

MHS Miscellany

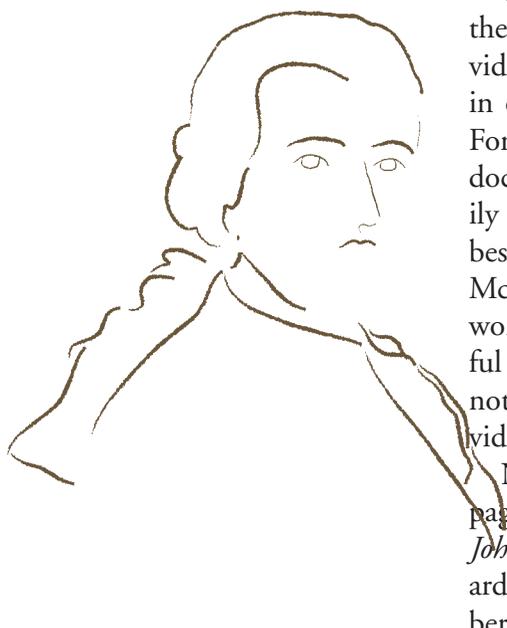
Number 94 / Spring 2008

READY FOR OUR CLOSE-UP



Paul Giamatti as John and Laura Linney as Abigail in HBO Films' John Adams, based on David McCullough's bestselling biography. Photograph courtesy of HBO.

“Charlstown is laid in ashes. The Battle began upon our intrenchments upon Bunkers Hill, a Saturday morning about 3 o'clock and has not ceased yet and tis now 3 o'clock Sabbath afternoon.” So Abigail Adams described the Battle of Bunker Hill in a letter of 18 June 1775. Writing to John, then in Philadelphia, she continued, “— the constant roar of the cannon is so distressing that we can not Eat, Drink or Sleep. May we be supported and sustained in the dreadful conflict. I shall tarry here till tis thought unsafe by my Friends, and then I have secured myself a retreat at your Brothers who has kindly offerd me part of his house. I cannot compose myself to write any further at present.”



MHS Miscellany, no. 94
Periodical Newsletter of the
Massachusetts Historical Society

Address:
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, 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.

Masthead illustration:

"Plan & Elevation of the Tontine
Crescent, now erecting in Boston."
From the *Massachusetts Magazine*, 1794.
All images are from the MHS collec-
tions unless otherwise credited.

The MHS occupied the Tontine
Crescent from 1794 until 1833.

Above: line drawing based on the
engraving "A New Display of the
United States / John Adams," by Amos
Doolittle, 1799. Right: John Adams,
diary, entry for 20 June 1774, Adams
Family Papers.

This document and thousands more at the Massachusetts Historical Society provide the testimony that historians turn to in order to understand our nation's past. For the nation's founding in particular, the documents preserved in the Adams Family Papers are invaluable. To prepare his bestselling biography *John Adams*, David McCullough mined John and Abigail's words to create an accurate and meaningful narrative that allows readers to grasp not just what happened but also how individuals experienced those events.

Now that McCullough's compelling pages have become the HBO miniseries *John Adams*, those of us who provide stewardship for the documents must remember that the dramatization of the fighting at Bunker Hill, or images of John's weary travels, begins with leaves of paper stored here on the Society's shelves. And we want everyone else moved by this drama to know it as well. So, all through the spring, the staff made it their mission to draw that

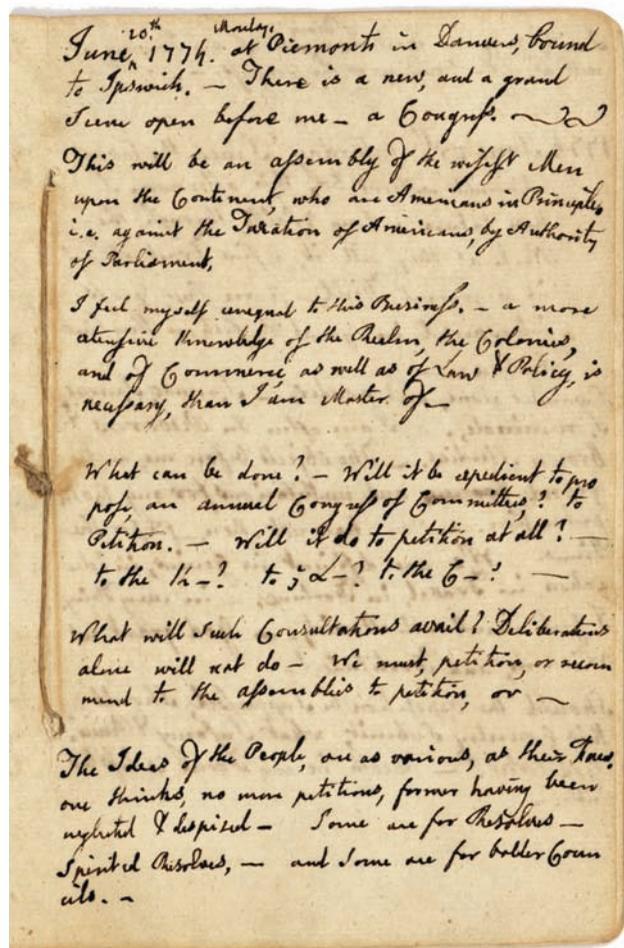
connection as concretely and as broadly as possible. A number of special events and other projects have and will put the Adam-
ses' words in front of audiences in Boston and further afield—and even abroad.

