



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

## Narrative Section of a Successful Application

The attached document contains the grant narrative of a previously funded grant application, which conforms to a past set of grant guidelines. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the application guidelines for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Research Programs staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title: Adams Papers Editorial Project  
Institution: Massachusetts Historical Society  
Project Director: Sara Martin  
Grant Program: Scholarly Editions and Translations Program

## Statement of Significance and Impact

The Adams Papers Editorial Project is sponsored by and located at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS). The Society's 300,000-page Adams Family Papers manuscript collection, which spans more than a century of American history from the Revolutionary era to the last quarter of the nineteenth century, is consulted during the entire editing process, making the project unique among large-scale documentary editions. The Adams Papers has published 52 volumes to date and will continue to produce one volume per year. Free online access is provided by the MHS and the National Archives.

The subjects whose public and private papers comprise the collection are primarily John and Abigail Adams, their children, including John Quincy Adams, and their grandchildren, most notably Charles Francis Adams. Because they possessed national and international reputations, and corresponded widely and frequently with other prominent figures, their papers provide valuable firsthand accounts of events for the century beginning with the American Revolution. Additionally, the intimate letters among family members and friends reveal much about domestic affairs and local events in early America. The project is now concentrated on the founding generation and primarily produces volumes in the series related to the lives and careers of John and Abigail Adams.

For decades historians, educators, filmmakers, and lawyers, among others, have recognized the importance of the modern Adams Papers project. Scholars regularly visit the Adams Papers offices to use the Adams archives, employ special finding aids, and tap the staff's wealth of related knowledge. In recent years, the printed papers and the project staff have been instrumental in the production of widely read, award-winning studies of the Adamses and the Revolutionary generation. The majority of volumes produced through 2011 are now available online, with others in process. The editors are committed to providing free online access to the entire collection. The Adams Papers will never go out of fashion; as additional volumes are published and new electronic access is provided, they will become more popular and useful to scholar and citizen alike.

## NARRATIVE

### *The Adams Papers*

#### 1. Substance and Context of the Edition

The Adams Papers Documentary Edition (Adams Papers) is based largely on the Adams Family Papers owned by and housed at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS), Boston. The Adams Family Papers constitutes one of the most important collections of American historical manuscripts and perhaps the most significant collection of American family papers in existence anywhere. As David McCullough, author of the Pulitzer Prize–winning biography *John Adams*, has written, the papers are “a national treasure.” This judgment is justified not only by the political and intellectual eminence of the family, but by the size of the collection and the long span of time it covers. Fully accessible for study and editing only since the mid-1950s, just a fraction of the papers have appeared in print.

The collection comprises over 300,000 pages of manuscript material for the three generations of Adamses who were steadily conspicuous in public life from the eve of the Revolution through the Geneva Arbitration of 1871–1872. The main body of the great family archive contains the public and private correspondence, diaries, and other papers of Presidents John Adams (1735–1826) and John Quincy Adams (1767–1848) as well as the diplomat Charles Francis Adams (1807–1886). Their wives, Abigail Adams (1744–1818), Louisa Catherine Adams (1775–1852), and Abigail Brooks Adams (1808–1889), recorded their own lives and those of their families in voluminous correspondences. These sources are essential to understanding American political and social history from the close of the colonial period through the first century of independence.

The Adams Papers editors have searched systematically to locate and gather copies of all known Adams documents. To date, the editors have combined over 28,000 items from other repositories and private owners with the MHS’s Adams Family Papers to create the Adams Papers’ edition archive, with material being added on a regular basis. We will periodically check the major national repositories for newly acquired and accessioned Adams-related documents.

The completed Adams Papers will present a more comprehensive history of public life in the United States from the 1750s through the 1880s than any other documentary edition. The papers cover the events that precipitated the American Revolution and the diplomatic negotiation of peace; John Adams' drafting of the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, the oldest written constitution in use in the world today; the formation of the new federal government in 1789; the international and domestic crises at the end of the eighteenth century; the founding of a permanent navy; the Louisiana Purchase and policy of neutrality by embargo; the War of 1812; the establishment of U.S. policy in this hemisphere under the terms of the Monroe Doctrine; the expansion of the nation to continental proportions; the growing moral and political issues surrounding slavery; the Civil War, both in its military and diplomatic dimensions; and the challenges of Reconstruction and party struggles that followed the war.

The Adams Papers does not have a single publication title or a single chronological run of volumes. It was the belief of the project's founding editor in chief, L. H. Butterfield, that a comprehensive letterpress edition of the Adams Papers must be cast into several distinct series to present coherent texts while respecting the diverse character of the collection. These series follow a common plan and share a common editorial methodology. A brief description of each series, with a statement of the work currently being done, follows.

Series I includes diaries and other journal-style writings. Each major division of Series I has now appeared, at least in part. The *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams* [1755–1804; 4 vols., 1961] and *The Earliest Diary of John Adams* [1753–1759; 1966] complete John Adams' journal writings. The *Diary of John Quincy Adams* [1779–1788; 2 vols. to date, 1981– ] begins one of the longest and most important diaries in American history, covering its subject's life and career to his death in 1848. The *Diary of Charles Francis Adams* [1820–1840; 8 vols. to date, 1964– ] contains the first third of this journal, which extends to 1880. The *Diary and Autobiographical Writings of Louisa Catherine Adams* [1778–1849; 2 vols., 2013] covers her youth and her courtship, marriage, and life with John Quincy Adams. It offers a newcomer's view of the Adamses of Quincy, Massachusetts. Publication in Series I is currently suspended while the editors continue to produce volumes in Series II and III.

Series II, *Adams Family Correspondence*, resembles no other major documentary edition, for no other American family active in public life has generated so large a collection of private correspondence. The series consists of letters exchanged by members of the Adams family and letters of the Adams women written to and received from non-family members. The correspondence is primarily that of John and Abigail and their descendants, though other close relatives by blood and marriage are represented when their letters are deemed worthy of inclusion. The *Family Correspondence*, particularly through the eyes of its central character, Abigail Adams, affords the most extensive view of the intersection between women's public and domestic lives that survives from the period.

