, prisoners (both Loyalist and Patriot), and residents. These first-hand accounts give evidence of the human side of a long and challenging chapter of the American Revolution, a perspective that often gets overlooked by histories that describe the siege as a series of military events, focusing on battles, raids, and skirmishes.

The upcoming web presentation will enable researchers and history enthusiasts to read the words of individuals who recorded their experiences during this trying time in Boston. Pvt. Obadiah Brown wrote in his diary about his daily activities in Cambridge, including the time on March 4, 1776, “where the balls & shel[l]s flew like hailstones” while he was standing guard at Lechmere point. Boston resident Peter Edes recorded his capture and three-and-a-half-month-long imprisonment by

the British. Sarah Winslow Deming wrote to her niece about her difficult departure from the besieged city and her determination to get “out of Boston at almost any rate—away as far as possible from the infection of small pox, & the din of drums & martial Musick as its call’d, & horrors of war.” Henry Howell Williams, of Noddles Island in Boston Harbor, suffered great financial losses in May 1775 when the Continental Army burned his property and confiscated his livestock to prevent them from being taken by the British Army. In 1789, years after the siege, Williams petitioned the Commonwealth for proper compensation for his losses.

The web presentations of the selected manuscripts will include high-resolution digital images, transcriptions, and informative captions. In addition to browsing the Siege of Boston website, researchers can also search for documents in ABIGAIL, the Society’s online catalog, where collection descriptions will include links to specific digitized documents. The result will provide access to these important primary sources through multiple pathways. Visit the MHS website later this fall to see these unique accounts of Revolutionary history.

Educators are in luck as Siege of Boston lesson plans are already available online, thanks to Swensrud Teacher Fellow Danielle Fernandez. Her curriculum unit, “Life during the Siege of Boston,” uses some of the same documents featured in the upcoming web presentation. Fernandez asks students to think like historians as they

The Massachusetts Historical Society is an independent research library that collects, preserves, makes accessible, and communicates manuscripts and other materials that promote the study of the history of Massachusetts and the nation—a mission it has pursued since 1791.

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Masthead illustration:

“Plan & Elevation of the Tontine Crescent, now erecting in Boston.” From the *Massachusetts Magazine*, 1794. All images are from the MHS collections unless otherwise credited. The MHS occupied the Tontine Crescent from 1794 until 1833.

Previous page: “A plan of Boston and its environs...” by Richard William, 1775.

Next page: Engraving of Josiah Quincy from Justin Winsor, *The Memorial History of Boston*, vol. 3 (Boston, 1882), 37.

Last page: JQA profile from *Silhouettes of John Quincy Adams and His Family*, by Jarvis F. Hanks, Meridian Hill, Washington, 25 March 1859.

Address:

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Hours:

The MHS reading room is open to the public free of charge, 9 AM to 4:45 PM Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9 AM to 7:45 PM on Thursdays, and 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays.

For more information:

