



MHS Miscellany

Number 109 / Fall 2015

HOW MANY CANDLES?

“Many papers which are daily thrown away
may in future be much wanted,”

lamented Jeremy Belknap in 1789. In that same letter, addressed to John Adams, he elaborated on the carelessness of his fellow Americans: “but except here and there a person who has a curiosity of his own to gratify, no one cares to undertake the collection.”

But Belknap, a historian and a Congregational minister, did care. He cared actively and passionately. He believed that what later generations could know about the past depended on access to its documentary traces, and thus he urged the collection of “such authentic Documents as may enable some future historian to delineate the present times in as full and perfect a manner as possible.”

That last he penned on June 18, 1774, one day after the Massachusetts House held a closed meeting—in opposition to the colonial governor—to select five delegates to the Continental Congress that would soon convene in Philadelphia. Between that date and the 1789 letter, so much would happen: the Declaration of Independence, the Revolutionary War, the drafting of a new document to govern the nation. Indeed, when Belknap wrote the letter to Adams on July 18, the new Congress and the state legislatures were in process of ratifying—and debating—the Constitution.

The Massachusetts Historical Society also grew out of those events, thanks to Belknap’s tenacity and zeal for primary sources. On January 24, 1791, a group of eight men gathered to select officers for and approve

the constitution of an organization they called, simply, the Historical Society. On January 24, 2016, the Massachusetts Historical Society will complete its first 225 years of very much caring “to undertake the collection.”

Throughout this anniversary year we will celebrate the foresight of Jeremy Belknap, our founder, and continue the spirit of his vision by looking ahead—preserving these precious relics while anticipating and adapting to the best opportunities for our work. The extra quarter-century atop our bicentennial might seem diminutive in comparison with that previous span from 1791 to 1991, but given what took place during that quarter-century, it is well worth celebrating. For archives and historical institutions in particular, the last 25 years have presented cultural and technological changes as dramatic as tectonic plate shifts.

Since 1991, the MHS has met an ever-growing use of its holdings in new fields of inquiry, the need to serve a broader interest in learning about and supporting its mission, and tools that allow unprecedented representation and distribution of archival materials. We have embraced all of these challenges with expanded membership opportunities, outreach to researchers in all fields, open public programming and exhibitions, and an exceptionally rich and dynamic website, full of digitized materials. The activities we will unroll in the coming year will showcase not just the longevity but also—and especially—the vitality of this 21st-century institution.

Massachusetts
Historical Society

225
1791~2016

Massachusetts
Historical Society
Founded 1791

Two major exhibitions will cover the year, one a case study in depth, the other, in breadth. *The Private Jefferson*, opening at the end of January, will allow visitors to explore Thomas Jefferson's personal world through a selection of documents from the large and varied collection of his papers at the MHS. Primarily gathered and donated by his descendants in the Coolidge family of Boston, those papers include his correspondence with family members and friends, his detailed records of gardening and farming at Monticello, and a treasure trove of his architectural drawings. The story presented in that exhibition will also be captured in a companion volume, printed with full-color images and with contextualizing essays. In the spring we will celebrate breadth with *25 Moments That Tell the History of America*, a selection of objects from the collections that illuminate hundreds of years of our national story through a series of vignettes. Both exhibitions will start with preview receptions that will also give us an excuse to toast 225 years of excellence.

Much of Jeremy Belknap's drive for collecting primary sources and making them accessible came from his own work as a historian. He knew that his ability to "delineate the present times in as full and perfect a manner as possible" would be compromised if the documentary evidence vanished. It is not surprising, then, that the repository that he and his colleagues established became—and has continued to be—a critical resource for historical research on

the eras and places that our holdings cover so well. Today, researchers from around the world come every year to our building and our website in the thousands and hundreds of thousands, respectively. They come for the sources and also for the collegiality, the discussion, and the debate that our scholarly programming offers. To mark the anniversary year, we have planned both a look back across the traditions of historiography and a look ahead. The former will be available in a special spring issue of the *Massachusetts Historical Review*, our (usually) annual journal. Titled *Massachusetts and the Origins of American Thought*, the issue will publish eight articles, each one of which will open a different window for readers. In the fall, the MHS will convene a think tank on the future of history.

The Society's website (www.masshist.org) will also serve as a platform for a variety of other anniversary features. An interactive timeline will highlight the Society's previous locations and pivotal moments in our history. A gallery of images and brief descriptions will showcase 225 items from the Society's vast collections. "MHS Madness" will launch at the beginning of February. Sixty-four of the staff's favorite items from the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries will compete for your votes until a winner is crowned in March.

