



Fall Conference: September 25th & 26th, 2026

Plan now to join us for our Fall meeting, held at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut! There will be a special event: A Dialogue on Public History from 5:00 - 6:30 pm on Friday the 25th. The panel will be held at the Barone Campus Center in the Dogwood Room with moderator, Elena Rosario of Fairfield University with panelists, Todd Gernes, Stonehill College; Jason Mancini, Connecticut Humanities; Kyera Singleton, Royall House and Slave Quarters.

Conference presentations will take place on Saturday, September 26th. All Saturday events will take place in the Dolan School of Business (DSB).

We have arranged blocks of rooms at two nearby hotels for the fall conference at Fairfield University. Please see the information below from the two hotels for how to book your rooms to receive the discount rate. Note well the cutoff dates for the two hotels - Aug. 21 and Aug. 28.

You can use the reservation links below to book your own rooms or call the reservations team and mention "New England Historical Association" to receive your discounted rate. Guests will be responsible for their own room charges, including incidentals.

[TRUMBULL MARRIOTT - SHELTON: \\$194.00 PER NIGHT](#)

[HILTON GARDEN - NORWALK: \\$199 FOR KING BED OR \\$209 FOR 2 QUEEN BEDS](#)

[Last Day to Book: Friday, August 21st for Hilton & Friday, August 28th for Marriott](#)

Many thanks to Elizabeth Hohl, Elena Rosario, Patrica Behre of Fairfield University and Dr Todd Gernes for their work organizing the conference program and handling its orchestration.

Registration is now open at: <https://neha.wildapricot.org/event-6799742/>
Registration



Bellarmine Hall, Fairfield University | By Zeete - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

newenglandhistorians.org

Discounted conference pre-registration is open until September 18, 2026 at 5:00 pm (\$20). After September 18, 2026 the base fee for the conference becomes \$30. We waive conference registration fee for undergraduate students - Contact Sean Perrone, Executive Secretary at neha.execsec@gmail.com for passcode.



Fairfield University Entrance | Stagophile at English Wikipedia, CC

Fall Conference Program

Friday, September 25, 2026

5:00-6:30 p.m. | Special Event: A Dialogue on Public History

Barone Campus Center, Dogwood Room, Fairfield University

Complimentary light refreshments will be served.

Moderator: Elena Rosario, Fairfield University

Panelists: Todd Gernes, Stonehill College; Jason Mancini, Connecticut Humanities; Kyera Singleton, Royall House and Slave Quarters

A lively interdisciplinary conversation on public-facing historical projects, scholarship, practices, and methodologies, followed by moderated discussion and audience questions. The program will consider the future of NEHA and other historical organizations as they engage increasingly in intentional public-facing historical work.

Welcoming Remarks:

Patricia Behre, *Chair and Associate Professor, Department of History, Fairfield University*

Sunil Purushotham, *Director of the Humanities Institute and Associate Professor, Department of History, Fairfield University*

We are grateful to the Humanities Institute at Fairfield for co-sponsoring A Dialogue on Public History and underwriting the refreshments!

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Hosted by Fairfield University

Dolan School of Business

1073 N Benson Rd, Fairfield, CT 06824

Schedule at a Glance

Registration & Complimentary Breakfast	8:30 - 10:00 AM	Dolan School of Business; Dogwood Room
Quiet Study/Relaxation Area	8:30 AM - 3:00 PM	Dolan School of Business
First Morning Sessions	9:00 - 10:30 AM	Dolan School of Business
Break	10:30 - 10:45 AM	Dolan School of Business
Second Morning Sessions	10:45 - 12:15 PM	Dolan School of Business
Catered Lunch	12:30 - 1:30 PM	Dolan School of Business
Afternoon Sessions	1:45 - 3:15 PM	Dolan School of Business
NEHA Board Meeting	3:00 - 3:30 PM	Dolan School of Business

Complementary continental breakfast provided during registration courtesy of Dean Richard Geenwald, College of Arts and Sciences, Fairfield University.

* Denotes Undergraduate Presenter

Saturday, September 26, 2026

First Morning Session – 9:00 – 10:30 am

Panel 1: Politics, Culture, and the Modern United States

Located in DSB 110

Chair & Comments: Sunil Purushotham, Fairfield University

Erin E. Redihan, Salve Regina University

Not so Placid: Political Sideshows at the 1980 Winter Olympics

Betsy Wood, Bard Early College

The 'Culture War' Was a Tax War: Anti-Tax Politics & the Making of Modern Conservatism

Panel 2: Reimagining New England History

Located in DSB 111

Chair: Amy Johnson, Southern Connecticut State University

Comments: Elizabeth Hohl, Fairfield University

Debra A. Mulligan, Roger Williams University

'Fascism is no Good Here': The Relationship of Rhode Island Italians to Benito Mussolini

Joshua Shanley, Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Forging a Profession: The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and the Evolution of Fire Service Education in Massachusetts

Panel 3: Geography & Identity

Located in DSB 201

Chair & Comments: Michael Dorn, Independent Scholar

Johnathan Derek Awtrey, Fairfield University

David Franks: The Revolutionary Ordeal of a Jewish Freemason

Diego Benning Wang, Princeton University

On Defining the North Caucasus: Regional Studies and Epistemological Challenges

Nour Desrousseaux, McGill University

'Ich danke Gott fürs Gehabte': Immigration Against the Odds: The Abeles-Popper Family's Case under Canada's Restrictive Policies

Panel 4: Medicine & Culture

Located in DSB 212

Chair & Comments: Eric C. Cimino, Molloy University

Dien Ho, MCPHS University

How the Contradictions of Henry Knowles Beecher Shaped American Medicine

Ryan J. McMillen, Marist University

'Found and Lost' No More: The Rediscovered First Published Work of Mary Putnam Jacobi, M.D.