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



massculturalcouncil.org

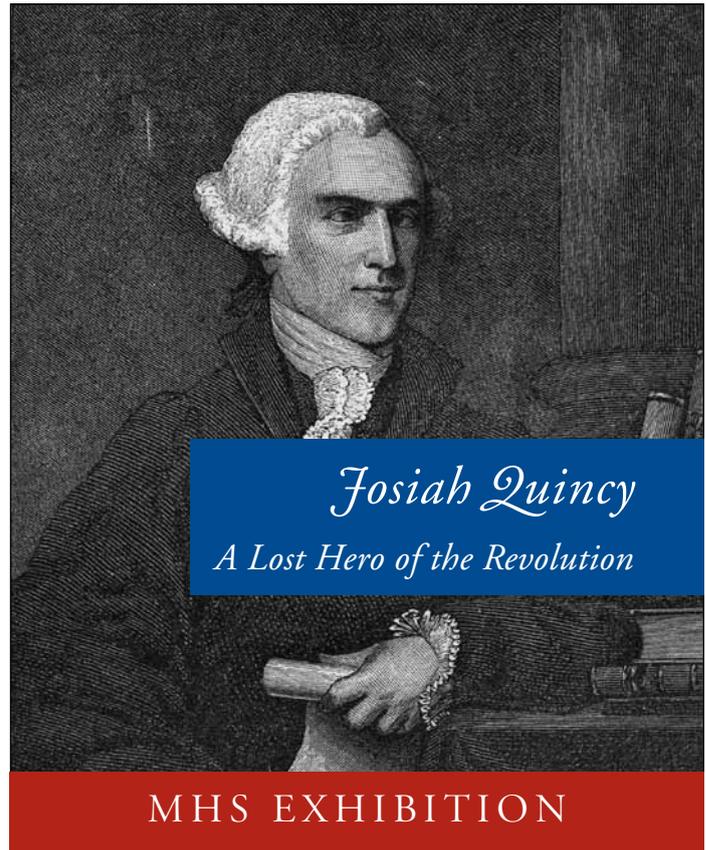
examine the letters and diaries of merchants, selectmen, soldiers, and other Bostonians in order to discover how people in and around the town were affected by the siege and the British evacuation of Boston in 1776. Ms. Fernandez's project also calls upon students to improve their creative writing skills. After reviewing numerous personal accounts of the siege available from the MHS, students will develop and perform a short play dramatizing a particular event from the period. Students must draw on historical documents to capture the vocabulary, speech patterns, and writings styles of the 18th century. To view Ms. Fernandez's project, as well as lessons created by other MHS teacher fellows, visit www.masshist.org/education/curricula.php.

A LOST HERO FOUND

On October 20, the MHS previewed a new exhibition, *Josiah Quincy: A Lost Hero of the Revolution*. The display celebrates the publication by the Colonial Society of Massachusetts of the final two volumes of *Portrait of a Patriot: The Major Political and Legal Papers of Josiah Quincy Junior*, edited by Daniel R. Coquillette and Neil Longley York, the first modern edition of the complete works of Josiah Quincy, Jr. (1744–1775). A brilliant young attorney—he was only 26 when, with John Adams, he defended the British soldiers in the Boston Massacre Trials—Josiah Quincy, Jr., “The Patriot,” was an ardent spokesman for the cause of liberty in Revolutionary Massachusetts.

A household name in colonial America when he died at sea, a week after the battles of Concord and Lexington, while returning from a secret mission to London—a last ditch effort to avert hostilities through negotiation—Josiah Quincy, Jr.'s early death has made him less familiar today than many of his contemporaries and admirers, including James Otis, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin. The exhibition focuses on the Historical Society's manuscript sources for the new Colonial Society volumes, including Quincy's political and legal commonplace books, his travel journals (he was a harshly critical observer of slavery in the American South), and his compilation of the records of Massachusetts legal cases, the first law reports in American history. In the exhibition, Quincy's personal papers are shown in the context of the Society's enormous archive of Quincy family papers—letters, diaries, drawings, artifacts, and paintings that document eight generations of this extraordinary family.

Josiah Quincy: A Lost Hero of the Revolution will be open to the public without charge, 1:00 to 4:00 PM,



Monday through Saturday, October 23, 2010, to January 22, 2011, except from December 24, 2010, to January 1, 2011, when the Historical Society is closed for a brief holiday season respite.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2008 the MHS completed and began implementing a thoughtful, wide-ranging strategic plan with four goals:

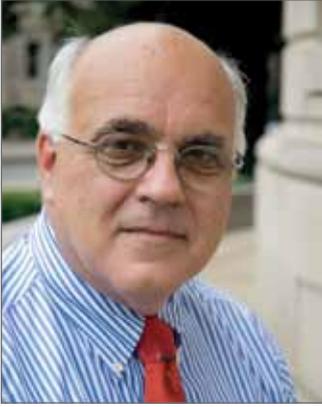
Goal 1: Advance the stewardship and availability of the Society's unique collections.

Goal 2: Increase the understanding of the relevance of history among our key audiences.

Goal 3: Increase awareness of the Society's unique role and value.

Goal 4: Build a broad institutional commitment to secure the resources essential to achieve the Society's goals.

