

# 2020 annual stakeholder report

SEPTEMBER 1, 2019–AUGUST 31, 2020





# 2020 annual stakeholder report



## Connecting Families.

The desire to understand and connect to our family history is universal. This understanding represents who we are and how we came to live the lives we each have. Whether we are fully aware of it or not, the journeys our ancestors took and the choices they made have a profound effect on who we are today. Good fortune and bad, triumph and tragedy, prosperity and opportunity all comprise the incredible, winding path that leads from our ancestors to each of us. And while our stories may seem unique to us, we learn that they are also shared by many.

At American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society, we understand that as we uncover our families, we learn about history too. The records we use, the sources we uncover, the information we gather, all need to be maintained and preserved. It is our mission to make sure everyone, everywhere, has access to their family's story for generations to come.

## Advancing History.

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## Report of the President and CEO

During fiscal year 2020, we faced an unprecedented set of challenges precipitated by the coronavirus pandemic, economic turmoil, social unrest, and other unusual external factors. I am happy to report that we surmounted those problems in FY20 and, though we still face many challenging months ahead, NEHGS flourishes today more brightly than it has at any time in our 175-year history. While we contended with one of the most difficult sets of circumstances in our long history, we successfully met or exceeded ambitious goals across all areas of the organization by educating, inspiring, and connecting hundreds of thousands of members and guests through our scholarship, collections, and expertise. In so doing, we reached more people than ever before at a time when our content and our services have never been more meaningful in educating and informing our members and the public with personally meaningful and morale-boosting experiences.

Despite substantial disruptions to our operating model and normal business practices, we completed the fiscal year with a nearly 220% positive variance to budget. This can be attributed to the staff's swift adaptation to a virtual service environment, continued strong support from our members and donors, careful financial decisions by our managers, the hard work of our unfailingly dedicated staff, and the support of our Board of Trustees, Council, and large corps of volunteers, and, ultimately, the strength of our strategic vision—and through it—earning our position as the nonprofit marketplace leader in genealogy. Even in the complicated environment brought about by COVID-19, we served the largest constituency in our history, added millions of new records to AmericanAncestors.org, and published ground-breaking scholarship of enduring value for genealogists and historians alike.

“While we contended with one of the most difficult sets of circumstances in our long history, we successfully met or exceeded ambitious goals across all areas of the organization . . .”



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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Working in parallel to our service and content efforts, we simultaneously executed financial strategies to ensure our institution would endure the health crisis's disruptions and ensuing economic turmoil. Our key actions included accessing our line of credit to shore up our liquidity, securing a \$1.457 million forgivable loan through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, reducing operating expenses by \$1 million without compromising any member benefits, and launching a special fundraising

drive which yielded more than \$500,000 in new gifts to help bridge a period of uncertainty as the pandemic took hold.

The following are only a few of the many ways we advanced our mission during fiscal year 2020 to create a sustainable future, build relationships to ensure our constituents identify as members of the American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society family, affirm our position as a center of scholarly excellence, and maximize the use of technology to connect with constituents:

## EXPANSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Goal: Expand headquarters and grow operations with scalable business and philanthropic models to ensure financial sustainability**

We made significant strides towards our goal of expanding our headquarters—namely, the Cornerstone Project—since taking over occupancy of the adjoining townhouse at 97 Newbury Street. Our timeline for the building work anticipates that we are shovel-ready to proceed with demolition and construction by FY23.

In December 2020, we received notification of a \$2,500,000 anonymous challenge grant for our Cornerstone Campaign. This represents an important national foundation's tremendous affirmation of our governance, strategic vision, planning, and financial stability. This support is a credit to the participation in the well-being and advancement of our great institution by all our members. The anonymous challenge grant requires us to raise a matching amount of \$2,500,000 in gifts and documented pledges by December 31, 2021. The Cornerstone Campaign has the overall goal of raising \$26 million in gifts and pledges related to our programmatic expansions and the renovation of 97 Newbury Street to leverage our continuing national and international growth. As of April 1, 2021, we have secured gifts and pledges of \$10,641,135 toward this goal. This \$2,500,000 grant, plus the matching \$2,500,000 we will raise this year, will move us significantly toward achieving our overall goal and enable us to begin construction at 97 Newbury as soon as practicable and after the present COVID-19 pandemic resolves.





Most importantly, the expansion of our physical space will allow us to create a lively and popular destination for anyone interested in the pursuit of family history. By establishing our headquarters as a national visitor destination, we will increase visitor attendance and cultivate interest in family history among new audiences. We will double capacity for educational programs and leverage state-of-the-art digital technology throughout the facility to engage and mentor future generations of genealogists and historians.

We partnered with our architectural firm, Schwartz Silver, to review permitting and governmental approvals for the Cornerstone Project. The permitting timeline is long and complicated with many state and city regulatory agencies and neighborhood interest groups involved. We altered the first-floor space in 97 Newbury to create useable work areas for staff as part of expanding our much-needed space planning.

In the category of sustainability, the philanthropic response to our activities in FY20 was inspiring. We are grateful to have received more than \$6.4 million in support, including the extraordinary generosity of Trustees and Councilors who contributed to a bridge fund to help get us through a very challenging period. Two Trustees immediately gave \$300,000, including a one-to-one \$250,000 challenge to stimulate gifts and pledges during a period of national—and international—emergency.

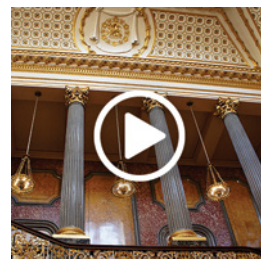
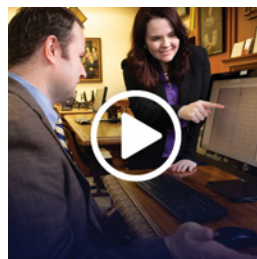
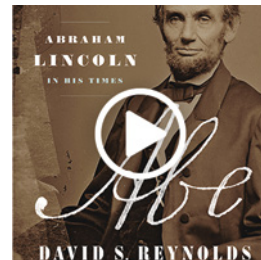
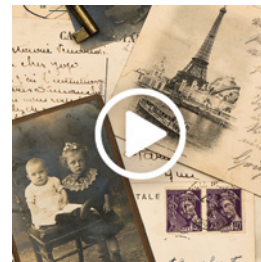
For excellence in financial health, accountability, and transparency, we earned a coveted four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest rating from the nation's largest independent evaluator of charitable organizations.

On an operating basis, operations for the fiscal year were 219% better than budget, inclusive of a one-time \$1.45 million CARES Act forgivable federal loan. Prudent management of our expenses, including the consolidation of overlapping operations, the suspension of discretionary spending, and a leaner staff profile in areas of decreased use by members allowed us to generate a strong cash position by the end of the year.

## ENGAGEMENT

**Goal: Develop and implement enriching opportunities for members and the public to engage in inspirational experiences**

Among our most important strategic shifts in FY20, we rapidly converted in-person programs to virtual offerings, including genealogical education lectures and seminars, our American Inspiration author series, and a new line of talks associated with our Heritage Tours program with Curt DiCamillo, which drew unprecedented and highly enthusiastic audiences and expanded our reach dramatically. The successful adaptation of our programming into fully online formats, along with several strategic partnerships with the Boston Public Library and GBH, the Boston-based PBS affiliate, allowed us to reach a record number of people—more than 30,500 individuals attended our programs in FY 2020. Our participation grew by 43% over the prior year, which itself was a record year for attendance. In addition to the large number of live virtual program attendees, archived video recordings of our programs were viewed more than 106,000 times during the fiscal year, another new record for the organization.





The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center also swiftly pivoted to offering online programs throughout the summer and fall. JHC webinars featured such topics as the Jewish history of the Catskills; Jewish women in the 20th-century labor movement; the impact of Jewish immigrants on the American antiques trade; and what Jewish and African American cemeteries reveal about ethnic, social, and religious divisions in American life. Amid the challenges, we celebrated a happy milestone: the tenth anniversary of the collaboration that created the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

As part of our response to fulfilling our mission in a social-distancing period, we also began offering our research support service and general customer service as an online chat feature available through [AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.AmericanAncestors.org). The online chat research support platform not only provided a safe and effective way for staff to advance our members' research, this latest means to answer real-time questions and have online interactions with new visitors to the website was a leading source of new dues-paying member acquisition for the year. These offerings were exceedingly popular, and both were expanded once again to accommodate high demand after the close of the fiscal year.

## RELATIONSHIPS

**Goal: Ensure that our members and the public identify with and connect to the American Ancestors and NEHGS community**

We continued to strive to connect with our members and the public in personally meaningful ways as respected expert genealogists and historians who care deeply about helping people of all ages and backgrounds. Through our activities, we grew our overall constituency by 7.5% to more than 345,800 individuals, including welcoming 4,835 new dues-paying members and 26,604 guest members. This year, the special Pilgrim Quadricentennial Membership and Pilgrim Quadricentennial Life Membership were introduced to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing.

Our new digital service offerings and increased use of social media platforms, including Facebook Live sessions and Twitter chat meetups, resulted in substantial new engagement with family historians around the country, and indeed, around the world. By the end of the fiscal year, our total constituency grew by 7.5% on an annual basis. An analysis of our expanded constituency shows that our members span the country and globe; they reside in all 50 states and 138 other countries. The far-flung geographic distribution of our members is a testament to our institution's broad reach and the importance of our mission; it also emphasizes the ever-increasing importance of prioritizing technology to serve our members wherever in the world they may live.

Our constituency growth was driven, in part, by our swift and decisive modifications to our service model to meet the challenges of the pandemic, as well as accelerated strategic updates to our operations that reflect longer-term changes in information access and cost-effective service delivery. While "adaptation" was the hallmark of the year, we nonetheless remained steadfastly focused on our commitment to producing the most authoritative genealogical and historical scholarship.

The commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower* was an important theme for NEHGS in FY20 and we received considerable international media attention for our efforts in advancing commemorative activities



and publications. Governor Charles D. Baker appointed me Vice Chair of the Plymouth 400th Anniversary State Commission, the official body charged with planning commemorative activities in the Commonwealth and beyond. Many of the planned in-person events became virtual events in the wake of the pandemic, including our gala honoring former U.K. Prime Minister Sir John Major, which is now scheduled to occur online in April 2021. Several members of the staff and I frequently participated in media interviews about the arrival of the *Mayflower*, the legacy of the Mayflower Compact, and the impact upon the members of the Wampanoag Nation, and related genealogical stories. These included numerous interviews with the BBC and other media outlets; a profile in the *Boston Business Journal*; a feature article in *FiftyPlus Advocate*, a regional magazine targeted to senior citizens; and many others. In addition, I was featured on the subject of the Pilgrim Quadricentennial in a series of public service announcements that aired frequently on three television networks: NBC, New England Cable News, and Telemundo.

During the fiscal year, we strengthened and built relationships as we gathered with hundreds of friends—new and old—(when it was still safe to do so) to celebrate and honor leading figures preserving our nation's treasures, chronicling the story of America, and documenting history.

In October 2019, I presented Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Joseph Ellis with his genealogy and our Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography. We were also pleased to honor Vivian K. Spiro, former Board Chairman of the

Associates of the Boston Public Library, and Donald R. Friary, President of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and President Emeritus of Historic Deerfield, with our Preservation and History Award. Then in January 2020, we hosted acclaimed writer and journalist Scott Simon of NPR and presented him with our Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcast Journalism.

In this period, our extraordinary EVP and COO Ryan J. Woods worked closely with public policy officials and our elected representatives in the Massachusetts Legislature to advance our mission and generate support for our important and unique work. Specifically, through written testimony and some half-dozen meetings with legislators, we helped to successfully ensure that Massachusetts birth, marriage, and death records will remain accessible to genealogists and the public at large following a state proposal that would have closed access to records for nearly 100 years.

Our work with legislative officials also helped to advance support for the Cornerstone Project, securing state funding for operations, and we advanced legislation to create a 250th anniversary commission to commemorate the American Revolution.

While virtual media took advantage of a growing and attentive stay-at-home audience, new programs in genealogy and family history on social media platforms have broadly emerged. In this segment, members of our staff have been invited to participate in a wide range of live programming as guests of industry-leading companies and independent producers.





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AmericanAncestors.  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Site

SEARCH - Databases & special collections  
SERVICES - Consult or hire research experts  
LEARN - Improve your research skills  
LIBRARY - Access our leading research center  
EVENTS - Lectures, tours, exhibits & more  
NEWS - Updates & latest publications  
BOOKSTORE - Books and products from NEHGS

[JOIN/RENEW](#)

Updates on building hours, event schedules, and more

Watch Episode 3 of *The Antiquarto*  
Part 1: 21st Century Duchess with Emma Manners, Duchess of Rutland  
Part 2: Conversation with Emma Manners, D. Brenton Simons, and Curt DiCamillo

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FEBRUARY 18  
Richard Thompson Ford with *Dress Codes*

FEBRUARY 18-20  
Virtual Winter Research Stay-At-Home

FEBRUARY 22  
Bernice Lerner with *All the Horrors of War: A Jewish Girl, a British Doctor, and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen*

FEBRUARY 23  
Anna Malaika Tubbs with *The Three Mothers*

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Goal: Maximize advancement in DNA and technology to connect with our members and the public**

AmericanAncestors.org continues to be our most-used resource, by volume and frequency of all our service offerings, and it experienced substantial growth in FY20. It is the primary channel through which members conduct research, purchase memberships, and buy books and other services. Web traffic continued to climb throughout the year due to our new webinars, new education resources, and an emphasis on online research support. Traffic was up in all three metrics, especially first-time visitors by 10.5%. *Family Tree Magazine*, a publication of Yankee Publishing, the leading consumer print and online medium in the genealogy segment, named AmericanAncestors.org one of the “Best Genealogy Websites for 2020” in its July-August issue.

We launched a new enhancement to the search experience during the quarter: Save Records. This feature aims to allow researchers to easily save records they discover on AmericanAncestors.org to their user account for future viewing without needing to search again to find the record. The

feature is particularly helpful when a researcher finds a record and wants to analyze it later.

We continued to provide online research materials of the highest quality, too, with 5.1 million new searchable names added to AmericanAncestors.org. Of note, we completed the Historic Catholic Records project, 1789–1900, which was first announced in January 2017. When we launched this exclusive project—encompassing some 10 million names—we anticipated it would take five or more years to complete the scanning and indexing of the materials and the physical preservation work necessary to save the parish registers. By completing the project in approximately half the time initially allotted, we were able to negotiate two additional agreements with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston this year. This will allow us to begin work on a new set of Catholic sacramental records for the period 1901 to 1920. We also signed an agreement to digitize the cemetery records of the Archdiocese. In total, when completed, the new materials will add another 10 million searchable names to AmericanAncestors.org.

