The mission of the Massachusetts Historical Society is to promote understanding of the history of Massachusetts and the nation by collecting and communicating materials and resources that foster historical knowledge.
Year in Review

Reaching out, thinking big, and making history—what a year it has been for the MHS!

We welcomed new staff and new Board members, connected with multiple audiences, processed 152 linear feet of material, welcomed researchers from around the world, and broke fundraising records at our new Making History Gala all while strategizing about our future.

A renewed sense of energy, purpose, and focus among the staff—at all levels and in all departments—is evident every day as we reach out to answer the need for civic participation and historical knowledge. Delivering the day-to-day, top-quality work for which we are known is our top priority.

Throughout the year, scholars moved in and out of the building, researching in the reading room, leading seminars, participating in brown-bag lunch programs, and discussing a robust slate of fellowship applications. Teachers and students participated in twenty-seven workshops complete with demonstrations and discussions all while learning the skills of an historian with primary sources. Visitors enjoyed three fascinating exhibitions: Entrepreneurship and Classical Design in Boston’s South End: The Furniture of Isaac Vose and Thomas Seymour, 1815 to 1825, Fashioning the New England Family, and “Can She Do It?: Massachusetts Debates a Woman’s Right to Vote,” as well as gallery tours, pop-up displays, and Saturday building tours. What’s more:

- Thanks to a robust, diverse, and engaging roster of programs, we broke attendance records for the fifth consecutive year.
- As the state sponsor of National History Day in Massachusetts, we expanded school participation in the program by almost 20%. Greater awareness, in-classroom introductory workshops, and partnerships with Mass Humanities and the Mass Cultural Council contributed to the increase.
- Publication was the Society’s first form of education and outreach, and there is much to celebrate on that front with the completion of volume 4 of the five-volume edition of The Papers of Robert Treat Paine and volume 14 of Adams Family Correspondence.
- We celebrated the life and legacy of Abigail Adams with a series of rotating exhibitions, gallery talks, public programs, and an online bracket in which participants voted for their favorite Abigail letter.
- Our unparalleled collection continues to grow, as do our online resources. This year, 352 linear feet of manuscripts were acquired from 115 gifts and 5 deposits.
- Carefully cataloged records, professionally executed finding aids, and a congenial atmosphere enticed 824 individual researchers who made 2,565 visits to the MHS this year.

Your support has made these successes possible and we thank you for your commitment. We remain deeply honored to serve as President and Chair of this wonderful organization and are grateful to the Boards, staff, supporters, and friends as we work together to determine our future.

Let’s continue to make history!

Paul W. Sandman
Chair, Board of Trustees

Catherine Allgor
President
Impact

National History Day

It made history real, meaningful and personal for students. The wide variety of topics and the richness and depth of conversations I had with kids, and the things I learned from them contributed to one of the most valuable and meaningful things I have ever done as a teacher.”

—Kristen Tabacco, Lynn Classical High School

National History Day in Massachusetts, the state affiliate of National History Day (NHD), is a year-long interdisciplinary program focused on historical research, interpretation, and creative expression for students in grades 6 through 12. Students conduct research on a historical topic of their choosing and present their work through a documentary film, website, performance, paper, or exhibition. Since 2017, the MHS has sponsored this program, leading a host of volunteers, educators, and students through local and regional competitions and then to the national finals.

Impact Case Study: The Lynn School District

Searching for a way to improve history education in its schools, the Lynn School District approached the MHS to find a proven history program that would hone both research and writing skills. National History Day fit the bill.

MHS staff encouraged Lynn to bring the NHD approach to student research into their school gradually. Beginning in the 2018—2019 academic year, teachers focused on integrating the program into their curriculum. The effort made a strong impression on teachers and students, including Lynn Classical High School teacher Kristen Tabacco, who called NHD “perhaps the most vital program we can use as educators today.”

