

# NEHA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

VOL XXXIV NO. 1

SPRING ISSUE

APRIL 2008

## SPRING CONFERENCE AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY in BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Saturday, April 26, 2008  
SECOND CALL

The 80th meeting of the Association will be held on April 26 at Northeastern University, 360 Huntington Avenue in Boston (617-373-2000). The program is listed on pages 3-6 of this issue and was mailed earlier to all members along with registration, motel and travel instructions.

Vice-President **Ballard Campbell** (Northeastern University) arranged this splendid program. **James P. Hanlan** and the Northeastern University Department of History will make the local arrangements. This is our first meeting in the Athens of America since 1999, and it should be a popular location. We are very grateful for their hospitable efforts on our behalf. Please see our web pages for other details:  
<http://www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEHA>.

The Fall conference begins with registration and continental breakfast on Saturday at 8:00 A.M. in the **Curry Student Center** in the McLeod Suite 318-322. Members are invited to bring copies of their own recent publications as well as timely professional literature for display or distribution at the book exhibit.

*The registration fee payment is required for*

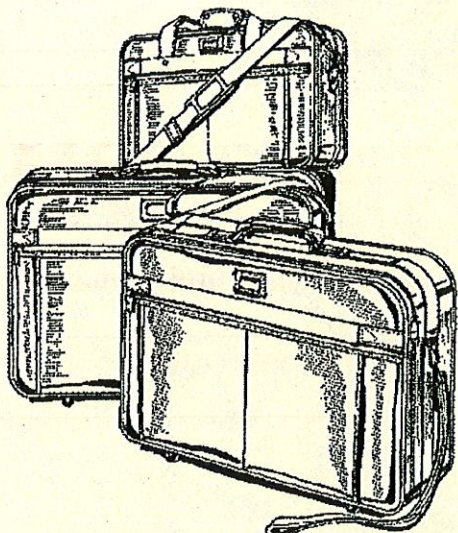
*everyone on the program* (panelists, chairs and commentators) and all who attend the conference. Pre-registration by mail prior to April 14 is strongly recommended, but registration at the conference is possible. Please feel free to photocopy the conference registration form on the back page when inviting colleagues, graduate students and friends.

Our luncheon will be served in the **Curry Student Center** on Saturday at 12:00, but seating is limited. Please reserve your place at lunch when you register by mail. Even if you do not join us in Boston, please use this form to pay your 2008 membership dues. Lunch will be followed by the annual election of Association officers and a brief business meeting.

### OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

The Association suggests that members make early motel reservations by phone because this will be a busy weekend in Boston. We recommend the Day's Inn, 1800 Soldiers Field Road, Boston (617-254-0200) with the rate of \$95.00. Or the Day's Inn, 1234 Soldiers Field Road, Boston (617-254-1234) with a rate of \$109.00 for a room with two double beds.





## TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Driving from the West:** Take I-90 East (Mass Turnpike) to Exit 22 Copley Square, and bear right. Proceed to the first traffic light, and turn right onto Dartmouth Street. Take the next right onto Columbus Avenue to the **Renaissance Parking Garage** at 835 Columbus Avenue.

**Driving from Route 9:** Take Rt. 9 East toward Brookline where it becomes Huntington Avenue. At the Wentworth Institute of Technology on your right, turn right onto Ruggles Street. At the fourth traffic light turn left onto Tremont Street. At the second traffic light turn left onto Melnea Cass Blvd. and then turn left onto Columbus Avenue to the **Renaissance Parking Garage** at 835 Columbus Avenue.

**Driving from the North:** Take I-93 or route 1) to the Storrow Drive exit, proceed to the Fenway Exit. Follows signs for Boylston Street inbound, and bear right onto Westland Avenue. Turn right onto Massachusetts Avenue, proceed to the third traffic light, and turn right onto Columbus Avenue. The **Renaissance Parking Garage** is at 835 Columbus Avenue.

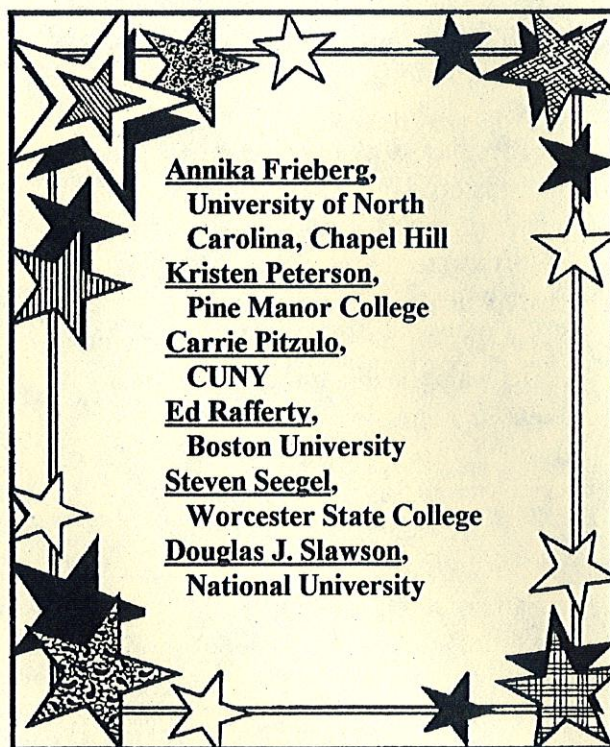
**Driving from the South:** Take I-93, Route 3 to Exit 18 (Massachusetts

Avenue/Roxbury/Frontage Rd.). Turn left at the third light, staying in one of the two left lanes. Proceed straight onto Melnea Cass Blvd. Continue for two miles and turn left onto Columbus Avenue to the **Renaissance Parking Garage**. *Parking is available for \$7.00 for the day.*