Our new Digital Library & Archives (DLA), successor to our Digital Collections site, launched after two years of planning. The new site features

an updated layout and additional options for browsing, searching, and saving digitized material from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, the Research Library, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. The Digital Library & Archives includes materials with browsable images as well as some resources with searchable full-text transcriptions.

In this period, we substantially strengthened our commitment to enhancing our use of DNA advancements and related developments to create enriching personalized experiences for our members and the public through groundbreaking studies, educational programs, and other learning opportunities. Among our pioneering work in DNA was proving a *Mayflower* descent for Winston Churchill, as well as leading efforts to combine traditional scholarship and DNA studies for successful applications to prominent hereditary societies. Our work in these areas has been chronicled in *Mayflower Descendant* and by the International Churchill Society.

## SCHOLARSHIP

**Goal: Advance our position as the leader in scholarly excellence in family history**

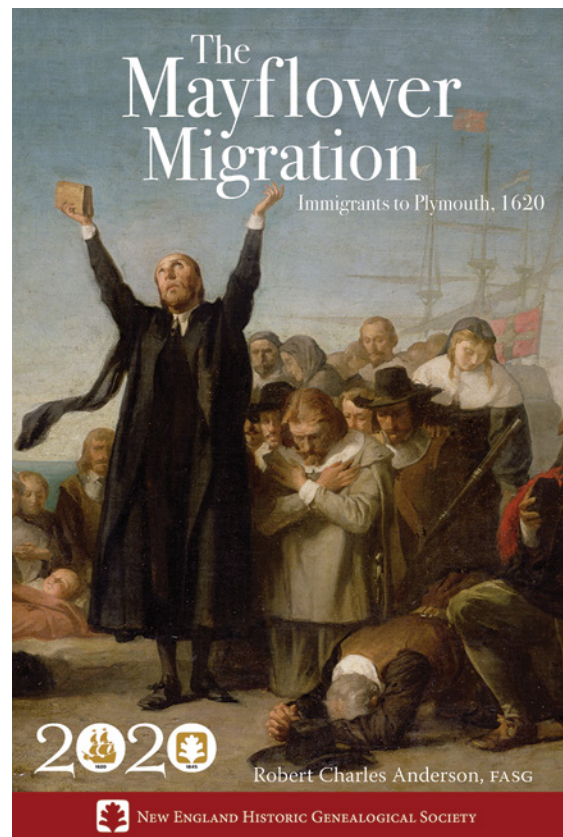
During the year, we published ten periodicals and sixteen new titles, among them *The Mayflower Migration* by Robert Charles Anderson; *The Mayflower 500: Five Hundred Notable Descendants of the Founding Families of the Mayflower* by Gary Boyd Roberts; *Of Plimoth Plantation by William Bradford: The 400th Anniversary Edition*, edited and introduced by Kenneth P. Minkema, Francis J. Bremer, Jeremy D. Bangs, and Paula Peters, published in collaboration with the Colonial Society of Massachusetts; and David Watson Kruger's *Families of the Diaspora: Alkalay, Behmoiras, Merenzón, Barcan*, a work of Jewish genealogical scholarship.

We also published two other Newbury Street Press compiled genealogies: *Selected Ancestors of Nelson McMahon and Louise Rathbun* by Kyle Hurst and Ian Watson, a treatment of allied families from Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, and New England, and *Ancestors and Descendants of Charles Le Caron and Victoire Sprague* by Kyle Hurst, a meticulously documented genealogy and narrative of English and American families. In addition, we published new installments in

our study projects, including volume two of *Early New England Families 1641–1700* by Alicia Crane Williams, and volume four of *Western Massachusetts Families in 1790*, edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann.

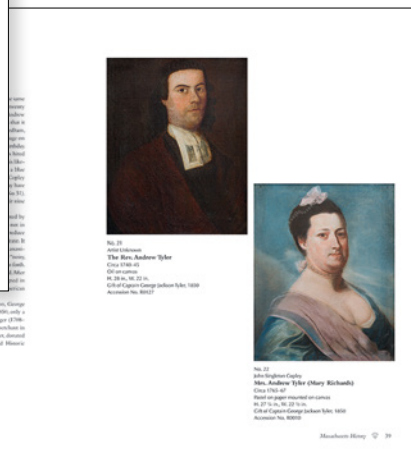
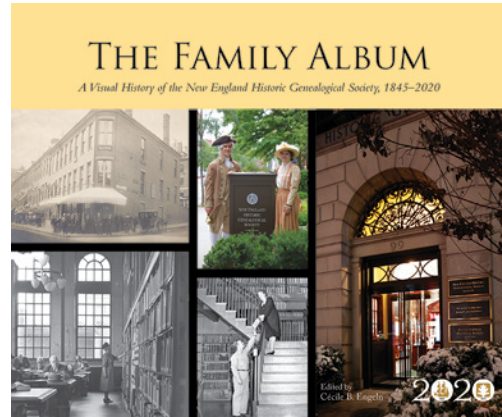
Our scholarship also enjoyed recognition this year. Robert Charles Anderson's *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England* won the National Genealogical Society's 2020 Award for Excellence in Genealogical Methods and Sources.

Two new titles celebrate the 175th anniversary of NEHGS. *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society*, a beautifully illustrated coffee-table book written by the renowned American decorative arts curator Gerald Ward, surveys notable artwork and furniture collected since our founding—including John Hancock's yellow damask-covered wing chair; the Gore Roll of Arms, the earliest known armorial roll of its kind in America; and "Desdemona's Struggle," a ca. 1875 sepia ink set of drawings depicting the difficulties of an African American woman, Desdemona Carter, in obtaining a Civil War pension owed to her as the widow of Joe Carter.



These and numerous other treasures at NEHGS that have hitherto been relatively little known, are featured in full-color photographs along with detailed descriptions of the family stories behind them. *Family Treasures* was the subject of a major feature article in *Antiques & The Arts Weekly* after its launch last spring. A second anniversary publication, *The Family Album: A Visual History of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1845–2020*, features a collection of photographs—many never published before—from our archives, and includes illustrations of several of our prior buildings, important events, gatherings, guests, and personnel, throughout our history.

As the scholarly leader in family history, 2020 also marked an important moment for our institution to reaffirm our position as an inclusive organization that is committed to serving everyone and anyone interested in family history. To that end, we publicly attested our values by publishing the following statement of inclusion: From today, and henceforth, “we strive to transform our beloved organization into an experiential institution of national importance that provides diverse audiences with relevant engagement and other personal experiences that enrich lives, preserve legacies, and more fully communicate the power and importance of family history. We challenge ourselves to recast our offerings . . . to be multifaceted and broadly inclusive of historical narrative and cultural context. Through an increased focus on offerings that enrich lives, we will provide our





members and the public, in person and online, with engaging encounters that will give a broad and unprecedented context to genealogy. These attractions will, in time, include . . . experiences that enlighten and engage a wider and more diverse range of people. To support and perpetuate scholarship of permanent value, our staff will include new talent, and we will have a greatly expanded scope of work that inspires and engages new audiences through an increased focus on diverse ethnicities. More than ever, our scholarship, services, staff, and members will reflect the varied faces of America.”

We feel strongly that our deeds, now and in the future, speak best for our organization. Thank you for your commitment to us as we advance our work to educate, inspire, and connect people through family history—a study which, unquestionably, brings people closer together.



## CONCLUSION

These achievements represent just a fraction of the work we completed this year. All told, the culmination of our collective efforts and our members’ and donors’ ongoing support allowed us to not only survive through an unprecedented year but begin our new year as a thriving institution.

Every year, we honor staff excellence in three categories at our Annual Meeting. The categories are outstanding service to members, beyond the call of duty, and best contribution to the field of genealogy. This year, because of the truly collaborative and communal achievements, we decided to name our entire staff as “Employees of the Year,” recognizing the group’s resilience and adaptivity in response to COVID-19-related challenges. In addition, several areas and individuals were truly extraordinary in their service to the institution and our mission. Among those Ryan Woods and I recognized for extraordinary service were the Education and Programming team for dramatically increased virtual education and programming for our members and constituents; Bruce Bernier, CFO and Vice President of Finance, for expert financial management; Emma Brightbill, Accounts Receivable Associate, for outstanding service in the continuation of essential operations; Steven Shilcuskus, Director of Information Technology, for special service in the planning and implementation of technology for the continuation of our essential operations; and Steven Solomon, Assistant Vice President for Advancement, for excellent service in fundraising.

With the support of our loyal Board and Council, esteemed partners and collaborators, hundreds of thousands of friends and volunteers, and the continued exemplary work of our staff and subject-matter experts, we will sustain and grow NEHGS for future historians and generations to come. More than ever, thank you for your support, counsel, and friendship.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Brenton Simons  
President and CEO

# Cornerstone Project

## Transforming the Family History Experience & Expanding a National Treasure

### EXPANDING A NATIONAL TREASURE

Our headquarters expansion—the Cornerstone Project—is a momentous occasion in the history of our institution. It will span five floors and elevate New England Historic Genealogical Society and American Ancestors to a position we have earned over 175 years as a world-recognized destination for all people inspired by the power and importance of genealogy and history, and, most recently, the burgeoning field of DNA technologies.

Through the Cornerstone Project, we will engage members and the public with unparalleled learning experiences, serving both American and international audiences by making available the finest work of our expert genealogists, historians, educators, curators, and museum professionals both in person and virtually accessible to millions of online users.

Our Cornerstone Project design features a large, open, and welcoming entrance for thousands of visitors, dynamic visitor spaces, new offices for our staff and operations, and state-of-the-art safety technologies to protect people, collections, and facilities.



#### INCLUSIVE

Every person, every family has a story worth telling.

#### INSPIRING

We inspire people to explore family history.

#### SUPPORTIVE

We support the discovery and stewardship of family history.

#### IDENTITY-BUILDING

Learning about our family and community history helps us understand that our identities are formed from a complex web of truth, lore, history, and culture.

#### CONNECTED

Understanding family history connects everyone to a shared human experience.

## The Cornerstone Society

### Founders' Circle (\$1 million or more)

Nordahl and Suzanne Brue  
Thomas Bailey Hagen  
Tabitha King  
Anonymous

### Associates' Circle (\$100,000 or more)

Judith Avery  
Helen H. Berkeley  
John G. L. Cabot  
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Nancy Clay Webster  
Wallace S. and Isabel B.\* Wilson  
Justin and Genevieve\* Wyner  
Anonymous (4)

\*Deceased

## EXPANDING OUR REACH

Visitors will be drawn to a new, modern facility on Newbury Street, featuring a stunning glass façade and outdoor café-style seating. After being warmly greeted, visitors will enter an expanded **Visitor Complex**, home to a technology-rich, multi-generation-friendly **Discovery Center** featuring computer kiosks, visitor recording booths, multi-media presentations, visiting exhibitions, and museum installations that explore themes of heritage, freedom, and immigration. The Discovery Center will connect to several other spaces that support innovative family history experiences, including a **Learning Center** and **Lecture Hall** offering programming for both new and existing audiences. Visitors will enjoy a **Museum Store** with an array of family and local history-themed merchandise, as well as convenient food and beverage services.

Spaces on the remaining floors will include new homes for our **Scholarly Publishing Center**, expanding the footprint for the team that produces the world's leading genealogical publications; the **Jewish Heritage Center's** staff, collections, and archives (including new exhibition space); and a **Business Management Center** supporting internal operations.





A first-floor **Gateway** will link the two buildings, creating an expanded campus network, and a new elevator and staircase will connect all floors of both buildings. Advanced **Fire Protection**, updated **Mechanical Systems**, and **Accessibility Upgrades** will be made to the integrated buildings. Large energy-efficient windows will be added on Newbury Street, and glass paneling will direct light to offices on the rear side of the building. Two new roof decks will enhance the visitor experience.

This new wing and the expanded first floor **Visitor Complex** will attract thousands of members, families, and tourists visiting Boston. By supporting this initiative, donors will help preserve the great American story for present and future generations—as told through the lives and legacies of countless millions of people who came before us.



## Outcomes

An expansion of our physical space will allow us to create a lively and popular destination for anyone interested in pursuing family history. Project goals include:

- Establishing our headquarters as a national visitor destination
- Increasing visitor attendance and cultivating interest in family history among new audiences
- Engaging and mentoring future generations of genealogists and historians
- Doubling capacity for educational programs through expanded, more welcoming onsite spaces
- Leveraging state-of-the-art digital technology throughout the facility, in keeping with a modern learning experience
- Enlarging space for internal staff use, including meeting rooms and workspaces
- Growing the family history marketplace by serving new and existing audiences, including visiting populations
- Implementing urgently needed safety systems

## VISITOR EXPERIENCE PLANNING

In 2020, we worked with museum professionals, staff, members, and community stakeholders on an interpretive plan process to set the framework for how we will engage audiences with enriching experiences through the Cornerstone Project.

The foundational concept for our experiences is that everyone has a story worth telling and worth hearing; when inspired and supported to explore and share their family history, people gain a better understanding of themselves, of others, and of the shared human experience.



## ORIENTATION AND INSPIRATION: DISCOVERY CENTER

Inspiration is at the core of our personal interactions with members and the public, and it will be a hallmark of our new Discovery Center. Through a state-of-the-art museum space using smart technology platforms and interactive design, we will provide exciting and powerful personal experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds.

We will feature several multi-generational activity areas, with touch screens where families and children can learn more about themselves, family history, and how tools such as DNA can be used to deepen an understanding of family origins. From these same screens, more seasoned

family historians can search for original records and groundbreaking scholarship. Visitors will be invited to record family memories in a Story Lab, creating new and important material for their own personal family history archive.

The Discovery Center will feature immersive exhibits and online extensions that tell stories of the American experience—from immigration to westward expansion and beyond, and exploration of varied nationalities and ethnicities. School groups, families, and scholars alike will benefit from experiences and content we are uniquely qualified to provide.

Each of our interactive exhibits will transport visitors, deepen their sense of identity and belonging, and provide a greater understanding of each visitor's place in human history.

## Ways to give

With your support of the Cornerstone Campaign now, we will continue to provide comprehensive expert family history services with historical narrative and cultural context for generations to come.

Your participation will help ensure the success of this campaign. Gifts of any amount will help to complete this important project and will be acknowledged in the Annual Report following the successful conclusion of the Cornerstone Campaign.

Campaign gifts can be made in a single payment or pledged and paid over a three-to-five-year period with:

- Cash
- Gifts of appreciated securities
- Planned gifts, including IRA distributions and life income arrangements

Please contact our Advancement team for more information at 617-226-1217 or [Advancement@nehgs.org](mailto:Advancement@nehgs.org).





## Get Connected. Be Inspired.

To advance the study of family history in America and beyond, we educate, inspire, and connect **people** through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

We strive to connect with our members and the public in personally meaningful ways, serving as respected expert genealogists and historians who care deeply about helping people.

We embrace an innovative spirit and vibrant energy to be helpful, engaging, and inspiring to people everywhere who seek to connect with their past.

