



# Historic Deerfield Fall Forum 2025

## Fashioning the Body: Dress in New England 1600-1900

September 12-13, 2025 in Deerfield, MA and on Zoom

### 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 (see registration page to sign up – space is limited).

**1:00 p.m. – 2:00p.m.**

#### **Session 1 - Optional Workshops and Tours**

Dress Workshop A: “Making and Remaking an 18<sup>th</sup>c. Mantua” with Vicki Embry, cofounder of the Heritage Sewing and Skill Building Group. Embry will demonstrate the draping of an 18<sup>th</sup> century gown and show how garments were refashioned to achieve more updated styles.

Coat Workshop A: “The Art of Cutting: The 18<sup>th</sup> Century Coat” with Henry Cooke, master tailor. Cooke will demonstrate the art of making (“cutting”) an 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> century with attention to period construction techniques and materials.

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.

## Friday, Continued

**2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Session 2 - Optional Workshops and Tours repeat.**

Dress Workshop B: “Making and Remaking an 18<sup>th</sup> century Mantua” with Vicki Lynne Embry

Coat Workshop B: “The Art of Cutting: An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Coat” with Henry Cooke.

Corset Workshop B: “Stay-making in the 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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

**9:30 a.m. – 9:20am**

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. – 11:15a.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*

### 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

## REGISTRATION

Visit [historic-deerfield.org/events](http://historic-deerfield.org/events), or contact Ian Hamilton for assistance at (413) 775-7179 or [events@historic-deerfield.org](mailto:events@historic-deerfield.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 us at [deerfieldinn.com](http://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 [historic-deerfield.org/directions-map](http://historic-deerfield.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](http://amtrak.com).

Historic Deerfield, 80 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA 01342 (413) 775-7214 [www.historic-deerfield.org](http://www.historic-deerfield.org) for information (including hours and directions).