Joseph Severe, then a junior at Classical High, also had an exceptional experience with NHD that year. Challenging himself to reach the regional competition Joseph revised a paper he had written on the legacy of Emmett Till for his submission. He not only made it to the competition but also won a Mass Humanities Frederick Douglass Award. In addition to the $500 prize given to the student, the award also grants $500 to the student’s school to purchase books related to African-American history and culture. Envisioning a robust Civil Rights section, Joseph augmented that amount by donating part of his prize money to the library for additional books. He also used his money to launch an after-school program for students in need.

The impact of NHD for students is manifold. For students like Joseph it offers the opportunity to delve into a topic they are passionate about while developing research and writing skills they may not practice again until college. NHD also rewards and nurtures civic-mindedness, providing a platform for students to solve issues in their community as active citizens. As Kristen Tabacco stressed during a celebration event at the Massachusetts State House on April 22, 2019, “It is more important than ever to teach students to think for themselves, and to learn how to evaluate the huge influx of information coming at them every day. [Our] children need to learn valuable skills like evaluating bias, corroborating evidence and sources, and determining validity and reliability of sources and media.”

Growth Potential

After its first year of NHD curriculum integration—and success at the 2018–2020 regionals—the Lynn School District has moved on to adding the competition component to the program for students district-wide in 2019–2020. Now Massachusetts must work toward more growth across the Commonwealth. The nearly 6,000 Bay State students who currently participate in NHD are only 1% of those eligible. One of our most pressing goals is to boost that number as quickly as possible—especially since NHD requirements align with newly implemented history education standards. But more resources are required to remove obstacles and increase access to this transformative program. Fees must be eliminated or reduced; legislators need to dedicate state funding for NHD in Massachusetts; high-quality training and materials must be made available to teachers; and easily searchable materials, particularly primary and secondary sources, need to be accessible to students.

Teachers are eager to integrate NHD into their curricula. Students who participate in NHD also perform better in other academic subjects, not just history. And the practical skills that this program fosters—communication skills, both spoken and written, and critical thinking—help shape them into successful global citizens.

Students at 2019 National History Day in Massachusetts, Regional Competition.
Dating from 1803 to 1823, this collection includes previously unknown letters by John Quincy Adams, James Madison, James Monroe, Elbridge Gerry, the Marquis de Lafayette, and James Sullivan. The letters pertain primarily to politics and include topics such as the Louisiana Purchase, foreign policy, Jefferson’s Embargo Act of 1807, relations with the Indians, the War of 1812, and the responsibilities of a first lady. More personal notes appear in letters that graciously extend invitations to dine, regretfully decline tickets to the theater, and ask after family and mutual friends.

In FY2019, an outstanding collection of sixteen letters came to the MHS from an anonymous donor. Of these letters, fourteen were written to William Eustis, a physician and statesman, and two were exchanged between Caroline Eustis and Dolley Madison. Correspondents include Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, James Madison, James Monroe, Elbridge Gerry, the Marquis de Lafayette, and James Sullivan. The letters pertain primarily to politics and include topics such as the Louisiana Purchase, foreign policy, Jefferson’s Embargo Act of 1807, relations with the Indians, the War of 1812, and the responsibilities of a first lady. More personal notes appear in letters that graciously extend invitations to dine, regretfully decline tickets to the theater, and ask after family and mutual friends.

Thanks to documentary editing projects that track the existence of every known letter written to or from their subject, we know that five of the letters were completely unknown. Another four were known only from retained copies of outgoing correspondence, with the location of the originals a mystery. They complement letters already in the MHS collections among our presidential papers and Eustis family correspondence.

Physician, Statesman, and Army Surgeon
Born in Cambridge in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1753, William Eustis began his career as an army surgeon during the American Revolution. He represented Massachusetts in Congress from 1801 to 1805 and again at the end of his career from 1820 to 1823. In 1801 William married Caroline Langdon—later called Madame Eustis. Twenty-seven years his junior, she was reputed to be well-read and very beautiful. She managed William’s household first in Washington, DC, during his initial term as a U.S. representative and as secretary of war under James Madison (1809–1812), and later in The Hague from 1814 to 1818 when he was named envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Netherlands.