The Society's mission today also encompasses service to teachers and students in junior high and high schools. Our annual slate of teacher workshops has become very busy in recent years (see story on p. 7): we want to be sure that

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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MHS Miscellany, no. 109

Periodical Newsletter of the
Massachusetts Historical Society

Address:

1154 Boylston St.

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www.masshist.org

Hours:

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

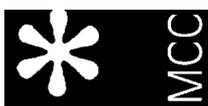
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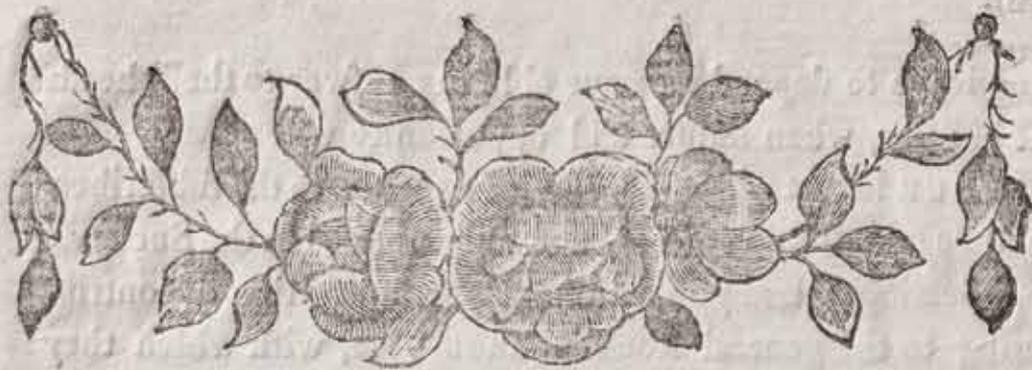
"Plan & Elevation of the Tontine Crescent, now erecting in Boston." From the *Massachusetts Magazine*, 1794. All images are from the MHS collections unless otherwise credited. The MHS occupied the Tontine Crescent from 1794 until 1833.

Facing: "Circular Letter, of the Historical Society," 1791.

Jefferson items, p. 5, clockwise from upper left: TJ, manuscript copy of the Declaration of Independence, 1776; TJ, Monticello, working drawing for the main staircase, ca. 1771-1776; silhouette 2.05, artist unknown; TJ to John Taylor, Dec. 29, 1794.

All photographs by Laura Wulf unless otherwise noted.





CIRCULAR LETTER,

OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

SIR,

A SOCIETY has lately been instituted in this town, called the HISTORICAL SOCIETY; the professed design of which is, to collect, preserve and communicate, materials for a complete history of this country, and accounts of all valuable efforts of human ingenuity and industry, from the beginning of its settlement. In pursuance of this plan, they have already amassed a large quantity of books, pamphlets and manuscripts; and are still in search of more: A catalogue of which will be printed for the information of the public.

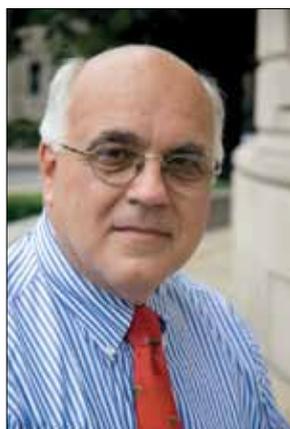
THEY have also given encouragement to the publication of a weekly paper, to be called THE AMERICAN APOLLO; in which will be given the result of their inquiries, into the natural, political and ecclesiastical history of this country. A proposal for the printing of this paper is here inclosed to you; and it is requested that you would promote subscriptions for it; and contribute to its value and importance, by attention to the articles annexed. The Society

beg

educators know our resources are available for use in their classrooms. Beginning in April, we are sending our founder (that is, an image of him in print or ready to be printed) on a mission across the country with “Jeremy Belknap’s American Roadmap.” Appearing in jovial cartoon form, Belknap will travel to classrooms nationwide sharing information about the MHS and promoting the teaching of history. Teachers and students anywhere in North America or abroad will have the opportunity to post Jeremy’s adventures, locations, and experiences on the MHS website. Yes, we will be exploiting today’s vast and fast communication networks to commit acts of education! A local rendition of this last, “Belknap’s Boston,” will encourage Bostonians (and visitors) to snap photos around town with Jeremy.

We hope that you, whether you’re a local friend or one of our supporters farther afield, will enjoy an opportunity to share in our anniversary festivities. You can follow the calendar and find out about new programming at our website or by following us on Facebook or Twitter. Yes, we do social media. It certainly seems congruent with Rev. Belknap’s “circular letter” of 1791.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



We are in the midst of a very busy fall season, with lively events taking place at 1154 Boylston Street several times a week. It is undoubtedly one of the most active years of programming in our nearly 225-year history. As you may have noticed, there are now fees for attending some events. We have been easing these fees in over the past several years, and a few people have

asked me about this trend. While these charges do not produce significant income, they do help defray some of the expense of our programs. More important, however, is how they reinforce the value of membership. For Members of the MHS, any fee is usually waived or reduced. And from our point of view, having a strong base of Members and Fellows is an enormous benefit: the dues from these groups are a vital source of income—nearly \$100,000 annually. That income is critical to our ability to continue pursuing our many activities, including our excellent programs.

