Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

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SOCIETY FOR HISTORIANS
OF THE EARLY AMERICAN REPUBLIC

Twenty-Third Annual Meeting

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland
July 19-July 22, 2001
2001 SHEAR ANNUAL MEETING

PRESIDENT
Daniel Walker Howe, St. Catherine's College, Oxford University

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Julie Roy Jeffrey, Goucher College
Larry Peskin, Morgan State University

COOPERATIVE BOOK EXHIBIT
The Great Hall, Levering Hall: Friday and Saturday, 9 to 5; Sunday 9-noon.

SHEAR wishes to express its special thanks to the Program in Early American Economy and Society, Philadelphia, for underwriting the printing of this program. In addition, SHEAR thanks Jeri Schaner and Elizabeth Smith in the History Office at Miami University, Mary Johnson in the History Office at Texas A&M University, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, the University of Virginia Press, and the Johns Hopkins University Press.

SESSION LOCATIONS
Unless otherwise indicated on the program, the rooms in which sessions will be held will be announced at a later date.

Baltimore, 2001
THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2001
SESSION ONE
3:00-5:00pm

ORPHAN APPRENTICESHIP IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC

CHAIR: Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut

PANEL: Monique Bourque, College of General Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Gillian Hamilton, University of Toronto
Ruth Wallis Herndon, University of Toledo
Barry Levy, University of Massachusetts at Amherst
T. Stephen Whitman, Mount St. Marys College

COMMENT:
Irene Quenzler Brown, University of Connecticut
Richard D. Brown

CONTESTED REPRESENTATIONS: "RACIAL" LIVES IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA

CHAIR: James Brewer Stewart, Macalester College

"Racial Migrations: Abolitionist Print Culture and the Ordeal of Integration"
Timothy Patrick McCarthy, Harvard University

"Narragansett Indians: A Nineteenth-Century Narrative of Racial Extinction"
Joanne Pope Melish, University of Kentucky

"Prophetic Visions of Race and Nation: The Legacy of James McCune Smith"
John Stauffer, Harvard University

COMMENT: James Brewer Stewart
Thursday

READING AND WRITING WOMEN’S LIVES
CHAIR: Sheila Skemp, University of Mississippi
PANEL: Edith B. Gelles, Stanford University
Joan Gundersen, Chatham College
Margaret Sumner, Rutgers University
Rosemarie Zagarri, George Mason University

THE RITUALS OF PARTICIPATION
CHAIR: Jeffrey L. Pasley, University of Missouri at Columbia

"The Tavern Crowd: Disorderly Male Comportment in the Early Republic"
Richard Stott, George Washington University

"Voting Rites Act: Electioneering, 1790-1820"
Andrew Robertson, Lehman College, CUNY

"Missouri Mobs and Northern Nabobs: How Northerners and Southerners Interpreted Mob Behavior during the Missouri Crisis, 1819-1821"
James C. Foley, University of Mississippi

COMMENT: Jeffrey L. Pasley

AFTER THE REVOLUTION: LIVES AND MEMORIES OF REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS
CHAIR: Theodore J. Crackel, East Stroudsburg University

"Lived Lives and the Politics of Sepulture: Jersey Prison Ships and Captain James Lawrence"
Robert E. Cray, Jr., Montclair State University

Thursday

"The Life and Times of Henry Sewall"
Walter Sargent, University of Minnesota

"'Long Bill' Scott Revisited: Lives of the Soldiers and Veterans of Peterborough, New Hampshire"
John Resch, University of New Hampshire at Manchester

COMMENT: Len Travers, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth

TOUR OF THE BALTIMORE HARBOR ABOARD THE SKIPJACK MINNIE V
6pm-9pm
with light refreshments and speaker
Limited seating, children under 8 years of age not permitted. See registration form.

