

2025 Dublin Seminar

Recalling the Revolution in New England

The 2025 conference is a hybrid event with both in-person and online access to the presentations. Unless otherwise stated, all events take place at the Deerfield Community Center, 16 Memorial Street in Deerfield.

Program

Friday, June 27

Optional Morning Activities

Each option is repeated. Each group is limited to 15 people.

10–10:45 am — **Walking Tour Group A** meets at Historic Deerfield's Visitor Center for "**A Town Divided: Deerfield in the American Revolution.**" Join *James Golden*, Director of Interpretation, on a special guided tour along Old Main Street that explores the lives of ordinary people, Patriot and Loyalist, enslaved and free, male and female, when the small town of Deerfield was divided by the American Revolution. As one Deerfielder lamented, "all nature seems to be in confusion; every person in fear of what his neighbor will do to him. Such times were never seen in New England."

10–10:45 am — **Library Group A** meets at the Memorial Libraries for "**Deerfield In and After the Revolution.**" Join librarian *Jeanne Solensky* for an exploration of materials that illuminate life in Deerfield and neighboring towns during the Revolution. Primary sources such as diaries and account books detail daily activities while muster rolls, letters, and supply lists show the military response of local residents. Histories written by Deerfield citizens in the nineteenth century then reveal how they remembered the Revolution.

11–11:45 am — **Walking Tour Group B** meets at Historic Deerfield's Visitor Center for "**A Town Divided: Deerfield in the American Revolution**" with Director of Interpretation *James Golden*

11–11:45 am — **Library Group B** meets at the Memorial Libraries for “**Deerfield In and After the Revolution**” with librarian *Jeanne Solensky*.

12–1:00 pm — Lunch on your own

12:30 pm — **Registration** opens for in-person attendees to pick up their name badges and information packets at the **Deerfield Community Center**. Refreshments available

1:10 pm — **Virtual sign-in** opens for online attendees

1:15–1:30 pm — **Conference Welcome**

Marla Miller, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, UMass Amherst, and President, Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife

1:30–3 pm — **Panel 1: “Institutions of Memory”**

Moderator: *Barbara Matthews*, Independent Consultant/Public Historian

David Wood, Concord Museum: “Misremembering April 19th”

Elizabeth Pangburn, Ph.D. Candidate, UMass Amherst: “Past-keeping and the Revolutionary Era at the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum”

Beth Folsom, History Cambridge: “Remembering the Revolution in Cambridge: Commemoration and the Creation of Historical Narratives”

3–3:15 pm — Break

3:15–4:45 pm — **Panel 2: “Gender and Memory”**

Moderator: *Kathleen Daly*, Lecturer of History, Bryant University

Mariah Kupfner, Assistant Professor, Penn State Harrisburg: “Piecing the Past: Tactility, Fragmentation, and Remembrance of the Revolutionary Era”

Sarah J. Purcell, Professor, Grinnell College: “‘Personable and Dignified Ladies’: Women, Gender, and the Material Culture of Memory at the Bunker Hill Monument”

4:45–7 pm — Dinner on your own

7–8 pm — Keynote Address: **“The Painter’s Fire: A Forgotten History of the Artists who Championed the American Revolution”** by *Zara Anishanslin*, Professor, University of Delaware

Saturday, June 28

8:30 am — Deerfield Community Center opens. In-person attendees may pick up name badges and information packets. Refreshments available

8:55 pm — Virtual sign-in for online attendees

9–10:30 am — **Panel 3: “Memories Reconsidered”**

Moderator: *J.L. Bell*, Independent Scholar

Gerald W.R. Ward, Portsmouth Historical Society: “Captain, Celebrity, Cliché: The Birth, Death, and Resurrection of John Paul Jones”

Ben Haley, Massachusetts Historical Commission: “The ‘Real’ Knox Trail”

10:30–10:45 am — Break

10:45 am–12:15 pm — **Panel 4: “Performances of Memory”**

Moderator: *Erika Gasser*, Director of Academic Programs, Historic Deerfield

Kate Criscitiello, Lexington Historical Society: “Recalling the Revolution: Lexington’s Two Pageants”

James Bennett, Public Historian, Revolutionary Spaces: “To Become as American as the Fourth of July: Boston School Children and the Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Old State House, 1910-1976”

Alexandra Cade, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Delaware: “Redowa at the Relic: Sensory Performance of Revolutionary Memory in Nineteenth-Century American Tourism”

12:15–1:45 pm — Lunch (buffet provided at the Deerfield Inn)

1:45–3:15pm — Panel 5: “Recovering Memories”

Moderator: *Rebecca Noel*, Professor of History, Plymouth State University.