When possible, we want to give people the opportunity to see the actual documents. To fulfill the first goal, staff members Peter Drummey and Anne Bentley curated a spring exhibition called *John Adams: A Life in Letters*, which is on display at 1154 Boylston Street through May. Additionally, a collection of the correspondence between John and Abigail is on exhibit in the special collections section of the Vassar College library in Poughkeepsie, New York, throughout April.

For Adams—or simply history—aficionados who cannot make it to one of those locales, the Society offers a wealth of opportunities to examine high-resolution facsimiles of thousands of pages from the Adams Family Papers at www.masshist.org, where viewers can also find

information on the surrounding events. Coincidental with the HBO miniseries, a new section of the website (visit www.masshist.org/explore-adams) displays stills from the series alongside a closely related document from the family papers. Should that whet the viewer's appetite for more, the Adams Electronic Archive includes images and transcriptions of all of John and Abigail's letters to each other, as well as John's diary and autobiography. Other parts of the website also highlight the writings of John Quincy Adams.

While HBO owes its miniseries to David McCullough's insight and eloquence, the MHS and its staff also have and continue to publish books that make the Adam-
ses and their writings available to a broad range of readers. The ongoing Adams Papers editorial project has been providing gold-standard transcriptions and annotations in library editions for



researchers for over 40 years now; see page 6 for a description of the latest volume in the *Papers of John Adams* series. A digitized version of those transcriptions, with all notes, will also soon go online at the Society's website as part of the Founding Families Digitization Project. At the other end of the spectrum is *The Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society*, a new booklet featuring full-color reproductions of selected Adams documents, designed to showcase the beauty—literary and physical—of the archival materials. And last fall Harvard University Press released *My*

Dearest Friend, a new edition of Abigail and John's letters selected and edited by C. James Taylor and Margaret Hogan of the Adams Papers editorial project.

With each of these efforts, the Society stays true to its mission: to make its holdings accessible. Whether an actual document is available for audiences to visit at Vassar, or the best possible facsimiles or transcriptions appear in a book, viewers have a chance to experience the physical sources of history.

* * *

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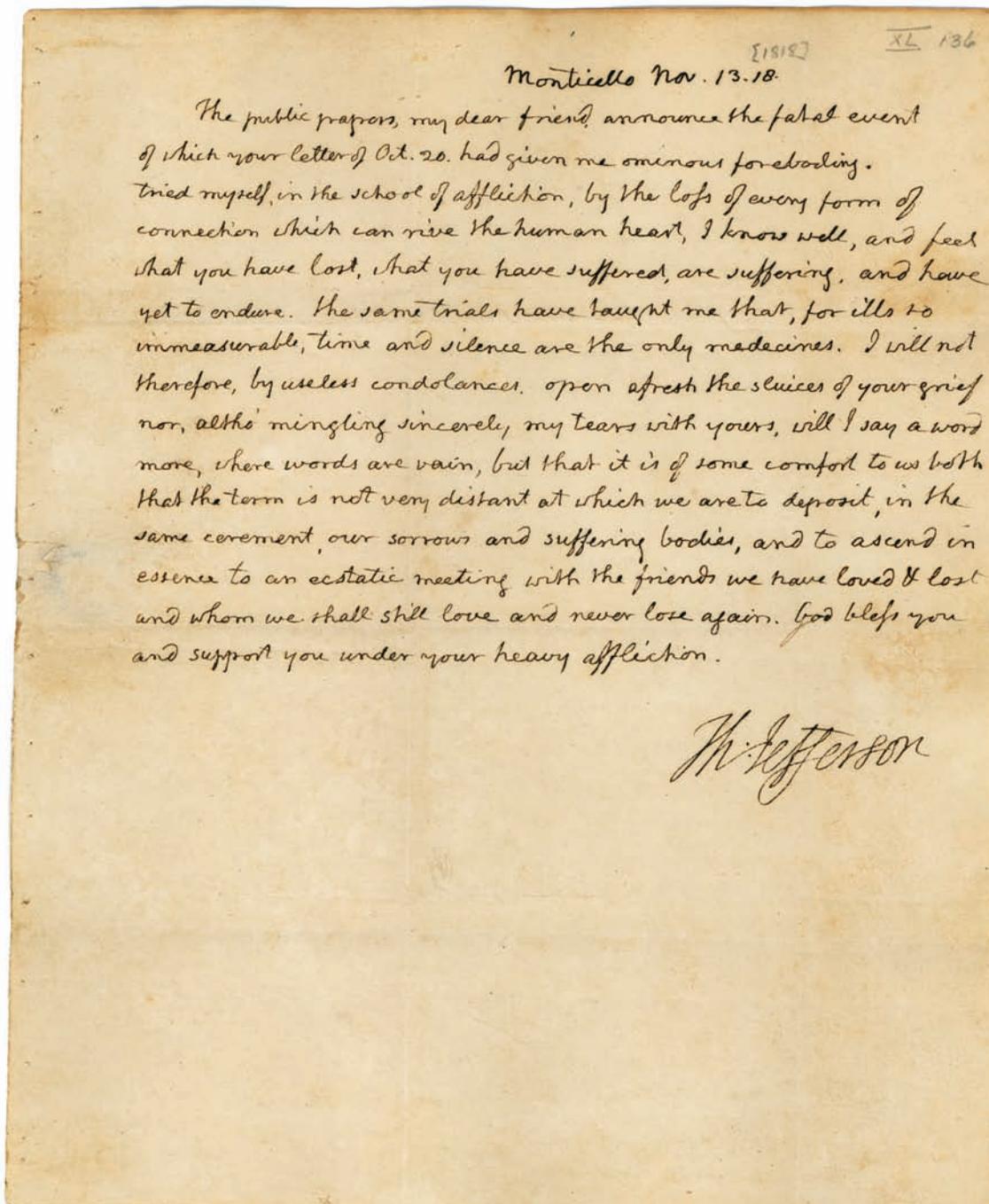
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*Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, 13
November 1818.*

