

*Lydia Maria Child and Catharine Maria Sedgwick*



# SYMPOSIUM

JUNE 24 - 27, 2026  
WILLIAMSBURG, VA

**CMSS-LMCS Joint Symposium Program**  
**Catharine Maria Sedgwick and Lydia Maria Child Societies**  
**June 24-27, 2026**  
**William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia**

**Wednesday, June 24**

5:00-7:00 pm, Opening Reception  
The Slice at the Sadler Center, William & Mary

**Thursday, June 25**  
**James Room, Sadler Center**

9:00 am, Continental Breakfast

9:30-10:20, Literary Relations: Sedgwick's Legacy at Home and Abroad  
Jenifer Elmore and Lydia Kuerth, Palm Beach Atlantic University: "Sedgwick's Literary Relationship to Walter Scott"  
Melissa J. Homestead, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: "Sarah Orne Jewett Reads Catharine Maria Sedgwick"

10:30-11:20, Autonomous Women in Two Novels  
Dawn Coleman, University of Tennessee, Knoxville: "Philothea and the Invention of American Secular Womanhood"  
Adriana Robinson, Florida Gulf Coast University: "Captivity Narratives and the Seduction Plot in Catharine Sedgwick's *Hope Leslie*"

11:30-12:00, Lunch

12:00-12:50, Walk to and Tour of Hearth: Memorial to the Enslaved

1:00-2:15, Correspondence: Child, Sedgwick, Family, and Friends  
Kate Culkin, Bronx Community College: "'Omit': Letters of a Sister, Edited by a Niece"  
Lucinda Damon-Bach, Salem State University: "Friends, Sisters, Mentors, Partners: Reinscribing Family in the Correspondence of Catharine Maria Sedgwick and Jane Minot Sedgwick"  
Jordan Von Cannon, Florida Gulf Coast University: "Letters from the Friendship and Fallout of Lydia Maria Child and Catharine Maria Sedgwick"

2:15 pm, Mid-Afternoon Study Break

2:30-3:45, Opening the Archive: New Pathways and Emerging Audiences for the *CMS Online Letters*  
Jill Kirsten Anderson, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville: "Reading Sedgwick's Letters, 1797-1822"  
Lucinda Damon-Bach, Salem State University: "Integrating Sedgwick's Letters into Courses at Home, Abroad, and Online"

Eryn Genova, Stockton University: "Transcribing Sedgwick: Lessons in Archival Discovery"  
Patricia Larson Kalayjian, California State University, Dominguez Hills: "Sedgwick's Southern Travels"

Deborah Gussman, Stockton University: "Sedgwick's Letters in High School Language Arts and History Classrooms"

4:00-5:00, Pedagogy Roundtable

Emily VanDette, SUNY Fredonia

Gia Coturri Sorenson, UNC Greensboro

### **Thursday Banquet and Keynote**

6:15 pm, Arrive Miller Executive Dining Room, located in [Miller Hall](#), School of Business (Room 1033)

6:30 pm, Banquet

7:15 pm, Keynote Address by Dr. Jennifer Putzi, Editor, *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, Sara and Jess Cloud Professor of English & Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at William & Mary

### **Friday, June 26**

#### **James Room, Sadler Center**

9:00 am, Continental Breakfast

9:30-10:45, Virtual Panel

Melissa Lingle-Martin, George Mason University – Korea: "Mapping More (Than) Monuments with Nineteenth-Century Women Writers"

Marie Dücker, University of Graz: "Villages Without Men: Queer and Kinship Economies in Nineteenth-Century Women's Writing"

Hilary Emmett, University of East Anglia: "Child's Writing for Children"

11:00-12:15, Child and Land

Laura Mielke, University of Kansas: "New England Settlement in Child's 'The Kansas Emigrants'"

Karen Woods-Weierman, Worcester State University: "'The time has now come': Child, Land Reform, and Comparative Racial Justice"

Melissa Gniadek, University of Toronto: "'Dear Tree': Land and Resource Use in Child's Writing for Children"

12:15-1:15, Lunch

1:15-2:30, Revolution, Republicanism, Death, and Disability

Christopher Black, University of Memphis: "Class Conflict in the Revolutionary War Novels of James Fenimore Cooper, Lydia Maria Child, and Catharine Maria Sedgwick"

Adelia Lauandos, Florida Gulf Coast University: "Disability and Otherness in Sedgwick's *The Linwoods*"

Isabella Elg, Florida Gulf Coast University: "'Mere Wife and Mother': Catharine Maria Sedgwick's Challenge to Republican Motherhood in *Married or Single?*"

2:30 pm, Mid-Afternoon Study Break

2:45-3:30, Chat with an Editor, Jennifer Putzi, Editor, *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*

3:45 pm, Special Collections Visit, [Swem Library](#) (1st floor), William & Mary

**Saturday, June 27**

**James Room, Sadler Center**

9:00 am, Continental Breakfast

9:30-10:45, Reading Group, Ellen Foster, Pennsylvania Western University

Lydia Maria Child, "The Black Saxons" ([1847](#))

Catharine Maria Sedgwick, "Slavery in New England" ([1853](#))

11:00-12:00, Business Meeting

**Saturday Afternoon**

If interested, consider a visit to the Bray School at Colonial Williamsburg. We can organize an informal group. To enter the Bray School, visitors need a ticket to Colonial Williamsburg (\$37.50 for a single-day ticket; 25% discount for educators with ID).

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