To date, the project has published twelve volumes of *Adams Family Correspondence*, covering the years 1761–1798. The editors are currently completing volume 13 (May 1798 – September 1799), which will be published in spring 2017. Preliminary work is underway on volume 14, which will be published in 2019. Volume 15 will be started in 2019 and published in 2021.

Volumes 14 and 15 of *Adams Family Correspondence* are slated to span the period from October 1799 to March 1804. Volume 14 (October 1799 – February 1801) covers the remainder of John's term as president of the United States, including the resolution of the Quasi-War with France and the growing partisan divide in American politics. The volume will also chronicle the death of Charles Adams and bring to an end the correspondence between John and Abigail after their retirement to Quincy in 1801. With Volume 15 (March 1801 – March 1804) the writings of John and Abigail, which comprise approximately half of the letters to be considered for publication, combine with a growing presence by the second generation of Adamses. John Quincy, Louisa Catherine, and their infant son George Washington Adams leave Berlin for the United States, where John Quincy soon enters the political arena. Thomas Boylston Adams continues practicing law in Philadelphia, while Abigail 2d remains in New York. The correspondence between the children and their parents, coupled with a broad circle of extended family and friends, offers both regional and generational perspectives and reveals much about the family's domestic concerns and how national events played out locally. More than candid reflections on public life

in the early republic, these volumes illustrate, at times in stunning detail, the lived experiences of family and nation.

Series III, *General Correspondence and Other Papers of the Adams Statesmen*, is the most selective series in the edition, yet it will be one of the largest and most comprehensive for the purposes of both scholars and general readers. The editing of Series III volumes follows the publication of family letters of the same period. In this fashion, the Adams Papers works outward from the individual to the family and then to the public world. The project has published, as part of Series III, the *Legal Papers of John Adams* [1758–1777; 3 vols., 1965], and is well into the *Papers of John Adams* (Adams' general correspondence) [18 vols. to date, 1977– ], covering the years 1755–1787. Volume 18 (December 1785 – January 1787) was published in 2016, and work on volume 19 (February 1787 – May 1789) is well underway, with publication scheduled for 2018. Volume 20 (June 1789 – November 1790) will be completed during the proposed grant period, with publication scheduled for early 2020. Work on volume 21 (December 1790 – March 1796) will begin in 2020.

Volumes 19, 20, and 21 of the *Papers of John Adams* chronicle the period 1787 to 1796 and usher in a new era of John Adams' leadership in the executive branch of the federal government that he helped to design, develop, and defend. Finishing his term as the first American minister to Britain, Adams completed his three-volume *A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America*, and returned to Massachusetts in mid-1788. In April 1789, after a short retirement, Adams was elected vice president of the United States. During his first year in the new executive office under the Constitution, Adams mainly presided over the Senate, a limited role that frustrated him. Volume 20 charts Adams' participation in the 1791 ratification of the Bill of Rights, his composition of *Discourses on Davila*, a family move to Philadelphia, and his leadership of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Volume 21 explores the ways the French Revolution again entangled America in European affairs. Adams' diplomatic skills, at home and within his circle of Federalists, were tested as political parties and national factionalism grew. Adams assisted in making treaties with Native American tribes, witnessed the expansion of the union, commented on the 1795 ratification of Jay's Treaty, and observed

insurgencies like the Whiskey Rebellion. The documents comprising volume 21 demonstrate John Adams' thorny course to the presidency, which he would narrowly win from his old friend (and new rival) Thomas Jefferson in December 1796.

Series IV was created for the special publication of Adams family portraits. Two volumes were published: *Portraits of John and Abigail Adams* [1967] and *Portraits of John Quincy Adams and His Wife* [1970].

The modern Adams Papers documentary edition seeks to open up whole areas of scholarship by publishing a far larger proportion of the Adams corpus than any earlier edition. A summary of prior publication of Adams materials makes clear how little has been printed. Between 1850 and 1877, Charles Francis Adams published most of John Adams' diary and autobiography, but only a third of John Quincy Adams' diary, and none of his own journal. These nineteenth-century publications included no annotation and only cursory indexes. Considered together, only a quarter of the three major Adams diaries saw print before 1961.

Adams family letters fared no better in previous editions. Both Charles Francis Adams and his cousin Caroline Smith de Windt published several volumes of family letters in the 1840s. For the years 1761–1799, however, they included 593 letters; the present *Adams Family Correspondence* has printed 3,968 letters for the same period. For the century from 1786 to 1889 (the formal end point of the current Adams Papers edition), over 1,000 Adams family letters were published in various editions, but this is only a small portion of the letters that are available for inclusion in future *Adams Family Correspondence* volumes. It is also important to note that these early Adams family editors imposed their Victorian ideas of appropriate style on their parents' and grandparents' writing. The text presented in the modern edition is both more complete and more reliable. And, as is the case with all the modern volumes, the documents are judiciously annotated, thoroughly indexed, and available online not long after publication.

The public papers and general correspondence of the first two Adams statesmen have been published more voluminously but hardly more comprehensively. Covering John Adams' lifetime, some 2,000 items of his nonfamily correspondence appear in Charles Francis Adams' *Works of John Adams* [10

vols., 1850–1856]; the major diplomatic collections edited by Sparks, Weaver, and Wharton in the nineteenth century; the Warren-Adams Letters [2 vols., 1917–1925]; and the Adams-Jefferson Letters [2 vols., 1959], but some 12,000 letters survive just to the end of his presidency in 1801. For the period from 1755 to 1787, covered in the first seventeen volumes of the current Papers of John Adams, earlier editions printed some 1,160 items, while the volumes in the modern edition include about 5,131.

The Massachusetts Historical Society and the Adams Papers have committed significant resources to provide electronic access to the edited papers and manuscript collection. In 2003 digital images and transcriptions of John Adams' diary and autobiography and correspondence between John and Abigail became available on the MHS website ([www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive](http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive)). This initial step engaged an audience beyond traditional users of the print edition, and this presence has been greatly enhanced by the digital conversion of 37 of the 43 Adams Papers volumes published through 2011 (with the remaining 6 volumes to be added during the grant period) into a fully searchable web-based version on the MHS website ([www.masshist.org/publications/apde](http://www.masshist.org/publications/apde)). This NEH-supported Adams Papers Digital Edition (APDE), with assistance from Harvard University Press, the University of Virginia Press, and the MHS Publications Department, provides free access to the published Adams Papers.