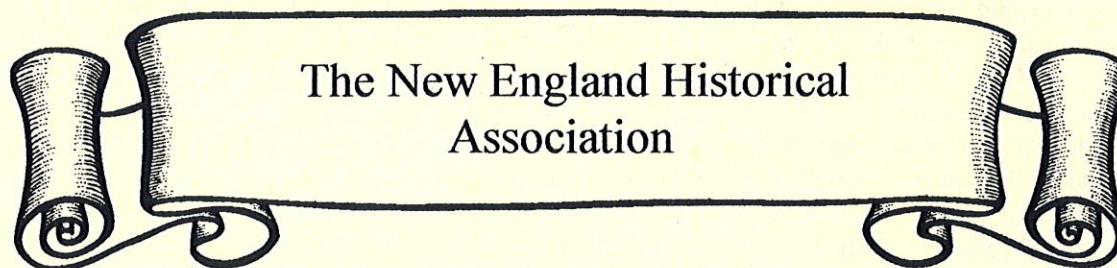
## ADVANCE NOTICE

The Fall meeting will be held at the **University of Southern Maine** in Portland on October 2008. Our new Vice-President will organize the program. The deadline for submitting proposals (one-page abstract and a brief C.V.) is May 1, 2008. For information about the program or submissions, contact: James P. Hanlan, NEHA Executive Secretary, WPI, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280; [jphanlan@wpi.edu](mailto:jphanlan@wpi.edu)

## Welcome to Our Newest Members







## **SPRING CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 26, 2008**

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

All sessions are at Curry Student Center

**8:00-8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**McLeod Suite- 318-322**

*FIRST MORNING SESSIONS: 8:30-10:00:*

**Session 1. The Impact of Historical Disasters**

**Room 340 CSC**

Chair: Peter Perdue, Yale University

George Dameron (St. Michael's College), "Plague in Medieval Europe"

Don Wyatt (Middlebury College), "Waters of Sorrow: Flood, Misfortune, and Reversal along China's Early Modern Yellow River"

Comment: Peter Perdue

**Session 2. Public History in New England, Roundtable: A Look Down the Road**

**Room 342 CSC**

Chair: Chuck Arning (John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor)

Cathy Stanton (Tufts University and Vermont College), "The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City"

James Green (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

Tom Thurston (Yale University)

Comment: Chuck Arning

**Session 3. Loyalists and the American Revolution**

**Room 344 CSC**

Chair: William Fowler (Northeastern University)

Jim Leamon (Bates College, emeritus), "The Religion of Politics" from his biography of Jacob Bailey

Comment: Liam Riordan (University of Maine)

Brendan McConville (Boston University)

**Session 4. Latinos in New England: Historical Roots of Contemporary Issues**

**Room 346 CSC**

Chair: Mark Overmyer-Velázquez (University of Connecticut)

Tricia Gabany-Guerrero (University of Connecticut), "The State of Latinos in Connecticut"

Phillip Granberry (University of Massachusetts-Boston), "The Small but Growing Latino Population in Northern New England: Their Economic, Social and Political Contributions"

Michael E. Neagle (University of Connecticut), "Cooperation and Collaboration: The Growth of Rhode Island's Latino Community"

Damian Nemirovsky (University of Connecticut), "The Third Wave: Latinos in Massachusetts"

Comment: Rosa Carrasquillo (College of the Holy Cross)



**Session 5. Society and Culture in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America****Room 433 CSC**

Chair: Peter Holloran (Worcester State College)

Michelle Morgan (University of Southern Maine), "'We've Spoiled Your Prison For You:' Gender & Anti-Catholicism in Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Convent Captivity Narratives"

Karen Chaney (Harvard University), "Dissecting Dr. George Parkman: Murder and the Press in Nineteenth Century Boston"

Joy M. Giguere (University of Maine), "The Application of Ancient Language &amp; Imagery to the 'Modern' Nineteenth Century Rural Cemetery Landscape"

Comment: Mark A. Herlihy (Endicott College)

**Session 6. Dimensions of British Politics****Room 442 CSC**

Chair: James M. O'Toole (Boston College)

Tarah Carr (Concordia University), "*Palace of Politics*: Buckingham Palace and the Whig Reform Agenda of the 1830s."

Michael Chapman (Boston College), "'How to Smash the British Empire': John Forrest Kelly's Irish World and the Boycott of 1920-21"

Jennifer Purcell (St. Michael's College), "British National Identity and the People: Women's Ideas of the Nation during the Second World War"

Comment: Adam Chill (Boston College)

**Session 7. Exploring Issues of Gender and Place Through Oral History****Room 444 CSC**

Chair: Mehmed Ali (Lowell National Historical Park)

Lisa Krissoff Boehm (Worcester State College), "Encountering the Northeastern City: African American Women and the Second Great Migration, 1940-1970"

Betty Hoffman (Independent Scholar), "Jewish West Hartford: From City to Suburb The Reinvention of a Jewish Community"

Cristina Mehrtens (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth), "Illegal Dreams: Brazilian Immigrant Working Women in the New Bedford Region"

Comment: Cileine de Lourenço (Bryant University).

**Session 8. Political and Ethnic Violence in Twentieth-Century Africa****Room 448 CSC**

Chair: Jeanne Marie Penvenne (Tufts University)

Elizabeth Somerset (Northeastern University), "Taking Up Arms: Umkhonto we Sizwe's Anti-Apartheid Fight"

Stephen Pierce (Northeastern University), "Confining bodies, freeing minds: Rhetoric of violence in 1950s Kenya"

Neysa King (Northeastern University), "The Semantics of Genocide: Genocidal Acts, Ethnic Cleansings, and International Passivity"

Comment: Jeanne Marie Penvenne

**Break for Book Exhibit & Refreshments: 10:00-10:30***10:30-Noon Sessions***Plenary Session. Maps and History: A Conversation****Room 333 CSC**

Moderator: Cynthia Van Zandt (University of New Hampshire)

David Cobb (Harvard University)

Matthew Edney (University of South Maine)

Steven Seegel (Worcester State College)

**Session 9. New England Association for Oral History: The History of the Land Conservation Movement in New England****Room 340 CSC**

Chair: Betty Hoffman (New England Association for Oral History)



Charles H.W. Foster (Harvard University) and Ninian Stein (University of Massachusetts, Boston, "The New England Conservation History Project: Background"  
Pamela Dean (University of Maine) and Linda Wood (Independent Scholar), "The Story of NECHP & NEAOH"  
Comment: Bruce Stave (University of Connecticut)

