

HISTORIC DEERFIELD
FALL FORUM 2025

Fashioning the Body:

Dress in New England 1600-1900



September 12–13, 2025

IN DEERFIELD, MA AND ON ZOOM

historic-deerfield.org/events

Register at Historic-deerfield.org/fall-forum

The Fall Forum
will take place
at the Deerfield
Community
Center (pictured
here) and on
Zoom.



Fashioning the Body:

Dress in New England 1600-1900



Fashion has garnered great interest in recent decades and research into the history of clothing has yielded new insights into culturally embedded ideas around self-styling and the body. Yet, few studies have explored New England's relationship with styling the body and fashionable dress. Organized in conjunction with the current exhibition, *Body by Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real* on view in the Flynt Center, Historic Deerfield's 2025 Fall Forum will convene a group of experts in the field to explore the rich history of dressing the body and self-presentation in this region.

The forum will begin on Friday with demonstrations of historic dressmaking and tours of the exhibition and library. Next will be a welcome reception and the keynote address, *The Teen, Her BFF, Her Uncle, and Some Tailors: Documents with Clues to New England Fashion* by Alden O'Brien, Curator of Costume and Textiles at the DAR Museum in Washington, DC. Alden will share her insights into the diary of Sylvia Lewis Tyler and what it can tell us about shopping, making, [re] making, fashionability, and thrift in New England clothing.

Saturday's speakers include **Jennifer Swope** of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, **David E. Lazaro** of The Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, **Lynne Z. Basset**, freelance curator of fashion and textiles, **Chloe Chapin**, PhD, Assistant Director of Course Development, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, **Kristina M. Hanson**, PhD, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Fleming Museum of Art, University of Vermont, **Laura Johnson**, PhD, Curator of Costumes and Textiles, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. **Kristina Haugland**, independent researcher, **Emily Whitted**, ABD, University of Massachusetts, and **Livy Scott**, PhD candidate at MIT. Saturday will include a buffet lunch with free time to walk the old Main Street and view open-hearth cooking demonstrations and historic houses.

Historic Deerfield is home to one of the finest collections of New England architecture, interiors, and decorative arts, including 18th and 19th- century clothing. Historic dress was a particular interest of Historic Deerfield's founder, Helen Flynt (1895-1986). In the 1940s she actively acquired high-style European dress as well as clothing made and worn locally in New England. The textile and clothing collection now boasts 8,000 objects including important examples of fashionable 18th – 19th century European, English, and American dresses and suits, the undergarments that were worn with them, and stylish accessories such as shoes, hats, gloves, purses, and aprons. Over the course of the last fifty years, Historic Deerfield has also amassed related materials, from fashion plates to original account books, which document the role of fashion in the lives of New Englanders.

Register at [Historic-deerfield.org/fall-forum](https://historic-deerfield.org/fall-forum).

SCHEDULE

Friday, September 12

9:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Registration. Lobby, Flynt Center of Early New England Life. Participants who arrive early are welcome to walk The Street and enjoy Historic Deerfield's house museums. At the Flynt Center, the museum displays decorative arts in the Collections Study Gallery and in several exhibitions: *Into the Woods: Crafting Early American Furniture*, *Body By Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real*, and *Envisioning America: Deerfield Academy's Collection of Paintings and Drawings*.

Before the Forum begins, optional pre-Forum activities are offered on Friday afternoon, September 12. (Space is limited. See historic-deerfield.org/fall-forum to sign up.)

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Session 1 - Optional Workshops and Tours

Dress Workshop A: "Making and Remaking an 18thc. Mantua" with Vicki Embrey, cofounder of the Heritage Sewing and Skill Building Group. Embrey will demonstrate the draping of an 18th century gown and show how garments were refashioned to achieve more updated styles.