The activity so far this autumn included a preview reception for the exhibition *Terra Firma: The Beginnings of the MHS Map Collection*. This reception, like other exhibition previews, was an invitation-only celebration for our Fellows and Members. Through events like this and the reduced fees, as well as a broader range of programs in general, we are seeking to expand and build our MHS community. Last

year, we counted more new memberships than in any previous year. Now I hope you will help us make this year even more successful, by either joining or encouraging a friend to come on board (or both). By the way, several different membership levels are now available, including special rates for students and educators as well as first-time Members. Visit the MHS website at www.masshist.org/support/members to see the options.

Much remains free and available to all at the MHS, including the use of the library and our very rich collection of online resources. We remain committed to the imperative of our founders, and we know that many of you are committed to helping us keep that mission alive. Indeed, most of you reading this column are either Fellows or Members. We thank you for your support and hope you enjoy all that your MHS affiliation offers.

THE PRIVATE JEFFERSON

In Book & Exhibition

There is no Thomas Jefferson Presidential Library per se. Two national repositories share this purpose, between them caring for the bulk of the third president’s papers. At the Library of Congress, you will find the premier trove of documents related to Jefferson’s tenure in the executive office as well as his work as a legislator, governor, diplomatic envoy, secretary of state, and vice president. But here at the MHS, unbeknownst even to many of our friends and supporters, you will find the greatest collection of his personal papers, ranging from family correspondence to architectural drawings. Most of the material resides in the Coolidge Collection of Thomas Jefferson Manuscripts, donated by Jefferson’s descendants in the Coolidge family, although items also turn up in collections from other donors.

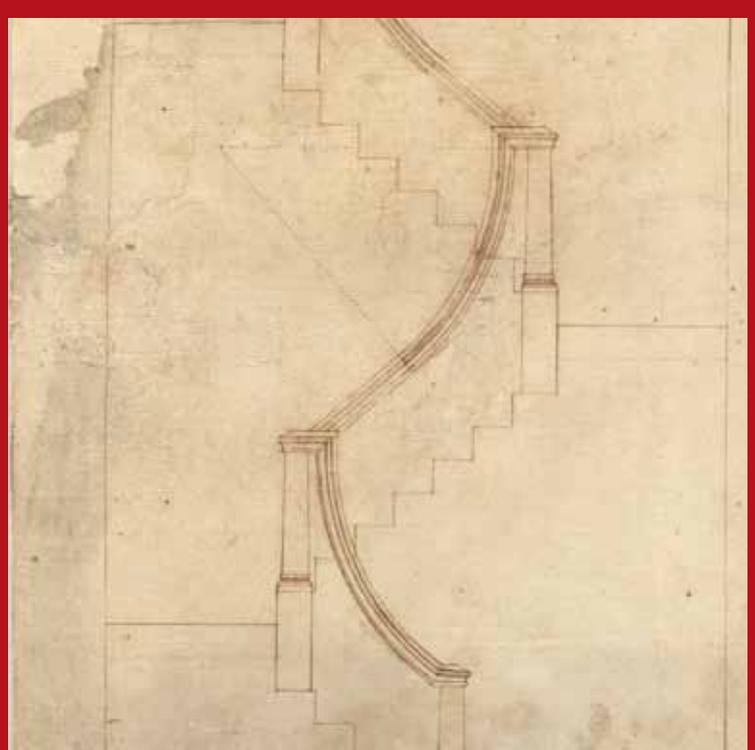
As part of the Society’s 225th anniversary celebration, we are showcasing a selection of items in an exhibition and a companion book. In both, pieces are arranged to underscore aspects of Jefferson’s character—his unusual creativity and less frequently studied perspectives on the world—rather than to retell the well-known achievements of his political career. The qualities that come to the forefront are, instead, the principles, passions, and faith that suffused his actions as a statesman, including his love of the natural world; and his life-long effort to find a balance between his role on an international stage and his need for a domestic retreat, a reverie for study and experimentation.

Please mark your calendars for the opening of the exhibition at the end of January. Fellows and Members of the MHS will be invited to a special preview reception on January 28. After it closes in the spring, *The Private Jefferson* will appear at several other locations around the country. We are looking forward to introducing many more people to the truly national scope of the MHS collection.

