

SEPTEMBER 1, 2017–AUGUST 31, 2018

# 2018 annual stakeholder report

our  
expanding  
campus

creating new  
space at  
97 Newbury  
Street



**American  
Ancestors**  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



# 2018 annual stakeholder report

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## 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.



## Report of the President and CEO

During the fiscal year ending  
August 31, 2018, we achieved  
historic results.

During the fiscal year ending August 31, 2018, we achieved historic results. We 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 genealogical and historical scholarship, collections, and expertise. We significantly advanced our mission across each of our strategic plan goals of creating a sustainable financial future, building relationships to ensure our constituents identify as members of the American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society family, affirming our position as a center of scholarly excellence, and maximizing the use of technology to connect with constituents. We extended Strategic Plan 5 to fulfill the most important goal of its vision statement: the execution of our Cornerstone Project headquarters expansion. This project, when completed, will provide a better, richer visitor experience and urgently-needed office and programmatic space for our staff and constituents. Concurrently, we developed and refined strategies for a Cornerstone Campaign to fund this expansion and the early results of this effort are gratifying. Finally, we amended our Cornerstone Objectives to stretch us in new areas, namely in *expansion*—in business and our growing physical plant; *engagement*—primarily through exhibitions and public activities; and *science*—principally through deeper involvement in interpreting advances in DNA and genetics to genealogical and general audiences.



American  
Ancestors<sup>®</sup>  
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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Among those areas of most accomplishment in the fiscal year were:

## EXPANSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Expand our headquarters and grow operations with scalable business and philanthropic models to ensure financial sustainability

Our headquarters expansion—the Cornerstone Project—will be an important economic engine for our institution as we create a national visitor destination. This process will include building construction and renovations, retail business development, commercial partnerships, museum design implementation, visitor experience modeling, and public branding. To ensure our success, it will be critical to build earned revenue sources, philanthropy, and endowment funds each year.

Philanthropically and operationally, in fiscal year 2018 we achieved phenomenal results that further bolstered our sustainable financial future. Total contributed income topped \$5.6 million, including a \$1.25 million commitment from author Tabitha King to support our Cornerstone Project. After the close of the fiscal year, we received two more major commitments, also supporting our Cornerstone Campaign: an anonymous \$1.3 million gift for the new Center for Scholarly Publishing at 97 Newbury Street, which will be named in honor of Great Migration scholar Robert Charles Anderson, and a \$1.5 million gift from Nordahl and Suzanne Brue for an expanded Learning Center that will be named after them. These gifts, in combination with an earlier \$3 million commitment and other pledges, place

our Cornerstone Campaign total at more than \$7 million as of April 1, 2019. The timely Cornerstone gift from the Kings coincided with our successful negotiation to terminate the lease at 97 Newbury Street held by John Lewis, who operated a retail jewelry business there since the 1970s. Mr. Lewis vacated the premises on December 31, 2018. This development allows for our occupancy of the space four years ahead of schedule and will help alleviate considerable overcrowding at 99-101 Newbury Street. In consultation with the firm of Schwartz/Silver, we developed a master plan for our construction and renovation project. 97 Newbury Street will be used for office and meeting space until Cornerstone Project renovations take place in 2020–2021. This change of occupancy now enables us to petition the city of Boston to make this building part of our tax-exempt campus in the Back Bay. In this period, we also deepened our partnerships with FamilySearch and others to develop new features, facilities, and content for our expanded headquarters, in particular a state-of-the-art Discovery Center and an expanded retail experience with food service.

On an operating basis, we exceeded our income goals, kept expenses below budget, and concluded the year with our best bottom-line position and operating cash position in a decade. Sales, research

services, programmatic income, online education fees, and consultative services all contributed positively to our bottom line. The cumulative effect of our extraordinary philanthropic support, careful stewardship of our operating funds, and prudent investment management is that we achieved our highest investment portfolio value in the organization's history at \$33.4 million as of the end of the fiscal year.



## ENGAGEMENT

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

We will transform the organization into an experiential cultural institution of national importance that provides diverse audiences with relevant engagement, including educational programs, interpretive and interactive exhibitions, museum attractions, heritage tours, and other personal experiences that enrich lives, preserve legacies, and more fully communicate the power and importance of family history. We will challenge ourselves to recast our offerings as going beyond lineage research to be multifaceted and broadly inclusive of historical narrative and cultural context.

Our newest Cornerstone Goal has achieved considerable success in a short time as we find ways to more deeply engage our audiences. A new activity area was formalized when our Jewish Heritage Center was officially launched at a black-tie gala at the Taj Hotel and named in honor of its beloved, longtime supporters Justin “Jerry” and Genevieve Wyner and their family. At this event, our new director of the center, Rachel King, formerly of the Jewish Women’s Archive, was introduced and set her vision for the future of the Center. Online education blossomed during the year and reached thousands of constituents and new users. Elsewhere, a program of formalized exhibitions with online extensions commenced and supported topics ranging from the centenary of World War I, to mourning art in genealogy, to Wampanoag history (“*Our*” *Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History*) and the *Mayflower* legacy. In

addition, a large-scale model of the *Mayflower* and a Wampanoag-made history sculpture were commissioned through a generous member gift. They are prominently displayed in our front courtyard on Newbury Street to stimulate interest in our organization, the history of the Wampanoag Nation, and the *Mayflower* 400th anniversary commemorations. Our domestic and overseas tours proved to be exceptionally popular and we hosted major benefit dinners in honor of popular authors David McCullough; William M. Fowler, Jr.; and Winston Groom. Other signature events included an American book launch for the Duke of Rutland and Emma Ellis, a festive evening with chef Barbara Lynch, a luncheon hosted by Board Chairman Nancy Sands Maulsby at the Colony Club in New York for Curt DiCamillo travelers, and a 30th anniversary dinner celebration for the Great Migration Study Project and Robert Charles Anderson. We hosted a reception for the Social Register Association for more than 140 guests at our headquarters on the first-ever visit of that prestigious institution to Boston. Our 2019 Annual Meeting events include a Family History Benefit Dinner with newsman Dan Rather, Ancestry CEO Margo Georgiadis, and Society of the Cincinnati President General Jonathan Tufts Woods, as well as a joint event with the French Heritage Society, featuring Baron Hubert de Vinols. Finally, Margaret Talcott joined our staff as Director of Signature and Literary Events, a new role which helps support our many high-profile events and advance our engagement goals.

## RELATIONSHIPS

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

We will strive to connect with our members and the public in personally meaningful ways, serving as respected expert genealogists and historians that care deeply about helping people. Possessing broad expertise and resources, generously sharing both, we will continue to be indispensable to both family historians and peer organizations. We will be infused with an innovative spirit and vibrant energy to be helpful, engaging, and inspiring to people everywhere who seek to connect with their past. We will align our programs, messages, and customer service so that our members and the public identify more deeply with the institution and are offered numerous opportunities to make meaningful and inspiring connections.

With a high-level of engagement through programs, service, and best-in-class research materials, we continued to build and strengthen our relationships to ensure that each constituent identifies as a member of the American Ancestors and NEHGS family history community, now numbering more than 260,000 individuals. Our total constituency continued to grow year-over-year in both our dues-paying categories and our guest-member categories. Over the year, we welcomed thousands of new members, and our retention rate remained strikingly high at nearly 90%. Among our existing constituents, we worked to forge lasting bonds through nearly two hundred programs and events, serving more

than 20,000 individuals. Our library and archives continued to do good work in assisting visitors and creating more opportunities for paid tutorials,

consultations—both in person or through remote access, and sharing our staff's genealogical and historical expertise in relationship-building ways.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Maximize advancements in DNA and technology to connect with our members and the public

We will continue to enhance our use of DNA advancements and technological developments to create enriching personalized experiences for our members and the public. We will invest resources and leverage partnerships with commercial and nonprofit firms to expand our online tools, services, and programs. Through enhanced data collection methods, we will more systematically identify constituent preferences and tailor our programs and content development accordingly.

In this year, we committed to a future plan for adding more programming—especially through Discovery Center interpretive space—on DNA and genetics. Interest in DNA commercial testing—and genealogy more broadly—has reached an all-time high. The test kit industry has burgeoned and is propelled by dueling, multi-million dollar television advertising campaigns and brand promotions. Increasingly, our work involves gathering and interpretation of scientific data. Our role as experts and educators in the uses of DNA testing in overall genealogical research has never been more important or in more demand. Today, Americans—and indeed people of many nations—are curious about likely nationalities and ethnicities in their genetic makeup and a huge marketplace has been created. From that enormous pool come many individuals who need assistance in interpreting or expanding upon test results, or who wish for a deeper experience with documentary evidence to supplement test results and their ethnographically predictive models. We have built a menu of consultative offerings, vend test kits, publish DNA findings, and actively service that growing marketplace.

During the year, we made many enhancements to our flagship website, [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org), including updating the search experience and the site navigation and adding more than 8 million new searchable names to the site. We continued to invest in enhancing the user experience by improving database search features to provide an easier-to-use and more industry-standard search experience. Of particular note, we introduced database specific search pages. Now, every database has a page that presents only the relevant

fields for the data in that database. These new pages also include the database description, search tips, sample images, and citation information. We also introduced a new menu system on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org), expanding the main navigation menu from four words to seven (adding Library, Events, and News), and we introduced expanded, detailed directory-style drop-down menus. The purpose of the new menus is to showcase the large amount of content on our website. The new menus also help organize the content into logical groupings, making navigation an easier task, particularly for those new to the website. The new menus also improve our mobile experience. More than 20% of our new traffic takes place over tablets and smartphones, so the new menus are important tools that help make exploration of the website easier. Since implementation, the menus have contributed to more sessions overall, as more people are using the menus to discover more content on our website than ever before. On a year-over-year basis, unique users of the site increased by 29%, and we exceeded twenty-one million page views, a 13% increase in year over year.

In fiscal year 2018, we also launched two new companion websites. The first was [JewishHeritageCenter.org](http://JewishHeritageCenter.org) to showcase the work of the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at New England Historic Genealogical Society as a resource for exploring and preserving the histories of Jewish families and institutions in New England and beyond. [Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org](http://Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org) was launched as the online portal to our leading resources for Pilgrim research. The website shines a light on the lives of the Pilgrims, most notably in the form of passenger biographies from Robert Charles Anderson's seminal works. Visitors can filter the list of passengers and crew in several ways, including by who left descendants, who died, and who returned to Europe. They can also view a gallery of present-day descendants. Our site launch was covered by hundreds of media outlets around the globe, including the BBC, NPR, the *Boston Globe*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Advance our position as the leader in scholarly excellence in family history

We will produce major genealogical and historical research studies and provide access to authoritative resources for the pursuit of family and local history. We will support the work of genealogists, scholars, and those with a burgeoning interest in family history by increasing awareness of the importance of our deep, broad, and growing collections. Further, to promote the relevance of genealogy to the broader study of history, we will foster a collaborative spirit among genealogists, historians, and other historical institutions, both commercial and nonprofit.

We advanced our position as the leader in scholarly excellence in family history during the year through important content collaborations and publishing activities. In addition to our periodicals—*American Ancestors*, the *Register*, and *Mayflower Descendant*—we published twenty books, including *Early Vermont Settlers*; three compilations of our Research, Writing, and Records *Portable Genealogist* quick-reference guides; and six Newbury Street Press titles: *The Metcalf and Small Families: Some Descendants of Michael Metcalf of Dedham, Massachusetts, and Edward Small of Kittery, Maine*; *Ancestors and Descendants of Lester Lowry Mays and Peggy Pitman*; *An American Family: Four Centuries of Labor, Love, and Reward—A Story of the Davis Family*; *A Family Becoming American, Volume 5: McHardy, Montgomery, Trounson, Williams*; *A Family Becoming American, Volume 6: Polter, Urban, Wisgin, Steinert*; and *Ancestors and Descendants of Robert Alfred Sands and Kate Van Volkenburgh: Enduring Relations*. In addition to publishing scholarship in book form, we developed key new online content including

completing the “Silver Book” series, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, which brings this valuable research online for the first time. In the new fiscal year, Robert Charles Anderson’s long-awaited *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration* was published to universal acclaim and strong sales.

## CONCLUSION

These and a host of other accomplishments made this period truly outstanding—one of the very best years of exceptional progress in our long history. And, today, we stand poised to greatly enhance our headquarters, programs, outreach, and content with a dynamic expansion plan—just as we celebrate the historic milestones of our 175th anniversary and the Pilgrim Quadricentennial in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. Brenton Simons  
President and CEO





## Our expanding campus

Our headquarters expansion—the Cornerstone Project—is a momentous occasion in the history of our institution as we embark to create a national visitor destination that enhances the range of personalized family history services that we offer so we can better serve members across the country as well as reach out to a broader audience and local visitors.



We strive to be a center where members and visitors can learn about family history, not only through books and charts, but by participating in immersive, interactive, and technology-driven exhibitions that engage visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

The first major step in carrying out our vision to serve our growing constituency and the next generation of family historians took place in late 2012 when we agreed to purchase the four-story 1874 brownstone next door at 97 Newbury Street. After acquiring the building with funds raised during the final stages of our capital campaign, we launched the Cornerstone Project, setting in motion a multi-year program to carefully study, plan, fundraise, and then, in due course, strategically renovate and expand our facilities.

