

MHS Miscellany

Number 110 / Spring 2016

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH

THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ONE of the preeminent archival repositories in America, having in its care an extensive collection of manuscript documents spanning hundreds of years. While that treasure offers many benefits to the institution and its visitors alike, it also poses real limitations, particularly when it comes to showing manuscripts to a wide audience. As work got underway last year for *The Private Jefferson*, our current exhibition, and we ran head first into these limitations, a partnership with Microsoft opened up new possibilities.

Based on the largest collection of Thomas Jefferson's personal papers and architectural drawings anywhere, the exhibition opens windows onto Jefferson's world through those materials. The curators planned a gallery layout that illustrates aspects of Jefferson's life with selections of unique documents: his personal correspondence, his plans for his gardens, the dream and construction of Monticello, and the evolution of

the Declaration of Independence. But, able to display only a few documents in each space, under very low light, and only on one side each, we had to leave out large portions of valuable and interesting content.

As the exhibition finally took shape—and as you can now see it in our galleries—we addressed this challenge with the help of Microsoft, which provided project support, computer hardware, and the emerging application Touch Art Gallery (TAG), developed by a team at Brown University and customized for our use. Starting from the extensive supply of high-resolution facsimiles created by the Society's digital production staff, the exhibition team selected a hundred key Jefferson items to upload, with necessary metadata as well, to a server hosted and configured by our collaborators at Microsoft. MHS staff then prepared those images for use on touch-screen tablets, one an eye-catching 65 inches and three smaller, where exhibition-goers can augment their experience of the



Massachusetts
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1791-2016

physical display by accessing any of six virtual tours or seven digital collections, each offering greatly enhanced access to MHS materials as well as helpful guides to the history surrounding these materials.

Each of the virtual tours provides a brief but media-rich overview of a specific topic, led by the Jefferson scholars who have contributed their time and expertise to this project: Peter S. Onuf, Andrea Wulf, and Henry Adams. Each tour unfolds as an audio narrative illustrated by documents and artifacts that move across the screen. Should a viewer wish to know more about a particular point—look more closely at one document—she can pause the tour and select an item to examine, moving it around on the screen, zooming in and out, and studying the additional information. The zooming function—made possible by Microsoft Deep Zoom, a feature employed by TAG—and metadata are also available for manuscripts and drawings in the seven digital collections, which are similarly grouped by topics. Here, the viewer can browse through the images in a collection and, choosing one, find further enhancements for that item. He can zoom in and even compare two documents side by side, maybe examining subtle differences between Jefferson's copy of the Declaration and John Adams's. Twenty short videos featuring our Jefferson commentators illuminate the significance of the manuscripts onscreen, and some items also offer audio files of the document read aloud. When a viewer opens a letter that Jefferson wrote to his grand-

daughter Ellen, for example, a side panel appears with metadata and video and/or audio icons that can link to a video of an expert talking about Jefferson and his granddaughters or a reading from the letter.

While the topics covered by the tours and the collections overlap with the sections of the physical exhibition, they also expand on these. The core themes shared across all three are the Declaration; Jefferson's architecture, including Monticello; gardening and, especially at Monticello, farming; and Jefferson's writings and love of books. The tour and collections allow visitors to explore any of these in more depth, viewing, for example, multiple pages from Jefferson's Farm Book, when only one can be on display in the physical copy. Of course, brick-and-mortar galleries force curators to assign each document to one part of an exhibition, even when that document speaks to many different ideas. The virtual realm, however, makes it possible to view any document in all applicable contexts—and to create new groupings to highlight other topics. Among the tours, for example, is one dedicated to the friendship between Jefferson and John Adams, and the tours and collections both feature a module exploring the history of slavery and where it appears in these papers.

Our partnership with Microsoft has also allowed us to make this content available nationally through the use of Skype in the Classroom. This program gives students across America the opportunity for a live, guided presentation of

The Massachusetts Historical Society is a center of research and learning dedicated to a deeper understanding of the American experience. Through its collections, scholarly pursuits, and public programs, the Society seeks to nurture a greater appreciation for American history and for the ideas, values, successes, and failures that bind us together as a nation.

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MHS Miscellany, no. 110

Periodical Newsletter of the
Massachusetts Historical Society

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.

Front cover: Two visitors use the large touch screen featured in *The Private Jefferson*. Photograph by Gavin W. Kleespies. Back cover: Bowl attributed to the Wampanoag, 1655–1675; U.S. Constitution, with annotations by Elbridge Gerry, 1787; Emancipation Proclamation pen, mid 19th century; Side view of the Wright 1903 glider in flight at Outer Banks, N.C., photograph by Octave Chanute, 1903

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Hours:

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

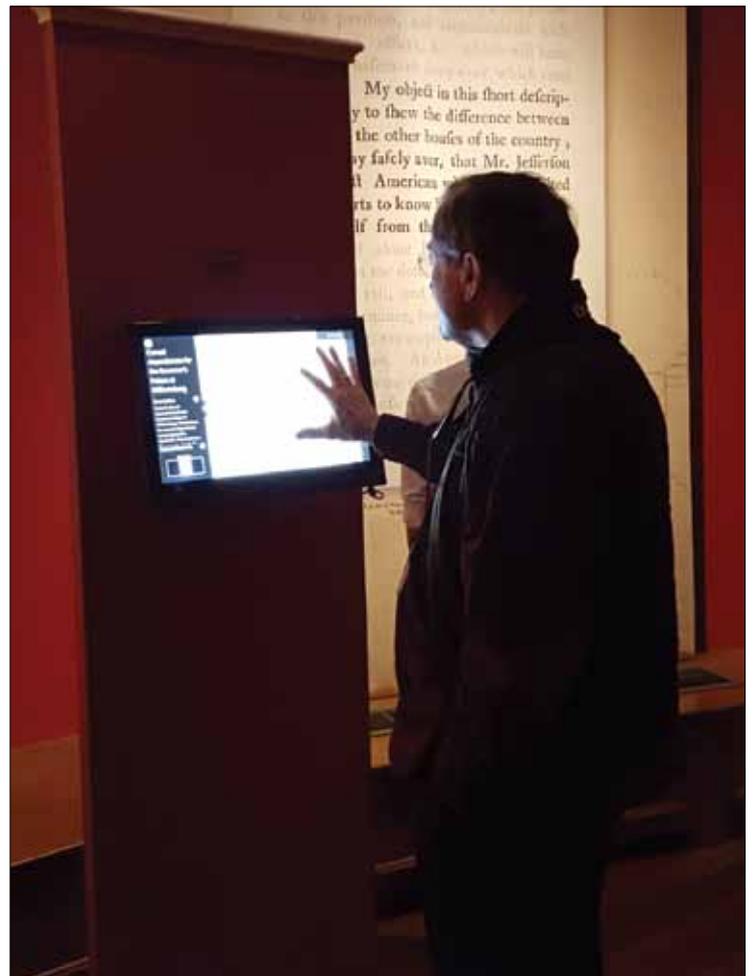




our show. Using Skype, students in classrooms thousands of miles away can enjoy a live walkthrough of the galleries, including the ability to communicate with the tour guide; using a combination of Skype and TAG, the students can also examine the documents and architectural drawings that are available in the virtual tours and exhibitions. They similarly have access to the expert commentary by Peter Onuf, Andrea Wulf, and Henry Adams, as well as all of the excellent information provided by MHS staff. With 1.5 million teachers as registered users of Skype in the Classroom, this partnership makes *The Private Jefferson* an educational resource that reaches all across America. As part of the Society's celebration of its 225th year, this combination of archival treasures with cutting-edge technology and a wide, democratic reach just about fulfills our best birthday wishes.

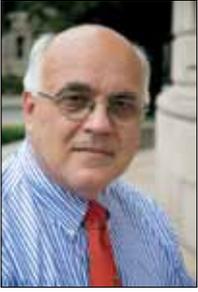
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*Above: The second-floor landing decked with the treasures that make up The Private Jefferson. Photograph by Mary Orr.
Right: Andries van Dam, head of TAG's development team at Brown University, demonstrates the software on one of the smaller touch screens. Photograph by Gavin W. Kleespies.*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

We continue to widen our horizons. In this issue of the *Miscellany*, the lead article on our exhibition *The Private Jefferson* features several ways in which the MHS is reaching new



audiences. Technology has for many years been at the heart of our activities, but for the first time, thanks to a partnership with Microsoft, we have fully integrated it into an exhibition. This multiplies the content we are able to make available and creates an interactive experience. Through Skype in the Classroom, the MHS is providing live, guided tours of the exhibition to students

across the country and as far away as Egypt. *The Private Jefferson* will also become our first traveling exhibition, showing at the Virginia and New-York Historical Societies.

A new collaboration, the Boston Summer Seminar, sponsored by the Great Lakes Colleges Association, extends our reach in the Midwest. Teams of faculty and students work with a Boston-area archival collection to do primary source research. Natalie Dykstra, an MHS Fellow, professor at Hope College, and founder of the seminar, saw history brought to life when working with original documents. To Natalie, "Traces of the past can inspire not only scholarship but creative writing of all kinds."

Over the past few years, we have seen increased interest from students abroad desiring to work with our collections. During this past winter, Serena Mocci, a master's degree candidate at the University of Cagliari, Italy, spent three months with us on an internship from the Globus Placement exchange program. In recent years, we have hosted scholars from Germany, Russia, Canada, Great Britain, and France.

Engaging new audiences with the richness of our holdings and activities is a high priority. Increased technology, traveling exhibitions, educational partnerships, and new opportunities for foreign scholars are paving the way.

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MASSACHUSETTS AND THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN HISTORICAL THOUGHT

Was the Massachusetts Historical Society a consequence, a cause, or possibly both? This is just one of the questions that underlie "Massachusetts and the Origins of American Historical Thought," the special anniversary issue of the *Massachusetts Historical Review* that all Fellows, Members, and subscribers will receive this summer.