Verena Baier, University of Regensburg

Between 'Magnetic Catarrh Balm' and 'Borning Better Babies': Dr. Foote's Health Monthly and Transatlantic Anarchist Sexual Expertise, 1880-1920

Panel 5: Women, Politics, and Power

Located in DSB 217

Chair & Comments: Sylvia Marsans-Sakly, Fairfield University

Cat Rosch, Brandeis University

'No Fetus Can Beat Us': The Visibility of Abortion on College Campuses in the Boston Area from 1966 to 1973

Wendy E. Chmielewski, Swarthmore University, and Jill Norgren, City University of New York

Massachusetts Women in Political Office, 1854 to 1910

Nora Mezo-Willingham, McGill University

Agency, Antifeminism, and Authority: Contextualizing Hungarian Women's Dissent, 1978-1989

Panel 6: The American Revolution in Word & Image

Located in DSB L03

Chair & Comments: Ken Banks, Wofford College

Yusuf Mansoor, University of Connecticut

The Diverging Paths of Moor's Indian Charity School - the Indigenous Northeast and the American Revolution

Abigail Bettencourt, Emmanuel College

Painting the Emerging American Identity: John Trumbull's Capitol Rotunda Paintings and the Era of Good Feelings

Sarah Toole, Mount Holyoke College

Printed at Home: Amateur Textile Printing and Political Expression in Revolutionary Massachusetts, 1765-1783

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Coffee/Tea Break

Second Morning Session – 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

Panel 7: Disease, Environment, and Society

Located in DSB 110

Chair & Comments: Dien Ho, MCPHS University

Ann M. Becker, SUNY Empire State College

Smallpox in Washington's Army: Disease, War and Society during the Revolutionary War

Jennifer S. Alpert, Bentley University

Soil-Moisture Theory: An American Miasmatic Theory

Panel 8: During the Long World War

Located in DSB 111

Chair & Comments: Erin E. Redihan, Salve Regina University

Ellen J. Wetmore and Yotam Perlinger, UMass Lowell

Somewhere in Germany, an American Letter from the Front Lines of the Holocaust

Kyra Dezjot, Fordham University

New England Jews and Nazi Youth: Jewish Responses to the Formation of Bund Summer Camps in the 1930s

Michael C. McLaughlin, Independent Scholar

Beyond the Numbers: Recovering Voices from the Plymouth Blitz

Panel 9: History, Industry, & Technology

Located in DSB 201

Chair & Comments: Debra A. Mulligan, Roger Williams University

Brian Peterson, College of the Siskiyous

Turkey, Railcars, and Contestation: A Brief History of Swanson's TV Dinners and the Rise of Flash-Freezing in PostWorld War II Culture, 1953-1962

Jacob Barnds, Rhode Island College

A Rubber Reformation: Progressive Era Industrialization and the Cultural Transformation of Small Towns: A Case Study of Bristol, Rhode Island

Tona Hangen, Worcester State University

Industrial Hazard and Family Precarity in Worcester, 1920-1950

Panel 10: Spirit as Doctrine & Metaphor

Located in DSB 212

Chair & Comments: Johnathan Derek Awtrey, Fairfield University

Richard M. McGee, University of Rhode Island

Thwarting the Jolly Roger: Puritans, Politics, and Pirate Executions in Early New England

Sean Sullivan, Swansea University

The Context, Origin and Intent of 'Parliament Physic for a Sin-Sick Nation' by Nathaniel Joceline

Kate E. Benoit, Purdue University

'Indeed the Spirit Was Gone': Materializing Love and Loss in America's Age of Religious Revival

Panel 11: Perspectives on Women's History

Located in DSB 217

Chair & Comments: Anna M. Lawrence, Fairfield University

Theresa Giard, Salem State University

Skirts on Fire: A Study on Mythology and Interpretation of Women's Lives at New England's Historic Sites

Katie O'Day, Mount Holyoke College *
Isabel Cobb: Thirteen Hundred Names

Kaycee Conover, Simmons University

'In my estimation, all women are sacred': The Exploration of Creativity, Identity, and Survival at the Massachusetts Reformatory for Women in the Early-to-Mid-Twentieth Century

Panel 12: Art, Literature, & Politics

Located in DSB L03

Chair & Comments: Philip Mosley, Penn State University, Emeritus

Marie Basile McDaniel, Southern Connecticut State University
Connecticut Women Writers of the Revolution

Ethan H. Leonard, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Anxiety and the Eclipse of Literature: Harold Bloom's Readings of Freud and the Search for a Discrete Literary Tradition

