

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 • SUMMER 2024

FRESHEST ADVICES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MERCY OTIS WARREN SOCIETY



‘TIS SOCIAL CONVERSE THAT ANIMATES THE SOUL

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we introduce the very first edition of the Mercy Otis Warren Society newsletter, *Freshest Advices*. As members of this esteemed society, you are part of a community dedicated to honoring the legacy of Mercy Otis Warren, a pioneering American writer and staunch advocate for liberty during the Revolutionary era.

The Mercy Otis Warren Society is committed to preserving Warren’s invaluable contributions to American history and promoting her ideals of freedom, equality, and civic engagement. Through our initiatives and events, we strive to inspire current and future generations to uphold these timeless values. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your support and dedication. Your membership and contributions enable us to continue our important work of celebrating and educating others about Mercy Otis Warren’s remarkable life and achievements.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on our recent activities, upcoming events, and features on the impact of Mercy Otis Warren’s ideas on today’s society. We hope this newsletter serves as a valuable resource and a source of inspiration for you.

Thank you once again for being a part of the Mercy Otis Warren Society. Together, we honor her legacy and strive to make a meaningful impact on our world.

With gratitude,
The Mercy Otis Warren Society Board of Directors

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Celebrate Mercy Otis Warren is Launched!

On March 27, 2024, Celebrate Mercy Otis Warren presented its first program at the Plymouth Public Library to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Historical interpreters Michele Gabrielson, as Mercy Otis Warren, and Michael LePage, as John Adams, presented a dialogue between these two longtime “frenemies” over Mercy’s portrayal of John in her landmark book, “History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution.” Mercy, possessed of a clear vision and a formidable intellect, and with the support and encouragement of her husband, James Warren, had begun writing on behalf of the Patriot cause as early as 1772. Initially, John Adams was very supportive of her efforts; Mercy carried on an extensive correspondence, beginning in 1774, with both John and his wife, Abigail Adams, among other pivotal supporters of the Patriot cause.



In 1805, decades after the war’s end, she published her history of the Revolution, the first to be written by an American woman. By that time, Mercy and John Adams’ political views had sharply diverged. Mercy was insistent on the importance of “republicanism” and individual rights, opposing any inclination towards an aristocracy, whether of birth or of occupation, and intent on avoiding any hint of an authoritarian government. John Adams was firmly in the Federalist camp, advocating the creation of a strong federal government.

These divergent views of America’s future influenced Mercy’s portrayal of the leaders of the American Revolution. When John Adams read Mercy’s history, he was shocked and offended that Mercy had not awarded him the pivotal role that he felt he deserved, claiming that her view of the Revolution had been skewed by her later political beliefs. He wrote her a series of lengthy, querulous letters criticizing every aspect of her book, criticism which she calmly rebutted

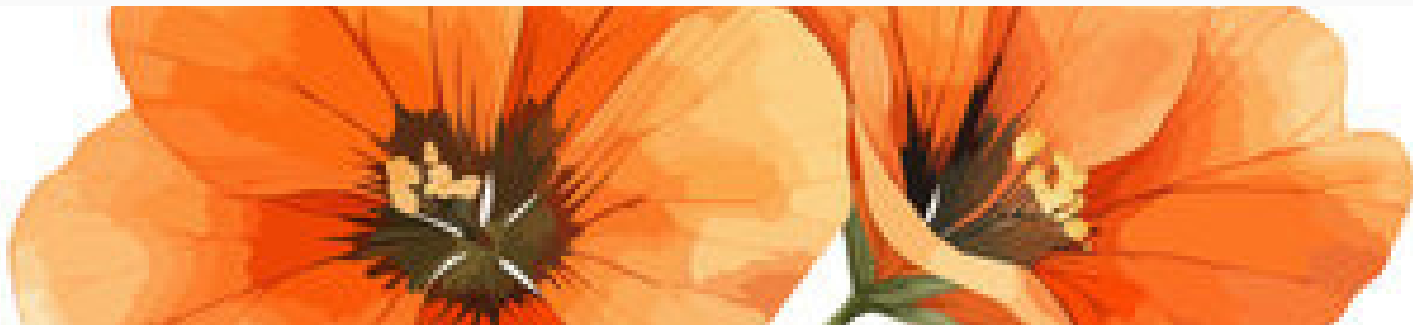
In the Library presentation, the disintegration of this long friendship was brilliantly portrayed in a dialogue based on the written words of Mercy Otis Warren and John Adams themselves. Michele and Michael, as Mercy and John, brought passion and intellect and verisimilitude to their representations of these two star-crossed friends, who agreed on a cause but not its results. It was a moving performance that brought the fervor and intensity of the debate over the future of the American colonies and the type of government we would eventually enjoy to life.

Our thanks to Michele and Michael, to the Plymouth Public Library, and to all those friends, new and old, who turned out to support our new organization, dedicated to bringing visibility to Plymouth’s own Revolutionary heroine, Mercy Otis Warren.

By: Peggy M. Baker, Board Member

PHOTO CREDIT:
KEN GRILLE





UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet James and Mercy Warren!

July 2, 11AM, 1PM, 3PM

Harborfest, Downtown Crossing, Boston, MA.

Stop by and meet Mercy Otis Warren and her husband James Warren, a Massachusetts power couple of the Revolutionary period. Mercy is a well-known writer and satirist who is connected to many of the leading ladies of the Independence generation. James Warren is President of the Provincial Congress and one of the great political counsellors of this period. Individually they are thought leaders of the American Revolution; together they pilot the people of Massachusetts during a tumultuous and dangerous time.

“Celebrate Mercy Otis Warren”

July 11, 7PM

Pilgrim Hall Museum, 75 Court St, Plymouth, MA.