Adams wrote to Jefferson on 20 October alerting him to Abigail's illness from typhoid fever: "Now Sir, for my Griefs! The dear Partner of my Life . . . now lyes, in extremis, forbidden to Speak or be Spoken to." But Jefferson first learned of her 28 October death from the newspapers. He immediately wrote to console Adams, confiding, "I know well, and feel what you have lost, what you have suffered, are suffering, and have yet to endure." But he also reminded Adams of their future reunion with loved ones in the afterlife: "it is of some comfort to us both that the term is not very distant at which we are to deposit . . . our sorrows and suffering bodies, and to ascend in essence to an ecstatic meeting with the friends we have loved & lost and whom we shall still love and never lose again."



FROM THE PRESIDENT



Connecting the public with the extraordinary resources of the MHS is a major goal of our recently launched strategic plan—a document that comes to life as one reads through this issue of the *Miscellany*. “Accessibility” sums up most of the articles.

As you can see, technology is key to this accessibility. Our website provides the portal for a growing audience that comes aboard to explore the material in our vast collection: a visitor may view a themed exhibition, conduct in-depth research, or draw on educational components. Detailed information about several of our latest online resources appear here. Read on and you will learn more about *Images of the Antislavery Movement in Massachusetts*, which makes available images of 800 items related to the topic; *The Coming of the American Revolution*, an educational website many years in the making that allows students to access primary historical documents in order to stimulate the development of critical thinking skills; and *John Adams: The Letters behind the HBO Miniseries*, as well other, long-standing Adams related areas of the MHS website.

While technology is vital to our outreach, it is only one among a number of strategies we are pursuing. As with most repositories, the MHS has only a fraction of its collection online. Consequently, access to much useful material still requires a visit to our reading room. Toward that end we are pleased to announce the expansion of library hours to Saturday.

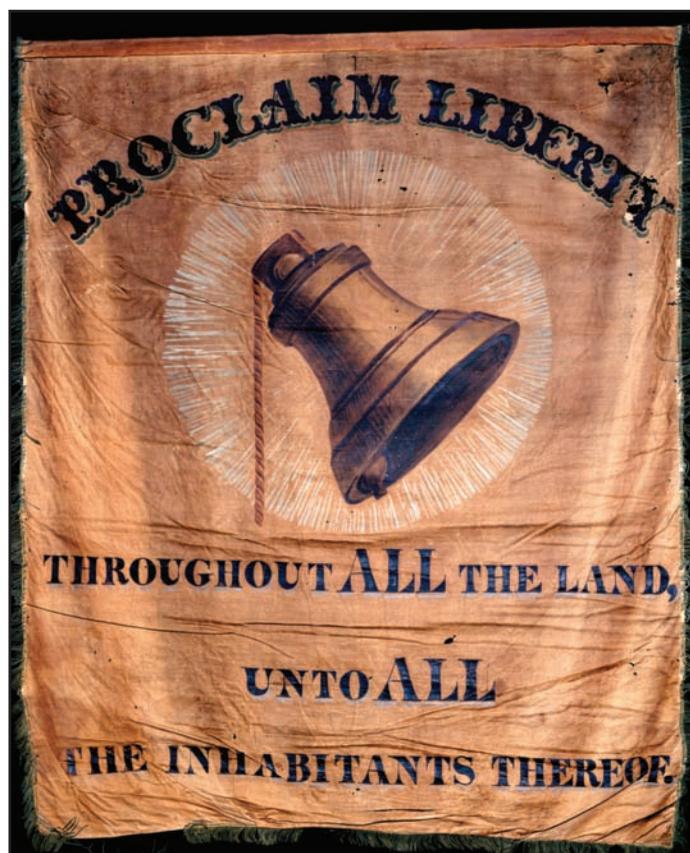
This is only the beginning. We promise more opportunities in the months ahead, as our plan to spread the word—and access—gathers momentum.