From 1819, the Eustises settled at Shirley Place (now the Shirley-Eustis House) in Roxbury where they entertained lavishly, hosting John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and, famously, the Marquis de Lafayette, among others. William was elected governor of Massachusetts in 1823, serving until his death from pneumonia in 1825. Madame Eustis survived her husband by forty years. Having torn up the carpets of their home in Washington to make uniforms for soldiers fighting in the War of 1812, in the final years of her life she knit socks for Union soldiers. Before her own death in 1865, she “was accustomed to remark that few people were permitted to witness the birth of a nation to watch it grow, growing with it, and to see its life struggle and end victory, as she was at last able to do.” (Ida Ayres, “Shirley Place,” The New England Magazine, n.s. 15, no. 6 [February 1897]: 755).

Acquisition Spotlight

Letters to William and Caroline Eustis

“It is remarkable that such an important group of letters had been in private hands. Not only are they in pristine condition but it is wonderful to have found several previously unknown letters that contain newly discovered content. The enormous generosity of the donor has enabled us to make these letters available to the public.”

—Brenda Lawson, VP for Collections

Highlights from the Collection

Among the highlights is a previously unknown letter written by John Quincy Adams on April 25, 1808, in which he offers his reasoning for breaking with the Federalist Party on matters of foreign policy, in particular his support for Jefferson’s Embargo: “There is so much of self-delusion in human Nature, that I know not whether a man
can always, and especially on trying occasions, an-
swer with much more certainty for the purity of his
own motives, than other men can answer for him. I
can therefore only say that I believe myself to have
acted solely and exclusively from considerations of
a public nature, and with a single view to the real
interests of the nation." He continues, "I cannot yet
bring myself very severely to censure a course of
policy which I believe was dictated by the love of
Peace." Adams left the Senate less than two months
later after the state legislature, still controlled by
Federalists, elected his successor.

Another previously unknown letter comes from
James Monroe. Writing on September 24, 1816,
Monroe inquires as to the health of the Marquis de
Lafayette, with whom the Eustises had stayed while
in Paris: "there remain very few, to whom I could
address a friend, except the Marquis of Lafayette. . . .
How is his health, & in what circumstances is he?
The friends of our revolution must always take an
interest in his welfare, especially those who partici-
pated with him in that glorious struggle." The Eus-
tises would return the Marquis de Lafayette's hos-
pitality nearly a decade later when they hosted him
at Shirley Place in 1824 during his grand tour of
America. The marquis slept in the guest room, his
bodyguard on the front lawn, and poor Madame
Eustis had to organize and cook a celebratory feast
on two day's notice when official plans in Boston
proper suddenly fell through.

In her letter to Dolley Madison dated September
9, 1815, Caroline Eustis recounts that she and her
husband "received an invitation from his Majesty
to attend the coronation at Bruxelles." In honor
of the occasion, she sends Madison portraits of
the new monarchs, William I and Wilhelmina
of the occasion, she sends Madison portraits of
her husband "received an invitation from his Majesty
on two day's notice when official plans in Boston
proper suddenly fell through.

In a poignant letter written on October 1, 1823,
John Quincy Adams sends his regrets and returns
tickets to the theater in Portland, preferring to
spend as much time with his father as he could
before returning to Washington. He writes: "The
desire to spend with my father, all the time, which
I can now, and perhaps ever dispose of to that pur-
pose has induced me to renounce my contemplated
tour to Portland, and I have remained with him
instead of going there." While the MHS already
held a retained letterbook copy of this letter, the
location of the recipient letter was unknown.

The collection is fully digitized and available on-
line at: www.masshist.org/collection-guides/view/
fa0177).

