



NEW ENGLAND HISTORY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
Fall Conference 2005

Reform in Pre-Civil War America

at the
American Antiquarian Society
Worcester, Massachusetts
November 4th, 2005
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Reform in Pre-Civil War America

Steven Mintz from the University of Houston and other top scholars and performers will update participants on current scholarship on reform. Mintz is the recent recipient of the Organization of American Historians Merle Curti Award for the best book in American social history (for *Huck's Rafts: A History of American Childhood*, Harvard, 2004), and the author of *Moralists and Modernizers: America's Pre-Civil War Reformers* (Johns Hopkins, 1995). In the latter, he asserts: "Antebellum reform has been characterized in many ways. In positive terms, it was an effort to alleviate suffering and improve the conditions of the unfortunate; to eradicate problems long considered inevitable parts of the human condition—poverty, ignorance, slavery, and gender inequality. And in a more negative description, it was a class-based instrument of social control: an effort to create modern institutions of confinement—including prisons, asylums, and workhouses; to reshape the behavior of deviant groups; and to divert attention from more fundamental problems, such as the growth of economic inequity in the North. There is, however, a term that better defines the antebellum reform impulse and better encompasses its dualities and contradictions: liberalism."



Join us for stimulating talks and lively discussions about reform. Return ready to teach the latest scholarship.

Conference Schedule

- **8:30-9 a.m. Registration**
Coffee, fruit and pastries will be provided.
- **9:00 a.m. Keynote Address**
"The Birth of the American Reform Tradition" Steven Mintz, professor of history, University of Houston
- **10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions**
 - A. "Shall We Fly or Shall We Resist? Martin Delany and the Alternative to Frederick Douglass's Abolitionism" Christopher Jones, Ph.D. candidate, Brown University
 - B. "The Second Great Awakening & Reform" Carolyn J. Lawes, professor of history, Old Dominion University
- **11:30 a.m. Performance followed by Luncheon**
"I Will Be Heard: a meeting with William Lloyd Garrison" Merrill Kolhofer, historical storyteller, Salem, MA
- **1:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions**
 - C. "Thinking Historically Through Writing: Abraham Lincoln's attitude toward slavery" Michael Wallace and Teresa Vilardi, Bard College's Institute for Writing and Thinking
 - D. "Utopian Movements" Jan Turnquist, the Alcott House & Karen Mansfield, Fruitlands Museum
- **2:30 p.m. Performance**
"Beating the Demon: A one-man play about John B. Gough & the fight against 'demon rum' in the nineteenth century" J.T. Turner, professional actor, Ipswich, MA
- **3:00 p.m. Plenary Address followed by Reception**
"Women & Reform" Gayle Fisher, Salem State College

How To Register

The conference is open to all. The \$75. per person fee (\$60 for members of NEHTA) includes coffee, lunch and a reception at the end of the day. Please register online at www.nehta.net, or complete and return the registration form from this brochure. For more information, see www.nehta.net or contact the conference chair, Charlie Newhall, at cnewhall@stjohnsprep.org. Certificate of attendance awarded. We hope you will join us!

DIRECTIONS

The conference will be held at the American Antiquarian Society, located at 185 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA.

From the East: Take the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) to Interstate 495 North (Exit 11A from the Turnpike). Take I-495 North to I-290. Follow 290 West to Worcester, and take Exit 18. At the exit, turn right at the traffic light, go a short block and take a right at the next light (Concord Street). Go straight through the intersection at the next light, bearing right onto Salisbury Street. Follow Salisbury Street about one-half mile to the intersection of Park Avenue (Route 12). The American Antiquarian Society is on your left immediately after the intersection.

From the West and the South: Follow Interstate 290 East to Worcester. Get off at Exit 17 (Rt. 9). Turn left at the light at the end of the exit onto Belmont Street (Rt. 9 West). Proceed straight through Lincoln Square, following signs for Route 9 West. You are now on Highland Street. Proceed about 900 ft. Take the first right after The Worcester Auditorium onto Harvard Street. (Harvard turns into Tuckerman Street.). Continue to the end of Tuckerman Street., and take a left onto Salisbury Street. Follow Salisbury Street about one-half mile to the intersection of Park Avenue (Route 12). The American Antiquarian Society is on your left immediately after the intersection.