Hannah Rosenman, Mount Holyoke College *

'Land of Asylum: Lois Mailou Jones and African American Artistic Migration to Paris' /
'Terre d'asile: Loïs Mailou Jones et la migration artistique afro-américaine à Paris'

Lunch – 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Catered Luncheon will take place in the Dolan School of Business. Catered luncheon charge: \$30

Opening Remarks:

Olivia Harriott, Associate Dean, John Charles Meditz College of Arts and Sciences and Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Fairfield University

Mark Ligas, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Excellence and Associate Professor of Marketing, Charles F. Dolan School of Business, Fairfield University

Michael Neagle, NEHA President

Afternoon Session – 1:45 – 3:15 pm

Panel 13: A World in a Nutshell: Practicing Microhistory

Located in DSB 110

Chair & Comments: Richard M. McGee, University of Rhode Island

Alison Morris, Salem State University

The Woman's Friend Society of Salem, Massachusetts, 1876-1900

Dylan Fowler, Open University, UK

'With all the impartiality that is possible' - Thomas Innes and the Jacobite Remaking of Scottish History

Richard G. Whitehead

Five Trees in the Vineyard: Life in the Rural Madonie Region of 18th Century Sicily As Seen Through the Riveli Tax Records

Panel 14: Archives & Constructions of Knowledge

Located in DSB 111

Chair & Comments: Jonathan DeCoster, University of New England

Amy Johnson, Southern Connecticut State University

From Paper Mazes to Guided Pathways: A Public History of Accessibility and Student Persistence in Connecticut Higher Education

Peggy Ann Bloomer, Central Connecticut State University

Drafting Knowledge: A Material Encounter with Library Classification in Practice

Evan Turiano, Trinity College

Concealed Carry Permits, Records Retention, and the Problem of Archives for the 'History and Tradition' Second Amendment

John J. O'Leary IV, University of Connecticut

'America's Favorite Tenor' and Connecticut's Automotive Heritage: Rediscovering the Melton Museum Archives

Panel 15: Crossing Borders, Challenging Boundaries: Rethinking Women's Activism

Located in DSB 201

Chair & Comments: Mary Berkery, Excelsior University

Kelly Marino, Sacred Heart University

Votes for New York Women: Caroline Lexow Babcock and the Struggle for Suffrage in the Empire State

Ashley M. Morin, Sacred Heart University

'Invaluable Hope to Ordinary People': The Women of Peace People

Jessica M. Frazier, University of Rhode Island

Developing a Transnational Black Feminist Thought in the 1980s

Panel 16: History & International Politics

Located in DSB 212

Chair & Comments: Laurence Jurdem

Alyssa Brown, Syracuse University

Planning the Exit: American Occupation Planning and Political Transition in Austria and Korea, 1943-1955

Lindsay Hall, Salem State University

'We Pick up the Shreds of the Conversation and Close as Lovers what we Commenced as Politicians': Exploring Gouverneur Morris and Adelaide Flahaut's Intimate and Political Partnership During the French Revolution

Sharmishtha Roy Chowdhury, University of Connecticut

Tense Anniversaries: The Sesquicentennials of the American and French Revolutions in the Interwar Period

Panel 17: History, Pedagogy, & Higher Education

Located in DSB 217

Chair & Comments: Brian Peterson, College of the Siskiyou

Michael J. Stevens, CT State Community College

The Innovative Approaches of Howard Zinn: Educational Efforts Against Repression, 1980-2001

Christian Gonzales, University of Rhode Island

Professing History: How Historical Pedagogy Can Help Students During a Time of Crisis

Panel 18: Perspectives on Military History

Located in DSB L03

Chair & Comments: Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

Emma Remis, Simmons University

Winds of Change: The Influence of Shifting Differential Immunity on the Rise and Fall of Spanish Cuba, 1492-1898

Richard Maximus Strahan, UMass Lowell

Conquest Without Battle: Diocletian's Bloodless Seizure of the Roman Empire, Its Reinvention & Subsequent Construction of a New World Order

Willem Eisl, UMass Lowell *

Sound Plans, Explosive Actions: Hatteras Inlet, Port Royal Sound, and the Birth of American Amphibious Doctrine

Panel 19: Work, Mobility, and the Making of American Society

Located in DSB 106

Chair & Comments: Thomas Balcerski, Eastern Connecticut State University

Ken Banks, Wofford College

Harvesting Mobilities: A Re-interpretation of New England's Pre-Revolutionary Economy

Michael Dorn, Independent Scholar

Steam Dreams and Founding Myths in Early American Western Literature, 1812-1842

3:15 - 3:30 pm Coffee/Tea Break
Plenary Session | 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Roundtable: 25 Years After 9/11 (DSB)

Chair: Mike Neagle, Nichols College

Discussants: Caitlin Carenen, Eastern Connecticut State University; Boyd P. Brown, Nichols College; Hasan Arslan, Western Connecticut State University; Silvia Marsans-Sakly, Fairfield University.

Book Review: Black Moses; A Saga of Ambition and the Fight for a Black State by Caleb Gayle (New York: Riverhead Books, 2025.)

