

# ALMANAC

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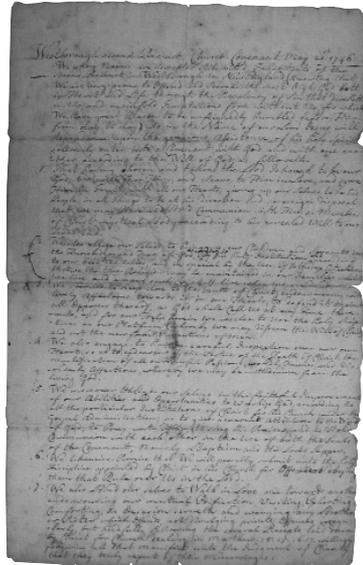
## Northborough Church Records

On April 20, 2005, The American Antiquarian Society received the records of the First Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist, of Northborough, Massachusetts in a ceremony held at the church. The society was originally founded in 1746 as the Congregational church of the Second Precinct of Westborough. Northborough was incorporated as a separate town in 1766 and the church became Northborough's first parish. It became Unitarian in its beliefs and name early in the nineteenth century.

The records now at AAS include six cartons of manuscript material. The earliest surviving item is the original 1746 charter of the church. In addition to records of the church, there are materials relating to organizations including the Ladies' Social Alliance, as well as papers of ministers, including the diaries of Rev. J.C. Kent, minister of the church from 1895 to 1921. Other ministers of the church include Peter Whitney (1767-1816) author of the first book-length

history of Worcester County, and Joseph Allen (1816-1873) whose family's papers, the Allen-Johnson Family Papers, came to AAS in 2001.

The First Parish Church's primary reason for donating its earliest records to AAS was a desire to preserve them. The church lacks good facilities for storing documents under proper environmental conditions of temperature and humidity. Additionally the congregation is keenly aware that its records have survived two disastrous fires. The first was the burning of Rev. Whitney's parsonage in 1780 after which the diarist Ebenezer Parkman lamented the loss of "the Library and Papers, which were of great worth." Then in 1945 the two hundred year old church building burnt to the ground in a conflagration spectacular enough that a photograph of it was published in Life Magazine. The present church, completed in 1949, is a slightly smaller replica of the original building.



Left: *The Musical Fountain* was a temperance songster first published in 1866. Songs such as "Clear Cold Water" urged their audience to partake of "the pure drink" rather than alcoholic beverages. Right: *The Ethiopian Violin Instructor, Containing Full and Complete Instructions, with all the Popular Negro Melodies of the Day, Including those of the Christy Minstrels* (Boston, 1850) was ostensibly by Gumbo Chaff, the pseudonym of Elias Howe (1820-1895). Howe had previously published *The Ethiopian Glee Book* and *The Ethiopian Flute Instructor* in 1848 and 1849.

## Art and Isaiah

Arthur F. Schrader (1925-2004) liked to call himself, "a historian who works with obscure old songs sung by ordinary people." His research aimed to develop a historically accurate understanding of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American music and performance. He left AAS by bequest a collection of nineteenth-century songbooks that enriches AAS's holdings of songsters and popular ballads and ensures future researchers will be able to continue his work.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Schrader earned four Purple Heart citations and a silver star for bravery in battle. While serving with the U.S. Army in Europe, he was also exposed to international folk song and dance. Upon his return, he completed his degree in history at the University of Buffalo in 1950 and began a teaching career. He was a visiting professor at the College of William and Mary and helped found The Sonneck Society, now the Society for American Music. Not only did he research colonial and early American music, Mr. Schrader also performed it. His program of "Singing History" gave students a sense of lived history. This mission as a ballad singer as well as a music researcher found its perfect expression at Old Sturbridge Village, where he worked for two decades. His historical music concerts, like "Ballads for Ballots," were a hit at AAS. In recognition of his long-standing contributions to scholarship on early American music, he was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1995.

The major project that spanned much of his research career related to the Isaiah Thomas ballad collection at AAS. The collection originated when, after founding AAS in 1812, Isaiah Thomas noted that his library con-

tained few examples of recent "street literature," a genre he had published early in his career but not in his later years. Broadside lyrics about topical events, dying words from the scaffold, the latest from the frontier and Indian troubles, sea songs, and old ballads had become the purview of other printers. So Isaiah Thomas went to Boston to find one such printer, Nathaniel Coverly, Jr. Thomas apparently ordered one of each broadside that Coverly had on the shelf and had them bound in three folio volumes. In that one action, Isaiah Thomas preserved the street literature of Boston during the turbulent years of the War of 1812.