Timothy Hastings, Ph.D. Candidate, UMass Amherst: “The Spirit of ’75: Slavery, Freedom, and the Meaning of the Revolution in Early New Hampshire”

David Naumec, Research Fellow, Historic New England: “Recovering New England’s Voices: Revolutionary War Veterans of Color”

Barbara Rimkunas, Exeter Historical Society: “Reviving Exeter’s Black Revolutionary War Veterans and Their Families”

3:15–3:30 pm — Break

3:30–5 pm — Panel 6: “Objects of Memory”

Moderator: *Erica Lome*, Curator of Collections, Historic New England

Cynthia Falk, Cooperstown Graduate Program, SUNY Oneonta, “Memories of Massacres in New York’s Mohawk Valley”

Stephen O’Neill, Hanover Historical Society and Dyer Memorial Library, “Drums in the Revolution and Early Republic: Sounds and Symbols of Patriotism”

Philip Zea, President Emeritus, Historic Deerfield, “When Bows and Weighty Spears: The Messages of Putnam’s Horn”

5–5:05 pm — Closing Remarks

Anne Lanning, Senior Vice President, Historic Deerfield

Speaker Bios

In order of appearance

Panel 1: “Institutions of Memory”

David Wood, Concord Museum: “Misremembering April 19th”

David Wood has been curator of the Concord Museum since 1985 and is the author of *Eyewitness to Revolution: The Revolutionary War Collection* at the Concord Museum (2025) and of *An Observant Eye: The Thoreau Collection* at the Concord Museum, as well as a number of articles on the craft community of Concord, including several clockmakers, the cabinetmaker William Munroe, silversmith Samuel Bartlett, and the putative Barrett’s Mill shop (Dublin Seminar 1998).

Elizabeth Pangburn, Ph.D. Candidate, UMass Amherst: “Past-keeping and the Revolutionary Era at the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum”

Elizabeth Pangburn is the Humanities Programs Coordinator at The Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, and a PhD student in public history at the University of Massachusetts. A former academic theater-maker with teaching credits at Mount Holyoke, Smith, Westfield and UMass, she has consulted for Historic Northampton and the Le Gip Archive, and is the founding co-director of TheatreTruck, a theater company that creates site specific performance from the archive and in partnership with local historical organizations, including The Emily Dickinson Museum.

Beth Folsom, History Cambridge: “Remembering the Revolution in Cambridge: Commemoration and the Creation of Historical Narratives”

Beth Folsom is the program manager for History Cambridge (formerly the Cambridge Historical Society). Beth received her B.A. in history from Wellesley College, and her M.A. in history from American University, where she also pursued studies toward her doctorate in history. She has taught U.S. and world history courses at the middle school and high school levels. She has also worked as an adjunct professor at Framingham State University, Emmanuel College, and the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Beth’s graduate studies focused on mourning culture in the late colonial and early national periods, and the ways in which public rituals of death and remembrance served as opportunities for New England communities to place themselves within the narrative of America’s national origin story. At History Cambridge, Beth creates public programs, tours, and exhibits that highlight the rich and diverse history of Cambridge and help to create community connections and foster resilience through a deeper understanding of local history.

