

Lasting Legacy: The Sarah Josepha Hale Award to Nathaniel Philbrick

"Next to genius is the power of feeling where true genius lies." – Sarah Josepha Hale

Hale would no doubt agree that much of genius lies in books – the legacy of the wisdom of others left behind. Hail to libraries, bookstores, teachers, books. Hail to Sarah Josepha Hale, national treasure, literary giant, the prized citizen of Newport, New Hampshire – and, arguably, the most influential woman in 19th century America.

Each year, for more than half a century, the Richards Free Library has awarded the Sarah Josepha Hale Award to a distinguished literary person associated with New England. The 2018 Hale Award will be given to Nathaniel Philbrick at



D. QUINCY WHITNEY

8 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Newport Opera House.

As editor of the most-read magazine in 19th century America – Boston Ladies' Magazine, then American Ladies Magazine, and then later Godey's Lady's Book, from 1828-1877 – Hale reached as many as 150,000 subscribers, just



Photo by D. QUINCY WHITNEY

Sarah Josepha Hale Memorial Park in shown in Newport.