In the 1960s, Mr. Schrader began the arduous task of reuniting the texts from Isaiah Thomas's ballad collection with their original music. He and his beloved wife Penn Elizabeth Burke Schrader (1924-1997) soldiered on despite personal setbacks, such as a gas explosion in 1970 that destroyed their house as well as texts and notes accumulated through years of research. He received an AAS-NEH fellowship in 1979-80 to prepare the Isaiah Thomas ballad collection for publication. This work, very near completion at the time of his death, has been passed on to Kate Van Winkle Keller. She and her husband Bob Keller have both been regulars in AAS's reading room for the past few months finishing the work of identifying the broadsides and reconstructing the life of the printer Coverly. An introductory essay by Dianne Dugaw provides a larger context for the Thomas collection. This collaborative effort, entitled *Songs in Vogue with the Vulgar: The Isaiah Thomas Broadside*, will be published by AAS in 2006.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On the weekend of June 10-12, AAS offered a conference on "Histories of Print, Manuscript, and Performance," chaired by Sandra Gustafson, associate professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. As a keynote to the conference, Gustafson delivered the annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture, entitled "The Emerging Media of Early America." She prefaced her talk with an account of the latest emerging technology and used that electronic technology to illustrate her points about the emergence of colonial printing, drawing on examples available over the Internet at sites like the NewsBank/Readex "Archive of Americana" and other resources on the worldwide web. Over the two and a half days of the conference, speakers in nine separate panels discussed topics ranging from manipulating media to race and gender to stage performances of texts. In addition there was a workshop on book history resources as well as plenty of opportunities for networking and socializing. Presenters came from Texas to Minnesota, Iowa to South Carolina, and Alabama to Maine.

This conference is the first of three annual conferences planned as a part of the process of assessing new directions and emphases for the Society's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture as the program's major project over the past decade, publication of the five-volume *A History of the Book in America*, moves into its final phases.

## New Members

The following were elected at the April meeting of the Society:

### Richard R. Beeman

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Professor of history, University of Pennsylvania. He is an historian of the American Revolutionary Era and has written five books and several dozen articles on aspects of America's political and constitutional history in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

### William T. Buice, III

New York, New York  
Partner in the law firm of Davidson, Dawson, and Clark. Mr. Buice is president of the Keats-Shelley Society, board member of Rare Book School, and past president of the University Club and the Grolier Club. He is a life-long collector and supporter of libraries and collecting organizations.

### Johnella Butler

Seattle, Washington  
Professor of American ethnic studies, University of Washington. Her teaching and research interests include African American literature, comparative American ethnic literatures, the literature of Africa and the African diaspora, and U.S. ethnic and post-colonial theory and pedagogy. She is also known for her work in curriculum change and development.

### Edward Countryman

Dallas, Texas  
University Distinguished Professor of History, Southern Methodist University. His books are *A People in Revolution; The American Revolution and Political Society in New York, 1760-1790*, which won the 1982 Bancroft Prize; and *Americans: A Collision of Histories*, which is based in part on research conducted at AAS as a Haven fellow in 1983-84. His current research is on the development of American society in Mississippi from 1790 to 1860.

### Leslie K. Cutler

Worcester, Massachusetts  
Graphic designer. Kim Cutler's creative work can be seen in logos, brochures, invitations, and newsletters throughout the Worcester area, including many for AAS. She is the former chair of ARTS Worcester and the current board president of the Worcester Center for Crafts.

### Wai Chee Dimock

New Haven, Connecticut  
Professor of English and American studies, Yale University. Author of *Empire for Liberty: Melville and the Poetics of Individualism* (1989), and *Residues of Justice: Literature, Law, Philosophy* (1996). Her recent scholarship has explored the relation between American literature and world cultures.

### Michael Dirda

Washington, District of Columbia  
Writer and senior editor for the *Washington Post* "Book World." Dirda received the Pulitzer Prize for criticism in 1993. His monthly *Readings* column informs book lovers around the world, and his autobiographical *An Open Book: Coming of Age in the Heartland* (2003) emphasizes the importance of

books in his life. Of local note, he is married to Miriam Peck Dirda, who worked as a conservator at AAS in the early 1970s.

