

The 1823 'Centennial' Celebration of New Hampshire's Settlement

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Early 19th century commemorative celebrations not only created regional identity but were part of a "process of history making" intended to transform New England into the moral and cultural center of the nation. This case-study explores one 'centennial' (as it was called) held at Portsmouth in May 1823 to mark the two-hundredth anniversary of New Hampshire's 'founding.' Like the creation of the Pilgrim Society for bicentennial festivities at Plymouth in 1820, New Hampshire's event was designed to form a state historical society on the model of the Mass. Historical Society. Like several local 'centennials' in the 1820s and 30s, it combined a formal procession with honored guests, an oration and poem in the town meeting house, followed by a public dinner with toasts and songs, and culminated in a grand ball. Harlow Sheidley has argued that these promoted ideas advocated by the Boston Anthology Club in the *Monthly Anthology* (1803-11) and its successor (after 1815) the *North American Review*. This conservative, largely Unitarian, Boston and Harvard social and literary elite tried to keep New England at the nation's political center, she says, by using such popular festivals as political theater to proselytize the masses directly in "ritual celebration of New England's past and present glories."

To mount a celebration advocates had to resolve conflicting myths over the actual site of the state's birth before the 1823 celebration could be related to the larger moral lessons then associated with New England's past. In August 1822 [slide 1 a] John Farmer, a well-known antiquarian publisher and apothecary in Concord, New Hampshire claimed that "Dover was settled in 1623" by William and Edward Hilton and he asked, "ought not the event to be commemorated by our citizens in a manner

which shall recall . . . the memory of those who first landed on our shores, and laid the foundation of a flourishing and patriotic State?" In January 1823 he wrote John Kelly of Northwood about celebrating this anniversary. While the exact date was unknown, "as we have the year of the landing at Cochecho, I think, it will not be a subject of great difficulty to fix the day," when the Hiltons arrived "in the Spring of 1623." Farmer thought that "Among the records of the Ancient town of Dover, there are undoubtedly many curious facts which would afford some view of the progress of the plantation; but had there been anything further, it would not have escaped the vigilant eye of Dr. Belknap.

[1b] The Rev. Jeremy Belknap, who wrote the first *History of New Hampshire* while minister of Dover, followed Hubbard's 1680 error in believing that town was one of two sites settled by Englishmen in 1623. Belknap later led the 1799 efforts to establish the Massachusetts Historical Society, a role Farmer envisioned for himself in New Hampshire. "Though we cannot have so splendid a celebration as was that of Plymouth, yet we may have a respectable one." A New Hampshire 'centennial' celebration was simply "a favorable time for the formation of a Historical Society." While the "project of a *celebration* is not new with us," he wrote, "we cannot but hope there will be found active and willing minds to carry it into execution." Those who took up Farmer's challenge, however, had another view of where settlement first occurred.

[2a & b] This story begins a few years earlier, when the young Harvard graduate Nathaniel A. Haven, Jr. returned to his native Portsmouth to practice law. In 1817 he was one of the founders of the Portsmouth Athenæum and in 1821 purchased a newspaper which he renamed the *Portsmouth Journal of Literature and Politics*. By August 1822 Haven (who ran successfully for the state legislature in 1823) claimed,

"The Journal is becoming more and more a political paper -- but the time to make it decidedly so has not yet arrived. It may have some influence a year or two hence. In the meanwhile, we must make people read it, in the best manner we can." He did this by hiring Willard Phillips, a Harvard graduate, Boston lawyer and North American Review contributor, to write for him. Haven told him, "if I do not find writers here, after a few months, I shall be able to make them." What he refers to was the now-forgotten Portsmouth Forensic Club -- 'forensic' being a Harvard term for a written exercise maintaining one side of a question or another. Haven's biographer described the club as "an association of young men, formed for the purpose of literary discussion and forensic debate."

This association was organized in 1821, and embraced among its members about sixty persons of different occupations in life, thus extending its benefits to all classes of society capable of sharing its pursuits. Its form and character were given to it chiefly by Mr. Haven, who was its presiding officer, with the exception of a short interval, from its foundation till his death.

