

LAUREL THATCHER ULRICH

History Department
Robinson Hall
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-494-2556

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1980 University of New Hampshire (History)
M.A. 1971 Simmons College (English)
B.A. 1960 University of Utah (English)

EMPLOYMENT

Harvard University
2006- present 300th Anniversary University Professor
1995-2006 James Duncan Phillips Professor of Early American History
University of New Hampshire
1992-1995 Professor, History
1988-1992 Associate Professor, History
1985-1988 Assistant Professor, History
1980-1984 Assistant Professor, Humanities Program

HONORS AND AWARDS

Recent:

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Award, Society of American Historians, 2013
University of Utah, Distinguished Alumni Award, 2013
President, American Historical Association, 2009
John F. Kennedy Award, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2009
Ernesta Drinker Ballard Award, 2009

For *A Midwife's Tale*:

Pulitzer Prize for History, 1991
Bancroft Prize in American History, 1991
John S. Dunning Prize, American Historical Association, 1990
Joan Kelly Memorial Prize, American Historical Association, 1990
Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize, co-winner, 1991
Society for Historians of the Early Republic, Book Prize 1990
William Henry Welch Medal, American Ass. for the History of Medicine, 1995
New England Historical Association Award, 1991
Old Sturbridge Village Research Library E. Harold Hugo Memorial Book Prize,
1991
Association for Mormon Letters Biography Prize, 1991

Other

Fellow, American Philosophical Society
Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Harvard College Professor (Teaching Award)

Harvard Graduate School Mentoring Award, 1998
Sarah Josepha Hale Award, 1994
Charles Frankel Award, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1993
MacArthur Fellowship, 1992-1997
Guggenheim Fellowship, 1991-1992
Veronica Gervers Fellowship, Royal Ontario Museum, 1991
John Dunfey Award, New Hampshire Humanities Council, 1991
Gary Lindberg Award for Outstanding Scholar-Teacher, UNH, 1991
NEH Fellowship, 1984-85
NEH Summer Fellowship, 1982
Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship, 1977

BOOKS

2017. *A House Full of Females: Mormon Diaries, 1830-1870*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, in press.

2015. *Tangible Things: Writing History Through Objects*, with Ivan Gaskell, Sarah Schechner, Sarah Carter, and Samanthan van Gerbig. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015

2007. *Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2007, Vintage paperback, 2008, Spanish translation *Las Mujeres Que 'Se Portan Bien' No Suelen Hacer Historia*, Barcelona: NABLA, 2008.

2004. Editor, *Yards & Gates: Gender in Harvard and Radcliffe History*. New York: Palgrave, 2004

2001. *The Age of Homespun: Objects and Stories in the Creation of an American Myth* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001, Vintage Paperback 2002

1990. *A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard Based on Her Diary, 1785-1812*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990; Vintage paperback 1991; Swedish translation, *Enjorde-moders berättelse*, Stockholm: Tidens-Forlag, 1992; Italian translation, *La storia di una levatrice*, Parma: Ugo Guanda Editore, 1994; Korean translation, Seoul: Dongnyok, 2008.

1982. *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England, 1650-1750*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982; Oxford University Press paperback, 1983; Vintage paperback, 1991.

ARTICLES

"Remember Me: Sensibility and the Sacred in Early Mormonism," to appear in *The Oxford Handbook of History and Material Culture*, ed. Ivan Gaskell and Sarah Anne Carter. New York: Oxford University Press, in press.

"Remember Me: The Inscription of the Self in Nineteenth-century Mormonism," in *Women and Mormonism: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, ed. Matthew Bowman and Kate Holbrook. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, in press.

"Political Protest and the World of Goods," in *The Oxford Handbook of the American Revolution*, ed. Edward G. Gray and Jane Kamensky. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

"Pursuits of Happiness: Dark Threads in the History of the American Revolution," in *The Harvard Sampler*, ed. Jennifer M. Shephard, et al. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2011, pp. 341-366.