Reviewer: Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

I suspect like many students who completed high school and college during the 1980s, I had never heard of the Tulsa Massacre of 1921. When I first learned about the tragedy, I wondered how a section of Tulsa, OK has earned the moniker of “the Black Wall Street.” Caleb Gayle, a Professor of Journalism at Northeastern University, who wrote a children’s book about the event *What was the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921?* (2023), indirectly answered my question with his latest book, which focuses on the life of Edward McCabe (1850-1920).

McCabe, the focus of *Black Moses*, was a remarkable individual who worked tirelessly to create a community where Black Americans could be treated equally, fairly, and prosper. The work covers McCabe’s entire life, but it is essentially a political biography that focuses on McCabe’s political activities and alliances, and the responses both engendered. The book is organized chronologically with each chapter covering a year or small block of years at a particular place. The introduction opens with the story of the attempted murder of McCabe in 1891, while he was on his way to work in the Oklahoma territory where he was treasurer and had been organizing Blacks for the second opening of territory for settling.

Gayle uses the 1843 debate “How can we truly be free?” between Frederick Douglass and Henry Highland Garner, both former slaves. Was a gradual transformation to a multiracial democracy realistic (Douglass’s position), or would freedom require a immediate emancipation without compensation to enslavers (Garner’s position)? By the time McCabe joined this discussion, the parameters had changed. The Civil War ended slavery, but the question of freedom and equality still remained.

Now emancipated, Black Americans needed to (re-)establish a place in America and could expect little to no assistance from a white government. Black “Exodusters”—taken from the biblical Exodus—fled not only from the South, but also from northern states where Blacks were not treated equally. In *McCabe*, Gayle has found an ideal representative of Black hopes and desires, and of the obstacles faced securing freedom and equality.

Gayle traces McCabe’s journey to Nicodemus, Kansas, an early attempt to create a town where Blacks would sit in positions of authority and influence. Through his talent, energy, and ambition, McCabe quickly established himself as a leading citizen in Nicodemus. He became a notary. Due to fact that Nicodemus was incorporated before the

surrounding territory, all official business went through McCabe. Gayle traces McCabe's increasing prominence and his rise in the Republican party to become Kansas's State Auditor, the first state-wide Black office holder outside of the South. Race and unofficial term limits ended his political career on the state level in Kansas after two terms. Rather than return to Nicodemus, McCabe turned his sights southward towards the Oklahoma territories.

McCabe went to Washington DC to try to increase his influence and hoped to be named the governor of the territory, and he eventually had a meeting with President Benjamin Harrison to make his case (unsuccessfully). McCabe dreamed of making Oklahoma a Black state with Black public officials, including Senators and Congressional Representatives. This ambition was never realized. Both whites and indigenous peoples were against the idea of a Black State. More consequentially, white officials in the Oklahoma territory were not even willing to protect legitimate Black land claims. The decision to permit railroads to segregate railcars highlighted the fact that a white government was not going to promote or protect the rights of Black citizens. McCabe would take this issue all the way to the Supreme Court in the case *McCabe v Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company* (1914), which he would lose.

Ultimately, McCabe died in relative obscurity, but Gayle's account is a reminder of why McCabe's story remains important to remember. Gayle concludes with a contemporary note on the efforts to preserve Nicodemus and Langston as historical markers. Gayle writes, "the mere existence of these towns serves as totems to ambitions, and the inequity in our ability to chase and achieve these ambitions." (236). It is also a reminder of the extent white individuals and government went to try to prevent Blacks from living autonomously and without interference. Both directly and indirectly, Gayle's book challenges various narratives about Black dependence. The fact that a section of Greenwood District in Tulsa, OK could prosper to the extent that it would earn the title of "Black Wall Street" demonstrates the ability of people who had been considered incapable by the white majority.

Gayle has provided a well-researched, well-written account of a remarkable individual who worked tirelessly to realize a dream that he and many of his contemporaries shared. Many will be grateful for the "Cast of Characters" listed in the beginning to help keep everything in order. *Black Moses* was on the long list for the National Book Award and deservedly so. It is suitable for a general audience but also would be a good addition to undergraduate or graduate level courses.

The Fiery Spirits: Popular Protest, Parliament and the English Revolution by John Rees, London: Verso, 2025.

Reviewer: Sean Sullivan, Independent Scholar

Those familiar with the English Civil Wars are doubtless familiar with the refrain popular among Cavaliers and Roundheads during the conflict's prelude and early years that there was a small group of 'incendiaries' or other 'malignants', either whispering in the king's ear or riling up the Commons respectively, who were most responsible for the crises which had spiraled into civil war in 1642. The Royalists in particular, King Charles I least among them, were especially fond of this belief that most of the Commons were fine and deferential subjects, and that only a small minority, described by the MP and diarist Simond D'Ewes as 'fiery spirits', were actively and ideologically opposed not only to the king's agenda, but to the king himself.

John Rees, a former Marxist activist turned historian with notable publications on radicalism in London politics (2012) and on the Levellers in particular (2016) has decided to take these accusations about a minority of like-minded parliamentarians at face value and to investigate them to their logical ends. The result is his new book, *The Fiery Spirits*, which traces the ideas, fates, and consequences of the cooperation of a quadrumvirate of MPs comprising Henry Marten, William Strode, Peter Wentworth and Alexander Rigby.