**Session 10. Church and State in Late Antiquity**

**Room 342 CSC**

Chair: Michael Proulx (Queensborough Community College/CUNY)  
John F. Shean (LaGuardia Community College/CUNY), "The Army and Christianization"  
Justin Stephens (University of West Georgia), "Church and Empire in the Thought of John Chrysostom"  
Comment: TBA

**12:00-1:30 Luncheon and Annual Election and President's Address**

**McLeod Suite 318-322 CSC**

*Afternoon Panels 1:30-3:00*

**Session 11. Getting Published**

**Room 340 CSC**

Moderator: Clark Dougan, Senior editor, University of Massachusetts Press  
Andrew Gyory, Executive Editor, Facts on File, New York  
Linda Smith Rhoads, Managing Editor, *New England Quarterly*

**Session 12. Disasters in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Significance and Consequences**

**Room 342 CSC**

Chair: Julie Walsh (American International College)  
Marcos Luna (Salem State College), "Environmental Disasters as (Sometime) Windows of Policy Opportunity"  
Elaine Hills (SUNY Albany), "Landmark 20<sup>th</sup> Century Public Health Disasters: Boon for Bioscience, Bust for Social Cohesion"  
Comment: Jura Avizienis (University of Southern Maine)

**Session 13. Sports and Society**

**Room 344 CSC**

Chair: Richard Kaletsky (Independent Scholar)  
Bryan J. Nakamura, (Southern Connecticut State University), "The Christianization of Roman Blood Sports in the Late Antiquity"  
Julian C. Madison, Jr. (Southern Connecticut State University), "The Changing Political Climate of Post-War America and the Desegregation of Sports, 1945-1952"  
Troy Rondinone (Southern Connecticut State University), "The Friday Night Fights and the Spectacle of Early Television Violence"  
Comment: Richard Kaletsky

**Session 14. Perspectives on Colonial America**

**Room 346 CSC**

Chair: Benjamin L. Carp (Tufts University)  
Sandra Perot (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), "Till God awake Thee": The Commodification of Death and Community Building in Eighteenth-Century Rural New England"  
Robert Cray (Montclair State University), "John Murray and the Limits of Eighteenth Century Denominational Censure"  
John Ellis (Purdue University), "Power Influences of Thy Spirit:" New Light Supernaturalism and its Radical Social Effects"  
Comment: Jennifer Tebbe-Grossman (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences)

**Session 15. Political Leadership in the Nineteenth Century**

**Room 433 CSC**

Chair: Thomas Turner (Bridgewater State College)  
Ed Bradley (The Papers of Abraham Lincoln), "Franklin Pierce and the Lincoln Administration"  
C. Wyatt Evans (Drew University), "The Discovery of Leadership in the Gilded Age"



John Henris (University of Akron), "Evil Spirits in the Orchard: Temperance, Moral Reform, and the Changing Place of the Ubiquitous New England Cider Tree, 1824-1842"  
Comment: David Quiley (Boston College)

**Session 16. Race, Sex, and Gender in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America**

**Room 442 CSC**

Chair: Stephanie Yuhl (College of the Holy Cross)

Sherry Zane (University of Connecticut), "The Newport Sex Scandal 1919-1921:  
Progressive Reform and Changing Constructs of Gender"

Diane Slocum (Independent Scholar), "The Divorce Problem: Deflecting Moral Panic in  
*The Arena*, 1889-1909"

Alison Collis Greene (Yale University), "The Tyrrell Way?: Interracial Religious Activism  
and White Reaction in 1940s North Carolina"

Comment: Laurie L. Lovett (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

**Session 17. Issues in Modern European History**

**Room 444 CSC**

Chair: Martin R Menke (Rivier College)

Martha E. Kinney (Suffolk County Community College), "Becoming German and Catholic"

Susan Maurer (Nassau Community College), "Rock and Roll in East Germany"

Robert E. Niebuhr (Harvard University), "Nonalignment as Yugoslavia's Answer to Bloc Politics"

Comment: Martin R. Menke

**Session 18. Cultural Contact, Power Relations, and the Politics of Meaning in the African Context**

**Room 448 CSC**

Chair: Kate Luongo (Northeastern University)

Burleigh Hendrickson (Northeastern University), "The Intellectual Evolution of Léopold Sédar  
Senghor"

Malcolm Purinton (Northeastern University), "Alcohol, Its Relation to Power and the Creation and  
Reproduction of Gender Roles in African Discourse"

Stacy Fahrenthold (Northeastern University), "The African Muslim, and Islam in Africa: Scholarly  
Characterization and (Mis)Conceptions of Otherness"

Comment: Kate Luongo

Rose Egbuiwe (Northeastern University)

**3:00 Adjournment**





## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee announced the following candidates will be on the ballot on April 26:

President **Ballard Campbell**  
(Northeastern University)

(write in) .....

Vice-President **Laura Prieto**  
(Simmons College)

(write in) .....

Secretary: VOTE for ONE  
**Peter C. Holloran**  
(Worcester State College)  
**David Rawson**  
(WPI)

(write in) .....

Executive Committee: VOTE for TWO

**Jason Opal**  
(Colby College)  
**Kristen Petersen**  
(Pine Manor College)  
**Edward Rafferty**  
(Boston University)  
**Howard Segal**  
(University of Maine)

(write in) .....

Nominating Committee: VOTE for TWO

**Cheryl Boots**  
(Boston University)  
**Ellen Dyer**  
(Henry Knox Museum, Maine)  
**Beth Salerno**  
(St. Anselm College)  
**Daniel Williamson**  
(University of Hartford)

(write in) .....

We congratulate those candidates nominated and thank those who made nominations. Any member may nominate himself, herself, or another member for election to any Association office by writing to the Executive Secretary. All dues-paying members are eligible to vote by mail or in person at the annual business meeting in April. Self-nominations are encouraged. Write-in candidates are permitted for any position on the slate. Those members interested in serving on the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, NEHA Prize Committee, or NEHA Book Award Committee should contact the Executive Secretary.



## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet briefly at Northeastern University at the conclusion of the April 26 meeting. The agenda includes future meetings sites, the customary postmortem on the conference, and appointment of new committee members.

