



# Annual Report

July 2023–June 2024

INSPECTORS' OFFICE,  
BOSTON, MASS.

Massachusetts  
Historical Society  
*Founded* 1791





#### LOCATION

1154 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02215

#### CONTACT

Tel: 617.536.1608  
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#### VISITOR INFORMATION

Exhibition Galleries and Library Hours  
Monday and Wednesday through Friday:  
9:30 AM to 4:45 PM  
Tuesday: 9:30 AM to 7:45 PM  
Saturday: 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

The last admission for visitors is 45  
minutes prior to closing.

#### SOCIAL AND WEB

   @MHS1791

 @MassachusettsHistoricalSociety

[www.masshist.org](http://www.masshist.org)

Cover image: Benson Munyan's Rogues Gallery 1879-1899, Christopher Adams, 1892. Learn more about this collection on page 8. Above: Making History Gala, June 6, 2024. Paige McWhorter Photography.





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*Our mission is to promote understanding of the history of Massachusetts and the nation by collecting and communicating materials and resources that foster historical knowledge.*

# By the Numbers

FY2024: July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

288 LINEAR FEET OF MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL PROCESSED

265 DAYS MHS READING ROOM OPEN (JULY 1, 2023, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024)

71 FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED (INCLUDING MHS-NEH LONG-TERM, MHS SHORT-TERM, NERFC, TEACHER, AND STUDENT)

5,502 COLLECTION ITEMS CIRCULATED (DOES NOT INCLUDE SELF-SERVICE MATERIALS, MICROFILMED COLLECTIONS, OR USE OF COLLECTION ITEMS BY MHS STAFF)

7,651 ATTENDEES (AT 28 PROGRAMS, 31 SEMINARS, 1 SPECIAL EVENT, 21 TEACHER AND STUDENT PROGRAMS, AND 2 CONFERENCES)

1 RECORD-BREAKING MAKING HISTORY GALA WITH 372 ATTENDEES

2,055 RESEARCH VISITS (645 INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS FROM 34 STATES AND 18 COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE US)

38,916 REFERENCE-QUALITY REPRODUCTIONS DELIVERED

2,758 STUDENTS FROM 73 SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS



# Year in Review

## Moving Forward and Making Progress

We are delighted to present our FY2024 Annual Report. Throughout, there are stories of how the MHS continues to be productive, dynamic, and innovative. We are not only fulfilling our 233-year-old mission but also making progress on the priorities set in our three-year strategic plan.

As part of our goal to add to and increase access to our collection to reflect many different voices and prepare for the scholarship of the future, we are focused on expediting the organization and cataloging of modern, unprocessed collections. A gift from MHS Trustee Emeritus Levin H. Campbell enabled us to hire an archivist to reduce the backlog of a large portion from the 21st century, and we continue to test methods for faster processing. What's more, we published the John Quincy Adams Digital Diary with transcriptions, contextual essays, and manuscript images for more than 15,000 journal pages.

In our efforts to promote our researchers and fellowship recipients and the historical expertise they provide, we put plans together for a new podcast focused on scholars who have received fellowship support from the MHS to learn about their origin stories and why they became students of the past. In FY2024, we welcomed 645 researchers—483 were first-time visitors—to our library for a total of 2,055 appointments. Following a visit to the MHS from California, one researcher emailed: “To see the actual artifacts was truly special, and the MHS is one of the most helpful, friendliest, and most professionally run organizations I’ve engaged with. I only wish that I lived in Boston, to take full advantage of your incomparable collections.”

