The society will celebrate the lives and writings of three remarkable sets of sisters—members of the Smith, Quincy, and Peabody families who were authors, artists, and diarists—in an exhibition that will open May 12. While we have collected personal and family papers for more than two centuries, in describing them we often have focused so much on the “great men” and epochal events of American history that we have neglected or overlooked women’s correspondence and writings, even when they were hiding in plain sight in the very same personal and family collections.

Our show takes its title from Mark DeWolfe Howe’s *The Articulate Sisters*, edited passages from the journals and letters of five indefatigable Quincy women: Eliza Susan, Abigail Phillips, Maria Sophia, Margaret Morton, and Anna Cabot Lowell Quincy. Four of the five Quincy sisters were avid diarists, and one—“Sister Susan”—was a talented watercolorist who illustrated her journals with her own paintings and drawings. The letters of the formidable Abigail (Smith) Adams to her husband and children are justly famous, but those to her confidantes and helpmates—her sisters “Aurelia” (Mary Smith Cranch) and “Betsy” (Elizabeth Smith Shaw)—are less well known. Examples of this wonderful “sisterly” correspondence will be on display.


“Articulate Sisters” will be on display at the MHS through Labor Day. If you wish to attend the MHS Spring Exhibition on May 12 or the book signing on June 2, RSVP to 617-646-0552.

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View of the home of John Adams in Quincy, watercolor by Eliza Susan Quincy, 1822. From the Eliza Susan Quincy “Memoirs,” Massachusetts Historical Society.
The MHS reading room is open to the public free of charge, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4:45 PM, and until 8 PM on Thursdays.

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

Masthead illustration:
“Plan & Elevation of the Tontine Crescent, now erecting in Boston.” From the Massachusetts Magazine, 1794.

The MHS occupied the Tontine Crescent from 1794 until 1833.

SOCIETY WELCOMES FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

The Society’s staff is accustomed to welcoming scholars from around the world, but few become as much a part of our community as Andrei Isserov. Since October, Isserov has made the Society his headquarters while in the United States as a Fulbright Scholar. A doctoral candidate in history at Moscow State University, he is conducting research for a dissertation on U.S.–Latin American relations, 1815–1829.

Awards such as the Fulbright grant Isserov holds provide scholars with the luxury of time. Each year, the Institute of International Education places American scholars in countries around the world. In turn, foreign scholars travel to the United States. Most recipients spend their Fulbright year in colleges or universities, but on occasion other placements make more sense.

In Isserov’s case, the Society’s Adams Papers were the prime attraction. John Quincy Adams’s years as secretary of state under James Monroe (1817–1825) and president (1825–1829) cover almost the entire period of Isserov’s dissertation and provide insights into the period’s most important diplomatic development, the promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine. During an extended diplomatic career, Adams also served as U.S. minister to the Hague (1794–1797), Berlin (1797–1801), St. Petersburg (1809–1814), and the Court of St. James’s (1815–1817). Isserov has also taken advantage of his tenure at the Society to make forays to other repositories in Boston and New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

At the same time that Isserov has profited from his tenure in Boston, the MHS has benefited from his term at the Society. Our first Fulbright Scholar, he has been an active and enthusiastic participant in a variety of MHS events including the weekly lunch for staff and fellows, brown bag lunches, seminars, lectures, and the annual dinner.

“I would like to thank the MHS staff for the kind support during my stay here,” says Isserov. “Doing research in such a wonderful repository is a real blessing for every early Americanist.” His Fulbright term will end in July.

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MHS RECEIVES TWO CIVIL WAR COLLECTIONS

At the end of 2004, the MHS added to its substantial holdings of personal papers related to the Civil War with two new collections that arrived in December within hours of each other.

The first, the gift of Eloise Hodges of Boston, was an extraordinary collection of letters written to and from Gen. Stephen M. Weld. General Weld had a remarkable military career. Commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the 18th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment in January 1862, he had risen to the rank of captain by May 1863, a period that included six weeks spent in a Confederate prison camp. He was discharged from the 18th Massachusetts in December 1863 to accept a promotion to lieutenant colonel with the 56th Massachusetts, where he rose to the rank of colonel in May 1864. During his career, he served as an aide de camp to Gen. Horatio G. Wright and as a member of the staff of Gen. Fitz-John Porter. Weld saw action in many major engagements, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Siege of Petersburg, where he was wounded and captured; he was exchanged after six months in December 1864. He was mustered out on July 12, 1865, and was later breveted a general.