"'A Quilt Unlike Any Other': Rediscovering the Work of Harriett Powers," in *Writing Women's History: A Tribute to Anne Firor Scott*, ed. Elizabeth Payne, forthcoming University of Mississippi Press

"An American Album, 1857" *American Historical Review*, 115 (February 2010): 1-25.

"Mormon Women in the History of Second-Wave Feminism," *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 43, no. 2 (Summer 2010): 45-63.

"Independence Herself": A New Spin on Old Stories about Household Production in Early New England," in Carol R. Berkin, Judith L. Pinch, and Carole S. Appel, ed. *Exploring Women's Studies: Looking Forward, Looking Back* Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005.

"Women's Travail, Men's Labor: Birth Stories from Eighteenth-Century New England Diaries," *Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, Annual Proceedings* 26 (2001): 170-183.

"John Winthrop's City of Women," *Massachusetts Historical Review* 3 (2001):

"Pastoralism and Poverty in Colonial Boston," in *Inequality in Early America*, ed. Carla Pestana and Sharon Salinger. Hanover, NH : University Press of New England, 1999

"In the Garrets and Ratholes of Old Houses," and "Four Perspectives On a Bed Rug," *Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, Annual Proceedings*, 24 (1999): 6-12.

"Wheels, Looms, and the Gender Division of Labor in Eighteenth-Century New England," *William & Mary Quarterly*, 55 (January 1998): 3-38. . Society of Colonial Dames Prize for Best Article in *William & Mary Quarterly*, 1998.

"Hannah Barnard's Cupboard: Female Property and Identity in Eighteenth-century New England," in *Through A Glass Darkly: Defining Self in Early America*, ed. Ronald Hoffman and Mechal Sobel, University of North Carolina Press for the Institute of Early American History and Culture, 1997, pp. 238-273.

"Ihre Arbeit--seine arbeit. Geburtsberichte in Taegebuechern aus Neu-England im 18. Jahrhundert," in *Rituale der Geburt. Eine Kulturgeschichte herausgegeben von* ed. by J. Schlumbohm, B. Duden, J. Gelis, and P. Veit. C.H. Beck'sche Reihe Verlag, Muenchen, 1998.

"Furniture as Social History: Gender, Property, and Memory in the Decorative Arts," *American Furniture* 3 (1995): 35-64.

"Pens and Needles: Documents and Artifacts in Women's History," *Uncoverings* 14 (1993): 221-228.

"The Significance of Trivia," *Journal of Mormon History* 19 (Spring 1993): 52-66. Also published separately as 1992 Juanita Brooks Lecture, Dixie College, St. George, Utah.

"Cloth, Clothing, and Early American Social History," *Dress* 19 (1991): 39-48.

"Of Pens and Needles: Sources for the Study of Early American Women," *Journal of American History*, 77 (1990): 200-207.

"Derangement in the Family: The Death of Mary Sewall, 1824-1825," *Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife. Annual Proceedings* 15 (1990): 168-184.

"Daughters of Liberty: Religious Women in Revolutionary New England," in *Women in the Age of the American Revolution*, ed. Ronald Hoffman and Peter Albert. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1989, pp. 211-243.

"The Living Mother of a Living Child": Midwifery and Mortality in Post Revolutionary New England," *William & Mary Quarterly*, Third Series, XLVI (1989): 27-48.

"Martha Ballard and Her Girls: Women's Work in Eighteenth-Century Maine," in *Work and Labor in Early America*, ed. Stephen Innes. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988, pp. 70-105.

"Martha Moore Ballard and the Medical Challenge to Midwifery," in *Maine in the Early Republic: From Revolution to Statehood*, ed. Charles C. Clark, James S. Leamon, and Karen Bowden. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1988, pp. 165-183.

"Housewife and Gadder: Themes of Self-sufficiency and Community in Eighteenth-Century New England," in *To Toil the Livelong Day: America's Women at Work, 1780-1980*, ed. Carol Groneman and Mary Beth Norton. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1987, pp. 21-34.

"From the Fair to the Brave': Spheres of Womanhood in Federal Maine," in *Agreeable Situations: Domesticity and Commerce in Coastal Maine, 1780-1830*, ed. Laura Sprague. Kennebeunk: Brick Store Museum, 1987, pp. 215-225.