[3a & b] By August 1821 it was meeting in the Portsmouth Academy "once a fortnight, alternately organizing themselves into a legislative body, preserving all the forms of public business, for the discussion of subjects of political and public interest; and," every other meeting "as a literary body, for the discussion of matters of philosophical speculation, historical inquiry, and subjects presupposing taste and general cultivation." As president Haven's duty was "to sum up the arguments on each side of the discussion . . . and give his own views before it was submitted to a final vote." In October 1821, when the club debated if " the French Revolution was beneficial?" Samuel E. Coues mentions in a letter that the club's "Public evening" had been rescheduled; after the Forensic Club's young secretary, John Sparhawk, died in November, moreover, Coues "was chosen to deliver a eulogy." If, as he claimed, "each member has five tickets of admission for the evening," perhaps all the public evenings of this literary debating society were widely attended.

[4 a & b] All this helps clarify a notice in the *Portsmouth Journal* on March 15, 1823

At a meeting of a Literary Society in this town, on the evening of the 28th of February at which a number of gentlemen from other towns were present, several resolutions were passed expressing the propriety of celebrating the completion of the two hundred year from first settlement of New-Hampshire.

About this time a notice from Plymouth's *Old Colony Memorial* reported that the "Editors of the Portsmouth Journal and the Historical Collections (the latter published in Concord) have lately endeavored to excite some further investigation, respecting the time and circumstances of the first settlement of New-Hampshire." Thus, both Farmer and Haven were asking where and when to hold a celebration. Moreover, another Haven correspondant offered a more appealing interpretation of the site of the first landing.

[5 a & b] The March 13 meeting of the committee at at Emery's Tavern, in Exeter read a letter from James Savage. A friend of Haven's from the Anthology Club and a leading Massachusetts Historical Society member, Savage sifted all the evidence of David Tompson's settlement at Little Harbor (Odiorne's Point now in Rye, NH) and concluded that an Admiral West, who arrived at Plymouth at the end of June 1623, probably dropped Tompson and [he believed] the Hiltons at Piscataqua on the way. He estimated their arrival on the New Hampshire coast in "late in May, or early June" for Tompson visited Plymouth in July. "So, in my judgement," Savage wrote, "you should look to the *nameless* bark of West for your passage over the billows, and" -- with no documented date -- "*take the plesantest day in the year for your landing.*" It would, in fact, be fifty years before evidence of Tompson's 1622 grant or the name of the ship Jonathan which brought him (but not the Hiltons) here came to light. Based on Savage's research the planners picked Portsmouth (rather than Dover) for a May 28th celebration.

That this cultural event held political significance may be gleaned from the background of those planning the 'Centennial' celebration. Of eighteen men from

Portsmouth, Dover, Durham, Rochester, Northwood, Exeter, and Chester, only John Farmer and Charles Cushing, a Boston lawyer who owned the Benning Wentworth mansion at Little Harbor, never attended. Most were elected politicians or political appointees; two thirds were trained as lawyers, more than half had degrees from Harvard or Dartmouth. (When Nathaniel Haven, Jr. died in 1826 he had 1200 volumes at home and another 400 law books in his office.) Besides Farmer and Moore's own role as publishers, Haven, Oliver W. B. Peabody of Exeter, Charles W. Cutter of Portsmouth and Dover, and John Kelly all did or would soon published a newspaper, and several wrote for the *North American Review*.

Ichabod Bartlett, a Portsmouth lawyer just being elected to Congress, was asked to chair both this celebration committee and the nascent historical society. Preparations for the celebration itself fell primarily on the Portsmouth delegation of Bartlett, custom collector Gen. Timothy Upham, shipowner and merchant Alexander Ladd, and Haven. [6a & b] Alexander Ladd was elected secretary of the committee on arrangements; he wrote to various dignitaries asked to the event and kept the records. They also asked Haven [not Kelly, Farmer's original choice] to give formal address, Oliver Peabody to write the poem, and the Rev. Thomas Upham of Rochester to prepare the Odes to be sung in the formal exercises.

Ladd invited all the past and present Governors and the State Superior Court judges to join the procession and attend a public dinner. A change of date to May 20 caused these invitations to be sent out late. Thus, Superior Court Judge and governor-elect Levi Woodbury of Portsmouth attended neither the meeting on the 20th nor the celebration the next day. The former governors all pled prior commitments but encouraged their efforts to "establish an Historical Society." Hosea Hildreth, who taught rhetoric at Phillips Exeter Academy (and founded its debating society) was invited to join and served as secretary. The group then voted to "form ourselves into a Historical and Literary Society" and invited nine of the most prominent New

Hampshire men to become members and join them at Portsmouth the day before the celebration.