The Honorable Joan Fink has become a regular
at the MHS, volunteering with the staff sev-
eral times a week for almost a decade, in addition
to her service on the Council of Overseers and sev-
eral committees. The mutual admiration between
Judge Fink and the MHS began around the time
she decided to retire, when she found herself deep
in a conversation about the Civil War with her
friends Julia and Fred Pfannenstiehl. The latter,
an MHS Trustee, recognized a fellow history-lover
and recommended that she visit the MHS.

After an introductory tour with Peter Drummey,
Judge Fink embarked on her first volunteer proj-
et: preparing transcriptions of Civil War docu-
ments for a years-long web feature commemerat-
ing the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Working
with Elaine Heavey, director of the library, she dug
into the MHS collections to find likely objects (of-
ten letters or diary entries), transcribe the histori-
cal text for presentation online, and do the research
that would put each item in context. Finding it
"fascinating to read the different letters, and not
just those from the soldiers but also children, nurs-
es, doctors, even a couple on their honeymoon," she
discovered through their own words "how they
were all touched by the war."

By the time that project wrapped up, Judge Fink
was hooked on "the joy of immersing oneself in this
material" and on the MHS. She brought her now
polished facility for reading nineteenth-century
documents and her knowledge of the Civil War
to the Publications Department, where she has
worked with the editors to prepare the digital edi-
tion of the diary that Charles Francis Adams, Sr.,
kept on his diplomatic mission to England from
1861 to 1868. Among the many pleasures of reading
Adams's daily entries, she notes "the large number
of issues that are still so important today—these
are not at all in the past!" She sees how much is rel-
vant and how much we still "deal with the legacy
of the Civil War."

Judge Fink's unwavering advocacy of the MHS has
had other unexpected outcomes as well, including
the recent accession of a cache of previously un-
known Eustia family correspondence. While these
letters still rest in private hands, those stewards
learned about the care and access that the MHS
could provide thanks to Judge Fink, and hence the
gift came here. As our ambassador, she had swayed
them with her descriptions of not just the research
value, but the very "joy that the scholars and the
public get in reading such collections." As a collec-
tions discoverer, our friend has taken part in the
excitement known to archivists here: the satisfac-
tion of keeping Massachusetts items local and the
thrill of realizing such new finds are still out there.
Judge Fink's own description of the experience?
"Bone-chillingly exciting."