One way we are increasing the visibility of the MHS and raising its profile is by highlighting our historical expertise and producing public programs that are aligned with our overall strategy. In FY2024, we hosted programs on a wide array of topics including

- *A Civil Right: 20 Years of Marriage Equality in Massachusetts* with the Hon. Margaret Marshall, Nancy Cott, Harvard University, and Mary Bonauto, GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
- *Curating Controversy: Exhibiting Difficult Objects in Museums* with Erica Lome, Historic New England; Karina Corrigan, Peabody Essex Museum; and Catherine Allgor, MHS
- *Democracy Awakening: A Conversation* with Heather Cox Richardson
- *Italian Influence on Boston’s Culture, Economy & Politics* with Lawrence DiCara and James Pasto
- *Chasing Beauty: The Life of Isabella Stewart Gardner* with Natalie Dykstra

We continue to promote the teaching of history and civics across the K-12 population in Massachusetts. National History Day in Massachusetts, a year-long enrichment program, saw a 25% increase in student participation in FY2024. This is attributed in large part to the increased programming and resources available thanks to increased staff capacity. As well, five new source sets were added to the History Source, our free, online resource aimed at US history and civics learning in K-12 classrooms.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement from our Trustees, Advisors, Members, and community friends. Thanks to you, we can continue to make history.



Lee H. Campbell, Jr.  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Brenda M. Lawson  
Interim President



# Exhibition

## *The Dye is cast*

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, the MHS produced the exhibition "*The Dye is cast*": *Interests & Ideals That Motivated the Boston Tea Party*. In 1773, Boston was on the verge of revolution. Bostonians were not united in their opinions about, or even their interest in, what took place on the evening of December 16. This exhibition delved into this pivotal moment in American history through the perspectives of six individuals and featured remarkable artifacts and documents from the MHS collection.

Featured individuals include Paul Revere, Joseph Warren, Phillis Wheatley, Prince Hall, John Rowe, and Thomas Hutchinson. The exhibition showcased historical artifacts, including the *Tradesmen's Protest against the Proceedings of the Merchants*, November 3, 1773, and the Edes family punch bowl, as well as immediate reactions to the event, among others. These items provide tangible connections to the past and allow visitors to immerse themselves in the historical context of the Boston Tea Party. The exhibition was open October 5, 2023, to February 29, 2024.





# MHS Advisor Spotlight

## A Boston Legend Looks Back

Lawrence DiCara knows the hidden histories of Boston politics better than anyone, because he lived them. Through his engagement with the MHS as a member of our Advisory Council, a program speaker, an oral history participant, and a collection donor, Larry demonstrates the many ways history can be shared with audiences everywhere.

We were honored when Larry agreed to sit down with MHS Trustee Jim Segel in December 2023 to record a conversation for our oral history series. Throughout the session, Larry shared stories about his childhood, Boston, and a life in politics.

Born in an Italian immigrant family in Boston in 1949, Larry vividly recalls the tides of change that transformed Boston in the later half of the 20th century, from the Vietnam War to the busing crisis. He attended Boston Latin School, and jokingly remarks of its notable alumni: “Five signers of the Declaration of Independence, but a fellow named Franklin didn’t graduate; he didn’t have any discipline.”

Larry’s lifelong enthusiasm for Boston city politics began in childhood, watching local campaigns unfold. As he recalls, “Politics was a very different kind of business back then.... And growing up in Dorchester, especially after World War II, if you had a good war record, and you had a nice suit, you ran for office.”

After working his way through Harvard University, at age 22, Larry became the youngest person ever elected to the Boston City Council. His dedication for public service has remained a constant

throughout his life, and he was elected President of the City Council in 1978. Along the way, he crossed paths with many of the larger-than-life characters and notable figures who have shaped the city we know today. Larry remembers going to City Hall as a young man early in his political career to meet then-Mayor Kevin White, who was staring out the window of his office. “I said, ‘Nice view you have here,’ and he said, ‘Don’t get any funny ideas, kid.’”

In April 2024, Larry participated in a program at the MHS on Italian culture and politics in Boston with historian James Pasto. Many attendees at the program recalled people and events from Larry and James’s conversation.

That spring, Larry also made the decision to donate his archive to the MHS. These papers, alongside the oral history recording, will present a rich trove of primary sources from critical moments in Boston’s political history. They join the millions of objects in our collection that tell the American story, including papers and artifacts of Larry’s fellow Latin School alumnus Benjamin Franklin. Larry’s generous decision to donate his papers is a testament to his understanding of the importance of preserving our history for future generations.