[7 a & b] Those who did arrive at Wildes' Hotel on May 20 voted themselves into membership and asked Haven to prepare an incorporation for the state legislature where many of the Committee already served. "The morn was ushered in by the ringing of bells and discharge of artillery, which was continued at intervals through the day. Flags were displayed upon several public buildings, the shipping, &c." Newspaper advertisements across the state had informed Masons "of the several Lodges in the State" to assemble at 9 o'clock in Portsmouth "with their proper clothing at Mason's Hall" the upper story of the handsome hall Langley Boardman had recently built next to Wilde's Hotel.

[8 a & b] Dressed in their masonic aprons, they formed a procession of the several Lodges and proceeded to the South Meeting House where the mechanics' society, militia, and other "citizens and strangers" were to all assemble by 10 o'clock. Fifty years later one Portsmouth boy remembered that:

A great deal of marching and countermarching was done by the boys in the public-school play-grounds, for a week or two previous, in preparation for the position they were to fill in the procession of the 21st, and much trouble had the juvenile marshals in keeping in line the smaller urchins who had never been drilled in the ranks before; all of which was compensated for by the pride they felt in leading their several commands when the great day came.

Newspapers and handbills gave the parade order, which began to move "precisely at half past ten, through Pleasant, Broad, Middle, and Congress streets, (and, if pleasant weather, will continue through Vaughan, Deer, Fore and Market streets,) to the north meeting-house." State militia General Timothy Upham, the customs collector, was chief marshall of the day. Local militias, the Rockingham Guards and the Gilman Blues, "the flower of the young men of Portsmouth, did escort duty in the procession, acquitting themselves with their wonted credit."

Later that week Elizabeth Woodbury, wife of the governor-elect, reported her impressions of "this day of days;"

such an 'immense' crowd, as covered the parade, filled the court house, the insurance office and many other buildings, was never before seen. Almira, Charles & myself rode to Mrs. Sheafes where we found much company & had a fine view of the procession. . . The children were enchanted, but beyond everything else, the Masons, the Uniform companies, & the display of men, women & children, Charles admired the Drums.

[9 a & b] She begged, "pray do not lecture me for not going into the meeting-house" for the literary exercises he would wish she had heard, "but the dread of those old galleries, & the multitudes that filled them, subdued every inducement, & rendered me only solicitous for the preservation of life." The formal "exercises . . . took place at the Old North Church, the galleries of which --for the venerable edifice was then a three Decker . . . -- were stoutly braced to sustain the unwonted weight it was foreseen would be brought to bear on them."

Seating in the shakey old meeting house was as structured by social hierarchy as was the parade's order. One of the largest churches in New England it contained "about ninety pews on the lower floor" and two rows of galleries above. "The building was filled throughout when the exercises commenced, and presented a brilliant and imposing spectacle." The pews around the outer walls were reserved for ladies; only they could enter without the committee's permission before the men arrived. These wall-pews were, thus, "crowded with beauty and fashion."

The broad aisle was occupied by the military escort, the right centre being filled with strangers and citizens, and the left with different societies, with their various badges and decorations. The upper gallery was occupied exclusively by the boys, who made part of the procession."

[10 a & b] Nor was Mrs. Woodbury alone; older students, after getting their younger charges "safely stowed in the galleries of the church," took "French leave themselves at the earliest opportunity, for the more congenial region of 'the Parade,' (as Market-square was always called,) and its holiday sports." They had saved up "for the

occassion months beforehand" -- buying food in the Court House (the former colonial statehouse); across the street that "paradise to juvenile fancy, Peduzzi's" confectionary store "was thronged with youthful customers." Fire- or "India-crackers . . . 'went off' with [the] rapidity of 4th of July."

[11 a & b] Those who did brave the crowded meeting-house spent nearly three hours listening to prayers by Dartmouth President **Bennet Tyler** and the North Church's minister **Israel Putnam**, an anthem set to unidentified music by Sir. J. Stevenson, and two odes by Thomas C. Upham, a talented Rochester minister, were sung by the local Handel Society. [12 a & b] Printer Charles Brewster struck off the three poems as a broadside that very day. The "Song of the Pilgrims" (to the tune of 'Rise Columbia') and "The Pilgrims were our Fathers" (to 'Ye Mariners of England') echoed Haven's oration: "Our ancestors were *Englishmen; were Merchant-adventurers; were Puritans.*" Haven and Oliver W. B. Peabody, who contributed a long poem on the same theme, modestly declined to publish their effort. Both manuscripts, bound and preserved as icons, were only given posthumous publication.

