

ALMANAC

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Center for Historic American Visual Culture

Under the leadership of AAS curator of graphic arts Georgia Barnhill and with the help and advice of a planning committee composed of AAS members and outside advisors who are dedicated to the study of history through the use of graphic arts materials, the Society has launched a new Center for Historic American Visual Culture (CHAVIC). Its mission is to provide educational opportunities, promote the awareness of AAS collections, and stimulate research and intellectual inquiry into American visual materials. CHAVIC will accomplish these goals by offering fellowships, exhibitions, workshops and seminars, conferences, and improved access to AAS collections. The AAS Council formally approved the Center at its meeting in July.



Educational programs that focus on using and interpreting visual materials will be a primary activity of the Center. These will take two forms: one-day workshops and longer seminars similar to those offered annually by the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture. The first activity of the Center was a one-day workshop for high school teachers on Friday, October 13. Thirty-seven educators from throughout New England and as far away as Indiana came to Antiquarian Hall for the workshop entitled “Visualizing the Past,” which introduced varied approaches to visual culture and offered practical applications for using images and maps in teaching student populations at all levels. The workshop was cosponsored by the New England History Teachers Association, the nation’s oldest history teaching organization. In the fall of 2007, AAS will co-sponsor with the Colonial Society of Massachusetts a conference on the visual and material culture of New England through 1830. The 2008 AAS History of the Book Conference will be on “The Visual Culture of Childhood.”

AAS member Jay Last, a collector of prints and ephemera, has made a gift to underwrite special fellowships during the first three years of the program. This will supplement the endowed “Drawn to Art” fellowship and fellowships awarded by the American Historical Print Collectors Society. The planning committee for the Center has also looked into topics such as exhibitions, digitization projects, and publications. The residency of Margaretta Lovell of the University of California, Berkeley, as the Mellon Distinguished Scholar in 2007-08 will help to get the Center off to a strong start.

Mellon Challenge Update

In October 2005, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation offered AAS a Challenge Grant of one million dollars to encourage new gifts for fellowship endowment. The Mellon Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar all new gifts directed toward endowing the Senior Scholar in Residence and the John B. Hensch Post-dissertation Fellowship. As of the end of October 2006, we had received \$488,000, about half the total required to earn the full match.

Early in November, we received the good news that a Worcester foundation, the George I. Alden Trust, will provide an additional dollar-for-dollar match to help the Society achieve its

one million dollar goal. Thus, all gifts made to the Mellon Challenge will now not just be matched but will earn double the amount donated for the AAS endowment.

We are happy to announce that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Distinguished Scholar in Residence for 2007-08 will be Margaretta Lovell, professor of art history at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to doing research on the landscape paintings of Fitz H. Lane and Winslow Homer, she will serve as mentor to the younger fellows at AAS and as an advisor to the Society’s academic programs.

David Whitesell, Curator of Books



David Whitesell joined the library staff in August as curator of books, coming to AAS from his position as rare books cataloger at the Houghton Library of Harvard University. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, where he worked in the rare books collections of the library, and his library degree from Columbia University. He has worked for a rare books dealer and has held positions at both Sotheby’s and The Grolier Club to

complement his extensive experience in academic libraries. David teaches at the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia and is an active scholar. His most recent projects have been related to the Harvard College library.

He illustrates one aspect of what he will be doing at AAS with the tale of his first acquisition for the library.

How many different almanacs for the year 1785 were published in the United States? Approximately 52, according to data furnished by the North American Imprints Program, of which all but eight can be found in AAS’s unrivaled almanacs collection.

A recent AAS acquisition, however, dramatically demonstrates that this straightforward answer to a deceptively simple question says both too much and not enough. The pseudonymous Isaac Bickerstaff’s *An astronomical diary, or almanack, for the year of our Lord Christ, 1785 ... calculated for the meridian of Boston, latitude 41 deg. 56 min. north* (Boston: Printed for and sold by John Norman, [1784]) was unknown to bibliographers until it was acquired by AAS in September 2006.