Weld published extracts from his journal and wartime correspondence in 1912, eight years before his death, as War Diary and Letters of Stephen Minot Weld, 1861–1865. Riverside Press printed only 50 copies of the book, which instantly became collectible as a Civil War memoir. In 1979, Philip S. Weld, an MHS member and the father of Eloise Hodges, underwrote a second edition of the memoir, which the Massachusetts Historical Society published. The print run of 1,000 copies was exhausted in less than two years, an indi-
cation of the popularity of reminiscences of the conflict.

The collection Mrs. Hodges donated contains letters that Weld wrote to his sisters Hannah and Carrie in Jamaica Plain in 1863 and 1864, as well as letters soldiers from other regiments wrote to him from 1861 through 1864. None of this correspondence appears in the published editions, making them a new source for Civil War researchers.

In letters home, particularly to his sister Hannah, Weld recounts his various assignments and promotions, frequent movements of his unit, general news of the war effort, and gossip about his fellow officers. On May 12, 1863, Weld wrote that the Army of the Potomac lacked confidence in Gen. Joseph Hooker, whose indecision at Chancellorsville led to defeat May 1–4 despite a 2:1 advantage in troops over Gen. Robert E. Lee:

... at any moment we may be on our way again towards Richmond. We shall have to go or try to go there, under Gen. Hooker and I am very much afraid that we shall only meet with failure. He managed the last battle miserably, and in my opinion, as well as in the opinion of much able judges, he has shown himself totally incompetent to command this army. ... Everyone is disgusted with him. He allows no papers to be sent to the Army, except the Washington Chronicle, which puffs him up to the skies.

Stephen Minot Weld during his service with the 56th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

I propose to write you an account of New Year's Day here in Washington. Here as in New York everyone calls on everyone else, and the streets have been full of carriages and people from morning till evening. ... From the General's room all the Staff went to the President's and called on him. The Gen., of course, being under arrest, did not go. It was a very pretty sight there. I shook old Abe's paw, & then passed into the drawing room, where we found the room full of officers, foreign ministers & attaches who had paid their respects to the President. The uniforms made a very fine show and I felt quite well repaid for my trouble in calling on Abraham.

Despite his position, Weld's letters to Hannah are often personal and gossipy as only a sibling or close friend would write:

I think that the rumor of Miss F. H. engagement is true. I wonder whether she wont want that lock hair I cut off, when I was home last. The reason she joined the E'ie's church was very evident to me. It was to please Mr. George. Well I am glad that she has got a rich young man, although I don't think much of him otherwise. He is a good-natured and perfectly harmless.

Although best known for his military career, Weld is also known as the owner of one of the first rock gardens in the United States, Rockweld in Dedham.

The second Civil War collection that arrived in December included a journal kept from March 15 to September 27, 1864, by Charles Henry Calhoun Brown of Boston, a lieutenant and adjutant with the 7th Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops, as well as books related to Brown's service in the 39th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment and the 7th U.S.C.T. In the journal, Brown describes his unit's service in Jacksonville, Florida, following the Union loss at the Battle of Olustee and near Fortress Monroe, Virginia, the residence of many “contraband” who had liberated themselves and then moved to Bermuda Hundred, part of the final Petersburg/Richmond campaign: “Aug. 24. The Rebels in our front not being over friendly with Colored Troops have been firing on our pickets today, five men of our regiment wounded.”

Calhoun eventually rose to the rank of brevet captain. Between the late 1860s and the mid 1870s he was a clerk and bookkeeper in Cambridgeport; by the mid 1890s he was the treasurer at S. S. Pierce Company, the longtime Boston grocery.

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MHS Arranges for Book Distribution with UVA Press

Do you want to order a book from the MHS? The process has changed because the Society has a new distributor.

In March 2004, Northeastern University announced that it would no longer maintain its university press, our
book distributor for two decades. (At the end of 2004, Northeastern University announced an affiliation with the University Press of New England, which has begun to issue some titles under the Northeastern University Press imprint.) In order to ensure a seamless transition, the Society's Department of Publication and Research Programs immediately made contact with a number of other presses. After serious discussions with several agencies we settled on the University of Virginia Press.

Some readers may know that the University of Virginia Press is the longtime distributor for one of our sister institutions, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. You may not know, however, that the Press is actively involved in an important new initiative—digital publication through its Rotunda imprint. The Press issued its first major electronic title, the Dolley Madison Digital Edition, last fall at about the same time that we concluded our distribution agreement. In its initial phase, our contract with the Press covers only printed works—a selection of titles from our backlist as well as our future publications—but both parties are also looking closely at future electronic collaborations.