Our public programs and collections are accessible in person and online, allowing individuals to connect with the past in enlightening and meaningful ways. Recorded programs can be found at [www.masshist.org/video](http://www.masshist.org/video) and on our YouTube channel. Oral history interviews can be found via the MHS online catalog.



# Impact

# Making History Happen

## Conference on Citizenship

The Conrad E. Wright Research Conference in July 2024 revolved around the theme of “Citizenship” to mark the centennial of two critical pieces of legislation: the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 and the Immigration Act of 1924. One law expanded citizenship rights to a particular group of individuals while the other prevented large numbers of people from entering the United States. At the heart of the debates over these two pieces of 1924 legislation—and a topic still debated today—lay the issue of citizenship: who could and could not call themselves a citizen of the United States? What rights did that entail? What rights did one lose by becoming a citizen?

Over the course of the conference, scholars from around the country presented new research that looked at citizenship in different periods of American history. Topics included the debates over the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, citizenship and the carceral state, passports, Syrian immigration to Appalachia, birthright citizenship, westward expansion, the Cherokee Constitution, the Naturalization Act of 1790, and the transatlantic slave trade.

The conference spanned several locations with a reception and opening keynote panel at the MHS, a full day of sessions at Suffolk University, and a teacher workshop at the MHS. Educators had an opportunity to attend the conference sessions and then work with scholars including keynote panelist Samantha Seeley, University of Richmond.

Scholars and K-12 participants gathered in the morning for an informal discussion to identify important conference takeaways, reflected on the accessibility of current scholarship for the K-12 classroom, and discussed best practices for

introducing the major themes of the conference to students. The afternoon sessions explored primary sources across different time periods, and teachers were able to develop their own materials in collaboration with fellow educators and scholars.

## National History Day in Massachusetts News

Over the past few years, the MHS has increased focus on building community partnerships with cultural organizations and higher education. This outreach led to 22 new special prizes given to National History Day in Massachusetts students at contests held in FY2024. The Ted Landsmark “Good Trouble” Prize for Outstanding Project in Civil Rights History, sponsored by Northeastern’s School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, was one such prize. The three winning students from Needham, Mass., were invited to present their documentary at Northeastern to much fanfare.

A *Northeastern Global News* article published about the event was shared with the Dean of the Clinton School of Public Service. President Clinton’s chief of staff followed up with the following note: “The President just read Dr. Ivanova’s note in the car and asked to send his thanks; it’s great to hear about young minds bringing attention to such an important story. And thanks for highlighting his role in acknowledging that dark chapter in our history.”

Student participation in NHD is up by 25% in Massachusetts. In FY2024,

- 2,758 total students took part
- 533 competed at 3 regional contests
- 300 competed at state contest
- 73 schools (including 2 new) participated

### John Quincy Adams Digital Diary Launched

Digital editions continue to be one way the MHS shares its vast collection with audiences and researchers around the world. In May 2024, we launched the John Quincy Adams Digital Diary, a cornerstone project of the Primary Source Cooperative, a collaborative digital editions publishing platform hosted by the Society. A publication of the Adams Papers Editorial Project, this digital edition pairs verified and searchable transcriptions for all 15,000+ pages of the various diary entries John Quincy Adams kept from 1779 to 1848.

With the support of a Digital Edition Publishing Cooperatives planning grant in 2018 and then an implementation grant in 2020 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Primary Source Cooperative is a collaboration among the MHS, Northeastern University Library, and four founding member editions. The Cooperative invites audiences to engage with historical materials rooted in the long 19th century (1789-1914) and reflects the Society's position as a national collecting and research institute and a center for scholarly editing.

### Learn more about the John Quincy Adams Digital Diary

Begun on November 12, 1779, Adams's diary encompassed over 15,000 pages by the time the final entries were penned before his death in 1848. The resulting 51 diary volumes constitute the longest continuous record of any American of the time and provide rich insights into the social and cultural transformations from the late 18th to the mid 19th centuries.

"There has perhaps not been another individual of the human race of whose daily existence from early childhood to four score years has been noted down with his own hand so minutely as mine," John Quincy Adams once wrote of his diary endeavor.