PLENARY SESSION
The Great Hall, Levering Hall Thursday, 7:00–9:00
Moderator: Mary Kupiec Cayton, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

"Getting from Here to There: Margaret Fuller’s American Transnational Odyssey"
Charles Capper, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Comment: Anya Jabour, University of Montana
Scott Casper, University of Nevada at Reno
FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001  
SESSION TWO  
8:00-9:30am

WOMEN’S LIVES IN ANTEBELLUM UTOPIAN COMMUNITIES

CHAIR: Tamara Plakins Thornton, University of Buffalo

“Women in Fourierist Communities: Political and Economic Public Spheres”
Kathryn Tomasek, Wheaton College

“Women’s Lives in Utopia: A Mother and Her Daughters at the Northampton Community (1843-1846)”
Christopher Clark, University of Warwick

COMMENT: Carol A. Kolmerten, Hood College  
Lawrence Foster, Georgia Institute of Technology

THE LIFE OF FRANCIS ASBURY

CHAIR: Ruth Alden Doan, Hollins University

“Francis Asbury and the Blending of Popular and Religious Culture”
John H. Wigger, University of Missouri, Columbia

“Francis Asbury and Women in the Spirit”
Donald G. Matthews, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

COMMENT: Cynthia Lynn Lyerly, Boston College  
Ruth Alden Doan

DIPLOMACY AND DISGUISE

CHAIR: Herbert E. Sloan, Barnard College

“Between Public and Private Life: Jefferson, Adams, the ‘Art of Diplomacy,’ and the Diplomatic Household”
Leonard Sadosky, University of Virginia

“Discovered in Disguise’; Dress and Gentility in the Arrest of Aaron Burr”
James Lewis, Jr.

COMMENT: Doron Ben-Atar, Fordham University  
Herbert E. Sloan

THE STRUCTURES OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

CHAIR: Paul Finkelman, University of Tulsa College of Law

“A Mental and Moral Feast: Reading, Writing and Sentimentality in Black Philadelphia, 1820-1850”
Erica R. Armstrong, University of Delaware

Gary Kornblith, Oberlin College, and Patricia Holsworth, Oberlin Historical and Improvement Organization

COMMENT: Paul Finkelman
Friday

SOUTHERN HONOR AND THE RHETORIC OF MANLINESS

CHAIR: Bertram Wyatt-Brown, University of Florida

"The Kentucky Tragedy and the Problem of Honor in Antebellum America"
Dickson D. Bruce, Jr., University of California at Irvine

"Being Shifty in a New Country: Manhood, Masques, and the Marketplace in Southern Humor"
John Mayfield, Samford University

COMMENT: Johanna Shields, University of Alabama at Huntsville
Bertram Wyatt-Brown

SESSION THREE Friday, 10:00am-12:00pm

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE AMERICAN CROWD

CHAIR: Paul A. Gilje, University of Oklahoma

"Port in a Storm: The Boston Waterfront as Contested Space, 1747-1774"
Benjamin Carp, University of Virginia

"The Gentleman Before the Crowd: Work, Justice, and Self-Creation in Shays’s Rebellion"
Jason Opal, Brandeis University

"Neither Plebeian nor Bourgeois: The Late Eighteenth-Century Militia Insurrection and the Boundaries of the Public Sphere"
Robert H. Churchill, Rutgers University

COMMENT: Amy S. Greenberg, Penn State University

Friday

SCANDALOUS WOMEN

CHAIR: Faye Dudden, Colgate University

"Mary Gove Nichols: Advocate of Women’s Sexual Autonomy"
Patricia Cline Cohen, University of California at Santa Barbara

"Who’s Afraid of Frances Wright? Female Oratory, Class, and Public Discourse in 1829"
Carolyn Eastman, Johns Hopkins University

"Revealing the Body and Concealing the Self: Adah Isaacs Menken Took it Off in 1861"
Renee M. Sentilles, Case Western Reserve University

COMMENT: Faye Dudden

BEYOND THE FOUNDERS I: NEW APPROACHES TO POLITICAL HISTORY

CHAIR: Peter S. Onuf, University of Virginia

"Constitutional History After the New Cultural History: The Curious Case of the Second Amendment"
Saul Cornell, The Ohio State University

"The Alien and Sedition Acts as a Trans-Atlantic Event"
Seth Cotlar, Willamette University

"How Enterprise Became Private: Communications and Public Life in the 1840s"
Richard R. John, University of Illinois at Chicago

COMMENT: Peter S. Onuf
AMERICAN EVANGELICALS: CONSTRUCTING A NEW CIVIL SOCIETY

CHAIR: Deborah Bingham van Broekhoven, American Baptist Historical Society

“Believing in America: Faith and Politics in Early National Virginia”
Charles F. Irons, University of Virginia