The Executive Committee annual meeting was held at Bridgewater State College on December 1, 2007. The agenda included reports on the Nominating Committee, selection of future meeting sites, conference programs and attendance, the NEHA Book Award and the NEHA Prize committees, planning the conference deadlines, as well as NEHA panels at the AHA.

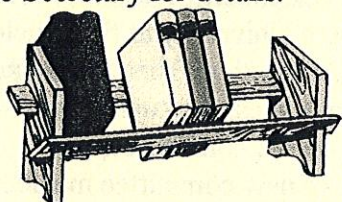
Association members may submit a question or agenda item for the next Executive Committee meeting on April 26 by contacting the Executive Secretary.



## THE NEHA PRIZE

At the Spring 2007 meeting, we awarded the annual NEHA Prize for the most outstanding paper by a graduate student presented at a recent conference. The winner was **Dale Potts** (University of Maine, Orono) for his October 2007 paper *'Woods enough still: The Transformation of Henry David Thoreau's Recreational Landscape in Popular Tourist Literature of Maine in the Late-Nineteenth Century.'*

Each session chair may nominate one paper for this prize and a committee of three members appointed by the president judges all nominations. The criteria are scholarship, presentation and originality. This year the committee members are; **Daniel C. Williamson** (University of Hartford), chair; **Sean Field** (University of Vermont); and **Susan Ouellette** (St. Michael's College). The prize is intended to encourage and recognize outstanding research papers by graduate students at our conferences. Session chairs are invited to recommend papers presented by a graduate student at the Spring or Fall meetings. Contact the Executive Secretary for details.



## NEHA BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

On April 26 **Kathryn Tomasek** (Wheaton College), chair of the NEHA Book Award Committee, presented the 2007 NEHA Book Award. The winner was **Harry S. Stout** (Yale University) for his outstanding book *Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War* (Viking).

Any publisher may nominate one book each year by writing to Executive Secretary **James P. Hanlan**, WPI, Department of Humanities, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280 or email him at

[jphanlan@wpi.edu](mailto:jphanlan@wpi.edu) by June 1, 2008.

Monographs on any historical topic, time or place published in 2007, written by an author who lives or works in New England (or has done so in the past two years), are eligible for the annual NEHA Book Award presented at the October 2007 conference. The nominated book should represent the best historical writing and scholarship in any era or field of history. The award certificate and \$200.00 stipend are presented to the winner at the conference each Fall.

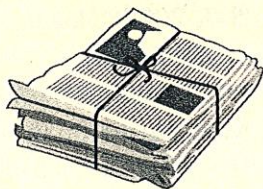
The members of the NEHA Book Award Committee for 2007 are: **Kathryn Tomasek**, chair (Wheaton College); **Jacqueline Carr** (University of Vermont); **Michael Gesin** (Worcester State College); **Robert W. Smith** (Bridgewater State College); and **Aldo Garcia Guevara** (Worcester State College).

## CONFERENCE REPORT

The 79th meeting of the Association at WPI on October 20 was well attended with 00 historians registered for 11 sessions with 23 papers. The program included two roundtables, one on Recent Tales from the Job Market and another on Crossing Boundaries: New Methods, New Categories, New Questions: Digitized Voting Returns, 1787-1820. Anthony Penna (Northeastern University) chaired a fascinating presentation on *Environmental History: Nature, Direction, Future*. We were pleased to join 00 members for lunch on a beautiful Fall afternoon. Association President **Luci Fortunato** conducted the awards presentation and business meeting at lunch.

This meeting was made possible by the outstanding efforts on our behalf by the program chair, Vice-President **Ballard Campbell** (Northeastern University), Executive Secretary **James P. Hanlan** (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), and the local arrangements committee from the WPI Humanities Department.





## NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

**Robert V. Bruce** (Boston University) passed away on January 15 at his home in Olympia, Washington. A specialist on the Civil War era and the history of American science, he earned his Ph.D. at BU and taught there from 1955 to 1990. A prolific scholar, outstanding teacher, and mentor to an uncounted number of graduate students, he is best known for *The Launching of Modern American Science, 1846-1876* (Knopf, 1987), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize.

**Bruce Cohen** (Worcester State College) was elected president of the Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association in October.

**Kathleen Dalton** was appointed Visiting Associate Professor of History for the 2007-2008 academic year at Boston University.

**Jeffry M. Diefendorf** (University of New Hampshire) was awarded the first Shulman Professorship of European and Holocaust Studies.

**Susan M. Reverby** (Wellesley College) was appointed to the Marion Butler McLean Chair in the History of Ideas.

**Bruce Schulman** (Boston University) was named University Scholar/Teacher of the Year by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church in 2007.

**Robert Spector** (Worcester State College) has retired after 43 year of teaching American History.

## BOOK NEWS

**Emerson W. Baker** (Salem State College) published *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England* (Palgrave Macmillan).

**Charles Capper** (Boston University) and **Cristina Giorcelli** published *Margaret Fuller: Transatlantic Crossings in a Revolutionary Age* (University of Wisconsin Press).

**Jeffry M. Diefendorf** (University of New Hampshire) and **Kurt Dorsey** (University of New Hampshire) published *City, Country, Empire: Landscapes in Environmental History* (University of Pittsburgh Press)

**David Frankfurter** (University of New Hampshire) published *Evil Incarnate: Rumors of Demonic Conspiracy and Satanic Abuse in History* (Princeton University Press) which won the 2007 award for excellence from the American Academy of Religion.

**Jan Golinski** (University of New Hampshire) published *British Weather and the Climate of Enlightenment* (University of Chicago Press).

**Linda M. Heywood** (Boston University) and **John K. Thornton** (Boston University) published *Central Africans, Atlantic Creoles, and the Foundation of the Americas, 1585-1660* (Cambridge University Press).

**Jane Kamensky** (Brandeis University) published *The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation and America's First Banking Collapse* (Viking).

**William R. Keylor** (Boston University) published *Encyclopedia of the Modern World* (Facts on File).



**Scott Molloy** (University of Rhode Island) published *Irish Titan, Irish Toilers: Joseph Banigan and Nineteenth-Century New England Labor* (University Press of New England).