Visit [www.primarysourcecoop.org/jqa](http://www.primarysourcecoop.org/jqa) or scan the QR code to explore.





# Why the MHS?

## Meet Patricia and Steve Chubb



*We spoke with Patricia and Steve Chubb about their involvement with the MHS and the impact learning about history has on individuals today.*

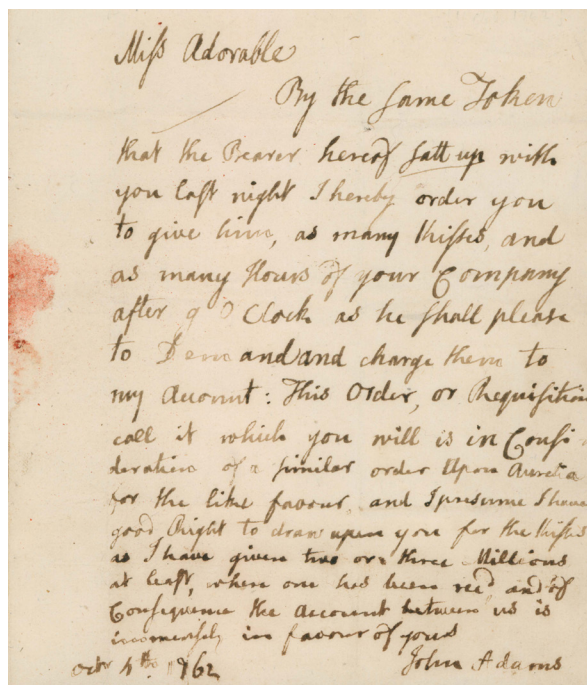
### Who are the Chubbs?

Over the past year, Patricia and Steve Chubb have become active in the MHS community by attending events, supporting educational initiatives, and engaging in conversations about the importance of civics and history in everyday life. A retired lawyer, Patricia is an avid reader of history and is particularly interested in topics of critical political and governmental issues from the Revolutionary War through Reconstruction. Now retired, Steve is a naval officer who has more than 30 years of experience in the biotechnology field including leading and founding several startups. He is also an admirer of John Paul Jones.

### How did you become involved with the MHS?

Patricia was introduced to the MHS by her local state senator. Her first time at 1154 Boylston Street was at the opening reception for the exhibition *“The Dye is cast”: Interests & Ideals That Motivated the Boston Tea Party*. She describes the experience as “love at first sight. Everyone I met that evening including MHS leadership, Honorary Fellows, and Members, shared a profound love of history and

seemed to embrace it as a personal and integral part of their lives.” Steve joined Patricia on a tour of the MHS shortly thereafter and found that the Society’s values, vision, and offerings aligned with his interests in history and civic education.



### Have you been able to explore the collection?

During one visit to the MHS, Patricia and Steve were able to hold and read letters written by Abigail Adams and John Adams. One example is a love note John Adams wrote during his early courtship with Abigail Smith, known affectionately at the MHS as the “Miss Adorable” letter. Patricia reports “Holding and reading John’s note, I felt a rush of excitement, as Abigail must have felt when she first opened it. As a newlywed, I retraced and projected my own emotions of early romance, akin to being Abigail herself when she first received it. Reading the original letter made me feel personally connected to Abigail. Not surprisingly, Steve and I would have relished the opportunity to get to know

Abigail and John personally, for many reasons, including the importance of their contributions to our American democracy.” Their experience with these treasured letters confirms the transformational impact that direct access to original works and artifacts can have on one’s appreciation of the lives, events, and circumstances they represent.

#### Why should readers support the MHS?

The Chubbs continue to learn about the MHS and its mission to promote history through its collections, staff expertise, superb research, and training resources. Patricia explains, “The lives, events, and circumstances represented by the millions of manuscript pages, volumes of books, artwork, artifacts, and digital records in the MHS collection form a unique assemblage of informational aids to more deeply understand the foundation and development of our American democracy, civilization, and culture.” The MHS cares for and makes accessible this remarkable collection to foster an understanding of our past.