“Disestablishment and Civil Society in Massachusetts, 1780-1840”
Johann Neem, University of Virginia

“Female Evangelicals and Institution Building in Early National New York City”
Marilyn H. Pettit, Columbia University Archives and Columbiana Library

COMMENT: Norma Basch

JOINT MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND THE JOURNAL OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC EDITORIAL BOARD: 12:00pm, Friday
History Department Seminar Room, 315 Gilman Hall

PICNIC IN THE DECKER GARDEN:
12:00pm - 1:30pm. See registration form.

SESSION FOUR Friday, 2:00-4:00pm

WRITING TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY BIOGRAPHIES OF GREAT WHITE MEN

CHAIR: Stuart Leibiger, La Salle University

PANEL: Lance Banning, University of Kentucky
Andrew Burstein, University of Tulsa
Annette Gordon-Reed, New York Law School
Drew McCoy, Clark University

TROUBLING WATERS: CAREER SAILORS AND EVANGELICAL REFORMERS

CHAIR: Lisa Norling, University of Minnesota

“Spinning Yarns and Forging Identities: The Autobiographies of Career Sailors in Antebellum America”
Myra C. Glenn, Elmira College
Friday

"Home Sick, Sea Sick, & Sick All Over: The Making of a Black Career Mariner"
Michael Sokolow, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

"The Moral and Religious Improvement of Seamen, 1800-1840"
Crystal Williams, University of Oklahoma

COMMENT: Lisa Norling

BIOGRAPHY AND BALTIMORE

CHAIR: Graham R. Hodges, Colgate University

BRIEF PRESENTATIONS:

"Jacob Cohen and Jewish-Black Encounters"
Joshua Civin, Oxford University

"The Mud-Machinists"
Seth Rockman, Occidental College

"Catholic Lives in Antebellum Baltimore"
Sandra Pryor, University of Delaware

"Free African-American Female Preachers"
Barbara Wallace, University of Nevada at Las Vegas

"Gang Leaders and the Meaning of Sectional Conflict"
Frank Towers, Colorado State University

COMMENT: Leslie Harris, Emory University

Friday

RACE AND RELIGION IN THE CHESAPEAKE

CHAIR: Douglas Egerton, Le Moyne College

"The peculiar circumstances of their unhappy birth and colour: Bennett Darnall's Sons and Local Perceptions of Interracial Children in the Early Republic"
Sean Condon, University of Minnesota

"Virginia's 'African Preacher' and the Presbyterian Divines"
Robert A. White, The Citadel

COMMENT: Douglas Egerton

LIVING THE CULTURE OF LETTERS:
GENDER AND LEARNING

CHAIR: Mary Kelley, Dartmouth College

"Gone With the Dead: Reflections on the Poetry of Death in the Old South"
Mark S. Schantz, Hendrix College

"The Classical World in Women's Academies, 1820-1860"
Caroline Winterer, San Jose State University

"Making Her Way Through Writing: Anne Royall and the Business of Writing"
Elizabeth J. Clapp, University of Leicester

COMMENT: Louise Stevenson, Franklin and Marshall College
Mary Kelley
THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
201 W. Monument Street
Free Admission for SHEAR members, Friday, 2pm - 5pm.

Those interested in a guided tour focusing on the special exhibit, the Baltimore Album Quilt Tradition, should contact Ron Walters, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD 21218 (or at rgwl@jhu.edu) by June 1.

WALKING TOUR
OF HISTORIC BALTIMORE RELIGIOUS SITES
2:30 pm-5pm, led by Peter W. Williams, Miami University.

Those interested should contact Ron Walters. The tour will begin at the Basilica of the Assumption, 408 N. Charles Street, near the Peabody Conservatory and a Johns Hopkins University shuttle stop.

RECEPTION
The Peabody Conservatory Library, 1 E. Mount Vernon Place, 5:30pm - 7:00pm (transportation available).
Sponsored by The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation and the University of Virginia Press.