Panel 2: “Gender and Memory”

Mariah Kupfner, Assistant Professor, Penn State Harrisburg: “Piecing the Past: Tactility, Fragmentation, and Remembrance of the Revolutionary Era”

Mariah Kupfner is Assistant Professor of American Studies & Public Heritage at Penn State Harrisburg, where she is also the program coordinator for the Heritage & Museum Practice Graduate Certificate. She studies race and gender through the lens of material and visual culture. Kupfner received her Ph.D. in American Studies from Boston University, where she won the Keith N. Morgan dissertation award. Her current book project—*Crafting Womanhood: Needlework, Gender, and Politics in the United States, 1810-1920*—examines the political resonances and applications of American women’s decorative needlework. She explores the abolition of slavery, women’s property rights, girlhood education, and the suffrage movement through lens of the stitch and argues that gender is itself a crafted form. Her work appears in such venues as the Winterthur Portfolio, Material Culture Review, and a recent special issue of Social History/Histoire Sociale on sites of suffrage memory. Kupfner currently serves as co-chair for the Material Culture Caucus of the American Studies Association and on the council of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. She is also the faculty advisor for a student fiber arts club and enjoys dabbling across textile crafts.

Sarah J. Purcell, Professor, Grinnell College: “‘Personable and Dignified Ladies’: Women, Gender, and the Material Culture of Memory at the Bunker Hill Monument”

Sarah J. Purcell is the L. F. Parker Professor of History at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, where she teaches classes on eighteenth and nineteenth century U.S. History, transnational revolutions, public memory, popular culture, and digital history. Purcell holds a B.A. from Grinnell College and A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in History from Brown University. She is the author of *Spectacle of Grief: Public Funerals and Memory in Civil War America* (UNC Press, 2022), *Sealed with Blood: War Sacrifice and Memory in Revolutionary America* (U. Penn Press, 2002) and *The Early American Republic: An Eyewitness History* (Facts on File, 2004). She has co-authored several other books, including *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Perspective*, 5th ed. (Oxford, 2025), the first textbook that places U.S. history in a global context. Purcell is dedicated to fostering student research in History, Digital Humanities, and American Studies, and she was the recipient of the 2019 award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research in the Social Sciences from the Council for Undergraduate Research. Purcell is at work on her next book *Bunker Hill Battles: History, Memory, and a Contested Monument*.

Keynote Address

Zara Anishanslin, Professor, University of Delaware: “The Painter’s Fire: A Forgotten History of the Artists who Championed the American Revolution”

Zara Anishanslin is Associate Professor of History and Art History at the University of Delaware. She works on early America and the Atlantic World, with a focus on material culture and public history. She previously taught at CUNY and at Columbia and was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins. Her award-winning first book, *Portrait of a Woman in Silk: Hidden Histories of the British Atlantic World*, was published by Yale University Press in 2016. For her forthcoming book, *The Painter’s*

Fire: A Forgotten History of the Artists Who Championed the American Revolution (Harvard University Press, July 2025) she's been a Mount Vernon Georgian Papers Fellow at the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle, a Davis Center Fellow in Princeton's History Department, a Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a Mellon/ACLS Scholars & Society Fellow with the Museum of the American Revolution, working to build bridges between academia and the public. An avid public historian, she's worked with a number of museums on exhibitions, including the reinstallation of the Early American Wing at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is currently a Fellow at the David Center for the American Revolution at the American Philosophical Society and creator/co-host of the podcast "Thing4Things: The History Podcast Where Things Matter and Stuff Happens." But according to her children, the only cool thing on her CV is that she served as Material Culture Consult for Lin-Manuel Miranda's show, "Hamilton: The Exhibition."

Panel 3: "Memories Reconsidered"

Gerald W.R. Ward, Portsmouth Historical Society: "Captain, Celebrity, Cliché: The Birth, Death, and Resurrection of John Paul Jones"

Gerald W. R. Ward is the curator of the Portsmouth Historical Society and editor of its Portsmouth Marine Society Press. A graduate of Harvard College, he holds a doctorate from Boston University. He is also the Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture Emeritus at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and has contributed to many publications on American art and material culture as an author or editor. He is currently a Visiting Lecturer at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, where he teaches early American art, 1650-1865, and American decorative arts, 1650-2000. He is serving his seventh term as a State Representative in New Hampshire, representing Portsmouth Ward 4 (Rockingham 27).

Ben Haley, Massachusetts Historical Commission: "The 'Real' Knox Trail"

Ben Haley is the Director of the National Register of Historic Places program at the Massachusetts Historical Commission. He is also a visiting lecturer at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, where he teaches an introductory historic preservation course in the art history department. In addition, he is the Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation in Hadley.