Steve shares that the MHS is a trusted source, and he hopes others will be inspired to learn about historic events and understand the influence these events have on their lives and daily activities. The couple added “We are particularly inspired by the

National History Day program sponsored by the MHS. We believe that program provides an excellent platform for teachers to arm their students to learn critical research, analytic, communication, and advocacy skills that will improve their lives and engage them as educated citizens.”

#### Why should people learn about history?

History provides comfort, it educates, and it enlightens. Learning about history and incorporating it into our daily lives helps people to think logically based on original documents, discerning fact from fiction. One legacy the Chubbs envision is a democratic society that provides for the economic, social, and physical well-being for its people. They feel the best way to ensure that legacy is for individual members to pursue the study of history from source materials, employ skills to discern fact from fiction, and exercise good judgement over the course of their lives to be good citizens.

The MHS provides many opportunities to discover more. Each time the Chubbs visit the MHS, they engage with the staff, learn something new, and are inspired to do more to enhance civic awareness and engagement in others. Patricia commented, “There is so much more to the MHS than what you see at first glance. The same is true of history.”

## Become a Member

A tree stands strong due to its stable roots. Our Members are our roots keeping us secure and resilient.

Connected to history, our Members have access to an unparalleled collection, enriching events, special programming, and inclusion in the Annual Report. Members enjoy MEMBER WEEK each year as well as the annual holiday party.

Join today by making an unrestricted, fully tax-deductible donation of \$250 or more to the MHS Fund. Visit [www.masshist.org/support](http://www.masshist.org/support) or scan the QR code for more information.



Questions? E-mail [membership@masshist.org](mailto:membership@masshist.org) or call 617-646-0517.

The Massachusetts Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) exempt organization under IRS Code: EIN 04-2108374



# Acquisition Highlight

## Benson Munyan's Rogues Gallery

In May 2024, the MHS received a unique gift: a rogues gallery, or a collection of pictures of known or suspected criminals. The photographs in this collection were obtained by Massachusetts State Detective Benson Munyan over his two-decade career with the agency from 1879 to 1899. This new acquisition is both a fascinating and unusually unsavory addition to our collection. As Curator of Rare Books & Visual Materials Mary Yacovone describes it, "This is real life. This is true crime."

Benson Munyan (1837–1899) of Williamsburg, Mass., served in the Civil War and local politics before being appointed to the Massachusetts State Detectives upon its establishment in 1879. The agency, a precursor to today's Massachusetts State Police, was responsible for criminal investigations and inspections of public buildings. In its first year alone, the force's 16 detectives arrested 461 individuals for a wide variety of crimes.



NAME	Chester F. Ambler
Alias	Frank Ambler
Crime	Horse Thief
Age	25 yrs
Born	Wellesley, Mass
Trade	Shoe Maker
Read	Yes
Write	Yes
Married	No
Height	5 ft 8 in W
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Officer	D. H. Hay
Date of Arrest	Mar 1890
REMARKS	Held in Tarrant Co. Ga Has served time County for
UNDERWOOD,	418



All images from Benson Munyan's Rogues Gallery 1879-1899. Above (left to right): Benson Munyan, Cabinet card by Knowlton Brothers. Chester F. Ambler back and front, 1890. Facing page (clockwise top left): William Kelley, 1888. Christopher Adams, 1892. Thomas H. Collins, 1888. Edward Begor, back and front, 1892.

The 413 photographs in the Benson Munyan collection primarily depict criminal offenders. Most of the photographs are cartes de visite, although the collection also contains tintypes and cabinet photographs. State detectives likely each kept their own set of the images and used them to aid investigations. After his retirement, it appears Munyan held onto his rogues gallery, and it stayed in the family until his descendant's donation to the MHS.

While the portraits display a range of strong personalities, the real strength of the collection lies in the key identifying information on the other side of

the photographs. While so many antique portraits remain unidentified, this collection is special because we know the names of the pictured individuals—as well as their aliases and in many cases the crimes charged such as burglary, safe blowing, embezzlement, and obtaining goods by false pretenses. In addition, the cards often include physical characteristics, nativity, literacy, employment status, and other identifying descriptions. These photographs provide a wealth of data on the individuals involved in criminal activity and yield information invaluable to researchers on crime, punishment, and society in Massachusetts.