Over the past fiscal year, several major developments occurred in the Cornerstone Project:





## The Cornerstone Society

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

Nordahl and Suzanne Brue  
 Thomas Bailey Hagen  
 Tabitha King  
 Anonymous (1)

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

Judith Avery  
 Helen H. Berkeley  
 John G. L. Cabot  
 Stephen H. Case  
 Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman  
 Bill and Cindy Griffith  
 John F. Keane  
 David W. Kruger  
 Andrew P. Langlois  
 Jo Anne Makely  
 William R. Marsh, M.D.  
 Nancy S. Maulsby  
 Carol R. McGee  
 Peck Stacpoole Foundation  
 The Arnold Garrison Foundation  
 Jonathan Buck Treat  
 Nancy Clay Webster  
 Wallace S. and Isabel B.\* Wilson  
 Justin and Genevieve Wyner  
 Anonymous (4)

Member Tabitha King committed \$1.25 million to support the Cornerstone Project and its educational programming to bring the lessons and values of family history research to students and people across the country.

This incredible generosity coincided with our successful negotiation to occupy the 97 Newbury Street building at the end of 2018, four years ahead of schedule. We will use the building for office and meeting space until full Cornerstone Project renovations begin in 2021.

These key developments follow on the extraordinary support of our Trustee, Thomas Bailey Hagen, who made a lead Cornerstone Project gift of \$3 million in the spring of 2017. His contribution allowed us to engage renowned architectural firm Schwartz/Silver in working with us to draft a master plan that thoughtfully layouts the blueprint for renovating and expanding our complex in a manner that creates compelling experiences—in person and virtually. During this planning period, we will continue a process with leading consultants to ensure a vibrant and engaging family history experience delivered with a sustainable financial model.

We are also in discussions with retail partners to create a signature museum store destination that will offer unique gifts and products that celebrate families, honor our nation's history, and will be cherished for generations.

In the fullness of time, the Cornerstone Project will include an expanded visitor center; food service; a destination retail experience on the first floor of our headquarters; a learning center to expand programs—in person and online—to members, young people, and diverse communities near and far; a tech-oriented interpretive center with museum installations; and collaborative workspaces to allow our world-renowned experts to provide consultations, conduct research, and produce vital, award-winning scholarship to advance the study of family history.

## CORNERSTONE PROJECT COMPONENTS

### DISCOVERY CENTER

To meet one of our highest strategic priorities, the Discovery Center will be a state-of-the-art museum space that combines history and technology to connect, educate, and inspire visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Using smart



technology platforms and interactive design, The Discovery Center will feature immersive exhibits that tell the stories of the American experience—from immigration to westward expansion; from diaspora to manifest destiny. The Discovery Center will also contain a groundbreaking exhibit on DNA and genetics. School groups and families 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 their families' role in human history.

#### PUBLIC ENTRANCE

A new, open, modern, and welcoming entry to our headquarters that will invite visitors to enter a retail space, café, and Discovery Center, and encourage further engagement with family history experiences throughout the complex.

#### MUSEUM SHOP

A street-level retail experience offering family history resources and gifts from NEHGS and other collaborating nonprofit organizations.

#### THE CENTER FOR SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

A home to the foremost program of genealogical scholarly research and publishing in America today, including the renowned Newbury Street Press, the ever-popular and informative *American Ancestors* magazine, the *Register: The Journal of American Genealogy*, the acclaimed Great Migration Study Project, our widely read *Vita Brevis* blog, *The Weekly Genealogist*, *Mayflower Descendant: A Journal of Pilgrim Genealogy & History*, and other scholarly publications and long-term study projects.



#### LEARNING CENTER

A state-of-the-art facility for expanded programming with scholars, multi-generational audiences, and diverse communities that provides flexible classrooms equipped for the production and broadcasting of seminars and webinars on family history throughout the world.

#### COLLABORATIVE WORKSPACES

Dedicated workspace for the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center to facilitate expanded access to unique collections, aid in the creation of new expert content, publications, scholarship, and educational programming while reaching broader, previously underserved audiences.

The Cornerstone Project will have an important and enduring positive effect on the study of history and genealogy for decades to come. It will serve a national audience of historians, genealogists, educators, curators, and museum professionals, and will be a magnet to thousands of families and tourists visiting the historic Back Bay of Boston.

We look forward to keeping our members apprised of this exciting development as it progresses in the years ahead. If you would like more information about the Cornerstone Project including its naming opportunities, please contact Susan Fugliese, Vice President, at [susan.fugliese@nehgs.org](mailto:susan.fugliese@nehgs.org) or 617-226-1218.



## 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 that 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 close to 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 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 1.4 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.

Above: Our expert staff sharing a day out at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

## 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 160 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.



Top: Genealogists from American Ancestors and NEHGS visit the Phineas Bates Elementary School in Roslindale, Massachusetts, to teach two classes of fifth graders how to trace their family history. Bottom: Genealogist Ann Lawthers gives a one-on-one consultation during the annual NEHGS Salt Lake City Research Tour.



## D. BRENTON SIMONS PRESIDENT AND CEO

D. Brenton Simons has changed the face of nonprofit-based genealogy in America by bringing the best scholarship to millions of users for more than a decade 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 250,000 members and millions of online users with 1.4 billion records. An industry leader for twenty-five years through various positions at NEHGS, he is proud to head the world's premier scholarly genealogical program and he is a champion of multi-partner collaboration in the genealogy and history communities.

An award-winning author, Brenton Simons has been featured on CNN, FOX, BBC, PBS-TV, the *New York Times*, 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.” An earlier book—*Witches, Rakes, and Rogues*—is a critically acclaimed and popular anthology of pre-Federal Boston nonfiction history stories that has never gone out of print.

Mr. Simons is a Board Member of Plymouth 400 and *The New England Quarterly*, and is a member of the American Antiquarian Society, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Club of Odd Volumes, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Society of Colonial Wars (in Massachusetts and Florida), a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a proprietor of the Boston Athenæum, among many other affiliations. He is also Consulting Editor of the *Social Register Observer*.

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.



## RYAN J. WOODS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND COO

Ryan J. Woods, a twelve-year veteran of key management positions at American Ancestors and NEHGS, serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of our organization. In this role, he provides executive oversight for the day-to-day operations of our seventeen activity areas including content and collection development, web services, publishing activities, research services, educational programming, financial operations, facilities management, marketing strategies, and business planning.

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 Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. Currently, Ryan is focused on partnerships, and business planning for our headquarter expansion and the creation of a national visitor destination experience.

Ryan serves on several nonprofit boards and committees, including as Chairman of the Committee on Heraldry, as a member of the Committee on Pretensions of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, as Secretary of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as a development committee member for Plymouth 400, as partner representative on the Mayor of Boston's Green Ribbon Commission, and as immediate past-President of the Boston University School of Education Alumni Association. He is also 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.

Ryan and his family, wife Karen and son Nathaniel, are strong supporters of cultural institutions in greater Boston; they are patron members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Plimoth Plantation, Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Children's Museum, and the New England Aquarium.



## SUSAN B. FUGLIESE

VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
ADVANCEMENT

A member of the American Ancestors and NEHGS leadership team since 2017, Susan is responsible for the Advancement department, comprised of development and its components including principal and major gifts, the annual fund, foundation and corporate relations, planned and deferred giving, and advancement operations. Fundraising revenue is responsible for nearly 50% of the organization's annual operating budget. In addition, principal and major gift fundraising is responsible for securing the capital and endowed income essential to NEHGS's growth. Susan is responsible for the Cornerstone Campaign for programmatic and physical headquarters expansion to 97 Newbury Street.

Susan's department is responsible for all capital and current program support, the Family History Fund, supporting key NEHGS elements such as the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center and the Catholic Records Project, and strengthening annual operating income. Susan oversees a highly-experienced principal, major and planned gift team, as well as Annual Fund and stewardship leaders. The Advancement team works collaboratively with fundraising elements throughout the organization. Susan and her team work with trustees and councilors, individual members and donors, corporate sponsors, foundations, and others interested in greater participation in the life and support of NEHGS.

An American Studies graduate of Colby-Sawyer College with a focus on Art History, Susan began her philanthropic career in Legacy Giving at Massachusetts General Hospital, and then joined the faculty at Phillips Academy Andover where she fundraised, coached, and taught American Literature. Susan went on to create and manage advancement initiatives at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she created a program in Family Legacy. Susan lives in Beacon Hill.



## BETH A. BROWN

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR ADVANCEMENT

A member of the fundraising team at American Ancestors and NEHGS since 2015, Beth travels the country identifying new volunteer leadership, raising funds from individuals, corporations, and foundations to support the operating budget, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, the expansion at 97 Newbury Street, the acquisition of archives, and other special projects. For over 15 years, Beth's fundraising career has included notable nonprofit organizations throughout Boston such as Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Northeastern University's D'Amore-McKim School of Business, Handel and Haydn Society, and Boston Lyric Opera.

Raised in Cumberland, Maine, as a child Beth became fascinated with family history thanks to her grandparents' research and love of sharing family stories. She enjoys studying her ancestors from the Great Migration, early Quebec, New England, England, and France, as well as researching her husband's Jewish genealogy. She is a prospective member of the DAR, with interest to join the Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Colonial Dames. Beth received her Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Maine, cum laude, and a Master of Arts in Medieval Art History from McGill University in Montreal. Beth and her husband Chuck live in the historic Boston neighborhood of Beacon Hill.



## NANCY S. MAULSBY

### CHAIRMAN

Nancy S. Maulsby of Greenwich, Connecticut, is former Vice President of Corporate Communications and Protocol at Chase Manhattan Bank and co-founder of Development Unlimited, Inc., a provider of management services for not-for-profits. She has served on several boards of not-for-profits and educational organizations, including the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, the Buckley School, Grosvenor Neighborhood House, the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and Hartwick College. She is a member of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which supports the international humanitarian endeavors of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. While living in Greenwich, Connecticut, she was actively involved with Christ Church Greenwich, having served on its vestry and in the Junior and Senior Warden positions. Nancy is the immediate past Vice Chairman of NEHGS, a past Trustee and past Councilor, has served on the Strategic Planning Committee, is the immediate past Chair of the Development Committee, and is currently Co-Chair of the Future Expansion Committee and a member of the Executive, Human Resources, and Garden Advisory Committees. She has been a member of NEHGS since 2002, a Life Member since 2009, and is a member of the Founders' Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving.

### CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD, 1845–PRESENT\*

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1948–1954	Walter Merriam Pratt	1845–1850	Charles Ewer

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





## STEPHEN H. CASE

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Stephen H. Case of New York, New York, is Managing Director and General Counsel of Emerald Development Managers LP, Vice Chairman of the Museum of the American Revolution, a retired Partner of Davis Polk & Wardwell, a former Chairman of the Board, Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation), and a Trustee Emeritus of Columbia University, New York Presbyterian Hospital, and Glimmerglass Opera Company. He is the co-author of *Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold's Plot to Betray America* (2012). Having joined NEHGS in 2007, he is a past Trustee and Councilor, serves on the Executive and Development Committees, and is a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving.



## ANDREW P. LANGLOIS

### TREASURER

Retired President of Mormac Marine Group, Chief Financial Officer of several affiliated companies; Investor and Director, Moran Transportation Company. Previous management positions with General Dynamics Corporation. Life member of Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. Member: New Hampshire Historical Society, Maine Historical Society, New Hampshire Society of Genealogists, Society of Genealogists (London). Published genealogist. Education: B.S., Carnegie Mellon University; M.B.A., Harvard Business School. Spouse: Lynne Langlois. NEHGS: member since 1979; past Councilor; Trustee; member, Executive, Audit, Finance, Investment, and Future Expansion Committees; member, Cornerstone Society for Giving and Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving; Associate Member.



## JO ANNE C. MAKELY

### SECRETARY

Jo Anne Crowley Makely of Plymouth, Massachusetts, is the former mayor of the Township of Mahwah, 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, who has been a member since 1995.

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In September 1620, 102 passengers—men, women, and children—and a crew of approximately 30 people left England aboard the *Mayflower* to seek freedom to practice their religion and opportunity in the New World.

After a harrowing sixty-six day voyage across the Atlantic, the *Mayflower* arrived in Cape Cod; by December 1620, the passengers planted the first permanent settlement of New England in Plymouth and laid the foundation for America.

The *Mayflower* passengers did not, of course, land in a place devoid of people or culture. They arrived in the Wampanoag Nation.

By commemorating the landing of the *Mayflower*, we honor the story of the Pilgrims and the native Wampanoag people. Their stories, collectively and individually, embody the triumphs and tragedies of life in early New England, and in the country itself.

From the *Mayflower's* small group of "Saints"—those seeking the free exercise of their religious beliefs—and "Strangers"—those who sought a better economic future—came a founding document that would be an inspiration for the Constitution of the United States of America. Upon

landing in the New World, the Pilgrims authored the Mayflower Compact, an agreement which created a "civil body politick" and established a society to be governed by "just and equal laws."

The legacy of the *Mayflower* can also be seen in the growth and expansion of the country. While nearly half of the 102 *Mayflower* passengers who arrived on the shores of Massachusetts died during the first winter, twenty-six families of passengers are known to have left descendants.

Currently, it is estimated that some 35 million people can trace their ancestry back to the *Mayflower*.

Here at American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society—the first genealogical organization in the world—we serve as the nation's collective memory for family history. We bring together a broad and diverse audience seeking to understand the past by educating, inspiring, and connecting people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

As we commemorate the landing of the *Mayflower*—an event of national and international significance—we will engage people in a series of *programs, publications, exhibitions,*

and *tours* that will touch on the key themes of exploration, innovation, religious freedom, self-governance, immigration, and Thanksgiving as we honor and learn from the enduring legacies of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag.