Coat Workshop A: "The Art of Cutting: The 18th Century Coat" with Henry Cooke, master tailor. Cooke will demonstrate the art of making ("cutting") an 18th century wool coat from measuring and laying out the pattern, to cutting and sewing. The workshop will include a discussion of the apprenticeship system and how deficiencies in cutting were remedied.

Corset Workshop A: "Stay-making in the 18th Century" with Carrie Midura, Researcher and Historical Dressmaker, Former Historical Clothing Coordinator for Old Sturbridge Village. Midura will demonstrate how stays were made in the 18th century with attention to period construction techniques and materials.

Friday (continued)

Exhibition Tour A: *Body by Design: Fashionable Silhouettes from the Ideal to the Real* with Lauren Whitley. Join Curator of Textiles and Clothing, Lauren Whitley, for a tour of the current exhibition exploring fashionable silhouettes and the undergarments that enabled the looks.

Library Tour A: “The Fashionable Image: An Introduction to Fashion Resources at the HD Library” with Jeanne Solensky, Librarian. Memorial Libraries. Join librarian Jeanne Solensky for a survey of early account books, trade catalogs, fashion magazines, plates, and ephemera from several centuries focused on dressing in New England.

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Session 2 - Optional Workshops and Tours repeat.

Dress Workshop B: “Making and Remaking an 18th Century Mantua” with Vicki Lynne Embrey.

Coat Workshop B: “The Art of Cutting: The 18th Century Coat” with Henry Cooke.

Corset Workshop B: “Stay-making in the 18th Century” with Carrie Midura.

Exhibition Tour B: *Body by Design* Exhibition tour with Lauren Whitley, Curator of Textiles and Clothing.

Library Tour B: “Introduction to Fashion Resources at the HD Library” with Jeanne Solensky, Librarian.

4:00p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Opening Reception. Champney House, Historic Deerfield.

5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Welcome. John Davis, President, Historic Deerfield. Deerfield Community Center.

Friday (continued)

5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Keynote Lecture: Alden O'Brien, Curator of Costume and Textiles, DAR Museum, Washington, DC., *The Teen, Her BFF, Her Uncle, and Some Tailors: Documents with Clues to New England Fashion*.

O'Brien will share insights into her decades-long research on Sylvia Lewis Tyler's diary, along with other documents and garments, and what they can tell us about shopping, making, [re] making, fashionability, and thrift in New England clothing.

7:00 p.m.

Dinner on your own or optional prix fixe dinner at the Deerfield Inn.

Saturday, September 13

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

Registration, Coffee, and Refreshments. Deerfield Community Center.

9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome. Lauren Whitley, PhD, Curator of Textiles and Clothing, Historic Deerfield.

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Lecture: Livy Scott, PhD candidate, MIT, Decorative Arts Trust Fellow at the Col. John Ashley House. *Embodying the Domestic: Embroidered Gowns and Sartorial Culture in Colonial Massachusetts and Connecticut*.

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Lecture: Jennifer Swope, David and Roberta Logie Curator of Textiles, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. *The Robbins Family of East Lexington: Fashioning Themselves and a New Nation*.

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Break.

Saturday (continued)

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Lecture: Emily Whitted, ABD, University of Massachusetts, *Patching Fashionable Forms: Early American Textile Repair in New England*.

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Lecture: Chloe Chapin, PhD, Assistant Director of Course Development, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University. *“Devotees to Fashion” Masculine Fashionability in New England, 1790-1820*.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Buffet Lunch, Deerfield Inn (included with in-person registration).

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Free time. Visit the Museum Store and the Flynt Center, visit Sheldon and Stebbins houses, watch open hearth cooking demonstrations, or walk the Street.

2:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Lecture: Lynne Bassett, Freelance Curator of Fashion and Textiles. *The Latest Paris and New York Fashions: Ferry & Dickinson, Northampton Dressmakers*.

2:30 p.m.– 3:00 p.m.