[with Lois Stabler] "Girling of it' in Eighteenth-Century New Hampshire," in *Families and Children*, ed. Peter Benes. Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife: Annual Proceedings, 1985, pp. 24-36.

"The Family History of Early America," *Trends in History*, III (Spring/Summer 1985), 69-80.

"'It Went away shee Knew not how': Food Theft and Domestic Conflict in Seventeenth-century Essex County," in *Foodways in the Northeast*, ed. Peter Benes. Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife: Annual Proceedings, 1982.

"Psalm-tunes, Periwigs, and Bastards: Ministerial Authority in Early Eighteenth-century Durham," *Historical New Hampshire*, XXVII (1981): 255-279.

"A Friendly Neighbor: Social Dimensions of Daily Work in Northern Colonial New England," *Feminist Studies*, VI (1980), 392-405.

"Vertuous Women Found: New England Ministerial Literature, 1668-1735," *American Quarterly*, 28 (1976): 20-40.

"Fictional Sisters," in Claudia L. Bushman, ed. *Mormon Sisters: Women in Early Utah* (Cambridge, Mass: Emmeline Press, 1976), pp. 241-266.

PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECTS

Co-instructor, "Tangible Things: Discovering History Through Artworks, Artifacts, Scientific Specimens, and the Stuff Around You," 2013-2015. HarvardX on-line course with archived videos at <http://www.tangiblethings.org/videos>

Co-curator, "Tangible Things," Special Exhibitions Gallery, Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments and other Harvard University sites. Spring 2011.
https://chsi.harvard.edu/chsi-tangible_things.html

Advisor, "DoHistory," NEH-funded website created by Harvard [Film Study Center](#). Now hosted by [Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media](#), George Mason University. <http://dohistory.org/>

Narrator and consultant for “A Midwife’s Tale,” Blueberry Hill Productions, PBS Series, The American Experience, 1998. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/midwife/>

SHORT ESSAYS ON HISTORY

“Revolution Reborn: Revolution and Civil War,” *Common-place* 14 (Spring 2014), at http://www.common-place-archives.org/vol-14/no-03/ulrich/#.Vqehsigx_Hg

“Celebrating the Exotic and the Ordinary,” *Antiques*, February 2010, 178-185.

AHA Presidential Essays:

[Great Expectations](#), *Perspectives on History*, January 2009

[Of Cats, Hats, and Remembrance of Things Past](#), *Perspectives on History*, February 2009

[Grasping the Gavel](#), *Perspectives on History*, March 2009

[Erasing History](#), *Perspectives on History*, May 2009

[Mr. Everyman Buys Coal](#), *Perspectives on History*, September 2009

[Presidential Sessions at the 124th Annual Meeting](#) *Perspectives on History*, November 2009

[The Trouble with History](#) *Perspectives on History*, December 2009

“How Betsy Ross Became Famous: Oral tradition, nationalism and the invention of history,” *Common-place* 8 (October 2007) <http://www.common-place.org/vol-08/no-01/ulrich/>

"Big Dig, Little Dig, Hidden Worlds: Boston," *Common-place* 3 (July 2003). <http://www.common-place.org/vol-03/no-04/boston/>

“A Bed Sheet in Beinecke,” *Common-place*, 2 (October 2001). <http://www.common-place.org/vol-02/no-01/ulrich/>

PERSONAL ESSAYS AND INTERVIEWS

“Looking at a Candid Photograph of Myself,” reponse to Marion Rust, “Personal History: Martha Ballard, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, and the Scholarly Guise in Early American Women’s Studies,” *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 32 (2015): 170-173

“The Pink Dialogue and Beyond” 1981; “Lusterware,” 1986; “Border Crossings,” 1994, in *Mormon Feminism: Essential Writings*, ed. Joanna Brooks, Rachel Hunt Steenblik, and Hannah Wheelwright. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.

“Heritage and History: A Personal Essay,” *Journal of Mormon History* 41 (2015):3-13.