Rees argues that not only did these fiery spirits contribute considerably to the course of the Parliamentary war-effort, but that it was their alliance with army radicals and the Leveller movement which ultimately made the regicide of 1649 possible. On both points, meticulous research and robust engagement with primary and secondary sources allows Rees to be broadly effective in making his case. However, Rees assumes both a considerable amount of knowledge about the Civil Wars, as well as with certain elements of its historiography, which might catch the less-initiated reader offguard.

Additionally, due to Rees' focus on exclusively textual evidence, any kind of empirical data which might have been collated into maps, graphs, or other visual representations is absent from the book, though it's hard to see where such materials would have done anything to support his argument.

For the specialist however, the greatest issue with Rees' book is less what he argues and instead the unevenly weighted nature of his argument. Of the book's thirteen chapters, Rees' argument for the singular importance of the fiery spirits is best made in the first eight, where the narrative follows each member closely first as

individuals and then as a group. This part of the narrative, which covers the Personal Rule and the pre-war years, comprises over half the book's length. Thereafter, Rees finds himself not only having to cover the wartime years of the men in question, but having to rapidly add a supporting cast of army agitators, Levellers, and inescapable personages such as Oliver Cromwell and John Lilburne. Alexander Rigby is given a chapter to discuss his combat actions in the First Civil War, while Strode dies quietly,

Wentworth maintains correspondence and Marten joins his umpteenth committee amid a whirlwind of intersecting and competing interests within the Parliamentary camp. The result is that the second half of the book is much denser than the first in terms of both detail and length, with the last two of the thirteen chapters comprising nearly fortypercent of the text's length. While Rees does well to keep a brisk pace amid this race to the regicide, a reconsideration of how to portion the text appropriately would have done much to make this work a more accessible and satisfying read.

Overall, Rees has produced a work which helpfully coalesces the stories of several important MPs during the period into a single place, and argues with suitable academic rigor that from the calling of the Long Parliament to the regicide, they had an essential place in the events of the decade. While it is unknown if a work of this nature might inspire the average modern-day fiery spirit, it is likely to be consulted with some regularity among specialists of the Civil Wars as a helpful guide to a distinct group of individuals during this most chaotic of epochs.

Out and About in New England: The Henry Sheldon Museum and its Stewart-Swift Research Center (SSRC), Middlebury, Vermont

By Ellery Foutch (Associate Professor, Middlebury College) and Elizabeth Vitek (Archivist, Henry Sheldon Museum & SSRC)

Vermont's Henry Sheldon Museum is full of treasures. Incorporated in 1882, it contains a vast array of artifacts and archives, reflecting the omnivorous curiosity of its founder, Henry Luther Sheldon (1821-1907). Long before the advent of academic social history or the formal conceptualization of history "from below," Henry avidly collected the materials and records of everyday Vermonters in the hopes of helping "future generations" understand the past. When townspeople were cleaning out their attics, moving house, or preparing for a funeral, Henry was there to make an offer for old papers or antiques, from tar buckets to fine furniture; he attended auctions and junk sales, collecting all along the way. In addition to his own purchases and scavenging practices, he also urged others to donate to his rapidly expanding collection, with a keen eye to the future value of what was often considered "scrap." As he observed in a July 1881 notice in the Middlebury Register, "Old books, pamphlets, newspapers, almanacs, letters, etc., now so often consigned to the paper mill, [will] in time be considered of great value as matters of history."

The Henry Sheldon Museum and its Stewart-Swift Research Center are the beneficiaries of Sheldon's vision; our collections encompass a mind-bending array of topics, from the business papers of dairy farmers and apple growers, merchants and importers, doctors and lawyers; to the correspondence of homemakers and mill girls, missionaries and marbleworkers; to the diaries of tailors and ministers. For almost any conceivable research topic, the Sheldon Museum and its archive have a potential wealth of materials.

Therefore, when members of the museum's staff expressed interest in learning more about women's mental health and nineteenth-century treatments, there was a strong chance that the Stewart-Swift Research Center would hold something useful. Sure enough, tucked among the collections were first-hand accounts from three Vermont women treated at different institutions: doctors' reports describing Nancy Nash's treatment, or lack thereof, at the Brattleboro Retreat in the 1850s; Martha Jewett's letters to her husband, penned while she was institutionalized at the Jackson Sanatorium in Dansville, New York, in 1872; and letters from Elga Stewart, who entered Dr. Walter Channing's psychiatric hospital in Brookline, Mass. in 1901 and spent the rest of her life living within institutions. Though separated by decades and diagnoses, all three accounts share the same uncertainty, the same vague vocabulary describing the women as "quite nervous" and experiencing

“delusion,” echoing and reflecting broader attitudes towards women’s behavior and mental health in this era.

These discoveries, in combination with an exhibition of historic wallpaper, instigated this summer’s “Behind the Wallpaper” series. Inspired by Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *The Yellow Wallpaper*, these programs explore mental health, gender, and history. The August 20th session will specifically draw on the letters related to Nash, Jewett, and Stewart, bringing psychiatrists, scholars, and the public together to ask how these women’s experiences still echo in conversations about gender and mental health today.