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2001

ART EXHIBIT: “The Artistic Reconstruction of the Battle of Lake Erie” will be on display in the book exhibit throughout Saturday morning. Available for questions and informal discussion will be Dean Mosher, Artist, Fairhope, Alabama; Gerald T. Altfeld, Perry Victory and International Peace Memorial National Park; Craig Sheldon, Auburn University at Montgomery; and Walter Rybka, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

SESSION FIVE
Saturday, 8:30-10:00am

WOMEN AND THE LANGUAGE OF RELIGION

CHAIR: Anne Boylan, University of Delaware

“Martha Laurens Ramsay’s Personal Piety as Female Proto-Individualism”
Joanna B. Gillespie, University of Arizona

“Martha Riggs: An Antebellum Life in the Eastern Mediterranean”
Barbara Reeves-Ellington, SUNY-Binghamton

COMMENT: Susan E. Gray, Arizona State University
Anne Boylan

BEYOND THE BORDERS: UPPER CANADA AND MEXICAN CALIFORNIA IN THE ERA OF THE EARLY REPUBLIC

CHAIR: Stephen Aron, University of California at Los Angeles

“Covering the Grave: The Diplomacy of Murder in Upper Canada”
Alan Taylor, University of California at Davis

“Emancipation and the Meaning of Freedom in Mexican California”
Lisbeth Haas, University of California at Santa Cruz

COMMENT: Stephen Aron
CONFRONTING SLAVERY

CHAIR: A. James Fuller, University of Indianapolis

"Slavery and the Oracular: Living with Progress, Paranoia, and Providence in the Early Republic"
David Holland, Stanford University

"Imperiled Lives Rebuilt"
Cynthia M. Kennedy, Clarion University

COMMENT: Douglas Ambrose, Hamilton College
A. James Fuller

ELECTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

CHAIR: John Murrin, Princeton University

"A Fresh Look at the ‘Election of 1800’"
James M. Banner, Jr., Washington, D.C.

"Consent, Civil Society, and the Public Sphere in the Age of Revolution and the Early American Republic"
John L. Brooke, Tufts University

COMMENT: John Murrin

TEACHING ABOUT WOMEN’S LIVES THROUGH THE WORLD WIDE WEB: A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

CHAIR: Peter Bardaglio, Goucher College

PANEL: Elizabeth Dow, Archivist and Information Technology Specialist, Louisiana State University

PLENARY SESSION  Saturday, 10:30am-Noon

SHEAR IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: PROSPECTS, PERILS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHAIR: Daniel Walker Howe, St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University

PANEL: Members of the SHEAR Planning and Development Committee
James C. Bradford, Texas A & M University
Paul Gilje, University of Oklahoma
Ronald Hoffman, Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture
John Lauritz Larson, Purdue University
Michael Morrison, Purdue University
James B. Stewart, Macalester College
Tamara Plakins Thornton, University of Buffalo
Rosemarie Zagarri, George Mason University

SESSION SIX  Saturday, 2:00-4:00pm

MISSIONARIES AND RADICALS: STUDIES IN CHANGE AND THE MARKET ECONOMY
Saturday

(Sponsored by the Program in Early American Economy and Society, Philadelphia)

CHAIR: Cathy Matson, University of Delaware and Director of the Program in Early American Economy and Society, Philadelphia

"‘We Must Now Place the Manufacturer By the Side of the Agriculturalist’: The Evolution of Jeffersonian Economic Philosophy"
Michael Kimaid, Bowling Green State Universi

"Reinventing the Gemeine: Religious Purpose and the Market Economy Among Bethlehem’s Moravians, 1787-1818"
Katherine Elaine Carte, University of Wisconsin at Madison

"Transforming Infidels into Saints: Market Development and Community Change in Early National Illinois, 1817-1860"
Christopher Schroeder, Library Company of Philadelphia

COMMENT: Jeffrey Mullins, St. Cloud State University

WRITING AND READING THE EARLY REPUBLIC

CHAIR: Mary Zboray, Georgia State University

"Varnished Truths: Shaker Apostate Narratives"
Elizabeth A. De Wolfe, University of New England

"Susanna Rowson and William Cobbett: Writing Different Endings for the Revolution"
Melba Jensen, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

"The Tribune’s Transcendentalism: Horace Greeley and the Transmission of New England Intellectual Life"
David Quigley, Boston College