Join us to explore your heritage, to understand your family's unique place in history, and to be a part of the *Mayflower* story.

### OUR COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES

In the fall of 2017, we launched an online portal called *Mayflower*. *AmericanAncestors.org* that provides biographical and genealogical sketches for each *Mayflower* passenger, highlights our 2020 commemoration activities, and links to a variety of resources for early New England research. The website also hosts the largest online gallery of *Mayflower* descendants in the world. Thousands of individuals from all fifty states and from across the globe—Australia to Hungary—have added their pictures to our interactive map and expressed what being a *Mayflower* descendant means to them. We will continue to add new scholarship, features, and experiences on the website through the year 2020.

To help aid more people discover their *Mayflower* connections, through a partnership with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), in the summer of 2018 we launched the largest online database of authenticated *Mayflower* genealogies: *Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700-1880*. This database is a result of a collaboration between NEHGS and GSMD announced in July 2017. Through that agreement, GSMD made its "Silver Books" resource available to NEHGS for digitization and indexing. Known by that name because of their distinctive silver covers, the *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* series meticulously documents the first five generations of Pilgrim descendants. This new online database encompasses authenticated information on more than 7,300 families—more than 59,450 people—in the fifth generation of 50 of the 51 *Mayflower* passengers known to have descendants.

As the international leader of scholarship, programs, and exhibitions for the commemorations of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the



A young visitor interacts with the exhibit, "*Our*" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History, during its launch at NEHGS.

*Mayflower*, we published the first, definitive guide to the 2020 anniversary in a special issue of *American Ancestors* magazine. In the issue, we provide comprehensive information about heritage tours, programs, research resources, and descriptions of the contributions from organizations in the United States, Wampanoag Nation, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. Featured articles include Wampanoag perspectives on colonization, Jewish influences on Pilgrim thought, understanding the Pilgrims through their home libraries and artifacts, and a reader's pilgrimage back to his ancestor's baptismal church. Our NEHGS resources are detailed, including our pioneering *Mayflower* portal, new and classic publications, and our guide to tracing *Mayflower* descent.

In spring 2018, we hosted a ground-breaking exhibition: "*Our*" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History, an essential educational resource for telling an often-omitted part of early American history. Amongst other key aspects of Wampanoag history, visitors learned of the kidnappings and enslavement of Wampanoag people by Europeans in the years prior to 1620, the messenger runners who carried news throughout the nation, and some of the devastating effects of the European-brought plague that wiped out up to 90% of the Wampanoag people in a two year span.

Myriad new scholarship is also emerging from our commemorations. In winter 2018, we published *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England* by Robert Charles

Anderson; three new research compendia are also forthcoming in the Great Migration Study Project: *The Mayflower Migration*, *The East Anglia Migration*, and *The West Country Migration*.

We are also continuing our work on *Mayflower Descendant: A Journal of Pilgrim Genealogy & History*. We publish this highly respected scholarly journal twice a year with a winter and a summer issue. Edited by Christopher Challender Child, it is the preeminent resource leading researchers to *Mayflower* families and related genealogies, their origins in England and their lives and places of residence in America.

In addition, we are partnering with American colonial historians, the Mashpee Wampanoag, and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts to publish a new annotated edition of William Bradford's *Of Plimmoth Plantation*. Other projects include *The Mayflower 500: Mayflower Descents of 500 Notable Americans* by Gary Boyd Roberts. This book will include *Mayflower* lineages for many well-known Americans across four centuries. Descendants include Presidents of the United States, First Ladies, politicians, diplomats, literary figures, inventors, entrepreneurs and business people, actors, and others.

We are also collaborating with oral historians to collect and publish interviews with *Mayflower* descendants on the impact of discovering their ancestry and perspectives on the 400th-anniversary commemorations.

A key component of our 400th-anniversary programs is heritage tours. In August 2018, Robert

Charles Anderson led a tour to Scrooby Manor and environs where participants followed the paths of William Bradford, William Brewster, and others in the important years leading up to the decision to leave England. The second tour in the series will be a 2019 visit to the Netherlands, where we will explore Leiden, Delft, and Amsterdam to gain an understanding of Pilgrim life before the voyage to the New World. The third tour of the series will bring us to the south of England to see Plymouth, Southampton, London, Sandwich, and Canterbury to illuminate the moments before the launch of the *Mayflower* and the journey that would change the world.

In 2020, our experts will also lead two exclusive three-day visits to historic sites in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts associated with the Pilgrims, including stops in Plymouth, Provincetown, Boston, Duxbury, and elsewhere as we explore behind-the-scenes at locations that are foundational to American history and genealogy.

We are proud to hold leadership positions in the national and international planning and execution of commemoration activities for 2020. Brenton Simons serves on the Board of Directors of Plymouth 400, the lead organization charged with 400th-anniversary events; Ryan Woods serves on the Development Committee for Plymouth 400; American Ancestors and NEHGS is an institutional leader on the commission created by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Ginevra Morse is the chair of the American Ancestors and NEHGS 2020 Committee, and many other NEHGS staff members are participating with key partners to make 2020 a success.



Participants on the Pilgrim Roots of the Great Migration Heritage Tour, August 2018, at Scrooby Manor.

# Website and new databases

The database team at American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society thanks its partners and volunteers who have made these additions and updates possible. Our partners include Shauna C. Anderson Young, Susan Easton Black, and Ruth Ellen Maness, FamilySearch, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives, John Sterling, Scott Andrew Bartley, Alicia Crane Williams, Helen Schatvet Ullmann, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston.

The following databases were added to AmericanAncestors.org during Fiscal Year 2018:

## NEW DATABASES

- Denmark: Mormon Missionaries and Migration to America, 1872–1894
- Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1916–1920
- New England (Image only): Marriage Manuscript of Clarence A. Torrey, 1583–1700
- Norfolk County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1793–1877
- Norway: Mormon Missionaries and Emigrants to America, 1886–1900
- Rhode Island: Historical Cemeteries, 1647–2000
- Suffolk County, MA: Probate File Papers
- Vermont: Windham and Windsor County Census, 1771

## ADDITIONS TO EXISTING DATABASES

- American Ancestors Magazine (Vol. 18)
- Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761–1917 (Cases 21,144 –30,601 from years 1901–1917)
- Early New England Families, 1641–1700 (12 volumes)
- Early Vermont Settlers, 1700–1784 (142 volumes)
- Great Migration Newsletter, V.1–25 (5 volumes)
- Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900 (367 volumes)
- Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900 (131 volumes)
- Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620–1850 (2 volumes)
- New England Historical and Genealogical Register (Vol. 171)
- Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 (29 volumes)

## IMPROVED DATABASES

- Albany Argus: Records of Deaths and Marriages, 1826–1828
- Boscawen, NH: Records of the Second Church of Christ, 1804–1883
- Boston Recorder and Telegraph: Marriages, 1827–1828
- East Haddam, CT: Records of the First Congregational Church, 1704–1802
- Greenfield, MA: Records, 1775–1911
- Guilford, CT Deaths, 1883–1890
- Killingly, CT: Church Records, 1711–1775
- Lincoln County, ME: Commissioners Marriage Records 1759–1777
- Lyme, NH: Congregational Church Records, 1774–1867
- Milford, CT: Records of the First Church, 1640–1829
- New Canaan [CT] Era: Marriages and Deaths in New York State, 1868–1871
- New Hampshire Gazette: Vital Records, 1756–1800
- New Hampshire: Marriage and Death Notices Published in Newspapers, 1848–1856
- Otsego County, NY: Newspaper Records, 1808–1831
- Springfield [MA] Republican: Marriages and Deaths, 1847
- Westfield, MA: Deaths in the First Church, 1728–1836

In FY 2018, we implemented many improvements to enhance our users' search experience. These improvements include:

- Addition of the database description and citation to the image and transcript pages
- Ability to print the search results page
- A new search option, Category Search, which allows a user to search everything in a particular category (such as Vital Records). This search is a best-fit search, which should allow a greater flexibility in the search results found.
- A new search option, Database Search, which allows a user to search everything in a particular database using a best-fit search. Improved database-specific Search Tips should also make this search easier for users.
- Search results improvements—sliders to refine your search and a cut-off bar which separates more relevant and less relevant results in our new best-fit searches
- New Record Display page displays a thumbnail of the image and the transcript next to each other, and gives options such as viewing the image or viewing other records on the page

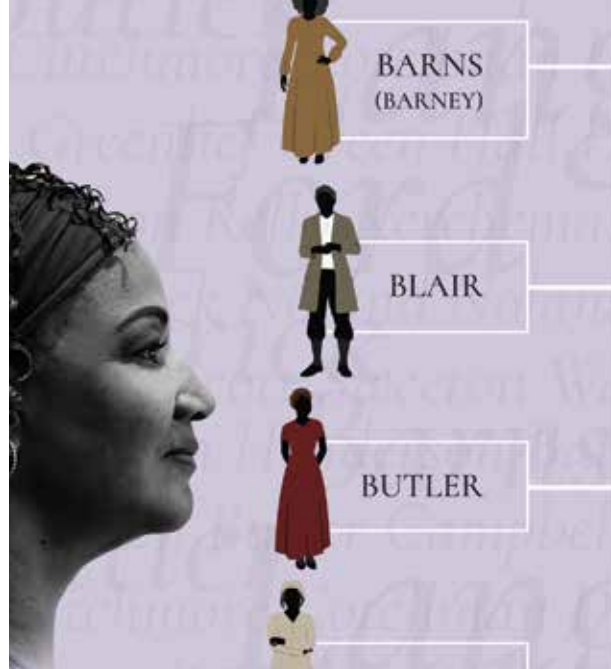
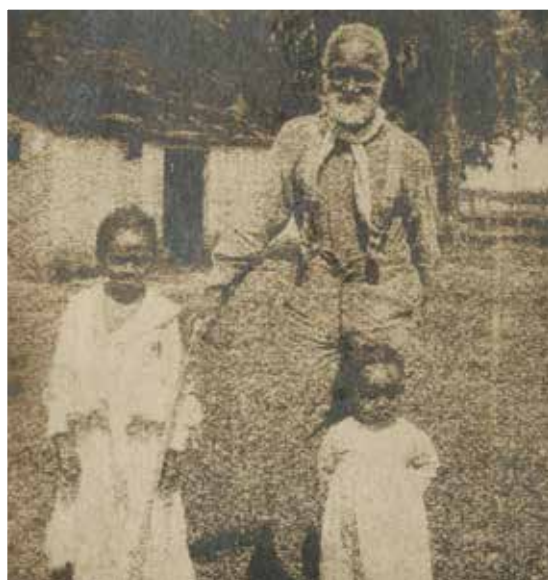
# The Georgetown University 272 Memory Project (GU272)

This year, American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society will launch a unique and exciting new digital family history project: an online research portal containing information about the approximately 272 enslaved people who were sold in 1838 by the Georgetown University's Jesuit administrators. Our GU272 Memory Project will be a unique resource for African American family history—and will present the first compiled online data for the GU272 and their descendants. The two main components of the site will be a database and a collection of oral histories.

This initiative is the result of our partnership with the Georgetown Memory Project (GMP), a nonprofit organization founded by friends, allies, and alumni of Georgetown University.

## *Descendants of the GU272 DATABASE*

The cornerstone of the portal will be a database created from the carefully documented genealogical work of the Georgetown Memory Project. The information will be grouped in volumes, with one for each GU272 family. We expect to launch the database with over forty-nine GU272 families and add more over time. The data will be provided in two ways:



- An indexed *Register*-style report for each GU272 family will present all known births, marriages, and deaths.
- Source records for every individual in the database will be digitized and indexed, and presented in its own searchable volume.

The years covered in the database will range from the early 1800s through the late 1900s. To protect privacy, only individuals born before 1919 will be included.

## ORAL HISTORIES: MEMORIES OF MARINGOUIN AND BEYOND

While data tells an important part of the GU272 story, facts alone cannot capture the human experience. The new website will feature an online gallery of oral histories by GU272 descendants. More than thirty descendants in Louisiana, Maryland, and California have already been interviewed, and more sessions are planned. Most of the interviewees are 70 years or older, and have only recently learned through news stories about their ancestral connections to the GU272.

In an average ninety-minute interview descendants are asked to discuss different aspects of their lives, from birth to the present. People often discuss their upbringing, relatives, and family customs and traditions. Many share reflections on their professional careers, hardships they faced, and personal relationships, especially with their children.

We are eager to share what we have learned about the GU272 and their descendants; we feel this compelling story should be known to Americans of all backgrounds. Please join us on this journey.

— Claire Vail and Don LeClair

## Research projects

### SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT PROJECT

Research and writing has commenced on a large project for the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut in which, fully cited genealogical and biographical sketches of the 686 men noted as qualified propositi for membership in the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut by the Society's Committee on Pretensions. Of the 686 propositi noted as qualified for membership, 250 were Original Members, 193 died in service, 189 qualify under the Rule of 1854, 26 were deranged by a Congressional-mandated reorganization, 17 engaged in at least three campaigns of the war, 10 were permanently incapacitated, and one qualifies under the provision for serving to the end of the war in 1783. This project is scheduled for completion in approximately three years.