The MHS has traditionally been a financially prudent organization, but the strong endowment numbers for 2008 bolstered the Society's decision to pursue these goals boldly. The MHS modestly increased its staff and appropriated funds to advance components of the plan. Unfortunately, this boldness was short lived. By the end of the year, the economic downturn halted our



progress. The endowment, which provides 70 percent of our operating funds, had sustained severe losses. We needed to retrench to ensure the stability of our central activities.

To this end, we made significant cuts to the operating budget and launched the Strategic Initiative, a fundraising effort aimed at our Trustees and a few close friends. This initiative will provide vital support for operating stability over the next three years while we devise and implement a plan to provide sustainable support. To date, over \$1 million has been raised, exceeding our original target of \$900,000. As fundraising proceeded, we began to revise the original strategic plan to bring it in line with the new economic realities and the fast-changing world of research libraries. Staff driven, this planning focused on technology, positioning, program planning, exhibitions, marketing, and membership. We also explored how scholars work in the 21st century. The result is a revised strategic plan that reaffirms the original goals and the importance of maintaining core activities but also highlights the critical need to encourage a larger portion of the community to value and support the Society. It has become clear that a thin support base threatens our sustainability.

Along with our mission and vision, we now have a statement of “Why the MHS Matters,” which clearly establishes our value. At its heart is the following passage:

The Society’s nationally significant manuscripts and artifacts are essential for understanding America’s past in order to forge an informed present and meaningful future. Through the holdings of the MHS one comes to understand where we as Americans came from and where we are going. The study of these historic manuscripts and documents affects every American from the content of textbooks to the decisions of the Supreme Court. The collections of the MHS are vital to the preservation of democracy and the rights of every citizen. They unify us as a people by bringing continuity to our communities.

Our aim is to use this new statement as the centerpiece of a campaign to meet the primary objective of the revised strategic plan: To make the collections, activities, and value of the MHS widely known. By doing this, we will broaden the range of individuals who understand the importance of our work and its meaning to their lives.

*Landmarks Institute participants with National Park Service staff.
Photo by Roger Fuller.*

Tangentially, we hope to increase the number of those who care about the future of the MHS and are willing to provide support.

Our initial efforts to reach out to a wider audience are showing early signs of success. Our recent return to public exhibitions and an innovative roster of public programs is increasing interest in the MHS and drawing in larger audiences. The FY2010 annual fund was the most successful ever, attracting a number of new significant donors. But your help is also essential to this effort. I urge all of you to join us in introducing your friends to the MHS. Invite them to an exhibition opening or bring them to one of our programs or seminars. Simply entering our beautiful landmark building and seeing a few of our treasures has made many a convert. If we all work together—Members, Fellows, Trustees, Overseers, and staff—the value of the MHS and its nationally significant collections can become better known and our future, more secure.

—Dennis Fiori, President

AT THE CROSSROADS OF REVOLUTION *Lexington and Concord in 1775*

From July 18 to 23 and August 1 to 6, 80 teachers from across the country participated in National Endowment for the Humanities-funded Landmarks Institutes directed by Jayne Gordon and Kathleen Barker of the MHS Education Department. Coming from 30 states, the 40 educators who gathered each week were selected from a record number of applicants according to the NEH (almost 500!). “At the Crossroads of Revolution: Lexington and Concord in 1775” partnered the MHS with historical organizations throughout the Boston area to create a program that allowed educators to explore the



choices facing colonists in the days leading to the American Revolution.

Participants visited the MHS, Minute Man National Park, and other sites in Lexington, Concord, and Boston, to immerse themselves in the evocative 18th-century settings of those towns. The teachers enjoyed interacting with a group of outstanding scholars: staff from the MHS; our teacher fellow facilitator, Duncan Wood; and colleagues from the National Park Service and other historical organizations. They examined the decisions and dilemmas surrounding the events of 1775 and analyzed how later generations would interpret and use this history.