**Simon Payaslian** (Boston University) published *The History of Armenia* (Palgrave Macmillan).

**Julia Rodriguez** (University of New Hampshire) published *Civilizing Argentina: Science, Medicine, and the Modern State* (University of North Carolina Press).

**Naoko Shibusawa** (Brown University) published *America's Geisha Ally: Reimagining the Japanese Enemy* (Harvard University Press) which won the Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association's Peter C. Rollins Book Award.

**Harvard Sitkoff** (University of New Hampshire) published *King: Pilgrimage to the Mountaintop* (Hill and Wang).

**Pamela E. Swett, S. Jonathan Wiesen and Jonathan R. Zatlin** (Boston University) published *Selling Modernity: Advertising in Twentieth-Century Germany* (Duke University Press).

**David Wagner** (University of Southern Maine) published *Ordinary People: In and Out of Poverty in the Gilded Age* (Paradigm).

**Robert E. Weir** (Smith College) published *Class in America: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood Press).



## CONFERENCES MEETING

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Norlands Humanities Conference on Mainers and Their

*Neighbors Who Went into the World* meets in Maine on June 5-7, 2008. This unusual conference is sponsored by the Washburn Humanities Center in Livermore, Maine with the University of Maine at Farmington and St. Michael's College. Proposals from professional and lay scholars for this interdisciplinary conference may be submitted to Billie Gammon, 42 Hathaway Hill Road, Livermore, MA 04253; or email [egammon@exploremaine.com](mailto:egammon@exploremaine.com)

The Popular Culture/American Culture Association holds its annual conference at the San Francisco Marriott on March 19-22, 2008. For information on this interdisciplinary conference see the PCA/ACA webpage at [www.pcaaca.org/conference/2008](http://www.pcaaca.org/conference/2008) but for proposals on New England topics, contact the ACA program chair **Peter Holloran**, Worcester State College, [pholloran@worcester.edu](mailto:pholloran@worcester.edu).

The 14<sup>th</sup> Berkshire Conference on the History of Women meets at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on June 12-15, 2008. For more information see: <http://www.umass.edu/history/berks/berks.htm>

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) holds its 31st annual conference at the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth on October 31-November 1, 2008. Contact the NEPCA program chair, **Richard Larschan**, University of Massachusetts, Department of English, 285 Old Westport Road, North Dartmouth, MA 02747; [rlarschan@umassd.edu](mailto:rlarschan@umassd.edu). For more information, see the NEPCA website: [www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html](http://www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html)

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Salve Regina University Conference on Cultural and Historic Preservation meets in Newport, Rhode Island on October 23-25, 2008 on the theme *Creating and Preserving the American*



*Home, 1820-1920.* Contact Catherine Zipf, Salve Regina University, 100 Ochre Point Avenue, Newport, RI 02840; [Catherine.Zipf@salve.edu](mailto:Catherine.Zipf@salve.edu)

The Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH) invites proposals for its annual Fall meeting at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point on November 1, 2008. The theme is *East and West of the River: A Comparative Approach*. Contact the program chair: Guocun Yang, Manchester Community College, Social Sciences Department, PO Box 1046, Manchester, CT 06045-1046; email: [gyang@mcc.commnet.edu](mailto:gyang@mcc.commnet.edu) by May 1.



## CONFERENCES MEETING ABROAD

The Seventeenth Annual World History Association Conference meets on June 25-29, 2008 at the University of London, Queen Mary College, Mile End Campus on the themes *Global Cities* and *The Sea: Highway of Change*. Proposals may be submitted by January 15 from the WHA website [www.thewha.org](http://www.thewha.org)

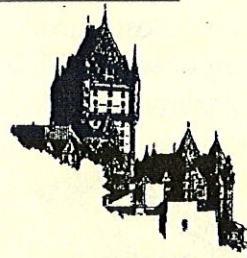
## AUTHORS WANTED

The Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association (NEPCA) offers its annual *Peter C. Rollins Book Award* for the best book on any American culture or pop culture topic published in 2007 by an author in New England or New York. Publishers may nominate one book by June 1, 2008. The award certificate and \$200 prize will be presented to the winner in October 2008 at the annual NEPCA conference. Contact the NEPCA Executive Secretary: **Robert E. Weir**, NEPCA, 15 Woods Road, Florence,

MA 01062; [weir.r@comcast.net](mailto:weir.r@comcast.net)

If you would like to write a book review for the *NEHA News*, please feel free to contact the Association's Book Review editor, **Thomas J. Carty**, Springfield College, Department of History, Springfield, MA 01109; [Thomas\\_J\\_Carty@spfldcol.edu](mailto:Thomas_J_Carty@spfldcol.edu) We have books available for review or you may suggest a good new book you have in hand. Our reviews are 600 words and due in 60 days.

*The Journal of Popular Culture*, a scholarly journal published bimonthly since 1967 by the Popular Culture Association, seeks contributions (articles, book reviews, and guest editorials). For more information, contact the book review editor: **Peter Holloran**, Worcester State College, Department of History, 486 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602; [pholloran@worchester.edu](mailto:pholloran@worchester.edu)



## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The **Loring Fellowship on the Civil War** provides scholars with a \$4000 stipend to conduct research at the Boston Athenaeum and the Massachusetts Historical Society, both of which have rich resources (books, broadsides, music, maps, newspapers, diaries, photographs, correspondence, etc.) on the Civil War. Contact Loring Fellowship, MHS, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02215; or the web site: [www.masshist.org](http://www.masshist.org)

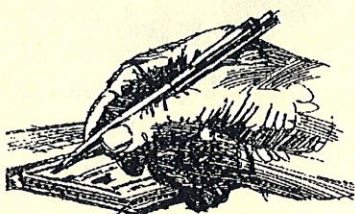
The **Institute for Historical Studies** at the University of Texas-Austin offers year-long fellowships for junior, mid-career and senior faculty. The stipend for the fellows will replace their full salaries at their home institutions. For full details contact Julie



Hardwick, Department of History,  
University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX  
78712 or see  
[www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/](http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/historicalstudies/)

The **Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine**, an alliance of the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library, offers two annual fellowships to support research in the history of medicine. This is the largest academic medical library in the nation with an extensive collection of European medical texts from the 15 to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and many other archives. For application information contact Countway Fellowships, Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library, 10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115.