Panel 4: "Performances of Memory"

Kate Criscitiello, Lexington Historical Society: "Recalling the Revolution: Lexington's Two Pageants"

Kate Criscitiello is the Assistant Curator at the Lexington History Museums (formerly the Lexington Historical Society), where she led the curation and development of the institution's new temporary exhibition, *Swept Up in Revolution*. Last year, she worked with the Center for Painted Wall Preservation as their Graduate Scholar, working on the creation of a virtual museum. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees at the

House of the Seven Gables, and holds a Master's Degree in Art History and Museum Studies from Tufts University.

James Bennett, Public Historian, Revolutionary Spaces: "To Become as American as the Fourth of July: Boston School Children and the Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Old State House, 1910-1976"

Jim Bennett holds master's degrees in history from Boston University and Ohio State University. He recently served as Research Fellow at Revolutionary Spaces, where he researched and wrote a history of race and enslavement at Boston's Old South Meeting House in the 18th century. He works for Revolutionary Spaces in their visitor experience department, as a private tour guide for the Boston History Company, and as a guide for Historic New England.

Alexandra Cade, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Delaware: "Redowa at the Relic: Sensory Performance of Revolutionary Memory in Nineteenth-Century American Tourism"

Alexandra Cade is the assistant curator at the Museum of the American Revolution and a PhD candidate in the history of American civilization at the University of Delaware. An interdisciplinary scholar and conservatory-trained violist, Cade studies the material culture of sound, tourism, and identity in nineteenth-century America. Coming from the world of classical music, her experiences performing in historic spaces helped cultivate an immersive approach to exploring the past and a passion for the power of the sensory to transcend archival silences. Previously, Alexandra was curator at the Sigal Music Museum and apprentice harpsichord maker at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Cade received her BM in viola performance from the Eastman School of Music and her MA from the Winterthur Program. Her work as a musician and composer has been on exhibit at the Winterthur Museum, and her recent publications include an essay on marquetry harpsichords in *The Wonder of Wood: Decorative Inlay and Marquetry in Europe and America, 1650-1900* and a chapter in the anthology *A Century of U.S. Illustrated Sheet Music, 1830-1930*.

Panel 5: "Recovering Memories"

Timothy Hastings, Ph.D. Candidate, UMass Amherst: "The Spirit of '75: Slavery, Freedom, and the Meaning of the Revolution in Early New Hampshire"

Tim Hastings is a doctoral candidate at the University of Massachusetts Amherst studying early American history, public history, and Atlantic World slavery and the African Diaspora. His dissertation, "New Hampshire's Atlantic World: Slavery, Freedom, and Community," is a social and cultural history of slavery in New Hampshire during the long eighteenth century and foregrounds the lived experiences of the enslaved. He has received research fellowships through the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) and Historic Deerfield Memorial Libraries, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium (NERFC). He is currently a Study Center Research Fellow with Historic New England examining laborers, workers, and domestic servants connected to Langdon House in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Tim is also a senior editor of the Meshech Weare Paper's Project.

David Naumec, Research Fellow, Historic New England: “Recovering New England’s Voices: Revolutionary War Veterans of Color”

Dr. David Naumec is a Historian, Archaeologist, and Museum Consultant from Eastern Connecticut. He currently works as an Archaeology Field Director for Heritage Consultants and is Historic New England’s Revolution 250 Research Scholar where he studies New England’s Indigenous and African American Revolutionary War veterans. Dr. Naumec is a graduate of UConn’s Individualized Major Program, holds a Master’s Degree in History & Museum Studies from Tufts University, and completed his doctorate in Race & Ethnicity in Early America through the Civil War at Clark University. His historical and professional interests include Native American history, colonial North America, the History of Connecticut, and Battlefield Archaeology. He has published several articles on Connecticut History, Native American History, Military History, and the history of firearms.

