The Port of New Bedford’s historical evolution as a manufacturing and commercial center provides valuable perspective on the growth challenges it faces today – managing ocean resources, cleaning up a century of pollution, and mapping a path forward for other maritime related industries while preserving its fishing industry. Join renowned historian Kingston Heath and 13 other speakers for a weekend exploring and discussing the city’s principal natural resource and its role in the growth and renewal of a great American seaport.

Saturday, February 15 | 8:15 am - 4:30 pm

**Session 1: Origins of Industry**

10:05 am - “New Bedford – The Capital of Nineteenth Century American Whale Oil Refining”
— Mark Foster, exhibit designer, researcher, author and illustrator

10:40 am - “Beyond Whaling: Three Families and their Diversified Investments”
— Elizabeth T. Gray, Jr., attorney, poet, family historian, Rotch, Rodman and Morgan families

11:00 am - “The River and the Rail: A Pictorial Tour of New Bedford’s Evolving Waterfront”
— Michael P. Dyer, Senior Maritime Historian, New Bedford Whaling Museum

11:35 am - “Wind, Water and Rail: the Future of New Bedford’s Waterfront Industries”
— Matthew Morrissey, Managing Director, New Bedford Wind Energy Center

Session 2: Developing Industry

11:30 am - “The Wisest Marriage of the All – Rachel and Matthew Howland”
— Peggi Medeiros, local historian, researcher, preservation advocate and blogger

12:05 pm - “The Evolution of New Bedford’s Financial Sector from the Early Nineteenth to the Mid-twentieth Century”
— Robert E. Wright, Nef Family Chair of Political Economy, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Academic Director, Historians Against Slavery

12:45 pm - Luncheon

1:45 pm - “Jonathan Bourne, Jr: A Case Study in Commercial Acumen”
— Brian Witkowski, Education Programs Manager, New Bedford Whaling Museum

Sunday, Feb. 16 | 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

**Session 3: The Harbor’s Changing Uses**

9:00 am - “Water Wealth: A Brief History New Bedford’s Public Water Supply”
— Arthur Motta, Director, Marketing & Communications, New Bedford Whaling Museum

9:35 am - “An Ecological Response to the Industrial Pollution of New Bedford Harbor”
— Mark Rasmussen, President and CEO, Buzzards Bay Coalition

10:10 am - “Changing Tides: The Story of New Bedford’s Commercial Fishing Industry”
— Jim Kendall, Executive Director, New Bedford Seafood Consulting

11:00 am - “The River and the Rail: A Pictorial Tour of New Bedford’s Evolving Waterfront”
— Michael P. Dyer, Senior Maritime Historian, New Bedford Whaling Museum

**Registration:**

$65 (non-members $75)
(students $50 with valid i.d.)

Includes all sessions, Saturday’s complete breakfast, luncheon, refreshments, Sunday’s continental breakfast and admission to all museum galleries throughout the weekend.

$30 Saturday breakfast and Keynote lecture only

**How to Register:**

By Phone: 508-997-0046 ext. 100

By Mail: River & Rail Symposium, New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, MA 02740

Make check payable to: New Bedford Whaling Museum

Memo on check, write: River & Rail

Tweet: #RiverandRail_NBWM

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this symposium, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.