Clearly, Joan Fink's deep and multifaceted com-
mmitment to her colleagues at the MHS has cre-
ated a lively relationship that benefits everyone.
And the excitement and joy she brings to her engagement
with our collections is felt among the staff who
work with her on these projects, creating histori-
cal knowledge together and being "part of a profes-
sional family" at 1154 Boylston Street.
Gifts
Adams Memorial Society: Additions to the Adams Memorial Society records
Algonquin Club: Algonquin Club records
Catherine Allerone: Matthew Alyea: Henry S. Smith papers
Jack J. Alves: Roger Amory: Amory family papers
Anon: Anonymous: Additions to William and Caroline Evans: William and Caroline Evans family papers
Michael C. Alves: Geoffrey G. and Sylvia L. Bell: the Batchelder-Lewis family papers
Wilhemina Batchelder-Brown: reminiscences by Dr. Lincoln Ripley Stone
Susan K. Baker: photographs related to Boston’s T Wharf
Codman-Balch family papers
Additions to the Forbes family papers and photographs
Friday Evening Club: Additions to the Friday Evening Club records
Lorraine J. German: Nathaniel Goddard and Georgia Goddard Shinwell: Additions to the Amory-Goddard family papers
Richard T. Greeno: Grimes-King Foundation: Additions to the Forbes family papers
Joshua Hamerman: Harding family in memory of their Eckfield heritage: Roger Weed Eckfeldt family papers
Charlotte Harris: Judy Hayes: Frank Heffron: Greg Hill: John Gott of Gloucester, 1795–1830
Additions to the Forbes family papers
Additions to the Rogers family papers
Additions to the Mary Whipple family papers
Additions to the Mary Rice papers
Lawrence A. Ruttman: Xavier Rushing: American Public Library, 1904–1910
Women’s Journal (Boston: D. Hinton), 1836, advertised and sold by Thomas Holmes, broadside
Mary Elizabeth Williams diary: Worcester’s Experience. A Year’s Obligation Compared with License. (Boston: Massachusetts No-License League), 1909, broadside
Ledger kept by Boston apothecary Theodore Metcalfe & Co.
Diarists:account books attributed to Mary Ann (Price) Valentine Osgood of Hopkinton, 1833–1852
Millinery account book attributed to Catherine Rice of Weymouth, 1820–1820
Pocket diaries kept by Mary C. Rood, 1862–1902
Letters exchanged between Sarah White Shattuck and her father, Loomis Shattuck
Letters from artist Joseph Lindon Smith to Margaret Weaverholst, 1911–1912
Journal of a trip from Boston to Rio de Janeiro attributed to William Curtis Stevenson, 1847–1848
Bitter, the Great Blind Purifier (Boston: A.P. Ordway), [1884]
Pocket diary attributed to Frances Elizabeth (Chase) Smith, 1871
To the Public. The unparalleled success attending the use of... Dr. Ward’s Vegetable Asthmatic Pills (Boston: D. Hinton), 1836, advertised and sold by Thomas Holmes, broadside
Diary and memorandum book kept by Acton teacher Caroline E. Tuttle, 1852–1857
Civil War journal kept in loose leaf form by Pvt. Howard J. Ford of Cambridge
Civil War journal kept in loose leaf form by Pvt. Howard J. Ford of Cambridge
William Lloyd Garrison Jr., an address to the People of the United States at the Howard Athenaeum, May 20, 1847 (Boston: Washburn Press), 1847
Pocket diary kept by Boston merchant Robert Waterman, 1847
Mary Elizabeth Williams diary: Ledger kept by Boston apothecary Theodore Metcalfe & Co.
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Pocket diary kept by Boston merchant Robert Waterman, 1847
Mary Elizabeth Williams diary:
In Memoriam
Amalie M. Kass

When Amalie M. Kass passed away in May 2019, the loss was felt broadly throughout her many communities. Here at the MHS, where Mrs. Kass has been so deeply engaged and supportive for more than thirty years, her loss has had a deep impact on staff and Board members alike.

Mrs. Kass became a Fellow of the Society in 1995, joined the Board of Trustees (then the Council) a year later, and served as the head of that body from 2002 to 2009—the first woman to do so. She brought to that work a vision for the Society informed by the many ways she engaged with it: as a teacher, historian, author, and philanthropist. Mrs. Kass was a part of the MHS across the spectrum of its mission.

She knew firsthand the process of teasing evidence from archival records, having arrived at 1154 Boylston Street in the 1980s in order to use the collections to pursue her study of medical history. Like many of our researchers, she crafted rigorously gathered evidence into works of published history, including her books *Perfecting the World: The Life and Times of Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, 1798–1866* (1988), co-authored with her husband Edward H. Kass, and *Midwifery and Medicine in Boston: Walter Channing, M.D., 1786–1876* (2001). Her self-discipline as an author is also reflected in the Massachusetts Historical Review, where she published articles that exemplify the care and clarity we hope for in all scholarly communication.

“She was almost unique in being a skilled researcher who was at home in our reading room as at an MHS board meeting or social event,” notes Peter Drummey, Stephen T. Riley Librarian, who knew Mrs. Kass from her early research trips to the MHS. In June 2017, the office next to the reading room, used to register new researchers, was officially dedicated as the Kass Room, recognizing the great value she placed on the Society’s open welcome to all seekers of historical understanding.

As a Trustee, Mrs. Kass participated in the Society’s governance for more than two decades. As Chair of the Board, she guided the MHS through nearly a decade of some of its most significant change, leading especially in the area of education.