—Dennis Fiori, President

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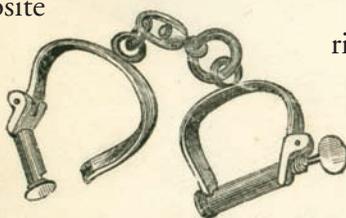
IMAGES of the ANTISLAVERY MOVEMENT NOW ONLINE!

Over 800 items from the MHS collections are now available online in a new area of the MHS website titled *Images of the Antislavery Movement in Massachusetts* (www.masshist.org/abolition). As the home of active abolitionist organizations and the energetic William Lloyd Garrison (editor of the influential newspaper the *Liberator*), Massachusetts is widely recognized as the nexus of the American antislavery movement. The Society’s collections include photographs, paintings, sculptures, engravings, artifacts, banners, and



broadside that reflect the central role of Massachusetts in the national debate over slavery. If a picture truly is worth a thousand words, these provocative images are ideal for online presentation. Thanks to funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, an important segment of the MHS collections is now web accessible.

The majority of the digitized items came from Francis Jackson Garrison’s “Portraits of American Abolitionists,” a collection he gathered while working on a biography of his father, William Lloyd Garrison. This group encompasses 742 photographs, engravings, lithographs, and photomechanical reproductions—all portraits of renowned abolitionists and reformers from the United States and abroad, as well as proponents of slavery, colonization, the disunion of the United States, and other related issues.



CONFEDERATE BONDS.

The project also incorporates materials illustrating the activities of Massachusetts antislavery groups, such as broadsides and tickets relating to specific lectures and events. Visitors can view patriotic covers, political cartoons, and artifacts showing the horrors of slavery—materials key to understanding how antislavery messages were communicated and followed. Both Unionists and

Confederates used patriotic covers (envelopes featuring images and slogans) to promote their causes during the Civil War; the online collection features 30 examples supporting the Union. Though many of the covers contain images that would undoubtedly be viewed today as racial stereotyping, they were a powerful and effective tool for eliciting sympathy at the time. Similarly, other artifacts online conveyed the brutality of slavery, such as the whips and slave collar collected by Massachusetts governor and ardent abolitionist John A. Andrew.

The online presentations at the MHS website are the easiest, and in some cases the only, way to access certain of these materials. Portraits and artifacts not currently on display at the MHS or out on loan are available in digital format at one central location. These artifacts include 10 oversize banners used at antislavery rallies that have since become too fragile for researchers to handle.

Now, images of these banners, with mottos such as "Proclaim Liberty throughout All the Land" and "God Himself is with us For our Captain," are readily available to anyone with access to the World Wide Web.

Researchers can locate these newly digitized items from several access points. The website has a browse feature, allowing online visitors to peruse images by format (manuscript, photograph, sculpture, for example).

Users can also retrieve these items by going to the MHS online library catalog, ABIGAIL, or the finding aid for "Portraits of American Abolitionists."

The *Images of the Antislavery Movement* website is the second LSTA digitization grant awarded to the MHS and is a logical follow-up to our first grant-funded project, *African Americans and the End of Slavery in Massachusetts* (www.masshist.org/endofslavery). The MHS is currently at work on our third LSTA grant to digitize 97 rare and unique maps of Massachusetts cities and towns, scheduled for completion in October 2008.