Following Belknap's Congregational view of the colony's early history, Haven and Peabody recast the merchant-adventurers as 'pilgrims.' Haven focused on earlier English Puritans to whom "the church of England is indebted for her present Protestant character." This conveniently eluded the fact that the first settlers in Portsmouth, like those across the Piscataqua, held Anglican services in the 1630s -- only Dover and Exeter were actually settled by dissenters -- and gave a useful past for the elite members of Portsmouth's Episcopalian church. This origin myth also allowed the days several literary efforts to share a common theme. Ladd had requested the committee provide "original songs, adapted to some of our favorite national airs, or other popular tunes." [13a & b] Jacob Moore (Farmer's publishing partner in Concord) asked Mrs. Sarah Josepha Buell Hale, whose book of poetry *The Genius of Oblivion* he would published in June, for some verse. In sending her work to Ladd, Moore

suggested "some alterations may be made for the better, and these she would willingly submit to Messrs Haven and Bartlett." The *Portsmouth Journal* later published her [14a & b] Ode, noting "It was written, in much haste, at the request of one of her friends; but it does equal credit to her taste and her patriotism." Like all the songs it transformed New Hampshire's first settlers into northern versions of the Plymouth Pilgrims, referring to the 'Laconia' grant Tompson and the Hiltons were then believed to have settled in 1623. Moses L. Neal of Dover, a Federalist lawyer and clerk of the state House with a "ready talent of versification," provided "The Landing of the Fathers" sung to the tune 'Anacreon in Heaven' (Star Spangled Banner).

[15a & b] Most of these songs were "sung at the Dinner." After the formal services ended, at two o'clock invited gentlemen (only) assembled by the Academy so that they might march down Congress Street to Jefferson Hall. This room, over the brick market which gave its name to Market Square, long served as the dining spot for the Republican majority's Fourth of July dinners. Its location over this meat market led Federalist songster Jonathan M. Sewall to dub it 'Jefferson's stall.' Lit by a gable-end Palladian window on the west facade, one entered "the most capacious" hall in Portsmouth from the east end, up two staircases and anterooms. [16a & b] Here town meetings, political rallies, and dinners were celebrated. Fourth of Julys were recalled for "the long extended and well-filled board" and any "citizen who did not master at least one bottle of wine was reproached as weak or puritanic."

With nearly 200 gentlemen arriving *en mass* between 2:30 and 3 o'clock, food was already on the table, "served up in Wildes' usual style" by the hotelier who earlier hosted the committee meetings. The meal "was chiefly of fish of all known names and cooked in all possible variety." This was organized by a committee led by Republican U.S. Senator, John F. Parrott, of Portsmouth, who presided over the dinner as 'President of the Day.' To keep a record of all who came, he asked everyone

to write his name on the back of the ticket of admission before delivering the same to the head waiter, who was directed to collect the tickets on the removal of the cloth; but amid the joy and hilarity which prevailed, few attended to the request.

A list later compiled from (failing) memory shows the elite character of this group. More than half of those from Portsmouth already belonged to its Athenæum. Almost a quarter attending had academic degrees. This included faculty members from Dartmouth, invited to join the the new Historical Society, as well as most of the several out of state dignitaries. Most were politicians and lawyers, including several who had read with one of the city's leading advocates, [17a & b] Jeremiah Mason. U.S. Senator Daniel Webster, who had battled with Mason when he was a lawyer in Portsmouth a few years earlier, returned for the event with half a dozen stellar members of the Boston-Cambridge establishment. "On the removal of the cloth, many excellent toasts were drank, interspered with appropriate and patriotic songs, several of them composed for the occassion." Mrs. Woodbury reported "the toast of Mr. Webster was s^d to be peculiarly happy -- after some allusions to his native state, he made a quotation from Goldsmith 'Where'er I turn, whatever realm to see, my heart untravelled fondly turns to thee.'" Joseph Story, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and charter member of the new Essex Institute in his native Salem, toasted "England. . . may it ever enjoy with us a common learning, a common religion, and a common liberty." Unitarian minister (later Harvard professor) John G. Palfrey recalled "The two May-flowers -- the one which bore the pilgrims to New-England and the other the strawbery blosson, which met the first settlers of N. H. on the banks of the Piscataqua."

