

## **HCC&M Readers 2024: *Rebels and Rebellion Across the Centuries***

### **May 21 – The Ruin of All Witches: Life and Death in the New World by Malcolm Gaskill**

It is 1651 and the tiny, isolated community of Springfield, Massachusetts is barely hanging on. Years of pestilence and bad crops, Indian threats, drought and floods, extremes of heat and cold, and dying children leave parents in despair. As tensions rise, rumors spread and peculiar things begin to happen. Drawing on rich, previously unexplored source material, Gaskill evokes a tale of a strange past where lives were steeped in the divine and the diabolic.

### **July 16 – The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams by Stacy Schiff**

A singular figure at a singular moment, Samuel Adams amplified the Boston Massacre and helped to mastermind the Boston Tea Party. He employed every tool available to rally a town, a colony, and eventually a band of colonies behind him, creating the cause that created a country. Schiff brings her masterful skills to Adams's improbable life, illuminating his transformation from aimless son of a well-off family to tireless, beguiling radical who mobilized the colonies.

### **Sept 17 – Women in George Washington's World – An Anthology, ed. Lewis / Boudreau**

This fresh collection brings together an exciting group of writers researching a rich diversity of women connected to and influential on George Washington – women who admired and memorialized him; women who provided him love and solace; women who frustrated him; women who worked for or against him. This is a must-read for scholars studying women and gender in early America, and for historians interested in cultivating a deeper understanding of the founding era.

### **Nov 19 – The Confessions of Nat Turner by William Styron**

In the late summer of 1831, in a remote section of southeastern Virginia, there took place the only effective, sustained revolt in the annals of American slavery. Nat Turner, an educated and enslaved preacher, felt himself divinely ordained to annihilate all the white people in the region. Styron has re-created a catastrophic event, and dramatized the intermingled miseries – and hopes – which caused an extraordinary man to rise up out of the early mists of our history and strike down those who held his people in bondage. *(Please be sure to read an edition that includes an "Afterword by the Author").*