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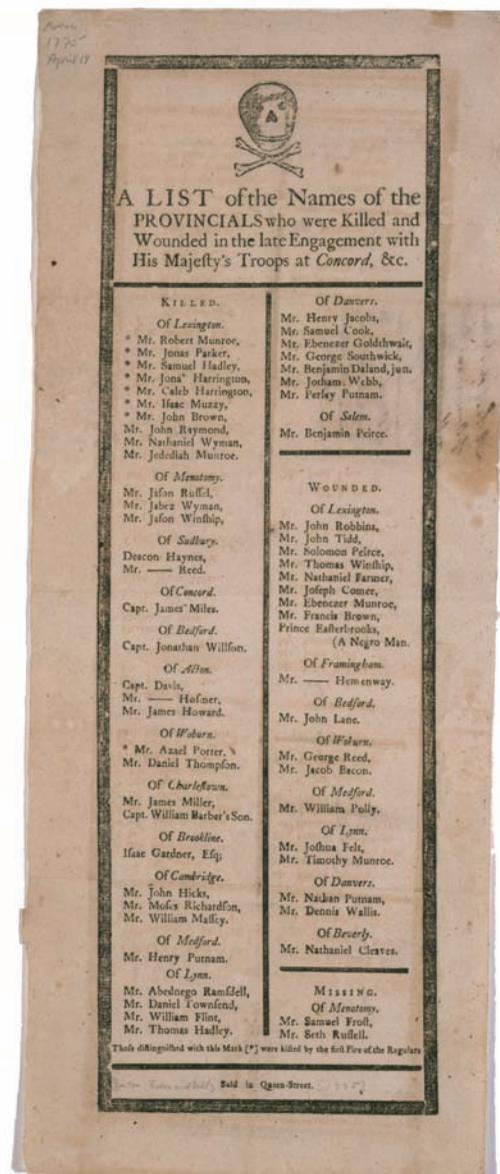
Facing page: Proclaim Liberty throughout All the Land, cotton banner, maker unknown, 1840s; Confederate Bonds, patriotic cover, printer unknown, 1861–1865. This page: Harriet Tubman, photographer unknown, 1886, Portraits of American Abolitionists, photo #81.650; A List of the Names of the Provincials . . . , broadside, printed by Edes & Gill, 1775.

THE COMING of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION

1764–1776 . . . and 2004–2008!

After four years of development, the MHS is thrilled to announce that *The Coming of the American Revolution*, an online exhibition and educational website, will go "live" this June. A \$200,000 grant for Teaching and Learning Resources and Curriculum Development funded by the Education Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will bring over 150 digitized documents from the MHS collection to classrooms across the country.

The website will be a catalyst for students to develop crucial critical thinking skills by allowing them to engage with primary documents. Primary sources convey both the immediacy of historical events and the subjective nature of how history is recorded and remembered. Students will learn to sift through the conflicting viewpoints, ideological biases, uses of propaganda, creative license, and other common challenges differing



historical accounts of a particular event present. With the evidence they have gathered, students can then make arguments supporting their own interpretations of the past.

The website follows topical chapters—such as “Stamp Act,” “Boston Massacre,” “Sons of Liberty,” and “Lexington and Concord”—that are arranged along a timeline on the homepage. Each topic then has its own page that features high-quality images of significant documents from the MHS’s collection, vividly bringing each topic to life. The pages also include printable transcriptions of the documents, contextual essays, questions to guide reading, and projects to immerse students in the drama and dilemmas of the historical events.

In order to meet state curriculum frameworks and national history standards, the MHS Education staff has partnered with a Teacher Advisory Board to make the website a powerful, teacher-friendly educational tool. Online lesson plans will help teachers use the site’s wealth of resources to attain a variety of curriculum goals. In addition, the website will serve as a dynamic forum inviting educators to contribute their own lesson plans and experiences with using the site.

All the members of the Teacher Advisory Board are Massachusetts Historical Society Teacher Fellows. Because they are familiar with the resources of this institution, the Fellows will be key instructional faculty for teacher institutes and workshops designed around *The Coming of the American Revolution*.

Jayne Gordon and Kathleen Barker of the MHS Education Department will introduce the website at the National Council for History Education Conference in Louisville in early April. Watch for the link on the MHS homepage (www.masshist.org) in June.

* * *



John Dickinson, engraving by Paul Revere, 1771. From Astronomical Diary; or Almanack of the Year of Our Lord Christ 1772, by Nathaniel Ames, printed in Boston by T & J Fleet, 1771.

PAPERS of JOHN ADAMS, VOL. 14

27 October 1782–31 May 1783. Edited by Gregg L. Lint, C. James Taylor, Hobson Woodward, Margaret A. Hogan, Mary T. Claffey, Sara Sikes, Karen N. Barzilai.

In November 1782, after a triumphal departure from the Netherlands, John Adams arrived in Paris to face new challenges as one of the American commissioners assigned to negotiate a preliminary Anglo-American peace treaty. Thus begins volume 14 of the *Papers of John Adams*, available in print in April 2008. The letters and documents of this volume center on Adams’s role in the treaty negotiations and his efforts to justify the decision to conclude a peace separate from France. With breathtaking candor, Adams criticizes at length Congress’s undiscerning and naïve confidence in France, and he argues that the United States should pursue an independent foreign policy. But by April 1783, Adams’s letters show his frustration with delays in negotiations for a definitive treaty and irritation with real and imagined slights from both Congress and Benjamin Franklin. To Adams, the crux of the problem was Franklin’s sycophantic Francophilia in the service of the duplicitous Comte de Vergennes, the French foreign minister.