Among the specially composed verse "was a song by William P. Adams, Esq., a custom house inspector noted for his merry off-hand rhymes." It was so popular it was later printed as a broadside and remembered for fifty years as "the cause of much merrymment at the table and elsewhere." One verse used two of the state's early settlers:

Tom Warnerton he planted peas,

And Humphrey Chadbourne taters,
Their children hopped as thick as fleas --
Dear little chubby 'craters.'

and ended with the threat that Adams might return and sing on the third 'centennial'!

[18 a & b] While the elite dined in this jolly way, another "collation" was provided by the Mechanics' Society, "on the lower floor of the court house, of which a large number of the citizens of Portsmouth and visitors from neighboring towns partook." One person recalled "The Court House . . . was converted into a grove of spruce and hemlocks and used as a place of refreshments; finding plenty of customers in the out-of-town people who came to see the celebration. In a corner, as if in ambush, with an arrow upon his bow-string, was the wooden effigy of Woonolancet, the Indian chief, a relic of a ship of that name burned in the harbor many years before, and that usually surmounted a workshop, on one of the wharves. "

[19a & b] The Masonic participants marched from the meeting-house under military escort to Masons Hall (the top floor of Langley Boardman's new Franklin Hall next to Wildes Hotel) "where the Grand Lodge closed omitting the usual ceremonies." Mrs. Woodbury reported, "We had a fine supper in the Mason's hall, a room furnished with much elegance." Perhaps this was gotten up specifically for the wives of the male diners who later joined them for a ball which "closed the hilarity of the day" just below the Masonic rooms in Franklin Hall.

This Centennial Ball was typical of the Portsmouth 'assemblies.' Joshua W. Peirce advertised all week that dancing would begin at 8 o'clock and that "Tickets for the admission of strangers must be had of the managers." Mrs. Woodbury said "this long talked of ball" was "conducted with great propriety and no infringement of 'heaven's first law' [a reference to Goldsmith meaning good order]. The room

[20 a & b] was 'filled to over-flowing,' & many distinguished characters present such as Mr. & Mrs. Webster, Judge & Mrs. Story, Mrs. Elwyn, Gen. Storer & Lady, Mr. Jacob Sheafe sr. & Lady-- et cetera."

in their 40s and 50s. Most came from the town's best families, 83 of the men owned somewhat more than a third of the city's property value of some 1500 taxpayers.

Perhaps of greatest interest is the art exhibit. "Such a hunting and collecting together of old portraits had never been seen, until the walls of Franklin Hall were covered from floor to ceiling. Even then room could not be had for them [all], and the outside hall, or entry as some would call it, was converted for the time into a picture gallery." Mrs. Woodbury noted, "Franklin hall was ornamented with the most ancient paintings that could be found in the neighborhood of P[ortsmouth]--

the Statesmen,

- [22] **Richard Waldron, (1694-1753)** Greenwood 1751
 councilor 1728- ?; secretary of province to 1753 in right hand "**Salus populi suprema lex**"
- Theodore Atkinson** Blackburn 1760
 Harvard 1718; councillor 1734 -; judge of Sup. Ct; secretary of prov. "**expences of government**"
- [23] Gov. Benning Wentworth (1696-1770) Blackburn 1760
 John Wentworth (son of Benning) Blackburn 1759 = **CHECK**

Divines,

- [24] Rev. John Emerson, [Tenney copy] So. Church, Portsmouth
Samuel Haven (1727-1806) **Steward 1794** Harvard 1749; minister So. Church

& Belles of the last century."

- [25] **Mrs. Richard Waldron, (1694-1753)** Greenwood 1751 **SPNEA**
Mrs. Geo. Jaffrey III (Sarah W. Macpheadris) Blackburn 1761 **Warner**

Someone sent the N. H. *Gazette* a list of thirty of the portraits exhibited. In describing these "many eminent characters," the paper also announced that Franklin Hall would "be open Thursday forenoon, for the accomodation of ladies and gentlemen who may wish to view the ancient Paintings and Portraits,

- [26] **John Moffatt (1692-1786)** Greenwood 1750-2 **Moffatt-Ladd**
Mrs. John Moffatt, (Catherine Cutt) (1700-1769) Greenwood 1750-2 **Moffatt-Ladd**

with which it is decorated." Two days after the ball Mrs. Woodbury wrote her husband that "Mr. Daniel Sheafe & Mr. Humphreys escorted us yesterday morning to take a more minute survey of them." The exhibit combined art and history in a way that appealed to the elite's family pride. According to one who grew up here,