### Richard S. Gilder

New York, New York  
Co-founder of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and chairman emeritus of the brokerage firm Gilder, Gagnon, Howe & Co. He serves on the board of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, New York Historical Society, the Morgan Library, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park Conservancy, and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.



### John A. and Judith C. Herdeg

Mendenhall, Pennsylvania  
Collectors of early American portraits and co-chairs of the Collector's Circle at Winterthur. He is partner in the law firm of Herdeg, duPont & Dalle Pазze; chairman of the board of the Christiana Bank; and member of the Walpole Society. A regent of Gunston Hall, Mrs. Herdeg is also a descendant of Ruth Henshaw Bascom, the portraitist whose diaries (1789-1848) are among the most important manuscripts held by AAS.

### Thomas A. Horrocks

Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Associate Director for Special Collections and Joseph Garland Librarian at Harvard's Countway Library of Medicine. Horrocks's University of Pennsylvania dissertation in American history, "Views of the Body, Health, and Disease in American Almanacs, 1750-1850," drew upon his research at AAS and his long-time participation in our Program in the History of the Book.

### Walter Isaacson

Washington, District of Columbia  
President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, an international education and leadership institute dedicated to informed dialogue and inquiry on issues of global concern. He is the author of three books on America's history, including the recent best seller *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*. He has been chairman and CEO of CNN and managing editor of *Time* magazine.

### Matthew R. Isenburg

Hadlyme, Connecticut  
Businessman and collector. His collection of almost 30,000 daguerreotypes and other early images, cameras, and equipment, is one of the largest and most significant in private hands. He co-authored *Photographica*

(1978), a book that chronicles the development of the camera. In 1989, he and John Wood founded The Daguerreian Society.

### Richard Moe

Washington, District of Columbia  
President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Civil War scholar, and a former White House official. His recent book, *Changing Places: Rebuilding Community in the Age of Sprawl*, documents the negative impact of urban public policies during the late 20th century. Moe serves on the boards of the Civil War Trust and the Ford Foundation.

### Beverly A. Morgan-Welch

Andover, Massachusetts  
Executive Director of the Museum of Afro American History, with properties in Boston and on Nantucket. Ms. Morgan-Welch serves on the boards of the Boston History Collaborative, the Old North Foundation, and the Boston Women's Heritage Trail; and she is a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.

### Marc Pachter

Washington, District of Columbia  
Director of the National Portrait Gallery. He was the editor of *Telling Lives, the Biographer's Art* and *Abroad in America: Visitors to the New Nation, 1776-1914*, as well as *A Gallery of Presidents; Champions of American Sport*; and most recently (with Charles Landry), *Culture at the Crossroads: Culture and Cultural Institutions at the Beginning of the 21st Century*.

### Scott R. Reisinger

Worcester, Massachusetts  
Headmaster of the Bancroft School. Having studied at the University of Rochester and at Columbia University, Reisinger was assistant headmaster and chairman of the history department at Greens Farms Academy in Connecticut before coming to Worcester in 1999. He is currently a member of the board of the Worcester Historical Museum.

### Linda Smith Rhodes

Boston, Massachusetts  
Co-editor of *The New England Quarterly*. She is a trustee of the Paul Revere Memorial Association and a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, where she chaired the Committee on Outreach, as well as of the Massachusetts Historical Society, where she has served on the Research Committee and is currently a member of the Publications Committee.

### David J. Rushford

Worcester, Massachusetts  
City Clerk of Worcester. Since assuming his position in 1998, he has worked tirelessly to assure that the records of the city — dating back to 1668 — are well preserved and accessible for researchers, including the digitizing of 500,000 birth records. He has also worked to promote greater understanding and appreciation of Worcester's rich past, especially its architectural history.

### James A. Secord

Cambridge, England  
Director of Studies in History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge University. His most recent work is *Victorian Sensation: The Extraordinary Publication, Reception, and Secret Authorship of Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*, which was awarded the prize for the best work in history from the Association of American Publishers' Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division.

### Carol Sheriff

Williamsburg, Virginia  
Associate professor of history, College of William and Mary. The New York State Historical Association chose her *The Artificial River: The Erie Canal and the Paradoxes of Progress, 1817-1862* (1996) as that year's best manuscript on New York history. Her current research examines the Northern home front during the Civil War.