Nancy Rubin Stuart, author of [The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren and the Founding of a Nation](#) provides commentary for a lively debate between Mrs. Warren (portrayed by Michele Gabrielson) and John Adams (played by Michael LePage) about her account of the American Revolution published in her epochal three-volume history. Introduction will be by Susan Ste. Marie of Celebrate Mercy Otis Warren, the promotional arm of the new Mercy Otis Warren Society LLC, dedicated to promoting Plymouth's famous Revolutionary woman. Please RSVP [here](#).

“Mercy Otis Warren and the Writings of a Revolutionary”

August 14, 7PM

Winslow House, 634 Careswell St, Marshfield, MA.

Step back in time and converse with founding mother, Mercy Otis Warren. This program will include an intimate lecture in which Mercy will tell the story of how she rejected the conventional expectations of women in the 18th century. Join an informal meet and greet after the lecture where you will be able to converse with Mercy and ask questions about her experiences during one of the most pivotal moments in American history. Please RSVP [here](#).

Happy 296th Birthday, Mercy!

September 14

“Meet James and Mercy Warren”

October 19, 11AM- 4PM

Church Green, Taunton, MA.

Liberty & Union Day is an annual event that celebrates Taunton's rich history and culture. Hosted by the [Old Colony History Museum](#), the day features what life was like in 1774 through a variety of local colonial crafter demonstrations, Continental and British reenactors, delicious food, as well as plenty of family-friendly activities. Join us for a vibrant and fun fall festival in the heart of beautiful Taunton.



“Stirring the Pot...”

In addition to her political writings and her poetry, Mercy managed a family household and entertained family, friends, and visitors. Women of the 18th century would have been intimately familiar with various cookbooks, including Amelia Simmons’ Book of Cookery, published in 1796.

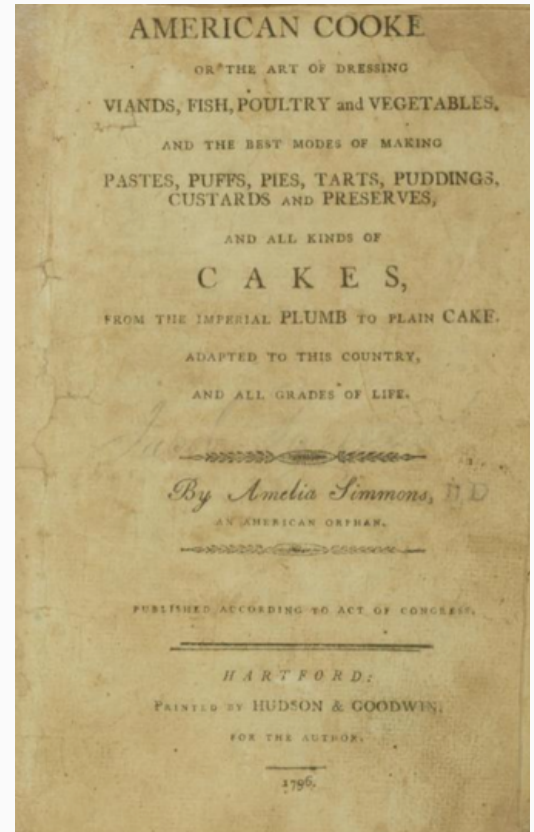
Here’s a mention about a favorite summer treat! If any brave soul would like to try adapting this lovely cool summer dessert for today’s kitchen (perhaps by using an electric mixer), please let us know the results. (Mercy would be so proud!)

Raspberry Cream

Take a quart of thick sweet cream and boil it two or three wallops,* then take it off the fire and strain some juices of raspberries into it to your taste, stir it a good while before you put your juice in, that it may be almost cold, when you put it to it, and afterwards stir it one way for almost a quarter of an hour; then sweeten it up to your taste and when it is cold you may send it up.*

* A wallop is the bubbling motion made by rapidly boiling water, hence the duration of one such motion used as a measure of time in cooking.

* The dessert is being "sent up" to the dining room from the kitchen.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

"The balm of life -
a kind and faithful
friend."

Mercy Otis Warren

A Muse’s Musings: Mercy the Wife

To James Warren
Plymouth, April 22, 1772

The fond and affectionate friend of my heart, tho absent but a day, will doubtless think me inexcusable if I omit to let him know that I am as well as when he left me. All the pain I have suffered since that is on his account...

...I suppose you are by this time much engaged in politicks, wishing you may help to steer the ship right. I take leave for the present, only repeating that I am with the same respect and regard of repeal

Your affectionate wife,
Mercy Warren



Our Mission

Celebrate Mercy Otis Warren is dedicated to promoting the powerful spirit of the first woman to write a history of the American Revolution, through educational programming and community events.

Our 2024 vision for the first year of our nonprofit includes building a membership base, creating a website, hosting lectures and historical interpretive opportunities, and generally spreading awareness about Mercy Otis Warren by partnering with local and state organizations like [SeePlymouth](#) and [Revolution250](#).

Long term goals include local, state, and national recognition of Mercy Otis Warren, creating curriculum for K-12 schools, and the support and preservation of historic sites connected to the Otis and Warren families.

Vision for
2024 and
Beyond

Celebrate Mercy with us!

In order for us to achieve our goals, we rely on the generous donations and the support of our membership.

The annual membership fee is \$25.00. If you or your company wish to become a founding member for \$50.00, you will also receive a signed copy of Nancy Rubin Stuart's award-winning biography:

*The Muse of the Revolution: The Secret Pen of Mercy Otis Warren
and the Founding of a Nation*

Membership Requests and Donations may be mailed to:
P.O. Box 76
Manomet, MA. 02354-0076

Donations may also be received through PayPal at:
celebratemercuryotiswarren@gmail.com



The Mercy Otis Warren Society, LLC

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