Lecture: Kristan M. Hanson, PhD, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Fleming Museum of Art, University of Vermont. *Just Puritan Enough: James Wells Champney’s Squire’s Daughter, Colonial Revival Dress, and Mayflowers*.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Laura Johnson, PhD, Curator of Costumes and Textiles, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. *The Copp Family’s New England clothing, 1750-1840, and Colonial Revival Collecting New England*.

Saturday (continued)

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break.

3:45p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Lecture: Kristina Haugland, Independent Researcher, former The Le Vine Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles, The Philadelphia Museum of Art. *How to Leave Off Corsets and Not Fall to Pieces? Inventive Boston Women and Dress Reform Waists in the 1870s.*

4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Lecture: David E. (Ned) Lazaro, Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles, Wadsworth Atheneum. *Haute Couture and Fashionable Taste in Hartford, 1850-1900.*

4:45 p.m.

Final Questions and Closing remarks.

5:30 p.m.

Dinner on your own or optional prix fixe dinner at the Deerfield Inn.



SPEAKER BIOS

Lynne Zacek Bassett is an independent scholar specializing in historic fashion and textiles. From 1995–2000 she was the curator of textiles and fine arts at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Since going independent, Lynne has undertaken a number of large projects, including award-winning exhibitions and publications. In 2023, she returned as a consultant funded by a CPA grant to Historic Northampton where she had been the curator from 1990 to 1995; she is cataloging and working with the staff to rehouse the clothing and textile collection. She is the guest curator of a two-part exhibition of Historic Northampton's clothing collection, which will open in the spring of 2027. Lynne's contribution to the field of historic fashion and textiles has been recognized by the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Historic New England, and the International Quilt Study Center, which have all elected her to membership in their honorary or advisory societies.

Chloe Chapin is a designer, artist and fashion scholar. She holds a PhD in American Studies from Harvard University, and master's degrees in history (Harvard), fashion and textile studies (FIT), and costume design (Yale). As a costume designer for over twenty years, she worked on Broadway musicals, opera, Shakespeare, and downtown experimental dance theater. Chloe has taught courses on fashion history, costume design, gender studies, museum studies, and anthropology at Harvard, FIT, Parsons, and Reed College. She is a former Fulbright Scholar and has held fellowships at the Smithsonian, Mount Vernon, and Monticello. She has published articles on Beau Brummell and the Great Masculine Renunciation, and an article coming out next year is called "George Washington: Fashion Icon." She works at Harvard University and lives in Cambridge, MA. Her first book, *Suitable: The Sartorial Revolution and the Fashioning of Modern Men*, comes out with Oxford University Press in 2026.

Kristan M. Hanson is an art historian, plant humanist, and museum curator currently based in Vermont. She brings an interest in artistic engagements with the plant world, environmental justice, and planetary health to her work at the University of Vermont's Fleming Museum of Art. Prior to joining the Fleming Museum, Hanson served as the Managing Digital Editor for the Plant Humanities Initiative at Dumbarton Oaks

Research Library and Collection in Washington, DC. She also held an academic year fellowship at DO, contributing content to the Plant Humanities Lab and the JSTOR Daily Plant of the Month series. In 2025, she became the Reviews Co-Editor for the new peer-reviewed journal *Plant Perspectives* published by the White Horse Press. Hanson's professional experience in museums includes positions at the Art Institute of Chicago and at the University of Kansas's Spencer Museum of Art. While at the Spencer Museum, Hanson co-edited and contributed essays to the post-exhibition catalogue *Perspectives on a Legacy Collection: Sallie Casey Thayer's Gift to the University of Kansas* (2020). Most recently, Hanson wrote about women artists and gender inequities in the art world for a new book introducing the Christian Levett Collection at FMM (Female Artists of the Mougins Museum) in Mougins, France. Her current research examines the English botanical artist Marianne North's 1875 paintings of giant sequoias and coastal redwoods in relation to the early American conservation movement and issues of place, race, and environmental justice.