The **Massachusetts Historical Association** offers long and short term fellowships each year for scholars using their extensive materials. Contact Cherylinne Pina, MHS, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02115; [cpina@masshist.org](mailto:cpina@masshist.org) or see the MHS website [www.masshist.org/fellowships.html](http://www.masshist.org/fellowships.html)

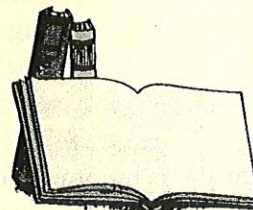


### NEHA FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

The **Association Fund** was created many years ago to support some of the Association's activities not related directly to the annual conference, newsletter, mailings or other routine expenses. It has supported the annual NEHA book award and the NEHA Prize, and to subsidize graduate students presenting a paper, and costs associated with our joint sessions at the AHA. This modest fund is supported by the generosity of our members. Please consider making a donation, mail your check payable to NEHA to **James P. Hanlan**, the Executive Secretary, or add a contribution

when you pay your annual dues or conference registration payment. Thank you for your generous support. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

### BOOK REVIEWS



**Randi Storch. *Red Chicago: American Communism at Its Grassroots, 1928-35.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2007.**

Under the aegis of the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA), the Daily Worker Press chose for its favorite *Red Cartoons of 1928* a Fred Ellis illustration of a labor martyr whose body lay stretched out in front of a door reading "Wall Street." But this New York City reference belied the fact that the Press itself was located in Chicago. That city had long been a Socialist and Industrial Workers of the World hub for writers, activists, and grassroots organizers. Now Randi Storch, who teaches history at SUNY Cortland, adds to important work by Douglas Wixson (*Worker-Writer in America*), Elizabeth Cohen (*Making a New Deal*), "red" memoirist Steve Nelson (*American Radical*), and a growing body of revisionist historians, eyewitness or otherwise. Hers is a beautifully researched social history of American Communism focused on the day-to-day activities of factory organizers, proletarian authors, and the all but nameless low-ranking members of the Chicago CP.

Storch emphasizes that from the native-born white steelmill rank and file to unemployed African Americans to downwardly mobile college students in the Young Communist League, Chicago reds "did not always follow the rules" (4). That is, they reinterpreted the Comintern Central Committee's Stalinist doctrine so that Soviet control "remained incomplete, and local



cultures...shaped the movement" (2).

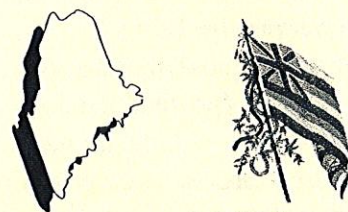
Her choice of dates spans the Russian Communist Party's Third Period, when America would allegedly see the collapse of capitalism. These seven years are particularly rich for researchers, as the Russians have made available thousands of pamphlets, letters, shopfloor strategies, and memos largely issuing from and detailing the workings of the CPUSA during that time.

A final reason for tracing radical community action in a huge Midwestern industrial city during these years is the very potency of the Great Depression itself. Hoover's presidency generated more American Communists than the Party's earliest American period (from 1919 onward). Roosevelt's early New Deal, prior to the results of the Alphabet Soup Administration (WPA, CCC, and so on), also disappointed young leftists and, for a time, swelled Party ranks.

The book consistently discusses what a heartland American Communist culture was like, day by day, strike by strike, speech by speech, and organizing drive by organizing drive. Those of the Chicago laboring populace who felt "the bosses get it all" (187) were drawn to the rallies, protests, and more informal social occasions. In these venues, organizers and activists tried to politicize laborers for whom the 1920s had been anti-union but pro-welfare capitalism (company union paternalism).

Controversies still swirl around the extent of American dual unionism. This was the term for Third Period policy of "boring from within" whereby workers in organized labor would recruit for the Party. *Red Chicago*, by focusing on the pre-New Deal allure of the CPUSA, does not lay these doubts to rest. But it is extremely important reading. It is of special value for students of American community, class, gender, race, and ethnicity as well as those seeking a fuller understanding of how the Party could proclaim in the following decades, "Communism is Twentieth Century Americanism."

**Laura Hapke**  
New York City College of Technology



**Paul T. Burlin. *Imperial Maine and Hawai'i: Interpretive Essays in the History of Nineteenth-Century American Expansion*. Lexington Books: New York, 2006.**

In this collection of biographical essays, Paul T. Burlin, professor of history at the University of New England, reveals the historic roots and political contours of a "Maine-Hawai'i connection" that dates to the mid-nineteenth century and reached its apogee with the U.S. annexation of Hawai'i in 1898. By detailing how economic and political elites from one of the nation's oldest states interacted with non-white inhabitants of a Pacific territory that was coveted for its natural resources but largely viewed as culturally inferior, Burlin elucidates "some of the larger national concerns, issues, and themes that were evident in the country's relationship with less developed portions of the world that came under its sway" (3). Burlin locates his book squarely within the revisionist tradition of William Appleman Williams and others who have urged scholarly attention to the domestic sources of U.S. foreign policy. In exploring this New England-Pacific nexus through research in private, state, local, and national archives of the United States, Burlin offers insight not only into the economic and social roots of empire, but into the regional ones as well. He explores this dimension by profiling over a half-dozen Maine personalities who, through missionizing, politics, and trade, directly or indirectly cultivated the imperial ties that culminated at century's end in the formalization of U.S. political dominance over Hawai'i.