### James Brewer Stewart

St. Paul, Minnesota  
James Wallace Professor of History, Macalester College. Stewart, who currently serves as president of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, is the author of *Joshua R. Giddings and the Tactics of Radical Politics; Holy Warriors: The Abolitionists and American Slavery; William Lloyd Garrison and the Challenge of Emancipation and Liberty's Hero: Wendell Phillips*.

### John R. Stilgoe

Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Orchard Professor in the History of Landscape at Harvard University. Stilgoe, whose book *Landscape and Images* was recently published, is author of *Common Landscape of America, 1580-1845; Borderland: Origins of the American Suburb, 1820-1939; Metropolitan Corridor: Railroads and the American Scene; Outside Lies Magic: Regaining History and Awareness in Everyday Places; Alongshore; and Lifeboat*.

### Jean Fagan Yellin

Golden's Bridge, New York  
Distinguished Professor emerita at Pace University. She is best known for her editing of Harriet Jacobs's papers, including her 1861 slave narrative *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself* and is also author of *Harriet Jacobs: A Life; Women and Sisters: The Anti-Slavery Feminists in American Culture; and The Intricate Knot: Black Figures in American Literature, 1776-1863*.

### Rafia Zafar

St. Louis, Missouri  
Director, African and Afro-American Studies, and associate professor of English, Washington University. Zafar is author of *We Wear the Mask: African Americans Write American Literature, 1760-1870* and co-editor of *God Made Man, Man Made the Slave: The Autobiography of George Teamoh*. Her current project *And Called it Macaroni: Eating, Writing, Becoming American* is based in part on research conducted at AAS as a Peterson fellow in 1999-2000.

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## MAKING SPACE

Space in the wing added to Antiquarian Hall in 1972 has been reconfigured so that several activities can be placed on the ground floor near the reading room. Four additional fellows' carrels will be created and allocated to short-term fellows. A new large-format continuous-feed scanner and the adjunct computer equipment needed for creating and distributing high quality digital images will be relocated into a protected space off the path of pedestrian traffic. The new layout will also provide an office for the curator of children's literature, a small conference room, and an office for the online services librarian. During the summer of 2005, this space will house an expanded "cataloging camp," an intensive effort to create brief records for uncataloged collections and add them to the online catalog. After the great success in providing records for more than nine thousand of the twenty-four thousand previously uncataloged items in our Miscellaneous Pamphlets collection last summer, the main focus will be on ephemera this summer. The acquisitions department, long-term fellows' carrels, **Common-place.org** area, and manuscripts department offices remain in their locations in the 1972 wing.

The administrative offices, formerly located in this area, have been moved to 9 Regent Street, the house adjacent to the library on the southwest. President Ellen Dunlap and vice presi-

dents Ed Harris, John Hench, and John Keenum along with computer network administrator Nick Conti, annual fund director Jonathan Lane, and administrative staff members Carol-Ann Mackey, Loretta Adams, and Susan Forgit made the move during the last week in May. The new conference room in Antiquarian Hall serves not only as a place for them to meet with visitors and staff, but also as a place to check e-mail and phone messages during their frequent trips between buildings.

The AAS Council wisely bought the house and property at 9 Regent Street for future use when it came on the market in 1982. The property stretching down to Park Avenue was critical to the recently completed expansion project, which included a book stack area, a new cooling tower and other utilities, and reconfiguration of the parking lot. The house had been rented as a residence since the time of its purchase, but the long-term tenants retired to Florida at the end of Worcester's miserable winter of 2004-05. At its April meeting, the AAS Council approved a plan to hire consultants to review all of the Society's properties, 9 Regent Street, Antiquarian Hall, the Zero Montvale Cottage, and the Goddard-Daniels House with its coach house to assess our current use of the space and make recommendations.



## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

This spring's two-part series honoring the tercentennial of Benjamin Franklin's birth drew record crowds to Antiquarian Hall. When AAS member Gordon Woods of Brown University spoke on "The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin" on March 31, people were squeezed into every available corner of the Hall, including the balcony above the speaker. President Ellen Dunlap opened her introduction by asking for a show of hands by all those who were at AAS for the first time, and a good half of the audience responded. Woods' talk traced the evolution of Franklin from a loyal English patriot into a revolutionary who helped to define an "American." One week later, actor and historical interpreter Bill Mickle brought the character Benjamin Franklin to life before another capacity crowd in Antiquarian Hall. The season wrapped up with three additional programs. Nathaniel Philbrick showed how the island of Nantucket did for nineteenth century global trade what Silicone Valley did for high tech business. David Nord of Indiana University explained how religious publishing took advantage of new technologies of print to develop early mass media campaigns. Notre Dame English professor Sandra Gustafson delivered the James Russell Wiggins lecture as the keynote for a three-day conference on the history of the book.