Kristina Haugland served as The Le Vine Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles and Supervising Curator for the Study Room at the Philadelphia Museum of Art before retiring in 2023. At the museum, she curated numerous exhibitions on diverse topics, including *Fabulous Fashion: From Dior's New Look to Now*, *Little Ladies: Victorian Fashion Dolls and the Feminine Ideal*, and *The Peacock Male: Exuberance and Extremes in Masculine Dress*. Her publications include *Grace Kelly: Icon of Style to Royal Bride* (2006, Philadelphia Museum of Art/Yale University Press) and *Grace Kelly Style* (2010, V & A Publishing). Kristina enjoys lecturing and writing, especially about her favorite topic, the history of women's underwear. Her M.A. thesis from London's Courtauld Institute of Art focused on eighteenth-century stays and deportment, while her current research highlights the inventive and entrepreneurial women who worked to improve or reform nineteenth-century corsets. She looks forward to further exploration of everything from bustles to brassieres during retirement.

Laura Johnson is Curator of Costumes and Textiles at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. She began her career as an archaeologist, later earning degrees at the University of Illinois Springfield and the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture,

before completing her PhD at the University of Delaware. Previous curatorial appointments include Historic New England and Winterthur Museum, Gardens and Library, where she was the Linda Eaton Curator of Textiles. Laura's current research projects include co-creating histories of Black dressmakers with their communities, connecting descendants with items of cultural heritage in the textile and costume collections, examining the role of making and wearing cloth and clothing as healing practice, Philadelphia needlework entrepreneurs in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and the history of costume jewelry production in the United States.

David E. (Ned) Lazaro is the Associate Curator of Costume and Textiles at The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut. After many treasured years at Historic Deerfield, Ned joined The Wadsworth in the fall of 2022, where he led the reboot of The Wadsworth's Costume and Textile collection, which is a nearly encyclopedic collection of over 10,000 items dating from ancient to contemporary, and spanning all corners of the globe. Ned holds a master's degree in fashion and textile history from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Ned has researched, lectured, published, and taught on various aspects of Western clothing and textiles from the 17th through 20th centuries. His general interests focus on design history, the aesthetics of fashion, and identity formation.

Alden O'Brien received her BA in Art History from Barnard College* and her Master's in Museum Studies in Costume & Textiles from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. She joined the DAR Museum in 1990 as curator of costume, eventually adding dolls and toys, quilts and coverlets, and most recently in 2017, samplers and needlework, to her responsibilities. She has curated numerous exhibits on costume, toys, and quilts, most recently "Sewn in America: Making—Meaning—Memory," which looked at the role of sewing in American women's lives through clothing, quilts, needlework, and household textiles. She has been transcribing and studying Sylvia Lewis's diary and researching other New England women's experiences to put it in context, since the early 2000s. Her talk on Sylvia's wardrobe, presented at the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife here in Deerfield in 2010, was published in the Dublin Proceedings volume for that year.

Olivia (Livy) Scott is a PhD student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the History, Theory & Criticism of Art & Architecture program and received a MA in Fashion Studies from Parsons School of Design in 2023. From 2023 to 2025, she was the Decorative Arts Trust Peggy N. Gerry Curatorial Fellow with the Trustees of Reservations at the Colonel John Ashley House in Sheffield, MA.

Jennifer Swope is the David and Roberta Logie Curator of Textiles at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She attended the Winterthur Program in American Culture as a Lois F. McNeil Fellow, receiving a Master's Degree in American Material Culture from the University of Delaware. Co-author and curator of *Quilts and Color, the Pilgrim/Roy Collection*, a catalog and exhibition that opened at the MFA in 2014, she most recently co-authored of the publication *Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories* and co-curated of the exhibition of the same title. The exhibition opened at the MFA in October 2021 and is currently on view at the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, Tennessee until October 12th this year.