For 175 years, we have been guided by a passion and a purpose that places people at the center of our work to advance history and connect families. We continue to cultivate relationships to reflect excellence and diversity in family history, while helping, engaging, and inspiring people everywhere who want to advance the understanding of these precious components of life: family and community.

As the nation's leading resource for genealogical research and the most respected name in family history, we provide comprehensive family history services to help family historians of all levels explore their past and make connections across generations.

### EXPERT STAFF

Our professional genealogists are among the most respected and advanced in the profession. With research specialties including DNA and genetics, early American, New England, New York,



Irish, English, Italian, Scottish, Atlantic and French Canadian, African American, Native American, Chinese, and Jewish genealogy, our expert staff can assist family historians by providing research advice in person, over the phone, or in writing. Our expert staff can also conduct research on behalf of family historians, providing authoritative, documented research reports and family tree charts.

#### AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE

Bringing accuracy and integrity to your family history research endeavors wherever in the world you might be, we offer family history researchers the most-used genealogical society website in the world—AmericanAncestors.org. Providing access to more than 1.6 billion records spanning twenty-two countries, covering the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond, our award-winning website includes one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the largest collection of U.S. Catholic records online, amongst many other unique resources.

#### ORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIP

To support the research of family historians around the world, we produce the most significant original research and important publications in genealogy, including, since 1847, the longest continually published academic journal in the field, the *Register*. In addition to the quarterly journal, we publish a quarterly magazine, the biannual *Mayflower Descendant* journal, twenty-to-thirty books per year, and an electronic newsletter, *The Weekly Genealogist*. As the leader in genealogical scholarship, we also produce important study projects such as The Great Migration Study

Project, an endeavor to create genealogical and biographical sketches of the some 20,000 individuals who arrived in New England between 1620 and 1640; the Early New England Families Study Project, 1641–1700, a successor study project to the Great Migration period; Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 Study Project, which captures families heading west at the time of the 1790 census; and the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 Study Project, which covers families that settled Vermont, the last frontier of New England.

#### WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH CENTER

Twice named by *USA Today* as a top 10 world destination for family history, we invite everyone to visit our eight-story library and archive where we offer the largest collection of original family history research materials in the country. Our collection, which continues to grow through acquisition and preservation activities, dates from the fourteenth century to the present and spans North America, Europe, and beyond. It includes more than 28 million diaries, letters, photographs, and other manuscripts, and more than 200,000 books and microforms.

#### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Family history research is, at its core, a pursuit of endless learning. Encountering unfamiliar places, languages, and times; uncovering long forgotten family stories; and meeting the thousands of ancestors who came before you. Through guided research tours to repositories around the world, more than 200 annual lectures, seminars, intensive research programs, tours, online courses, webinars, and special events, we help you maximize your results and take your family tree to new heights.





## D. BRENTON SIMONS President and CEO

D. Brenton Simons has changed the face of nonprofit-based genealogy in America and beyond by bringing the best scholarship to millions of users for more than fifteen years as President and CEO of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society. He has overseen a historic expansion of the organization—the founding genealogical institution in America—which now serves more than 355,000 members in 139 countries, and millions of online users, with more than one billion records at AmericanAncestors.org.

Brenton is the Vice Chair of the Plymouth 400th Anniversary State Commission, by appointment of His Excellency, The Hon. Charles D. Baker, Governor of Massachusetts. He is a recipient of the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History and the Spirit of 1812 Award from the National Society United States Daughters of 1812.

An award-winning author, he has been featured by CNN, FOX, BBC, PBS-TV, the *New York Times*, *Boston Business Journal*, and elsewhere. His most recent book, *Boston Beheld: Antique Town and Country Views*, was hailed by the late historian Douglass Shand-Tucci as “the book Jane Austen might have written had she run into Charles Dickens after his return from his Boston visit of 1842,” and an earlier work, *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues*, has been a popular book for many years.

Brenton is the Secretary of the Board of the *New England Quarterly*, the premier journal of New England’s cultural, literary, political, and social history; a Board member of Plymouth 400; a member of the American Antiquarian Society, the Society of the Cincinnati, and the Society of Colonial Wars (in Massachusetts and Florida); a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society; and a Proprietor of The Boston Athenæum.

### Senior Staff Management Team

#### Advancement

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Interim Vice President for Advancement
- Beth A. Brown**  
Assistant Vice President for Advancement
- Steven L. Solomon**  
Assistant Vice President for Advancement

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Publishing Director

#### Business Development

- Donald C. Reagan**  
Vice President for Business Development and Revenue Growth

#### Digital Strategy and Communications

- Claire Vail**  
Vice President for Digital Strategy and Communications

#### Education and Programming

- Ginevra Morse**  
Vice President for Education and Programming

#### Finance and Operations

- Bruce Bernier**  
Vice President and CFO

#### Human Resources

- Michelle Major**  
Director of Human Resources

#### Research and Library Services

- Lindsay Fulton**  
Vice President for Research and Library Services

#### Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

- Rachel C. King**  
Executive Director of the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center



## RYAN J. WOODS Executive Vice President and COO

Ryan J. Woods is a thirteen-year veteran of key management positions at American Ancestors and NEHGS. He serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and as Clerk of the Council of the Corporation. In his roles, he provides executive oversight for the day-to-day operations of our activity areas including content and collection development, web services, publishing activities, research services, educational programming, financial operations, facilities management, marketing strategies, and business planning. Ryan is focused on partnerships, and business planning for our headquarter expansion and the creation of a national visitor destination experience.

He has played a key role in developing services and experiences to meet twenty-first-century research and information access requirements. He was the lead creator of AmericanAncestors.org, our award-winning website and the most-used genealogical society website in the world. He has fostered and managed important collaborations with commercial and nonprofit partners, including overseeing the recruitment of more than one billion searchable records to AmericanAncestors.org, and he was a lead staff member in the establishment of our Jewish Heritage Center.

Ryan serves on several nonprofit boards and committees, including the Committee on Heraldry, the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Plymouth 400, the Mayor of Boston's Green Ribbon Commission, and the Boston University School of Education Alumni Association. He is a member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Florida, and the Saint Nicholas Society of New York City.



## Thank you!

We would like to thank Nancy Maulsby for serving as the Chairman of our Board for the past five years. We also thank Andy Langlois for serving as Treasurer, Dutch Treat for serving as head of the Investment Committee, and to all of the members of the Board who are stepping down this year.

We hope you will join us again!





## DAVID MARTIN TREBING

### CHAIR

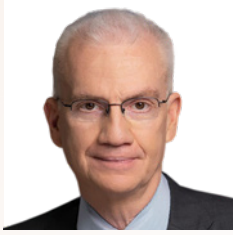
David Martin Trebing is the General Manager of External Affairs for the global automaker Daimler, having previously served in a variety of finance-related executive positions for Chrysler Corporation and DaimlerChrysler Corporation for more than 30 years. Currently, David is serving as 37th Governor General of the General Society of Colonial Wars and holds memberships in the state societies of New York, Michigan, Maryland, South Carolina, Delaware, and District of Columbia. Other lineage society memberships include Sons of the American Revolution; Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York and District of Columbia; Society of the War of 1812 in Michigan, Maryland, and District of Columbia; Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants; and the St. Nicholas Society in the City of New York. He is also a member of the Pilgrims of the United States, the Church Club of New York, and is a Commander in the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem. David held nonprofit board roles at Detroit Historical Society; Historical Society of Michigan; Cultural Development Corporation, Washington, D.C.; Michigan State University Development Fund; and Meadow Brook Theater and Festival. David is a shareholder of the Philadelphia Athenaeum and a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. David attended Wake Forest and Michigan State Universities. He has been a member of NEHGS since 2016 as a Benefactor Member.



## THOMAS BAILEY HAGEN

### VICE CHAIR

Tom Hagen is Chairman of the Board of Erie Insurance Group, an Erie, Pennsylvania, based Fortune 500® business with which he has been associated for more than six decades, including service as CEO. Tom is currently Founder/Chair of Historic Erie Preservation Trust, and Chairman of Custom Group Industries in Erie. Throughout his career, Tom has served on several business boards and in leadership positions in a number of business and civic organizations including Chairman of Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. Additionally, he served as Pennsylvania Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Community and Economic Development, and is a retired U.S. Navy Reserve Captain. Among Tom's honors are Distinguished Citizen of the Commonwealth Award (2018) from the Pennsylvania Society and Pennsylvania's highest award for historic preservation, The Otto Haas Award (2015), from Preservation Pennsylvania. The Thomas B. Hagen History Center in Erie was named in his honor in 2015. He is the award-winning author of *The Historic Tibbals House, 1842*. Through his ancestor Gen. Jacob Bayley, Tom is a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Society of the Cincinnati (NH), and the Society of the Colonial Wars. Tom has been a member of NEHGS since 1993, holding the roles of Councilor, Trustee, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Founder's Society for Lifetime Giving, the Cornerstone Society for Giving, and is a Life Benefactor.



## JOHN E. CORCORAN

### TREASURER

John E. Corcoran is the Founder and President of Trinity Partners, LLC, a leading life sciences advisory firm. Previously, he was the Founder and a Board Member of Shyft Analytics, a provider of cloud-based analytics solutions for the pharmaceutical industry. John was also Co-founder and Chairman of Riffle Books, a social media platform company serving the publishing industry, and was Founder and Chairman of Akuta Corp., a pharma- and biotech-focused software developer. John's board memberships include Brookwood School, Catholic Leadership Institute, Concussion Legacy Foundation, iCatholic Media (Chairman), Massachusetts High Tech Council, and Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. John received an AB from Harvard College, an MA from Northeastern University, and an MCRP from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. John is an Independent Nonprofit Organization Management Professional. He has been a member of NEHGS since 1995 as an Individual Member.



## JO ANNE C. MAKELY

### SECRETARY

Jo Anne Crowley Makely of Plymouth, Massachusetts, is the former mayor of the Township of Mahwah, New Jersey. She was a past presidential appointee on the Advisory Board of the Federal Regional Council, and past Chair of the Army Corps of Engineers, Ramapo River Basin Committee. Jo Anne has been honored with the Joyce Kilmer Outstanding Citizen Award. She has served as Chair of the Historic Register Committee of the Greene County Historical Society and Chair of the Grants Committee of the Greene County Council of the Arts. She is a Supporter Member of NEHGS and current Human Resources Committee Chair, and has been a member since 1995.

### Chairs of the Board, 1845–present\*

2021–	David Martin Trebing	1942–1948	Frederic Alonzo Turner
2017–2021	Nancy Sands Maulsby	1936–1941	Frederick Silsbee Whitwell
2012–2017	David Henderson Burnham	1922–1936	John Carroll Chase
2008–2012	Eric Baker Schultz	1901–1921	James Phinney Baxter
2002–2008	David Watson Kruger	1899–1900	Edward Griffin Porter
1996–2002	John Godfrey Lowell Cabot	1892–1898	William Claflin
1991–1996	William Morgan Fowler, Jr.	1887–1892	Abner Cheney Goodell
1987–1991	Theodore Chase	1868–1886	Marshall Pinckney Wilder
1982–1987	Arthur A. Dunn	1866–1867	John Albion Andrew
1977–1982	Rodney Armstrong	1861–1866	Winslow Lewis
1974–1977	Richard Brigham Johnson	1859–1861	Almon Danforth Hodges
1971–1974	Robert Churchill Vose, Jr.	1858–1859	Samuel Gardner Drake
1963–1971	Walter Muir Whitehill	1853–1858	William Whiting
1961–1963	Charles Moorfield Storey	1850–1853	Joseph Barlow Felt
1954–1961	Thomas Temple Pond	1845–1850	Charles Ewer
1948–1954	Walter Merriam Pratt		

\*Prior to 2006, the Chair of the Board was titled "President."

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Thomas Bailey Hagen

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**President and CEO**

Ryan J. Woods

**Clerk of the Corporation**

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Justin L. Wyner



## Website and new databases

### NEW DATABASE

#### General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920

In November, we announced a major new database in time for the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*—General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920. This database includes all applications and supplemental applications to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) starting from their founding in 1897 and including applicants who were born before January 1, 1920. The database is organized into 14 volumes, one for each family of passengers, and contains over 165,000 pages of applications with 4.5 million searchable names. In addition to the searchable database of membership applications, there is a family tree constructed for each *Mayflower* passenger that can be viewed in AmericanAncestREES.

This database was created through a partnership of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, American Ancestors, and FamilySearch. We thank the employees and volunteers of all three organizations for their amazing work to make this information available online.

### MILESTONE

#### Catholic Records Phase 1 Completed

In August, we completed the indexing and publication of the first phase of the Historic Catholic Records online project, covering the years 1789 to 1900. Phase 1 of the database Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920 provides over 850 volumes of records containing over 10 million searchable names. Work continues rapidly on Phase 2, covering the years 1900 through 1920, with another million names added already!

General No. \_\_\_\_\_ GENERAL SOCIETY COPY. State No. 152

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

TO THE BOARD OF ASSISTANTS OF THE

Society of Mayflower Descendants  
In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I hereby apply for membership in this Society by right of descent from \* John Alden, who was a passenger on the "MAYFLOWER" on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December, 1620.

Full name of Applicant: Daniel Robinson Green Agny  
(Autograph required here and at bottom of third page)

(Remember to full name of husband): George Agny

Residence: 47 Park Street

Business Address: Newton, Mass.

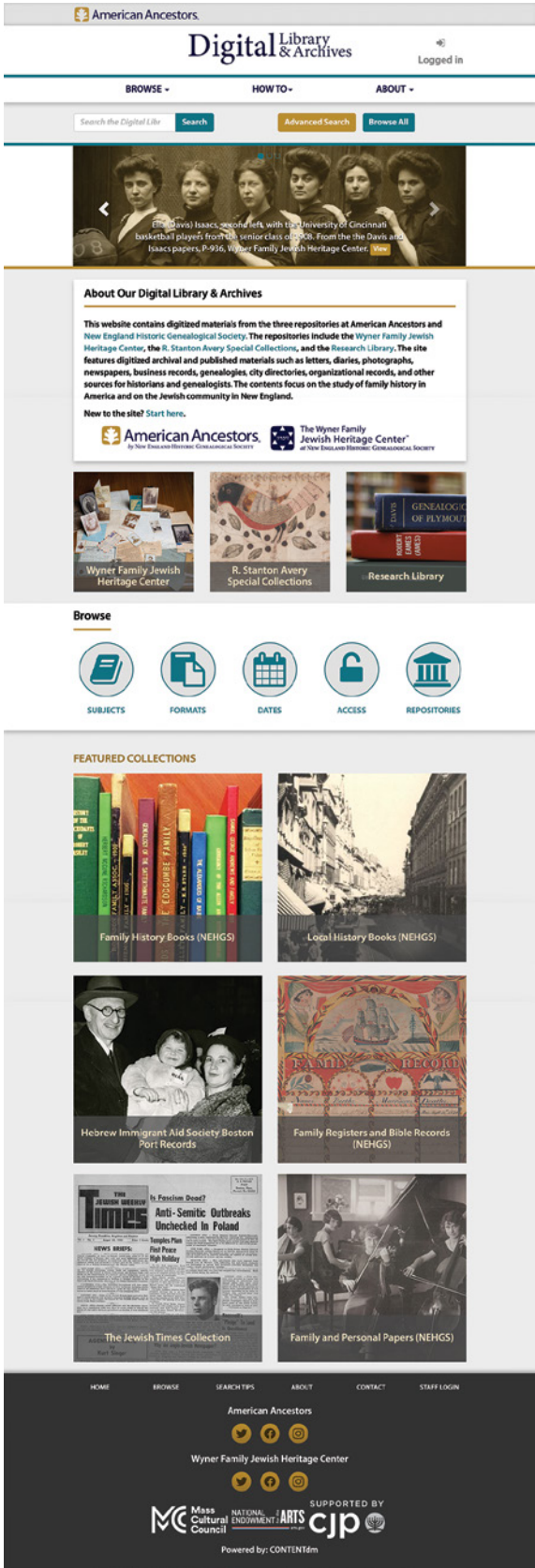
\* If a candidate is descended from more than one Mayflower ancestor, one line only should be used in making application. Blank for proof of additional lines of eligibility may be obtained from the Secretary, after election to membership.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN DUPLICATE, AND MUST BE SWORN TO.