The Society's rich collection of Revolutionary-era documents served as the foundation for the institute. The program also introduced educators to landscapes, structures, objects, and exhibitions that connected the treasured documents to real places where events unfolded that irrevocably affected the course of American history. Minute Man National Park, which preserves almost 900 acres of cultural landscape, was the main "campus" for the week. Teachers had the opportunity to experience a living history program in one restored tavern within the park and to attend a colonial dinner in another. They had class on the Freedom Trail with former MHS director Bill Fowler, on the grounds of the Old Manse with historian Robert Gross, and (virtually) in the living room of Revolution expert Ray Raphael in a session at the National Heritage Museum. They walked through farming fields to "read the landscape" with environmental studies scholar Brian Donahue and joined research and writing activities in locations ranging from historic barns and colonial homes to Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge.

The participants will be able to continue their relationship with the MHS through a discussion forum and the incorporation of their lesson plans on the MHS website. Any interested educator can view these plans at www.masshist.org/education and learn more about the Society's resources for teachers. The MHS hopes to lead a similar program in the summer of 2012.

HENRY ADAMS REVEALED

The MHS recently received a gift of 13 letters that Henry Adams wrote to Anne Palmer Fell between 1884 and 1890. Fell had been a close friend of Adams's wife, Marian "Clover" Hooper Adams, and at the time of this correspondence, she was settling with her young family in Narcoossee, Florida. These unique and intimate letters shed new light on an episode Adams rarely wrote about: Clover's suicide in December 1885.



*Henry Adams and Marquis on steps of piazza.
Photograph by Marian Hooper Adams, ca. 1883.
Marian Hooper Adams photographs, 50.50.*

Adams, a historian and intellectual, is probably best known for his seminal work, *The Education of Henry Adams*. Henry Adams's papers, as well as those of his father, Charles Francis Adams, Sr., and his grandfather Pres. John Quincy Adams, are among the vast, multi-generational collection of Adams Family Papers held by the MHS. His letters to Fell—written from Washington, D.C.; Quincy, Massachusetts; and Apia, Samoa—discuss his travels, his writings, financial matters, and his investment in Florida lands. But what makes this correspondence truly special is that it provides a rare glimpse into Adams's state of mind following Clover's death.

In a letter dated January 1886, just one month after her passing, Adams wrote,

Even now I cannot quite get rid of the feeling that Clover must, sooner or later, come back, and that I had better wait for her to decide everything for me.... The only advice I have for you is to get all the fun you can out of life. The only moments of the past that I regret are those when I was not actively happy. As one cannot be always actively blissful, one must be contented with passive content, but it is a poor substitute at best, and makes no impression on the memory. My only wonder is whether I could have managed to get more out of twelve years than we got, and if we really succeeded in being as happy as was possible.

Following Clover's suicide, Adams famously commissioned sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens and architect Stanford White to create a memorial to her in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C. He rarely wrote about her again; there is no mention of Clover in *The*

Education of Henry Adams. But in these letters, Adams is frank about the impact of this loss.

Following his return from his father's funeral in December 1886, Adams responded to Fell's letter announcing that she and her husband, Edward Nelson Fell, had named their infant daughter Marian in honor of their departed friend:

During the last eighteen months I have not had the good luck to attend my own funeral, but with that exception I have buried pretty nearly everything I lived for, and at times I have had to make some effort in order to be as gay as one would wish. I think it is because you are one of the rare lunatics who have a sense of the relation between the ridiculous and the desperate that I choose this day of all others to answer your letter telling me that you have a small Marian. I have pretty well got over the rage and fury of my condition, and can manage to keep steady now, within as well as without, but your letter gave me a wrench. I am more than grateful to you for your loyalty to Clover, and I shall love the fresh Marian dearly.

Although the published edition of Adams's correspondence includes 21 other letters he penned to Fell, these new letters appear to be unknown. Before coming to the MHS, this set of correspondence had been in the possession of Marian Nelson Sells Agnew, granddaughter of Anne Fell and daughter of Marian. Agnew's family discovered the letters while administering her estate and have made them available through the Marian Vans Agnew Smith Living Trust.