As part of the celebration of the Society's 225th anniversary, we asked eight knowledgeable scholars to investigate

aspects of early historical thought in Massachusetts. Our working theory was that Massachusetts played an unusually important role in the development of historical thinking. Noted John Winthrop biographer Francis Bremer contributed a piece on the earliest historical writers, including Winthrop and William Bradford. Reiner Smolinski, a leading Cotton Mather scholar, took the story to the late 17th and early 18th centuries, with a piece on Mather and his contemporaries. And John Tyler, who is editing the papers of royal governor Thomas Hutchinson, offered an essay on his protagonist as a historian.

If historical interests were already well established in Massachusetts at the founding of the Society in 1791, then perhaps it was a product of them. But what about American historical thought after the founding of the MHS? Was the Society, itself, a catalyst for its development? The Society's influence is difficult to assess, but if membership is a measure, then we can point to two MHS members who figure in articles in the issue, George Bancroft, whom Eileen Cheng compares to Scottish historian James Grahame in a discussion of how 19th-century historians dealt with slavery, and William Hickling Prescott, the Salem-born scholar of the Spanish empire who is a major figure in Iván Jaksic's account of how historical interests spread beyond American shores.

Social conventions of the time made other historians ineligible to be considered for MHS membership, including such women as Mercy Otis Warren and Hannah Mather Crocker, the subject of a contribution by Eileen Hunt Botting, and the African American historian William Cooper Nell, whom Stephen Kantrowitz introduces. Whitney Martinko completes the issue with an account of the origins of historic preservation after the American Revolution and an instance when it came into conflict with pressures for urban development.

So did Massachusetts play an unusually important role in the development of American historical thought? And what was the MHS's place in this story? We will leave both questions to you to consider when you receive our special issue.

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ORDER YOUR COPY OF "MASSACHUSETTS AND THE ORIGINS OF AMERICAN HISTORICAL THOUGHT" TODAY!

E-mail publications@masshist.org or call 617-646-0513 to secure your copy. Note that MHS Members and Fellows receive this and all issues of the *MHR* as a benefit. Become a member: e-mail membership@masshist.org or call 617-646-0518 to get started.

BOSTON SUMMER SEMINAR

*Natalie Dykstra, founding director of the Boston Summer Seminar, is professor of English at Hope College and an MHS Fellow. She is the author of *Clover Adams: A Gilded and Heartbreaking Life* (2012).*

At the start of last June, six students and three faculty members from three midwestern colleges—Hope College, Oberlin College, and College of Wooster—gathered at the MHS for the first day of the Boston Summer Seminar. A new initiative hosted by the MHS and sponsored by the Great Lakes Colleges Association, the seminar offers an opportunity for experiential learning to faculty and students who work in teams to do original primary source research in their choice of five Boston-area archives: the MHS, the Archives and Special Collections at Northeastern University, the Schlesinger Library at Harvard University, the Houghton Library at Harvard University, and the Center for the History of Medicine at the Countway Library of Harvard Medical School.

Last year, teams applied for the seminar by submitting a proposal based on a broad theme. The three teams that came to Boston pursued topics well matched to the archival holdings: 19th-century dance and music, food and liquor in America, and 19th-century American education. The groups, each assigned its own archivist-mentor for the three-week “term,” worked in the archives during the day. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, we met at the MHS for an evening meal and a guest speaker, among them the esteemed writers (and MHS Fellows) Megan Marshall and John Stauffer. Our group conversations moved from the specific to the historical, from the local to the international. We discussed how to transform insights drawn from archival materials into a compelling narrative, what counts as evidence, the relation of the archive to social action, and the role of social media in historical research, to itemize just a few of the many topics.

The seminar realizes a dream, one I have long held, to make more accessible to midwestern faculty and students the astonishing collections at the MHS. The many summers I spent at the MHS earlier in my career, as I was working on

my biography of Clover Adams, changed what was possible for me both in my writing and in my teaching. Working closely with original documents—every-

thing from letters, scrapbooks, and photograph albums to pamphlets, architectural plans, paraphernalia, and a pressed flower tucked into an envelope—had made history come alive for me in ways I had never experienced before and in a way I found enthralling. Teaching a course at Emerson College on archival research for creative writers—poets, storytellers, playwrights—confirmed for me how these traces of the past can inspire not only scholarship but creative writing of all kinds.

Our success last year depended on the expert assistance of MHS reference librarian Anna Clutterbuck-Cook, who served as the Society’s liaison for the seminar, and archivist Hanna Clutterbuck-Cook (Countway Library) for her design and maintenance of our website. Of course, it would not have been possible without the generosity of the MHS as our partner and host. Now, word has gotten out—there’s fascinating research to be done in Boston—so we are fielding a much larger pool of applicants for summer 2016. We’re planning a variety of activities for our participants this June to augment the main goal for their three weeks in Boston: to immerse themselves in the rich primary sources that provide the evocative evidence for the stories we tell of the past.

For more about the Boston Summer Seminar, please visit us at bostonsummerseminar.org. I can be found at nataliedykstra.com.