### GENERAL SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS PARTNERS WITH NEHGS RESEARCH SERVICES

Beginning in October 2017, a new agreement with the General Society of Colonial Wars and the NEHGS Research Services team was reached,

in which researchers were commissioned to perform the final review of new and supplemental applications submitted by Colonial Wars state societies. This arrangement ensured that Colonial Wars membership had a clear process, uniform methods of verification, and was based on the rigorous scholarly standards inherent to NEHGS. NEHGS reviews each new and supplemental application for completeness and adherence to the standards of eligibility and documentation established by the General Society. If an application has gaps or raises questions, the state society will be notified directly by NEHGS of the specific issues(s) that may require corrective action. NEHGS will not perform the research to fill those gaps or correct the issues. Rather, the state society can work directly with the candidate to quickly and effectively fix any problems. NEHGS will complete reviews within 30 days of receipt. After almost a year of providing this service to the valued members and prospective members at GSCW, the Research Services team is happy to report that we have received more than 200 applications from prospective and current members and have an impressive 75%+ approval rate. Here at NEHGS we are pleased that our researchers have been entrusted with this important responsibility and look forward to further strengthening our relationship with the Society of Colonial Wars.



The NEHGS Research Services team, March 2019.



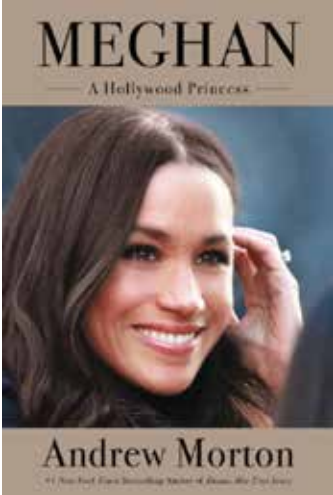
# In the news

Headlines in the media during the past year brought news of the expertise and scholarship of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society to readers around the world.

Our work in bringing new and innovative resources online for researching *Mayflower* genealogies generated widespread news stories in newspapers, magazines, radio, and TV.

And our discovery that Meghan Markle was a direct descendant of royalty—and a cousin of her groom-to-be Prince Harry—led to widespread coverage in media leading up to the Royal Wedding in May. The world’s increasing curiosity about the analysis of DNA and the evidence it offers family historians for genealogical research brought journalists to our headquarters and into deep conversations with our genealogists.

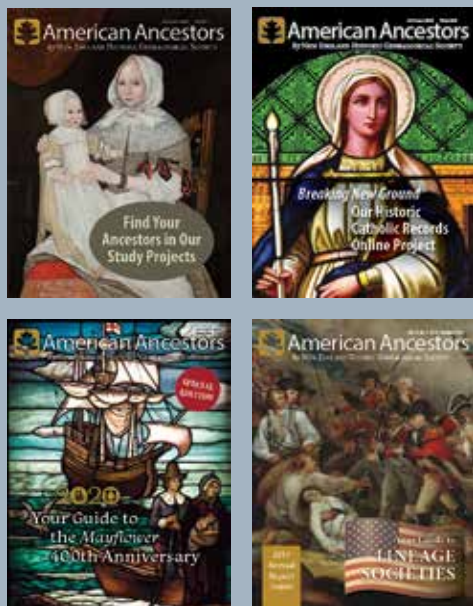
In many ways American Ancestors and NEHGS is at the forefront of delivery of information that impacts the world of genealogy—and society as a whole. Today’s sophisticated media industry recognizes this and is anxious to report it.



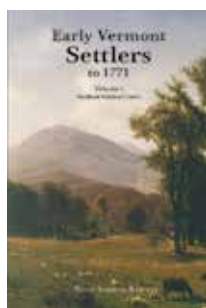
# Publications

In addition to four issues of *American Ancestors* magazine, four issues of the *Register*, and two issues of *Mayflower Descendant*, we published seventeen new books during the course of fiscal year 2018.

## *American Ancestors*

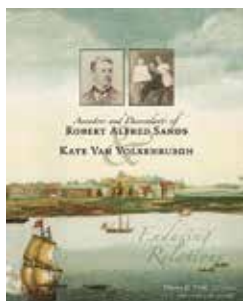


## *The Register, Mayflower Descendant*



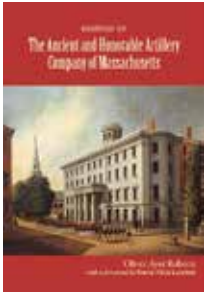
## NEHGS BOOKS

- *Early Vermont Settlers to 1771: Vol. 1—Southern Windsor County* by Scott Andrew Bartley
- *Pilgrim Edward Winslow: New England's First International Diplomat* by Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs



## NEWBURY STREET PRESS BOOKS

- *The Metcalf and Small Families: Some Descendants of Michael Metcalf of Dedham, Massachusetts, and Edward Small of Kittery, Maine* by Maureen A. Taylor and Peter M. Small with Carol McCoy
- *Ancestors and Descendants of Lester Lowry Mays and Peggy Pitman* by Kyle Hurst
- *An American Family: Four Centuries of Labor, Love, and Reward—A Story of the Davis Family* by Jenifer Kahn Bakkala
- *Ancestors and Descendants of Robert Alfred Sands and Kate Van Volkenburgh: Enduring Relations* by Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, with Nancy Sands Maulsby
- *A Family Becoming American, Vol. 3: York (6 books)* by David Watson Kruger
- *A Family Becoming American, Vol. 5: McHardy* by David Watson Kruger



## SPECIAL HONOREE PUBLICATIONS

*Ancestors of David McCullough*  
by David Allen Lambert

## EXPERTS' CHOICE COLLECTION: REPRINTS OF GENEALOGICAL CLASSICS

- *Connecticut Historical Collections* by John Warner Barber
- *History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts* (4 vols.) by Oliver Ayer Roberts



## PORTABLE GENEALOGIST QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDES

- *Portable Genealogist Compilation: Writing*
- *Portable Genealogist Compilation: Research*
- *Portable Genealogist Compilation: Records*

## NEWBURY STREET PRESS PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

- *Some Descendants of Christopher Webb of Braintree, Massachusetts*
- *Ancestors and Descendants of William Joseph Henry Finn*
- *Ancestors and Descendants of John Jacob McCaslin*



## Vita Brevis

*Vita Brevis* is NEHGS's blog, and is designed to offer the reader short essays as well as news of the greater genealogical community. It includes posts on research methods—applicable to a variety of genealogical subjects—as well as results. During the blog's five years of publication, these posts have become a resource for the genealogical researcher to explore.

Contributors to *Vita Brevis* include most of our genealogists, as well as authors like Robert Charles Anderson, FASG (the Great Migration series, *Puritan Pedigrees*), and Bill Griffeth (*The Stranger in My Genes*). Subject matter ranges from medieval European genealogical research to the modern day, hopscotching from the voyage of the *Mayflower* to twentieth-century immigration through Ellis Island. While the blog occasionally engages with breaking news, for the most part contributors tell a story—sometimes on themselves—as they pose questions and work out a way to plausible answers. Learning how to question assumptions—their own or those of earlier researchers—helps *Vita Brevis* bloggers break through intractable “brick walls”; often, too, the process is as engaging as the results can be pleasing.

With almost two million page views in the life of the blog (launched in January 2014), *Vita Brevis* has become an important part of its readers' daily routine. A reader's comment on a recent post can stand for many such responses: “Thank you ... for finding and telling the stories of your family's heroes. Wonderful read—you had me on the edge of my seat.”

# Tours and programs

## FY2018

Genealogical Resources at the Boston City Archives  
September 1, 2017

African American Genealogical Research and Resources at NEHGS  
September 9, 2017

Acadian Refugees in Massachusetts  
September 9, 2017

Open Newbury  
September 10, 2017

Researching the Lives of Your Irish Ancestors  
September 16, 2017

The Saverne Affair of World War I  
September 26, 2017

Public Health in Puritan Boston: Water, Privies, Sewers & Epidemics  
September 27, 2017

Rationing and Recipes in WWI  
October 6, 2017

Stories in Stone: America Through Its Early Burial Grounds  
October 11, 2017

Fall Research Getaway  
October 12–14, 2017

Researching Veteran Ancestors  
October 14, 2017

No More Champagne: Churchill and His Money  
October 17, 2017

Hidden Treasures of NEHGS  
October 25, 2017

Using AmericanAncestors.org  
November 1, 2017

Looking Good at 150  
November 3, 2017

NEHGS Salt Lake City Research Tour  
November 5, 2017

Women in WWI  
November 8, 2017

The *Mayflower*: The Families, the Voyage, and the Founding of America  
November 11, 2017

Atrium School Visit: Archivist for the Day  
November 14, 2017

The Back Bay: from Mudflat to Landfill to Modern Metropolis  
November 16, 2017

Minnesota Roadshow: Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls: Strategies for Success  
November 18, 2017

The Hero of Halifax: The Massachusetts Relief Effort Following the Halifax Explosion of 1917  
December 6, 2017

New England's Hidden Histories: The Race to Rescue Our Earliest Manuscript Church Record  
December 8, 2017

Fireside Chats & Open House  
December 9, 2017

Taking Your DAR Membership Further: Preparing Supplemental Lineage Society Applications  
January 6, 2018

Brooks School Visit: Genealogy 101  
January 16, 2018

Dr. Saul Hertz And The Origins of Nuclear Medicine  
January 17, 2018

Building Your Genealogical Skills  
January 20, January 27, and February 3, 2018

Using DNA in Your Family History  
January 20, 2018

Using AmericanAncestors.org  
January 24, 2018

Growing Up with the Country: Family, Race, and Nation After the Civil War  
January 24, 2018

Genealogical Resources at Massachusetts Historical Society  
February 2, 2018

Researching Your Veteran Ancestors  
February 10, 2018

Winter Research Getaway  
February 22–24, 2018

Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare: The Mavericks Who Plotted Hitler's Defeat  
February 27, 2018

The 1919 Boston Police Strike Project  
March 2, 2018

Researching Your Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors  
March 5, 2018

Lawrence Academy School Visit: Genealogy 101  
March 9, 2018

DNA in Genealogy: How Genetic Testing Can Enrich Your Family History  
March 10, 2018

Immigration and Naturalization  
March 10, 2018

Phineas Bates Elementary School Visit: Family History Detectives  
March 16, 2018

Anti-Irish Sentiment in 19th c. America  
March 17, 2018

Genealogical Boot Camp  
March 22–24, 2018

Chippendale: The Man and the Myth  
March 29, 2018

"Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History  
April 3, 2018

The World of Credit in Colonial Massachusetts  
April 6, 2018

NEHGS Hartford Research Tour  
April 9–14, 2018

The Critical Backstory to Colonization from the Native Perspective  
April 18, 2018

## PRAISE FOR IN-PERSON EVENTS

"As a family historian who is fairly inexperienced with genealogy, this 3-day getaway was a big boost to my confidence and ability. I really gained so much from interacting with the knowledgeable staff, physical resources, and volunteers present."  
—Deborah Wade, Research Getaway participant

"This was my first experience doing in-person research at a library. I found everyone involved, from NEHGS to the library to other participants, to be friendly and very helpful. There was so much available that it was almost overwhelming. I was able to locate many records I was looking for. The tour seemed to be very organized. I am looking forward to coming to Boston sometime to visit the NEHGS."  
— Grace Mason, Hartford Research Tour participant

"Just a wonderful experience. Met really nice people who share the same interest. . . . This will really help with my research."  
—Debbie Keehne, Salt Lake City Research Tour participant

Locate! Research! Analyze!  
April 21, 2018  
Using AmericanAncestors.org  
April 25, 2018  
The Jew Who Made  
Confederate Monuments:  
Moses Jacob Ezekiel  
April 25, 2018  
Pilgrim Chronicles: Exploring  
the Origins and Legacy  
of the *Mayflower*  
April 28, 2018  
Researching Early New York  
April 29, 2018  
Tips and Tricks of Deciphering  
German Handwriting  
May 4, 2018

NEHGS Albany Research Tour  
May 16–20, 2018  
American Passage: The  
History of Ellis Island  
June 1, 2018  
Making History on the Common  
June 4, 2018  
Two Among the Righteous Few  
June 7, 2018  
Spring Research Getaway  
June 7–June 9, 2018  
Researching Early Veterans  
June 9, 2018  
Michael Twitty in Conversation  
June 12, 2018

Building Your Genealogical Skills  
June 16, June 23, and  
June 30, 2018  
Pennsylvania Roadshow: From  
Pilgrims to Patriots: Researching  
Early American Ancestors  
June 23, 2018  
NEHGS Belfast, NI Research Tour  
June 24–July 1, 2018  
Prince Edward Island  
Repositories and Records  
July 6, 2018  
Open Newbury  
July 8, 2018  
Using AmericanAncestors.org  
July 11, 2018

Summer Institute for  
Advanced Researchers:  
Developing a Study Project  
July 18–July 21, 2018  
Phippen Genealogical  
Chart of 1808  
July 25, 2018  
Come Home to New England  
July 31–August 4, 2018  
The National Archives: Welsh,  
English, Scottish Research  
August 8, 2018  
Open Newbury  
August 12, 2018  
Free Fun Friday  
August 17, 2018

## Online programs FY2018

Online Course: Locate!  
Research! Analyze!  
September 6, September 13,  
and September 20, 2017  
Webinar: Introduction to  
Heraldry in America  
September 28, 2017  
Webinar: Using City Directories  
October 19, 2017  
Webinar: Navigating Notarial  
Records in Quebec  
November 16, 2017  
Webinar: Searching Databases  
on AmericanAncestors.org  
December 14, 2017  
Online Course: Organizing  
and Preserving Your  
Family History Papers  
January 17, January 24,  
January 31, February 7,  
and February 14, 2018  
Webinar: Hosting an  
Online Family Reunion  
January 18, 2018  
Webinar: Early New England  
Families Study Project  
February 15, 2018

