

# Partnership of Historic Bostons Annual Report 2017

## Introduction

The mission of the Partnership of the Historic Bostons, Inc. is twofold: to foster public understanding of the contributions of the 17th-century founders of Boston and the Massachusetts Bay Colony whose enduring legacies shaped the principles upon which the United States of America was established; and to preserve the historical links with Boston, Lincolnshire, England, for which our Boston was named.

Our volunteers work tirelessly in furtherance to further our mission to bring free, high-quality events to the public. In 2017, we launched our most ambitious program yet, and were rewarded with great events and increased attendance.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us. Our year succeeded because of you, our many partners, and supporters. We are proud to now share our success with you in this report.

### Quick Stats

Total Events in 2017:	30
Total Attendance:	1,153
First Time Attendees enrolling thru Eventbrite:	556
Pct Increase in Twitter Followers:	63%
Pct increase in overall attendance over 2016:	9%
Pct increase in Charter Day attendance over 2016:	33%

## Charter Day 2017 Events

### Theme: “Medicine and Mortality in 17th-Century Boston”

This year, we held our longest and busiest Charter Day celebration to date. Between September 7 and November 28, we hosted 10 programs. This allowed deeper discussion and more participation in our topic: **Medicine and Mortality in 17th-Century Boston.**

Healthcare is such a huge aspect of modern society, and we wanted to explore healthcare among early Bostonians and New Englanders. Participants entered a world of physicians and midwives, herbalists and bloodletters while Colonists and Native Americans met on the battlefield, epidemics swept through communities, and ministers joined prayer to medicine.

### Honoring September 7, 1630 – Boston, Watertown and Dorchester Naming Day – “Bell Ringing by King’s Chapel and Park Street Church, and Commemoration”

Thursday September 7 - Old South Meeting House

FREE admission for Massachusetts residents from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM to commemorate the naming of our Boston honoring Boston, Lincolnshire, UK. Included bell ringing.

### “Founders Trail Tour” - Thursday September 7 –

The Founders Trail Tour celebrates the leaders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the diversity in occupations and home locations of the first comers, and the connections between and among new Boston (MA) and old Boston, Lincolnshire UK. Our city’s origin in old Boston is memorialized by the Coat of Arms of Boston, Lincolnshire, on the Ashburton Gate to the Statehouse.



**“Monstrous Births, Powerful Midwives: The Battle over Women’s Bodies in 17th-Century Boston”** - Eve LaPlante -

Wednesday, September 13 –

Boston Public Library

Renowned author and Partnership Advisor Eve LaPlante explored, through the lens of Anne Hutchinson in Boston, the world of midwives, women healers, and “monstrous births” at a time when women were powerful in the home but powerless outside it.



**"Disease, Science, and Religion in the World of the Puritans"** - Francis J. Bremer, PhD –

Friday, September 15 – Park Street Church

Francis Bremer, renowned Winthrop scholar and Partnership Advisor, revealed how the Puritans saw the relationship between religion and medicine and fostered a spirit of innovation.



**"Poxes and Prescriptions in Old Boston: A Medical Walking Tour"** - Saturday, September 16 and Saturday September 30.

A new Partnership Charter Day walking tour explored how 17th-century religious and scientific communities in Boston joined forces, overcame objections, and conquered the two great killer

epidemics, Smallpox and Yellow Fever.

**“The Commonwealth of Massachusetts”** - Reverend Stephen Kendrick of the First Church in Boston Sunday, September 17.

Reverend Kendrick reflected on the role of the early churches in colonial Boston and how Puritan ministers tended to both body and soul.

**"Privies and Peach Pits: Public Health in Puritan Boston" -**

Alfred DeMaria, Jr., MD, State Epidemiologist and Medical Director of the Bureau of Infectious

Disease, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and Joseph Bagley, City of Boston Archeologist , Wednesday, September 27 - New England Historical Genealogical Society



Mr. Bagley and Dr. DeMaria joined forces to explain how peach pits and DNA unraveled the story of disease through artifacts and the development of early public health legislation.



*Sid Levitsky, MD, Partnership Trustee (center) introducing Dr. McBride and Dr. Bissionnette*

**“Violence, Disease, and Public Medicine during the Pequot & King Philip’s Wars” -**

Kevin McBride, PhD; University of Connecticut and Pequot Museum

Ashley Bissonnette, PhD, Eastern Connecticut State University and Pequot Museum

Saturday, September 30 - Massachusetts Historical Society

Two experts brought us the reality of some of New England’s bloodiest wars, exploring the ways Native Americans and Colonists experienced conflict and disease through tangible objects of war.