A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States
General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary
to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with
among the powers of the earth, the separate & equal station
nature & of nature's god entitle them, a decent respect to the
requires that they should declare the causes which impel them

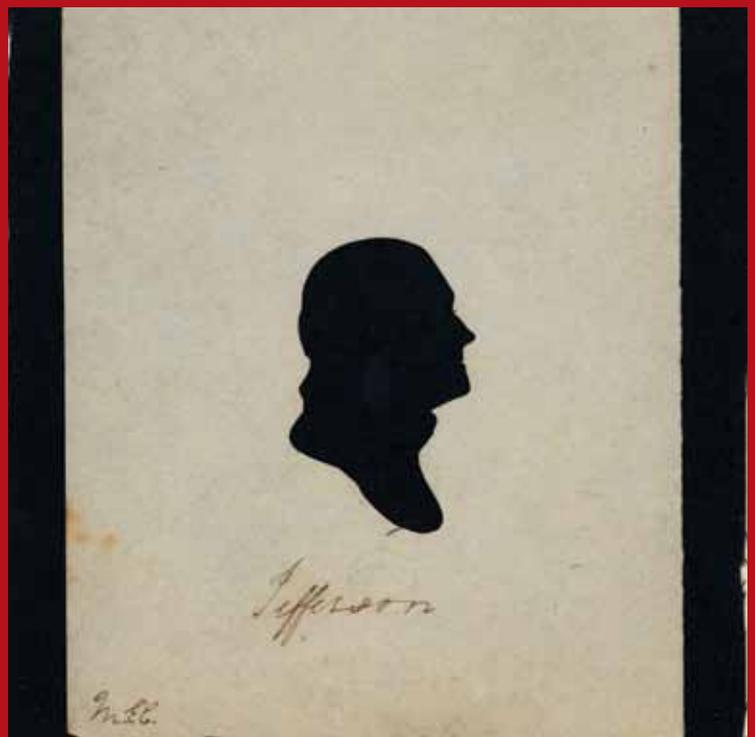
We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are
they are equal. They are endowed with inherent & inalienable
these are life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness: that to secure
governments are instituted among men, deriving their just
sent of the governed: that whenever any form of government
of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish
new government, laying its foundation on such principles
ers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect



The Private Jefferson

Perspectives from the Collections
of the Massachusetts Historical Society

with essays by
Henry Adams, Peter S. Onuf, and Andrea Wulf



Thomas Jefferson Papers

An Electronic Archive

Including the Farm Book, Garden Book,
Notes on the State of Virginia,
and hundreds of drawings

available online at

www.masshist.org/thomasjeffersonpapers

l be? will your experience enable you
jecture? also what is the produce
as in the same kind of ground?

several pages since you began to en
I will here finish with my affec
to my old friend Mr Pendleton. &
de, & to yourself assurances of the
- Sir

Your friend & servt

Th: Jefferson

TRANSFORMING BOSTON

How did the Metro Boston of today come to exist? Beginning this fall, three series of programs at the MHS will tackle this question.

The first series, *Transforming Boston: From Basket Case to Innovation Hub*, will explore how Boston rose from its midcentury reversals—a collapsing manufacturing base, a declining population, and an outdated, post-industrial infrastructure—to become the innovation hub of America and what this meant to the people who lived through this transition. Focusing on a period of rapid change, we'll look at the politics, planning, and development in Boston from the end of World War II to the present, considering as well how this history influences planning for Boston's future. The four-program series, starting in October, features conversations among 19 experts, such as historian Liz Cohen (Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study); city planners Tunney Lee (MIT) and Kairos Shen (formerly of the Boston Redevelopment Authority); Rep. Byron Rushing, Ninth Suffolk district; and professionals currently involved in the city's ongoing development, including Tony Pangaro (Millennium Development), Marc Draisen (Metropolitan Area Planning Council), and John Barros, the chief of economic development for Boston.

While planning and politics may have stretched the canvas for Metro Boston, architects have illustrated the scene. Starting in February, the series *Modern Mass* will argue for the state's role as the epicenter of the modernist movement in America. Boston, Cambridge, Lexington, Concord, and Lincoln, cities steeped in 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century history, may seem unlikely homes for dramatically modernist and brutalist landmarks; nevertheless, the Carpenter Center at Harvard, Boston City Hall, Gropius House, and Six Moon Hill stand within a 20-mile radius, the work of

some of the 20th century's most important architects. Why did this area embrace new ideas about design and the built environment while many others did not? Save space in your spring calendar to help us find the answer.

Spring will also bring a third series, exploring the "innovation economy" that drives the metropolitan development of today—and is built on a four-century-long history. The first use of anesthesia, the first sewing machine, the first telephone call, and the first networked computers are just a few entries in a long list of Bay State breakthroughs and inventions that have changed lives across the globe.