Drawing on her background as a high school history teacher, Mrs. Kass fostered education in the Society’s programming, allowing us to move from happenstance events for visiting groups to a deliberate and funded suite of opportunities for students and especially teachers, including on- and off-site workshops, online resources, and fellowships. The leadership role the MHS now plays in running National History Day in Massachusetts (see pages 2–3 for more) originated from Mrs. Kass’s vision, and her commitment to improving history education determined the initial mission of the Council of Overseers, which she led as its inaugural chair.

An effective leader and administrator, Mrs. Kass contributed to the Society on a richly human level, meeting everyone as an individual with warmth and respect. In this, she brought new friends to the Society and a sense of recognition and gratitude to all who conducted the institution’s everyday business. And the equilibrium with which she could keep on course the occasionally quarrelsome meeting was unparalleled. Through it all, the guidance she brought reflected her deeply held understanding of the importance of history—focused, well-grounded, thoughtful history—to the nation’s democratic values. She grasped the crucial nature of the work we do at the MHS and supported that work with her insight and energy, and that gift continues to support and motivate us today.

MHS Trustee Robert G. Ripley, Jr. shared, “I am forever grateful to Fred Ballou for introducing me to Amalie. My first visit to the MHS, to meet her and discuss committee assignments, was a glorious introduction and the first of many visits. Working on Martha’s Vineyard, I would meet Amalie for lunch over the summer and will cherish those luncheons and our talks about all things history and the MHS. A most marvelous woman who will be missed deeply.”

“On so many projects her wisdom was invaluable. Her generosity was magnificent and in difficult times helped lead us out of trouble. She will be missed by us all.”

—William Clendaniel, MHS Trustee Emeritus
What’s the Buzz Around the MHS?

Our vast collections are used for a range of projects by research fellows, and a broad array of topics are presented through workshops, programs, seminars, and brown-bag lunches. Looking at these subjects, one can learn a lot about the trends in historical study. The words on these two pages reflect the terms and names used by our scholars and speakers. The topics that came up most frequently are presented in black in the center of the page. The larger the font size, the more often the scholars used them to describe their work.
## Financial Statements

### Statement of Activities (in thousands)

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<th>Unrestricted revenues and support</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<td>Gifts and grants</td>
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<td>Seminars, conferences, workshops, and other events</td>
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<td>Other revenues</td>
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<td>Release of restricted gifts</td>
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<td>Operating Expenses</td>
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<td>Non-operating activity</td>
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<td>Proceeds from sale of collections</td>
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### Statement of Financial Position (in thousands)

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<td>Property, equipment, and other assets</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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<th>Net assets</th>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Permanently restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
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<td>$98,620</td>
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Thank You to Our Donors

Our sincere thanks to our generous contributors. Our committee helps us connect to people and history. Without you, the work of the MHS would not be possible.

Donors of $20,000 and up

Jonathan Hecht and Lora Sabin
Serena Hatch
Martin and Deborah Hale
Michael B. and Mary Fox
Newell and Kate Flather
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Downtown Boston Business Improvement District

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Ann Beha and Rob Radloff

We are enormously grateful to Eleanor and Levin H. Campbell, Sr., for their generous gift to establish the Conrad E. Wright Research Conference Fund. The first conference to bear this name will take place in the fall of 2020. We are planning a conference that will compare the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments and mark the sesquicentennial and centennial anniversaries of the Fifteenth Amendment. The conference will be held in partnership with the International Museum of WWII and will feature a keynote address by Dr. Evelyn B. Higginbotham, historian and dean of academic affairs at Howard University. The conference will explore the enduring legacy of the Fifteenth Amendment and its impact on American society, as well as the ongoing struggle for voting rights and civil rights. The conference will also feature a panel discussion with experts in the field of American history, as well as a reception and networking event. We hope that you will join us for this important event, and we look forward to seeing you there.
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