Watch for announcements of the fall's schedule of programs, which will include David McCullough talking on his new book *1776* and Leon Litwack revisiting his 1980 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Been in the Storm So Long*. The fall series will be underwritten by a gift from Bank of America.

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## MEMBER NOTES

**Positions:** **Lonnie G. Bunch** (elected AAS member in 2001), formerly the president of the Chicago Historical Society, has been appointed director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. **Sinclair Hitchens** (1962) was honored at a party at the Boston Public Library in June as his retirement from the position of Keeper of Prints approached. He has served the library for forty-three years. **Philip D. Morgan** (1998) has been appointed the Sidney and Ruth Lapidus Professor in the American Revolutionary Era at Princeton University. This professorship was endowed by a gift from AAS Council Vice Chairman, **Sid Lapidus** (1996) and his wife Ruth. After 43 years of editing the *Southern California Quarterly*, **Doyce Nunis** (1984) has stepped down from the pro bono position amid much praise of the numerous contributions he has made to the Southern California Historical Society. **Mark Wetzel** (1997) has been elected president of the board of directors of the McLean

Foundation, the governing body of the McLean Game Refuge in Simsbury, Connecticut. Mark has served as a valued advisor to the Society on its investments for a number of years.

**Awards and prizes:** **David Brion Davis** (1975), Sterling Professor emeritus of history at Yale University, won the **Bruce Catton** (elected 1969 and died 1978) prize of the Society of American Historians for lifetime achievement in historical writing. The Smithsonian American Art Museum has awarded to **Elizabeth Johns** (1995) its 2005 Charles C. Eldredge Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art. Johns will deliver the annual Eldredge Prize lecture at the Renwick Gallery of the Museum on December 8 at 3:30 p.m. **Laurie Kahn-Levitt** (1995) won a George Foster Peabody Award for her film "Tupperware!," which was broadcast as a part of the "American Experience," series hosted by **David McCullough** (1992). The Exhibition

Award Committee of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries recognized the Huntington Library Press for "Objects of American Art Education: Highlights from the Diana Korzenik Collection" by **Diana Korzenik** (1995). **Jane C. Nylander** (1984) and her husband Richard have jointly received an award from the Victorian Society for lifelong contributions. **Ian Willison's** (1995) many American friends will be pleased to learn that his name appears on the Queen's Birthday Honours list for 2005. In a June 11th announcement by the Prime Minister's office, Willison was named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the history of the book.

**AAS co-publications:** *Learning to Read and Write in Colonial America* by **E. Jennifer Monaghan** (1995) will be published by the University of Massachusetts Press in association with AAS this summer. In partnership with Oak Knoll press, AAS will

co-publish *Alexander Anderson (1775-1870): Wood engraver and illustrator, an annotated bibliography* by **Jane R. Pomeroy** (1994). The publication date for this definitive three-volume study of Anderson's career with over a thousand illustrations mostly from the collections of the New York Public Library is late November 2005.

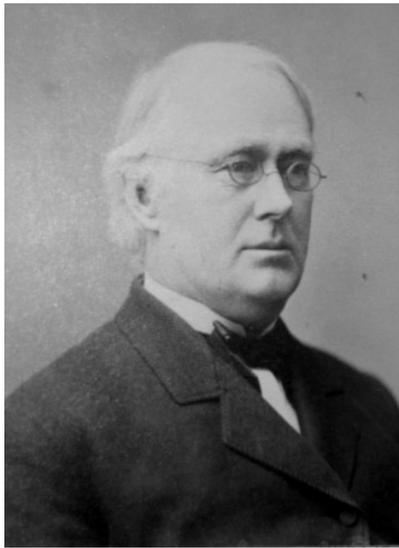
## FELLOW NOTES

**Mary Rhinelander McCarl** (Peterson Fellow, 1987-88) played an active role in arranging for a gift of 107 volumes of Gloucester, Massachusetts, newspapers to AAS from the Sawyer Free Library in Gloucester. In return, we provided microfilm for the Gloucester library's collection. The gift help build our collection of ten separate Gloucester newspapers and added three issues of two titles that are new to the collection: the Cape Anne Revolver and Trumps.