As resources are available, we will continue adding subsequent Adams Papers volumes to the MHS website. Eventually all published Adams Papers volumes for the three generations included in the publication plan will be online. In each case, there is at least a two-year period between the publication of the print volumes and the appearance of the documents on the website. This is part of the agreement we made with our publisher, Harvard University Press, when we launched our digital program. The MHS is committed to maintaining the online Adams resources as a significant aspect of its mission to collect, preserve, and provide access to documents that encourage the study of American history. The MHS holds the rights to all published Adams material—print and electronic—produced by the Adams Papers editorial project.

Wherever the Adamses were they corresponded with their spouses, parents, children, siblings, family, friends, and colleagues—discussing daily life as well as momentous issues—meaning that a



comparable body of material documenting the conditions of American life in their time does not exist. In addition to illuminating the family story, the documents in these three volumes offer valuable insights to the political, social, and cultural fabric of American society.

Historian Edith B. Gelles notes in a recent review of the *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 12 (*Journal of the Early Republic*, Winter 2016), that the Adams Papers pushes “forward the story of a nation, an era, and a family with all the scrupulous scholarship of any similar project in the historical annals” (p. 830). Greater accessibility through the edition to the letters and other writings of the Adamses continue to foster scholarly interest in the family, and recent studies include Richard Alan Ryerson’s *John Adams’s Republic: The One, the Few, and the Many* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 2016) and Luke Mayville’s *John Adams and the Fear of American Oligarchy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016). The family’s second generation has also garnered attention. Historian Amy S. Greenberg notes, “We are currently in the midst of a John Quincy Adams revival” as illustrated by the publication of Charles N. Edel’s *Nation Builder: John Quincy Adams and the Grand Strategy of the Republic* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014); Fred Kaplan’s *John Quincy Adams: American Visionary* (New York: HarperCollins, 2014); Phyllis Lee Levin’s *The Remarkable Education of John Quincy Adams* (New York: Palgrave, 2015); and James Traub’s *John Quincy Adams: Militant Spirit* (New York: Basic, 2016). Further, the 1966 plea of L. H. Butterfield, the project’s founding editor in chief, for a biography on Louisa Catherine Adams has been answered by Margery M. Heffron’s *Louisa Catherine: The Other Mrs. Adams* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014) and Louisa Thomas’s *Louisa: The Extraordinary Life of Mrs. Adams* (New York: Penguin, 2016).

Beyond studies of the family, the Adams Papers hold an inimitable role in shaping and stimulating scholarship on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American history. The wide-ranging content and scope of the correspondence contributed to Francis D. Cogliano’s *Emperor of Liberty: Thomas Jefferson’s Foreign Policy* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014); Eric Nelson’s *The Royalist Revolution: Monarchy and the American Founding* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014); Joseph J. Ellis’s *The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution*,

1783–1789 (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015); Cassandra Good’s *Founding Friendships: Friendships between Men and Women in the Early Republic* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015); T. H. Breen’s *George Washington’s Journey: The President Forges a New Nation* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016); Jane Kamensky’s *A Revolution in Color: The World of John Singleton Copley* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2016); and James T. Kloppenberg’s *Toward Democracy: The Struggle for Self-Rule in European and American Thought* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

The work of the edition also continues to be cited in notable scholarly journals, such as *Early American Studies*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, and *New England Quarterly*. Recent articles include topics as varied as John Adams’ political thought (Sarah Kitch); John Quincy Adams’ German translations (Kirsten Belgium); the Massachusetts charter and the French and Indian War (James F. Hrdlicka); prisoners of war (T. Cole Jones); biblical narratives and the unity of church and state (James M. Patterson); eighteenth-century revolutions (Janet Polasky); and New England women’s agency during the Revolution (Sara T. Damiano).

## **2. History and Productivity of the Project**

The Adams Papers project was established at the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1954 to prepare a comprehensive published edition of materials drawn from the letters, diaries, and other papers written and received by the Adams family of Braintree and Quincy, Massachusetts, between the 1750s and the 1880s, that the family transferred to the Society in 1956.

The project’s first editor in chief, L. H. Butterfield, served as associate editor of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* and as director of the Institute of Early American History and Culture. He oversaw the organization and microfilming of the collection. The Society arranged for the publication of the edition by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. During the first decade, the Society secured funding for editing the volumes from Time-Life, Inc. and a major grant from the Ford Foundation (administered by the National Historical Publications Commission, later the National Historical Publications and Records

Commission [NHPRC]). Publication of the new edition began in 1961 with the appearance of four volumes of the *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams*.

The late 1970s were a period of transition for the Adams Papers. Robert J. Taylor, of Tufts University and editor of several volumes of *The Susquehanna Company Papers*, became editor in chief in 1975 on Butterfield's retirement and began to publish the Adams Papers' first series of statesmen's letters and other writings, the *Papers of John Adams*. Funding shifted during this period as well. After the expiration of Ford Foundation funds in 1975, the NHPRC became the Adams Papers' principal source of support for several years. By 1980, however, it had become clear that federal funding would not be adequate to meet the project's needs indefinitely, and Taylor joined with the editors of several other projects to find new funds. This resulted in a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the formation of a fundraising alliance of the sponsoring institutions of the "Founding Fathers" editorial projects: the Massachusetts Historical Society (the Adams Papers); Yale University and the American Philosophical Society (the Franklin Papers); Princeton University (the Jefferson Papers); and the University of Virginia (the Washington Papers and the Madison Papers). The alliance was incorporated in 1982 as Founding Fathers Papers, Inc. The addition of this support to continued funding from the NHPRC allowed Taylor and his colleagues to publish eight more volumes.

When Robert Taylor retired in 1983, Richard Alan Ryerson joined the project after serving as associate editor of *The Papers of William Penn*. Ryerson resigned as editor in chief in 2001, seeing eight volumes through publication. Ryerson's successor, C. James Taylor, joined the project in 2002 after serving as editor and project director of *The Papers of Henry Laurens*. He oversaw the publication of fifteen volumes after streamlining the production process to allow for the publication of one volume per year. C. James Taylor retired in 2015. He was succeeded by Sara Martin, a member of the project since 2008 then serving as series editor for the *Adams Family Correspondence*. Martin has overseen the publication of one volume and is on track to maintain the publication rate of one volume per year.