MORE ADAMS VOLUMES ONLINE

Thanks to generous support from the Charles Francis Adams Trust, even more volumes of the Adams Papers are available online for free. Since 2008, MHS website visitors have had access to the Adams Papers Digital Edition—the online version of the printed Adams Papers documentary editing project. As of last summer, we have begun releasing the contents of the eight previously printed volumes of the *Diary of Charles Francis Adams*, bringing the history of the Adams family into the 19th century. Like his grandfather John Adams and his father, John Quincy Adams, Charles Francis Adams (1807–1886) kept a daily diary for most of his life. The volumes now online cover his youth and early adulthood. He discusses his life at Harvard, considers the political scene in Washington as his father runs for president in 1824 and 1828, and chronicles his first years of marriage and fatherhood. Please visit www.masshist.org/publications/apde/ to browse or search diary entries.

*Charles Francis Adams, Sr., photomechanical, from
Portraits of American Abolitionists, 81.1.*

THE LIBRARIES, LEGACY, AND LEADERSHIP OF JOHN ADAMS AND THOMAS JEFFERSON

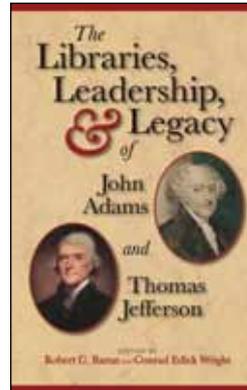
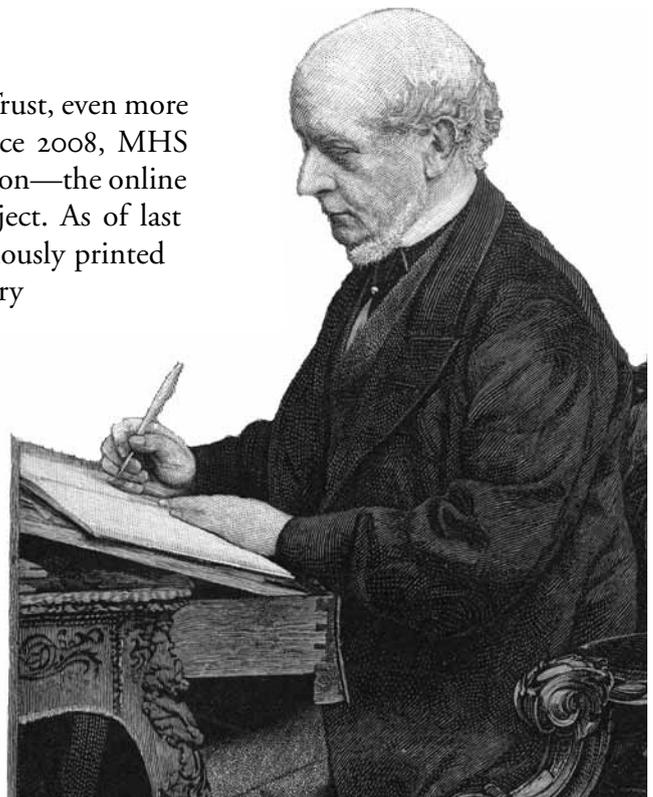


Image courtesy Fulcrum Publishing

Everyone knows that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were instrumental in the founding of the United States. Fewer people are aware that these founding fathers were among the new nation's most important book collectors.

In June 2009, in collaboration with the Boston Public Library and the Robert H. Smith Center for International Jefferson Studies at Monticello, the MHS held a conference in Boston and Charlottesville on Adams and Jefferson as bookmen. A volume drawn from the essays first presented at that conference appeared this September.

The Libraries, Legacy, and Leadership of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, edited by MHS Fellow Robert C. Baron and Conrad Edick Wright, the Society's Ford Editor and director of research, includes a dozen essays on Adams and Jefferson as collectors and readers as well as on the private and public consequences of their reading. The book is available for \$35 plus shipping from Fulcrum Publishing, Inc., www.fulcrum-books.com.



MODERN SCHOLARS

Nick Osborne, NERFC Fellow



Photo by Laura Wulf

Visit the MHS reading room on any late summer day and you'll find study tables overspread with early books or finely penned manuscripts, each illuminated by the glow of a laptop. The only sound is the quiet clicking of keyboards. Many of these scholars are here with the support of the MHS Fellowship Program, which made 37 awards in 2010.