As you may be gathering, the story of Boston's development is a rich one. Please join us for these three series and take part in that richness.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION & "TWEET" LIBERTY!

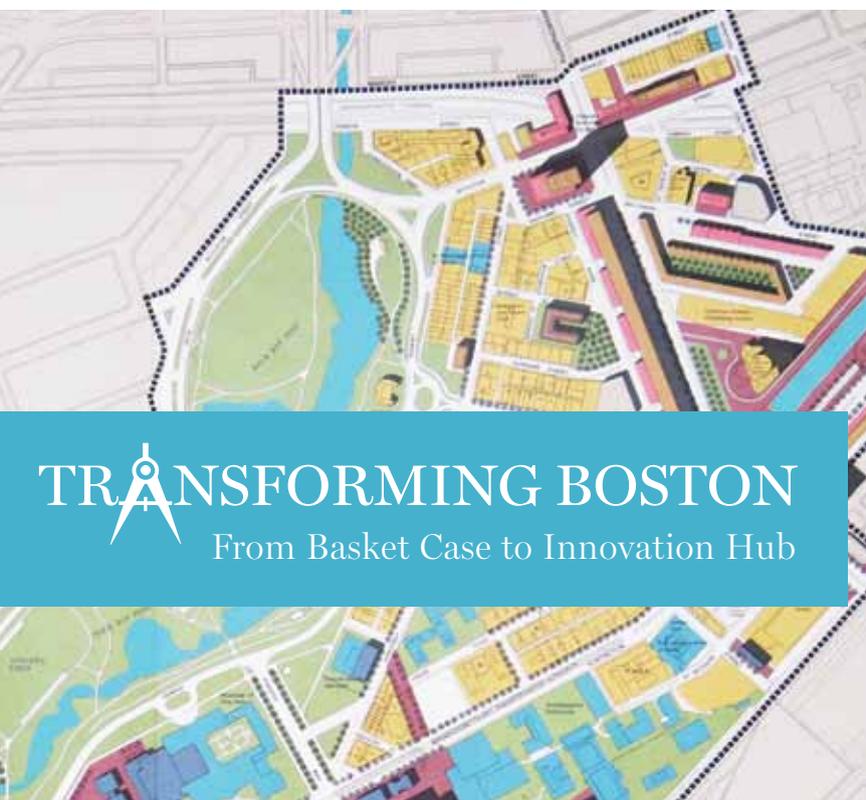
You know you've entered the Digital Age when Twitter becomes one of your most important ways of sharing a program. When hashtag heroes send forth hundreds of tweets and the Revolution is Reborn across the Twitterverse. When, shoulder to shoulder on that April day, the conference attendees adopt a new motto: "Don't fire until you see the lights of their servers!"

Armed with the dedicated hashtag #RevReborn2, MHS staff members Sara Georgini, Anna Clutterbuck-Cook, and Ondine Le Blanc launched the online dialog of our most recent MHS conference, "*So Sudden an Alteration: The Causes, Course, and Consequences of the American Revolution*." From town and campus village alike, friends of the Society including members of The Junto, a group blog, answered the call.

Galloping tweets strained against their megabits as colleagues held the keyboard with a steady hand. Ideas born and debated in Ellis Hall over the course of three days spread far and wide. Now, the dust settled, the record of this legendary meeting lives on at Storify (see the links in The Junto's conference coverage in the April 14, 2015, blog post, <http://earlyamericanists.com/2015/04/14/some-afterthoughts-on-revreborn2/>).

These archived tweets only hint at the program's spectacular success. Hundreds of attendees from throughout the country, including many prominent scholars of the Revolution, filled the rooms for the keynote address and sessions on a wide range of topics. Even at the closing session, late on Saturday afternoon, Ellis Hall was near to bursting with enthusiastic participants! The program was also our largest collaboration, with support from the MHS, the David Library of the American Revolution, Boston University, Williams College, and the Lowell Institute.

The conference lives on in other social media as well, including videos of the keynote address by Prof. Woody



Holton of the University of South Carolina and Friday's plenary session with Prof. Brendan McConville of Boston University. See "Woody Holton on the Originality Crisis in American Revolution Studies" and "Brendan McConville, 'The Great Cycle: The Professional Study of the American Revolution, 1960–2015'" on the Society's YouTube channel (click on the YouTube icon at the very bottom of the MHS homepage, www.masshist.org, for a direct link). If you mean to have a look, let it begin here.

EDUCATORS EXPLORE HISTORY BY LAND & SEA

How did you spend your summer vacation? If you were like any of the 280 educators who participated in one of our summer workshops, you spent your days enjoying lectures and discussions with eminent scholars, touring historical sites and landmarks, and investigating historical documents and artifacts. Although we presented workshops on a variety of topics, all the programs shared one defining characteristic: inquisitive and enthusiastic participants.