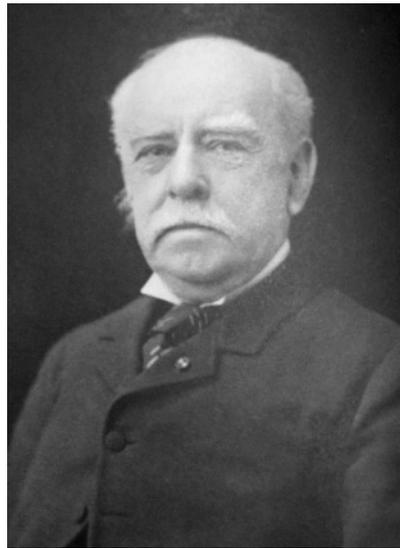
# AAS HERITAGE

In preparation for the Society's coming bicentennial, the library is identifying and collecting autobiographies and published journals or diaries of members. This is the first of a two-part series focussing on autobiographies of members elected in each of four fifty-year eras of AAS's history.

**I. George Frisbie Hoar (1826–1904)** wrote of a rich and varied life that brought him in contact with many of the American nineteenth century's oversized characters in his *Autobiography of Seventy Years* (New York, 1903). He begins by tracing his family back through his mother to Roger Sherman, who signed the Declaration of Independence, and grandfather Samuel Hoar, who fought at the Battle of Concord in 1775. Although born in Concord, Hoar moved to Worcester to take up law after completing studies at Harvard College and Law School. He was elected to AAS membership in 1853, and elected a vice-president (along with **George Bancroft**) in 1880. On that occasion he said, "This Society, while it is national and continental in the scope of its investigations, strikes down its roots into the soil of this locality, where its founder dwelt, and where its collections are kept. "



After serving in the Massachusetts legislature, Hoar served in the U.S. House of Representatives 1869-77 and the Senate 1877-1904. His autobiography is remarkable for its political history, both local and national. One chapter is devoted to the electoral commission appointed to decide the outcome of the contested Hayes-Tilden presidential contest in 1876. After discussing various constitutional issues and pragmatic concerns, Senator Hoar stated his position on the responsibility of the commission: "The simple doctrine on which the Commission proceeded was that the right to determine absolutely and finally who are the duly chosen presidential electors is committed by the Constitution to the States. The judgment of the tribunal established by the State for that purpose is conclusive on all the world. Congress is only to count the votes of the officials found by the State to have the right to cast them." His vote was staunchly for the Republican **Rutherford B. Hayes**, who would win a less controversial election to membership in the American Antiquarian Society fourteen years later in 1890.



**II. Henry Hitchcock (1829 – 1902)**, a great grandson of Vermont patriot Ethan Allen was born at Spring Hill, Alabama, the son of the Attorney General for Alabama, and the grandson of the Attorney General for the State of Vermont. After his graduation from Yale in 1848, he spent a year as a teacher of classics at the Worcester (Massachusetts) High School. He was admitted to the bar in 1851 in St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to his legal work, Hitchcock edited the St. Louis *Intelligencer*, a Whig paper; and he was a staunch supporter of Gen. Winfield Scott for President.

One of only five Republicans to the Missouri convention of 1861, he was an advocate for unconditional union with the Federal Government, for the abolition of slavery in Missouri, and for all questions of secession to be decided by the voters.

In 1864, he received a commission to serve as Assistant Adjutant General on the Staff of Gen. William T. Sherman. He marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea, and north through the Carolinas. Sherman dispatched Hitchcock to the White House in April of 1865 with the terms of surrender arranged between Sherman and Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. Twenty-five years after his death, his letters and campaign diary were published by the Yale University Press as *Marching with Sherman: Passages from the Letters and Campaign Diaries of Henry Hitchcock, Major and Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers, November 186–May 1865*.

Henry Hitchcock was a founder of the American Bar Association, and its twelfth president in 1889. He was an ardent supporter of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, donating to them the entire 250-volume library on alchemy acquired by his uncle Maj. General Ethan Allen Hitchcock. He was elected to membership of the American Antiquarian Society in April of 1882.

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