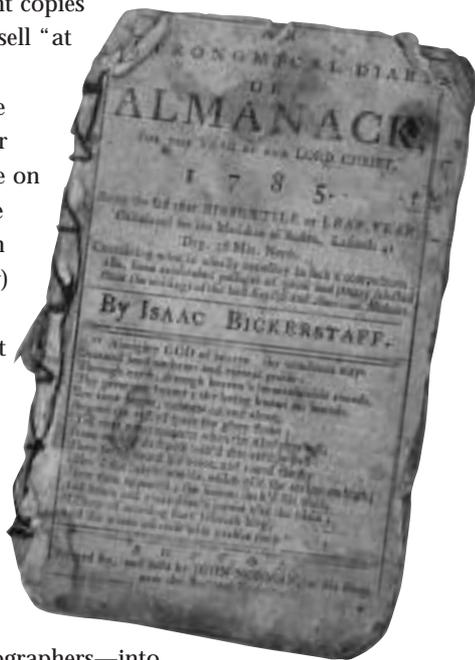
On a hunch—latitude 41° 56′ N describes Hartford, not Boston!—I compared the Norman almanac side-by-side with a Hartford almanac printed by Joel Barlow and Elisha Babcock. It is immediately apparent from the title pages (see illustration) that both almanacs were printed from the same setting of type, save for a variant imprint and the substitution of “Boston” for “Hartford.” The remaining 23 pages in each almanac are identical. In other words, Norman’s almanac was actually printed in Hartford. After printing their local almanac, Barlow and Babcock made minimal changes to the title page and then employed the standing type to print copies of a “Boston” almanac for Norman to sell “at his shop near the Boston Stone.”

Amusingly, at some point during the press run, the printers caught their error and corrected the latitude and longitude on the title page to reflect Boston’s! Hence this “Boston” almanac exists in both an uncorrected state (the unique AAS copy) and a corrected state (a unique copy in the Bostonian Society Library). In strict bibliographical terms, then, our 52 almanac editions for 1785 have now shrunk to 50, with the Barlow & Babcock edition known in a variant “Boston” issue, itself known in two variant states.

The Barlow and Babcock almanac offers some fascinating insights—as yet barely explored by historians and bibliographers—into the profitable business of almanac publishing. Why did Norman give his business to a Hartford and not a Boston printer? Was it a matter of economics, or possibly of trade barriers? Or did Norman consider the Hartford text—clearly written for a Connecticut and not a Boston audience—nonetheless superior from a marketing perspective? Did Norman’s customers agree with him? How many other 1785 almanac “editions” are not what they seem? And how many distinct almanac texts are represented in the 50-odd editions? Were any modified for local consumption, or were they simply borrowed wholesale?

Bibliographical discoveries of this sort are almost daily occurrences at AAS, whose incomparably rich collections are ideally suited for such side-by-side comparison. Whenever possible, these discoveries are incorporated into AAS cataloging records and shared nationally via the AAS online catalog and the RLIN database. This is but one of many ways in which AAS furthers the study of American print culture by encouraging researchers to ask better, more probing questions of the primary sources.

David R. Whitesell, Curator of Books



New Members

The following individuals were elected to membership in October 2006.

John Ballinger

Williamsburg, Virginia

Partner in The Book Press Ltd. and author of mystery novels about the rare book trade. He is currently a member of the board of directors of the Friends of the Library of the Mariner's Museum and has served on the boards of directors for The Friends of the Library of The College of William and Mary, the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, and the American Printing History Association.

Peter Benes

Concord, Massachusetts

Co-founder, editor, and director of the Dublin Seminars for New England Folklife. Mr. Benes is also the curator of the Wheeler-Harrington House in Concord and a consultant for the New England Historic Genealogical Society. His current research project is "For a Short Time Only: Itinerants in New England and New York, 1700-1820."

Joshua Brown

New York, New York

Executive director, Center for Media and Learning/American Social History Project, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York. Professor Brown is the principal investigator for "Picturing United States History: An Online Resource for Teaching with Visual Evidence" and also for "Young America: Experiences of Youth in U.S. History."

Michael D. Burstein

Northampton, Massachusetts

Proprietor of Harold M. Burstein & Co., Antiquarian Bookseller. For at least the last two decades, AAS has acquired numerous rare antebellum children's books from Mr. Burstein and his late father. His catalogs are the fruit of both scholarship and hands-on knowledge of rare juvenilia, not to mention dogged searching.

John R. Curtis, Jr.

Williamsburg, Virginia

Partner in The Book Press, Ltd. Mr. Curtis was a founding partner, with Marcia Carter and Larry McMurtry, in Booked-Up. Mr. Curtis is also past president of the Virginia Museum and has served as a trustee of the China Institute of America, the Chrysler Museum of Art, the Greater Williamsburg Trust, and the Lower James River Association.