Our summer began, early in July, with a three-day workshop on the Boston Massacre, generously funded by the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. Participants used documents and artifacts featured on the Society's new "Perspectives on the Boston Massacre" website (also funded by the Society of the Cincinnati) to debate the causes, consequences, and legacy of the confrontation on King Street. They also toured sites connected to the events of 1770, including the old State House, the Granary Burying Ground, and Boston's waterfront. Our Revolutionary explorations continued with the week-long "Crossroads of Revolution" workshop, hosted for two groups of participants during the last week of July and first week of August. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, this workshop offered 72 educators from 33 states the opportunity to immerse themselves in the landscapes of Boston, Lexington, and Concord. Each week began with a living history program at Minuteman National Historical Park, our indispensable co-host for this program. Throughout the week, participants met a myriad of characters whose stories make up the dramatic—and still debated—history of April 19, 1775.

Our summer concluded with the first of a series of programs on the maritime history of New England, funded by the Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation. In July we co-hosted a program in Salem with the Phillips House, an affiliate of Historic New England. At the Salem Maritime National Historic Site, we examined the town's lucrative involvement in the China trade, then proceeded to investigate the trade's impact on art and culture using the resources at the Peabody Essex Museum. In order to better understand the sailor's life, participants cruised Salem Harbor aboard the replica schooner *Fame*. In August, we traveled to the Cape to explore the history of Falmouth. Thanks to our partners at the Falmouth Historical Society, attendees dove into the depths of whaling history in and around the 19th-century Cape, and they also visited the archives of the Marine Biological Laboratory at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to discuss the role of scientific exploration in the development of this corner of Massachusetts.

Although summer has come to an end, we have plenty of exciting programs taking place this fall. Visit www.masshist.org/education to learn more about upcoming programs for educators.



WHAT'S IN A ROOF?

Every summer, the library in the Society's home at 1154 Boylston Street is filled with people working on research projects, their heads bent studiously over manuscripts set out on tables in Ellis Hall. Though that work requires veritable silence, one can still feel a kind of buzz—the vibration of so much intellectual labor taking place at once.

This last summer that energy was complemented by work on a critical project taking place on the building's exterior as well: needed maintenance on the roof of our 1899 building. In short, some of the steel beams used in the original construction had rusted, causing the limestone balustrade and parapets around the outer edge of the roof to lift, crack, and deteriorate.

Soon after an examination of the balustrade discovered this problem, the Society's facilities team sprang to action, contracting with Shawmut Design and Construction to determine the full extent of the damages, the best approach to the repairs, and an appropriate schedule for the work. For various reasons, it was also clearly the logical time to replace the roof itself. Over the summer, crews dismantled the existing balustrade and parapets, ground away the rust on the old beams in order to expose the steel that was still



*Decorative summer dress for 1154 Boylston during roof repairs.
Shawmut Design and Construction / Benjamin Johnson*

in an acceptable condition, then welded in new steel as needed to strengthen what remained. Next, as the balustrade and parapets were reinstalled, any damaged sections were replaced with new limestone components. We were exceptionally lucky to be able to return to the same quarry that had provided the original limestone over a century ago, Victor Oolitic Quarries in Bloomington, Indiana.

The design of architect Edmund March Wheelwright, our building is truly the largest piece in the Society's collection. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1966, it exemplifies the architecture of its time, provides a central home for our collections, and serves as a base and showcase for our many activities. As with any of our treasures, we are dedicated to keeping it in superb condition. If you haven't visited recently, please stop by soon.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORY DAY

Even if you haven't had kids in school since National History Day began in the 1970s, you're probably familiar with the annual competition. Each fall, students begin to investigate a topic of their own choosing while also determining a format for their final project. Students navigate competitions at three levels—school, regional (there are four geographical regions here in Massachusetts), and state—before advancing, if they make it, to the national finals. Representatives from every state make the trip to the contest held each June at the University of Maryland in College Park.

For those first three stages, National History Day (NHD), the eponymous organization behind these events, depends on the efforts of local sponsors in each state. This year, the MHS is proud to become the sole sponsor of Massachusetts History Day, the Commonwealth's horse in this race. In this partnership with NHD, the Society will serve far more students—through financial support, reference services, and volunteer hours—than we could ever accommodate in our home at 1154 Boylston Street.

Teachers who use the NHD model in their classrooms encourage students to become historians by investigating primary sources, reading secondary sources, and crafting their own historical interpretations. Each student who chooses to enter the schoolwide competition turns his or her findings into a project that can take one of five forms: a traditional research paper, a website, an exhibition, a short documentary film, or a short historical performance. The volunteer judges who assess the projects also interview the students along the way, giving those young researchers an opportunity to share their work with encouraging teachers, historians, and other history professionals, including the MHS staff members who contribute their time.