Barbara Rimkunas, Exeter Historical Society: “Reviving Exeter’s Black Revolutionary War Veterans and Their Families”

Barbara Rimkunas is the Co-Executive Director of the Exeter Historical Society in Exeter, New Hampshire and has served there since 2000. She primarily works as Curator in the archival collections, sharing the town’s history with the public through bi-weekly publications in the local newspaper and presentations to schools, civic organizations, and the historical society’s speakers program. She is the author of two books: *Historically Speaking: Exeter and Hidden History of Exeter*. She and Laura Martin, also Co-Executive Director, produce monthly videos “Exeter History Minute,” which can be viewed on the society’s website or YouTube. She is a graduate of the University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire. As an undergraduate, she was part of an archaeology team at Fort Pentagoet site in Castine, Maine. She worked as a teacher in Portland, Maine and Newmarket, New Hampshire before changing her focus to public history. She has been a tour guide with the New Hampshire Black Heritage Trail for three years.

Panel 6: “Objects of Memory”

Cynthia Falk, Cooperstown Graduate Program, SUNY Oneonta, “Memories of Massacres in New York’s Mohawk Valley”

Dr. Cynthia Falk is Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies at SUNY Oneonta and Professor at the Cooperstown Graduate Program, where she has taught material culture since 2000. In the local community, Falk serves as Deputy Mayor of the Village of Cooperstown. Falk was the co-editor of the Vernacular Architecture Forum’s journal *Buildings & Landscapes* from 2012-2017 and until recently was on the National Historic Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board. She is author of the books *Barns of New York: Rural Architecture of the Empire State* (Cornell, 2012) and *Architecture and Artifacts of the Pennsylvania Germans* (Penn State, 2008) as well as several articles and book chapters on material culture. Falk earned a Ph.D. in American Civilization from the University of Delaware and a master’s degree from the Winterthur

Program in Early American Culture, a partnership between Winterthur Museum and the University of Delaware. Falk did her interdisciplinary undergraduate work at the Pennsylvania State University in the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Arts and Architecture.

Stephen O'Neill, Hanover Historical Society and Dyer Memorial Library, "Drums in the Revolution and Early Republic: Sounds and Symbols of Patriotism"

Stephen O'Neill is a graduate of Boston College and Boston University. He is currently the Executive Director of the Hanover, Massachusetts, Historical Society, and Director of the Dyer Memorial Library in Abington, Massachusetts. He is the author of *The Life of Peregrine White: "The First Englishman Born in New England,"* published in 2020. O'Neill was formerly the Associate Director & Curator of Collections at Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth from 2004 to 2015 and was Senior Lecturer in History at Suffolk University in Boston from 2005 until 2020. He was Guest Curator for the Alden House Historic Site in Duxbury in 2019 for the archaeological exhibit *In Small Things Remembered*. In Fall 2018, he was the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities funded Scholar-in-Residence at the Old Colony History Museum in Taunton for the project Plymouth Colony in the Collections of Taunton's Old Colony History Museum. In 2017, he installed the exhibit "Historic American Drums" at the Hanover Historical Society which displayed drums from the early 18th century to today. O'Neill is a lifelong resident of the South Shore, a member of the Old Colony Club in Plymouth, a life member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and a Proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum.

Philip Zea, President Emeritus, Historic Deerfield, "When Bows and Weighty Spears: The Messages of Putnam's Horn"

Philip Zea became President of Historic Deerfield in 2003, retiring in 2021. He worked previously as Vice President for Museums and Collections at today's Historic New England and prior to that as Curator of Furniture at Colonial Williamsburg. Phil was employed previously by Historic Deerfield for eighteen years, concluding as Deputy Director and Chief Curator. He has consulted for many museums on early furniture, clocks, base metals, folk portraiture, engraved powder horns, and historical interpretation. Phil holds degrees from Wesleyan University and the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. He is a former board member of Old Salem Museum and Gardens, the Decorative Arts Trust, the George Washington Foundation in Fredericksburg, VA., the New Hampshire Historical Society, and the Enfield Shaker Museum. He has lectured and written widely, including *Clock Making in New England, 1725-1825: An Interpretation of the Old Sturbridge Village Collection* (1992); *The Dunlap Cabinetmakers: A Tradition in Craftsmanship* (1994); and most recently with Jean Burks *Rich and Tasty: Vermont Furniture to 1850* (2015). Phil is currently working on a book for Historic Deerfield entitled *ART OF INDEPENDENCE: ENGRAVED POWDER HORNS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WORLD*.