

PHOTO CAPTION: The eighteenth season of the Agawam Cultural Council's *Applause Series* begins with a virtual presentation of **Abigail Whitney and Family: Eyewitness to the Events of April 19, 1775** to be broadcast on Friday, September 10, 2021 on the Towns of Agawam's and Southwick's public access channels and streamed at 7:00 pm.



A REVOLUTIONARY VIEW

The Agawam Cultural Council's *Applause Series* begins its eighteenth season with an account of the American Revolution, as experienced first-hand by a colonial housewife and her family!

(Agawam, Mass.) The eighteenth season of the Agawam Cultural Council's popular *Applause Series* gets off to a virtual start on Friday, September 10, 2021 with the presentation of **Abigail Whitney and Family: Eyewitness to the Events of April 19, 1775**. The prerecorded performance will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7:00 pm and streamed from the "Watch" button on www.agawamedia.tv for those residing outside of Agawam. This performance is also being shown on the Town of Southwick's TV15 at 7pm and streamed from the "Watch Channel 15" button on www.southwickma.org/channel-15-public-access. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email r.kadis@comcast.net for a link to the performance on the Agawam Cultural Council YouTube channel.

Early in the morning of April 19, 1775—the beginning of the American Revolution—British soldiers marched past the Whitney homestead on the Bay Road in Concord, Massachusetts. They later returned to search the Whitney house for ammunition and supplies, while Abigail anxiously worried about her husband Samuel, who had joined fellow patriots at Concord's North Bridge. She was frightened and concerned for her missing teenage son and survived a dangerous trip with her youngest children to escape the British. Learn about these firsthand experiences: why the soldiers searched her home; and what the outcome was for her family, the town of Concord, and the nation.

Gail C. Hamel, M.Ed. has been teaching living history for over twenty-five years. Based on primary sources, and the real-life experiences of Abigail Whitney and her family, Hamel developed a persona portraying colonial housewife Abigail Whitney in order to educate audiences of all ages. She is a Licensed Tour Guide for the town of Concord, Massachusetts, and has participated in numerous reenactments with the Lexington Historical Society, Minute Man National Historical Park, and Lincoln Minute Men.

Production sponsor of **Abigail Whitney and Family: Eyewitness to the Events of April 19, 1775** is Way Finders, Inc.. The Agawam Cultural Council would also like to thank BankESB, Elaine Carlson, OMG, Inc., the Southwick Cultural Council, Anthony Suffriti, and Westfield Bank for their generous support as *Applause Series* season sponsors.

In lieu of the in-person free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making an online donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site www.agawamcc.org and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council, please visit their web site, www.agawamcc.org. The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.