Online Course: Researching  
Irish Ancestors  
March 7, March 14, March 21,  
March 28, and April 4, 2018  
Webinar: Creating a  
Research Plan  
March 15, 2018  
Webinar: Tracing *Mayflower*  
Lineage: Resources at  
AmericanAncestors.org  
April 19, 2018  
Online Course: Exploring  
and Verifying Your  
*Mayflower* Lineage  
May 2, May 9, May 16, May  
23, and May 20, 2018  
Webinar: Using the Hebrew  
Immigrant Aid Society  
Boston Collection at the  
Jewish Heritage Center  
May 24, 2018  
Online Course: Researching  
German Ancestors: Records,  
Resources, and Repositories  
June 6, June 13, and  
June 20, 2018

Webinar: Early Vermont  
Settlers to 1784 Study Project  
June 21, 2018  
Online Conference: Researching  
17th-Century New England:  
Genealogy, History, Legacy  
Early NE Research  
July 14, 2018  
Online Conference: Writing &  
Publishing Your Family History  
July 28, 2018

Online Course: Tracing  
Your Female Ancestors  
August 1, August 8,  
August 15, August 22,  
and August 29, 2018  
Webinar: Applying for Dual  
Citizenship by Descent  
August 16, 2018  
Online Conference: DNA:  
Interpreting Your Results  
August 18, 2018

## PRAISE FOR ONLINE PROGRAMS

"This was one of the best webinars I have attended.  
Thank you for putting together an excellent program."  
—Jane Chandler Holt, Online Conference participant

"The conference was amazingly well done and well  
organized. I don't know how you managed to pull it all  
together— outstanding speakers and terrific handouts.  
It was a very impressive six-hour presentation."  
—Barbara Powell, Online Conference participant

"Thank you for providing webinars so that those of us  
who live thousands of miles away can participate!"  
—Webinar participant

"These webinars help one "tour" the library from afar.  
They help us move from census data and typical on-line  
information to more in-depth for a greater understanding  
of our ancestors and their lives. Thank you so much."  
—Webinar participant

## Exhibits

The future of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society as a national center for family history research rests upon public engagement: educating, inspiring and connecting new audiences to their family stories and fulfilling our mission as America's founding genealogical society.

In 2018, American Ancestors and NEHGS made crucial steps toward its future by forming an Exhibition Committee to develop interactive exhibits that integrate themes from art, history, and genealogy and that will engage visitors of all ages and backgrounds. A collaborative effort between the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, the Education team, and Fine Art, the committee is responsible for the identification of subjects and stories that we are uniquely poised to share. Our exhibits will tell the stories of the American and human experience—from immigration to westward expansion; material expressions of love, grief, and family connection; from Irish to Italian to Jewish to African American to Native American stories. Each of these exhibits aims to transport visitors, deepen their sense of identity, and provide a greater understanding of their family's role in human history.

In just the first year of its stewardship, the committee launched several exhibits, each bringing in hundreds of new visitors to our headquarters. Some exhibitions from the last year and a look ahead:



### APRIL–MAY 2018: "OUR" STORY: 400 YEARS OF WAMPANOAG HISTORY

In spring of 2018, American Ancestors and NEHGS hosted the multi-media, traveling exhibit *"Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History*, which illuminates America's earliest beginnings from the Wampanoag perspective—a voice largely silenced in the colonial narrative. The Wampanoag have lived in southeastern Massachusetts for more than 12,000 years and were the first tribe encountered by the passengers of the *Mayflower*. The exhibit begins with the kidnapping and enslavement of 27 Wampanoag men—including Tisquantum (later known as Squanto), the only captive to return home. Its final chapter discusses the brutal legacy of colonization, the effects of which are still felt today. *"Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History* was conceptualized, researched, and produced by SmokeSignals Marketing and Communications and The Indian Spiritual and Cultural Training Council Inc.

Above: Paula Peters, curator of *"Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History*, speaks with guests during the exhibit's launch at NEHGS in spring 2018. Opposite page: Members reading materials displayed as part of the exhibit titled *The Origins and Legacy of the Mayflower*.

**AUGUST–NOVEMBER 2018:  
MEMORIALS AND MOURNING:  
MATERIAL EXPRESSIONS OF GRIEF**

This exhibit focused on the artifacts that often accompany the act of mourning. With emphasis on the the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, the featured items from our collection displayed how individuals, families, and communities mourned and memorialized the loss of loved ones. Artifacts included letters of condolence, coffin plates, photographs, séance communications, and even mourning jewelry. Each object has its unique place in history, location, and attribution, yet they all serve the same purpose: to both memorialize and mourn.

**ON DISPLAY NOW  
APRIL 2019–DECEMBER 2020:  
THE ORIGINS AND LEGACY OF THE *MAYFLOWER***

The story of the *Mayflower* is the quintessential American story—one that resonates across four centuries with themes of democracy, religious freedom, and heritage. The 102 passengers, known today as the Pilgrims, set sail from Plymouth, England, on September 6, 1620, bound for Virginia. After 66 days aboard one wooden ship they arrived on the shores of Cape Cod—and the rest is history. While not the first group

of European settlers to arrive on the shores of America (St. Augustine, 1565; Jamestown, 1607; Popham, Maine, 1607), the *Mayflower* landing has become synonymous with the founding of America. But, who were these Pilgrims, what motivated their departure from England, and why has their story been so ensconced in our nation's history? This exhibit seeks to explore the origins of the *Mayflower* migration and its lasting legacy as expressed through anniversary commemorations, American mythos, and modern-day descendants.

**ON DISPLAY NOW  
APRIL 2019–DECEMBER 2020  
THE HISTORY OF WAMPUM BELTS**

From precolonial to contemporary times, wampum belts have been an integral part of the living, indigenous traditions that continue to be used for ceremonial purposes, adornment, and to record or reflect specific events and agreements. Curated by SmokeSygnals, a native owned communications company based out of Mashpee, Massachusetts, this interactive display explores the significance of wampum belts throughout history and discusses the ongoing search for the wampum belt of Metacomb, a.k.a. King Philip, taken as a spoil of war when the Wampanoag leader was assassinated on August 12, 1676.



## Heritage tours

NEHGS Heritage Tours provide our constituents and their friends and families with educational opportunities that illuminate the lives of our ancestors through exclusive, behind-the-scenes experiences. Led by our experts including Curator of Special Collections Curt DiCamillo or Director of the Great Migration Study Project Robert Charles Anderson, as well as other specialists, each tour explores the art, architecture, history, and landscape of our forebearers.

### 2018 TOURS

In spring of 2018 Curator of Special Collections Curt DiCamillo accompanied enthusiastic NEHGS members and friends on Part I of the three-year Palladio series, Palladian Pathways in Italy's Veneto, followed by two tours to England, The Great Houses of Yorkshire, and a repeat of the successful 2017 tour, The Dowager's Delights: Downton Abbey and the Best of the English Country House.

Director of the Great Migration Study Project Robert Charles Anderson led a group of loyal fans to England in August on the first of the Pilgrim Pathways programs, Pilgrim Roots of the Great Migration, traveling to the English homes of William Brewster and William Bradford and beyond. Each of the tours offered the expert scholarship of NEHGS leaders and local guides, dynamic learning experiences, interesting travel companions, behind-the-scenes access and luxury travel. All of which might explain why NEHGS Heritage Tours has a long list of repeat travelers.

Right, top to bottom: Dinner at Palazzo Verità Poeta, Verona, Villa Valmarana ai Nani, Vicenza; the group at Wentworth Woodhouse, Yorkshire. Opposite page: Participants on the Pilgrim Roots of the Great Migration Heritage Tour, August 2018, at All Saints' Church, Babworth.







## Upcoming tours in 2019

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



English Elysium: Country Houses of Shropshire • May 13–19, 2019



©jank1000 | Dreamstime.com

Pilgrim Escape to Leiden  
June 2–19, 2019



Palladio and the English Country House  
June 16–22, 2019



The Great Houses of Ireland  
September 15–21, 2019



## Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

The Jewish Heritage Center had an important year in 2018, bookended by two significant events. In November 2017, after becoming the custodian in perpetuity of the American Jewish Historical Society-New England Archive, New England Historic Genealogical Society created the Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS, with the archive as its cornerstone. A year later, the Center was renamed the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) at NEHGS, in recognition of a cornerstone gift and the longstanding commitment of Justin “Jerry” and Genevieve Wyner.

NEHGS held a gala dinner in October in Boston to honor the Wyners and announce the JHC’s new name. At the event, titled “L’dor Vdor” (Hebrew for “from generation to generation”), Brenton Simons thanked the Wyners for their tireless commitment to preserving the JHC’s archival collections—and for making a lead gift to endow the Center. He remarked: “[Jerry and Genevieve’s] visionary work and profound generosity has transformed this collection: they have founded an even larger Center that will, in addition to digitizing archives, take important new strides in educational programming and will engage with the community in meaningful ways. They have ensured that this work will continue from generation to generation.”

Also speaking at the event were Jonathan Sarna, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of

American Jewish History at Brandeis University; Rachel King, the new director of the Center; and Rabbi Elaine Zecher of Temple Israel Boston, who presented the Wyners with the first annual Tzedakah Award. Co-chaired by the Wyners’ three sons and their wives, the event was a great success, drawing 130 people and raising more than \$650,000.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A number of other events over the course of the year met the dual goals of showcasing JHC collections and partnering with other organizations to raise visibility and audiences around New England. These included a presentation by Marty Brounstein in June about his book *Two Among the Righteous Few: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust*. Also in June, the Center partnered with the Jewish Arts Collaborative to present a program with Michael Twitty, award-



Top: Brenton Simons, Rachel King, and Justin L. Wyner. Bottom: Justin L. Wyner, Genevieve Wyner, and Rabbi Elaine Zecher. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.



JHC Associate Director Stephanie Call presents a workshop for a visiting school group.

winning food writer, independent scholar, and culinary historian. In October, the Center co-hosted a program at the historic Adams Street Shul in Newton, Massachusetts, featuring Hugh Baver discussing “The Évian Conference and the Creation of a Jewish Legacy in the Dominican Republic.”

Also in the fall, the Center held an event with renowned author Anita Diamant in conjunction with an exhibit entitled *Memorials and Mourning*, which displayed items from the Center and the NEHGS R. Stanton Avery Special Collections. Diamant discussed her book *Saying Kaddish*, exploring Judaism’s approach to death. And in November, the Center co-hosted a well-attended Archives Shabbat program with Jewish Arts Collaborative, which combined a lively program about Yiddish music with a Shabbat dinner at NEHGS, and shared the Center’s archival materials about Jewish music and musicians.

## COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES HIGHLIGHTS

The Center expanded its collections significantly over the year, enhancing a growing picture of Jewish life in New England and beyond. It accessioned several new collections, including the records of the Adams Street Shul in Newton, Massachusetts; the Jews of Tachau, Czechoslovakia Records; Rabbi Icik Eliezer Benkovitz Papers; and the papers of playwright and clothing designer Lee Roscoe. In summer 2018, the Center also acquired the papers of Bernie Margolis, former head of the Boston Public Library and State Librarian of New York. Friends and associates of Margolis concurrently launched

the Bernard Margolis Fund, to ensure preservation of the collection.

Among the collections processed were the Dewey Stone Papers Addendum, Elihu David Stone Papers Addendum, and the Jewish Historical Society of Western Massachusetts Records.

A focal activity of the Center throughout 2018 was the digitization of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)–Boston Port records, a project begun in 2016 to make this vital collection as accessible as possible. Of 246 boxes, the Center has digitized nearly 25,000 documents so far. Alongside the collection’s historical importance to scholars and family researchers, the essential role HIAS continues to play in bringing immigrants to safety was underscored in October by the tragic events at the Tree of Life synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pennsylvania.

## STAFF

As mentioned, Rachel King joined the Center as the new director in fall 2018. With a background in nonprofit administration, Rachel will oversee management of the Center, and focus on fundraising and strategic planning efforts to lead the Center into its next phase. Longtime staff member Stephanie Call was promoted to Associate Director of Archives and Education, and will lead outreach and education efforts to bring the work of the Center to the wider Jewish community. In September 2017, Kelsey Sawyer was promoted to Reference and Photograph Archivist, and Lindsay Sprechman was promoted to Collections Archivist. Brittany Contratto joined the staff as Digital Projects Archivist in July 2018, bringing expertise in digital archives and social media.



## 2018 Annual Family History Benefit Dinner honoring David McCullough

### Platinum Benefactor

Wells Fargo

### Gold Benefactors

Hemenway & Barnes

Sit Investment Associates

Nancy S. Maulsby

### Silver Benefactors

3EDGE Asset Management

Welch & Forbes LLC

Judith Avery

Missy and Marsh Carter

Thomas Bailey Hagen

Robert Pemberton and

Barbara Jordan

Justin and Genevieve Wyner

### Benefactors

Eastern Bank

Wellesley Bank Charitable

Foundation

Stephen H. Case

Sherry Edwards

Jo Anne Makely

Mark Kimball Nichols

Herbert D. Simons

Lionel and Vivian Spiro

Nancy and John Webster

Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.