# New Acquisitions

The MHS acquired 174 linear feet of manuscript material in FY2024 through 133 gifts and 4 deposits.

## Gifts

Adams Memorial Society, Inc.: Additions to the Adams Memorial Society records  
John Albertini and Peter Coverly Albertini: Coverly family papers  
Algonquin Club of Boston: Additions to the Algonquin Club records  
Catherine Allgor: Catherine Allgor papers  
Bobby Anderson  
Anonymous: Additions to diaries kept by Lady Gertrude Codman Carter  
Anonymous: Letters from Mary Agnes Kitchin to Arthur Joseph Kitchin  
Apollo Club of Boston (deposit): Additions to the Apollo Club records  
Ellen Arguimbau: Additions to the Blake-Clapp-Arguimbau papers  
Asian Cultural History Program  
Ann M. Bacon: Charles N. Bacon, Jr. papers  
Adrienne Balcom  
William Barron  
William Bennett: Additions to the Curtis-Tomlinson family papers  
Anne E. Bentley  
Kathryn Bonfiglio: Records of Belmont Against Racism  
Angelyn M. Borden  
Boston Braves Historical Association  
Family of Pauline Howard Boynton: Papers of Squire Edward Howard  
Ken Bresler  
Barry Boyd Bryson  
Les Burson  
Brian K. Burton: Additions to the John W. Ames Civil War papers  
Barbara Buswell  
Alexander Byron: Letters of condolence regarding the death of Charles P. Curtis II  
Frank Carpenter: "Life of Walter Channing, M.D.," unpublished autobiography  
Dan Casavant: Anonymous account book kept in New Marlborough, Mass.  
Chautauqua County Historical Society (Westfield, N.Y.)  
Cohasset Historical Society

Elizabeth J. Coolidge: Additions to the Coolidge-Dame family papers  
Cotting School (deposit): Additions to the Cotting School records  
Stanley Coutant  
Danbury Museum & Historical Society  
Bruce Denis: Two documents regarding state elections in Gerry, Mass.  
Lawrence DiCara: Lawrence DiCara papers  
Susan Doolittle  
David Doss  
Meredith Drake  
W. Thomas Ellison  
Stephen D. Engle  
Donna Ferrante: Ledger of accounts for four merchant vessels  
S. Fisher  
Folger Shakespeare Library  
J.M. Forbes Archives Committee (deposit): Additions to the Forbes family papers  
Janet Halstead Franklin: Colton Family Papers  
Barry Girdler: Civil War papers and artifacts of Charles W. Hill, 5th Mass. Infantry Regiment  
Jeff Gonyeau  
B. Gray-Nix  
Tom F. Gregg  
Bill Gulde  
Nancy R. Hammond  
Gretchen Hays  
Terry Heller  
Higgins family: White and Chambers family papers  
John Hillwig  
Ronald L. Hoak  
Arthur C. Hodges: Addition to his diary, 2023  
Dorothy & Thomas Hoobler  
Bob Hooker  
Suzanne H. Hooper  
H. Kirk Horstman  
Andrew Ippolito  
Children of Robert Day Kemble: Letters from Brooks Wright to Robert D. Kemble

Sarah Keyes  
Michael King  
Anne Klass  
Monica Klem  
Caroline W. Kuhl: Additions to the Wright family papers  
Patricia K. LaVoy  
Wilhelmina Leigh  
Eva Locher  
Vincent F. Luti  
Madison County (Ind.) Historical Society Inc.  
Dina G. Malgeri: Additions to the Dina G. Malgeri and Francesco P. Malgeri papers  
Megan Marshall  
Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture (deposit): Additions to the MSPA records  
McClellan Highway Development Company, LLC: Documentary film by the HYM Investment Group on the history of Suffolk Downs  
Rick McGoeys  
Todd Mildfelt  
Jeffrey D. Miller  
Laura Mindel  
Christopher F. Minty  
Missing Princes Project, American Branch  
Judy Moen, through the Conoco Museum: Benjamin and Owen family papers  
Morgan History Center (Warren, Ohio)  
Rose Munyan: Benson Munyan's Rogues Gallery, 1879-1899  
Neil Musante  
Robert D. Mussey, Jr.  
Nashua (N.H.) Historical Society  
Chris Nelson: Copy of letter written by Jack Cecil Nelson to Chris Nelson in March 2003 detailing his experiences at Harvard Business School and the Cocoanut Grove fire in November 1942  
Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives  
Nancy B. Osgood  
Thomas M. Paine: "Incidents of travel in the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific...", manuscript memoir by J.H. Lyman