The Adams Family Papers collection at the MHS supplies the majority of the material for publication. However, the editors also systematically search other repositories for Adams documents. To

date, more than 28,000 documents have been identified. All are cataloged in the Online Adams Catalog, facilitating control and selection of documents for publication. While most of the material published is out of copyright, editors seek permission to publish both the letters and illustrations that appear in each volume. A sample permissions request is included in the Appendix.

The Adams Papers editorial project expects to publish over 100 volumes of material before it finishes its task. It is not possible to set a definite date of completion for such an achievement. In recent years, however, the project has focused its priorities on the publication of founding-era materials through 1826, the death of John Adams. The volumes published during this grant period will be the 54th, 55th, and 56th volumes since the edition's first was issued in 1961. These individual works will be, as have all the previous volumes, important contributions to the organization, preservation, and study of the documentary history of America's founding generation. Completion of the *Papers of John Adams* and *Adams Family Correspondence* to 1826 will necessitate approximately 24 more volumes. Beginning with volume 16 of the *Papers of John Adams* and volume 11 of *Adams Family Correspondence*, the editors increased the amount of material and number of pages included in each volume. For example, *Papers of John Adams* volume 17 contains 170 more pages than volume 15. *Adams Family Correspondence* volume 11 is 123 pages longer than volume 10. Given the efficiencies developed in recent years, we believe the current rate of publication can be maintained while significantly increasing the number of documents in each volume. The result is that the projected completion date for this part of the edition has been shortened from 2044 to 2040. Full funding and continuity of staff are essential to this production schedule.

Over the sixty-year history of the project, support has come from three general sources: the host institution, private individuals and foundations, and federal grants. We believe this mixture will continue, with approximately half of the funding coming from federal grants.

NEH Grant RQ-230372-15 (October 2015 – September 2017) projected work to expand the material in the Adams Papers Digital Edition and the continued publication of two series of the edition—

*Papers of John Adams* and *Adams Family Correspondence*. The table below explains the success of the Adams Papers staff in completing the work plan included in that grant.

*Papers of John Adams*, vols. 18–19

<b>Work Plan</b>	<b>Accomplished</b>
Volume 18: Complete index and all production. Submit to press for spring 2016 publication.	Volume 18: Completed and published in May 2016 by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press (500 print run; 249 sold to date).
Volume 19: Finalize selection, complete collation, annotation, verification, critical reading. Begin book production.	Volume 19: Selection and collation complete. Annotation underway. Work on schedule for a spring 2018 publication.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vols. 13–14

<b>Work Plan</b>	<b>Accomplished</b>
Volume 13: Complete annotation, verification, critical reading, index, and all production. Submit to press for spring 2017 publication.	Volume 13: Annotation, verification, and critical reading completed. Index and production underway. Work on schedule for spring 2017 publication.
Volume 14: Finalize selection, complete collation, and begin annotation.	Volume 14: Preliminary selection underway. Collation and annotation scheduled to begin spring 2017.

*Adams Papers Digital Edition*  
([www.masshist.org/publications/apde2/](http://www.masshist.org/publications/apde2/))

<b>Work Plan</b>	<b>Accomplished</b>
<i>Adams Family Correspondence</i> , volume 10: Review XML files for index.	Index of <i>Adams Family Correspondence</i> , volume 10, added to the Adams Papers Digital Edition.
<i>Papers of John Adams</i> , volume 16: Review XML files for main text and index.	Review of main text for <i>Papers of John Adams</i> , volume 16, complete. Review of the index begun.
<i>Adams Family Correspondence</i> , volume 11: Review XML files for main text.	Work on <i>Adams Family Correspondence</i> , volume 11, scheduled for completion summer 2017.

In summary, the two volumes scheduled for publication by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press during the two-year grant, RQ-230372-15, *Papers of John Adams*, volume 18, and

*Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 13, will be in hand before the conclusion of the grant on September 30, 2017. By that time, substantial work will have been completed on *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 14, and *Papers of John Adams*, volume 19.

### 3. Collaborators

#### Project Staff

The Adams Papers staff will have eight regular full-time members during the grant period, most of whose time will be wholly dedicated to the editorial work of the project. The exception is the digital projects editor, who is slated for approximately 40 percent editorial work for the edition. Current staff, with their educational credentials and years of editing experience, includes

Sara Martin, Editor in Chief. University of California, Santa Barbara, B.A., 1997 (history); Arizona State University, M.A., 2003 (history); The University of Melbourne, Ph.D., 2008 (history). The Adams Papers, 2008–present. Specialty: gender and family history.

Hobson Woodward, Series Editor. Hobart College, B.A., 1982 (philosophy and English); Simmons College, M.S., 2004 (library science), M.A., 2009 (history). The Adams Papers, 2002–present. Specialty: genealogy and production.

Sara Georgini, Series Editor. Boston University, B.S., 1997 (journalism), B.L.S., 2007 (history), M.A., 2009 (history), Ph.D., 2016 (history). The Adams Papers, 2009–present. Specialty: American religious history.

Neal Millikan, Digital Projects Editor. Converse College, B.A., 2001 (history and political science); North Carolina State University, M.A., 2003 (public history), M.A., 2004 (history); University of South Carolina, Ph.D., 2008 (history). The Adams Papers, 2010–2014, 2016–present. Specialty: early American history, women’s history, and digital humanities.

Amanda Norton, Digital Production Editor. Boston College, B.A., 2008 (history). The Adams Papers, 2008–present. Specialty: Massachusetts legal and constitutional history and production.

Rhonda Barlow, Assistant Editor. Lakehead University, H.B.A., 2006 (history); University of Calgary, M.A., 2008 (Greek and Roman studies); University of Virginia, M.A. 2009 (history), Ph.D. 2016 (history). The Adams Papers, 2015–present. Specialty: American diplomatic and political history.

Christopher Minty, Assistant Editor. University of Stirling, B.A., 2010 (history), Ph.D., 2015 (history). The Adams Papers, 2015–present. Specialty: early American social and political history.