Emily Whitted is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and she is currently the Dissertation Fellow at the Library Company of Philadelphia in their Program in Early American Economy & Society (PEAES). Her dissertation, "Darned, Patched, and Mended: Repairing Textiles in Early America," examines early American textile repair work completed to maintain fabric within homes, ships, and military camps. Emily's work has been supported by the Winterthur Museum, the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, the American Philosophical Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Decorative Arts Trust. She also holds an M.A. in American Material Culture from the Winterthur Program at the University of Delaware. As an active museum professional, Emily's past and current curatorial work includes projects with the Porter Phelps Huntington House Museum, The Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle, and the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

REGISTRATION

Visit historic-deerfield.org/fall-forum, or contact Ian Hamilton for assistance at (413) 775-7179 or events@historicdeerfield.org.

- **In-Person Price:** \$150 / \$135 (members) / \$55 (college students)
Does not include optional dinners or pre-forum workshops.
- **Virtual Price:** Lectures only \$90 / \$75 (members) / \$55 (college students)
- **Workshops:** \$40 each
- **Optional dinner:** (Friday and/or Saturday) \$50 each

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Deerfield Inn is a classic, full-service original country inn built in 1884 that continues to welcome travelers from around the world. The Inn offers 24 individual and comfortable rooms in two buildings, and Champney's Restaurant & Tavern featuring creative American cuisine highlighting local produce. A limited number of rooms are available ranging from \$394 (single Queen) to \$428 (Superior King) per night, plus taxes. Identify that you are attending the Fall Forum (code FF25) and reserve a room by calling (413) 774-5587 or visit deerfieldinn.com.

In addition, a block of rooms has been reserved at **The Red Roof Plus Inn**, 9 Greenfield Road, South Deerfield, MA 01373 for \$174 plus tax per night for a Deluxe Double Queens or Superior King room. To reserve a room at the discounted rate, call the hotel directly at (413) 665-7161 and mention "Historic Deerfield Fall Forum 2025". Guests must stay two nights. All reservations must be made before August 21 and guaranteed with a credit card at the time of the reservation. For other accommodations, a list of additional local hotels and B&Bs is available upon request.

TRAVEL TO DEERFIELD

Deerfield, Massachusetts, is easily accessible by car or public transportation. See historicdeerfield.org/directions-map for directions. The nearest airport is Bradley Airport (BDL) just north of Hartford, Connecticut. The nearest train stations are in Greenfield, MA (4 miles north of Historic Deerfield), Northampton, MA, or Springfield, MA. Amtrak now makes three daily stops in Northampton and Greenfield on the Vermonter and the Valley Flyer. For information, contact Amtrak amtrak.com.

Historic Deerfield, 80 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA 01342
(413) 775-7214 / historic-deerfield.org for information

COMING UP AT HISTORIC DEERFIELD

Read about some of our upcoming events below or see our full calendar at historic-deerfield.org/events.

Plein Air Pastel Workshop

Sept. 27 (rain date Sept. 28) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hall Tavern and Outside.

Join pastel artist Lisa Regopoulos for a day of making art with pastels outside on the beautiful grounds of Historic Deerfield.

Hearth Cooking Workshop: Let's Bake!

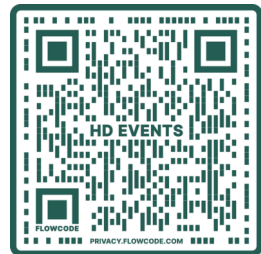
Nov. 15 and 22 from 1 - 5 p.m. in the Hall Tavern Kitchen. November is a great time to learn some new recipes for the winter baking season! Come to this workshop to learn how to use a bake kettle and beehive oven.

Historic Trade Demonstration: Natural Dyes and Sewing with Holly Eckert

October 12 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join us at Hall Tavern for a demonstration of natural dye-making and sewing!

Visit historic-deerfield.org/events or scan the code for pricing and registration details or to see what else is coming up at Historic Deerfield this fall!





Historic Deerfield[®]
Opening Doorways To The Past.™