For the present, you can order our books through the Press's website, www.upress.virginia.edu, or online either through amazon.com or Barnes and Noble. If you prefer to place an order by telephone, the Press's toll-free number is 1-800-831-3406. Or you can write to University Press of Virginia, PO Box 400318, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4318. As a consequence of the transition to a new distributor, the Society is now handling some of its own titles, including back numbers of Collections, House Journals, Proceedings, and Sibley's Harvard Graduates as well as all picture books. To order these titles, please contact the Department of Publication and Research Programs at the Society, 617-646-0513 or 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215.

* * *

**From the Director**

For many years I have had the privilege of serving on the Massachusetts State Archives Advisory Board. In recent years, under the leadership of the Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, the State Archives has administered the Documentary Heritage Grant Program. This initiative invites historical societies, public agencies, local historical commissions, and others to apply for support to preserve and make accessible important historical documents in their care.

The program has been a tremendous success. I recently made my way through a pile of 50 applications—every one of them worthy of support. Unfortunately, there is not enough money to fund every project.

There is much left to be done, but it is a tonic to me, and I hope to you, to know that so many people and organizations care about our heritage and are working to preserve it. Because you are reading this I know that you are a friend and supporter of the MHS. I hope that you extend that support to your local historical/preservation society. Remember, we have a Commonwealth to keep.

* * *

**New England Environmental History Initiative**

Last summer, the Society launched the New England Environmental History Initiative, a collaborative project to encourage and direct the collection of archival records that document our region's environmental past.

The initiative draws on the expertise of the Society's constituents, assembling diverse and enthusiastic groups of scholars, professionals working in state and regional environmental affairs, environmental activists, and archivists to discuss the issues, individuals, and organizations that have shaped New England's landscape. The Society hosted the first of these discussions in January 2005 as part of its own Boston Environmental History Seminar series. In more recent months, members of the Society's staff, including Cheryl Beredo, an archivist funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to develop the initiative, have led similar meetings at the University of Massachusetts—Amherst and the Harvard Forest in Petersham, Massachusetts.

All of these gatherings, lively and illuminating in their own right, also help to inform the Society's collecting priorities and, indeed, confirm the importance of and growing interest in the field of environmental history. Moreover, our meetings generate discussions beyond the seminar room after the group has dispersed; the initiative routinely prompts informal conversations about those aspects of the environment unique to New England. Both formal presentations and everyday conversations, each in their own way, effectively raise awareness of our region's notable environmental past and renew appreciation for the Society's strong holdings in the area of environmental history.

The Society holds the personal papers of key figures in the founding of the modern conservation movement in 19th-century Massachusetts such as Theodore Lyman III, who campaigned to protect New England rivers from the effects of industrial damming, and Charles
Francis Adams, Jr., president of the MHS and a driving force behind Boston's Metropolitan Parks Commission. More recently, the Society acquired the organizational records of the Environmental League of Massachusetts and its predecessor organizations, the Massachusetts Forestry Association and the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association, as well as the papers of Charles H. W. Foster, Dean of Yale University’s School of Forestry and the first Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs. The Society also houses oral histories conducted with Foster and the secretaries that followed him. Through the initiative, the Society seeks to build on these holdings and, in so doing, ensure the preservation of New England’s environmental history.

In the archival world, researcher involvement in the development of collecting strategies is generally uncharted territory. For the Society’s first forays into collaborative collecting, it is fortunate to draw upon the collective knowledge of the New England Environmental History Initiative’s many supporters and participants.

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**New at the Adams Papers**

(or Who’s Calling the Adams Papers?)

This spring will see the publication of volume 7 of *Adams Family Correspondence*, spanning the period January 1786 to February 1787. During the months the volume covers the Adamses settled into London’s diplomatic community, daughter Nabby was courted by and married Col. William Stephens Smith, and John and Abigail visited the Netherlands. Before volume 7 was out the door, work on another installment of the *Papers of John Adams*, volume 13, was well underway. Its highlights include the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the Dutch and the United States in 1782. We expect publication later this year.

While the main work of the Adams Papers continues to be the production of new volumes, another kind of work also finds its way to the desks of the editors—answering research questions. In many cases, these are no ordinary queries.

The website brings in a wide range of questions from people all over the globe, whether it be the Ph.D. student in Rome inquiring about John Quincy Adams’s work on weights and measures or the librarian at Emerson College in Boston looking for the anonymous work Henry Adams did for the *New York Times*. In addition to these less well known researchers, a fair number of famous names also pop up in the inbox or are waiting on the other line.