Interview by Nathan B. Williams, in *Conversations with Mormon Historians*, ed. Alexandeer L. Baugh and Reid L. Neilson. Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2015, 530-559,

originally published as “Challenging the Model’: Reflections of Laurel Thatcher Ulrich,” in *Mormon Historical Studies*, 13 (2012): 71-98.

Interview with Corydon Ireland, “I had the advantage of disadvantage,” *Harvard Gazette*, October 22, 2014, <http://nws.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2014/10/i-had-the-advantage-of-disadvantage/>

Interview in James N. Kimball and Kent Miles, *Mormon Women: Portraits & Conversations*, Salt Lake City: Handcart Books, 2009, 84-105.

“Mud Season in New England: Or Will the Daffodils Break through last Year’s Unraked Leaves,” in *Proving Contraries’: A Collections of Writings in Honor of Eugene England*, ed. Robert A. Rees. Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 2005, pp. 217-222.

"A Pail of Cream," *Journal of American History* 89 (2002), 43-47.

Response to “Paradigm Shift Books: A Midwife’s Tale,” *Journal of Women's History* 14 (2002):158-161.

"Rachel's Death," in *The Collected Leonard J. Arrington Mormon History Lectures*. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Libraries, 2005, pp. 205-222.

All God’s Critters Got a Place in the Choir [co-author Emma Lou Thayne], Salt Lake City: Aspen Books, 1995.

"An Epiphany in a Broom Closet," *Weber Studies*, 10 (Fall 1993): 26-42.

"Martha's Diary and Mine," *Journal of Women's History*, 4 (1992): 157-160.

"Family Scriptures," *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*, 20 (1987): 119-127.

SELECTED LECTURES

“A Traveling Tortilla and Other Tangible Things,” Keynote, Interface Conference: Materiality and Movement, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, May 1, 2015

“Bee Skeps, Cucumbers, and Roses: Real Gardening and Fanciful Garden in Nineteenth-Century Utah,” Keynote Address, Association of Living History and Farm Museums, Annual Meeting, Worcester, Massachusetts, June 21, 2010.

“An American Album, 1857,” AHA Annual Meeting, San Diego, January 8, 2010; Milwaukee Art Museum, June 3, 2010; New England Quilt Museum, June 19, 2010.

“Worthy to be Recorded Upon the Archives of Heaven: Ornamentation in the Diaries of Wilford Woodruff,” Plenary Session, Mormon History Association Annual Meeting, Independence, Missouri, May 29, 2010.

“Mud and Fire: Crossing Iowa, 1846,” Claremont Graduate School, March 26, 2009; Center for Pacific and American Studies, University of Tokyo, May 23, 2009; University of Missouri, November 9, 2009

“In the Garrets and Ratholes of Old Houses,” Nevins Lecture, Huntington Library, March 24, 2009, American Philosophical Society, April 23, 2009; Museum of Church History and Art, (Salt Lake City), June 21, 2010.

Phi Beta Kappa Lecturer 2008 (various topics): McDaniel College, Mary Baldwin College, University of Puget Sound, Hunter College, Hamilton College, Knox College, Lawrence University, Kansas State University

“Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History,” Kalb Lecture, Rice University, November 8, 2007

“A Woman And a Cow: Celebrating a Renaissance in History,” O Meredith Wilson Lecture, University of Utah, October 25, 2007

“Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History,” Dolibois Lecture, Miami University of Ohio (Hamilton Campus), April 10, 2007

“Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History,” Salomeno Lecture, Stonehill College, February 27, 2007

“Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History,” “Shakespeare’s Daughters,” Goodman Lectures, Western Ontario University, London, Ontario, October 23-25, 2006

“Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History,” Keynote Address, Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association Conference, Launceston, Tasmania, July 11, 2006

“Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History,” Charles S. Grant Memorial Lecture, Middlebury College, October 2005.

“Gender in America’s Revolutionary Narrative, or Why Betsy Ross Won’t Go Away,” Noreen E. McNamara Memorial Lecture, Fordham University School of Law, January 2005

“How Isabella Stewart Gardner Made History,” George Stout Memorial Conservation Lecture, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston, Mass, April 2005.