**"When there is No Doctor: Home Remedies of 17th-Century Boston" -**

Lori Lyn Price , MAS, MLA, senior biostatistician at Tufts Medical Center

Tuesday, October 3 – Old North Church

Lori Lyn Price uncovered the roles of the housewife in caring for her family using recipes that were botanical and chemical in nature, mixed with magic, exotic ingredients, and astrological conditions.

**“Epidemics, Conflict, and Caregiving among Native Americans and Puritans”**

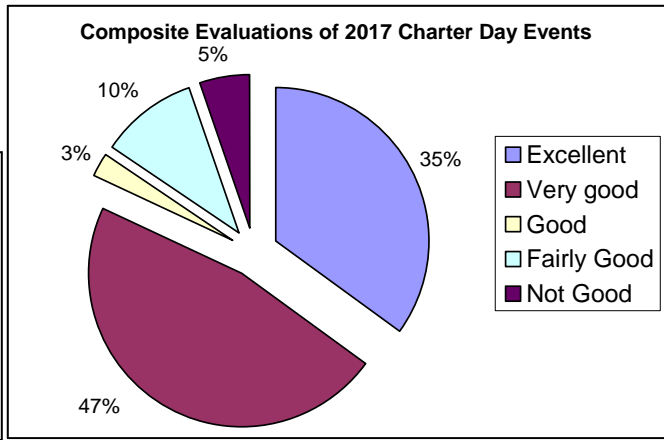
David S. Jones, MD, PhD and Nathaniel Sheidley, PhD

Tuesday, November 28 – Old State House



David S. Jones, MD, PhD, A. Bernard Ackerman Professor of the Culture of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, thoughtfully reviewed contemporary reports of the epidemics that swept the Native American population in Massachusetts in the early 17th-century and the religious and scientific explanations for their causation and severity.

**In Summary**, the Partnership explored the development of scientific knowledge and its reflection in religious belief in 17<sup>th</sup> century New England and old England. We witnessed the birth of modernism through ten successful events and tours.



## Lectures

This year, we provided seven lectures outside of the Charter Day celebrations. Pictured here: Nat Sheidley, PhD and Executive Director The Bostonian Society and PHB Advisor.



Below are pictured Will Holton and Lori Stokes

History Camp Boston - Saturday, March 18 –

**“Five Myths about the Puritans”**- Lori Stokes PhD :

**“Hidden Domestic Lives of Puritan Women”** Lori Stokes: PhD

**“Boston, Lincolnshire and Its Links to Boston, Massachusetts—1630 to the Present.”** –

Will Holton: Partnership President Emeritus



Salem Women’s History Day - Sunday, March 26 —

**“The Hidden Domestic Lives of Puritan Women”** - Lori Stokes, PhD:

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, UMass. Boston - Monday, May 1 –

**“Puritans and Slavery”** - Lori Stokes, Lori Stokes, PhD:

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, UMass. Boston - Thursday, May 11 - –

**“Boston, Lincolnshire and Its Links to Boston, Massachusetts: 1630 to the Present”** –

Will Holton, Partnership President Emeritus–

Downtown Boston Residents' Association - Monday, November 13 -

**“Forgotten Boston: 1630 to 1730”** - - Suffolk Law School

Professor Robert Allison, Suffolk University History Department and PHB Advisor

Rose A. Doherty, PHB Immediate Past President

## Reading Group – meeting at Massachusetts Historical Society

Our reading group exposes attendees to carefully selected primary source documents along with scholarly interpretation. These discussions of primary documents and recent scholarship are open to all. Participants don't need a PhD, don't need to know medical or legal history. The enthusiastic participation we garner proves the value of these discussions. Year over year attendance almost doubled.

**“Medical and Surgical Care in Puritan New England”** - Saturday, January 28 -  
Sidney Levitsky MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon and Partnership trustee, led this discussion which explored 17th-century medicine through rarely examined sources.

**“Mapping New England, a visual story”** - Saturday, February 25 -  
MHS renowned Librarian Peter Drummey led the group in investigating the world of early New England maps, explaining how they were created, what they included and omitted, the images chosen, and the messages they conveyed. After the discussion, we examined original copies of 17th-century maps in the MHS collection.