We welcome NEHA members to join us for the August 20 program, or to visit the museum in the coming months to explore this season’s exhibitions. *Uncovering Wallpaper Design, 1800-Present* will be on view through November 7, while other exhibitions will remain on view through January 2, 2027: *Time Keeping*, an exploration of clocks, watches, and objects that encourage the consideration of the passage of time, juxtaposed with the work of contemporary artist Luciana Frigerio; *Remembering the American Revolution, 1776-2026*, with artifacts commemorating (or commercializing) the people and events of the Revolutionary War; *Icy Artifacts of the Everyday*, featuring historic photographs and wintry objects such as antique sleds, ice skates, and mittens; and *The Tempesty Project*, a community knitting project that visualizes climate data, 1923-2023. In recent years, the museum has become perhaps best known for the collection of Charity Bryant and Sylvia Drake, one of the earliest (documented) same-sex couples in early America, and a new long-term exhibition, *Drawing on the Archive: Tillie Walden’s Charity & Sylvia*, celebrates their story and invites visitors to imaginatively inhabit the world of Charity and Sylvia by pairing the Museum’s archival and object collections with Walden’s contemporary illustrations, painted directly on the walls of the museum.

The Henry Sheldon Museum is usually open to the public from mid-May to the first week of January; the Research Center is available by appointment year-round. For more information, including the research catalogue, finding aids, and upcoming events, please consult the museum’s website:

<https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/>

Save the Date: NEHA Spring 2027

Please join us for our **Spring 2027** conference, at **Stonehill College** in Easton, Massachusetts on **Saturday, April 24, 2027**.

Our **Spring CFP** will open after the Fall meeting, with proposal deadline **February 1st, 2027**. Send proposals and brief CV to: nehasubmissions@gmail.com

Stay Connected

Social Media

Threads: [nehistoryassoc](#)

Bluesky: [@nehistoricalassoc.bsky.social](#)

Instagram: [@nehistoryassoc](#)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/new-england-historical-association/>

Join or renew your membership: neha.wildapricot.org/join-us

Website: newenglandhistorians.org
Includes latest NEHA updates, past conference programs, prize announcements, newsletter archive, guide for meeting hosting, and our bylaws.

NEHA Communications Chair is Ella Howard (Wentworth Institute of Technology), howarde@wit.edu. Please contact her with information, news, or questions about our website and social media.

Newsletter: We welcome announcements, calls for papers, fellowship notices, and news suitable for our **newsletter** or for posting to our website. If you have a submission for the **Spring 2027** newsletter, please send it to NEHA News Editor (nehanews.editor@gmail.com) by Dec 1, 2026.

Book reviews should be sent to NEHA book review editor, Thomas J. Carty

(Springfield College)
tcarty@springfield.edu. If you have a book you would like to be considered for a future review, mail it to Thomas Carty at: Department of Social Sciences, Springfield College, 263 Alden St., Springfield MA 01109.

Ways to Get Involved

Make a Tax-Deductible Donation. We welcome contributions to help support our programs and expand our reach! <https://neha.wildapricot.org/Donate/> **Contribute a book review** for our newsletter. Contact: **Tom Carty**, tcarty@springfield.edu

Volunteer at an upcoming conference at check-in or with the local arrangements chair.

Serve on a prize committee

Book Prize: contact **Marie McDaniel**, mcdanielm4@southernct.edu.

Student Paper Prize (Grad / Undergrad): contact **Dominic DeBrincat**, ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu

Run for office. We welcome NEHA members to nominate themselves or colleagues for various NEHA positions. Contact Nominating Committee Chair Kelly Marino (marinok2@sacredheart.edu) for information about becoming a candidate.

Have your institution **host an upcoming NEHA conference**; more info on our website, newenglandhistorians.org.

NEHA Prizes

NEHA sponsors four annual prizes: book award, research grant, and two student paper awards.

The **James P. Hanlan Book Award** is presented to an author based in New England who has produced an outstanding

work of history published in the prior year. It is awarded each fall.

Criteria: Monographs on any historical topic, time, or place published in 2025, written by an author who lives or works in New England (or who has done so in the past two years), are eligible for the annual NEHA James P. Hanlan Book Award. The nominated book should represent the best historical writing and scholarship in any era or field of history. Award certificate and honorarium will be presented to the winner at the next Fall conference.

Any publisher may nominate one book each year by writing to **Book Prize Chair** by Dec 1, 2026. Other members of the committee include Lisa Edwards (UMASS Lowell), Don Wyatt (Middlebury College), and Elizabeth DeWolfe (University of New England).

NEHA Research Grant

Apply now for the New England Historical Association Research Travel Grant. We recognize how challenging it can be to obtain funding for historical research. We give one grant each year for up to \$1250 to meet the costs of travel and research at libraries, archives, museums, parks, and other historical sites. Those eligible to apply must be an active NEHA member for at least four years, who have not previously been awarded this grant, proposing valid academic research that requires the applicant to travel to access relevant materials (including public history projects). Current Board members are not eligible.