"Rachel's Death," Leonard Arrington Lecture, Mountain West Center, Utah State University, October 2003.

“The Age of Homespun,” Carl Becker Lectures, Cornell University, April 15-16, 1999.

“Pens and Needles: Diaries, Textiles, and the Craft of History,” Kenin Memorial Lecture, Reed College, September 12, 1996 and Costa Lecture, Ohio University, October 24, 1996.

“Flowering Compasses: Gender, Commerce, and the Decorative Arts,” Teetzel Lectures, University of Toronto, April 15-16, 1996.

“New England’s Age of Homespun,” Anson Phelps Lectures, New York University, February 26-27, March 5, 1996.

“Women’s Work and the Invention of New England,” and “What Cloth Can Tell Us,” Taft Lectures, University of Cincinnati, October 29-30, 1993.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY (selected)

20015. President, Mormon Historical Association

2009 President American Historical Association

2007-2008. Phi Beta Kappa lecturer. McDaniel College, Mary Baldwin College, Hamilton College, Hunter College, University of Puget Sound, Kansas State University, Knox College, Lawrence University

2004-2007. Faculty Council Member, Harvard University.

2004-present. Member of the Council, American Antiquarian Society, 2004-present

2001-present. OAH Lecturer.

2003-2005 Workshops for Public School Teachers: University of New Hampshire, Bridgewater State College, Historic Deerfield, Mt. Vernon Museum, Plimoth Plantation, Gilder-Lehrman Institute.

2002-2005, Executive Board, Organization of American Historians

2005, Pulitzer Prize Nominating Committees for History

1998, Pulitzer Prize Nominating Committees for History Biography

1996-2000, Advisory Board, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College,

1993-1996, Research Council, American Historical Association,

1994, Pulitzer Prize Nominating Committee for Biography

1993-1996 Nominating Committee, Organization of American Historians

1989-1991, Council Member, Institute of Early American History and Culture

1989-1991 Board of Editors, William & Mary Quarterly,

1987-1993 Board of Trustees, Strawberry Banke Museum,

1989 ABC-Clio Award Committee, Organization of American Historians,

Consultant, Annenberg Foundation Audio course, "Introduction to the History of Women and the Family in America, 1607-1865"

Project Humanist: Warner, N.H. Women's Oral History Project

Participating Humanist: Maine at Statehood Project

Museum Consultant: Boston Children’s Museum, Canterbury Shaker Village, Historic Deerfield, Lancaster Heritage Center, New Hampshire Historical Society, Old York Historical Society, Plimoth Plantation, Porter-Phelps-Huntington Foundation, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Strawberry Banke Museum.

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich (born July 11, 1938) is an American historian of early America and the history of women, and a professor at Harvard University. [1] Her approach to history has been described as a tribute to "the silent work of ordinary people"â€”an approach that, in her words, aims to "show the interconnection between public events and private experience." She is also a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS/Mormon). Early life and education. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, American historian, educator. Council member Institute Early American History and Culture, 1989-1991; trustee Strawberry Banke Museum, 1987-1993. Member Organization American Historians (nominating committee since 1992, ABC-Clio award committee 1989), American History Association (research council 1993-1996).Â The Age of Homespun: Objects and Stories in the Creation of an American Myth by Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher Vintage, 2002 (Paperback) Paperback. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich Biography. By Sarah Pearsall, Oxford Brookes University, and Kirsten Sword, Indiana University From the General Meeting Booklet, 2010 AHA Annual Meeting. A Pail of Cream. âœœI was raised to be an industrious housewife and a self-sacrificing and charitable neighbor, but sometime in my thirties I discovered that writing about womenâ€™s work was a lot more fun than doing it.â€ Professor Ulrich's work is Laurel Thatcher Ulrich is 300th Anniversary University Professor at Harvard University. She is the author of Good Wives: Image and Reality inÂ Her most recent book is Well-behaved Women Seldom Make History (2007). Her major fields of interest are early American social history, women's history, and material culture. Professor Ulrich's work is featured on the web at www.dohistory.org and www.randomhouse.com. <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~amciv/fac> ...more.