**"Uncommon Sufferings: Slavery in Early Boston"** - Saturday, March 25 –  
Kerri Greenidge of Tufts University and UMass Boston.  
"Slavery in Early Boston" was the first of three Partnership of Historic Bostons discussions this spring about slavery and servitude in early Massachusetts. We explored Samuel Sewall's forceful and controversial pamphlet, *The Selling of Joseph*. Notwithstanding his reputation as a Salem witch trial judge, Sewall advocated abolition and entered into a fierce pamphlet war with his slaveowning neighbor John Saffin.

**"Of One Blood? New England Slavery and Theology"** - Saturday, May 6 -  
Eduardo Gonzalez, a PhD candidate in the Theology Department at Boston College., led this discussion, the second in our series on slavery in New England. The practice of slavery in the early modern Atlantic world generated a variety of theological debates about the nature, origins, aim, and legitimacy of the institution. In this discussion of slavery and theology, we explored such questions in light of key writings by prominent theologians from the early modern era.

**"They being stolne": Conflicting Views of Slavery in Early Massachusetts and the British Empire”** - Saturday, June 3 -  
Professor Holly Brewer, University of Maryland, led a discussion of English and early American legal ideas about freedom and unfreedom, shedding light on Massachusetts’s relationship to slavery within the framework of the British empire and slave trade. While recent scholars have argued that slavery was widespread in colonial Massachusetts, they have ignored change over time, extensive evidence of early disagreement over slavery, and, using nineteenth-century definitions of slavery, have made claims about the seventeenth century. Looking closely at the original documents, the group understood that Massachusetts never developed a strong legal structure to support slavery.

## **Tours**

Our fabulous free walking tours continue to draw interested crowds throughout the year. Our tours provide unique opportunities to connect the history of the 17th-century with the places that 21st-century Bostonians see every day. In 2017 “Anne Hutchinson” and “Poxes and Prescriptions” tours were added to our existing three tours. These tours received great feedback from attendees.

### **“Survival: Boston 1630”**

Sunday, March 19; Saturday, June 17;  
In early fall 1630, a thousand people stepped off their boats into a new world. With winter approaching, they cobbled together shacks, tents, or English wigwams. Food began to run out. Disease began to take its toll. Three hundred died the first winter. “Survival: Boston 1630”



explores the story of the first, dangerous year. Our walking tour immerses you in their world and shows how and why they survived and thrived in the place that became the city of Boston.

### **“Founders Trail Tour”**

Saturday, April 15;

Who were the Puritans, and how did they differ from Pilgrims? Why did they leave their homes in England? What did they find when they got here, and why was Boston chosen as the heart of the new Massachusetts Bay Colony? This tour tells the rarely told story of

Boston and New England 140 years before the Revolution, when 700 hardy souls, including children and servants, survived the first winter and established a colony that would lay the groundwork for independence in this "City upon a Hill."

### **“Crime and Punishment in Early Boston”**

Saturday, May 13; Saturday, August 19; Saturday, November 11;

The Puritan churches and the civil government defined appropriate behavior and took action when rules were broken. On this tour, we visit sites where Bostonians sited their stocks, whipping post, gaol, and gallows. We explore the Puritan values implicit in public punishment as we bring the story to life with fascinating examples of early colonial crimes and punishments.

### **“Anne Hutchinson”**

Saturday, July 15; Saturday, October 21;

Anne Hutchinson’s teachings in 1630s Boston threatened to overturn the fundamental religious doctrines of the Puritan fathers. This tour explores Boston in 1637, Anne’s ideas, the threats she posed as a visionary and as a woman, her supporters and detractors, her trials and banishment, her legacy, and reverberations in the US Constitution.

### **“Poxes and Prescriptions in Old Boston: A Medical Walking Tour”**

Saturday, September 16 and Saturday, September 30

As part of Charter Day 2017, we developed a new walking tour on disease, medicine, and public health in Boston. The tour is described above in the listing of Charter Day events. The tour drew enough people for multiple groups on the first day and an encore later in the month.

## **C-SPAN3 coverage, Press and Social Media**

Our ambitious programming schedule attracted worldwide attention. Starting with a 2016 AP article that was widely shared in 2017, we received a coverage in local and international newspapers and other national media. This was coupled with a more active and consistent social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.

### **C-SPAN3**

C-SPAN3 covered two Charter Day events in 2017, posting both videos as a lasting national tribute to our presence and scholarship.