Nick Osborne of Columbia University is one of these researchers. He received a grant from the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, a collaboration of the MHS and 17 other institutions, to conduct research for his doctoral dissertation, "Little Capitalists: Savings Institutions in United States History, 1816–1941." Recently, he described his experience:

What attracted you to the topic of savings banks?

Although we think of them today as purely financial businesses, many people in the 19th century thought of savings banks as philanthropic institutions. I wanted to know how that transition happened, and what it could tell us about the ways that Americans have thought about money and financial institutions in their lives and in society.

You hold a B.A. in history and in mathematics and a minor in physics from Johns Hopkins University. How have the non-history fields influenced your work?

Since my interest in economic history often requires me to read statistical or other technical sources, it's useful to have a background in math and science. But more importantly, studying physics and math also helped shape my understanding of cause-and-effect relationships. This perspective is invaluable when I'm trying to figure out why ideas, institutions, and practices changed over time.

What's it like to be a researcher at the MHS?

Researching at the MHS is a real pleasure. The staff is extremely helpful, and the collections are both historically rich and well organized—so it's easy to find interesting and relevant material. I've enjoyed the camaraderie of the Thursday Fellows' Lunches and received

great ideas during my Brown Bag Lunch presentation. And the building is an architectural beauty filled with historic artifacts, making it a pleasant environment in which to work.

What sources are you using, and what's been your most surprising discovery?

At the MHS, I'm using the records of two Massachusetts savings banks, along with the papers of a U.S. postmaster general who helped lobby for the postal savings system, and an assortment of printed materials produced by historic savings banks. One surprising thing: in 1901, the Waltham Savings Bank had about 12,000 open accounts—when the population of the city was only about twice that!

What are the most remarkable connections between your research and current events in the economy?

Part of what I'm interested in understanding is the relationship between individual savers and the savings industry. During the Great Depression, millions of Americans lost substantial savings because the financial institutions they had access to—and which had been promoted by their governments, teachers, popular culture, and friends—faltered. With declining 401(k) balances and home values, we're living through a somewhat similar situation today.

If you found five dollars in your pocket, what would you do? (Laughing) The smart thing these days would be to save it, but I've always had a weakness for chocolate!

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Those interested in conducting research at the Society in 2011–2012 should consider applying for one of the MHS's many research fellowships. During the coming year we will offer at least two MHS-NEH long-term fellowships (substantially underwritten by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities) and about 20 short-term awards. Together with the other members of the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, a collaboration of 18 historical agencies, we will award about a dozen fellowships for research at the member institutions. And in cooperation with the Boston Athenæum, we will grant the Suzanne and Caleb Loring Fellowship on the Civil War, Its Origins, and Consequences. For details on these competitions, including eligibility, stipends, and deadlines, please see the fellowship page on the Society's website, www.masshist.org/fellowships/.

ADAMS FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE, VOL. 10

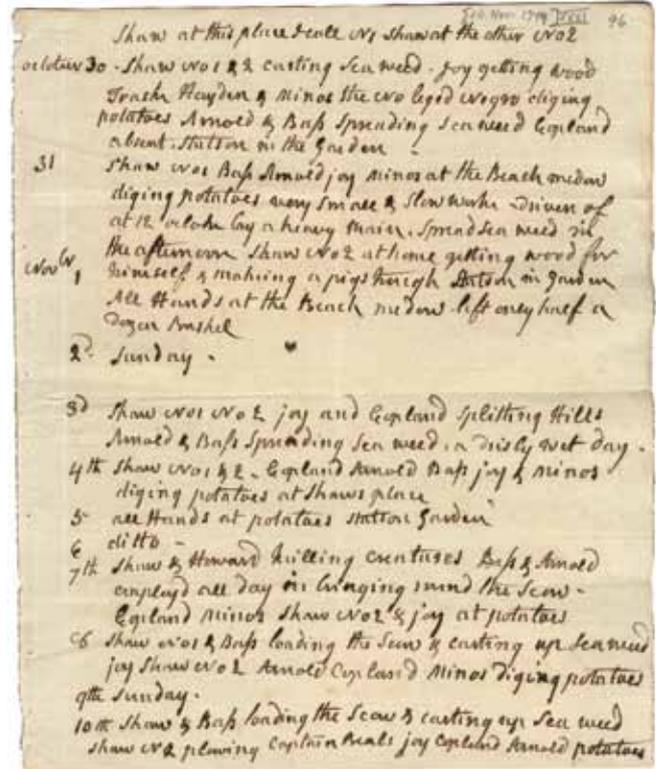
The latest volume of *Adams Family Correspondence* will be published in early 2011. With over 300 letters spanning January 1794 to June 1795, the Adamses again serve as important witnesses to national and international events, from America's growing tensions with Britain and France to its increasingly virulent political factionalism and the Whiskey Rebellion. From Philadelphia, John reports extensively on federal politics but also finds time to improve his sons' legal education. Abigail's letters from Quincy juxtapose her own political insights with lively accounts of her farm management. Significantly, John Quincy receives his first diplomatic appointment at The Hague and is accompanied overseas by Thomas Boylston, becoming first-hand observers of the ongoing military conflicts in Europe. In New York, Charles continues to build his legal career, while Nabby's family welcomes daughter Caroline Amelia Smith. This volume demonstrates that as both participants in and commentators on American society in the 1790s, the Adamses have no equal.