Estate of Barbara W. Peabody: Additions to the papers and photographs of Endicott "Chub" Peabody  
 Peabody Essex Museum: Four church documents  
 Beatriz Peña  
 Joy Piscopo  
 William G. Polk  
 Kurt Riegel  
 Armando Chavez Rivera  
 Marcy Rose  
 Family of Joseph Dillaway Sawyer: "Boston in the Making 1630-1930," corrected draft of an unpublished book by Joseph Dillaway Sawyer  
 Alvin Schaut  
 Judith Schomaker  
 Andrew Schuman  
 Estate of Mary Ellen Selk: "Boston in 1861," by Mary A. Livermore  
 Thomas Sell  
 Roberta Howe Senechal  
 Anelise Hanson Shrout  
 Pat Smith  
 Patricia Smith  
 Gail Spilsbury  
 Christine Harmer Squyres  
 Christy Stanley  
 Wesley and Marla Strick: Oliver W. Larkin papers  
 Lisa A. Suits: Diary of Elijah Estabrooks, a British soldier in the French and Indian War (manuscript copy)  
 Family of John Kenrick Taylor, through Robert & Elizabeth Bayston  
 Donna Tesiero  
 Tracy Teweles  
 Merna Therieau  
 Sue Panno Trainor  
 Trumbull County (Ohio) Historical Society  
 Carolyn Woollen Tucker: Louis Leonard Tucker papers  
 Erika Valenti and Scott Bogren: Bogren family papers  
 Carmen D. Valentino, in honor of Peter Drummey: Speeches, notes, and literary writings of John D. Long  
 Martha Binney C. Vick: Additions to the Binney family papers  
 John Dwight Warner, Jr.  
 Caroline Williams: Additions to the Wesselhoeft-Hoffmann family papers  
 Mark L. Wolf: Papers of U.S. District Judge for Massachusetts, Mark L. Wolf  
 Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai  
 Mary Yacovone

## Art and Artifacts

Stuart P. and Sue K. Feld: View of Houses at Roxbury, Massachusetts, and Mt. Benedict, West Roxbury, Massachusetts, pencil sketches by Edward Seager  
 Arthur M. Fitts III: Arthur M. Fitts Harvardiana Collection (numismatics and ephemera)  
 Ronald T. Lyman: Miniature portrait of Mary Coles (Payne) Jackson, sister of Dolley Madison  
 Giannoto Penati: Portraits of Charles Francis Adams III and Frances Lovering Adams by John Quincy Adams of Austria  
 Harrison Swift: Sargent-Cooper-Tweed papers, art, and artifacts, including an oil portrait of William Savage attributed to Chester Harding  
 Family of John Kenrick Taylor: Civil War military accoutrement owned by John Adams Kenrick, Jr., of the 44th Mass. Infantry Regiment and 5th Mass. Volunteer Militia

## Purchases

Letter from Abigail Adams to Elbridge Gerry, 1796  
*Anti-slavery Celebration, July 4, 1839. Union Meeting House, Worcester...* (Worcester: Spooner & Howland), [1839], broadside  
 Letter from Frank F. Battles, agent of the Lowell mills, to Charles Dearborn regarding the hiring of mill girls in 1859  
 Photographs of the Great Chelsea Fire of 1908 by A. Waldo Byam  
*Columbian Centinel Extra. Boston: October 28, 1824*, broadsheet urging the election of John Quincy Adams as president  
 Scrapbook compiled by Henry Wyles Cushman of Bernardston  
 Democratic and Free Soil Central Committee of Lowell, *Outrage Upon the Voters of Lowell, by the Mayor and Alderman*, 1851, broadside  
 Hazzard family letters related to Civil War service in the 5th Mass. Cavalry  
 Papers related to Samuel Leonard's efforts to promote Eleazer Carver's improvements to the cotton gin  
 Letter from Thomas J. Marsh to Nathaniel Banks and Seth Ward, president and secretary of the Republican State Convention, 1855  
 Letter from William Newman to his sister, Anna B. Newman, 1856  
 Daybook kept by Joseph Pierpont of Roxbury

