
THE
CHARLES S. GRANT MEMORIAL LECTURE

DAVID HACKETT FISCHER

A War for Peace:
Champlain and the Mohawk

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009
4:00 P.M. / Dana Auditorium / Middlebury College

THE LECTURESHIP

The Charles S. Grant Memorial Committee and the Department of History are proud to present the thirty-sixth Grant Memorial Lecture, in honor of the late Charles S. Grant, who was a member of the Middlebury History Department for several years prior to his untimely death in 1961.

A gifted, much loved teacher and esteemed scholar, Professor Grant won wide acclaim for his book, *Democracy in the Connecticut Frontier Town of Kent*, which was published in 1961 not long before his death.

Shortly thereafter, several of his colleagues and friends in the Middlebury community formed a committee and created a fund that became large enough to establish an annual lectureship in American History as a fitting and enduring tribute to him. Over the years the Grant Fund has brought distinguished lecturers in American History to Middlebury, and they have established the prominence of the Lectureship.

The first Grant Lecture was delivered in May, 1966, by Professor Carl Bridenbaugh of Brown University. Subsequent Grant lecturers have been Professor Shaw Livermore, Jr., of the University of Michigan; Professor Walter Metzger of Columbia University; Professor Eric F. Goldman of Princeton University; Professor Marvin Meyers of Brandeis University; Professor Robert Cross of the University of Virginia; historian David McCullough, author of *The Great Bridge*, *The Path Between the Seas*, and *Mornings on Horseback*; Dr. Thomas Hedley Reynolds, President of Bates College; Professor Henry Steele Commager of Amherst College; Professor John Morton Blum of Yale University; Professor Bernard Bailyn of Harvard University; Professor Lawrence A. Cremin, President of Teachers College, Columbia University; Professor Kenneth M. Stampp of the University of California, Berkeley; Professor William E. Leuchtenburg of the University of North Carolina; Professor Alan Brinkley of the Graduate School of the City University of New York; Mr. McCullough, author of the prize-winning *Truman*; Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., of the Graduate School of the City of New York; William B. Catton, Professor Emeritus of History and Historian-in-Residence Emeritus, Middlebury College; Professor Jean H. Baker of Goucher College; Professor Kenneth T. Jackson of Columbia University; Professor Emeritus of History Eric L. McKittrick of Columbia University; Professor Emory Thomas of the University of Georgia; Professor Joan Hoff of Ohio University; Professor Emeritus of History and former President of Yale University, Howard R. Lamar; Professor James M. McPherson of Princeton University; Professor Joseph J. Ellis of Mount Holyoke College; Godfrey Hodgson, a Fellow of Green College, Oxford; Professor Robert Dallek of Boston University; Professors Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz and Daniel Horowitz of Smith College; Professor James Oliver Horton of George Washington University, Professor William H. Chafe of Duke University; Professor John Lewis Gaddis of Yale University; Professor Laurel Thatcher Ulrich of Harvard University; Professor James T. Patterson of Brown University; and Professor James Axtell of The College of William and Mary.

THE LECTURER

David Hackett Fischer

David Hackett Fischer is Earl Warren Professor (1971–) and University Professor (2003–) at Brandeis University. He received his A.B. from Princeton University and his Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University.

Professor Fischer began his teaching career at Brandeis in 1962. He has received numerous teaching awards and served as Chair, Crown Program in American History for various dates, 1973–2001. He has taught at Harvard University, the University of Washington, Seattle, and the University of Otago and the University of Waikato in New Zealand, where he earlier had been Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer at five New Zealand universities. During 1985–1986 he held the Harmsworth Professorship in American History at Oxford University and in 1993 was elected a life member at Bodleian Library.

His first book, *The Revolution of American Conservatism*, appeared in 1965, and was followed by *Historians' Fallacies* (1970), *Growing Old in America* (1977), *Concord: The Social History of a New England Town* (1984), *Brookline: The Social History of a Suburban Town* (1986), and *Away, I'm Bound Away: Virginia and the Westward Movement* with James Kelly (1993). *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America* (1989) received the Saloutos Prize in Immigration and Social History; *Paul Revere's Ride* (1994) was selected by the History Book Club and the Book of the Month Club, as have been subsequent books, and received numerous awards; and *The Great Wave: Price Movements in Modern History* (1996), was named the Best Book of the Year in Economics and Business by *The New York Times Business Section*. His *Washington's Crossing* (2004) won the Pulitzer Prize in History and was a National Book Award finalist. *The New York Times* listed it with the top ten books of the year, and prominent newspapers across the country agreed. Professor Fischer published *Liberty and Freedom* (2005), and he has co-edited with John Demos "New England Studies," six volumes thus far, and co-edited with James McPherson, "Pivotal Movements in American History," twelve volumes published, 1996–2008.

Professor Fischer's highly acclaimed *Champlain's Dream* appeared last October. It quickly became a best seller in Canada and was named one of the Best Books of 2008 by *The New York Times*. He will deliver the keynote address for the Champlain Quadricentennial celebrations in Plattsburgh in June and Burlington, July 2–5, 2009.

Professor Fischer currently is working on a comparative history of New Zealand and the United States, tentatively called "Freedom and Fairness: Two Ideas of an Open Society," and a book on Afro-American Cultures in America, very similar to *Albion's Seed* but focused on African folkways.