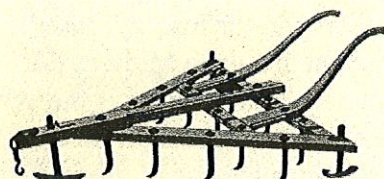


Burlin follows a brief introduction by describing the “imperialism of the spirit”—the missionary impulse—that animated religious encounters between Maine and Hawai’i beginning in the 1830s (7). Among the earliest of these “pious merchants” (24) was Peter Brinsmade (profiled in Chapter 3), a partner in Ladd & Company, an outfit that blended Protestant “moral resolve” with a radical plan to replace the island’s traditional “feudal political economy” with a “free labor system” modeled on the United States (29). Ostensibly aimed at elevating Hawai’ians to a “higher level of civilization,” the enterprise succeeded at acquiring hundreds of acres of arable land suitable for sugar cultivation and was thus “a significant factor in opening the way for the eventual disinheritance of the Hawai’ian people” (30, 48). That ignominious path unfolds in subsequent essays about the Hawai’ian fixations of Elias Bond, Daniel Dole, Luther Severance, Elisha Hunt Allen, James G. Blaine, John L. Stevens, Sanford B. Dole, and Harold Marsh Sewell, the latter three of whom presided over the so-called Hawai’ian revolution of 1893-94 that led to the eventual annexation of Hawai’i to the United States.

A central theme of the book concerns the question of American empire. Burlin argues that the Maine-Hawai’i linkage demonstrates the persistence of American overseas acquisitiveness and that U.S. scholars need to acknowledge the fact that, despite lingering exceptionalist presumptions, the United States has persistently behaved as a traditional great power in its quest for territorial and other power in the world. While a source of much discussion during the Cold War, some may question how salient this debate remains today, with self-identified post-revisionists like John Lewis Gaddis and Geir Lundestad conceding the existence of an American Cold War empire in Europe, and with political neoconservatives openly promoting a “Pax Americana” in the Middle East. By offering a window into the role that states, regions, and

personalities played in shaping nineteenth-century foreign policy, however, the book may enliven both undergraduate and graduate courses on American foreign relations history while offering fresh global perspectives on the history of Maine, Hawai’i, and New England.

**Deborah Kisatsky**  
Assumption College



**Bruce Lenthall.** *Radio's America: The Great Depression and the Rise of Modern Mass Culture.*

Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

*Radio's America* offers a glimpse into a time of great cultural change in America. Twentieth-century America was to be profoundly different from the America of the nineteenth century. Americans found their world becoming ever larger and their places within it becoming smaller. The rise of a modern mass culture was a dynamic force that defied any turning back. Bruce Lenthall found that both radio and the decade of the 1930s played an important role in that change.

Lenthall points out that radio played a dual role in the newly-emerging mass culture of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century: “more than any preceding cultural vehicle, radio created and disseminated a mass culture.” By the Depression of the 1930s, American society had undergone vast changes. As personal connections decreased within a growing society, larger connections with a more general public became increasingly necessary. Lenthall notes that ultimately “radio came to embody the culture of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, [and] made that world a part of most Americans’ daily lives.”

Nevertheless, that the rise of both radio and a new mass culture did not come



without opposition Lenthall makes clear from the beginning. Many “public intellectuals” concluded America was “fast becoming something new and frightening,” and that radio could “endanger individual autonomy.” They believed broadcasting networks concentrated too much power in the hands of too few, ultimately controlling public communication for their own goals, purposes, and profits.

Lenthall does an excellent job of presenting both facets. In Chapter one, “Radio’s Challenges: Public Intellectuals and the Problem of Mass Culture,” he presents the perceived problems from three different perspectives, giving the reader an understanding of the dilemma faced by some who were concerned with America’s cultural future. All three groups were concerned with the same issue, but each focused on a different aspect of it: mass-producing “culture,” or the final “product” being consumed by a newly-formed “mass populace,” or the limitations placed on the process from both directions based on racial prejudices.

All six chapters deal with a different aspect of the new medium for the new century. While chapter one addressed some of the critique surrounding radio culture, the second chapter expands to the audience radio was speaking to, the consumer (so to speak) of the new product. The examples Lenthall includes help make it personal, allowing readers to place themselves within that time period. Another important aspect is that of radio’s possible affect upon democracy. Would it be for good or could it prove to be detrimental to the democratic process? Chapter three, “Radio’s Democracy,” attempts to answer that question. Lenthall’s study of Franklin Roosevelt and his “Fireside Chats” (as well as radio priest and Roosevelt critic Father Charles Coughlin) make exceptionally interesting reading and help broaden our understanding of the “political” side of radio. Chapter four speaks of “Radio’s Champions” and the fifth chapter takes a look at radio’s

students. Radio broadcasting created a new and exciting field for education, and Lenthall provides some insightful examples, including differences between two types of researchers. “Administrative researchers” wanted to “use radio effectively” (i.e. “build a better mousetrap”), while “critical theorists” hoped to “understand American culture at large” (i.e. seek to determine “what was ‘going on’ with the mice”). Finally, Chapter six gives insight into radio’s writers, political and non-political.

Overall, *Radio’s America* should be a useful and interesting source for any class on American Culture, History, or Communication. It brings a new perspective on what now might seem to be an “old” invention – but one that had a lasting impact on America’s society.

Serena L. Newman  
Bay Path College



Colin G. Calloway. *The Scratch of a Pen: 1763 and the Transformation of North America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

One of the hazards of studying history is the tendency to see earlier events through the lens of subsequent events. In *The Scratch of a Pen* Colin G. Calloway seeks to understand 1763 on its own terms rather than as merely the opening act of the American Revolution. Calloway “surveys the enormous changes generated by the Peace of Paris and assesses their impact on many societies and countless lives in North America.” (14) The main theme is that while the scratch of a pen (borrowing Francis Parkman’s expression) settled matters between Paris in London, matters remained decisively unsettled in the interior of this continent. North America, not merely that parts that became the United States, is



Calloway's subject. He notes that two of the most important places in North America, Louisbourg and Havana, often do not figure into the American narrative. Calloway's North America is one where the boundaries drawn by European powers competed with those drawn by natives and settlers.

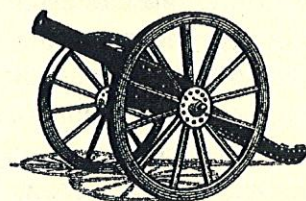
For Calloway, North America in 1763 "was a world of movement, not of stasis." (22) France split its former empire in North America between Great Britain and Spain, giving Spain a new and troublesome Indian population, and giving Britain a large French population and access to the trade routes of the Great Lakes. Thousands of British subjects moved to the colonies, and the coastal colonists sought new opportunities in the interior. The British were fairly lenient toward the Quebecois, allowing them to continue to speak French. The French of the interior melded with the Michilimackinac and other Great Lakes tribes, acting as middlemen with the British. The Acadians, expelled from their homeland in 1755, were allowed to depart the British Empire, and scattered across the Atlantic world.