William J. Pohlman letters  
*President's Message. National Intelligencer....Extra. Tuesday, December 5, 1826.* [Washington: 1826], broadside printing of John Quincy Adams's message to Congress  
*Read & Judge! The Whig Party and its organ are driven to desperate expedients to sustain their falling fortunes...* [1847-1852], broadside  
*Sunday Police.* [Boston?: ca. 1804], broadside  
*Tea Party! Citizens of Boston! Impeach Big Business Too!... Be Prepared to Make History! Dec. 16, 1973* (New York and Boston: J. Johnson Company), 1973 poster  
 Civil War letters of Samuel Perry Thompson, 7th Mass. Infantry Regiment  
 Photograph of the Waltham Battalion of the Grant Guards  
 Andrew H. Ward letters



# Financial Statements

## Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to submit this annual Treasurer's Report to the Fellows and Trustees of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Our financial profile remains strong. Over the past five years, the endowment has grown by approximately 56% to \$136.4 million as of June 30, 2024. This growth has enabled the Society to continue providing exceptional value to our stakeholders.

In FY2024, we completed the second year of our strategic planning process to increase institutional capacity and sharpen our strategic focus. As part of this effort, the Board has approved temporary increases in the endowment draw rate from 4.5% to 5.5% to enhance our visibility and support investments in key personnel, technology, and facilities. Going forward, with expected increases in fundraising and careful expense management, we plan to reduce the endowment draw rate to a more traditional percentage over time.

As of June 30, 2024, cash and investments were \$140.6 million. This amount includes the endowment together with operating and capital reserves of approximately \$2.3 million. Net assets were \$148.1 million, including \$56.1 million that is unrestricted. During the past fiscal year, we achieved an operating surplus of approximately \$105,000. With ample financial resources and prudent fiscal management, the Society is well positioned for continued growth and development of our outstanding programs and services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward B. Baldini, Treasurer

## Statement of Activities & Financial Position (in thousands)

<b>Statement of Activities</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Operating revenues and support		
Gifts and grants	\$ 2,343	\$ 2,077
Seminars, conferences, workshops, and other events	447	57
Endowment support for operations	6,553	5,807
Other revenues	<u>278</u>	<u>285</u>
	9,621	8,227
Operating Expenses	<u>9,516</u>	<u>8,447</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	105	(220)
Non-operating activity		
Endowment gifts, grants, and bequests	970	253
Purchase of collections	(66)	(114)
Investment return	14,548	5,468
Endowment support	<u>(6,553)</u>	<u>(5,807)</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>\$ 9,004</u>	<u>\$ (420)</u>
 <b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	 <b>2024</b>	 <b>2023</b>
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,238	\$ 3,596
Endowment investments at market value	136,369	127,470
Property, equipment, and other assets	9,031	9,495
Other assets	<u>857</u>	<u>741</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 150,496</u>	<u>\$ 141,301</u>
Current and long term liabilities	\$ 1,663	\$ 1,368
Long term debt	688	792
Net assets		
Unrestricted	56,080	51,571
Temporarily restricted	74,045	69,665
Permanently restricted	<u>18,020</u>	<u>17,905</u>
Total net assets	<u>148,145</u>	<u>139,141</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 150,496</u>	<u>\$ 141,301</u>



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† Passed away between July 1, 2023, and this printing





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Images: "The Dye is cast": Interests & Ideals That  
Motivated the Boston Tea Party exhibition opening  
on October 5, 2023. Paige McWhorter Photography.