### NEW DATABASE

#### Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts

We have partnered with the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (SCWMA) to launch a new database of their membership applications called Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts Membership Applications, 1560-1970. Applications from the founding of SCWMA from 1893 through 1970 have been indexed in detail for every birth, marriage, and death recorded. This database now contains over 1,400 applications spanning 6,000 pages of applications and over 160,000 names for people from across the country. Now we are indexing the supplemental applications to the SCWMA which will be published later this year.



## EXPANDED DIGITAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

Visitors to the American Ancestors Research Center can explore a rich collection of genealogies, local histories, and manuscripts. Many of these items are unique or rare but traveling to Boston can be difficult. Now, however, many of our books and manuscripts are available online in our recently redesigned website American Ancestors Digital Library & Archives (DLA).

In 2014, the Research Library and R. Stanton Avery Special Collection staff began working with the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center's archivists on a joint digital collections site. This led to the creation of the DLA, which currently contains more than 780,000 images of digital material from three repositories: the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, the NEHGS Research Library, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. Most of these collections contain multiple resources with a common subject or format, such as published genealogies, manuscripts by individuals and families, or manuscripts related to the Revolutionary War. The many unique books and manuscripts on the site makes the DLA an especially valuable resource for both genealogical and historical research. All of the books and manuscripts featured in the DLA have browsable images, which allows researchers to read them page by page, just as they would in the Research Library.

The DLA contains thirteen collections of digitized material from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections. These collections, based on selected manuscripts, feature business records, church records, commonplace books, family papers, family histories and genealogies, family registers and Bible records, and local histories. Others focus on the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, and the Civil War. Some of these collections, such as commonplace books, family papers, and business records, are valuable research sources for both historians and genealogists and are freely available to the public.

The American Ancestors Research Library collects published resources, such as books, periodicals, CD-ROMs, and microfilm. In addition to a very strong collection of genealogies, we



have an excellent collection of local histories and transcribed records, especially for the East Coast and eastern Canada. Our digital material focuses on three major strengths of the Research Library's collection: city directories, family histories, and local histories.

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) collects the papers and records of Jewish families and organizations from Boston and New England. Seventeen digital collections are currently in the DLA including the records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and the *Jewish Times* collection. The JHC's family and personal papers includes diaries, correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, school records, and other material. An additional 40 smaller collections from the JHC have been digitized and are available in the DLA. The JHC holds the records of many institutions, such as community service organizations, trade associations, Zionist groups, synagogues, and cultural groups. These collections may contain financial records, membership lists, correspondence, meeting minutes, and other records documenting the institution's activities.

We continue to digitize rare and unique material, and new content is added each month. With every addition, the DLA becomes a more valuable resource for American Ancestors members.

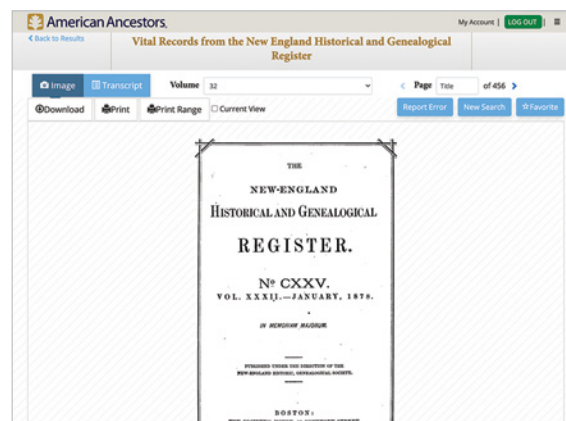


## NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH ANCESTRY.COM

There is a new partnership coming with Ancestry.com. The goal is to apply Ancestry's Artificial Intelligence (AI) software to thousands of family history books from the American Ancestors Research Library. The goal is to use advanced technology to automate the extraction and indexing of birth, marriage, and death records along with family relationships in those books. This project will make an enormous amount of published genealogical research available and searchable by members of both organizations. More news on this exciting project is coming soon!

## IN-DEPTH INDEXING OF THE REGISTER

We have made significant progress with the in-depth re-indexing of information from the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. The ongoing project will unlock the value of all the information captured in the *Register* since the first publication in 1847. The database Vital Records from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register now contains updated volumes 1 through 13, covering the years 1847–1859, and has over 850,000 searchable names. Indexing continues and additional updates will be released during the year.





## Research projects

### New contributions to *Mayflower* scholarship

While Research Services frequently assists members and constituents with *Mayflower* research, there was an increased interest in 2020 due to the excitement of the 400th Commemoration. In fact, members of the team completed 14 lineage applications, 65 expert assessments, and eight lineage charts specific to *Mayflower* families during the fiscal year—that is close to \$75,000 spent on the topic!

Members of the team further honed their skills with contributions to the *Mayflower Descendant*:

- “Ancestry of Shubael Rowley (1725–1795), Descendant of Edward Fuller” (vol. 68, no. 2; Summer 2020) by Michelle Norris
- “Nathan Cannon of Barnstable, Massachusetts, and Fairfield, Maine: A John Howland Line” (vol. 68, no. 1; Winter 2020) by Danielle Cournoyer
- “Ancestry of Anna<sup>6</sup> Taylor: An Edward Fuller Line” (vol. 68, no. 1; Winter 2020) by Katrina Fahy
- “The Parents of Adoniram Allen of Clay County, Kentucky: A William White Line” (vol. 67, no. 2; Summer 2019) by Katrina Fahy and Alessandro Ferzoco

One article in particular, “The Parents of Adoniram Allen of Clay County, Kentucky: A William White Line,” served as the solitary reference for a complicated ancestral line for two American Ancestors members: Lowell Massey and Joseph Meyer, who heroically commissioned the research. Using DNA, the authors proved Adoniram Allen of Clay County, Kentucky, was the grandson of David Allen and Sarah (Hayward) Grosvenor, who were last included in the William White Silver Books, but not continued forward. This breakthrough was not only a triumph for Lowell and Joseph, but for thousands of others who descend from Adoniram Allen of Clay County, Kentucky.

Right: S. Epatha Merkerson

### Continuing our work with *Finding Your Roots*

Research Services continued its work with the popular PBS program *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* for the sixth season. The season featured exciting new guests with family histories that illustrated the power and diversity of the human experience. Among them were actors Anjelica Huston, Eric Stonestreet, Isabella Rossellini, Maria Tomei, Lupita Nyong'o, S. Epatha Merkerson, and Scarlett Johansson; acclaimed musicians Questlove, Jon Batiste, and Queen Latifah; groundbreaking director Jordan Peele; renowned journalists Gayle King, Norah O'Donnell, and Soledad O'Brien; and hilarious comedians Shasheer Zamata, Jimmy Kimmel, and Melissa McCarthy.

Most interestingly, the story of S. Epatha Merkerson, who is best known for her 17-season run as Lieutenant Anita Van Buren on NBC's *Law and Order*, was based on the research from the GU272 Memory Project. Her connection to the 272 enslaved people sold in 1838 by the Georgetown University's Jesuit administrators was made possible by the GU272 Memory Project, launched in 2019, as the result of a partnership between American Ancestors and the Georgetown Memory Project, a nonprofit organization founded by friends, allies, and alumni of Georgetown University.



# In the news

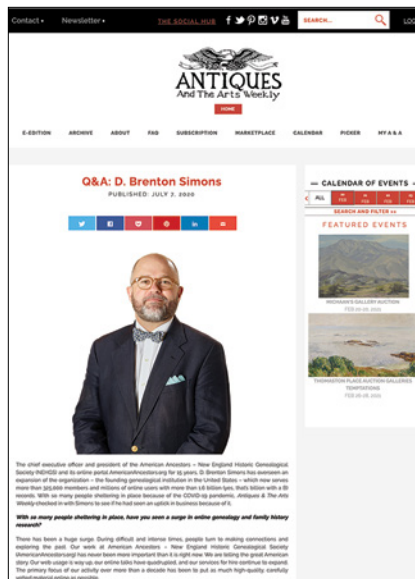
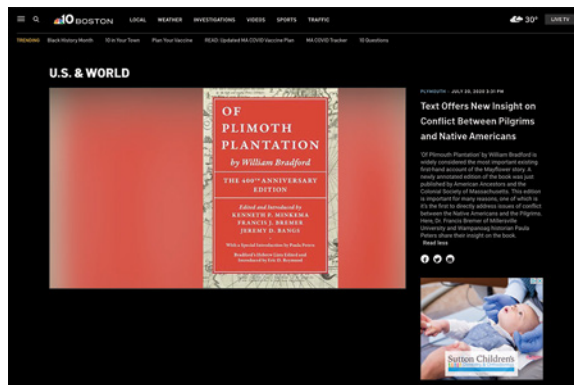
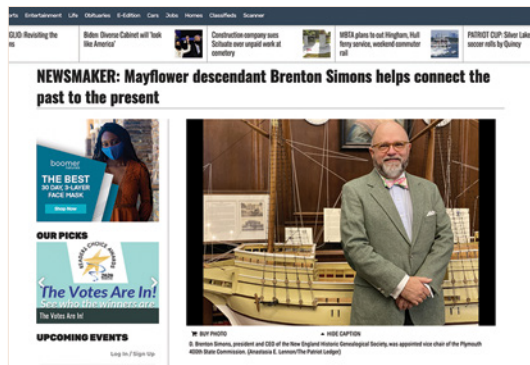
News about American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society appeared in local, national, and international media outlets throughout the year. This has further established our organization's reputation as an industry leader not only in family history but as an innovative cultural nonprofit with a wealth of programming. This past year, multiple news outlets featured interviews with President and CEO Brenton Simons, who spoke about a range of subjects, from the *Mayflower* anniversary to our arts and antiques collection. Among these was a profile of Brenton in the *Boston Business Journal* as part of their "5 Minutes With..." series, which profiles some of the most important business leaders in Boston.

As the world coped with COVID-19, American Ancestors moved its in-person programming online and expanded its online content; this explosion of our online programming led to increased media visibility, which helped to build an increased national audience for our American Inspiration author series and our art and architecture offerings, including our ever-popular webinars on the English country house. Coverage of our genealogy programming increased, thanks to a growing number of industry publications, podcasters, and digital media.

The media's interest in the *Mayflower's* 400th anniversary commemoration led to several stories in major publications, television outlets, and news sites in the U.S., U.K., and Europe, including interviews with Brenton appearing on BBC Radio, ITV News, CBS News, WBUR, and in the *Boston Globe*.

Other major projects that attracted media attention included the bestselling authors featured in the American Inspiration author series, GU272 Memory Project, expansion of the celebrated Historic Catholic Records online project, and the announcement of a generous \$1.5 million philanthropic gift from Nord and Suzanne Brue to create the Brue Family Learning Center.

This global news media exposure contributed enormously to our marketing efforts and, at once, to fulfilling our mission by educating, inspiring, and connecting people from all walks of life to the discovery of their family's unique place in history.



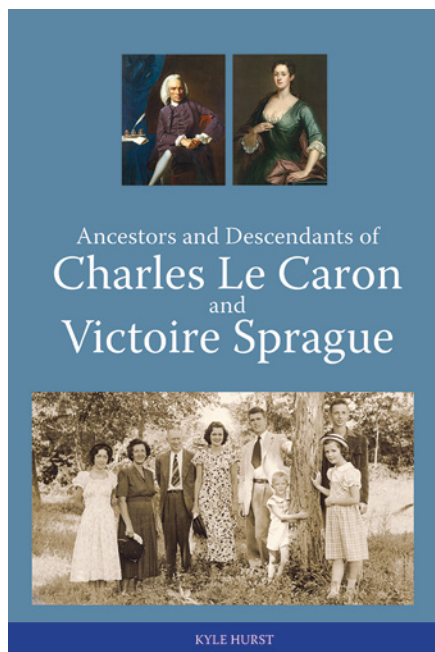
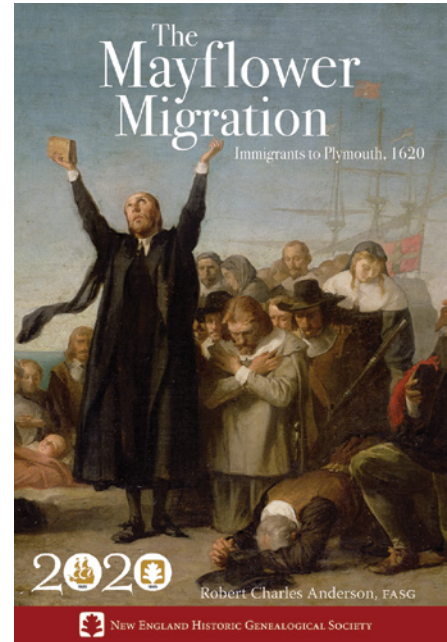
# New Publications

2020 was a challenging year in many ways but also a very busy and exciting year for Publications. We are proud to have published seven titles commemorating the 175th anniversary of NEHGS and the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*, as well as nine other books.

In addition to four issues of the *Register*, two issues of *Mayflower Descendant*, and four issues of *American Ancestors* magazine, we published a total of sixteen new titles during fiscal year 2020.