Gwen Fries, Editorial Assistant. Elizabethtown College, B.A., 2016 (history and communications). The Adams Papers, 2016–present. Specialty: transcription.

### Contractors

The Adams Papers engages the services of four contractors: Ann-Marie Imbornoni copyedits the volumes. Jeremie Korta provides translations of French-language documents. To ensure the intellectual continuity of the edition, Gregg Lint, former series editor for the *Papers of John Adams*, and C. James Taylor, the project's former editor in chief, will complete critical reviews of *Papers of John Adams*, volumes 19 and 20 (Lint), and *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 14 (Taylor).

### Administrative and Advisory Committees

The Adams Papers Committee is the administrative body to which the editor in chief of the project is responsible. It meets annually and at other times as needed. The committee reviews both the project's budget and personnel changes. Members are appointed annually by the chair of the Massachusetts Historical Society board of trustees.

The Adams Papers Administrative Committee currently has eleven members. The committee's chairs are Frederick Ballou and Benjamin Adams, both MHS board members. The other members are Douglas Adams, architect; Bernard Bailyn, professor emeritus of history, Harvard University; the Hon. Levin H. Campbell, former president of the MHS and retired chief judge, U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals; Joyce E. Chaplin, professor of history, Harvard University; Amalie Kass, former chair of the MHS board; Paul Sandman, chair of the MHS board of trustees; L. Dennis Shapiro, former MHS board member; John Walsh, retired associate director, Harvard University Press; and the Hon. Hiller B. Zobel, co-editor of the *Legal Papers of John Adams* and retired Massachusetts Superior Court judge.

The Editorial Advisory Committee is currently composed of four members: Joyce O. Appleby, University of California, Los Angeles; Joseph J. Ellis, Mount Holyoke College; Linda K. Kerber, University of Iowa; and Gordon S. Wood, Brown University. The committee does not meet as a body. The editor in chief consults members on specific issues when appropriate.

#### 4. Methods

The Adams Family Papers manuscript collection, given to the Massachusetts Historical Society by the Adams Manuscript Trust in 1956, forms the nucleus of the project. It consists of over 300,000 pages of material in four categories: diaries, letterbooks, miscellaneous volumes (e.g., account books, compositions), and letters received and other loose papers. In addition, the project has gathered over 28,000 copies of Adams items from approximately 500 sources: 225 U.S. libraries and repositories, 40 foreign institutions, and 235 individuals.

**Control:** The Online Adams Catalog (OAC) is a massive item-level database that represents every known Adams document, from 1639 to 1889. This popular online tool is available free of charge to the public at the MHS website ([www.masshist.org/adams/catalog/catalog.php](http://www.masshist.org/adams/catalog/catalog.php)) and offers links to available published editions or images of documents, to bibliographic records, and to other institutions that house Adams materials. It is searchable by date, correspondent, and keyword, with the ability to limit searches by full text documents, holding institutions, and special categories. In addition to the public interface, the editors with the project have discrete access to an expanded version that displays more detailed information, notes, and private ownership. This “backend” view allows the user to save and sort records in a “shopping” cart for easy exporting and printing. The OAC has dramatically increased the editors’ ability to accession and track documents, which has significantly sped up tasks such as selection and verification. The OAC is maintained by the digital production editor with assistance from the editorial assistant.



**Selection:** The diaries, Series I, are published in full without regard to previous publication. When there are two entries for the same day the less complete entry is included in the annotation only when it provides additional information.

Series II, the *Adams Family Correspondence*, is selective. All letters are judged on merit: whether they add facts or illuminate the family story. We estimate that 70–80 percent of the letters eligible for publication will be published. In volume 13, we will print 290 letters and omit 140. In volume 14, we anticipate printing 315 documents and omitting 137.

Series III is a more selective run of correspondence. Materials eligible for the *Papers of John Adams* are all letters and documents written or received by John Adams, whether personally or as a member of a group or committee. Letters are evaluated for selection much as those are in Series II; in addition, the editors calendar some of the letters that are not printed. If a letter exists in more than one form, we privilege the version that either was received by or intended for the recipient. Overall, we estimate that 60–70 percent of the material eligible for Series III will be printed. In *Papers of John Adams*, volume 18, we printed 301 letters and omitted 212. In volume 19, we plan to print 365 and omit 225. The inclusion rate for future volumes may be lower, especially during the period of Adams' service in the executive branch.

The selection process involves the three editors most familiar with the documents in that series. The final selection is made by the series editor and the editor in chief. All letters not printed or calendared in the two correspondence series are included in a List of Omitted Documents, appended to each volume.

**Transcription and Collation:** In recent years, while following the original transcription principles of the project, the editors have employed a more literal rendering of the text. Starting with volume 8 of *Adams Family Correspondence*, the editors settled on a transcription style that has less editorial intervention and retains as much of the authors' capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviations (including superscripts) as can be indicated conveniently in print. The goal is to retain as much of the character of the original documents as possible without cluttering the text with distracting apparatus or applying modern conventions that obscure the unique style of each correspondent. Because the edition

includes documents written by numerous members of the extended Adams family and incoming correspondence, the difficulty in reading and creating an accurate text varies from item to item. The inconsistent quality of the handwriting, often combined with inferior ink and paper and complicated by damaged manuscripts, adds to the challenge. A sample document, of average difficulty, from volume 19 of the *Papers of John Adams* is included in the Appendix.

After the texts are transcribed, they are read aloud alternately by two editors against the manuscript or, in the case of a text from a repository other than the Massachusetts Historical Society, against a photocopy or digital image. This tandem reading, called collation at the Adams Papers, is repeated. The second collation is always undertaken by experienced staff members. Variant texts, such as drafts or letterbook copies, are also read with significant differences noted in the annotation.

**Annotation:** An advantage of having so much material is that the documents annotate one another to a considerable degree. Series I, Adams family diaries, has the lightest annotation. The random continuity of correspondence in Series II and III requires more detailed annotation. Family members and associates, events, books and writings, and literary quotations are identified. Other subjects are annotated on an ad hoc basis, primarily to clarify matters discussed in the text. Indexes to the Adams Papers volumes are designed to supplement the annotation by furnishing correct spellings of proper names, supplying forenames for persons who appear only with surnames, indicating places of residence and occupations of persons whose forenames are unknown, and distinguishing persons with identical or nearly identical names.