Through the NHD process, students develop research skills, critical thinking skills, and communication skills that will benefit them long beyond the competition season. This makes the NHD an ideal partner for an organization dedicated to preserving and sharing documents that tell the stories of American history, life, and culture. If you would like to learn more about NHD, please feel free to contact the Society's Education Department.

THE MHS AV CLUB

Every year, or ever more so in recent years, the Society's public and scholarly programs have attracted greater interest, leading to larger audiences in our building as well as pleas for access from friends who are simply too far away. Consequently, we have been weighing the options for providing wider access to those programs, including possibilities that can create a better experience for visitors. This fall, we have outfitted the building with the audiovisual equipment needed to record events, allowing us to make them available later online; the same equipment will also make it possible to simulcast events within the building and livestream them online, freeing us from the physical constraints of even our most commodious room.

The nuts and bolts—mostly figurative, by the way—of the installation took place in Ellis Hall, which serves as the primary reading room for researchers but is also our largest space for public presentations. Ellis now boasts multiple robotic cameras, enhanced lighting, a ceiling mounted LCD projector, and speakers around the entire room. Even when we are not videotaping, the upgrades improve the overall quality of lighting, sound, and video projection in the room. The project has also outfitted Ellis Hall with FM assisted-listening devices that support the experience of those audience members who are hard-of-hearing. During an event that is being recorded and/or streamed, an operator in a state-of-the-art control room adjacent to Ellis will drive all of these components.

Audiences served by the simulcast capability within the building will be able to watch the proceedings in one of two rooms: the Seminar Room on the first floor and the Treasures Gallery on the second floor. Those two spaces have also benefitted from the work done this fall. The new sound, lighting, and projection systems in each room will improve the smaller presentations—frequently for educational workshops—that take place there.

The staff and contractors who have undertaken this timely and promising upgrade have been, of course, careful to respect the lovingly restored interior of our landmark building, and all of the enhancements are as discreet as possible. Much credit for getting this work done goes to the leadership of MHS Board Chair Charlie Ames and the management and expertise of both Director of Finance and Administration Peter Hood and Chief Technology Officer Chris Coveney.

ISBN 978-1-62534-150-1 (paper), \$27.95

ISBN 978-1-62534-149-5 (cloth), \$90.00

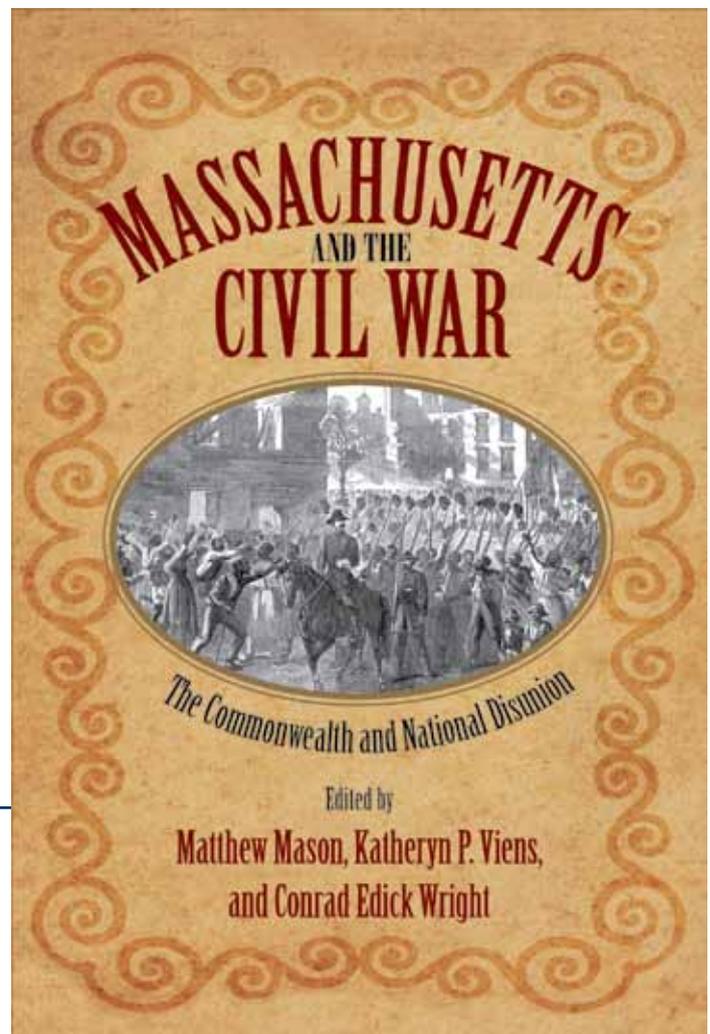
Available from the University of Massachusetts Press:
www.umass.edu/umpress/title/massachusetts-and-civil-war

NEW CIVIL WAR ESSAY COLLECTION AVAILABLE

In volume after volume, the MHS makes available the latest scholarship on a variety of topics that it has fostered during its biennial conferences. *Massachusetts and the Civil War: The Commonwealth and National Disunion* is the third essay collection issued by the Research Department in three years. It is drawn from the 2013 conference that commemorated the tragic conflict that reshaped American society and politics.