## NEHGS Books

- *By Faith Alone: My Family's Epic History*, 2nd ed., by Bill Griffith
- *Western Massachusetts Families in 1790, Volume 4* by Helen Schatvet Ullmann
- *Early New England Families, 1644–1700, Volume 2* by Alicia Crane Williams (hardcover and paperback versions)
- *The Mayflower 500: Five Hundred Notable Descendants of the Founding Families of the Mayflower* by Gary Boyd Roberts
- *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society* by Gerald W. R. Ward; foreword by D. Brenton Simons
- *The Family Album: A Visual History of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1845–2020* edited by Cécile B. Engeln; introduction by D. Brenton Simons
- *Of Plimoth Plantation by William Bradford: The 400th Anniversary Edition* by Kenneth P. Minkema, Francis J. Bremer, and Jeremy D. Bangs; special introduction by Paula Peters
- *The Mayflower Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth, 1620* by Robert Charles Anderson

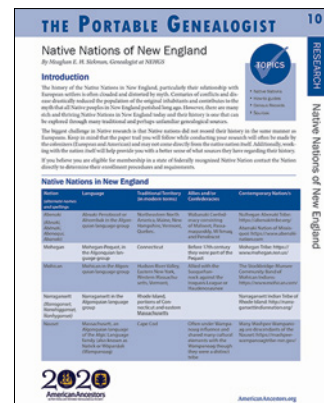


## Newbury Street Press Books

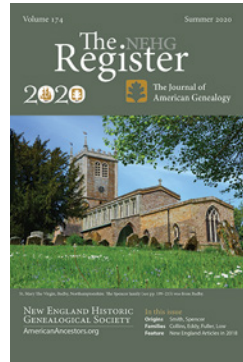
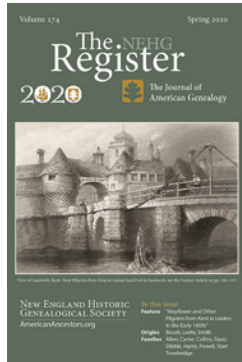
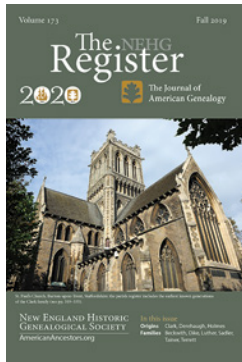
- *Ancestors and Descendants of Charles Le Caron and Victoire Sprague* by Kyle Hurst
- *Families of the Diaspora: Alkalay, Behmoiras, Merenzón, Barcan* by David Watson Kruger
- *Selected Ancestors of Nelson McMahon and Louise Rathbun* by Kyle Hurst and Ian Watson

## Portable Genealogist Quick-Reference Guides

- *Verifying Your Mayflower Lineage* by Christopher C. Child
- *Native Nations of New England* by Meaghan E. H. Siekman, PhD







## Simple Print Program: Bringing out-of-print NEHGS books back by popular demand

- *The Search for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in the Boston Pilot, Volume 1: 1831–1850*, edited by Ruth-Ann M. Harris and Donald M. Jacobs (originally published 1989)
- *The History of the Black Population of Amherst, Massachusetts, 1728–1870* by James Avery Smith (originally published 1999)

## Newbury Street Press projects undertaken in 2020

- *Some Descendants of Christopher Webb of Braintree, Massachusetts*
- *The Cox Family: The Early American Ancestors of Howard Ellis Cox, Sr.*

## Vita Brevis

For much of the year, with its readers confined to their homes, *Vita Brevis* served a dual function as a continuing resource for genealogists and a virtual meeting place for researchers.

*Vita Brevis* marked both the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing in New England and the 175th birthday of NEHGS, with a series of posts from staff and other contributors. The blog featured Amy Whorf McGuiggan's posts on roaming the empty streets of Provincetown and Plymouth, while the NEHGS posts celebrated early members and previous anniversaries. If our readers were temporarily locked down, the blog was ready to draw them back into the world.

*Vita Brevis* offered tales of long-lived cousins whose memories reached back to the 1900s, guided readers through valuable new online databases, and revealed the unexpected in our ancestors' lives. One blogger discovered that his Veronese great-grandfather hailed from a town in a neighboring country and a reader noted a truth that all genealogists will find familiar: "I have had a few colorful characters in my family. Their stories always add interest to my research, although I expect that, during their lives, the family would have wanted to conceal the truth."

# THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

**LECTURE** NEHGS: Who We Are, What We Do, How We Can Help (presented to the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society), September 4, 2019

**LECTURE** Resources at the Godfrey Memorial Library, September 6, 2019

**LECTURE** Applying for Dual Citizenship (presented to StateStreet Group), September 10, 2019

**SEMINAR** New Discoveries in *Mayflower* Research, September 14, 2019

**OPEN HOUSE** Open Newbury, September 15, 2019

**WEBINAR** NextGen Tools for Genealogy, September 19, 2019

**SEMINAR** Researching Early New England Ancestry (presented at the American Independence Museum), September 21, 2019

**LECTURE** Using the Historic Catholic Records Project (presented at the Boston Public Library), September 26, 2019

**LECTURE** The Ancestry and Descendants of Captain Myles Standish, *Mayflower* Passenger, September 27, 2019

**LECTURE** The Do's and Don'ts of Long Distance Genealogy Projects, October 2, 2019

**ONLINE COURSE** Genealogy: Back to the Basics, 5 weeks starting October 2, 2019

**LECTURE** The Involuntary American: A Scottish Prisoner's Journey to the New World, October 4, 2019

**LECTURE** Getting Started in Genealogy (presented at the Thayer Public Library), October 5, 2019

**WEBINAR** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org?, October 10, 2019

**RESEARCH TOUR** Fall Research Getaway, October 17–19, 2019

**WEBINAR** Going Offline: The Importance of Repositories, October 17, 2019

**CONFERENCE** RootsTech-London, October 24–26, 2019

**WEBINAR** Finding Family History in Library Catalogs, October 24, 2019

**LECTURE** Remembrance of Things Past: Keeping the Stories of Jewish Poland Alive (presented at Vilna Shul), October 29, 2019

**RESEARCH TOUR** Salt Lake City Research Tour, November 3–10, 2019

**LECTURE** Using AmericanAncestors.org, November 6, 2019

**LECTURE** Duxbury Women at Sea, November 13, 2019

**CONFERENCE** Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair, November 15–17, 2019

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Efficient and Effective European Research, November 16, 2019

**LECTURE** Read All About It! Techniques to Find Your Ancestors in the Newspapers (presented at Portsmouth Public Library, NH), November 17, 2019

**LECTURE** Plymouth Colony First Lady Penelope Winslow, November 20, 2019

**LECTURE** The *Mayflower* Quadricentennial 1620–2020: A Four-Nation Commemoration (presented at Union Club of Boston), November 20, 2019

**WEBINAR** How NEHGS Can Help, November 21, 2019

**SEMINAR** Using DNA in Family History (presented at New Hampshire Historical Society), November 23, 2019

**ONLINE COURSE** Working with and Preserving Photographs, 3 weeks starting December 4, 2019

**LECTURE** Origins and Legacy of the *Mayflower*:

The Pilgrim Quadricentennial 1620–2020 (presented at Society of Colonial Wars, Palm Beach, FL), December 13, 2019

**WEBINAR** Using DNA Tools in AnceSTRICES, December 19, 2019

**WEBINAR** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org?, January 19, 2020

**SEMINAR** Building Your Genealogical Skills, 3 weeks starting January 11, 2020

**LECTURE** Getting Started in Italian Family History (presented at Thomas Crane Public Library), January 13, 2020

**WEBINAR** Boston Records, January 16, 2020

**SEMINAR** Researching Female Ancestors (presented at New Hampshire Historical Society), January 18, 2020

**ONLINE COURSE** Leveraging DNA in Your Family History Research, 5 weeks starting January 22, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Coming to America: Four Hundred Years of Immigration and Naturalization in the U.S., January 25, 2020





**SEMINAR** 17th-Century English Research, February 1, 2020

**LECTURE** Follow the Money (presented at Old Bridgewater Historical Society), February 9, 2020

**LECTURE** Using DNA in Family History (presented at Thomas Crane Public Library), February 10, 2020

**CONCERT** Four Nation Performance: 17th-Century English Music featuring Seven Times Salt, February 13, 2020

**LECTURE** Researching Veteran Ancestors (presented at Peabody Institute Library), February 13, 2020

**LECTURE** Using AmericanAncestors.org, February 19, 2020

**WEBINAR** Catholic Records Project: We're Expanding!, February 20, 2020

**RESEARCH TOUR** Winter Research Getaway, February 20–22, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Follow the Money: Tracing Ancestors through Financial Transactions, February 22, 2020

**CONFERENCE** RootsTech, February 26–29, 2020

**SEMINAR** Exploring Irish Connections to Prohibition and Property, March 7, 2020

**ONLINE COURSE** Verifying Your *Mayflower* Lineage, 3 weeks starting March 11, 2020

**WEBINAR** *Mayflower* Resources on AmericanAncestors.org, March 19, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Finding Irish Origins, March 21, 2020

**WEBINAR** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org?, April 9, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Building Your Genealogical Skills, April 11, 2020

**WEBINAR** Using NEHGS Resource from Home, April 16, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Applying to Lineage Societies, April 18, 2020

**ONLINE COURSE** 18th- and 19th-Century English Research, 5 weeks starting April 29, 2020



"I'm so grateful to American Ancestors for providing this kind of event during the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that even when things have returned to 'normal' that such events will continue to be offered."

"This was one of the most enlightening and practical workshops of my genealogical experience."

**WEBINAR** Treasures of NEHGS, April 30, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** *Mayflower* Migrations, May 9, 2020

**WEBINAR** Searching Databases on AmericanAncestors.org, May 14, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Genealogy for Librarians and Archivists, May 15, 2020

**WEBINAR** Creating a Research Plan for Cluster Research, May 21, 2020

**WEBINAR** First Steps in Family History, June 11, 2020

**WEBINAR** Getting Started in Portuguese Genealogy, June 18, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Researching English Eastern Canada, June 20, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** Preservation Roadshow, June 21, 2020

**VIRTUAL RESEARCH PROGRAM** Spring Research Stay-at-Home, June 25–27, 2020

**WEBINAR** Women in 19th-Century American Bookbinderies, July 7, 2020

**WEBINAR** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org?, July 9, 2020

**VIRTUAL RESEARCH PROGRAM** Summer Institute: Contributing to *Mayflower* Scholarship, July 15–17, 2020

**ONLINE CONFERENCE** La Mia Famiglia: Researching Italian Ancestors, July 18, 2020

**ONLINE COURSE** New England Research, 6 weeks starting July 22, 2020

**WEBINAR** Searching the *Register* on AmericanAncestors.org, July 23, 2020

**CONFERENCE** Celtic Connections, July 31–August 1, 2020

**VIRTUAL RESEARCH PROGRAM** Summer Research Stay-at-Home, August 6–8, 2020

**WEBINAR** The ABCs of Using School Records in Family History Research, August 13, 2020

These programs were generously funded by Nordahl and Suzanne Brue.



## Online Heritage Tours

Expanding horizons without leaving home

American Ancestors Heritage Tours provide our constituents and their friends and families exclusive opportunities to explore areas of the world rich in history and culture. Led by our experts as well as other specialists along the way, each tour explores the art, architecture, history, and landscape of our forbearers.

### The Great Houses of Ireland

In September of 2019, Curt DiCamillo led a group to the finest houses and gardens in and around Co. Kilkenny. From the grand Castletown, Ireland's largest and most important 18th-century country house, to the intimate Dangan Cottage, the charming home of Christopher Moore, to Kilfane Glen, one of the finest 18th-century romantic gardens in Ireland, we got a taste of the best of the Emerald Isle. Based at Mount Juliet, a glorious five-star hotel that began life in the 18th century as a country house, we experienced locally inspired cuisine, were accompanied by the finest expert guides, and had privileged access, all part of a carefully paced itinerary.

### Art & Architecture Virtual Programs

While in-person travel was certainly hampered in 2020, we were able to give audiences—new fans and old friends—a peek into the American Ancestors Heritage Tour experience through a series of online offerings, including monthly webinars, online courses, and other special virtual events.

Through our monthly Art & Architecture webinar series, Curt DiCamillo brought the world's finest collections, luscious interiors, and beautiful landscapes into the homes of tens of thousands of people worldwide. From the halls of Highclere Castle to the work of Robert Adam to the filming locations of *The Crown*, Curt blends history, culture, and humor to weave together a world that transcends time and place. These free programs are open to the public and attract upwards of 2,000 people to the live broadcasts. Each lecture is recorded and added to our growing library of architectural history videos.

In November 2020 and February 2021, we held an online course: An Explosion of Beauty: The Art, Architecture, and Collections of British Country Houses, comprising of six 90-minute classes, divided into two parts and spanning nearly 800 years of English architecture and decorative arts. Each class addressed a different style (Medieval, Jacobean, Restoration, Baroque, Palladian, Rococo, Chinoiserie, Neoclassical, Medieval Revival, and Chinese and Indian) through the lens of a vast array of English country homes, their interiors, and their world-class art collections.

In January 2021, we held our very first virtual DiCamillo Rendezvous. An annual event, this year was extra special as we welcomed nearly 300 new friends and old, and celebrated Curt's fifth year as Curator of Special Collections at American Ancestors. Historian Carl Raymond joined Curt for a joint presentation of New York & London in the Gilded Age, exploring the world of Edith Wharton on both sides of the Atlantic.

### Webinars

- The English Country House: Center of the Universe, May 8, 2020
- Lords, Ladies, and Mummies: The Story of Highclere Castle, May 22, 2020
- The English Country Garden: Perfection on Earth, June 5, 2020
- The Adam Family: The Scottish Architects Who Changed the World, July 10, 2020
- Speed, Style, and the English Country House: Auto, Horse, and Airplane Racing at England's Historic Houses, August 14, 2020
- All Roads Lead to London: Supreme 19th-Century World City, September 11, 2020
- Great Houses of Yorkshire, November 20, 2020
- Winter and Christmas at Castle Howard, Presented by Dr. Christopher Ridgway, December 11, 2020
- The Crown: A Tour of Filming Locations for the Most Expensive TV Series of All Time, January 15, 2021

"These architecture webinars have become my favorite part of the week, and, each one seems to be better than the last. Curt makes me feel as though I'm his best friend and he's taking me by the hand showing me the inside secrets of the greatest houses in the world. I'm hooked! Thank you so much for making the webinars accessible to us all."

—Art & Architecture Webinar Participant

# Upcoming Heritage Tours



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**Pilgrims in England: The Southeast English Contingent** September 9–15, 2021



Philadelphia Museum of Art, ca. 1930. Private collection.

**Hidden Philadelphia** September 30–October 5, 2021



**An English Country Christmas**  
November 30–December 5, 2021



**Villas and Gardens of Rome** October 11–17, 2021



**A New England Sojourn** June 15–19, 2022



**A Slice of Heaven: Country Houses of Norfolk** September 11–17, 2022



**Nova Scotia: Celtic Connections in the New World** September 19–23, 2022 (main tour)  
September 23–26, 2022 (optional PEI extension)

For more information on Heritage Tours,  
please contact us at  
[heritagetours@nehgs.org](mailto:heritagetours@nehgs.org) or 617-226-1267.



## THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER Youth Education

American Ancestors is developing a national family history curriculum

In June 2019 American Ancestors, with the support of MacKiev Software (the company behind Family Tree Maker), forged a plan to develop a national family history curriculum for grades 4–6 that would introduce students to the concepts, benefits, and joy of family history research, thereby inspiring the next generation of family historians. After a nationwide search, Dustin Axe was hired in December 2019 as our first Youth Genealogy Curriculum Coordinator. Building off his many successes at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Dustin laid the groundwork for a curriculum that will not only be engaging for students of this age group, but that is standards-aligned, hands-on, and inclusive of students of all backgrounds. Working alongside MacKiev, the National Humanities Center, and other partners, we conducted a multi-part survey to learn if—and how—teachers are currently incorporating family history into the school year. Those results helped inform the creation of a teaching consulting group. Over the summer of 2020, we received more than sixty applications from teachers across the country to participate in a consulting group and think tank.

In the fall, ten selected teachers came together virtually to address classroom challenges and to build an authentic family history curriculum. Now in the development phase, we are creating a multi-tiered, flexible lesson plan that will address family history from the point of view of the individual student as well as the community. We plan to pilot lessons over the course of the 2021–2022 school year. To learn more about this program or get involved, contact Dustin Axe at [Dustin.Axe@nehgs.org](mailto:Dustin.Axe@nehgs.org).

Beyond creating a national curriculum, our youth education programming has expanded in the past year to include activities with the Girl Scouts—both onsite visits and virtual programs; an essay contest for young genealogists (learn more at [Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org/essay-contest-winners](http://Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org/essay-contest-winners)); and the creation of an online portal of resources and activities that kids and families can do at home or in the classroom ([AmericanAncestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/youth](http://AmericanAncestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/youth)).



An online meeting of the teacher consulting group.



Susan Ronald with *Condé Nast: The Man and His Empire*  
September 17, 2019

Brian Jay Jones with *Becoming Dr. Seuss: Theodor Geisel  
and the Making of an American Imagination*  
September 26, 2019

Gail Collins with *No Stopping Us Now: The Adventures of  
Older Women in American History* October 18, 2019

Donald L. Miller with *Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign that  
Broke the Confederacy* November 12, 2019

George Howe Colt with *The Game: Harvard, Yale, and  
America in 1968* November 21, 2019

Holly George-Warren with *Janis: Her Life and Music*  
December 10, 2019

William Martin with *Bound for Gold: A Peter Fallon  
Novel of the California Gold Rush* January 14, 2020

Scott Simon with *Sunnyside Plaza* January 30, 2020

Marcia Chatelain with *Franchise: The Golden Arches in  
Black America* February 11, 2020

Kristen Richardson with *The Season: A Social History of  
the Debutante* February 26, 2020

Adam Hochschild with *Rebel Cinderella: From Rags to  
Riches to Radical, the Epic Journey of Rose Pastor Stokes*  
March 6, 2020

Tarashea Nesbit with *Beheld: A Novel*  
April 16, 2020 (Virtual)

Phuc Tran with *Sigh, Gone: A Misfit's Memoir of Great  
Books, Punk Rock, and the Fight to Fit In*  
April 28, 2020 (Virtual)

Stephen Puleo with *Voyage of Mercy:  
The USS Jamestown, the Irish Famine, and  
the Remarkable Story of America's First  
Humanitarian Mission* May 14, 2020 (Virtual)

Libby Copeland with *The Lost Family: How DNA Testing  
is Upending Who We Are* May 20, 2020 (Virtual)

Honor Moore with *Our Revolution: A Mother and  
Daughter at Mid-Century* June 8, 2020 (Virtual)

Rick Beyer with *Rivals Unto Death: Alexander  
Hamilton and Aaron Burr* June 24, 2020 (Virtual)

Larry Tye with *Demagogue: The Life and Long Shadow  
of Senator Joe McCarthy* July 23, 2020 (Virtual)

Gretchen Sorin with *Driving While Black:  
African American Travel and the Road to  
Civil Rights* August 11, 2020 (Virtual)

E. Dolores Johnson with *Say I'm Dead: A Family Memory  
of Race, Secrets, and Love* August 25, 2020 (Virtual)



# AMERICAN INSPIRATION

A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR SERIES  
BY AMERICAN ANCESTORS®

Launched under the direction of Margaret M. Talcott, American Inspiration was created as an in-person series featuring best-selling writers and their latest books that explore themes of personal identity, families and immigration, and social and cultural history. Building on the momentum of the American Inspiration author series, in April 2020 American Ancestors and the Boston Public Library partnered to present virtual events featuring today's celebrated authors and their new books. Produced in partnership with the GBH Forum, these free author events are available online and recorded. Find upcoming events in this series, view past authors, and more at [AmericanAncestors.org/Inspire](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Inspire).

**American Inspiration is brought to you  
by our Brue Family Learning Center.**





## The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center™ at NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

While the year 2020 will be remembered as a challenging one, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) grew and laid important groundwork for the future. We adapted to the limitations imposed by the pandemic through embracing new media and ways of working. We expanded our audiences, hosted more public programs than ever before, and added important assets. Amid the challenges, we celebrated a happy milestone: the tenth anniversary of the collaboration that created the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

### Programming

We began the fiscal year in September 2019 with a series of well-received events, co-sponsored with such partners as Yiddish Book Center, Vilna Shul, Jewish Women's Archive, and the Jewish Arts Collaborative. In December, we hosted a fascinating "Archives Shabbat" dinner program on the history of Jews in India. In March, we co-sponsored a program with American Inspiration, featuring noted biographer Adam Hochschild and his new book about Rose Pastor Stokes.

Like the rest of NEHGS, the JHC pivoted to offering online programs throughout the summer and fall. JHC webinars featured such topics as the Jewish history of the Catskills; Jewish women in the 20th-century labor movement; the impact of Jewish immigrants on the American antiques trade; and

what Jewish and African American cemeteries reveal about ethnic, social, and religious divisions in American life.

Thanks to the wider reach of these online programs, the JHC's constituency tripled in size in 2020—surely a silver lining! We received enthusiastic feedback about the programs from existing and new fans: *"This was probably the best web presentation we have joined in the COVID-19 era! Thank you."* *"I am not Jewish, but I found this a fascinating and compelling topic. The presenter was fabulous. Thank you for today's history lesson."* We look forward to deepening our engagement with these new audiences.

**These educational programs were brought to you by our Brue Family Learning Center.**

### Collections

Recognizing that we were experiencing history in the making as the pandemic took hold, the JHC responded quickly in March by creating a digital collecting project, #FortheFuture. We invited the Jewish community to submit reflections, observations, and artifacts of the pandemic to create an archival record of this extraordinary moment. In short order, we received submissions ranging from Zoom-recorded Passover seders to photo essays to oral histories, and we will continue accepting material about the pandemic's impact into the future.



The JHC acquired some valuable new collections in 2020, including Mary Antin Correspondence to Alfred Seelye Roe. Donated by an NEHGS member and descendent of Alfred Seelye Roe, this collection contains letters written at the turn of the 20th century by young Mary Antin—who became a renowned author and immigration activist—to the educator and politician Roe after they met in Boston in 1898.



These powerful letters reveal the insights and experience of an immigrant girl in a new country and show Antin's evolution to becoming an important American voice. The JHC accessioned public and private papers of Leopold Morse, a 19th-century German immigrant who became an influential businessman and civic leader in Boston, as well as the first Jew elected to Congress from Massachusetts. The collection spans Morse's life in Germany to his political career in the United States. Both collections are significant to Boston Jewish history while also contributing to the larger Jewish and American story.

At the beginning of the year, we moved our finding aids (previously managed by the American Jewish Historical Society) to a new digital repository,

**LECTURE** BEYLE: The Artist and Her Legacy, September 12, 2019

**LECTURE** Remembrance of Things Past: Keeping the Stories of Jewish Poland Alive (presented at Vilna Shul), October 29, 2019

**ARCHIVES SHABBAT** Growing Up Jewish in India with Siona Benjamin, December 13, 2019

**LECTURE** A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America (presented at Vilna Shul), February 27, 2020

**WEBINAR** Return to the Catskills, June 2, 2020

**WEBINAR** The Curious Career of Judah Monis, June 16, 2020

**WEBINAR** Jewish Life in Rural New England, June 30, 2020

**WEBINAR** Jewish Women in the Labor Movement, July 28, 2020

**WEBINAR** Summer Haven: Jews in the Catskills During and After the Holocaust, August 25, 2020

**Brought to you by The Brue Family Learning Center**

ArchivesSpace, which vastly improves our control and management of finding aids as well as increases accessibility and flexibility for users. The JHC's digital collections were also upgraded when NEHGS's new Digital Library & Archives launched in late August. Formerly known as Digital Collections, this new site features an updated layout and additional options for browsing, searching, and saving digitized material from the three repositories at NEHGS: the JHC, the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, and the Research Library.

## Scholarship

In Summer 2020, longtime JHC supporter and namesake Justin "Jerry" Wyner funded a fellowship in honor of his wife Genevieve who passed away in October 2019. Fulfilling a dream of both Jerry and the JHC's, the Genevieve Geller Wyner Research Fellowship is the JHC's first annual fellowship and supports a scholar conducting research in the JHC's archives. The first Wyner Fellow will be selected in early 2021 and will conduct research in the JHC archives in spring/summer. They will give the first Genevieve Geller Wyner Annual Lecture, based on their research, in fall 2021.

## Planning for the future

In 2020, the JHC's Advisory Council finished an 18-month strategic planning process, led by Advisory Council member and strategic planning consultant Herb Selesnick. The resulting five-year plan identifies the strategic priorities and goals, as well as the guiding values and vision, for the JHC's work through 2025. We are grateful for Herb's leadership of the project and for the entire Advisory Council's work on the plan over the past two years.

The JHC launched the 10th Anniversary Fund in 2020, celebrating a decade of collaboration between NEHGS and the (former) New England Archive of the American Jewish Historical Society, which became the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS. The campaign, which runs through August 31, 2021, seeks community support for three primary priorities: expanding online content and access to JHC's resources; fostering new research and scholarship; and securing and preserving new family and institutional collections for the JHC's permanent archives. The anniversary campaign celebrates an important union between two prestigious institutions and helps position the JHC for growth in its next decade.



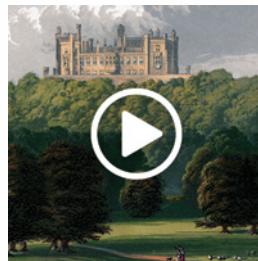
# the ANTIQUARTO

*Conversations with D. Brenton Simons,  
President and CEO of American Ancestors*

## The Antiquarto is now an interview series!



American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society President and CEO D. Brenton Simons began *The Antiquarto* blog in January 2018 to explore topics relating to history, genealogy, collecting, and the arts. Now *The Antiquarto* is a dynamic interview series with expert guests, available on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors](https://youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors), and website, [AmericanAncestors.org/watch](https://AmericanAncestors.org/watch).



**EPISODE 1:** Brenton Simons and architectural historian and NEHGS Curator Curt DiCamillo discuss some of the highlights in the fine art collection at NEHGS, the new book *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society*, and our unique Heritage Tours.

**EPISODE 2:** Historians Christian Di Spigna and J. L. Bell of the Dr. Joseph Warren Historical Society interview Brenton Simons about his book *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues: True Stories of Scam, Scandal, Murder and Mayhem in Boston, 1630-1775*, the collections at NEHGS, and trends in genealogical research.

**EPISODE 3, PART I:** Emma Manners, the Duchess of Rutland, presents “21st Century Duchess” (available on [AmericanAncestors.org/watch](https://AmericanAncestors.org/watch) only; login required). Learn about the Duchess of Rutland’s role in preserving the history of Belvoir Castle and managing its daily operations; and about the role women have played in preserving England’s heritage for generations.

**EPISODE 3, PART II:** Emma Manners, Duchess of Rutland, discusses her new podcast, *Duchess*, and her work at Belvoir Castle with Brenton Simons and Curt DiCamillo.

Watch for more episodes of *The Antiquarto* in the coming months.

[youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors](https://youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors) | [AmericanAncestors.org/watch](https://AmericanAncestors.org/watch)



## The Annual DiCamillo Companion Rendezvous in New York City

On Thursday, January 23, 2020, NEHGS members and friends gathered at a private club in New York City for lunch as well as a lecture entitled, “The Tudor Legacy: How Henry VIII and His Court Forever Changed English History, Design & Culture” presented by Curt DiCamillo, the NEHGS Curator of Special Collections. CEO Brenton Simons and Chair of the Board Nancy Maulsby, the benefactor and host of the event, were on hand to welcome the group of art enthusiasts and previous attendees of American Ancestors Heritage Tours. Following Curt’s inspiring lecture, we journeyed to Christie’s where we previewed the *Important American Furniture, Folk Art and Silver* auction. The preeminent piece featured was *Peaceable Kingdom* (1844–1846) by Edward Hicks. The opening of the Winter Antiques Show followed that evening.

Curt DiCamillo, an internationally recognized authority on English country houses and the decorative arts, joined NEHGS in 2016 and provides strategic direction and expert guidance for organizing and exhibiting NEHGS’s extensive collection of family history–related artifacts and fine arts.



Above, top to bottom: Curt DiCamillo, Curator of Special Collections, presenting the program; Curt DiCamillo and Nancy Maulsby, Chair of the Board. Right: Attendees listening to Curt DiCamillo’s presentation. Photos by Hechler Photographers.





## Pulitzer Prize–winning historian Joseph J. Ellis honored at Fall Family History Benefit Dinner

On Thursday, October 23, 2019, more than 120 guests joined us at the Four Seasons Boston for our Fall Family History Benefit Dinner featuring Pulitzer Prize–winning author and historian Joseph J. Ellis, whom we honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography. Professor Ellis was in conversation with fellow Pulitzer Prize–winning author Stacy Schiff, a NEHGS Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Brenton Simons presented Ellis’s genealogy. Compiled by NEHGS Genealogist Ann G. Lawthers, the genealogy showed his most notable ancestors were Henrich Phister and Melchior Staley, both patriots in the Revolutionary War.

Another highlight of the evening was honoring Vivian K. Spiro and Donald R. Friary with NEHGS Preservation and History Awards for their remarkable contributions to the conservation of knowledge, history, and culture. The celebratory event raised funds in support of our mission to educate, inspire, and connect people through family history.

### Silver Benefactors

Judith Avery  
Nancy S. Malsby  
Robert Pemberton and Barbara Jordan  
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### Benefactors

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Julie and Bayard Henry  
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Vivian and Lionel Spiro  
Jonathan B. Treat and Leslie Aitken  
Welch and Forbes LLC

Above: Joseph J. Ellis and Stacy Schiff in conversation.  
Photo © Pierce Harman, 2019.





