

NEHA Spring 2026

Friday, April 10, 2026

Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont

One Park Street

Middlebury, VT 05753

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Guided tour free with conference registration (space limited – RSVP required)

For more on the museum, see: <https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/>

###

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Hosted by Middlebury College

Axinn Center for the Humanities, Atwater Dining Hall

Middlebury, VT

Conference Program

Schedule at a Glance

Registration and Complimentary Breakfast	8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Axinn Center, Reading Room
Quiet Study/Relaxation Area	8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Axinn Center, Abernathy Lounge
First Morning Session	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Axinn Center
Break	10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Axinn Center, Reading Room
Second Morning Session	10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Axinn Center
Lunch	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Atwater Dining Hall
Afternoon Session	1:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Axinn Center
NEHA Board Meeting	3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Axinn Center, Room 105

* Denotes Undergraduate Presenter

NEHA Spring 2026
Saturday, April 11, 2026

First Morning Session – 9:00 – 10:30

Panel 1 – Room AXN 104

Metacom's War: Recovering Stories of Survival and Historical Agency

Chair/Comment: Javier Marion, Emmanuel College

Nipmuc Diplomacy and Alternative Strategies to Armed Conflict

Christian Porcaro, Emmanuel College*

Remembering Deer Island: A History of Mourning and Cultural Empowerment

Abigail Bettencourt, Emmanuel College*

Wôpanâak: The History, its Reclamation, and the Impact on Wampanoag Culture

Karen Mayen, Emmanuel College*

Panel 2 – Room AXN 109

Developing Body and Soul in Early Modern Europe

Chair/Comment: Vincent Carey, SUNY Plattsburgh

An American in Switzerland: William B. Bradbury and the Bern *Sängerfest* of 1848

Nita Karpf, Independent Scholar

Expanding Empires, Shrinking Bodies: Human Stature, Societal Well-Being, and
Nineteenth-Century European Imperialism

Josiah Brownell, Pratt Institute

Panel 3 – Room AXN 103

New Source Readings for Early New England History

Chair/Comment: Michael Baysa, University of Vermont

Religious Violence in the Details: Champlain Journals, Colonial Wars, and Holy War
Sermons

Thomas Lecaque, Grand View University

“We Hope the Carpenters Will Now Be Satisfied”: New England Naval Labor Disputes and
the Political Economy of the Revolution

Henry Snow, University of Connecticut

Panel 4 – Room AXN 219

Perspectives on American Foreign Policy

Chair/Comment: Guntram Herb, Middlebury College

* Denotes Undergraduate Presenter

A Quiet Agency: The Attempts to Preserve Canadian Sovereignty in the 1893 Canadian Agreement

Nour Desrousseaux, McGill University

Kennedy and Nasser: Behind the Failed Plan to Reshape the Middle East

Logan Fontaine, Springfield College*

Panel 5 – Room AXN 220

Literature and Community from Australia to America

Chair/Comment: Holly Allen, Middlebury College

Mediated Identity Across Class and Continent: When Οὐτις (nobody) Shaped Australia

Lisa Sarish, Oregon State University

The Historical Context of the Beat Generation and How it Draws from Past Radicals

Michael J. Stevens, Southern Connecticut State University

Communiqué: Building and Maintaining a Queer Community Network in Rural Maine through Publications, 1980-1990

Madison Taylor, University of Vermont

Second Morning Session – 10:45 – 11:45

Panel 6 – CANCELED

Panel 7 – Room AXN 219

The Politics of Memory and Morality in the Modern World

Chair/Comment: Thomas Carty, Springfield College

The Maverick's Moment: Tax Revolt and Party Realignment in Connecticut's 1990 Gubernatorial Election

Mathew Biadun, Eastern Connecticut State University*

Blind Optimism to Jaded Disillusion: Press Journalism on the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia, 1992-1995

Timothy Iorio-Dodge, University of Rhode Island

Panel 8 – Room AXN 109

Royal Authority and Sovereignty in Medieval and Early Modern England

Chair/Comment: George Dameron, Saint Michael's College

The Authority of a Queen Regnant: The Importance of Gendered Performance for the Claim of Empress Matilda

Isabella Uva, Saint Anselm College*

* Denotes Undergraduate Presenter

John Hare: The Royalist Anti-Normanist
Sean Sullivan, Swansea University

Panel 9 – Room AXN 103

The Soviet Union in the Postwar Generation

Chair/Comment: Taylor Zajicek, Williams College

“Tiger of the Rock”: An Alpine Legend, a Forgotten Land, and a Phenomenally Popular Sport
in the Postwar Soviet Union

Diego Benning Wang, Harvard University

To Make Opinion a Crime: Understanding Western Engagement with the Sinyavsky-Daniel
Trial

Nora Mezo-Willingham, McGill University

Panel 10 – Room AXN 104

Justice and Religion

Chair/Comment: Tona Hangen, Worcester State University

The Role of the Catholic Church in the Formation of Franco-American Communities in the
Northeast

Megan Brewer, Saint Anselm College*

From Social Justice Movements to Health Policy: Lessons from a Cross-Course
Collaborative Project

Kristen Peterson, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences

Lunch – 12:00 – 1:00

Buffet Lunch – Atwater Dining Hall

Welcome

Roberto Lint Sagarena, Dean of the Faculty, Middlebury College

Afternoon Session – 1:15 – 2:45

Panel 11 – Room AXN 219

Society and Culture in China and America

Chair: Zachary Bennett, Norwich University

Comment: Todd Gernes, Stonehill College

* Denotes Undergraduate Presenter

Cultural Exchange with Ethnic 'Others': A Study of the Green Dragon Cave Temple Complex in Zhenyuan

Diyang Zhou, Independent Scholar

Journeys South and North

Brandon McGrath-Neely, Simmons University

Building a Legacy: John Brown and Nineteenth-Century Poetry and Song

Zachary Collman, Worcester State University*

Panel 12 – Room AXN 220

Black New England Lives in Print and in Proof: Rev. Samuel Harrison, Autobiography, Archives, and Family Connections

Chair/Comment: Susan Denault, Independent Scholar

Beyond the Slave Narrative: Rev. Samuel Harrison's Autobiography and the Afterlives of Black Testimony in Nineteenth-Century New England

Frances Jones-Sneed, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Rev. Samuel Harrison's Family Connections: Discovering the Threads of Connectivity through Documentary Evidence

Dawn Morin, Independent Scholar

Panel 13 – Room AXN 103

War and Remembrance in Twentieth Century Europe

Chair/Comment: Rebecca Bennette, Middlebury College

Alternative Minimum Facts: Truth and Propaganda

Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

The Vrba-Wetzler Report: Escape from Auschwitz

Martina Spackova, Franklin Pierce University*

The Return of the Bagel to Poland: Bagel Diplomacy, Rituals of Imbued Memory of the Nazi Holocaust and German Occupation

Robert Bernheim, University of Maine-Augusta

Panel 14 – Room AXN 104

Film and Food in New England

Chair/Comment: Paul Lambert, Nichols College

Preserving "The Lord's Day": Movie Censorship in Massachusetts

Laura Wittern-Keller, University at Albany

* Denotes Undergraduate Presenter

Howard Johnson's "Landmark for Hungry Americans": Revisiting the New England Origins
of a Distinct North American Cultural Icon, 1925-2022
Brian Peterson, Shasta College

Executive Board Meeting – 3:00-3:30

Location AXN 105