—Natalie Dykstra

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Left: Megan Marshall with student and faculty participants at the Boston Summer Seminar, June 2015. Right: Boston Summer Seminar 2015 participants pose for a picture in front of the MHS. Photographs courtesy of Natalie Dykstra.

PAPERS OF JOHN ADAMS, VOLUME 18

In May, the team of editors responsible for the continuing edition of the Adams Papers brought out their latest installment, volume 18 of the *Papers of John Adams*. Opening in December 1785, when Adams began his seventh month as minister to the Court of St. James's, it is the last volume wholly devoted to his diplomatic career. Adams complained to John Jay on December 3 that it was impossible to do "any Thing Satisfactory, with this Nation." On the major issues roiling Anglo-American relations, he had received no substantive response. His draft Anglo-American commercial treaty remained unanswered, punitive trade restrictions remained in place, and the frontier posts remained in British hands. It seemed unlikely that new issues concerning the Canadian border and compensation for goods seized at the 1776 evacuation of Boston would be resolved either. The underlying cause for this stalemate was Congress's inability to prevent the states from obstructing the payment of pre-war debts, and it fed Adams's belief that Congress needed more power and a reliable source of revenue. He echoed his American correspondents who wrote as Shays's Rebellion erupted in Massachusetts and the Constitutional Convention loomed in Philadelphia.

As important as it was, there is more to this volume than Adams's diplomacy in London. It also captures the effort he put into promoting the sale of whale oil to France, negotiating with the Barbary States and Portugal, advancing the ordination of Episcopal bishops, publishing his *Defence of the Constitutions*, visiting the Netherlands, touring the English countryside, and attending the marriage of his daughter, Abigail, to his secretary, William Stephens Smith. Appropriately, the volume ends with Adams resigning his diplomatic posts. He had been away from America too long. It was time to return and face whatever new challenges the future might bring.

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GOMES BOOK PRIZE AWARDED TO MARY BABSON FUHRER

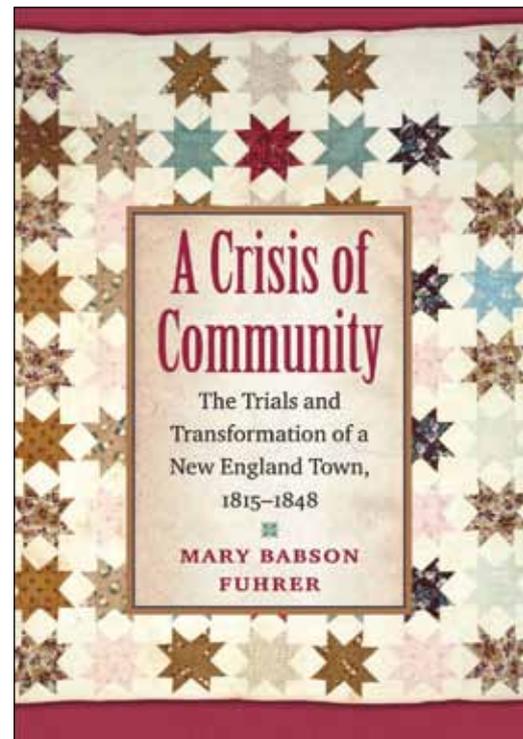
On the evening of last October 29, Members, Fellows, and invited guests gathered in Ellis Hall to celebrate a momentous occasion: the presentation of the first annual Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize. They were motivated by their desire to honor the memory of Reverend Gomes, a respected Harvard scholar and beloved Fellow of the MHS; their love of Massachusetts history; and their appreciation for the work the Society does to promote this scholarship.

But still, they had no idea what book was being honored. An hour later, following the award presentation and a fascinating lecture by the author, it was clear that the judges had

made the right choice in selecting Mary Babson Fuhrer's *A Crisis of Community: The Trials and Transformation of a New England Town, 1815-1848* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014).

Dr. Fuhrer is a public historian who specializes in the social history of New England and holds the Ph.D. in American history from the University of New Hampshire. *Crisis of Community* brings to life the troublesome creation of a new social, political, and economic order centered on individual striving and voluntary associations in a growing nation. Blending family records and a rich trove of community archives, it examines the "age of revolutions" through the lens of Boylston, Massachusetts, a rural village that was swept into the networks of an expanding and urbanizing New England region.

"It is certainly appropriate that the first annual prize in memory of someone rooted in his hometown as firmly as Rev. Peter Gomes was should go to the author of a town history," commented MHS Worthington C. Ford Editor and Director of Research Conrad E. Wright. He continued, "Beautifully crafted, gracefully written, Mary Fuhrer's relation of the development of the small town of Boylston, Massachusetts, is a most worthy recipient of the first annual Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize."



A distinguished committee selected *Crisis of Community* from among 21 titles that encompassed a range of subjects, from colonial history to biographies of iconic figures, from politics to art and sport. The Society is now inviting submissions of titles published in 2015 to be considered for

the 2016 prize; the deadline is May 1. More information is available at www.masshist.org/gomesprize.