"No town in New England claimed to be more aristocratic. . . In no town was society more exclusive and pretentious." In no town was there a greater pride in ancestors who were **generals**,

Thos. Westbrook Waldron, (1721-85)	Blackburn	1755	Capt. during Louisburg
Nathaniel Sparhawk (1715-76)	Copley	1764	Col. of Militia " "

[or] **merchants.** "

[27]	Geo. Jaffrey, I (1638-1707)	? oval	MFA [slide SPNEA?]
	Geo. Jaffrey, II (1682-1749)	?	MFA [slide SPNEA?]

Farmer and Moore commented that "Having repeatedly experienced regret in witnessing the destruction of fine paintings," they were "surprised that Portsmouth . . . was so rich in the works of **Copley**,

[28]	Gov. John Wentworth, (1737-1820)	Copley	Hood
	Theodore Atkinson	Copley	RISD

Smibert, his teacher,

[29]	Elizabeth Pitts Warner	Smibert	Detroit
	Sir Richard Spry	Smibert	Athenaeum

and **others** whose names are unknown." Among these unknown limners was

[30]	Lt. Gov. John Wentworth (1671-1730)	18th c oval	MHS
	William Pepperrell (1646-1734)	Pep. Limner c. 1710 ?	MHS

Lt. JohnWentworth and the whole Pepperrell clan: father William, the son (Sir William) knighted for his military service at Louisburg in 1745, and his sisters.

[30]	Mary P. (Mrs. John Frost)	Pep. Limner c.1710	Portsmouth Athenæum
	Jane P.	Pep. Limner c. 1710-20	= SPNEA / Langdon

Farmer and Moore wondered "whether our sister states can present a richer collection of portraits than was exhibited on this occasion." It all seemed to them like "some grand festival in one of the ancestral homes of England, its walls hung with portraits of half a dozen generations."

[31 a & b] With so many distinguished guests staying in town until Saturday, "there were also several private parties and social gatherings." On Thursday night Mrs. Woodbury attended a party at Mrs. James Rundlett's.

[32] [Ebenezer] Wentworth entered the room at about 9 o'Clock at Mrs. R's party **dressed in the costume** of some of the Wentworth family in vogue 60 to 70 years since, white small clothes, a very long stone coloured waistcoat embroidered with silver, and a crimson coat, covered with gold lace. The whole room resounded with laughter, but I thought he did not support the masque with much effect --- though he appeared pleased with the attention he excited, he rather withdrew from conversation-- it seemed a boyish sport, and I could not cease to wonder a Man, would descend to be the subject of such amusement.

[33a & b] In June the state legislature in Concord considered a memorial by Nathaniel A. Haven, Jr. to charter a New Hampshire Historical Society. The House voted for it on June 11 and at 12:30 on June 13 members, having adjourned to await the Senate vote and the Governor's signature, met in the Council Chamber to sign the incorporation. They elected former Governor William Plumer president, Governor Woodbury and Dartmouth President Tyler vice-presidents, Nathaniel Haven Jr. corresponding and John Kelly recording secretary, and Jacob B. Moore librarian. Plummer, Woodbury and Bartlett were asked to write by-laws and in September the Society met in Exeter, where **[34 a & b]** Nathaniel Adams and Nathan Parker of Portsmouth, with Hosea Hildreth of Exeter were elected a 'Standing Committee' (trustees).

In Portsmouth several of the men who debated in the Forensic Club also read their newspapers in the Market Square offices of the N.H. Fire and Marine Insurance Office's **[35 a & b]** elegant subscription reading room. Fifteen of these "subscribers" had helped found the Portsmouth Athenaeum in 1817, a library of fifty proprietors with Nathaniel Adams as president and Haven secretary. **[36 a & b]** Growing to some 1500 books by 1823 it occupied rooms over General Upham's custom house. "If the love of money be (as foreigners assert) the ruling passion of New England, let us show," wrote Haven, "that all our earnings are not devoted to

luxurious living; and that in our pursuit of wealth, we are sufficiently enlightened to avail ourselves of the resources which Literature and Science can offer." For several years the insurance company was not able to collect claims against France for losses during the Napoleonic War. In 1820 the Masons had abandoned their use of the upper floors for their new hall over Boardman's building. But only after the 'Centennial' -- July and August 1823 -- did Haven and 48 friends (mostly those involved in the celebration) buy the building for the Athenaeum and make the insurance company's older (and wealthier) shareholders members of the library.

