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The History of Harvard University

A dissertation presented
by
Suzy Anne Scholar
to
The Department of Philosophy
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
in the subject of
Philosophy

Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

March 2013

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The History of Harvard University

Abstract

Founded in 1636 by vote of the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and named for its first donor, the Reverend John Harvard, who left his personal library and half his estate (about 800£) to the new institution, Harvard College was born into the Puritan tradition. The University today is still governed under its original charter granted by the Colony in 1650. This, with amendments and John Adams’ further definition in the fifth chapter of the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, is the authority under which Harvard operates.