NHPRC FELLOW JOINS ADAMS PAPERS



Photo courtesy Millikan

On September 1, the staff of the Adams Papers welcomed new NHPRC fellow Neal Millikan. This one-year fellowship, sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, provides the recipient a unique opportunity to explore the fields of late-18th- and early-19th-century diplomatic, political, and social history through the correspondence and writings of the Adams family. Neal comes to the project from the University of South Carolina, where she earned her Ph.D. in 2008 and has been working as the assistant project director of the *Digital Edition of the Papers of Eliza Lucas Pinckney and Harriott Pinckney Horry*. With experience in "born digital" documentary editing, Neal is "particularly excited to learn about the process of producing the printed volumes of *The Adams Papers*."



Abigail Adams included this enclosure listing farm activities in her letter to John, November 10, 1794. Adams Papers, MHS.

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE NEW IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.?

Few public issues are thornier today than immigration reform. Whether you favor open borders or electrified fences with guard towers, or a middle position, the subject will affect you and your children for decades to come. Next April, the Society will investigate the recent history of the subject when it holds the conference *What's New about the New Immigration to the U.S.? Traditions and Transformations since 1965*.

The conference steering committee has arranged an exciting, wide-ranging program that will consider recent immigration from almost every conceivable angle. Prof. Maria Cristina Garcia of Cornell University will begin the program Thursday evening, April 7, with the keynote address "U.S. Refugee Policy in the Post-Cold War Era: Balancing Humanitarian Obligations and Security Concerns," which will be free and open to the public. Over the following two days, at five sessions participants will consider pre-circulated papers on international government and politics; domestic government and politics; immigration and geography; immigration, gender, and the family; immigration, work, and the economy; and immigration, religion, and identity.

If you would like to attend the thematic sessions, you will need to sign up for the conference. The registration

fee is \$75 (\$50 for students). Registration is limited by the capacity of the Society's facilities. For information on the program, please visit the conference page on the Society's website—www.masshist.org/events/conferences.cfm—or contact Kate or Conrad in the Society's Research Department at 617-536-1608.

UPCOMING YOUTUBE VIDEO

MHS Curator of Art Anne Bentley is pictured during the filming of a forthcoming video in which she talks about her extensive conservation work on the complicated manuscript of *Notes on the State of Virginia*—the only book Thomas Jefferson published. Anne explains how she soaked the centuries-old documents to remove the water-soluble wax Jefferson used to paste additions or corrections onto his original pages. This four-minute video will be embedded in the Society's website (available on the introductory page to the digital facsimile of the *Notes* manuscript) and will also be available on the MassHistorical channel on YouTube.

FALL FUNDRAISER



Photo courtesy Philbrick

On November 4, the MHS hosted its new fundraising event, Cocktails with Clio. Named for Clio, the muse of history, this festive evening celebrated American history and the mission of the MHS. A lively dialog between National Book Award-winning author and MHS Overseer Nathaniel Philbrick and MHS President Dennis Fiori explored how a writer approaches the stories that define the history of our



Photo by Laura Wulf

nation. Mr. Philbrick revealed how he has used MHS collections in his best-selling works to challenge popular conceptions about historical truths. Call 617-646-0560 or visit www.masshist.org/support_mhs for more information on how to support the Society.