Andrew Delbanco

New York, New York

Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University and frequent contributor on American history and culture for publications such as *The New Republic*, *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Commonweal*, and *Partisan Review*. Mr. Delbanco is the author of *The Puritan Ideal* and the editor of *The Portable Abraham Lincoln*. He most recently authored *The Death of Satan: How Americans Have Lost the Sense of Evil*.

Thomas L. Dublin

Brackney, Pennsylvania

Professor of history, State University of New York at Binghamton. Mr. Dublin is the author of *Women at Work; Farm to Factory; Women and Power in American History*; and *Immigrant Voices*. He is co-editor, with Kathrine Kish Sklar, of such

noted web-based resources as "Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000," and the recently announced "Primary Sources of the Women's Movement."

Lee W. Formwalt

Bloomington, Indiana

Executive director, Organization of American Historians. Mr. Formwalt is the editor of *The Papers of Benjamin Henry Latrobe*. Formerly an editor of the *Journal of Southwest Georgia History*, Mr. Formwalt was a member of the editorial board of the Georgia Historical Society and the Georgia Association of Historians.

Leland Hawes

Tampa Bay, Florida

Retired journalist. Mr. Hawes started a weekly newspaper, *The Flint Lake Diver*, for Thonotosassa, Florida, in 1940 when he was eleven years old and today remains a member of the American Amateur Press Association. Since 1982 he has written the "History/Heritage" column for the *Tampa Bay Tribune*, for which he received the D.B. McKay Award for "significant contributions to area history."

James Horn

Williamsburg, Virginia

The Abby and George O'Neill Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He is author of numerous books and articles on colonial America, most recently *A Land As God Made It: Jamestown and the Birth of America*, and is currently editing the writings of Captain John Smith for the Library of America series

John B. Johnson, Jr.

Watertown, New York

Chairman and chief executive officer of the Johnson Newspaper Corporation and editor and co-publisher of the *Watertown Daily Times*. An avid collector of historic newspapers, Mr. Johnson has served on the board of directors of the New York State Newspaper Publishers Association, the New York State Newspapers Foundation, and the Jefferson County Historical Society.

Arnita Jones

Washington, District of Columbia

Executive director, American Historical Association. Ms. Jones joined the AHA in June 1999, after serving eleven years as executive director of the Organization of American Historians. Ms. Jones was also program officer for Planning and Assessment at the National Endowment for the Humanities and was the first director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History.

Stuart R. Kaplan

Greenwich, Connecticut

President, U. S. Games Systems, Inc., and collector of antique card games and related ephemera for over thirty years. His collection also contains hundreds of early card games both British and American and many rare tarot decks. Mr. Kaplan's library has over 6,000 books on tarot and the history of playing cards.

John Kukla

Brookneal, Virginia

Chief executive officer of Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial, in

Brookneal, Virginia. Mr. Kukla is the author of *A Wilderness So Immense: The Louisiana Purchase and the Destiny of America* and of numerous other works. His current book project is entitled *Mr. Jefferson's Women*.

Louis Menand

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of English and American Literature and Language at Harvard University. Mr. Menand also sits on the editorial board of the New York Review of Books and is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*. His book *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America* won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for History and the 2002 Francis Parkman Prize.

John M. Morse

Springfield, Massachusetts

President and publisher of Merriam-Webster Incorporated. A distinguished scholar and engaging speaker, Morse has brought his expertise and love of language to a wide range of regional and local forums throughout the country. He has been heard and seen on many radio and television programs including NPR's *Morning Edition*, CNBC's *Power Lunch*, and C-SPAN's *BookTV*.

John H. Ott

Groton, Massachusetts

Executive director of the Museum of Our National Heritage, a museum of American history and culture founded by the Scottish Rites Masons. Mr. Ott is formerly director of the Hancock Shaker Village, the Atlanta Historical Society (now the Atlanta History Center), and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum. Active in both museum and tourism industry associations, Mr. Ott is also a collector of material related to agriculture, railroads, and technology.

Jeffrey Pasley

Columbia, Missouri

Associate Professor of History, University of Missouri at Columbia; former staff writer for *The New Republic*; and a former speech writer for Al Gore. He is author of "*The Tyranny of Printers*": *Newspaper Politics in the Early American Republic* and co-editor of *Beyond the Founders: New Approaches to the Political History of the Early American Republic*. Mr. Pasley was the 2004-05 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellow at AAS.