Volume 14 deals with not only the peace negotiations but also contemporary European economic and political machinations. For instance, as American minister to the Netherlands, Adams managed the distribution of funds from the Dutch loan—money crucial to an American economy overburdened by war. Adams also provided astute commentary on the British political situation, notably the replacement of prime minister Shelburne’s government by that of Charles James Fox and Frederick Lord North’s coalition.

The documents in volume 14 also demonstrate Adams’s sensitivity to the historical significance of the drama in which he was enmeshed. Adams’s concern over how future generations would remember the American Revolution led him to offer historians a guide to the great events in which he had played such a key role. But John Adams was more than a diplomat and leader in world affairs; he was an anxious father, craving news—and receiving little—of John Quincy Adams’s slow journey from St. Petersburg to The Hague. This tension between duty to country and to home and family appears throughout the volume. By May 1783, Adams was weary of Europe. While his letters indicate that he was resigned to remain there until his work was done, Adams was also determined that, unless appointed the first American minister to the Court of St. James’s, he would effectively end his service to the nation and retire home to his beloved Braintree.

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS, 2008–2009

NEH Long-term Fellowships

- Vincent Carretta Biography of Phillis Wheatley
Professor, Department of English, University of Maryland
- Carolyn Eastman Learning to See: Gender in the 18th-Century Atlantic World
Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Texas—Austin
- Michael Hoberman New England/New Israel: Puritans and Jews in Colonial New England
Associate Professor, Department of English, Fitchburg State College
- Meredith Neuman Letter and Spirit: Literary Theories of the Sermon in Puritan New England
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Clark University

New England Regional Fellowship Consortium

- Kevin Butterfield Unbound by Law: Association and Autonomy in the Early American Republic
Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, Washington University in St. Louis
- James Carr Hawaiian Music and Dance in New England, 1802–1862
Assistant Professor, Ethnomusicology, School of Music, University of North Carolina—Greensboro
- Kimberly Elkins What Is Visible
Independent (author)
- Daniel Hamilton Emancipation and the Law: Litigating Human Property in the Civil War and Reconstruction
Assistant Professor, Co-Director, Institute for Law and Humanities, Chicago-Kent College of Law
- Shane Landrum Documenting Citizens: Birth Certificates and American Identities, 1890–present
Ph.D. candidate, American History, Brandeis University
- Sasha Mullally Homespun Tales of a Woman Doctor: Gender, Medicine, and Profession in the Career of Mary Phylinda Dole, M.D., 1890s–1930s
Postdoctoral Fellow, Gorsebrook Research Institute, St. Mary's University
- Megan Nelson Flesh and Stone: Ruins and the Civil War
Assistant Professor, Department of History, California State University, Fullerton
** Also recipient of Suzanne & Caleb Loring Fellowship in the Civil War, Its Causes, and Consequences*
- Dael Norwood An Empire of Liberty on the Seas: The “Old China Trade” and American National Development in a Global Context, ca. 1784–1860
Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, Princeton University
- Christine Reiser Rooted in Movement: Community Keeping in 18th- and 19th-Century Native Southern New England
Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology, Brown University
- Strother Roberts Valley of Contention: An Environmental History of the Connecticut River Valley, 1614–1788
Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, Northwestern University
** Colonial Society of Massachusetts Fellow*
- Amy Werbel A Long, Dark Shadow: The Life and Legacy of Anthony Comstock (1844–1915)
Professor, Department of Fine Arts, St. Michael's College
** Bostonian Society/New England Women's Club Fellow*
- Serena Zabin Street Politics and the Boston Massacre
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Carleton College

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

I SEMINAR THURS | 5:15 PM
Partygoers: Recovering the Narratives of the Boston Tea Party Participants
 Benjamin Carp, Tufts University
 Comment: C. James Taylor, Adams Papers
 Boston Area Early American History Seminar
Location: History Department, 21 Campanella Way #429, Boston College

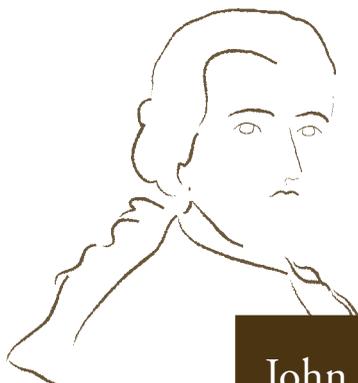
7 BROWN BAG WED | 12 PM
"All Reform Depends Upon You": Femininity, Authority, and the Politics of Authorship, 1821–1861
 Holly Kent, Lehigh University

LECTURE WED | 6 PM
The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation & America's First Banking Collapse
 Jane Kamensky, Brandeis University
Refreshments served at 5:30.

I2 CONFERENCE MON
Comforts of Home: The Real Truth about Daily Life in Colonial & Early Federal America
 The Golden Ball Tavern Museum, in collaboration with the MHS, will host a symposium on developments in textiles, furnishings, food, and technology. For schedule and registration information, go to www.masshist.org/comforts.
Location: Golden Ball Tavern, Weston

I3 PRESENTATION TUES | 3 PM
Planned Giving Tea & Presentation
 An educational seminar cosponsored by the Sullivan Society and BNY Mellon Wealth Management. Open to the public.