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THE JOY OF A GLOBAL CONNECTION

Serena Mocci is earning a master's degree in international relations at the University of Cagliari, Italy. Here she shares her thoughts on her three-month internship under the Globus Placement exchange program.

At the MHS, I have been learning day by day how a nonprofit center for historical scholarship works. My tasks range from online research in order to compile supporting material for a future MHS conference to the administration of academic seminars and marketing for Research Department programs.



Like many nonprofit Italian historical associations, the MHS works hard to demonstrate that history is not just something that happened in the past—but in fact also something that affects our everyday life. The

thing that impresses me the most, however, is the way in which the Society delivers this message. Not unilaterally, as at a lecture in which an expert explains and comments on events. Here, debates and exchanges of opinions create the history.

At the Society, I am also working on the research project related to my master's thesis about the political thought of feminist Transcendentalist Margaret Fuller, focusing on the historical context in which she grew up and how it could have influenced her political ideas. Fuller is also part of Italian history because of her commitment both as a journalist and a nurse during the Italian Independence War and the Roman Republic of 1849. Despite this, Italian scholars have not studied specifically her political and feminist thought. My goal is to figure out who Margaret Fuller really was before her Italian stay, in order to understand better what she did, thought, and wrote during her last years—the years that she lived in Rome.

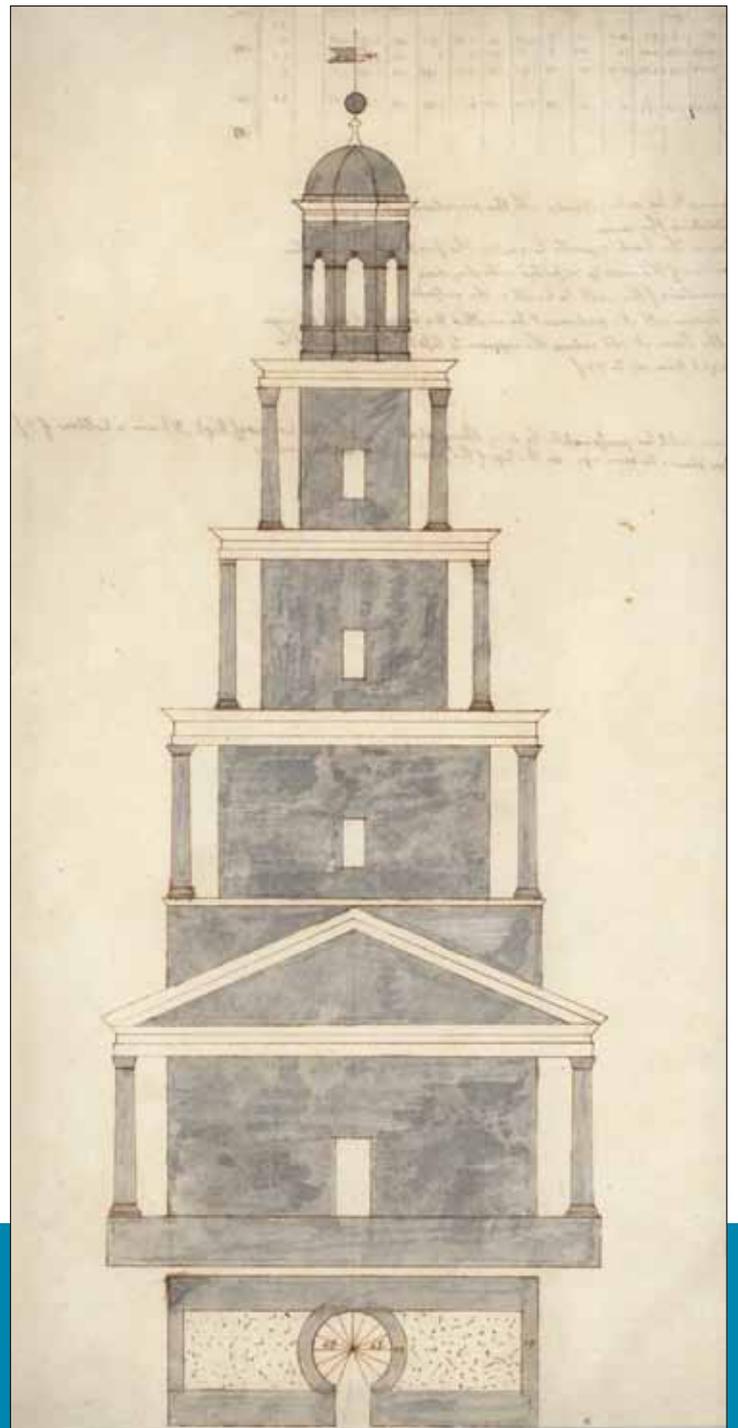
My experience at the MHS has been great and very useful, and each person on the staff, always kind and friendly, has done his or her best to make me feel at ease. I have had the opportunity to participate in many seminars, which have helped me to learn more about U.S. history. Every Thurs-

day, the Research Department organizes an off-site lunch out with research fellows, thanks to which I can improve my language skills and meet a lot of people while talking about our projects and goals.