Paula Petrik

South Riding, Virginia

Professor, Department of History and Art History, George Mason University. Co-editor of *@History: An Electronic Resource CD-ROM for American History and Web Site*. In addition, she has published *No Step Backward: Women and Family on the Rocky Mountain Mining Frontier* and *Small Worlds: Children and Adolescents in America, 1850-1950*.

Cokie Roberts

Washington, District of Columbia

Senior news analyst for NPR, a political commentator for ABC News, and recipient of public radio's highest award, the Edward R. Murrow Award. Ms. Roberts is the author of

the national bestseller *We Are Our Mothers' Daughters*, as well as of *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*. Her current work, *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation*, is due out in 2007.

Anita Silvey

Westwood, Massachusetts

Former publisher of children's books for Houghton Mifflin, including the historical works of Esther Forbes and author of *100 Best Books for Children* and *500 Great Books for Teens* and editor of *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators*. Currently a member of the editorial board of *Cricket Magazine* and the board of directors for the Vermont Center for the Book, she also teaches at Simmons College and St. Michael's College.

Manisha Sinha

Sturbridge, Massachusetts

Associate professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and an AAS-NEH Fellow in 2004-05. Ms. Sinha is author of *The Counterrevolution of Slavery: Politics and Ideology in Antebellum South Carolina* and co-editor of *African American Mosaic: A Documentary History from the Slave Trade to the Twenty-First Century*. Her latest work is *Redefining Democracy: African Americans and the Movement to Abolish Slavery, 1775-1865*.

Billy G. Smith

Bozeman, Montana

Professor of history at Montana State University and an AAS-NEH Fellow in 1991-92. Mr. Smith is the author of "*The 'Lower Sort'*": *Philadelphia's Laboring People, 1750-1800* and *Down and Out in Early America*. Mr. Smith is the co-editor of *Blacks Who Stole Themselves: Advertisements for Runaways in the Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1790* and *The Infortunate: The Voyage and Adventures of William Moraley, an Indentured Servant*.



Richard West

Springfield, Massachusetts

Owner of Periodyssey, which buys and sells significant and unusual American periodicals and maintains the largest stock in the country of 19th-century magazines. Author of *Satire on Stone: The Political Cartoons of Joseph Keppler*, he is the founder and editor of *The Puck Papers*, a newsletter on the history of political cartooning; the founder and editor of *Target: The Political Cartoon Quarterly*; and the political cartoon editor of *Inks*, the Magazine of Cartooning.



Nancy Burkett Collection

Many members of the American Antiquarian Society as well as friends and colleagues on the staff and book dealers who had worked with her showed how much they valued Nancy Burkett's service to the library and recognized her retirement with gifts to AAS permanent collection. Member and fine printer Darrell Hyder and his wife Elizabeth worked with Nancy to design a special bookplate identifying materials in the Nancy Burkett Collection, and you can call up the collection from AAS's online catalog by searching for "Nancy Burkett Collection" under the "provenance" heading.

Chairman of the Council Jack Lapidés and his wife Linda gave a large broadside based on statistics from the 1830 census. Former Chairman Robert Baron gave an American translation of the George Sand novel *Jealousy*. Councilor William Reese gave a pre-Revolutionary War pocket almanac, and Councilor Kate Keller gave three of her own works on social dance in America. Former Councilor Roger Stoddard contributed a beautiful album from the early Republic period, and President emeritus Marcus McCorison found a rare early 19th-century price list for cabinetry and chairs.

Friends in the library world and book dealers were creative in finding appropriate materials. Donald Farren contributed a manuscript letter of a writing master; Russell Martin, a Connecticut Thanksgiving Day broadside; David Warrington, issues of a 19th-century Illinois periodical; John Gately a watercolor silhouette of Nicholas Biddle; Matthew Needle (among several gifts) a copy of the by-laws for Wiscasset, Maine; and Norman Kane (also among several gifts) a collection of popular songs. And, in partial penance for taking Nancy away to spend more time in Atlanta, Randall Burkett gave a salesman's dummy of the autobiography of temperance leader Frances Willard. Several book dealers gave credit to be used by the AAS acquisitions department to make future purchases for the collection.