2I ANNUAL MEETING WED | 5 PM
 Annual business meeting and reception. Open to MHS Members and Fellows.
Speaker: Dr. Leo L. Beranek, "Entrepreneurship in Massachusetts after World War II." See page 11 for details.



John Adams: A Life in Letters
 On view through 31 May
 1 to 4 PM, Mon. to Sat.

JUNE

4 BROWN BAG WED | 12 PM
Our American Cousin: Mary Endicott Chamberlain
 Dana Cooper, Stephen F. Austin State University

9 CONFERENCE MON
Sustainability: Ensuring the Future of Massachusetts History
 Massachusetts Public History Conference cosponsored by UMass—Amherst, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, and the MHS. For more information, visit www.masshist.org/publichistory.
 Keynote Address by Dennis A. Fiori, President, MHS
Location: College of the Holy Cross, Worcester

II FILM PREMIERE WED | 6 PM
The Three Dumas
 Offered in honor of the bicentennial of the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade, *The Three Dumas* explores the life and career of Alexander Dumas. The film's producers will be on hand to discuss the making of the film and Dumas' historical significance.
Refreshments at 5:30.



Alexander Dumas, ca. 1860–1865, photographer unknown.

From the Charles W. Jenks carte de visite collection, box 2, #126.281.

I9 SEMINAR THURS | 5:15 PM
Leaving the English: Joseph Johnson & the Pan-Indian Migration to Brotherton, N.Y., 1775–1785
 Linford D. Fisher, Harvard University
 Comment: Neal Salisbury, Smith College
 Boston Area Early American History Seminar

BROWN BAG LUNCHESES There will be brown bag lunches on 2 July and 6 August. Please check at www.masshist.org/events for further details. Dates for other lunch-time talks by summer researchers may also become available over the course of the summer.

EVENTS

FALL 2007 & WINTER 2008

Moments of Destiny: Two Centuries of Russian-American Diplomatic Relations, Belknap Society Preview

Nora Saltonstall Preservation Librarian Katherine H. Griffin explains the significance of items on display to Trustee Bill Saltonstall, Member Emily Lewis, and Fellow George Lewis at a private preview of the exhibition *Moments of Destiny*. The 17 September preview was organized in appreciation of members of the Belknap Society, which honors the MHS's most generous contributors to the annual fund, and members of the Sullivan Society, which recognizes those individuals who have included the MHS in their estate plans. Photographer: Michael Lutch.



MOMENTS OF DESTINY



Moments of Destiny: Two Centuries of Russian-American Diplomatic Relations, Exhibition Opening

Fellows, Members, and friends gathered at the MHS on 26 September to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Russian-American diplomatic relations and the opening of the corresponding exhibition. The Hon. William Burns, Ambassador to the Russian Federation from the United States; Amalie Kass, Chair, MHS Board of Trustees; C. James Taylor, Editor in Chief, Adams Papers; Dennis A. Fiori, President of the MHS; and Oleg Stepanov, Senior Counselor, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the United States of America, enjoyed a Russian-style tea party while viewing the correspondence of the first U.S. Minister to Russia, John Quincy Adams. Photographer: Martha Stewart.

MY DEAREST FRIEND

My Dearest Friend Book Launch

750 people crowded Boston's Faneuil Hall on 19 November to celebrate the publication of *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams*, edited by Margaret A. Hogan, Managing Editor, and C. James Taylor, Editor in Chief of the Adams Papers at the MHS, and published by The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. The event featured readings from John and Abigail's letters by former governor Michael Dukakis and Kitty Dukakis, Gov. Deval Patrick and Diane Patrick, and Sen. Edward Kennedy and Victoria Kennedy. Photographer: Michael Dwyer.



Annual Dinner, November 2008

Trustee Dennis Shapiro, Chair of the Board Amalie Kass, and presidential historian Michael Beschloss chat at the Society's Annual Dinner on 27 November. Beschloss, the keynote speaker, shared anecdotes from his recent *New York Times* bestseller *Presidential Courage: Brave Leaders and How They Changed America, 1789–1989*. Some 125 Fellows, Members, and friends attended the event at the Harvard Club, sponsored by BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Braver, and Prime, Buchholz & Associates, Inc. Photographer: Michael Lutch.



ANNUAL DINNER

BOSTON PREMIERE
HBO FILMS' JOHN ADAMS

HBO, Comcast, the MHS, and the Boston Public Library co-hosted the Boston premiere of the HBO miniseries *John Adams* at the BPL on 7 March 2008. The guests, who numbered over 350, included Executive Producer Tom Hanks, Director Tom Hooper, and author David McCullough. The HBO miniseries is based on McCullough's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, much of which was researched using the Adams Family Papers at the MHS.

