Compelling speakers on a range of history related topics present at Pilgrim Hall Museum in 2023. Join us for a season of learning and insight! Free and open to the public; reserve seats at pilgrimhall.org

BETH PRINDEL
Thursday, April 20th, 6:30 pm
Everything Old is New Again: BPL’s Special Collections Renovation

One of the country’s largest libraries, Boston Public Library houses a vast collection of rare books, manuscripts, prints, archives, music, photography, and more. BPL has reopened its new Special Collections Department, with state-of-the-art improvements to the public reading room, collection storage, workspaces, environmental systems, and new conservation lab. Beth Prindle, BPL’s Head of Special Collections, discusses the joys and challenges of leading this massive 7–year project to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to the library’s exceptional resources.

BILL COLE
Tuesday, May 9th, 6:30 pm
A Grave Mistake? The English Origins of Old Comer Thomas Clarke

Was Thomas Clarke a crew member of Mayflower’s 1620 voyage to Plymouth? Clarke’s gravestone was placed atop Burial Hill in 1697—one of the cemetery’s oldest surviving markers. It has attracted visitors for more than three hundred years. With new evidence uncovered in England and a closer look at New England records, Bill Cole makes the case that Thomas Clarke’s origins have been misattributed.

Sharing his research on Thomas Clarke, Cole explores his life in England and America, including a story passed down by some descendants that he was a crew member on Mayflower’s voyage. Do Cole’s new findings give credibility to Clarke family lore? Cole, a Mayflower descendant, author, family historian, and genealogical researcher, will have copies of his new book, Puritans, Plagues, and Promises, available for purchase and signing.

PAULA PETERS, SMOKE SYGNALS
Thursday, May 25th, 6:30 pm
Endurance of Wampum

Wampum belts are of cultural, sacred, and symbolic significance to the Wampanoag nation. Paula Peters, founder of the Native American creative agency SmokeSygnals; independent scholar; and a politically, socially, and culturally active member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, will discuss how the search for the lost treasures of Metacom, including his wampum belt, that were taken in the aftermath of King Philip’s war in 1675, led to the revival of the traditional art of wampum making.

ERIC P. CODY
Thursday, June 29th, 6:30 pm
Rescuing Ellisville Marsh

Spanning 70 shifting acres along Plymouth’s coast, Ellisville Marsh is considered an “environmental gem of New England’s oldest town.” Its tidal inlet had been maintained for centuries by local residents until restrictive regulations in the 1980s called a halt. Eric Cody, author of the new book, Rescuing Ellisville Marsh: The Long Fight to Restore Lost Connections, weaves the stories of a fragile ecosystem and a community effort to restore its vitality.
Cody is a founder of the Friends of Ellisville Marsh, the grassroots group that coalesced to preserve a stunning natural resource. Following the lecture, copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

REVISITING PLYMOUTH COLONY
Wednesday, August 2nd, 6:30 pm
Panel Discussion: Revisiting Plymouth Colony Sources: A View from the Wampanoag Coast
Lisa Brooks and Kelly Wisecup, editors of a new edition of colonial primary sources, Plymouth Colony: Narratives of English Settlement and Native Resistance from the Mayflower to King Philip’s War (2022), are joined by educator and author Linda Coombs to consider how historical understanding is reframed when sources of transatlantic colonization are viewed from the perspective of the Wampanoag coast.

CALEB JOHNSON
Thursday, September 14th, 6:30 pm
Researching Mayflower Families: Recent Discoveries, New Questions
Historian and genealogist Caleb Johnson is the creator of MayflowerHistory.com, the most complete web resource on the Mayflower Pilgrims, and author/editor of numerous works on early Plymouth and related history, including The Mayflower and Her Passengers (2006); Here Shall I Die Ashore: Stephen Hopkins Bermuda Castaway, Jamestown Survivor, and Mayflower Pilgrim (2007); William Bradford Of Plymouth Plantation (2006).
Sharing insights into his decades of research on Mayflower families, he discusses recent discoveries and some fascinating and challenging new lines of inquiry.

BILL FORNACIARI
Wednesday, October 4th, 6:30 pm
The Forges of Chiltonville
The Forges of Chiltonville was one of Plymouth’s most magnificent 19th-century estates. Built as a grand hunting lodge in the early 1890s by retail magnate Eben Jordan Jr., and later purchased by Boston attorney Sherman Whipple as a summer estate, the massive English Tudor manse known as “Chilton Hall” survived less than 50 years before being destroyed. Join architect Bill Fornaciari for an intimate look at a lost architectural masterpiece, featuring an extraordinary collection of family photographs, memorabilia, and oral histories from the Whipple, Withington, and Brewster families.

DR. FRANCIS J. BREMER
Thursday, November 2nd, 6:30 pm
William Bradford & The Faith of the Pilgrims
Professor Emeritus of History at Millersville University, Dr. Bremer is a co-editor of Of Plimoth Plantation by William Bradford: The 400th Anniversary Edition (2020) and author of One Small Candle: The Plymouth Puritans and the Beginning of English New England (2020). He will discuss the Congregational faith of Plymouth and how it influenced the New England Way based on his previous works and his current research for a new biography of William Bradford.