For more than two decades, Nathaniel Philbrick has written engaging books on American history, such as *Mayflower*, *In the Heart of the Sea*, *Sea of Glory*, and *The Last Stand*. He has begun research at the MHS for his next book, which will focus on Boston during the American Revolution.

TOUR THE MHS

Tours of our historic building are open to the public and free of charge. Join us on Saturdays at 10 AM to view artifacts, artwork, and temporary exhibitions. Tours, led by docents, last approximately 90 minutes. No reservation required for individuals or small groups; parties of eight or more, please contact the MHS in advance at 617-646-0508.



Spring Events at the MHS



Open House March 27, 2010

The Society welcomed around 100 visitors on March 27 for the annual Open House, which featured the exhibition “*A More Interior Revolution*”: *Elizabeth Peabody, Margaret Fuller, and the Women of the American Renaissance* and a gallery talk titled “The Lost Letters of Margaret Fuller” by Stephen T. Riley Librarian Peter Drummey. Guests could also examine a special manuscript display, “War through the Eyes of the Adams Women,” take part in guided tours of the building, and enjoy refreshments.



Above: Visitors enjoy the exhibition on America's literary revolution.

Below: Gallery talk participants examine a letter up close as MHS Docent Margaret Bratschi passes it around the room.

Photos by Laura Wulf

Rethinking the History of Early American Law: Kathryn Preyer's *Blackstone in America*

April 15, 2010



Annual Meeting & Tribute to William L. Saltonstall May 19, 2010



On May 19, some 100 Trustees, Fellows, Members, and staff, as well as family and friends of the late William L. Saltonstall, attended the MHS Annual Meeting. The evening included a business meeting, a tribute to Saltonstall with remarks by MHS Fellow William M. Bulger and Trustee Amalie M. Kass, and a reception.

Above: Jane Saltonstall and Trustee G. West Saltonstall unveil a photograph of William L. Saltonstall and a set of plaques paying tribute to his many contributions to the Society.

Above right: MHS President Dennis Fiori presents a Staff Service Award to Conrad E. Wright, Worthington C. Ford Editor and director of research, for his 25 years of service to the Society. Gregg Lint, senior editor of the Adams Papers, also received an award for his 35 years of service.

Below right: Fellow William Bulger shares stories with Robert Anthony at the reception following the tribute.

Photos by George Panagakos



Over 70 Fellows and Members gathered on April 15 to celebrate the late Kathryn Preyer's *Blackstone in America*. The evening included a reception and a program featuring Trustee Pauline Maier of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Alice Robertson of Wellesley College, Kent Newmyer of the University of Connecticut, and Mary Sarah Bilder of Boston College Law School.

Left: Member Tunie Hamlen Howe, Trustee Lee Campbell, and Member Rennie Roberts.

Right: MHS President Dennis Fiori and Trustee Amalie Kass join Member Robert Preyer following the program celebrating his late wife's work.

Photos by Laura Wulf

Massachusetts Historical Society
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Old Man, New Font

Now anyone can write in the hand of John Quincy Adams thanks to the recently released Old Man Eloquent font. Designer Brian Willson has modeled this new font after the orthography of the sixth president.



Willson first became interested in Adams after he, like thousands of others, started following the Twitter feed of Adams's daily diary entries (http://twitter.com/JQAdams_MHS). Wanting to learn more about the man behind the tweets, Willson found a treasure trove of documents written by Adams and scanned at a high resolution on the MHS website. With so many handwriting examples to work with, Willson eventually created a font containing some 450 characters. Most of the characters closely replicate Adams's script, but others were created from scratch (such as modern currency symbols). Willson was kind enough to donate the use of this font to the MHS; he is now considering creating more fonts based on the handwriting of other members of the Adams family.

John
72 pt.

John Quincy
40 pt.

John Quincy Adams
24 pt.

John Quincy Adams, president
12 pt.