

BACK ROADS *of the* SOUTH SHORE

A Consortium of Regional
Historical Societies & Museums

PRESENTS

THE 2026

South Shore

History Symposium

**“THE REVOLUTION,
INDEPENDENCE,
AND THE SOUTH SHORE”**



APRIL 18, 2026

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Presentations: 9:20 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**THE SPIRE CENTER FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS**

25 ½ Court Street, Plymouth

Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration & Refreshments**
- 9:15 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**
Donna Curtin, Back Roads of the South Shore Chair and Executive
Director of Pilgrim Hall Museum
- 9:20 a.m. **Privateers and Warships of Plymouth Bay during the Revolution**
Patrick Browne, Executive Director of Plymouth Antiquarian Society
- 10:00 a.m. **George Partridge—Duxborough's Zealous Patriot and Bigwig of the
Revolution**
Tony Kelso, Duxbury Town Historian
- 10:40 a.m. **Hingham's Black Revolutionaries: Stories of Service on the Battlefield
and Home Front**
Paula Bagger, Hingham Historical Society
- 11:20 a.m. **Break**
- 11:30 a.m. **To Declare for Independence: South Shore Town Meetings in
Revolutionary Massachusetts**
Stephen C. O'Neill, Director, Hanover Historical Society & Director,
Dyer Memorial Library
- 12:10 p.m. **“Trill forth harmonious ditty”: Music of the American Revolution**
Dr. Anne C. Mason, Curator, Pilgrim Hall Museum



Back Roads of the South Shore is a consortium of 20 non-profit organizations operating over 25 historic sites in 12 towns along the South Shore of Massachusetts, from Weymouth to Plymouth. The group is dedicated to celebrating the history and spirit of the region. For more information, visit southshorehistory.org.

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Speakers

Paula Bagger is a long-time volunteer with and past President of the Hingham Historical Society. Her current research focuses on Hingham during the Revolutionary War period.

Dr. Patrick Browne is Executive Director of the Plymouth Antiquarian Society. He holds a Ph.D. in History from Boston University. Patrick was a Lecturer in History at Boston University and prior to that, he worked in public history for 18 years as Executive Director of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum. He is the author of two books on local history. His forthcoming book, *Plymouth during the Revolution*, will be published early in 2027.

Tony Kelso grew up in Duxbury and blames building forts in the Brewster family lilacs, sledding at the Standish homesite, and having recess on the Alden cow fields for his early fascination with the town's past. That childhood curiosity grew into an obsession, and so he would not be a menace to others, Duxbury conferred on him the title of town historian in 2009. All aspects of history, from pre-colonial times to the 21st century, keep Tony busy, and he channels this enthusiasm into talks, walks, and other events in his job as Program Coordinator at the Duxbury Senior Center.

Dr. Anne C. Mason is the Curator of Pilgrim Hall Museum. She received her Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization from the University of Delaware. Dr. Mason was the Executive Director of the Plymouth Antiquarian Society from 2016 to 2024 and Co-Chair of the Backroads of the South Shore from 2018 to 2021. Born and raised in Plymouth, she works to preserve the history of her hometown by serving on both the Plymouth Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission.

Stephen O'Neill, is a graduate of Boston College and Boston University. He is Executive Director of the Hanover Historical Society and the Dyer Memorial Library in Abington. He was formerly Pilgrim Hall Museum's Associate Director/Curator of Collections and Senior Lecturer in History at Suffolk University. He is the author of *The Life of Peregrine White* and guest curator for the Alden House Historic Site in Duxbury.

Registration

\$20 per person

includes refreshments & presentations
To register online with credit card, visit
plymouthantiquarian.org/events/sshs26/

Or to pay by check, make checks payable to
Plymouth Antiquarian Society (or PAS), fill
out the form below, and mail to:
Plymouth Antiquarian Society, P.O. Box
3773, Plymouth, MA 02361

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If registering by mail, please send this form
with your check by

April 13, 2026

**If space permits, tickets may be purchased at
the door.**

For more information about the South Shore
History Symposium, please contact
info@plymouthantiquarian.org or call the
Plymouth Antiquarian Society at (508) 746-0012.