## "Monstrous Births, Powerful Midwives: The Battle over Women's Bodies in 17th-Century Boston" -



Wednesday, September 13 – Boston Public Library hosted Eve LaPlante's talk on Anne Hutchinson as a midwife valuable to the Boston community of 1637 but a religious radical whose ecstatic teachings threatened to upend the strict legalistic doctrine of Puritan Boston. The link is below. You should be able to click on it, (or Control+Click on it), but may need to copy and paste it into your browser. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?433321-1/anne-hutchinson-17th-century-puritan-views-women>

[women](https://www.c-span.org/video/?433321-1/anne-hutchinson-17th-century-puritan-views-women)

## "When there is No Doctor: Home Remedies of 17th-Century Boston" -

Tuesday, October 3. C-SPAN3 also covered Lori Lyn Price's lecture at Old North Church on the amalgam of remedies, botanical and chemical in nature, mixed with magic, exotic ingredients, and astrological conditions, that the 17th century housewife had at her disposal for treating ailments in her family. The link is



<https://www.c-span.org/video/?434980-2/home-remedies-17th-century-new-england-housewives>

## Print Media

"Scholars team up to dispel 400-year-old 'fake news' about US" - AP posted a story quoting PHB President Rose Doherty and PHB Advisor and renowned 17th-century researcher Francis Bremer which was picked up by well over a hundred media outlets in this country and abroad. . . . Here is one of the twelve links found by searching the story name on the web – one of the few links that is simple enough to click on to access the document.

[http://www.bostonherald.com/news/national/2016/12/scholars\\_team\\_up\\_to\\_dispel\\_400\\_year\\_old\\_fake\\_news\\_about\\_us](http://www.bostonherald.com/news/national/2016/12/scholars_team_up_to_dispel_400_year_old_fake_news_about_us)

"Travel Back to the Dawn of Health and Science in Boston" *Boston Magazine* and *The Boston Globe* carried articles about the offerings of the Partnership of Historic Bostons' Charter Day theme "Medicine and Mortality in 17th-Century Boston."

<http://www.bostonmagazine.com/health/blog/2017/08/22/medicine-mortality-boston/>

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/style/2017/08/17/explore-history-health-boston/WL6qZrjXoWR7bH1cLuG9XK/story.html>

## **"Forgotten Boston: 1630 to 1730" -**

Downtown Boston Residents' Association - Monday, November 13 -  
Professor Robert Allison, PhD, Suffolk University History Department  
Rose A. Doherty, PHB Immediate Past President

*The Boston Guardian* carried the story of Forgotten Boston in its November 17 edition. The forgotten history in question was Boston's 17th century, which Doherty said does not get the attention it deserves. "People in Boston know about 1630... and then [they know] we have a revolution," she said. "A lot of time is lost in between. The [PHB] spends its time telling people what it was really like" she said.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/160327d7d460eee9?projector=1>

## **Facebook and Twitter**

Our social media presence has increased on Facebook and Twitter. People from the UK and all over the US have contributed. Many people share and retweet the entries. Partnership information was posted through September every 2 1/2 days on Facebook and Twitter. Our Twitter followers have increased by more than 50%.

## **Partnerships**

We now have over 80 connections with local and UK organizations, up from 22 contacts in 2014. These organizations include historical sites, archives, and other historical societies. Some of our most significant linkages are:

Massachusetts Historical Society  
The Bostonian Society  
Boston Public Library  
New England Historic Genealogical Society  
Park Street Church  
Old North Church  
First Church in Boston  
Paul Revere House and Foundation  
King's Chapel  
Old South Meeting House

## **Publication**

Sarah Stewart, Terry Mase, Sid Levitsky MD and Lori Lyn Price teamed up to research, compose and publish a pamphlet to accompany the Charter Day Theme and events. It is titled "17<sup>th</sup> Century Medicine Defined: A Glossary of Medical Terms from Amputation to Zotica". It will, among other attributes, convey the many benefits that inured by taking a "clyster ... a lenitiue and a great easer of paine".

## **Rose A. Doherty, Immediate Past President**

Our esteemed President, Ms. Rose Doherty, completed her three-year term as President in 2017. The Partnership is deeply grateful for her leadership, organizational skills, imagination, historic interest, and undaunted persistence in making the trains run on time. To our great advantage, Rose will continue to have an active presence as a Trustee.



During her term of office, Charter Day attendance increased by 50%, overall attendance soared, the Reading/Discussion Group launched to study original documents and recent scholarship, media presence became a reality of central importance, and the Partnership created a unique home for itself in the continuum of New England and national history organizations.



**Thank you, Rose.**