Recently, First Amendment activist Mike Newdow contacted the Adams Papers to find out if either John Adams or John Quincy Adams used the phrase “so help me God” in taking the oath of office. [Answer: It is uncertain. Available evidence did not indicate whether either father or son invoked the Almighty.] On the other end of the political spectrum, Doug Wead, the writer who recently gained notoriety for recording his personal conversations with President Bush, asked the Adams Papers to review two chapters from his latest book on presidential parents, a sequel to *All the Presidents’ Children*. Another author, Cokie Roberts, following up on *Founding Mothers*, her widely successful foray into revolutionary biography, will be working with the Adams Papers on the research for her next book. She will focus on the generation after the founders and will include Abigail Adams Smith, daughter of John and Abigail.

Closer to home, the editors enjoyed a recent phone call from Boston Globe sports columnist Dan Shaughnessy. He wanted to verify a quotation from John Adams about the character of Philadelphians. It ran on the front page of the sports section just before Super Bowl Sun-

day. Cable news sports pundits even picked it up. Most recently, *Boston Magazine* contacted the editors to check facts for an audio walking tour of Boston. Native son Steven Tyler of Aerosmith will narrate the tour, which will be available to download to a cell phone. We’ll let you know how that goes.

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**Staff Writers**

Despite the demands of busy schedules, two members of the Society’s staff have new books. The end of 2004 brought *Empires at War: The French and Indian War and the Struggle for North America, 1754–1763*, by William M.
Fowler, Jr., the Society's Director. *Revolutionary Generation: Harvard Men and the Consequences of Independence*, by Conrad Edick Wright, our Ford Editor of Publications, will appear this June.

*Empires at War*, in Fowler's hands, is the story of the real first world war. A century and a half before the murder of the Grand Duke Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 caused the cascade of events that resulted in World War I, another global conflict enveloped the world's major powers. Fowler traces the conflict from a militia attack on May 28, 1754, led by Major George Washington, against an encampment of sleeping French soldiers near present-day Pittsburgh, to battlefields and naval battles in Europe, Africa, and the East and West Indies. In the words of historian David McCullough, *Empires at War* is an “insightful unfolding of one of the great dramas in history.”

*Revolutionary Generation* traces the lives of the members of four Harvard College classes as they grew up and grew old during eventful times. Wright looks at the common and predictable events from birth to death that the 204 members of these classes experienced. He then asks whether it made a difference that the American Revolution broke out when most of them were still answering three of life's most important questions: What am I going to do? Where am I going to live? Who am I going to marry? “While he tells his tale like a novelist embracing a cast of fascinating characters,” author William Martin writes, “he also provides us with a new understanding of the college, of its place in eighteenth-century society, and of the society itself, from which emerged the men who made America.”

Both books are available in hardcover from your local bookstore or on the web either through the publisher or your favorite online bookseller. *Empires at War* (Walker & Company) costs $27.00; *Revolutionary Generation* (University of Massachusetts Press) retails for $34.95.

* * *

**The James Sullivan Society**

*A Legacy of Giving*

The Massachusetts Historical Society's first recorded donor was the Hon. James Sullivan, one of the founders and the first president, who provided a blank folio volume to keep the Society's records. At his death in 1808, he left a generous legacy that included his portrait by Gilbert Stuart (still part of the Society's collection today), as well as important historical documents and artifacts. Sullivan also served as one of the first justices appointed to the Superior Court of Judicature and was an early governor of Massachusetts.

In honor of his legacy as the first donor and founding president, the Massachusetts Historical Society has created the James Sullivan Society to recognize the generosity and foresight of current supporters who have made a planned gift or included the Society in their estate plans. Planned gifts can help donors realize their own philanthropy while ensuring the future financial stability of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Benefits range from a steady stream of lifetime income to a charitable income tax deduction and lower capital gains, estate, real estate, and other taxes. Together with bequests, planned gifts are the Society's financial bedrock, the foundation that allows it to preserve and enhance a collection widely seen as a national treasure.

Charter members of the James Sullivan Society are John L. Thorndike and Leo L. Beranek. Mr. Thorndike, a descendent of James Sullivan, has established a charitable gift annuity as part of his leadership gift to the Society's Capital Campaign. His charitable gift annuity not only provides important support in the early phase of the Capital Campaign but also provides a fixed quarterly income during his lifetime. Like his ancestor, the Hon. James Sullivan, Mr. Thorndike has made a lasting contribution to the Massachusetts Historical Society. Mr. Thorndike is a member of the Council and serves as one of the vice chairs of the Capital Campaign's Steering Committee.