The collection, published by the University of Massachusetts Press, was edited by Matthew Mason of Brigham Young University, MHS Research Coordinator Katheryn P. Viens, and Worthington C. Ford Editor Conrad Edick Wright. It comprises 10 essays by established and emerging scholars, including several former MHS grant recipients and Society Fellows. Together, they demonstrate the Commonwealth's uniquely important role in the development of abolitionism, the conduct of the war, and reconciliation.

Hear portions of Carrie Healy's New England Public Radio interview with Conrad Wright at the NEPR website: <http://nepr.net/news/2015/08/08/massachusetts-and-the-civil-war/>.



PETER J. GOMES MEMORIAL BOOK PRIZE FIRST AWARD

Please join us! A panel of three distinguished judges has selected the recipient of the Society's first annual Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize for the best non-fiction work on the history of Massachusetts published during the preceding year. The prize carries a \$2,500 award.

The recipient will be announced at an award ceremony on Thursday, October 29. This MHS Special Event is open to all. There will be a reception of drinks and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 PM, followed at 6:00 PM by the presentation of the award and a talk by the author.

This event will also be a celebration of the life of Peter J. Gomes (1942–2011). Rev. Gomes became a Fellow and Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1976 and at the time of his death had agreed to join the Board of Overseers. He was the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard Divinity School and the Pusey Minister of Memorial Church.

A proud native of Plymouth, he was also a past president of the Pilgrim Society and a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. He specialized in Early American history, particularly the history of Massachusetts, and delighted in stimulating the minds of his students and parishioners alike. Friends can still recall his rich, deep voice and laughter as he took part in MHS events, relishing the opportunity to revel in historical scholarship and support the institution with which he had such a long association.

To all who in the spirit of Rev. Gomes appreciate Massachusetts history, impeccable scholarship, and engaging storytelling: we promise you a convivial, enjoyable evening. We hope you can attend this special event. RSVP at the MHS website.



GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE! FROM THE STAMP ACT TO BUNKER HILL EXHIBITION PREVIEW & RECEPTION



On February 26, 2015, 70 Fellows, Members, and friends attended an exhibition preview and reception for *God Save the People!* The exhibition followed the evolution of colonial thought and political action through the letters and diaries of men and women caught up in the conflict, together with political cartoons, newspapers, maps, artifacts, and portraits. Guests enjoyed remarks by Stephen T. Riley Librarian Peter Drummey, a reception, and the opportunity to preview the exhibition.

Left: Member Chris Sole, Trustee Lisa Nurme, and Karen Quinn look at items on display during the reception.

Below: Member Jeffrey Cronin and Fellow Robert Allison examine items related to Phillis Wheatley.

Below, left: Frank and Gail Reitter, Fellow Kitty Lastavica, Mrs. John Williams Linzee III, Ted Baker, Jean Linzee, and George Linzee pose in front of portraits of Capt. John Linzee and Mrs. John Linzee (Susannah Inman).



WITH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE
STEPHEN BREYER



Nearly 150 Fellows, Members, and friends gathered at the Society on May 28 for an evening with Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. A congenial reception opened the event, after which Justice Breyer spoke. A display of items from the Society's collections showcased each of his eight predecessors from Massachusetts—William Cushing, Joseph Story, Benjamin Robbins Curtis, Horace Gray, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., William H. Moody, Louis D. Brandeis, and Felix Frankfurter.

Left: Justice Stephen Breyer gives his remarks.

Below, left: Life Trustee Levin H. Campbell catches up with Fellow Dennis Shapiro and his wife Susan.

Below: Justice Breyer chats with Lester Lee, Brendan Clifford, and Paul Marc-Daniel.

Right: Overseer Robin Lawrence and his wife Margaret pose for a photo while enjoying the reception.



ANNUAL MEETING



The Society's Fellows, the governing body of the MHS, convened for the Annual Meeting on June 24, 2015. Following the meeting, Fellows socialized with one another at a reception at the MHS.



Above, left: Board Chair Charles Ames thanks retiring Trustee Nancy S. Anthony for her years of service on the Board of Trustees. Above: Fellows and staff enjoy a reception following the business meeting.

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EXHIBITION

October 2, 2015, to January 9, 2016



Terra Firma

The Beginnings of the MHS Map Collection