Karin and Charles Dumbaugh pose with Peter Drummey, Stephen T. Riley Librarian, in front of original letters by John Adams, which were on display at the premiere. Photographer: Michael Dwyer.



Above: MHS President Dennis Fiori shares a laugh on the red carpet with MHS Fellow David McCullough and two of his granddaughters. Photographer: Michael Dwyer.



Margot Barnes Goodwin and MHS Trustee Sheila Perry enjoy the reception, prior to the screening of "Episode 1: Join or Die." Photographer: Michael Dwyer.

Right: Executive Producer Tom Hanks, MHS President Dennis Fiori, and miniseries Director Tom Hooper celebrate the Boston premiere of John Adams at the BPL. Photographer: Michael Casey.



NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update: Annual Appeal

We are pleased to report that the Annual Appeal 2008 is making history. We reached 70 percent of our goal by the first of the calendar year. This is a benchmark seldom reached at that point in the fiscal year for any institution and a new high for the MHS. We have until the end of June to complete the lofty goal of \$340,000, a 10 percent increase over last year, and have every hope for success. As of 31 March we have received \$290,182.

If you have already made your donation to the Annual Appeal, please accept our deepest thanks. It says so many good things about an institution when the Members, Fellows, and friends give such strong support. And if you have not yet made a gift, please consider doing so. You have read about many of our people and programs in these pages. Your wonderful support is what makes all this activity possible.

Conference on Adams and Jefferson Libraries Planned for 2009

Save the dates! The Massachusetts Historical Society, the Boston Public Library, and Monticello are planning a conference on the libraries of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. "John Adams/Thomas Jefferson: Libraries, Leadership, and Legacy" will take place in Boston and Charlottesville, 21–27 June 2009. The organizers are lining up an impressive roster of participants. Sessions will both consider the composition of the libraries—what Adams and Jefferson collected and how—and draw broader connections between their reading and their thoughts and beliefs. Future issues of the *Miscellany* will include details about the conference and registration information. In the meantime, please save the dates!

Annual Meeting Speaker, Dr. Leo L. Beranek

Drawing on his own extensive experience in acoustical engineering, computer science, and broadcasting, Dr. Beranek will illustrate how entrepreneurs flourished in postwar Massachusetts due to the support of research universities, venture capitalists, and local banks.

Dr. Beranek is an engineer, author, and business leader, and among his many accomplishments are the founding of several seminal Boston-area companies, including Bolt Beranek and Newman (now BBN) and Boston Broadcasters, which went on to establish WCVB TV–Channel 5. His publications include *Music Acoustics and Architecture* (2004, 2d ed.) and *Riding the Waves: A Life in Sound, Science, and Industry*, recently released by MIT Press.

MHS Open House a Success!

On Saturday, 15 March, the Massachusetts Historical Society hosted an Open House celebrating the 225th Anniversary of George Washington's Newburgh Address. Guests were invited to see the manuscript of Washington's speech, listen to former MHS director William M. Fowler, Jr., speak about the significance of the Newburgh Address, participate in a guided tour of the building, view the exhibition *John Adams: A Life in Letters*, learn about the Society's collections and programs, discover how to become a member, and enjoy special refreshments. We are pleased to announce that the Open House was a success. Some interesting statistics for the day:

Total visitors: 140

New constituents added to the MHS mailing list: 30

New members who joined at the Open House: 3 (many other visitors took a brochure with them!)

MHS Trustees in attendance: 8

MHS Staff who participated: 18

Cookies consumed: 24 dozen (including many decorated to look like George Washington)

Glasses of (nonalcoholic) punch imbibed: 120

NEW MHS LIBRARY HOURS

To better accommodate our researchers, since 8 March the MHS library has been open from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM on Saturdays. This is a permanent change and is in addition to our ongoing library hours of 9:00 AM to 4:45 PM, Monday to Wednesday and Friday, and 9:00 AM to 7:45 PM every Thursday.

The library will be open every Saturday except 24 May, 30 August, and 22 November. The library will also be closed on 21 November and from noon on 24 December through 1 January 2009. The library will be open all other Saturdays in 2008, including the day after the Fourth of July holiday.

If you have any questions about our new library hours or library procedures, please contact Elaine Grublin, the reference librarian, at egrublin@masshist.org.

When we began opening on Saturdays, the weekly tour of the MHS building moved from Wednesday morning to Saturday morning at 10:00 AM. The 90-minute tour, led by Curator of Art Anne Bentley, includes the public rooms of the Society and features the works of art and furniture on permanent display as well as temporary exhibitions of manuscripts and artifacts. No reservation is required for individuals or small groups, but parties of eight or more should make arrangements in advance. For more information please contact Anne Bentley via e-mail at abentley@masshist.org or call 617-646-0508.

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