



# A Letter from the President

## August 2021

Dear Members,

As our world reopens, we are all at last able to visit with and spend time with those we were unable to visit before. Your Board and I hope that your return to normalcy is a happy one, though long delayed. Beginning with our wonderful dinner lecture at the Wayside Inn in June we are once again scheduling programs. You will soon find specific information about those Fall programs on our website [MHSM.org](http://MHSM.org). You will also receive information and registration details about each event in upcoming mailings. Please read on for a short summary of upcoming Fall events.

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## Lecture Series

As you recall, the first “Revolutionary Boston” lecture highlighted the Backwoods Riflemen who joined Washington’s Army in Cambridge, and the second installment examined the Salem Powderhouse Incident in February 1775, a precursor to the battles of Lexington and Concord less than two months later.

On the evening of **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** we shall hold the third installment of “Revolutionary Boston” at the Colonial Inn in Concord. Featured speaker Brooke Barbier will discuss “Boston Under Siege: Life in Boston 1774-1776.” Dr. Barbier earned a PhD in American History from Boston College. The author of *Boston in the American Revolution: A Town Versus an Empire*, she is a teacher and lecturer and runs Ye Olde Tavern Tours along Boston’s Freedom Trail.

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## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting which will be hosted at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Waltham on **Saturday, October 23**. Besides sharing a fine meal together, we will have as our guest speaker (Ret.) Colonel Andrew J. Bacevich, Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History at Boston University's Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies. He has also taught at West Point and Johns Hopkins University and is the distinguished author of numerous books and articles on American and global military affairs. Colonel Bacevich will discuss "Small Wars, Long Wars, Endless Wars," an examination of United States military history since the Second World War.

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## Save the Dates

### November:

On the evening of **Thursday, November 18**, we will host a dinner lecture featuring noted Civil War historian and prize-winning author William Marvel. Mr. Marvel's works include *Radical Sacrifice: The Rise and Ruin of Fitz John Porter*. As I am sure you all know, our founder, John Codman Ropes wrote the still-quoted volume *The Army Under Pope* which chronicled the Virginia campaign of August-September 1862. Ropes's scholarship included extensive research and efforts to reverse Porter's unjust court marshal following the Union defeat at Second Bull Run. It honors John Codman Ropes and the very origins of our Society to have William Marvel as our guest speaker.

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## December:

On Saturday, December 4th we have been invited to the American Heritage Museum in Hudson for a panel on the 80th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. This discussion is a joint venture with the International History Institute at Boston University, the American Heritage Museum and ourselves.

I know I speak for everyone when I happily announce the return of our annual Christmas party at the Union Club in early December. It will give us all great pleasure to celebrate the holiday season with long time friends and family members at one of Boston's most spectacular settings. Further information on the date and time of this event will follow.

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## Website Articles

I would draw your attention under featured articles to our website. We are fortunate to have as one of our members, Dr. Ehud Eilam. Dr. Eilam is a go-to source for information on the Middle East, and we are proud to post his latest article on the relationship between Israel and the Arab Gulf States. His piece is both timely and insightful. Please go to the website and read this newest addition to our website content. It will be worth your time.

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## Going Forward

In looking ahead to 2022, I would like to honor one of our founding principles by starting next year a series of discussions which we could call “Coffee, Cake and Chat.” The goal of this endeavor is to convene a number of informal gatherings for members to meet for fellowship and discussion. Venues could vary and no meal would be involved. We could have a common book or article, an issue, a new topic to discuss and examine in the style of John Codman Ropes and the founding members of the MHSM. This was one of the Principles laid down in our Charter. Let’s start it up again.

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## In Closing

This has been a most challenging year for every one of us as well as for our Society. We have come through it and are once again moving forward and living our lives. I hope you will enjoy our Fall programs and I hope you will all attend. I am excited for what our Society is doing and I know you share my excitement. Be well, and I look forward to joining you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert Gold