[36 a & b] The high walls of the Athenaeum's reading room cried out for paintings

and former Federalist Senator James Sheafe donated his Smibert portraits of the **[37 a & b]** Louisburg hero Sir Peter Warren (in blue). (The matching portrait of Sir

William Pepperrell --in red-- had gone to the Essex Institute two years before the athenaeum acquired their new home.) **[38 a & b]** Royal commissions to Benning

Wentworth soon joined them. Unlike the state historical society's near-exclusive interest in publishing, the Athenaeum began collecting manuscripts of the state's

Revolutionary heroes and soon became the local repository for ancient as well as modern books. All this helped reinforce the mythic New England gospel of

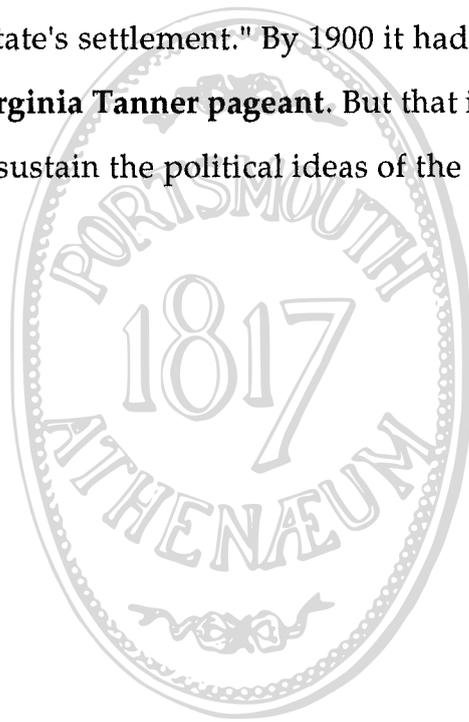
American history.

[39 a & b] Just as the Boston literati had formed the Athenæum "to moderate the fragmenting, materialistic, debilitating tendencies of the business community and to shape and channel overall elite development according to British models," perhaps Portsmouth's old elite saw a similar utility in promoting history and culture. New Hampshire in 1823 experienced a brief moment of political moderation. In helping elect Levi Woodbury as Governor while engaged in this Anglophilic celebration, Portsmouth's old Federalists and more conservative Republican elite combined to institutionalize its history and culture. Another part of this process, stimulated by the

[40 a & b] 1823 celebration was Nathaniel Adams' book, *Annals of Portsmouth* (1825).

President of the Athenæum, Adams was remembered as "a semi-literary man" by John Lord, who lumped him together with the Sheafes, Havens, "and sundry other magnates who cultivated all the sentiments of inequality and exclusiveness which were supposed to belong to the higher classes in England." It was the sons of these men who after paying off all the celebration expenses, deposited the balance (\$ 8.67) [41 a & b] in the new **Portsmouth Savings Bank**. Its incorporators included all the 1823 arrangements committee and many of Athenæum leaders who had participated in the event. The money was to be "the nucleus of a fund for the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the state's settlement." By 1900 it had grown to \$296.27 and in 1923 the town mounted a **Virginia Tanner pageant**. But that is yet another story of local history myths employed to sustain the political ideas of the present.

Thank you.



