



A Letter from the President

February 2022

Dear Members,

I and your Board hope that you have started the new year with a renewed sense of optimism and determination to start living your lives again. As our world continues opening up, I am very excited to announce our Spring lecture series. I hope that you were pleased with our Fall 2021 programs. I, for one, thoroughly enjoyed bringing them to you and the opportunity those events provided to mingle with fellow members and to discuss an array of historical topics presented by enthusiastic and knowledgeable scholars.

Following the holidays and with the arrival of the New Year, the time has come again to begin setting the stage for the Society's events while we also continue to examine possibilities for outreach. The society continues to receive grant proposals from various individuals and organizations. We are continually looking for opportunities to extend our sponsorship of the scholarship of military history through these grants as well as programs such as our ROTC Essay Contest. As always, your Board is welcome to hear from you, the members, on ways that our Society might further enhance and promote the discourse and examination of military history.

I hope that you will take a look at the plans for the spring described within this letter, and please find the invitation for our first event, scheduled for a month from now. I have also provided some food for thought regarding the annual Holiday Party. Thank you all, and please read onward:

Save the Dates:

March 19, 2022 Luncheon and Lecture

- Mr. Chuck Veit, Colonial Inn, Concord, MA
Please see the Invitation on the Events page of this website.

This luncheon and lecture will be the first event of the spring. I look forward to joining you all that afternoon for a nice lunch and thought-provoking presentation by Mr. Veit on the Battle of Fort Butler.

As we finalize some remaining details, here are the plans in the works for April and May events.

Thursday April 21 Dinner and Lecture location TBD

-Professor Charles R. Gallagher, Associate Professor of History, Boston College

We hope to hold this evening event at a venue on or near to Route 128 in order to facilitate the commute with the advantage of accessibility and ample free parking. Professor Gallagher will speak on his recently published book: “Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten Story of the Christian Front.” This fascinating account of the German Nazi propaganda efforts in pre-war Boston sheds light upon a subject quite taboo in this region.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Tentative Date:

Saturday May 21st – Luncheon and Lecture

We are in discussion with the Wenham Museum/Patton Homestead to hold our semi-annual meeting there. The tentative date for the meeting is Saturday afternoon, May 21st. It is worth delaying our meeting to gain the opportunity to convene at the home of two military icons: General George Patton, Jr. and his son General George Patton IV. Besides viewing this historic site in the lovely weather of late spring, it may also be possible to see the family archives and memorabilia.

Our guest speaker for that day will hopefully be William Marvel, noted Civil War author and historian. Mr. Marvel has written extensively on the Union Army of the Potomac and its generals. His latest book is “Radical Sacrifice: The Rise and Ruin of Fitz John Porter”, published by University of North Carolina Press.

We are working now on the plans for these spring events. Please be assured that we will provide notification on the final details as soon as they are completed. You will receive both mailed invitations and find updated event information on the Society’s website: mhsm.org

2022 CHRISTMAS PARTY

For those of you who attended the 2021 Party I know you enjoyed it. Everyone did! It was wonderful to be back to talk and dine. We shared our tales of Covid and renewed friendships as we dined together and sang happy holidays to all and rang out the last of 2021. I am looking forward to the Party this year.

In looking ahead, I want to mention that as much in hospitality industry has been affected by the tumultuous events of the past two years. we faced a dramatic price increase for the party at the Union Club. The per person cost was \$162, of which we charged only \$70.

With this in mind, I am open to feedback and discussion as to what you feel we should do for the 2022 holiday party. We can stay at the Union Club with its wonderful memories and lovely view of downtown Boston; In keeping with the Club's increases for labor and food, we can charge a bit more per plate if we keep the event there. The alternative is to move the event to another venue which may allow for a smaller event fee and not change the cost per head.

As your President, I think it would be both sad and a shame to step away from on long association with the Union Club's unique setting and historic charm. I believe we should charge \$85 per person this year and keep this event at the Club. I would like to hear from you about what you think, and what you want. You can reach out to me on our organization's email address at: mshm1876@gmail.com

Thank you for your time, and for your continued interest in our Society.

Robert Gold, President MHSM