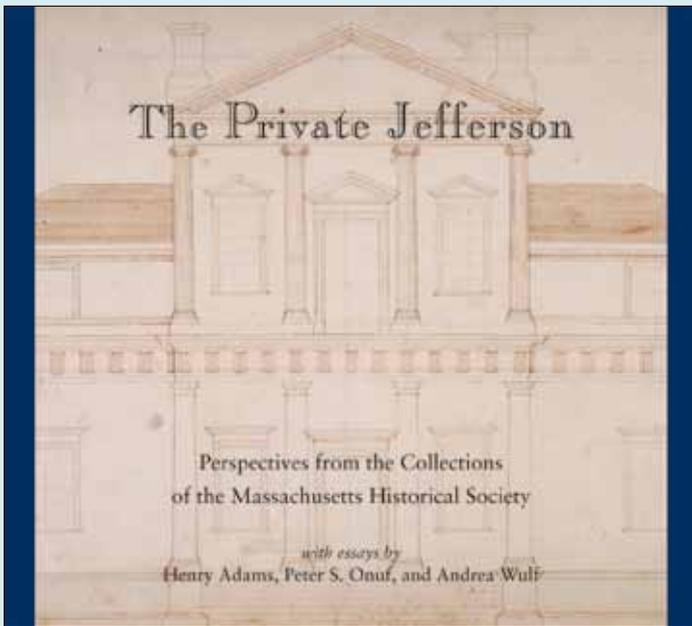
I will always remember this wonderful and formative experience, which gave me the biggest opportunity: to become a world citizen. In fact, my three-month stay in the United States has heightened my awareness of both cultural diversity and the various aspects of my own culture, analyzing it from afar, finally realizing how beautiful integration is.

—Serena Mocci

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Thomas Jefferson, drawing of an observation tower for Monticello (never built), ca. 1771, Coolidge Collection of Thomas Jefferson Manuscripts, Collections of the MHS. This drawing, featured in the exhibition The Private Jefferson: From the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is printed in detail in the Society's similarly named book. See p. 8 for details.



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THE PRIVATE JEFFERSON

Perspectives from the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society

One of U.S. history's most eminent figures, Thomas Jefferson is as elusive as he is revered. *The Private Jefferson* opens a window onto the third president's inner life by digging into the single largest cache of Thomas Jefferson's private papers, held at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Essays by Peter S. Onuf, Andrea Wulf, and Henry Adams underscore aspects of Jefferson's character rather than retelling 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. Purchase your copy on your next visit to the MHS or seek it out at a popular online bookseller today!

WISH LIST

The MHS library needs your help expanding our collection of modern scholarly works. The library collects these secondary sources to support the work of researchers using our collections. Below is a list of 25 titles we seek in order to fill some holes in our current holdings. You can browse an expanded list of over 100 titles at www.masshist.org/collections/givebooks.

Turn your spring cleaning into a way to help the Society and to get your name on an MHS bookplate. Search your bookshelves, your closets, and under your beds, then contact Librarian Elaine Heavey (eheavey@masshist.org or 617-646-0509) if you find a title you would like to donate.

- Richard H. Abbot, *Cotton and Capital: Boston Businessmen and Antislavery Reform, 1854–1868*, 1991.
- Alan Clarke Buechner, *Yankee Singing Schools and the Golden Age of Choral Music in New England, 1760–1800*, 2003.
- Ardis Cameron, *Radicals of the Worst Sort: Laboring Women in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1860–1912*, 1994.
- Philip Cash, *Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse: A Life in Medicine and Public Service (1754–1846)*, 2006.
- Alfred A. Cave, *The Pequot War*, 1996.
- Richard W. Cogley, *John Eliot's Mission to the Indians before King Phillip's War*, 1999.
- Peter M. Doll, *Revolution, Religion, and National Identity: Imperial Anglicanism in British North America, 1745–1795*, 2000.
- James D. Drake, *King Phillip's War: Civil War in New England, 1675–1676*, 1999.
- Alan Emmet, *So Fine a Prospect: Historic New England Gardens*, 1996.
- John S. Garner, *The Model Company Town: Urban Design through Private Enterprise in Nineteenth-Century New England*, 1985.
- James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England*, 2001.
- Lisa M. Gordis, *Opening Scripture: Bible Reading and Interpretive Authority in New England*, 2003.
- Marsha L. Hamilton, *Social and Economic Networks in Early Massachusetts: Atlantic Connections*, 2009.
- Mary Ann Jimenez, *Changing Faces of Madness: Early American Attitudes and Treatment of the Insane*, 1987.
- Edgar J. McManus, *Law and Liberty in Early New England: Criminal Justice and Due Process, 1620–1692*, 1993.
- David Murray, *Indian Giving: Economies of Power in Early Indian-White Exchanges*, 2000.
- Sandra L. Oliver, *Saltwater Foodways: New Englanders and Their Food at Sea and Ashore in the Nineteenth Century*, 1995.
- Amy E. Den Ouden, *Beyond Conquest: Native Peoples and the Struggle for History in New England*, 2006.
- Mark Rennella, *The Boston Cosmopolitans: International Travel and American Arts and Letters*, 2008.
- Fey Ringel, *New England's Gothic Literature: History and Folklore of the Supernatural from the Seventeenth through the Twentieth Century*, 1995.
- Werner Sollors, Caldwell Titcomb, and Thomas A. Underwood (editors), *Blacks at Harvard: A Documentary History of African-American Experience at Harvard and Radcliffe*, 1993.
- Theodore Steinberg, *Nature Incorporated: Industrialization and the Waters of New England*, 1991.
- Daniel Vickers, *Farmers and Fishermen: Two Centuries of Work in Essex County, Massachusetts, 1630–1850*, 1994.
- David Wagner, *The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution*, 2005.
- Michael Williams, *Americans and Their Forests: A Historical Geography*, 1989.