### Honorary Gala Committee members

Judith Avery

David H. Burnham

Missy and Marsh Carter

Judith and Louis Freeman

James and Susan Hunnewell

Nancy S. Maulsby

Eric and Teddy Roiter

Kristin and Roger Servison

Lionel and Vivian Spiro

David M. Trebing

Eric and Sarah Ward

On April 27, 2018, more than 265 guests joined us at the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel for the Family History Benefit Dinner honoring author and NEHGS honorary member David McCullough with our Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography.

Brenton Simons presented McCullough with an updated genealogy compiled by NEHGS Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert; the original genealogy was presented at our benefit dinner in 1995. Additional genealogical records provided fascinating family discoveries. McCullough is related to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Emily Dickinson, Henry Adams, Ernest Hemingway, John Steinbeck, Tennessee Williams, and Ken Burns. McCullough is also related to Alice Hathaway Lee and Edith Kermit Carrow (first and second wives to Theodore Roosevelt) and Orville and Wilbur Wright—who appear in his books. We were particularly excited to learn that McCullough is related to the founder of NEHGS Lemuel Shattuck. Author and 2017 NEHGS Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree Stacy Schiff led an engaging conversation with McCullough on a wide range of topics, including his influences, inspiration, and family history.

Above: Lifetime Achievement Award honoree David McCullough, Moderator Stacy Schiff, and President and CEO Brenton Simons. Photo ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.



Top, left to right: Peter Drummey, Vivian Spiro, and David McCullough; Andy Anderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Historian of Wells Fargo. Left: David McCullough and Trustee Bill Griffeth. Below: Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ryan Woods presents David McCullough with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.



## RECENT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & HONOREES

- 2019 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
- 2010 Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
Annette Gordon-Reed
- 2009 Bill Griffeth  
Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino



## American book launch for The Duke of Rutland and Emma Ellis

We were honored to host an event celebrating the American book launch of *Resolution: Two Brothers. A Nation in Crisis. A World at War*. This story of two aristocratic brothers in Georgian England is set against the backdrop of the American Revolution. The co-authors, David Rutland, 11th Duke of Rutland, of Leicestershire, England, and Emma Ellis signed copies of the book following a reading and tea party at our Back Bay headquarters.



Top: A tea party at New England Historic Genealogical Society in honor of The Duke of Rutland and Emma Ellis. Bottom, left to right: His Grace The Duke of Rutland, of Bevoir Castle, Leicestershire, England, speaking at NEHGS for the launch of *Resolution: Two Brothers. A Nation in Crisis. A World at War*.; Robert B. Minturn, event host D. Brenton Simons, and Mrs. Andrea Dubeux Duder Webb. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.



# 2018 Summer Dinner featuring Chef Barbara Lynch

On July 26, 2018, more than 100 guests joined us at the St. Botolph Club for the NEHGS Summer Dinner, featuring chef, restaurateur, and author Barbara Lynch.

Barbara Lynch began her career at the St. Botolph Club under Chef Mario Bonello. Since then, Barbara has opened seven highly esteemed restaurants in the Boston area: No. 9 Park, B&G Oysters, The Butcher Shop, Stir, Drink, Sportello, and Menton. She is also a Chef Collaborator on the Eataly Boston team. She has won numerous awards and in 2017 was named to the TIME 100, *Time* magazine's annual list of the world's most influential people.

Barbara captivated the audience with a reading from her memoir before taking part in a fascinating, vigorous, and at times uproarious Q&A session. She was then presented with an NEHGS Life Membership and gift. The evening closed with a most enjoyable and well-attended book signing.

The dinner's Gold Benefactors were Nancy and John Webster. Silver Benefactors were Judith Avery, Holly and David Bruce, Stephen H. Case, and Welch & Forbes LLC. Benefactors were Gerry and MaryLee Halpin, Beverly and Lyman Hamilton, Deborah Wentworth Lansing, Jo Anne C. Makely, Nancy S. Maulsby, Elizabeth and George Passela, and Jonathan B. Treat and Leslie Aitken.

Top: Chef Barbara Lynch and NEHGS Senior Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods. Middle, left to right: Alexandra and Marshall Stocker; Pamela Morgan and NEHGS Assistant Vice President for Advancement Beth Brown. Bottom: Councilor David Bruce, Holly Bruce, and NEHGS CEO and President Brenton Simons. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.



# 2018 Fall Family History Benefit Dinner honoring historian David Hackett Fischer

On October 25, 2018, more than 100 guests joined us at the Four Seasons for the NEHGS Fall Family History Benefit Dinner honoring Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and best-selling author David Hackett Fischer with our Lifetime Achievement Award.

David Hackett Fischer is one of the leading forces in the study of American history today. He is University Professor and Warren Professor of History Emeritus at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, where he has been on the faculty for more than fifty years. The distinguished recipient of many prizes and awards for both teaching and writing, he is the author of some fifteen works, including *Washington's Crossing*, *Paul Revere's Ride*, *Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America*, and *Champlain's Dream*.

The evening featured a discussion with Fischer, moderated by NEHGS Councilor Bill Griffeth, co-anchor of CNBC's *Nightly Business Report* and author of the award-winning memoir *The Stranger in my Genes*. Fischer shared stories on writing his books, offered perspectives on important trends in American history, and provided his views on the role of genealogy in the field of history.

During the evening, Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles, President of The Colonial Dames of America, and David Martin Trebing, Governor General of the General Society of Colonial Wars, were also honored for outstanding leadership in historic preservation and genealogy.



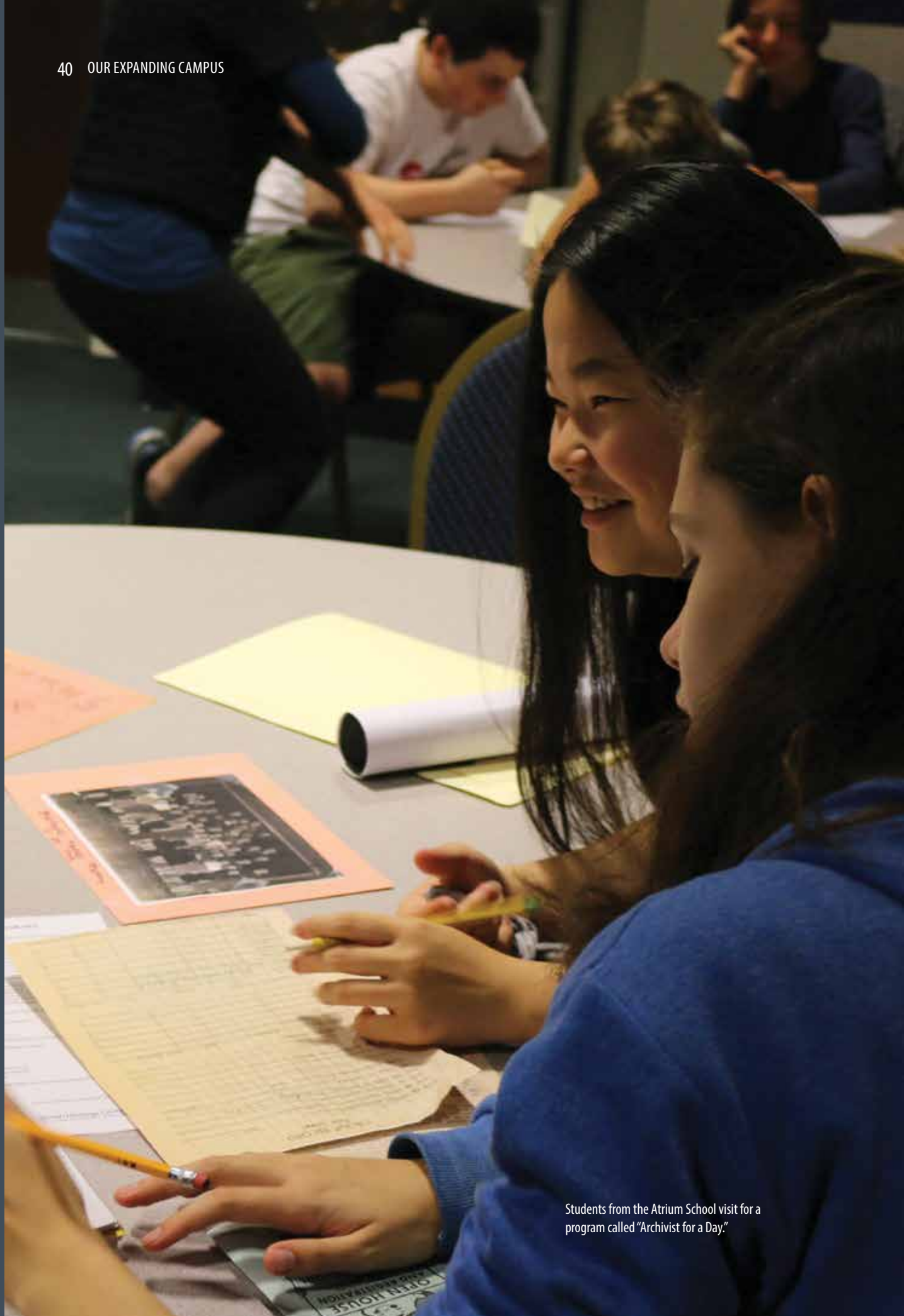
The dinner's Silver Benefactors were Nancy and John Webster. Benefactors were Stephen H. Case, Howard E. Cox, Nancy S. Maulsby, Mark Kimball Nichols, and Welch & Forbes LLC.

Top: Ryan Woods, Brenton Simons, David Hackett Fischer, Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles, David Martin Trebing, and Bill Griffeth. Bottom: Brenton Simons welcoming dinner attendees. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.





Top: NEHGS Assistant Vice President Beth A. Brown and NEHGS Trustee Mark T. Cox IV. Middle, left to right: NEHGS Vice Chair Stephen H. Case, NEHGS Trustee Thomas Bailey Hagen, and NEHGS Vice President Susan B. Fugliese; General Society of Colonial Wars Governor David Martin Trebing and NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons. Bottom: NEHGS Honorary Trustee Judith Huber Halseth, Historian and NEHGS Councilor David Hackett Fischer, Colonial Dames of America President General Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles, and NEHGS Member Howard E. Cox. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.



Students from the Atrium School visit for a program called "Archivist for a Day."

## Open Newbury

In 2018, American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society was once again an active participant in the City of Boston's Open Newbury Street program. Held three Sundays in July, August, and September, the busy thoroughfare is closed to vehicular traffic and transformed into a festive promenade featuring local musicians, food trucks, sidewalk sales, and more. Attracting students, families, tourists, and Bostonians alike, each event brings thousands of visitors to our tent outside 99-101 Newbury Street and affords us an incredible opportunity to engage a different audience and inspire a new generation of family historians. In addition to family-themed activities, raffles, and consultations, our most popular activity has been our "Map of Ancestors" in which individuals are encouraged to place a pin on a world map showing their ancestral homelands. The enthusiasm, pleasure, and pride from individuals and families who participate in the activity is palpable and demonstrates a shared, human interest in the past, family, and heritage.



# Free Fun Friday

Free Fun Fridays, sponsored by the generous support of the Highland Street Foundation, offer visitors no-cost admission to some of the most treasured cultural venues across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Each Friday from June through August, museums, libraries, and historical sites open their doors to families and people of all ages.

Since 2010, American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society has participated in the Free Fun Fridays program. Each year the number of visitors, breadth of activities, and general excitement has grown exponentially. On August 17, 2018, we had 465 visitors to our library and archives (100 more than the previous year). NEHGS staff and volunteers from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston provided 151 one-on-one consultations (approximately 38 hours worth of genealogical help); children of all ages participated in genealogical games, activities, and demonstrations; and many attended introductory workshops in conducting genealogical research. All visitors—no matter their background, age, or level of experience—left with a new passion for family history.



# The Social Register visits NEHGS

American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society was delighted to welcome Christopher R. Wolf, Chairman of the Social Register Association, and 140 guests to a cocktail party and exhibit at the NEHGS Newbury Street headquarters in October. SR members and NEHGS members enjoyed conversations and looked together at archival material illuminating the Social Register's history. A fine time was had by all, culminating in expressions of anticipation for future gatherings.



## EVENT PATRONS

David H. Burnham  
 Nancy S. Maulsby  
 Alexandra Stocker  
 Thomas and Grace\* Thaler  
 \*Deceased



Top: Brenton Simons and Christopher R. Wolf. Middle: NEHGS Councilor David H. Burnham, Social Register Association Membership Director Alexandra Hoyle, NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons, Social Register Association Chairman Christopher R. Wolf, and NEHGS Chairman Nancy S. Maulsby. Bottom, left to right: Chris Wolfe addressing guests; Andrea Sahin and Alexandra Stocker. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2018.



## Brenton Simons speaks at the Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, Florida

Brenton Simons, President and CEO of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society was invited to speak at the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, in association with the Florida Society of Colonial Wars, on January 14, 2019. The talk, titled "DNA & Genealogy: How it Has Captured our National Attention & Why This is Good for America!" drew an audience of nearly 300 enthusiastic guests, all engaged and asking questions. Simons had the crowd mesmerized with genealogical and DNA details. After the lecture, many enjoyed a private reception hosted by the Society of Colonial Warriors - Florida. This talk was made possible and supported by a grant through our partnership with the Society of Colonial Warriors - Florida.

Top: Brenton Simons speaking at the Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, Florida. Left: Joe Scherberger, SCW-FL Governor, Brenton Simons, and Nordahl Brue, NEHGS Trustee.



Below: Lawrence Washington Arms (1594). NEHGS, Special Collections.