Left to right: Executive Vice President & COO Ryan J. Woods, NEHGS Chair Nancy S. Maulsby, President and CEO D. Brenton Simons, Stacy Schiff, and honorees Joseph J. Ellis, Vivian K. Spiro, and Donald R. Friary.



Above, left to right: Brenton Simons presenting Joseph J. Ellis with his genealogy; John Spooner and Vivian Spiro. Right, left to right: Cheryl Edwards, Jo Anne Makely, Sarah Gunderson, Mary Tedesco, Ellen Ellis, Lynne Langlois, and Grace Friary. Photos © Pierce Harman, 2019.





# Broadcast journalist Scott Simon honored

On Thursday, January 30, 2020, more than 80 guests joined us at the Lenox Hotel in Boston for our Winter Dinner featuring acclaimed NPR broadcaster and author Scott Simon, whom we honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcast Journalism. He was in conversation with NEHGS Director of Signature and Literary Events Margaret M. Talcott.

Simon has won every major award in broadcasting and has reported from all fifty states, five continents, and ten wars. His books have chronicled character and characters, in war and peace, sports and art, tragedy and comedy. His weekly radio show, *Weekend Edition Saturday*, has been called by the *Washington Post*, “the most literate, witty, moving, and just plain interesting news show on any dial.” The audience at the Lenox was enchanted by the stories Simon shared about his “showgirl” mother and his childhood in Chicago, his friendship with Tony Bennett and the biography they wrote together, and his love of family.

## Silver Benefactors

Stephen H. Case  
Thomas B. Hagen  
Nancy S. Maulsby  
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## Benefactors

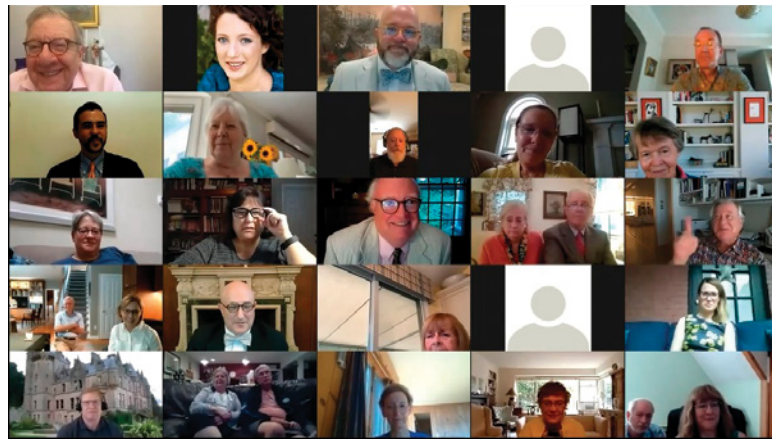
Gerry and MaryLee Halpin  
M. David and Mary Alice Sherrill  
Jonathan B. Treat and Leslie Aitken

Top left, left to right: NEHGS Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods, NEHGS Chair Nancy S. Maulsby, Scott Simon, NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons, and NEHGS Director of Signature and Literary Events Margaret M. Talcott. Top right, right to left: NEHGS Councilor Dale Yoe; Brenton Simons; Else Churchill, Genealogist at the Society of Genealogists in London and a member of the Lord Chancellor’s Advisory Council on National Records and Archives; and Ryan J. Woods. Bottom, left: Scott Simon in conversation with Margaret M. Talcott. Bottom, right: WBUR CEO and General Manager Margaret Low and Brenton Simons. Photos ©Pierce Harman 2020.



## Our online Boston Treasures Tour

On Thursday, July 30, 2020, more than 70 guests tuned into our Annual Summer Event featuring Curt DiCamillo's virtual tour of Boston's treasures. The event was held online via Zoom with participants from Boston to California. President and CEO Brenton Simons began the evening with a message of thanks and hope.



Curt DiCamillo's "Treasures Tour" film presentation included stops at the Robert Gould Shaw and 54th Regiment Memorial, the Massachusetts State House, and the Boston Athenæum. The tour began and ended at our Newbury Street headquarters, with a focus on notable artworks and antiques in our collection. Among those objects is a 1927 watercolor rendering by the firm Henry and Richmond for their client the New England Trust Co., which previously occupied our building.

Following this virtual tour, Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods led a thought-provoking and entertaining discussion with Curt about the process of creating the film and the recently published book, *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society* (NEHGS, 2020).

The evening concluded with a virtual cocktail hour, including a cocktail demonstration from Vice President for Research and Library Services Lindsay Fulton.

Above: Guests gather for virtual cocktails.  
Right: The evening's signature cocktail, Blackberry Cobbler.



### Recent Keynote Speakers and Honorees

- 2021 Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham  
The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH
- 2020 Jill Lepore  
Scott Simon
- 2019 Joseph J. Ellis  
Douglas Brinkley  
Dan Rather
- 2018 David Hackett Fischer  
David McCullough  
William M. Fowler, Jr.
- 2017 Winston Groom  
Stacy Schiff
- 2016 Cokie Roberts  
Bob Schieffer  
David Hartman
- 2015 Nathaniel Philbrick  
James Carville and Mary Matalin  
HRH Princess Michael of Kent
- 2014 Dame Angela Lansbury  
Doris Kearns Goodwin
- 2013 David Gergen
- 2012 Michael and Kitty Dukakis  
Bryan Sykes
- 2011 Ken Burns





## Celebrated author and historian Jill Lepore honored at Virtual Fall Family History Benefit

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, American Ancestors welcomed more than 100 guests to our virtual Fall Family History Benefit event featuring author and historian Jill Lepore, who was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography.

President and CEO, D. Brenton Simons presented Professor Lepore's genealogy, detailing several of her ancestors' stories of immigration, perseverance, and ingenuity; as well as connecting her to several past U.S. presidents including Richard Nixon and other notables including American actress and director Penny Marshall. Following Professor Lepore's illustrated talk, "American Ancestors: Reading Portraits," she and Executive Vice President and COO—and former student of Professor Lepore—Ryan Woods discussed her work in historical biography, her popular podcast *The Last Archive*, and more.

Another highlight of the evening was a greeting from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in honor of the Pilgrim 400th anniversary from British Consul General Dr. Peter Abbott. The celebratory event raised funds to support American Ancestors and further our mission to educate, inspire, and connect.



Jill Lepore receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography.

### Gold Benefactors

John E. and Julie M. Corcoran  
J. Philip\* and Jennifer London  
Mark Kimball Nichols and Lowell Massey

### Silver Benefactors

Jonathan Buck Treat and Leslie Aitken  
Nancy S. Maulsby  
Nancy and John W. Webster

### Benefactors

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Gerry and MaryLee Halpin  
Jo Anne C. Makely  
Jonathan W. and Deanna Ho Montgomery  
Robert Russell Perry  
Kate and Peter Van Demark  
Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.

### Patrons

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Helen and DuWayne Sayles  
M. David and Mary Alice Sherrill  
Herbert D. Simons  
Stephen Symchych  
Mary Tedesco  
Lynn and Thomas Trowbridge

\*Deceased

## RootsTech 2020

RootsTech 2020, held from February 26 to February 29, marked several milestones and anniversaries for American Ancestors and for the field of genealogy. The largest family history conference in the world, each year the multi-day event draws tens of thousands of people to Salt Lake City, Utah, for lectures, demonstrations, activities, networking, special guests, and a celebration of all things genealogical. This year American Ancestors was proud to mark its 10th year as a sponsor and exhibitor. We have been with the conference since the very beginning and have watched it grow from a small genealogical conference. This year was unlike any other for us and was a truly unforgettable conference. Here are some of the highlights:

- From the main stage, President and CEO, D. Brenton Simons, addressed thousands of attendees regarding our involvement in the 400th commemoration of the *Mayflower* landing.
- We presented 12 lectures, ranging from topics pertaining to the *Mayflower*, immigration, military research, and more—a record number of lectures for us at a conference!
- On the Saturday of the conference, we threw a 175th birthday party at our booth, replete with treats, games, and favors.
- We interacted with hundreds of active members and introduced many more to the expertise, services, and educational opportunities at American Ancestors.



## Summary Balance Sheet and Consolidated Income Statement as of fiscal year-end August 31, 2020

BALANCE SHEET	FY20	FY19	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Total Assets	\$59,308,788	\$56,470,249	\$2,838,539	5%
Liabilities	\$4,691,705	\$4,512,092	\$179,613	4%
Net Assets	\$54,617,083	\$51,958,157	\$2,658,926	5%
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$59,308,788	\$56,470,249	\$2,838,539	5%

### Consolidated Income Statement September 1, 2019–August 31, 2020

REVENUE	FY20	FY19	% Increase (Decrease)	% of total
Earned Revenue	\$4,490,962	\$4,921,246	(9%)	37%
Contributed Revenue	\$6,440,161	\$7,877,248	(18%)	54%
Current Operations <sup>a</sup>	\$1,111,944	\$980,648	13%	9%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$12,043,067</b>	<b>\$13,779,142</b>	<b>(13%)</b>	<b>100%</b>
EXPENSES	FY20	FY19	% Increase (Decrease)	% of total
Member Services	\$1,081,780	\$1,244,886	(13%)	8%
Research Library	\$3,123,693	\$2,892,811	8%	25%
Tours and Seminars	\$829,705	\$1,289,417	(36%)	7%
Retail Store	\$248,187	\$287,588	(14%)	2%
Publications	\$1,980,741	\$1,887,912	5%	16%
Website	\$1,551,431	\$1,591,139	(3%)	12%
General and Administrative	\$2,100,138	\$2,092,168	0%	16%
Fundraising	\$1,822,732	\$1,510,559	21%	14%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,738,407</b>	<b>\$12,796,480</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Consolidated Net Income from Operations	(\$695,340)	\$982,662		
Non-Operating Revenue, including Investment Return <sup>b</sup>	\$3,354,266	(\$513,810)		
<b>Consolidated Net Income</b>	<b>\$2,658,926</b>	<b>\$468,852</b>		
Endowment Net Assets <sup>c</sup>	\$24,734,983	\$23,198,895		

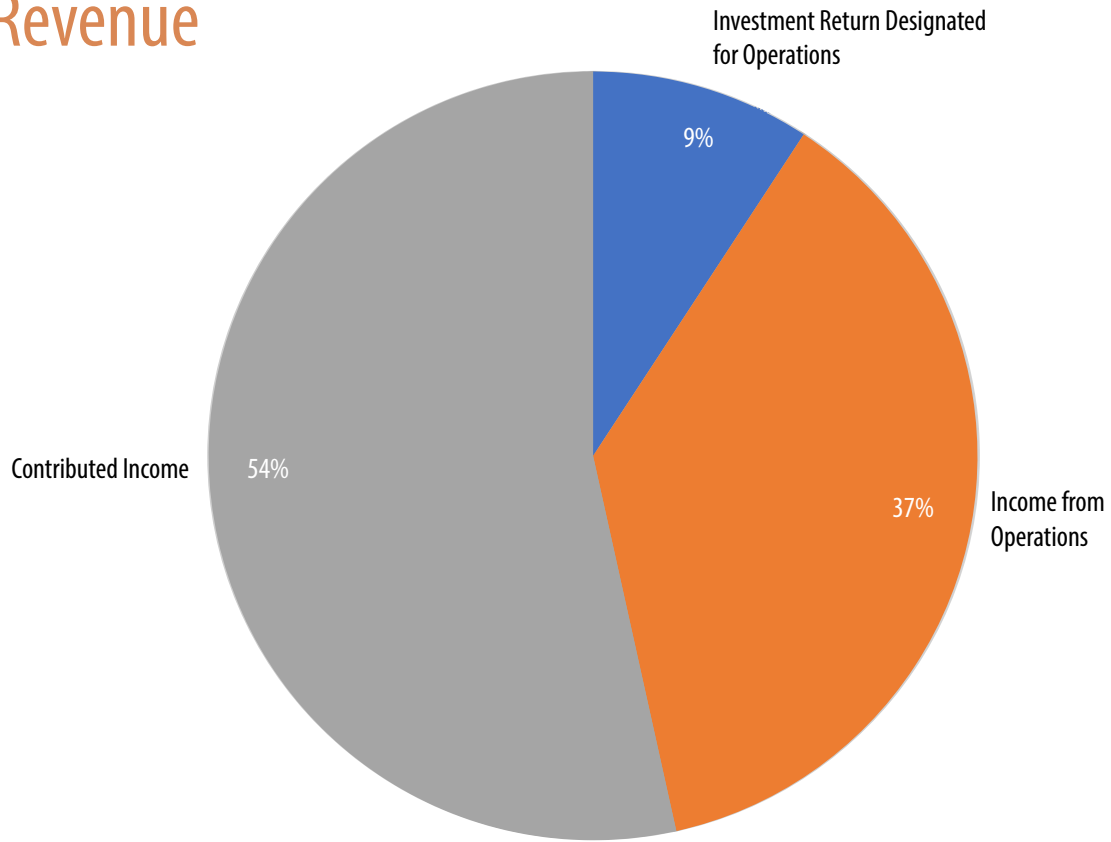
a. Investment Return Designated for Current Operations represents the release of the annual draw, which is based on appropriating 4% of the average of the prior twelve quarters of fair market value of the investments.

b. Includes: (1) Interest and Dividends, Realized and Unrealized Gains, net of Investment Management Fees, and (2) Appropriation of Investment Return Designated for Operations.