The North American interior was the great prize of the Seven Years' War. "For Indians the so-called French and Indian War was about Indian lands," Calloway states. (48) The British soon proved to be very different imperialists than the French. The French, running a larger empire with fewer personnel, relied on diplomacy and the practice of gift-giving. The British were forced to follow suit, and according to Benjamin Franklin gift-giving gave the Indians an inflated sense of British wealth. With money tight and the French expelled, the British turned to soldiers to maintain the peace. At their head was General Jeffery Amherst, who was "arrogant and ignorant of Indian ways" and "viewed empire as something to be governed, not negotiated and cultivated by giving gifts to Indians." (69) Soon enough, British officials would apply the same logic to their white American subjects. Change in administration and the

influx of settlers, soldiers and traders were among the factors that led to Pontiac's War, which Calloway calls the first war of independence. Pontiac's War in turn led to the Proclamation of 1763, which Lord Shelburne believed was a temporary expedient. The Proclamation placed men such as George Washington, who depended on the exploitation of western lands, in adverse circumstances, and led then to see the British army and government as allies of the Indians.

Of course, the peace of 1763 cannot be separated from the later events it shaped. Britain's new empire led to the policies that produced the American Revolution and another transfer of territory in 1783. The French, beginning with the Duc de Choiseul, nursed dreams a return to North America. Those dreams ended with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Calloway is careful not to let 1783 and 1803 distort the meaning of 1763 for those who lived through it. He is therefore able to offer a full panorama of late colonial North America.

**Robert W. Smith**  
**Worcester State College**



**Harry S. Stout. *Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War*. New York: Viking. 2006.**

Surely, many assume, if any war in the history of the United States has been a just war, it was the Civil War, which ended slavery, that brutal contradiction in a nation founded on the self-evident truth that all men are created equal. But does a war's justice necessarily mean that it was a moral war? And how does a historian treat such questions? In *Upon the Altar of the Nation*, winner of the New England Historical Association's 2007 Book Award, Harry S.



Stout presents a model of careful consideration, laying out the terrain of "a gray zone of differing opinions among good people" (xii), noting that abolition did not lead to racial equality, and still telling the story in a way that allows readers to render their own judgments.

Stout, Jonathan Edwards Professor of American Religious History at Yale University, outlines the principles of just war theory and the distinction between *jus ad bellum*, which posits that just wars must be defensive wars, and *jus in bello*, which holds that in their conduct, just wars observe both proportionality of means to ends and discrimination in determining appropriate targets in warfare. Returning again and again to these well defined and generally accepted principles, Stout notes that their application in the Civil War does not lead to easy conclusions about the morality of the war. He suggests that such judgments become even more difficult for the later years of the war, "as it escalated from a limited war fought by armies in the field, far from cities and civilians, to a 'total' war in which civilians and their property were deliberately targeted" (xv).

Religion appears in various forms throughout the book. Stout interprets the war in the context of nineteenth-century nationalism and the creation of an American civil religion. Thus, he identifies the U.S. Military Academy at West Point as "the first seminary of national religion" (xix). And he demonstrates that such elevated meanings of the war developed in both the Union and the Confederacy. Stout cites the public response to the death of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson from wounds inflicted at Chancellorsville as "a concrete illustration of the process by which a Confederate civil religion was incarnated through a violent atonement" (229).

Stout also brings into the narrative the actions and responses of clergymen North and South. As he considers, for example, the development of Lincoln's understanding that Southern belligerence

required escalation to total war directed at both citizens and soldiers, he points out the contradictions in the positions taken by Northern clergymen who loudly decried the sin of slavery while remaining silent on the question of *jus in bello* as well as Northern racism.

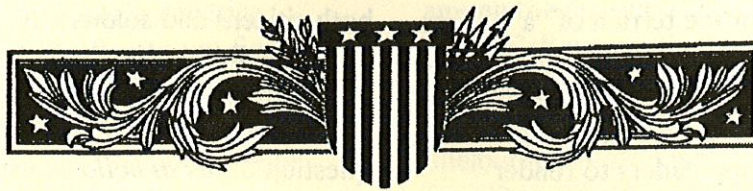
Fast days, days of thanksgiving, Lincoln's commemoration of the Gettysburg battlefield, Northern peace Democrats, treatment of prisoners, the moral justification for Sheridan's Shenandoah campaign and Sherman's march through Georgia, the Christian rhetoric in the Northern election of 1864, Lincoln's second inaugural—all of these topics and more come under scrutiny in this eloquent analysis of a war whose atrocities were rationalized through appeals to the justice of the abolition of slavery.

Ultimately, Stout concludes that as a historian he must accept the judgment of those who lived through the Civil War and continued to see it as a just war, in no small part because it brought about the blood sacrifice that reunited North and South into a people dedicated, at least nominally, to the idea of American freedom.

Kathyn Tomasek  
Wheaton College







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 Exeter Academy  
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### **American Historical Association**

2009 \* New York City \* 2-5 January  
2010 \* San Diego \* 7-10 January  
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2014 \* Washington \* 2-5 April

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### **Oral History Association**

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## **NEHA NEWS**

**The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association**

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**The New England Historical Association** is a comprehensive organization for professional and avocational historians in all disciplines and fields. Membership is open to all persons or organizations interested in studying, teaching or writing history. It is *not restricted* to New England history or American Studies. The Association is affiliated with the **American Historical Association**.

Annual dues (calendar year) for regular members are \$15.00, or \$7.50 for graduate students and adjunct or retired faculty members. Life membership for individuals or organizations is \$150. An Association Fund assists in supporting the work of the Association. All dues and contributions to the Association Fund are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please address all correspondence to the Executive Secretary.

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●●●●●●

**Spring Meeting**  
Northeastern  
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