Staff and former fellows also contributed. Joanne Chaison joined with Scott Casper and Jeffrey Groves to purchase *Lights and Shadows of New York* for the collection. Current Mellon Distinguished Scholar Philip Gura donated a 19th-century

novel of double suicide. In the AAS development office Jonathan Lane gave a copy of his great-grandfather's memoir of Civil war service in the 150th New York State Volunteers, and John Keenum a history of the canal system at the Muscle Shoals area of the Tennessee River. Vincent Golden, newspaper curator, contributed a temperance tract and David Whitesell, curator of books, a history of the Presbyterian Church in Oneida, New York. Several contributed local histories: Peg Lesinski, acquisitions director, gave a history of Nancy's hometown Hamilton, Massachusetts; Alan Degutis, head of cataloging, a photograph collection of legendary towns of the old west; and Dianne Rugh, recently retired from the cataloging department, a history of her native St. Louis, Missouri.

There were many more who gave books and many who gave funds that will be used to continue adding to the Nancy Burkett Collection. Not surprisingly, the gifts reflect the diversity of AAS's collecting interests and the remarkable generosity of the Society's members, staff, and friends.

AAS MEMBERS IN TOP 100

The December issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine ran a list of the 100 most influential Americans, selected by a panel of ten prominent historians. The following members of AAS were included in the list (their year of election is included in parentheses).

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| 3. Thomas Jefferson (1814) | 24. Alexander Graham Bell (1899) |
| 4. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1924) | 25. John Adams (1813) |
| 7. John Marshall (1813) | 31. Henry Clay (1820) |
| 10. Woodrow Wilson (1913) | 45. Samuel F. B. Morse (1815) |
| 13. James Madison (1818) | 55. John Quincy Adams (1839) |
| 15. Theodore Roosevelt (1918) | 70. Lewis & Clark, William Clark (1814) |
| 18. Andrew Jackson (1818) | |

Member, Fellow, and Staff Notes

Having noticed the important role that music plays in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House series, Vanderbilt University musicologist Dale Cockrell (elected a member of AAS in 1995) has identified the songs and tunes and begun producing a series of CDs, using the talent and recording expertise available in Nashville. His first CD, *Happy Land*, an anthology with music from throughout the series, has been selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities for its *We the People Bookshelf*. Subsequent CDs will feature music from individual books; *Arkansas Traveler* was released in November with the music from Little House on the Prairie. You can find more information at www.pasfiddle.com.

The Library of Congress awarded John Hope Franklin (elected 1969) its prestigious John W. Kluge Prize for the study of the humanities on December 5. In presenting the award, which recognizes lifetime achievement in humanities and social sciences, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington (elected 1988) said, "For sixty years, he's been publishing books that have broadened and redefined our understanding of the American past."

On the November 15th Colbert Report program, Clay Jenkinson (elected 1994) squared off against two other Thomas Jefferson (elected 1814) impersonators and prevailed. He was named "King of Jeffersons." Admittedly, the winner was selected by the flip of a Jefferson nickel.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Taunton Press launched *Where We Lived: Discovering the Places We Once Called Home* by Jack Larkin (elected 1994) with a party at the Decatur House Museum in Washington, D. C. in November.

David McCullough (elected 1992) and William Safire (elected 2000) were awarded Presidential Medals of Freedom on December 15, 2006.

Roger Mudd (elected 2002) has donated his collection of first editions of more than two hundred 20th-century Southern writers—including William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Robert Penn Warren, and Erskine Caldwell—to his alma mater Washington and Lee University.

Arthur Schlesinger Jr. (elected 2000) received the Paul Peck Presidential Award for "Portrayal of the Presidency." He accepted the award at a black-tie event at the newly restored Patent Office

Building, which houses the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture.

James Secord (elected 2005) of the History and Philosophy of Science Department at the University of Cambridge has been appointed director of the Darwin Correspondence Project. In addition to publishing the letters, the project aims to make letters available over the Internet at www.darwinproject.ac.uk.

Kevin Starr (elected 1987), state librarian of California, was one of the 2006 recipients of the National Humanities Medal for individuals and institutions whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened our citizens' engagement with the humanities, or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities.

Since September 2005, Nicholas K. Westbrook (elected 1994) has served as the Vice Chair of the New York State Commission on Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the French & Indian War. In October 2006, he received the Katherine M. Coffey Award from the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums for "a lifetime of distinguished service to museums."

