

**Historic New England Explores the Stories—and Myths—of the
American Revolution in New Exhibition**

Myth and Memory: Stories of the American Revolution opens May 15
at the Eustis Estate in Milton, MA

April 14, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MILTON, MA. — As the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Historic New England will present *Myth and Memory: Stories of the American Revolution*, a new exhibition exploring the complex realities of the revolutionary era and the ways its history has been remembered, interpreted, and mythologized over time. Opening May 15, 2026, at Historic New England’s Eustis Estate in Milton, Massachusetts, the exhibition brings together objects, archival materials, and personal narratives that illuminate how New Englanders experienced the American Revolution.

Drawn from Historic New England’s museum and archival collections, *Myth and Memory* highlights the lives of people whose experiences were shaped by the upheaval of war—men and women, rebels and Loyalists, enslaved and free. Some stories are documented in diaries, letters, and official records, while others survive through family traditions attached to objects preserved for generations. Together, they reveal how history and memory intertwine to shape our understanding of the nation’s founding.

“*Myth and Memory* invites visitors to look closely at the stories attached to historic objects and consider how they were created, preserved, and sometimes embellished over time,” said Erica Lome, Curator of Collections at Historic New England. “These objects connect us to real people who lived through the Revolution, but they also show how memory and myth shape the way we tell those stories today.”

The exhibition is organized around four themes—resistance, loyalty, liberty, and memory—each exploring how people in New England experienced and later commemorated the Revolution. Featured stories include Crispus Attucks, the first casualty of the Boston Massacre; Col. Samuel Pierce, who witnessed and recorded the war from his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts; Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to enlist in the army; Jonathan Sayward, a suspected Loyalist placed under house arrest in York, Maine; and Prince and Cicero, two men enslaved in Maine who sought freedom through military service.

One highlight of the exhibition is a quilt top long believed to have been made from the uniforms of British soldiers killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill—an object whose story reveals how myths can become embedded in family history and passed down over generations.

Additional objects in the exhibition include powder horns inscribed by veterans, commemorative tea boxes produced for the centennial celebration of the Boston Tea Party in 1873, and personal items associated with the Quincy family, each reflecting the many ways the Revolution has been remembered and interpreted over time.

“As we mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, this exhibition encourages us to reflect not only on the events of the American Revolution but also on how its history has been remembered and shared,” said Julie Solz, Vice President, Collections at Historic New England. “By examining the stories attached to these objects, we gain a deeper understanding of the people who lived through the Revolution and the many ways their experiences continue to shape our national narrative.”

Myth and Memory: Stories of the American Revolution will be on view at Historic New England’s Eustis Estate, 1424 Canton Avenue, Milton, Massachusetts, beginning May 15, 2026.

More information about visiting hours and tickets is available at NE250.org OR HistoricNewEngland.org

WHAT: Myth and Memory: Stories of the American Revolution

WHERE: Historic New England’s Eustis Estate, 1424 Canton Ave, Milton, MA

WHEN: May 15 through November 15, 2026

MEDIA PREVIEW DAYS: May 12 and May 13, 2026

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ABOUT HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND

Historic New England—founded as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in 1910—is the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive independent preservation organization in the United States. Historic New England welcomes the public to thirty-eight exceptional museums and landscapes, including several coastal farms. The organization operates a major collections and archives center in Haverhill, Massachusetts, a reading room in downtown Boston, and has the world’s largest collection of New England artifacts, comprising more than 125,000 decorative arts and objects and 1.5 million archival documents including photographs, architectural drawings, manuscripts, and ephemera. Engaging education programs for youth, adults, and preservation professionals, and award-winning exhibitions and publications are offered in person and virtually. The Historic New England Preservation Easement program is a national leader and protects 129 privately owned historic properties throughout the region.

HISTORIC NEW ENGLAND IN THE NEWS

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[The Importance of Being Furnished on The Culture Show Podcast](#)

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Dr. Erica Lome is Curator of Collections at Historic New England, managing a collection of approximately 125,000 objects spread across 38 historic properties in the region. Before coming to Historic New England, she was Curatorial Associate at the Concord Museum in Concord, Massachusetts. Erica received her PhD from the American Civilization Program at the University of Delaware and her MA from the Bard Graduate Center in New York City. She specializes in American decorative arts and furniture, with a particular interest in things made, owned, and used in New England.

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