**Verification:** All citations and quotations from printed works and manuscripts, cross-references, factual information and dates, genealogical information, newspaper references and bibliographical information in the editors' annotation are checked against their original sources.

**Introduction and Editorial Apparatus:** In an effort to ensure timely publication, the series editors provide brief introductions that summarize and contextualize the documents in the volume and outline the editorial method. The Editorial Apparatus includes textual devices, Adams Family code names, descriptive symbols, location symbols, and a short-title list of works cited.

**Digital Technology:** The digital production editor and digital projects editor are responsible for maintaining the technical standards for the digital program. In our ongoing efforts to digitize existing Adams print editions, we share XML files with the University of Virginia Press' Rotunda American Founding Era project and work collaboratively on edits and enhancements to the files. We have also adopted a new tagset for our Adams Papers Digital Editions that more closely mirrors UVA's American Founding Era website and aligns with emerging Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) standards. All documents are encoded in XML, using a modified version of the "TEI Tite" schema from the Text Encoding Initiative, and validated with a RELAX NG schema. Version-controlled files are created in oXygen and encoded according to established project guidelines.

The Adams Papers oversees the majority of its own typesetting using a Microsoft Word template created for the project by our compositor, Technologies 'N Typography (TNT) of Merrimac, Massachusetts. The Adams Papers staff does all of the coding and layout except for the final page setup, which TNT completes for us. Volume 12 of the *Papers of John Adams* was the first volume produced using the template, and the process worked successfully for each of the next thirteen volumes. Beginning with volume 17 of the *Papers of John Adams*, the staff began using a revised template designed by TNT, which will eventually allow for a single-source production stream to create dual outputs—the letterpress edition and the digital edition.

The MHS is committed to sustaining the APDE and employs a full-time web developer to maintain the Society's website. In 2013 the APDE infrastructure was modernized to streamline the addition of new volumes, and the user interface was redesigned. To provide continued access and to be future-proof against evolving technology, the digital editions rely only on open-source software platforms for online delivery. More sophisticated metadata preparation is accomplished using XQuery in the BaseX XML Database system, both of which are open-source technologies. The APDE makes extensive use of XML-encoded metadata to create lists of links to individual documents, using data such as author, recipient, date, document type, and language. This metadata is further leveraged in keyword and phrase search tools to allow discovery of documents both internally to the project and externally on the MHS

website, which will be used in the future for worldwide discovery via OAI harvesting in the Digital Public Library of America.

The Adams Papers editors track all necessary content changes to the print and digital volumes in errata files and updates are input into the APDE on an ongoing basis. Subversion, an open-source version control system shared with UVA's American Founding Era project, maintains centralized versions of the canonical files. The MHS also captures static HTML pages of the APDE with Archive-It, which reviews the website monthly for changes. Google Analytics is used to track the number of visitors to the Adams Papers online resources. During the 2016 fiscal year, APDE averaged more than 11,000 page views per month, while the online tools within the broader Adams Papers directory ([www.masshist.org/adams](http://www.masshist.org/adams)), such as the OAC and a family tree, timeline, and biographical sketches, garnered approximately 3,000 views per month.

The Adams Papers is committed to keeping up with changes in accepted professional standards in the fields of documentary editing and digital humanities. Personnel transitions in early 2016 led to the promotion of an experienced staff member to a newly created position, digital production editor, as well as the hiring of a new digital projects editor, both of whom are refining their technical skills through training opportunities in TEI, XML, XSLT, and digital project management. Both will continue to present the work of the Adams Papers editorial project at relevant professional conferences, soliciting input and feedback from peers.

The MHS website uses the following industry-standard, open-source software services and hardware to deliver its content: XML encoded using the TEI standard; Apache SOLR for search functionality; PHP for server-side scripting; and BaseX for native XML databases. All data is stored in structured, non-proprietary formats to prevent dependency on any one software vendor or package. We follow standard best-practice, where possible, for such things as our choice of XML schema, client-side (web browser) technologies, and even user interface design. All of this is served from an enterprise-class datacenter with redundant backups of all data. The MHS maintains full control and exclusive use of the computing hardware on which its website runs, and two of three backups are housed away from the

datacenter for added reliability. A digital preservation plan was enumerated as a goal in the current MHS strategic plan. The MHS digital preservation team has drafted a digital preservation policy and is currently investigating tools that will allow the Society to build on existing good practices and establish realistic workflows and that will ensure long-term preservation of MHS digital content, including digital project assets, institutional records, and born-digital accessions.

## **5. Work Plan**

The work plan below follows the same system and division of tasks that has been employed for the six previous grant applications (2003–2006, 2006–2009, 2009–2011, 2011–2013, 2013–2015, and 2015–2017). The plan has proved to be realistic and allowed Adams Papers staff to publish volumes at a predictable rate while maintaining the high quality of the edition. This remains true despite significant personnel transitions in the last eighteen months. Sara Georgini and Hobson Woodward helped to create the work plan as it applies to their volumes. Amanda Norton has contributed to the plan as it concerns digitization.

### **October 2017 – March 2018**

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 19: Norton will oversee final production. Georgini, Barlow, and Martin will complete the index. The volume will be sent to the press for spring 2018 publication.

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 20: Georgini, Barlow, and Martin will finalize selection. Barlow and Fries will begin first collation. Georgini and Barlow will begin annotation.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 14: Woodward and Minty will continue annotation. Editors will select, and Millikan will obtain, illustrations.

*Adams Papers Digital Edition*: Norton will prepare and review XML files for the main text of *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 11.

### **April 2018 – September 2018**

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 20: Barlow and Fries will complete first collation. Norton and Georgini will complete second collation. Georgini and Barlow will continue annotation.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 14: Woodward and Minty will complete annotation. Georgini and Martin will complete critical reading. Minty will prepare front- and end-matter. Minty, Fries, and Millikan will begin verification.

*Adams Papers Digital Edition*: Norton will prepare and review XML files for the index of *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 11.