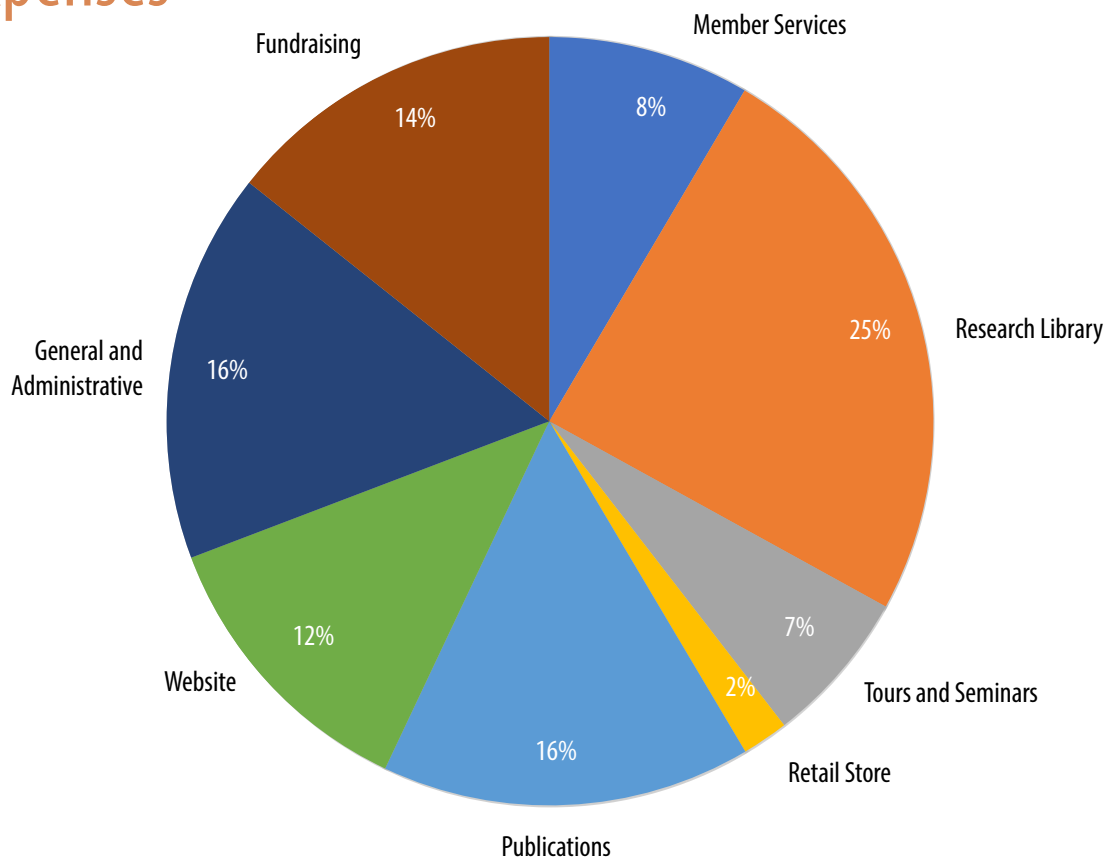
c. Includes (1) Board Designated Endowment, (2) Appreciation on Endowment and (3) Permanently Restricted Endowment.



# Revenue



# Expenses



We gratefully acknowledge the following members and donors for making it possible for us *to advance the study of family history in America and beyond.*

## The Founders' Society

The Founders' Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who have given \$1,000,000 or more to the New England Historic Genealogical Society in their lifetimes.

Judith Avery  
R. Stanton Avery\*  
R. Stanton Avery Foundation  
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Vivian B. Treat\*  
**U.S. Small Business Administration**  
Wallace S. and Isobel B.\* Wilson  
**Bold** indicates new members to the Founders' Society.  
\*Deceased

## The John Quincy Adams Society

This society is named in honor of John Quincy Adams, a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1845. It recognizes the generosity of individuals who have made cumulative gifts of \$500,000 to \$999,999 in their lifetimes.

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Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange\*  
Justin L. Wyner  
Anonymous

**Bold** indicates new members to the John Quincy Adams Society.  
\*Deceased

## The Charles Ewer Society

The Charles Ewer Society is named in honor of our founding president, Charles Ewer, and recognizes the generosity of individuals who have made cumulative gifts of \$100,000 to \$499,999 in their lifetimes.

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 Anonymous (12)  
**Bold** indicates new members of the Charles  
 Ewer Society.  
 \*Deceased

## The Daniel Webster Society

The Daniel Webster Society, named after a prominent New England statesman and senator, and early member of NEHGS, recognizes the generosity of corporations and institutions that support the New England Historic Genealogical Society with cumulative gifts of \$100,000 to \$999,999.

Ancestry.com  
 Cabot Family Charitable Trust  
 Caroline Thayer Bland Trust  
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 Anonymous  
**Bold** indicates new members of the Daniel Webster Society.

## The Benjamin Franklin Society

The Benjamin Franklin Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who donated materials to our archives, including the R. Stanton Avery Collection, and made a gift of \$10,000 or more to support its long-term care. In 1856, NEHGS participated in the construction of a statue in Boston commemorating Benjamin Franklin, who recounted his family history in his famous autobiography.

Thomas H. Adams III  
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 William and Patricia Austin  
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 Reiner Beeuwkes III  
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 Anonymous (2)  
**Bold** indicates new members of the Benjamin Franklin Society.  
 \*Deceased

## The Henry Bond Society

The Henry Bond Society recognizes those donors who have invested in the future of NEHGS through their estate plans. It is named for Dr. Henry Bond, a preeminent genealogist known for his work on the history of Watertown, Massachusetts, and who left NEHGS its first bequest in 1859.

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Donald R. White

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**Judith C. Williston Ph.D.**

Ryan J. and Karen K. Woods

Robert J. Young

Albert J. Zdenek Jr.

Anonymous (6)

**Bold** indicates members of the Ashburton Circle, named for the site of NEHGS's first permanent home, who have given irrevocable gifts to NEHGS.

\*Deceased

## The Legacy Society

Dr. Henry Bond led the way for hundreds of estate gifts since his bequest was received in 1859. The Legacy Society memorializes the past members of the Henry Bond Society whose thoughtful estate planning has resulted in generous contributions. NEHGS continues to grow and thrive as it has since 1845 thanks in large part to those who ultimately made their final and most significant act of generosity. These investments into our future will ensure that family history is preserved, advanced, and made accessible for future generations of genealogists.

We are humbled and honored to recognize the following individuals whose estates contributed \$319,080 since September 1, 2019.

John B. Black

Nancy E. H. Bowman

Robert and Phebe Collins

Abbott Lowell Cummings

Ruth Gray

Parker Moses Greeley

Barbara J. Holt

Priscilla and Gustavus Ide

Bennie S. Larj

Marilyn Plue

Nancy Fowler Spooner

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Muriel and Loren Winterscheid

Benjamin T. Wright

## Why I Give

“My first connection with New England Historic Genealogical Society began in December 1968 upon receipt of my PhD in Economics from Harvard. Unable to officially receive my degree until June 1969 afforded me considerable new-found time to explore my own interest in family history about which I knew very little. Thus, began my more than 50-year association NEHGS.

My father’s side were New Englanders and my mother’s Chase family came from Iowa. Beyond knowing where they came from, I knew very little about their origins, their lives as individuals, and their family history. I was born in the Seattle area and my family moved to Palm Springs when I was five. NEHGS provided what I needed to resolve most of my family history. I was also interested in the history from where my family had prospered or perhaps endured hardships. I especially enjoyed visiting the American Ancestors Research Center in Boston and found rich information of both my genealogy and family history.

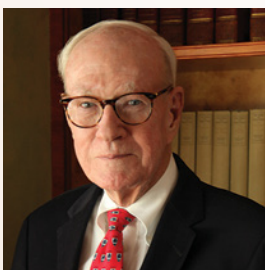
My Chase side followed a very traditional timeline: Seattle, from Greeley Iowa, from western New York state, from eastern New York state, from Lebanon, Connecticut, and finally from

Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Ripley’s primarily lived in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and the Chase family primarily lived in Yarmouth, Massachusetts. The first bookbinder in my Ripley line was Joseph Warren Ripley who was born in 1806 in Brewster, Massachusetts. I learned that I was the last of the Ripley’s who was not in the printing or bookbinding business.

I began my journey with NEHGS as an Individual Member and was honored to be elected to the Council and subsequently to the Board of Trustees. I now serve as Honorary Trustee and a Life Benefactor. NEHGS has enriched my life by helping me discover the roots of my family and I enjoy being affiliated with such a well-respected, world-class institution. NEHGS provided me with contacts on the east coast, and the New England and New York communities where my family had lived. I love to travel for genealogy and participated in several Heritage Tours: Great Country Houses of England, Great Houses & Gardens of the Scottish Borders, Great Migration By Sea & By Land, and A Golden Land: The Country Houses and Gardens of Buckinghamshire.

NEHGS has continuously impressed me with its attention to scholarship, skillful financial management, dedicated staff, and excellent service to its members. For over 53 years, I have watched the organization transform into a sophisticated, nimble organization able to successfully adapt its mission to changing times such as those we are in today. The organization’s early vision to embrace technology was unique among family history organizations and has positively positioned NEHGS to respond to a rapidly changing world.

These factors, coupled with the strong leadership of Brenton Simons, President and CEO; Ryan Woods, Executive Vice President and COO; the commitment of Trustees and Council members; dedicated staff; and the forward-thinking mission of NEHGS are the reasons for my annual philanthropy and my investment in its future through the planned giving program. For me, NEHGS has been a source of inspiration, comfort, and ongoing professional help. In today’s world that is indeed an achievement. I hope others will join with me in providing their time, treasure, and talent to ensure NEHGS is available for future generations.”



Frank C. Ripley is an Honorary Trustee, Life Member, and member of the Henry Bond Society. He is the former President of the Economic Analysis Advocates consulting firm and former Senior Staff Economist of the Council of Economic Advisors. Frank has been a member of NEHGS from 1969–1982 and 1999 to present. He served on the Executive, Finance, and Development committees and was Chair of Nominating Committee. Frank has been a participant on numerous Heritage Tours. He currently resides in Middleburg, Virginia.

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During Fiscal Year 2020, NEHGS received 3,690 gifts totaling \$5,390,114 to support current operations.



## William Howard Taft Circle, \$25,000+

The 27th President of the United States and the 10th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, William Howard Taft was, like many other presidents before and after, a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. For his keen interest in genealogy, William Howard Taft is commemorated with an oak table in our Reading Room.

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## Grace Goodhue Coolidge Circle, \$10,000 to \$24,999

First Lady of the United States from 1923 to 1929 and a champion of the deaf, Grace Goodhue Coolidge was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1935, the first of many American First Ladies to be so honored.

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Consistently ranked as one of Britain's greatest Prime Ministers, William E. Gladstone served in the office four times, the most of any person. He was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1884.

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## Henry Clay Circle, \$2,500 to \$4,999

One of the great figures of 19th-century American politics, Henry Clay was a member of the United States Senate, a three-time Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary of State, and a presidential candidate in 1824, 1832, and 1844. He was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1847.

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The prolific American author and Minister to Spain, who is best known for *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Irving was elected to membership in the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1847.

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A successful Boston businessman, Otis was a member of the House of Representatives (1797–1801), the United States Senate (1817–1822), and Mayor of Boston (1829–1831), and was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1846.

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Gifts herein were made between September 1, 2019, and August 31, 2020, unless otherwise specified. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy in this Annual Report. We apologize for any inadvertent error. Please notify Stacie Madden at 617-226-1217 or [stacie.madden@nehgs.org](mailto:stacie.madden@nehgs.org) to report any corrections.



## New Life Benefactors (\$7,500)

Jeffrey Michael Griffith

## New Life Member Couple (\$7,500)

Rebecca R. and Sheldon A. Taft

## Pilgrim Quadricentennial Life Members (\$5,500)

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Amy Whorf McGuiggan

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 Charles Henley  
 Mary Kathleen Wright

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Jonathan "Dutch" Treat and Leslie Aitken

## Life Benefactor Jonathan Buck "Dutch" Treat

Discovering family history has been a passion throughout my life. In the 1890s, John Harvey Treat traced back our ancestors to the village of Pitminster, near Taunton in Somerset, England. I descend from Richard Trott, b. 1584, who married Alice and had five sons and four daughters. The first Treats arrived in the colonies in 1637 and settled in Wethersfield, Connecticut. I am descended from Robert Treat, Colonial Governor of Connecticut and subsequently founder of Newark, NJ, leading a group of New Haven Puritans there in 1666.

As a history major in college, I found the most meaningful part of history was biography, learning about why people did what they did, so genealogy is a natural fit for me. My immediate ancestors were shipbuilders who settled along Maine's Penobscot River, In fact, what is now the town of Frankfort, Maine, was labeled Treatville on maps in the 1800s.

I joined NEHGS as a member in 2008 and became a Life Benefactor in 2010. I joined the NEHGS Council in 2009 and subsequently became a Trustee. I am proud to be associated with the organization widely recognized as the premier genealogical research institution in the world. Seeing people embark on their family history journeys and learning the stories of their ancestors is deeply gratifying. The NEHGS expansion of their national headquarters to 97 Newbury Street will help to cultivate interest in family history among new audiences through its exciting new Discovery Center.

The value of an endeavor can be gauged by the quality of the people it attracts. By that measure NEHGS is truly blessed. The interesting people and great friends I have made through NEHGS have made it one of the centerpieces of my life.

## Benefactor Members (\$750/year)

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Diana M. Wild  
Susan and Robert N. Williams  
George Wilson  
Eleanor Woodason  
Susan Carle Young  
Carrie Zeidman

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## Volunteers

During the year, 23,348 volunteer hours were donated, the equivalent of 12 unpaid full-time staff. Over 280 volunteers and college interns assisted with patron research, processed manuscripts, edited publications, repaired books, helped with education programs, and worked on database projects. The college interns were drawn from Brigham Young University, Lesley University, Simmons University, and Suffolk University. We are grateful to Thomas O. Carlson for helping underwrite our volunteer program.

Valerie Abrahamsen  
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Emily Allen  
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Rodney Armstrong\*  
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Emerson W. Baker  
Pamela Badham  
Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs  
Liz Barnett  
Diana Beltron de Macedo  
Shaune-Marie Berg  
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Bernadine Bernavil  
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Pauline Cusson  
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Kees Hummel  
Peggy Hodges  
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Lois Houghton  
Randall Hube  
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Carolyn Jack  
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Ethan Maxwell  
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Maureen McCarthy  
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Paul McCool  
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Linda McGuire  
Bruce McKeeman  
Joseph McMillan  
Kathleen McNally  
Robin Mellow  
Meg Mill  
Marilyn Moffitt



Volunteers Meg Mill and Marie Wells with Gary Boyd Roberts (NEHGS Senior Research Scholar Emeritus).



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William Morse  
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Richard Wood  
Ryan J. Woods  
Michael S. Yoemans  
Mary Alice Yost  
Joseph Zajac  
Carol Zimmerman

\* Deceased

Trustees and Councilors are listed on page 20.

## Special recognition

The history of a fledging society that evolved into a nationally recognized research center has a common thread that runs through 175 years—our volunteers. Recognizing some of the longest-serving individuals who have been continually volunteering:

60 years	14 years
Rodney Armstrong*	Larry Akin
30 years	Francis Danico
Maureen Dearborn	Julie Nathanson
29 years	Ray Luddy
Esther Coke	Liz Odell
28 years	Jean Perkinson
Kathryn Smith Black	13 years
26 years	David Anderson
Helen Ullmann	Patricia Dalpiaz
25 years	Nancy Johnson
Sheila Thoman	Bruce McKeeman
21 years	Irene Weinmann
Gary Boyd Roberts	12 years
18 years	Lois Lober
Linda McGuire	Sandra Murphy Mauer
17 years	Sue Richart
Eldon Gay	Marie Wells
Elizabeth Handler	11 years
Robert Rainville	Diane Arbuckle
15 years	Loretta Brown-Aldrich
Helen Herzer	Jan Lundquist
Jane Papa	Kathleen Oberley
Karen Ristic	10 years
Ray Ristic	Alyssa True
Sam Sturgis	
Nathaniel L. Taylor	* Deceased

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Alicia Crane Williams, FASG  
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15 years    Rhonda McClure

5 years     Curt DiCamillo  
 Ann Lawthers  
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## Contributors

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