If you want to confirm your NEHA membership status or eligibility, please email the Executive Secretary (neha.execsec@gmail.com). The grant should be used within the calendar year in which it is awarded. Grant recipients will be expected to present initial findings from their work at a NEHA conference within two years of conducting the research, and to

acknowledge the grant in any scholarly publications resulting from it.

The next grant deadline is December 1, 2026.

To apply complete the application form at <http://www.newenglandhistorians.org/prizes/research-grant/>, plus a 500-750 word project statement, C.V., and budget for use of the grant funds.

Submit your application to NEHA Executive Secretary Sean Perrone at email: neha.execsec@gmail.com.

Student Paper Prizes

NEHA encourages the participation of students in its conferences and considers papers delivered at a NEHA conference for prizes for the **top graduate student paper** and **top undergraduate student paper**. Panel chairs may nominate papers from their sessions, or students may self-nominate.

Papers given during 2026 meetings will be eligible for the Spring 2027 award. Submit papers to **Student Prize Committee Chair, Dominic DeBrincat** (Missouri Western State University), ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu.

Member Spotlight

Done some interesting research lately? Starting next issue, *NEHA News* will include a Member Spotlight section to highlight the work and accomplishments of our wonderful members. If you wish to be included for the Fall 2026 newsletter, please send a short paragraph about your recent work and a headshot to Allen Horn (nehanews.editor@gmail.com). We hope to hear about your research!

CFPs, Grants and Fellowships

The **American Academy in Rome** awards an annual Rome Prize to 15 scholars working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, or modern Italian studies. It also awards 15 fellowships for emerging artists (e.g. architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, literature, musical composition, or visual arts). Recipients of the prize study at the academy in Rome. Application deadline is Nov 1. For more information, visit www.aarome.org/apply/rome-prize

The **American Antiquarian Society** in Worcester offers three broad categories of visiting research fellowships: long-term, short-term, and fellowships for creative and performing artists and writers. For more information, visit americanantiquarian.org/fellowships

The **American Philosophical Society Library** in Philadelphia offers competitive short-term fellowships to support in-residence research employing its renowned scholarly collections. Applicants with a Ph.D. or advanced Ph.D. candidates or independent scholars may apply for the fellowships, which carry a monthly stipend of \$2000 for 1-3 months. To apply, visit www.amphilsoc.org/grants/fellowships

The **Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America** at Radcliffe College offers a variety of research grants to support new scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality. Current grants include summer research fellowships and dissertation research funding. For more information, visit www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/opportunities-for-researchers

The **Boston Athenaeum** offers short-term fellowships to support use of its collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects. Athenaeum fellows are for a residency of 4 weeks. For more

information, visit bostonathenaeum.org/library-collections/fellowships/

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. There is the largest academic medical library in the nation, with an extensive collection of European medical texts from the 15th to 20th centuries and many other collections. For application information, visit countway.harvard.edu/center-history-medicine/services/fellowships

Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, MA, invites college juniors and seniors to apply for its 9-week, fully-funded Summer Fellowship Program in History and Material Culture. February deadline. For more information, visit www.historic-deerfield.org/sfp

Historic New England provides \$1000 grants to small and mid-sized heritage organizations in each of the six New England states, for historic community preservation. For more information, visit www.historicnewengland.org/helpful-links/awards-programs/community-preservation-grants/

The **John F. Kennedy Library** offers various research fellowships and grants every year to support scholars who need to use the archival holdings of the JFK Library. For more information, visit www.jfklibrary.org/archives/research-fellowships-grants

The **Massachusetts Historical Society** offers short-term and long-term research fellowships each academic year. The Society is a participant in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. For more information and application deadlines, visit www.masshist.org/research/fellowships. Contact fellowships@masshist.org or call (617) 646-0577.

The **New England Regional Fellowship Consortium**, a collaboration of 30 major cultural agencies in our region, offers two dozen awards each academic year for a minimum of 8 weeks of research at participating institutions. For more information, visit www.masshist.org/fellowships/nerfc

The **Women's Studies Research Center** invites applications to be a Visiting Scholar in residence at Brandeis University for up to a year. For more information, visit www.brandeis.edu/wsrc/scholars/index.html

Future Conferences

American Historical Association
2027: New Orleans, Jan 7-10
2028: Seattle, Jan 6-9

African Studies Association
(africanstudies.org)
2026: New Orleans, Dec 3-6

American Academy of Religion
(aarweb.org) Concurrently held with the
Society of Biblical Literature
2026: Denver, CO, Nov 21-24

American Studies Association
(theasa.net)
2026: Chicago, Oct 22-25

Italian American Studies Association
(italianamericanstudies.net)
2026: Medford, MA, Nov 5-8

National Council on Public History
(ncph.org)
2026: Providence, RI, Sept 16-19

National Women's Studies Association
(nwsa.org)
2026: Atlanta, Nov 5-8

North American Conference on British Studies (nacbs.org) in conjunction with the
Western Conference on British Studies

2026: Pasadena, CA, Nov 12-15

Oral History Association (oralhistory.org)
2026: Portland, OR, Oct 14-17

Social Science History Association
(ssha.org)
2026: Atlanta, Nov 19-22

Opportunities for Authors

If you would like to write a book review for **NEHA News**, please contact our book review editor, **Thomas J. Carty**, Springfield College, Department of History, Springfield, MA 01109; tcarty@springfield.edu. We have books available for review or you may suggest a good new book you have in hand. Reviews are 600 words and are due in 60 days.

