Salt Cod for Silver: Yankees, Basques, and the North Shore's Forgotten Trade

Sunday, April 7, 2019 from 2:00-4:00PM

Join Salem Maritime for this mini-symposium presented in partnership with Historic Beverly, Marblehead Museum, and Salem State University Department of History.

The program will explore the fascinating history of the nearly two-hundred-year-long trading relationship between the New England ports of Salem, Marblehead, and Beverly and the Spanish Basque port of Bilbao.

Participating in the symposium will be Xabier Lamikiz, University of the Basque Country; David Hancock, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; and Karen Alexander, University of New Hampshire Gulf of Maine Cod Project. Independent scholar Donald C. Carleton, Jr., will moderate the panel.

This free public event will be held at the Salem Visitor Center at 2 New Liberty Street in Salem, Mass. Seating is limited to the first 200 attendees on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Salem Maritime National Historic Site
News Release

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For Immediate Release
Contact: Maryann Zujewski, 978-578-1642

Rediscover the lost history of the North Shore's “Basque connection”

SALEM, MA – Salem Maritime National Historic Site is pleased to announce a mini-symposium, "Salt Cod for Silver: Yankees, Basques, and the North Shore's Forgotten Trade," to be held on Sunday, April 7 from 2:00 to 4:00PM at the Salem Visitor Center, 2 New Liberty Street in Salem. The symposium, presented in partnership with Historic Beverly, Marblehead Museum, and Salem State University Department of History, brings together a unique and esteemed group of scholars. "We are so proud to partner with local entities and honored to host these panelists to discuss a piece of Salem's trade history that is often untold," stated Chief of Visitor Experience and Community Engagement at Salem Maritime. The symposium is free and open to the public. Seating is limited to the first 200 attendees, available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The program will explore the fascinating history and important legacies of the nearly two-hundred-year-long (c.1630s to c.1820s) trading relationship between New England and the Spanish Basque port of Bilbao. Hundreds of voyages sailed from Salem, Marblehead, Beverly, and other North Shore ports to Bilbao delivering literally millions of pounds of fish. The cash returns contributed to Essex County's capital stock and helped to create the conditions for the post-Revolutionary globalization of its maritime commerce and the beginnings of industrial development. For its part, Bilbao prospered as the "middle man," supplying tens of thousands of consumers in the Iberian interior with nourishing, tasty bacalao.

The North Shore's “Basque connection” also had an important geopolitical dimension. The greatest Bilbao importer of New England salt cod in the late-colonial era, Don Diego María de Gardoqui, became a key advocate and conduit for Spanish support for the rebelling colonies during the American Revolution, and subsequently served as the Spanish Crown’s first envoy to the newly independent United States.

Participating in this public roundtable discussion will be Xabier Lamikiz, Associate Professor of Economic History, University of the Basque Country; David Hancock, Professor of History and Director, Atlantic Studies Initiative, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; and Karen Alexander, Project Coordinator (2001-13), University of New Hampshire Gulf of Maine Cod Project. Independent scholar Donald C. Carleton, Jr., will moderate the panel and introduce the subject and its significance.
Located in Salem, MA, Salem Maritime National Historic Site is open daily May through October 31 and Wednesday-Sunday from November 1 through April 30. Park information is available by phoning (978) 740-1650 during regular business hours, or by visiting the park website anytime. [www.nps.gov/sama](http://www.nps.gov/sama)

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov), on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice), Twitter [www.twitter.com/nationalparkservice](http://www.twitter.com/nationalparkservice).

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