## Ryan Woods speaks in Washington, DC, during Hereditary Society Week



On April 11, 2018, Ryan J. Woods, New England Historic Genealogical Society Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Chairman of the Committee on Heraldry, gave a lecture during the Heritage Week 2018 in Washington, DC. An at-capacity crowd learned firsthand about the "Treasures of American Heraldry: A Rare Glimpse at the Originals Themselves." Woods shared a rare in-person glimpse at two remarkable jewels of heraldry and genealogy which have not been seen outside of New England in over 360 years. The illustrated talk and demonstration included the Gore Roll Of Arms, the earliest known document depicting coats of arms in America, and the Promptuarium Armorum, a collection of sixteenth and seventeenth-century heraldic art from the College of Arms. This collection includes some 4,500 color coats and crests of English families; amongst them is one of the earliest examples of William Shakespeare's coat of arms. The event was hosted by David Martin Trebing, Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles, President General, The Colonial Dames of America; and Peter Irving Channing Knowles, II, Registrar General, General Society of Colonial Wars.

# The DiCamillo Rendez-Vous in New York City



On Thursday, January 17, 2019, we gathered at the Colony Club in New York City for a talk titled "The English Country House: Center of the Universe," given by Curt DiCamillo, NEHGS Curator of Special Collections, and hosted by Nancy S. Maulsby, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. DiCamillo shared stories with a sold-out crowd about the discovery of oxygen, the invention of the game of badminton, and the birth of the United States, all of which happened at a historic English house. The event also served as a rendez-vous of past and future DiCamillo Tours participants. Following his talk, we visited Carlton Hobbs Exquisite British Antiques.



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.

Top: Curt DiCamillo, NEHGS Curator of Special Collections. Bottom, left to right: M. Holt Massey and NEHGS Senior Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods; Heritage Tour Director Cy Britt, NEHGS Chairman Nancy S. Maulsby, and NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons.



## SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS OF YEAR-END AUGUST 31, 2018

BALANCE SHEET	FY18	FY17	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Total Assets	\$56,381,093	\$54,373,120	\$2,007,973	3.69%
Liabilities	\$4,891,788	\$4,899,767	(\$7,979)	(0.16%)
Net Assets	\$51,489,305	\$49,473,353	\$2,015,952	4.07%
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$56,381,093	\$54,373,120	\$2,007,973	3.69%

## OPERATING FINANCIAL STATEMENT<sup>a</sup> SEPTEMBER 1, 2017–AUGUST 31, 2018

REVENUE	FY18	FY17	% Increase (Decrease)	% of total
Investment Return Designated for Operations <sup>b</sup>	\$1,998,848	\$1,809,860	10.44%	16%
Income from Operations	\$5,102,459	\$4,560,883	11.87%	40%
Contributed Income <sup>c</sup>	\$5,706,506	\$5,310,507	7.46%	44%
Total Revenue	\$12,807,813	\$11,681,250	9.64%	100%
EXPENSES	FY18	FY17	% Increase (Decrease)	% of total
Member Services	\$1,184,110	\$1,018,132	16.30%	11%
Research Library	\$2,671,738	\$2,895,301	(7.72%)	24%
Tours and Seminars	\$1,174,713	\$673,965	74.30%	11%
Retail Store	\$243,473	\$252,488	(3.57%)	3%
Publications	\$1,745,712	\$1,658,066	5.29%	16%
Website	\$1,454,788	\$1,448,246	0.45%	13%
General and Administrative <sup>d</sup>	\$1,570,004	\$1,336,003	14.93%	14%
Fundraising <sup>d</sup>	\$888,967	\$830,339	7.06%	8%
Total Expenses	\$10,933,505	\$10,142,540	7.80%	100%
Net Income from Operations	\$1,874,308	\$1,538,710		
Endowment Assets <sup>e</sup>	\$24,063,109	\$22,302,617		
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	\$2,753,289	\$2,923,194		

a. This financial statement represents the general operating activities for New England Historic Genealogical Society only. Other non-operating activity, including realized and unrealized gains on restricted assets, can be found within the audited financial statements.

b. "Investment Return Designated for Operations" represent release of the annual draw, allocation of Family History funds, and other purpose related invested funds approved to support annual operations. The FY18 draw was based on appropriating 4.30% of the preceding twelve quarter fair market value of the investments.

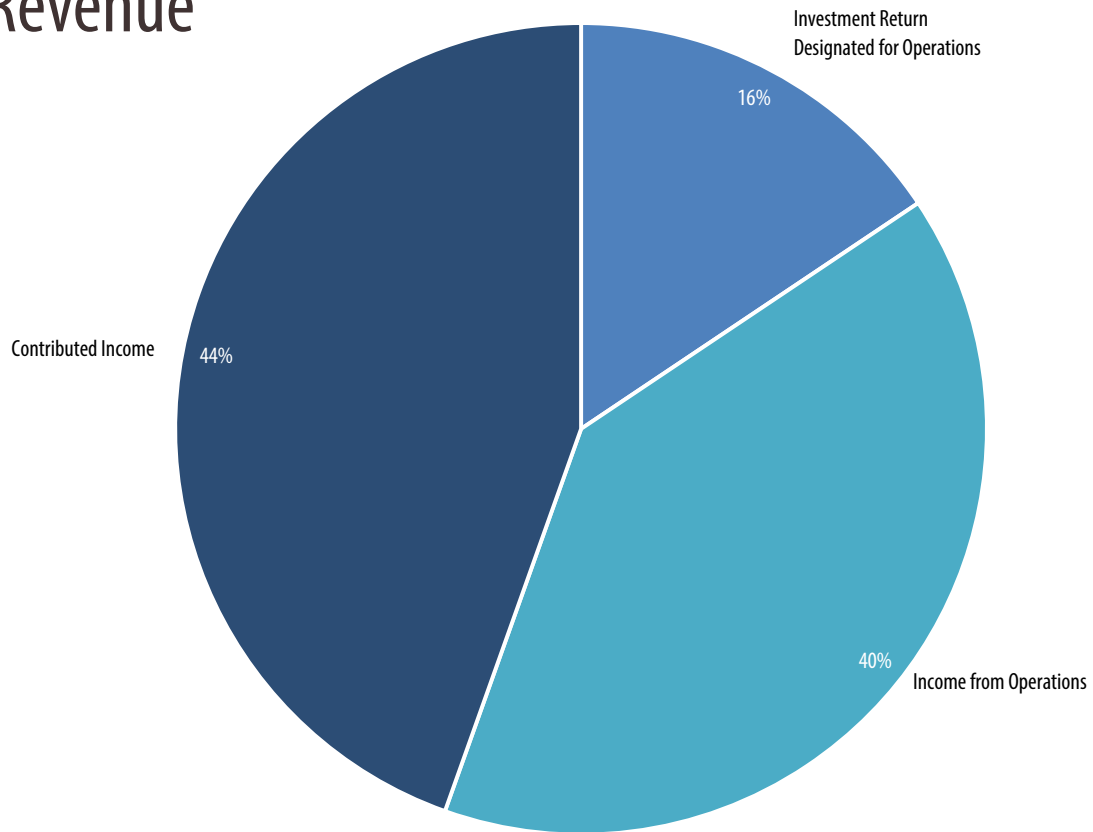
c. Excludes Cornerstone Project and Endowment donations.

d. Financial statement amount less non-operating Cornerstone Project related costs.

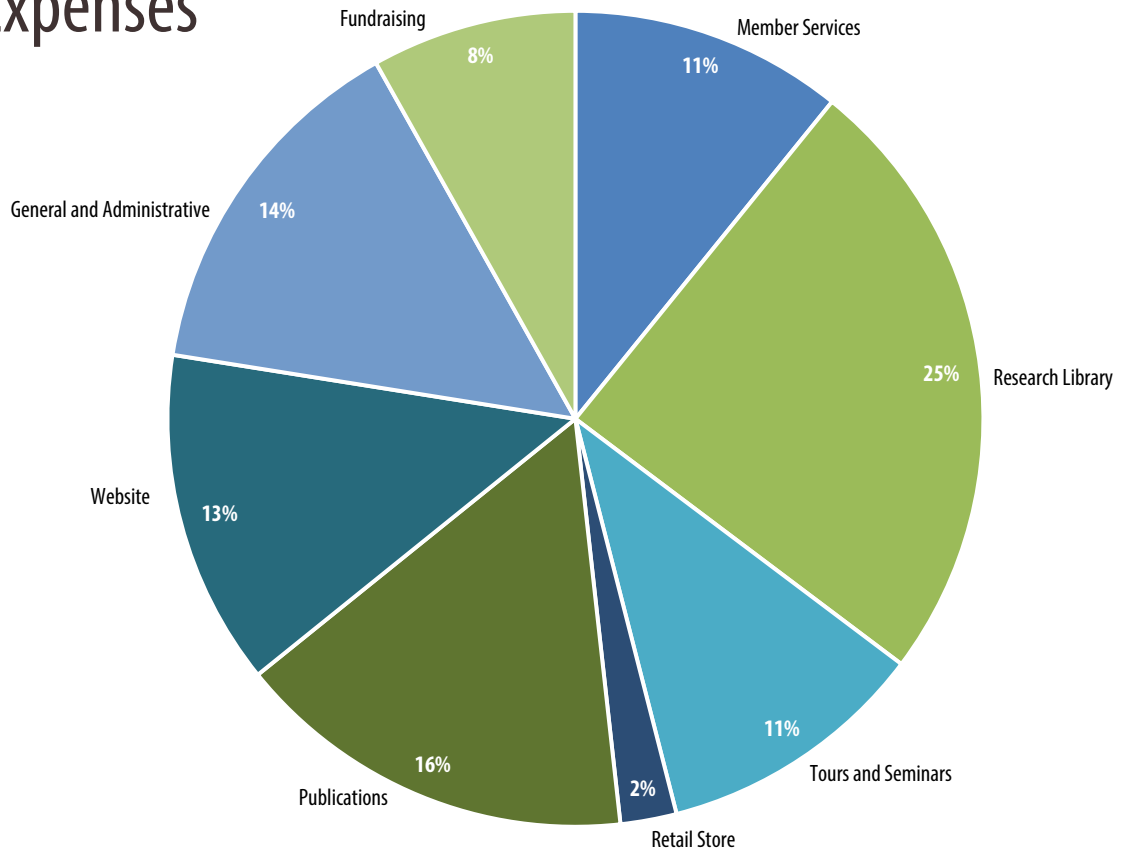
e. Excludes beneficial interest in pooled income funds and charitable gift annuities.



# 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\*  
 The R. Stanton Avery Foundation  
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 Ruth Chauncey Bishop\*  
 John B. Black  
**Nordahl and Suzanne Brue**  
 John G. L. Cabot  
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**Tabitha King**  
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 Nancy S. Maulsby  
 Robert G. Shaw  
 L. Ted and Alice R.\* Sloane  
 Vivian B. Treat\*  
 Wallace S. and Isabel 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.

Robert O. F. Bixby\*  
 David and Holly Bruce  
 Stephen H. Case  
 Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman  
 Constance Wadley Fuller\*  
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 Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange\*  
**Justin and Genevieve Wyner**  
 Anonymous

**Bold** indicates new members to the Founders' Society  
 \*Deceased

# The Charles Ewer Society

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

Rosalind Case Avrett\*  
Gwedolyn Garland Babcock

**Barbara A. Barnes\***

Bruce R. Bartlett

**Reiner Beeuwkes III**

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Richard and Sue Benson

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Churchill and Janet Franklin

Muriel T. French\*

Leigh Maxfield Gelser

Thomas Putman and Judith Eyres Goodwin

Ruth Gray

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**Sarah Gunderson**

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**Gerard A. and MaryLee Halpin**

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Natalie Jaquith\*

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**Cleon Talboys Knapp**

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Anne Stearns Tanner

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Jonathan Buck Treat

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Lynn Bryan Trowbridge

**Kathleen Van Demark, M.D.**

Anne R. Wardwell

**Steven and Barbara Watson**

Margery H. Webb

Morrison DeS. Webb

Nancy Clay Webster

Warren Brinson Weeks, Jr.

Edward\* and Martha\* Williams

Judith C. Williston, Ph.D.

Helen L. Wright

Mary Ellen Wright

Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.

Anonymous (8)

**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 Blanton Thayer Charitable Trust  
City of Quincy  
**Combined Jewish Philanthropies**  
Compaq  
D.A. Hamel Family Charitable Trust  
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Hawk Rock Foundation  
Herman Dana Trust  
Highland Street Foundation  
IBM Corporation  
Institute of Museum and Library Services  
Kresge Foundation  
KSD Foundation  
Massachusetts Cultural Council

Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati  
Mays Family Foundation  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Peck Stacpoole Foundation  
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Sarracenia Foundation, Inc.  
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**Society of the Cincinnati in the  
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The Figgie Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
The Lynch Foundation  
The Oxford League, Inc.  
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program  
Wells Fargo  
West Charitable Foundation  
William E. Robinson Foundation  
Yawkey Foundation  
Anonymous (1)

**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  
Rodney Armstrong  
William and Patricia Austin  
Gwedolyn Garland Babcock  
Carol Macomber Bartz  
Marjorie Gahan Beardsley  
Shirley P. Bickel  
Jane Blinn\*  
A. Margaret Bok\*  
Mary Z. Bryant\*  
Marshalee Wood Douty  
William D. Carr  
Marian P. Congdon  
Francis and Barbara\* de Marneffe  
Natalie Brooks Friendly\*  
Gail M. Gaustad  
Benjamin H. Gaylord\*  
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Ada Yates Harris\*

Roger Bruce Johnson  
Peter Haring Judd  
Selina F. Little  
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Robert L. Massard\*  
Lois M. McNamara\*  
Nancy A. Meikle  
Mrs. Albert Moorman  
Arthur\* and Judith Obermayer  
Marian E. Ovington\*  
Robert Bemiss Phelps  
James and Melinda Rabb  
Richard H. Rhoads  
Oma L. Rose  
Bruce F. and Diane M. Roubaud  
Richard and Lucy Sallick  
Betty Sutton Shelhamer  
Ellen C. L. Simmons

Marjorie P. Snelling  
Elliot Snider  
Stanley and Mary Ann Snider  
Thaxter P. Spencer\*  
Robert I. Sperber\*  
Vivian and Lionel Spiro  
**Everett Stanley**  
James C. Staples\*  
Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange\*  
Delinda Bryan Trowbridge  
Susan Finlay Watkins  
James H. Wick  
Justin and Genevieve Wyner  
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.