Leo L. Beranek, the second charter member of the James Sullivan Society, has included the Massachusetts Historical Society in his estate plans. Since his gift is in the form of a binding bequest intent, he also was able to have this leadership gift included as part of his overall Capital Campaign contribution. Mr. Beranek is an honorary member of the Council and the honorary chair of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.
Both Mr. Beranek and Mr. Thorndike are carrying on the tradition of giving established by earlier donors to the Massachusetts Historical Society. More importantly, their thoughtful estate planning has enabled them to make generous gifts that reflect their personal philanthropy while helping to ensure the future protection of the Society’s extraordinary collection. They continue the legacy of giving established by earlier generations of notable Boston families whose papers and artifacts make up a large and important part of the Society’s world-famous collection. Mr. Thorndike and Mr. Beranek continue this tradition of giving into the third century as charter members of the James Sullivan Society.

Members and friends who are interested in making a planned gift, such as a charitable gift annuity, or including the Society in their wills, are invited to join the James Sullivan Society. Members of the James Sullivan Society will be recognized as benefactors for the Society’s third century and will be invited to special events that recognize their future support of the Society and its collection and programs.

Information on the James Sullivan Society is available at the Society’s website: www.masshist.org. If you are interested in making a planned gift or including the Society in your estate planning, please contact Ellen Stevens, Director, Capital Campaign at 617-646-0561 or e-mail at: estevens@masshist.org.

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For those who wish to support the Massachusetts Historical Society

A bequest is the simplest and most practical way to provide meaningful financial support for its future.

In 1918, a bequest from Henry Adams gave the Massachusetts Historical Society the right to publish *The Education of Henry Adams*. The book sold 12,000 copies within three months and received a Pulitzer Prize in 1919. Since that time, the Adams Fund, established from its royalties, has provided substantial annual income to support the Society’s programs.

Your bequest, like that of Henry Adams, can strengthen the Society’s endowment, helping the MHS continue to “collect, preserve and communicate” the priceless primary sources that we as Americans depend on to learn about our past.

For information on making a bequest, please contact:

Ellen A. Stevens
Director, Capital Campaign
Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215
617-646-0561 estevens@masshist.org
NOTICES • SPRING & SUMMER 2005

Society Plans Conference on Boston Environmental History

Save the dates and join us May 4–6, 2006. That is when the Society will host a conference on the environmental history of Boston. “Remaking Boston: The City and Environmental Change over the Centuries” will bring together scholars and others interested in the city’s environmental past to discuss a dozen or more pre-circulated essays. Contributions will consider the harbor and rivers, land use, flora and fauna, and climate. For the purposes of the program, we are defining Boston broadly to include eastern Massachusetts and its relationship to the area the city currently occupies.

More information, including the conference program, will appear in the spring issue of the Miscellany. If you have any questions now, please direct them to Conrad E. Wright 617-646-0512 or cwright@masshist.org.

The New England Quarterly Establishes the Herbert Ross Brown Prize

The editors of The New England Quarterly have announced a new essay contest, the Herbert Ross Brown Prize. The award of $2,000, established in memory of Professor Brown, editor of NEQ from 1945 to 1980 and author of The Sentimental Novel in America, 1789–1860, will go to the author of a distinguished essay in New England literary history, 1820–2000. The editors hope to award the prize annually. Generous donations from NEQ subscribers and supporters made the prize possible.

The editors, who intend to publish the winning piece in NEQ, will accept essays discussing New England literature, 1820–2000, in the broadest sense—from slave narratives, to poetry and novels, to political and religious tracts. Three scholars have agreed to act as judges:

- Nina Baym, Swanlund Endowed Chair and Center for Advanced Study Professor of English, Emerita, and Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Emerita, University of Illinois;
- Andrew Delbanco, Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University;
- James Longenbach, Joseph H. Gilmore Professor of English, University of Rochester.

For further information, see NEQ’s website, http://www.newenglandquarterly.org.

Trafalgar Bicentennial

The Battle of Trafalgar, fought off the coast of Spain between British and Franco-Spanish fleets on October 21, 1805, was a landmark event for two reasons. At the time, it was clear that the British victory thwarted Napoleon’s plans to invade Great Britain. What contemporaries could not have known was that the engagement was among the last great naval battles fought under sail.

There will be a number of bicentennial observances in and around Portsmouth, England, at the end of June. For information, anyone interested can contact Sarah and Anthony Quail, 2 Sussex Terrace Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants, PO5 3HA, United Kingdom. Friends of the MHS who are in Britain at that time may wish to attend.