The Historical Journal of Massachusetts (HJM) seeks articles about any aspect of Massachusetts history, culture, politics, and life. HJM is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year since 1972. HJM is especially interested in articles on the history of recent immigrant communities. Subscriptions are \$12.00 per year, and the acceptance rate is 35%. For submission guidelines see www.westfield.ma.edu/historical-journal/ or email them at masshistoryjournal@westfield.ma.edu.

The History Press (arcadiapublishing.com) is looking for local historians and writers who are interested in publishing accessible histories of the towns and communities of New England. The History Press is a traditional, full-service press that focuses exclusively on publishing works of local and regional interest. They publish a wide range of books from brief histories of a town to collections of folklore and essays on the local culture. A typical author has strong ties to their community, and they strive to make their local history more accessible.

For more information, contact Edward Mack, commissioning editor, at Edward.Mack@historypress.net

The *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science* (IJHSS), an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal, seeks interdisciplinary articles in humanities and the social sciences. If you have questions about the journal, please contact its editor, **J. Sabrina Mims-Cox** (editor@ijhssnet.com).

The *International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science* (IJLASS), a newly established, open access, peer-reviewed journal, seeks all manner of contributions, including articles about history. Send your manuscripts to the editor at editor@ijlass.org, or editor.ijlass@hotmail.com.

The *New England Journal of History* (www.nejh.org/) seeks articles and book reviews for upcoming issues; it is published twice yearly by the New England History Teachers Association, with rolling submission deadlines January 15 and July 15. Please send submissions or inquiries to editor Linda Morse, editors@nejh.org.

The *New England Quarterly* editors invite submissions for their consideration. This historical review of New England life and letters has been published since 1928. NEQ is an open forum dedicated to the exploration and discussion of New England civilization and its effects on the nation and the world. The journal is open to any historical method, and there is no restriction on the time period covered. Features also include brief memoranda, recently discovered documents, reconsiderations of historical controversies, periodic essay reviews, and approximately fifteen book reviews per issue. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor, **Jonathan Chu**, at: jonathan.chu@umb.edu

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

popular culture topic published each year by an author in New England or New York. Contact the NEPCA Executive Secretary, **Lance Eaton**, Brandeis University, lance.eaton@Agmail.com.

About NEHA

Website: newenglandhistorians.org

Threads: [nehistoryassoc](https://nehistoryassoc.com)

Bluesky:

[@nehistoricalassoc.bsky.social](https://nehistoricalassoc.bsky.social)

Instagram: [@nehistoryassoc](https://www.instagram.com/nehistoryassoc)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/new-england-historical-association/>

NEHA CONTACT INFORMATION

Sean Perrone, Executive Secretary
History Department
Saint Anselm College
100 Saint Anselm Drive #1629
Manchester, NH 03102
603-641-7059
Email: neha.execsec@gmail.com

NEHA OFFICERS, 2025-2026

Thomas Balcerski, President (Eastern Connecticut State University)
Michael Neagle, Vice President (Nichols College)
Tona Hangen, Treasurer (Worcester State University)
Ella Howard, Secretary & Communications (Wentworth Institute of Technology)
Sean Perrone, Executive Secretary (Saint Anselm College)

NEHA NEWS EDITOR

C. & A. Horn, nehanews.editor@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Thomas J. Carty (Springfield College)

BOOK PRIZE CHAIR

Marie McDaniel (Southern Connecticut State University)

PAPER PRIZE CHAIR

Dominic DeBrincat (Missouri Western State University)



Stagophile, CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikicommons

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maura Jane Farrelly, Past President (Brandeis University)
Paul Lambert, Sr., Past President (Nichols College)
Todd Gernes (Stonehill College)
Kathryn Lamontagne (Boston University)
Allison K. Lange (Wentworth Institute of Technology)
Tricia Peone (Congregational Library & Archives)
Don Wyatt (Middlebury College)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Kelly Marino, Chair (Sacred Heart University)
Liam Riordan (University of Maine)
Jessica Frazier (University of Rhode Island)

The New England Historical Association (Inc)., founded in 1965, is a comprehensive incorporated non-profit organization for professional and avocational historians in all disciplines and fields. It meets twice a year (Spring & Fall) for one-day in-person or virtual conferences throughout the region.

Membership is open to all persons or organizations interested in studying, teaching or writing history of any time

period, subfield, or region. NEHA is a regional affiliate of the **American Historical Association**.

Annual dues (calendar year) for regular members are \$30.00. Membership is \$15.00 for graduate students, adjunct, or retired / emeritus faculty members.

Donations to help support NEHA, Inc., are fully tax deductible. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Donate at: <https://neha.wildapricot.org/Donate/>

Past Presidents:

www.newenglandhistorians.org/about/presidents/

Past Conference Programs:

www.newenglandhistorians.org/conferences/

NEHA News is the newsletter of the **New England Historical Association**, published twice a year in April and October since 1974.

Newsletter Archive:

www.newenglandhistorians.org/newsletter/