1823 exhibit

Atkinson, Thoeodore Blackburn	1760	Worcester Art Mus.	1918.13
" Mrs. (Hannah Wentw. Plaisted) "	1760	Cleveland Art	19.1005
Atkinson, Theodore Jr. Copley	1757/8	RISD	18.264
" Mrs. (Francis Deering) <u>both</u> decended thru Asa Freeman of Dover; sold 1876 Lennox Coll. NY Public			
Emerson, Rev. John [Tenney copy]		South Church, Portsmouth	
" Mrs (Mary Barter, Salem)		lost (still here in 1850s : Brewster p. 93)	
Haven, Samuel	Steward? 1794	MHS	
Jaffrey, Geo. I (1638-1707)	? oval	MFA Boston	
Jaffrey, Geo. II (1682-1749)	?	MFA	
Jaffrey, George III (1702-1778) Blackburn	1758	Albrecht Art Mus. St. Joseph, MO	AG78.331.1
" 1. Mrs. Geo. III (Lucy Winthrop) "	1758	" " "	AG78.331.2
" 2. Mrs. Geo. III (Sarah W. Macphaedris) "	1761	Warner House Assocn.	
Moffatt, John (1692-1786)	Greenwood	1750-2 Moffatt-Ladd House	1977.92
" Mrs. (Catherine Cutt) (1700-1769) "	" "	" "	1977.94
Catherine [Moffatt] Whipple		unlocated	
Pepperrell, William (1646-1734)	Pep. Limner c.1710 ?		MHS [JWP Frost]
Pepperrell, Sir Wm. Bart. (1696-1759)	Pep. Limner 1750	1824 Portsmouth Athenæum /Fisher gift?	
		1868 removed by family member	
		1894 exhibited at Ports. Athen. owner Miss Millicent Jarvis	
		1950 K. Budd of NYC owned it ; now at Dearborn, MI? [J WP Frost]	
mother: Margery Bray Pepperrell		where??	
sisters of Sir Wm :			
Mary P. (Mrs. John Frost)	Pep. Limner c.1710	Portsmouth Athenæum	
Jane P.	Pep. Limner c. 1710-20	= SPNEA / Langdon House	
DorothyP (Mrs. John Newmarch)	" " c.1710 -20	unlocated	
Pitts, Rev. James (Boston)	Blackburn	1750s?	Detroit Institute of Art
Sparhawk, Nathaniel (1715-76)	Copley	1764	MFA 1983.595
Waldron, Richard (1694-1753)	Greenwood	1751	SPNEA 1966.238
Waldron, Thos. Westbrook (1721-85)	Blackburn	1755	SPNEA 1966.237
Wentworth, Lt. Gov. John (1671-1730)	Blackburn	1760	NHHS, Concord 1969.30.1
also an oval bust portrait by ?		1715	MHS, Boston
Wentworth, Benning(1696-1770)	Blackburn	1760	NHHS 1969.30.2
Wentworth, John (son of Benning)	Blackburn	1759	NHHS 1974.31
Wentworth, Gov. John (1737-1820)	Copley		Hood/Hanover P.977.175
Wibird, Richard jr (1702-1765) Badger	1755		Deerfield Academy
Mrs Richard Wibird (a Wendell)		lost	

1823 exhibit

Wibird, Thos. (1706-1765)	lost
Gambling, Benjamin (1681-1737) m. a Penhallow	lost
Madam Montgomery (painted in Scotland 1555)	lost
Sherburne, Henry Hon.	lost
Rogers, Rev. Nathaniel 1623	lost

SLIDES

Statesmen

1]	Richard Waldron (1694-1753)	Greenwood	1751	scroll "Salus populi suprema lex"
	Theodore Atkinson	Blackburn	1760	scroll "expences of government"
2]	Gov. Benning Wentworth (1696-1770)	Blackburn	1760	
	Lt-Gov. John Wentworth			

Divines,

3]	Rev. John Emerson and Samuel Haven (Nathaniel's grandfather)			of South Church
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and Belles of the last century.

4]	Mrs. Richard Waldron (1694-1753)	Greenwood	1751	
	Mrs. Geo. Jaffrey III (Sarah Wentworth Macpheadris)	Blackburn	1761	

Family pride

5]	John Moffatt (1692-1786)	Greenwood	1750-2	
	Mrs. John Moffatt (Catherine Cutt) (1700-1769)	Greenwood	1750-2	

Military Leaders

6]	Thos. Westbrook Waldron, (1721-85)	Blackburn	1755	
	Major, John Wentworth (son of Benning)			

Merchants

7]	Geo. Jaffrey, I (1638-1707)			
	Geo. Jaffrey, II (1682-1749)			
8]	Nathaniel Sparhawk (1715-76)	Copley	1764	
	James Pitts	Blackburn		

Copley:

9]	Gov. John Wentworth, (1737-1820)	Copley		
	Theodore Atkinson [jr]	Copley		

Smibert

10]	Elizabeth Pitts Warner	Smibert		
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unknown artists:

	Elizabeth Sherburne	[John Greenwood]		
11]	Lt. Gov. John Wentworth (1671-1730)	18th C unknown		
	William Pepperrell (1646-1734)	Pep. Limner c. 1710 ?		
12]	Mary P. (Mrs. John Frost)	Pep. Limner c. 1710		
	Jane P.	Pep. Limner c. 1710-20		