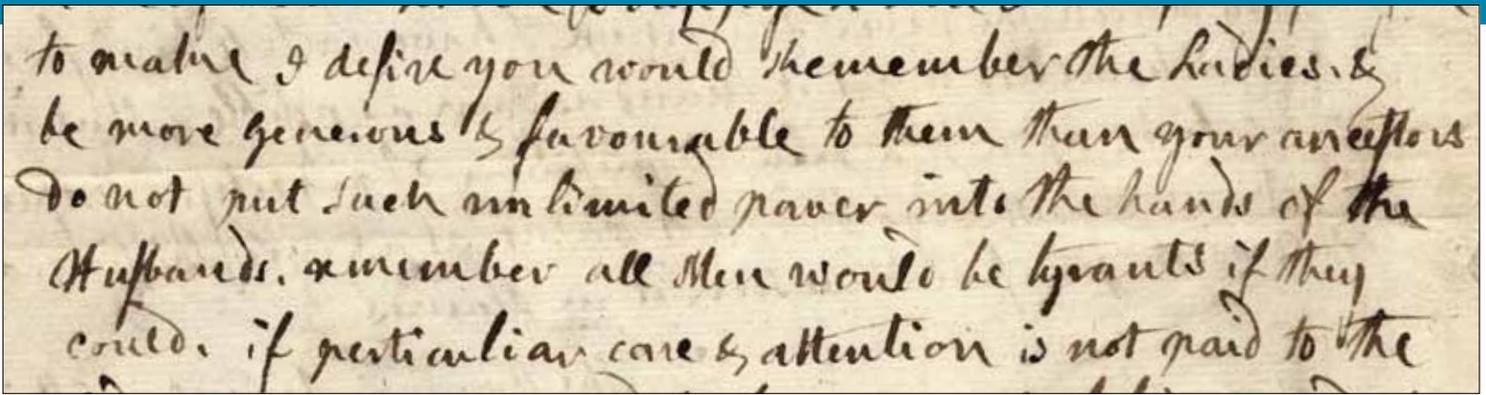
MHS MADNESS

We have a winner!

The results are in! Abigail Adams's famous "Remember the Ladies" letter is the champion of MHS Madness. As part of the Society's 225th anniversary celebrations, the MHS hosted a tournament to select the favorite item from the Society's collection. The 64 competitors, divided into four centuries of American history, were hand-picked to showcase a range of items—from iconic treasures to quirky historical artifacts. Voting began on February 1 with 16 items from the 17th century, and with each round, web visitors whittled down the possibilities until a winner was crowned on March 14. In the final round, the "Remember the Ladies" letter faced off with Samuel Sewall's diary entry in which he mentions his part as one of the judges at the infamous Salem witch trials in 1692.

"Remember the Ladies" was the clear favorite, winning 55 percent of the vote.

Abigail Adams wrote this letter on March 31, 1776, to her husband, John Adams, who was in Philadelphia serving in the first Continental Congress. She argued in support of equality for women before the law, writing: "I desire you would Remember the Ladies, & be more generous & favourable to them than your ancestors. do not put such unlimited powers into the hands of the Husbands. remember all Men would be tyrants if they could." Although Abigail's letter did not have the desired effect for women in her lifetime, she is considered a pioneering feminist by many modern scholars.



GIVE TO THE MHS FUND TODAY

The Massachusetts Historical Society is a center of research and learning dedicated to a deeper understanding of the American experience. Gifts to the MHS Fund provide the unrestricted operating support that is used every day to offer the resources necessary to move our top priorities forward.

This year we are not only celebrating 225 years of providing insight into the past but we are also kicking off a five-year strategic plan for the organization. Striving to become "the place for history" in the Boston area and throughout New England and a leading historical institution for the nation, we will, through our programs and exhibitions, celebrate the perspective American history brings to our own time and illustrate how it sustains our republic and guides our future. Our collections will be recognized by a wider public as a preeminent resource for the study of America around the globe, and we will continue to ensure access to those materials through our library and website. The Society's education initiatives will enliven the classroom experience as we advocate for the value of history in our schools' curricula. To realize this bold and inspiring vision, we depend on the support and commitment of people like you.