### **October 2018 – March 2019**

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 20: Georgini and Barlow will complete annotation. Editors will select, and Millikan will obtain, illustrations.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 14: Minty, Fries, and Millikan will complete verification. Woodward will write introduction. Volume will be sent to copyeditor. Norton will oversee production. Woodward, Minty, and Martin will complete index. Volume will be sent to the press for spring 2019 publication.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 15: Woodward, Minty, and Martin will finalize selection. Fries and Millikan will begin first collation. Woodward and Minty will begin annotation

*Adams Papers Digital Edition*: Norton will prepare and review XML files for the main text of *Papers of John Adams*, volume 17.

### **April 2019 – September 2019**

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 20: Martin and Woodward will complete critical reading. Georgini will write introduction. Barlow will prepare front- and end-matter. Fries, Millikan, and Barlow will complete verification. Volume will be sent to copyeditor. Norton will begin production.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 15: Fries and Millikan will complete first collation. Minty and Woodward will complete second collation. Woodward and Minty will continue annotation.

*Adams Papers Digital Edition*: Norton will prepare and review XML files for the index of *Papers of John Adams*, volume 17.

#### **October 2019 – March 2020**

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 20: Norton will oversee production. Georgini, Barlow, and Martin will complete index. The volume will be sent to the press for spring 2020 publication.

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 21: Georgini, Barlow, and Martin will finalize selection. Barlow and Fries will begin first collation. Georgini and Barlow will begin annotation.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vol.15: Woodward and Minty will complete annotation. Editors will select, and Millikan will obtain, illustrations.

*Adams Papers Digital Edition*: Norton will prepare and review XML files for the main text of *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 12.

#### **April 2020 – September 2020**

*Papers of John Adams*, vol. 21: Barlow and Fries will complete the first collation. Norton and Georgini will complete the second collation. Georgini and Barlow will continue annotation.

*Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 15: Georgini and Martin will complete critical reading. Woodward will write introduction. Minty will prepare front- and end-matter. Fries, Millikan, and Minty will complete verification. Volume will be sent to the copyeditor. Norton will begin production.

*Adams Papers Digital Edition*: Norton will prepare and review XML files for the index of *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 12.

### **6. Final Product and Dissemination**

All 52 volumes of the letterpress Adams Papers have been published under the Belknap Press imprint of Harvard University Press. The volumes are marketed by representatives of Harvard University Press at national historical conferences, and are advertised and reviewed in major scholarly journals, including *Journal of American History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, and

others. The most recent review is included in the Appendix. The Press features the Adams volumes in its catalogues and mailings. Volumes published in the 1980s and early 1990s had print runs of 1,000 to 1,200 copies for each two-volume set; approximately half of the print runs sold within two years of publication. In 2000, the Adams Papers and Harvard University Press worked together to reprint Adams volumes that were out of print. These include *Legal Papers of John Adams* (3 vols.), *Adams Family Correspondence* (vols. 1–2), and *Papers of John Adams* (vols. 1–2). As a result, volumes originally published in the 1960s and 1970s have been digitized and complete computer files created. The most recent volumes in both series, *Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 12 (2015), and *Papers of John Adams*, vol. 18 (2016), have print runs of 500 and retail at \$95.00 each.

While a new facet of the Adams Papers template is under development for the delivery of digital files, in the meantime, the project relies on the

Rotunda project at UVA Press to complete the TEI encoding of the digitized files. Rotunda has digitized the main text and index files of *Adams Family Correspondence*, volumes 10 and 11, and *Papers of John Adams*, volumes 16 and 17. The files for volume 10 of *Adams Family Correspondence* were reviewed by the digital production editor and the revised files were returned to Rotunda for correction. The volume is now included in the Adams Papers Digital Edition as demonstrated in Figure 1.

The main text file of the *Papers of John Adams*, volume 16, has also been reviewed and will soon be added to the APDE. The remaining files provided by Rotunda will be launched on a rolling basis, as described in the work plan. While there is a single consolidated index for volumes published through 2006, the indexes for more recent volumes appear separately, and a new integrated search tool allows for

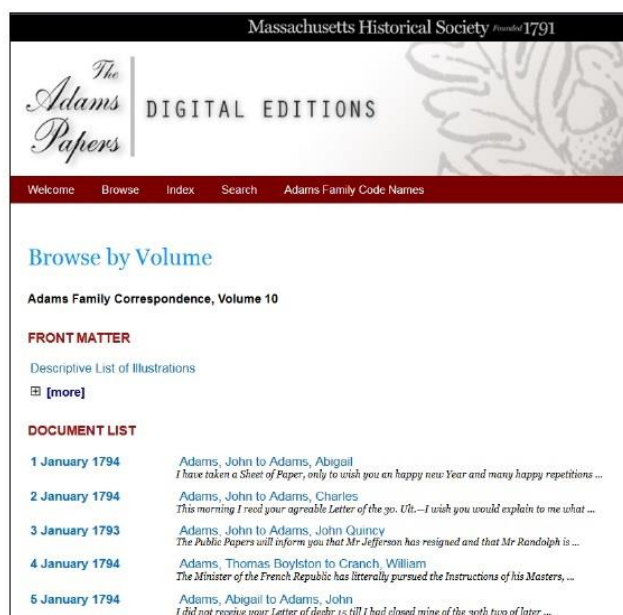


Figure 1. Screenshot of main text for *Adams Family Correspondence*, volume 10. [www.masshist.org/publications/apde2/volume-toc?series=afc&vol=10](http://www.masshist.org/publications/apde2/volume-toc?series=afc&vol=10)



keyword searching across all online Adams indexes. Figure 2, below, offers a screenshot of the master index page of APDE.