At the end of the year, Paul Wright (elected 2004) will be retiring from his position as editor at the University of Massachusetts Press.

In November, the Visiting Nurse Services of New York held a fundraising gala honoring John Zuccotti (elected 1992) at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Fellows

David Roderick, Baron Fellow in 2003, won the American Poetry Review/Honnickman First Book Prize for his *Blue Colonial*. Many of the poems from this volume were based on research done here, and David read from his work to an appreciative audience at AAS early in November.

It is a historic first for AAS. John B. Hench Post-dissertation Fellow Jennifer Anderson delivered a baby boy in mid-December. She will take three-months of maternity leave and then be in residence through November to complete her fellowship. It was a different sort of delivery when Kathleen Brown, Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow 1997-98, and her husband Edward Pearson, Research Associate, 1997-98, adopted infant William some few weeks before their residencies ended.

AAS HERITAGE

In October, Isaiah Thomas descendant **Ruth Dumaine Brooking** stepped down from the AAS Council after two consecutive three-year terms. She first came to Antiquarian Hall in 1999, when we celebrated Thomas's 250th birthday. At that point we also launched a project to learn about descendants of Isaiah Thomas and to contact the living ones. A genealogy was published in *Proceedings* in 1924, but little systematic work had been done on the family since then.

We found the living descendants to be a remarkably varied group: a Byzantine art specialist in Vermont, a retired police chief in Maine, a school teacher in Georgia, a diplomat and scholar of African affairs in Washington, a physician in Alabama, the executive director of a regional bar association in Southern California, a land preservation professional in Massachusetts, a Buddhist monk in San Francisco, and a talented young clarinetist studying at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia—just to mention a few.

Our research has turned up many interesting historical descendants. The AAS founder's grandson, also named **Isaiah**, published newspapers in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was appointed by Abraham Lincoln as the consul to Algeria, only to perish at sea in 1862 on his way to take up that post. **Benjamin Franklin Thomas** served on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in the years leading up to the Civil War. **Samuel Leonard Crocker**, a noted chamber musician who was playing in the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the time of his marriage in 1916, collected a quartet of Stradivari instruments, and one of the two violins—the 1717 "Gariel"—is now played by Jamie Laredo. **Dr. Helen Taussig**, a pediatric surgeon at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, developed with Dr. Alfred Blalock the Taussig-Blalock operation to correct the heart defect which causes "blue babies" (subject of an HBO movie, *Something the Lord Made*.) Her niece **Edith T. Henderson** was a specialist in



the history of English law and curator of the Treasures Room at the Harvard Law School library. **Frederic C. "Buck" Dumaine, Jr.** was a great railroad entrepreneur and leader of Massachusetts's Republican Party.

The descendants also brought some very interesting spouses into the family. **Agnes Park Thomas** married **Richard Olney**, who served as Grover Cleveland's Attorney General and then Secretary of State. **Frances Church Crocker** married **William Douglas Sloane** of the famous W. & J. Sloane Carpet Company and together they built the "cottage" Wyndhurst in Lenox, Massachusetts, on the site of what is now Cranwell. **Mary Caroline Crocker** married **General Darius Nash Couch**, who commanded a division in the Army of the Potomac and was in charge of the ceremonies at Gettysburg when Lincoln delivered his address. **Rosamond Thomas Bennett** married **George Sturgis** of the Boston-China trade merchant family. George became the financial manager for his step-uncle George Santayana.

As with every family, there are the dark episodes also. Remember that Isaiah Thomas's first wife **Mary Dill**, mother of Isaiah's only children, became involved with Loyalist Benjamin Thompson, later Count Rumford, and was divorced from Isaiah in 1777. The February 1862 disappearance of S.S. Milwaukee in the Atlantic with grandson Isaiah and three of his children aboard, as he sailed to take up his duties as consul to Algeria was a great blow to the family. And, just recently, a descendant ran across a clipping telling of the 1892 murder of **Alice Crocker** by her mentally ill son **Robert Ives Crocker** in Carlsbad, Germany, where she had taken him for treatment. We found that AAS holds an 1868 carte de visite, picturing Alice holding her nine-month-old son Robert.

We will continue to explore the family, and we plan to have a grand family reunion in conjunction with AAS's bicentennial in 2012.

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