History is happening every day at the MHS because of the generosity of individuals like you. Give to the MHS Fund today so we can continue to collect, protect, and share American history, life, and culture for another 225 years!

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Since its founding in 1791, the MHS has benefited from a tradition of giving in Boston and beyond. A planned gift reflects your values and communicates your legacy; it tells a story of what you hold most important in your life and community. The MHS offers a wide range of planned giving options including charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, gifts of real estate or tangible personal property, and gifts from retirement plans or life insurance policies.

Those who have included the MHS in their long-term plans through bequests, life-income gifts, or other deferred-giving arrangements are part of the Society's legacy giving group, the James Sullivan Society. By joining the group—named for the Society's founding president, first recorded donor, and early legator through a generous bequest of important historical documents and artifacts—members of the Sullivan Society continue the tradition of giving.

There are a number of planned giving options that can help you realize your own philanthropic goals while ensuring the future financial stability of the MHS. To learn more, please contact the Development Department at 617-646-0543 or awolfe@masshist.org.

TERRA FIRMA: THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MHS MAP COLLECTION PREVIEW RECEPTION



Above: MHS Member Sandra Lane enjoys a closer look at the maps in the case.

Right: MHS Fellow Ken Turino and Gabe Quick are among the guests previewing the maps on display.



On October 1, MHS Fellows and Members enjoyed remarks by MHS Stephen T. Riley Librarian Peter Drummey and curator Mary Yacovone followed by a reception and the chance to preview *Terra Firma: The Beginnings of the MHS Map Collection*. The exhibition celebrated the beginnings of one of the Society's most diverse and interesting collections. On display were treasures such as the first published map of New England, the first map of Massachusetts published in America, and a unique copy of the earliest separate map of Vermont, among others.

PETER J. GOMES MEMORIAL BOOK PRIZE



At an award ceremony on October 29, the MHS presented the first Peter J. Gomes Memorial Book Prize to Mary Babson Fuhrer for her book *A Crisis of Community: The Trials and Transformation of a New England Town, 1815-1848*. Guests enjoyed a reception followed by the prize presentation and remarks by recipient Mary Fuhrer.



Clockwise from top: MHS President Dennis Fiori catches up with MHS Members Thomas and Rosemarie Smurzynski during the reception. MHS Fellow Mary Babson Fuhrer accepts the award from MHS Worthington C. Ford Editor and Director of Research Conrad E. Wright. MHS Member Sandra Lane and Preston Williams have books signed by MHS Fellow Mary Babson Fuhrer.

AN EVENING WITH DAVID MCCULLOUGH

In a sold-out event on November 13, 130 guests enjoyed an evening at the MHS with Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award-winning author and MHS Fellow David McCullough. Following a reception guests were invited to sit back and listen as David McCullough talked about his process, his works, and his latest book, *The Wright Brothers*. Tickets from the event helped to support the Society's educational efforts.



Guests line up to have books signed by MHS Fellow David McCullough.



MHS Fellow David McCullough speaks with MHS Member Joan Lynch.

Dolph Hutter enjoys the reception with Regina Adams and MHS Fellow John Adams.

Rosalee McCullough speaks with MHS Overseer George Lewis and MHS Trustee Peter Spang.

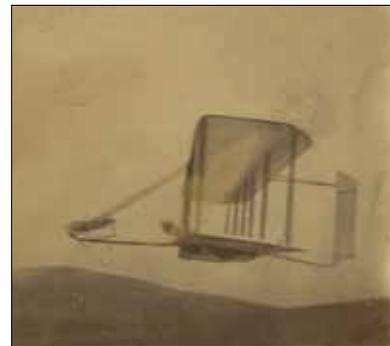
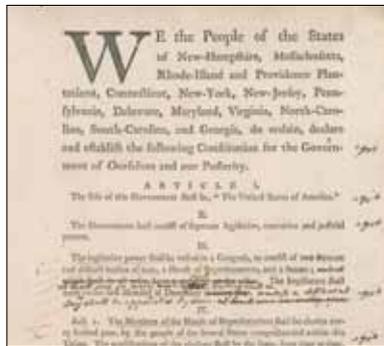
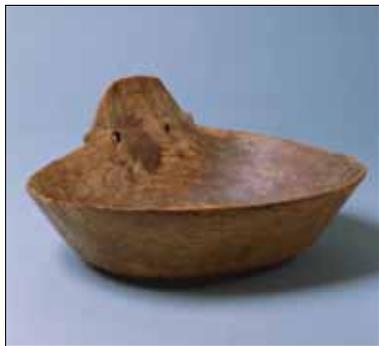


On December 9, more than 130 MHS Fellows, Members, and friends gathered at the Society for the annual holiday party. Good food, holiday cheer, and festive tidings were enjoyed by one and all. The Figgy Puddin' Carollers sang carols and Stephen T. Riley Librarian Peter Drummey amused guests by reading the anti-Christmas laws.



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TURNING POINTS

in American History

Through a selection of letters, diaries, artifacts, and photographs from the Society's collections, examine 15 turning points in American history and reflect on how these moments continue to impact our lives today.