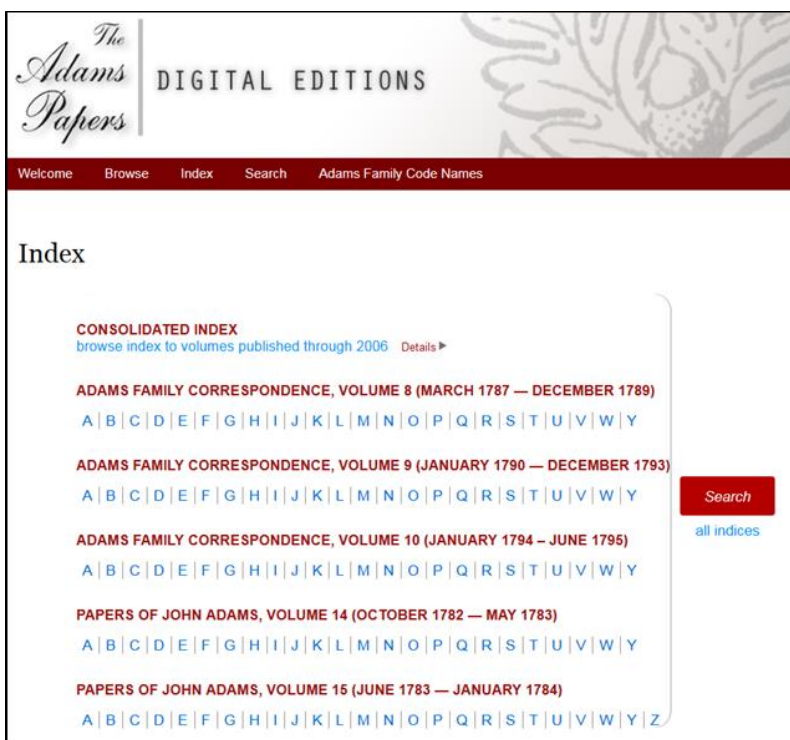


Figure 2. Screenshot showing the cumulative and individual volume indexes for all volumes available on the APDE.  
<http://www.masshist.org/publications/apde2/index>

In 1975, to celebrate the nation's bicentennial, the Adams Papers published an abridged volume of family correspondence designed for a general audience, *The Book of Abigail and John*, containing 226 letters exchanged by the couple between 1762 and 1784. It sold over 36,000 copies in hardcover and paperback editions. Although not an official part of the Adams Papers, *The Book of Abigail and John* was published by Harvard University Press. The Society and Northeastern University Press, Boston, reprinted it in the fall of 2002, with a foreword by David McCullough. In 2007 Margaret Hogan and Jim Taylor produced an entirely new book, *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams*. Reviewed widely and favorably, this collection of letters between two of the founding generation's icons created good press for the project and introduced a new general audience to the documents. Hardcover sales of *My Dearest Friend* exceeded 34,000, and Harvard University Press published a paperback edition in 2010. Royalties

from this work, together with private donations, funded the two-volume *Diary and Autobiographical Writings of Louisa Catherine Adams*, from which Harvard University Press published a selected one-volume trade edition in 2014.

The enduring appeal of Abigail, John, and the entire Adams family is evident in the stream of questions that flows into the Adams Papers office from across the country and around the world. The Adams editors continue to provide information to all who inquire, from K–12 students participating in National History Day to Pulitzer Prize winners. In 2011, Joseph Ellis wrote, “Based on my research for *First Family: Abigail and John Adams*, the correspondence between Abigail and John strikes me as the most revealing and evocative exchange between a prominent couple in American history.... the concluding volumes of the *Adams Family Correspondence* can at last be sighted on the horizon. When completed, it will become a national treasure, in my judgment the crown jewel in all the editorial projects on the Founding Fathers.”

The highly rated 2008 HBO miniseries “John Adams” based on David McCullough’s biography created new and increased interest in the Adams Papers. Seizing on that momentum, Adams Papers staff continue to participate in a range of projects to expand the public’s knowledge and understanding of some of the most important documents in American history. In the past two years, editors have contributed to several C-SPAN programs and given newspaper, radio, and podcast interviews to Audible, *Indian Country Today*, the *Pittsburgh Tribune*, and WGBH, among others. They have advised authors writing on Adams-related topics, contributed to education programs for high school teachers, and led NEH-sponsored workshops for college instructors and Gilder-Lehrman summer seminars for teachers. They have lectured on aspects of American history, documentary editing, and digital projects to undergraduate and graduate classes at Boston University, Stonehill College, and Wentworth Institute of Technology. Sara Georgini participated in the C-SPAN series *Landmark Supreme Court Cases* (Marbury v. Madison), and Neal Millikan and Sara Martin were part of a symposium, *Abigail & John: 250 Years Together*, which also aired on C-SPAN. Within the MHS, Adams Papers editors take part in advisory committees, make special presentations to donors, and contribute to the MHS’s Beehive blog and the wildly popular

John Quincy Adams Twitter feed (@JQAdams\_MHS). In the ongoing effort to remind the public of the Adamses' legacy of leadership, Georgini gave a special lecture to the John Adams Society at Harvard University, while other Adams Papers staff members presented at the annual conferences of the Association for Documentary Editing and the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture.

Scholars continue to seek out Adams Papers editors to read and comment on their work, and staff members answer roughly 100 reference questions a year and meet regularly with Adams researchers in the MHS Library. In the past year, editors have supported new scholarship on the Adams family by supplying transcriptions of unpublished documents, answering reference questions, checking citations, serving as expert interviewees and judges for National History Day, and helping remote and on-site researchers. Using the Online Adams Catalog (OAC), the staff helped scholars to navigate the multigenerational archive, orienting them to the wide array of biographical and bibliographical resources on the revamped website. The editors contributed to ongoing projects focusing on the Adamses (by Richard B. Bernstein, Nancy Isenberg and Andrew Burstein, Colin Nicolson and Owen Dudley-Edwards, and Gordon S. Wood) and early America (by Carol Berkin, Hannah Farber, Tom Cutterham, and Evan Haefeli). Editors also spread awareness of the Adams Papers through their participation in the MHS prize-winning exhibition, *The Private Jefferson: From the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, and the forthcoming *John Adams and John Quincy Adams: From Diplomats to Presidents*, an online exhibition through Google Arts & Culture. They also coordinated with community partners, including Adams National Historical Park and the Church of the Presidents in Quincy, Massachusetts and the Haverhill Hall of Fame, to frame new public programming for historians of all ages. These efforts show the continued appeal of and interest in the Adamses in modern American culture. By continuing to publish both letterpress and digital editions of the Adams Papers project staff continue to increase access to the material that enables scholars and educators to provide fresh insights on early American political and social history with each new volume.