COMMENT: Ronald Zboray, Georgia State University

BEYOND THE FOUNDERS II: SOCIAL IDENTITIES AND POLITICAL PRACTICES

CHAIR: William G. Shade, Lehigh University

"Beyond Political Culture and Cultural Politics? Dress and Mobilization Between American Revolutions"
David Waldstreicher, University of Notre Dame
Saturday-Sunday

RECEPTION, Saturday, 6:30–7:30pm
The Colonnade

BANQUET, Saturday, 7:30pm
The Colonnade

SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2001
SESSION SEVEN 8:30-10:30am

TEACHING THE EARLY REPUBLIC: A ROUNDTABLE
CHAIR: Jamie Bronstein, New Mexico State University

“Teaching the Early Republic as an Undergraduate Seminar”
Michael Pierson, University of Massachusetts at Lowell

“Teaching Cultural Diversity in the Early Republic in a Culturally Diverse Institution”
Jennifer Lawrence, Temple University

“A Course for All Seasons: Thinking and Writing About the Early Republic”
J. Chris Arndt, James Madison University

“Between the Two Wars: Teaching the Early Republic in a Survey of U.S. History”
Brenda Schoolfield, Bob Jones University

NOT BY BREAD ALONE: LIVED RELIGION IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC
CHAIR: Erik R. Seeman, University of Buffalo

“Cultivating Seeds: Piety, Agriculture and the Religious World of a New Jersey Quaker Yeoman”
John Fea, Valparaiso University

Saturday

“The ‘Little Emperor’: Aaron Burr, Dandyism, and the Conspiracy Trial of 1807”
Nancy Isenberg, University of Tulsa

“The New Necessity of Vigilance”: Redefining Black Politics in the Early Republic
Richard Newman, Rochester Institute of Technology

COMMENT: William G. Shade

NARRATIVE STRATEGIES: A DISCUSSION OF 1831: YEAR OF ECLIPSE BY LOUIS MASUR
CHAIR: Jan Lewis, Rutgers University

PANEL: Ann Fabian, Rutgers University
Daniel Feller, University of New Mexico
Harry Watson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Louis Masur, City College of New York

SHEAR BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, 4:00-5:00pm:
History Department Seminar Room
315 Gilman Hall

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Saturday, 5:30pm:
The Colonnade
4 West University Parkway

“Church, State, and Education in the Young American Republic”
Daniel Walker Howe, St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University
INTERPRETING THE LIVES OF GENTRY WOMEN IN THE UPPER SOUTH: NEW APPROACHES

CHAIR: Marie Tyler-McGraw, Washington D.C. and Shepherdstown, West Virginia

“‘Grace to do More’: Ann Randolph Page and the Call to Activism”
Deborah Lee, George Mason University

“Finding a Larger Political Story in Local Women’s History: Colonization Society Activity in Chesapeake Slaveholding Households”
Tatiana van Riemsdijk, Wilfrid Laurier University

“Writing Women’s Reading: Divining the Intellectual Lives of Eighteenth Century Southern Women”
Catherine Kerrison, Villanova University

COMMENT: Catherine Allgor, Simmons College

RACE, REVOLUTION, AND REFORM: REDEFINING LEGAL BOUNDARIES OF SLAVERY AND FREEDOM

CHAIR: James Sidbury, University of Texas at Austin

“‘An Existing Evil’: Defining the Law of Slavery in Early National Connecticut”
Ellen Holmes Pearson, Johns Hopkins University

“Contrary Slave Law in Building a Nation: Massachusetts and South Carolina”
Emily Blanck, Emory University

“Responding to Racialized Reform: Black Bostonians and the Law in the Early Republic”
Scott Hancock, University of North Alabama

COMMENT: Alfred L. Brophy, Boston College Law School

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON TEMPERANCE AND DRINKING IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC

CHAIR: William Rorabaugh, University of Washington

“The Politics of Drink in the Early Mid-Atlantic and Chesapeake Colonies”
Sarah Hand Meacham, University of Virginia

Michael L. Dorn, University of Vermont

“Modern Chivalry and American Temperance Literature”
Jon Miller, University of Akron

COMMENT: Scott C. Martin, Bowling Green State University
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