## **Robert L. Akin**

### **Madeline M. Allen**

Janet Alpert  
Harry B.\* and Claire M. Anderson  
Joseph C. Anderson II, FASG  
Janet L. Bailey  
Shirley M. Barnes

### **Barbara Y. Bodden**

Herbert J. Boothroyd  
James Rollinson Boulden

### **Nordahl and Suzanne Brue**

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Ronald and Joan Curhan  
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### **Charlotte Hatfield**

Marian S. Henry  
Sandra M. Hewlett CG  
Bett Houston  
Wendy J. Hudson

### **Richard C. and Mildred T. Hutchinson**

Susan D. Hutchinson  
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Karen Kerman

### **David W. Kruger**

David Allen Lambert  
Peter A. Lans  
Richard F. Larkin  
Steven J. Lemken  
Jane Knowles Lindsey  
John and Elizabeth Lucas  
Edward G. and Pamela W. MacMahon

### **Robert L.\* and Ann C. Massard**

Ross Walter McCurdy  
John and Barbara Moore  
Janet W. Morse  
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### **Dan W. Olds**

Maralen T. O'Neil  
Elizabeth and George Passela  
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Alice M. Pierce

### **Jennifer and Davie Piña**

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### **Judith A. Ranta**

Marjorie Green Rapp  
Bonnie A. Reilly  
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### **Richard R. Sherwin**

Kate Shuster

D. Brenton Simons  
L. Ted and Alice R.\* Sloane  
Grace Bliss Smith Ph.D.  
Gregory Bell Smith  
Lionel and Vivian Spiro  
Nancy Fowle Spooner  
Gordon and Janice Steele  
Alexandra Etsy Stocker

### **Robert M. Stone**

Susan B. Strange  
William C. Sullivan

### **Anne Stearns Tanner**

### **James H. Tenney**

Delinda Bryan Trowbridge  
Kathleen Van Demark M.D.  
Anne Louise Clap Van Nostrand  
Linda Wensrich

### **Emily N. Wharton**

Donald R. White  
Annie Elizabeth Williams  
**Judith C. Williston Ph.D.**  
Ryan J. and Karen K. Woods  
Robert J. Young  
Anonymous (4)

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

\*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 have 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 \$1,181,082 since September 1, 2017.

Marcia J. Bandy  
Barbara A. Barnes  
John B. Black  
Robert and Phebe Collins  
Abbott Lowell Cummings  
Anne Hood Denny

Elaine A. Eddy  
James N. Favor  
Helen J. Flint  
Seth P. Holcombe  
Dorothy E. Hopkins  
Marilyn V. Snodgrass

Edward C. Stickney  
Caroline Blanton Thayer  
Zane A. Thompson  
Vivian B. Treat  
Loren Winterscheid

## Why I Give

"I am honored to lead the Society of Colonial Wars, which has a rich tradition built over the last 125 years. Lineage societies like ours allow individuals to combine their passions—history, genealogy, historic preservation, restoration and commemoration—under an umbrella of genuine fellowship to celebrate unique periods in our American experience.

Like many of us, growing up I'd heard about various famous ancestors in the family tree—stories that were often little more than wishful thinking. Family members belonged to a number of lineage societies, so I joined several using documentation from years ago. As I became more active in these groups, my focus was always on celebrating the events of the period rather than my ancestors. My perspective evolved over time, as I realized the two are naturally intertwined: the period comes alive through the stories of families and individuals, whether they are presidents or farmers.

Over time, I had retained "professional" genealogists to research various aspects of my ancestry. I was usually disappointed with the results: something was always lacking in the information presented, because it didn't include historical and biographical material. Not that every ancestor is a signer of the Declaration of Independence, of course, but every single person has a story to be told.

So, as I searched for someone to provide a comprehensive view of who these people were, I came across NEHGS. After my first introductory call with the Research Services team, I knew that NEHGS could do exactly

what I wanted. I immediately joined as an Associate member so I could learn about NEHGS and support its programs—and also receive a valuable discount on research costs! I am truly amazed by the ability of the professional staff at NEHGS: they are not just genealogists—they're also historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and, with the introduction of DNA research, geneticists.

I have many research projects currently underway at NEHGS, because the more I learn about my family, the more I want to know! I keep receiving new findings and revelations—some major and others minor—and all are interesting. For example, after taking a DNA test, I was contacted by the daughter of my father's first cousin (whom I didn't know). I was delighted to send her photos that my grandmother had kept of her as a child with her late mother, pictures she had never seen.

In another case, I knew little about my maternal grandmother's family, so I asked NEHGS to help. I was fascinated to find that some of these ancestors were not only Huguenots who fled religious persecution, but one was a *Filles du Roi*. That information is now a catalyst for me to learn more about colonial Canada and the Huguenot migration (and to spend more time in provincial Quebec seeing where they lived, farmed, and worked).

I am now anticipating delving into the lives of some of my English ancestors. I already have my place reserved for the August 2018 Heritage Tour examining the "Pilgrim Roots of the Great Migration."



"The more I learn about my family, the more I want to know!"

—DAVID MARTIN TREBING

As we examine our heritage, making the past come alive is important. Family history is much more than assembled names, dates, and locations: it is the understanding of what our forebears experienced personally, politically, religiously, and socially. Whether ancestors arrived in 1607 or last week, each one made a critical contribution to the dynamic melting pot that is America. NEHGS is key to helping us navigate through the ages so we'll not only know our individual past, we'll understand it. By placing ourselves in the context of history, we will appreciate what we have, and the future will be brighter as we build upon that collective understanding of how we got here."

David Martin Trebing, a Benefactor Member, became a Councilor in 2017 and a Trustee in 2019. He has been in the automobile industry for more than thirty years, and is the General Manager of External Affairs and Public Policy for the international manufacturer Daimler. Mr. Trebing is the immediate past Governor General of the General Society of Colonial Wars. He lives in Washington, D.C.



During Fiscal Year 2018, NEHGS received 3,770 gifts totaling \$3,803,919 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.

*Reiner Beeuwkes III*  
 Helen H. Berkeley  
*Carolyn S. Bingham*  
 John B. Black\*  
 Nordahl and Suzanne Brue  
 Cabot Family Charitable Trust  
*Stephen H. Case*  
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*Maureen Q. Dwyer*  
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*Mary Ellen Wright*  
*Justin and Genevieve Wyner*  
 Anonymous  
*Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS's Special Projects or Family History Fund.*  
 \*Deceased





## 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.

David and Holly Bruce  
Sara Stewart Champion  
James W. F. Collins  
Robert and Phebe Collins\*  
*Combined Jewish Philanthropies*  
*Dr. Cheryl L. Edwards*  
*Churchill and Janet Franklin*  
*Arthur and Helen Geoffrion*  
*Priscilla C. Greenlees*  
*Sarah Gunderson*  
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*Carol McGee*  
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Robert Bemiss Phelps  
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Bonnie A. Reilly  
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*Jonathan Buck Treat*  
*Eric Norman Ward*  
Steven and Barbara Watson  
Morrison DeS. Webb  
Judith C. Williston Ph.D.  
*Albert J. Zdenek Jr.*  
Anonymous (2)

*Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS's Special Projects or Family History Fund.*

\*Deceased



## William E. Gladstone Circle, \$5,000 to \$9,999

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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Richard and Sue Benson  
Kathryn Smith Black  
Anne Bromer  
*David H. Burnham*  
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*Mark Thomas Cox IV*  
Ronald and Joan Curhan  
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\*Deceased



## 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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\*Deceased



## Washington Irving Circle, \$1,000 to \$2,499

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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Rodney Armstrong

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 or Family History Fund.*  
 \*Deceased



## Harrison Gray Otis Circle, \$500 to \$999

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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*Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS's Special Projects or Family History Fund.*

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Curt DiCamillo  
James T. Larkin  
Gregory Bell Smith  
Jim and Denny Hoelter  
Steve Solomon  
Bruce R. Bartlett  
Ryan Woods  
Curt DiCamillo

Gifts herein were made between September 1, 2017, and August 31, 2018, 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)

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 Dorothy-Knox Houghton\*  
 \*Deceased

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

Susan Taylor Spielman and Rick Spielman

## New Life Members (\$5,000)

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Jolene Bryant Davis	Cheryl Maloney	Peter C. Steingraber	
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Diane Maura Fishburn	James Francis Murphy	Caroline Stroh	



## Life Member, Pamela Pescosolido

"I value American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society for the valuable resources they provide to all interested in genealogy and family history research. I became interested in genealogy through my mother, Linda Pescosolido, who has been working on our family lines for years and who us also a NEHGS supporter and former board member. I wish now that I had become interested in our family history while my grandparents were still alive; so

many stories and memories are now forever lost.

Why a life membership? Genealogy, by its very nature, cannot be a momentary interest. With each exploration, more and more information arises, more trails to follow, more stories to explore. And the tools and data NEHGS provides keep improving and expanding all the time. It could truly take a lifetime to explore."

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Anonymous (6)

## Volunteers

It was another milestone year for the program, with 238 volunteers, interns, trustees, and councilors donating a record-breaking 25,576 hours. These hours were the equivalent of 12.5 staff years, providing a welcome supplement to the work of our employees. Volunteer activities ran the spectrum from processing special collections, assisting library patrons, cataloging acquisitions, conserving books, proofreading manuscripts, helping with used book sales, creating new databases, and scanning additions into digital collections.

We honor those volunteers with the highest number of years of continuous service, with thirty individuals in the cadre for ten or more years. Special recognition is given to volunteers with more than twenty years: Rene Dearborn (28 yr.), Esther Coke (27 yr.), Kathryn Smith Black (26 yr.), Helen Ullmann (24 yr.), and Sheila Thoman (23 yr.).

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David Anderson  
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Maureen McCarthy (far right) assisting two patrons with a record search.



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 on page 16.

\*Deceased

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### Marketing Manager

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### Sales Coordinator

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### Graphic Designer

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Jeremy Bento

### Senior Accountant

Michael Forbes

### Accountant

Megan Peterson

### Accounts Receivable Associate

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## FINE ART

### Curator of Special Collections

Curt DiCamillo

## HERITAGE TOURS

### Director of Heritage Tours

Cy Britt

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### Director of Human Resources

Michelle Major

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### Director of Information Technology

Steven Shilcuskys

### Tessitura Database Manager

Wes Matthews

## WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER

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Rachel King

### Associate Director, Archives and Education

Stephanie Call



**Archives Outreach Coordinator**

Judith A. Garner

**Reference Archivist**

Kelsey Sawyer

**Collections Archivist**

Lindsay Sprechman

**Digital Projects Archivist**

Brittany Contratto

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**Library Patron Services and Consultations Manager**

Alice Kane

**Consultation and Copy Services Coordinator**

Cheryl Gilmore-Thys

**Chief Genealogist**

David Allen Lambert

**Senior Genealogist**

Rhonda R. McClure

**Genealogists**

Tom Dreyer, Ann G. Lawthers, Melanie McComb, Tricia Healy Mitchell

**Manager of Manuscript Collections**

Timothy G. X. Salls

**Senior Archivist**

Judith Lucey

**Curator of Digital Collections**

Sally Benny

**Library Collection Services Manager**

Anne Meringolo

**Metadata and Digital Projects Librarian**

Trenton Carls

**Library Collection Services Assistant**

Olga Tugarina

**Conservator**

Todd Pattison

**Library Assistant**

David Heilbrun

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**Member Services Associates**

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**Visitor Services Representatives**

Valerie Beaudrault, Maria Kuntz

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**Assistant Publishing Director**

Cécile Engeln

**Publications Design Manager**

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**Managing Editor**

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**Editor and Creative Director**

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**Senior Genealogist of the Newbury***Street Press and Editor of Mayflower**Descendant*

Christopher C. Child

**Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street****Press**

Kyle Hurst

**Genealogists of the Newbury Street Press**

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**Senior Researchers**

Sheilagh Doerfler, Katrina Fahy, James Heffernan

**Research Services Coordinator**

Sarah J. Dery

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**Events Coordinator**

Courtney Reardon

**VOLUNTEERS****Volunteer Coordinator**

Helen Herzer

**WEBSITE DATABASES AND SYSTEMS****Associate Director**

Don LeClair

**Systems Architect**

Andrew Hanson-Dvoracek

**Database Services Volunteer Coordinator**

Rachel Adams

**Digitization Assistant and Facilities****Coordinator**

John Phlo

**Digital Database Coordinator**

Molly Rogers

**Web Content Coordinator**

Abbey Schultz

**Digital Collections Administrator**

Samuel P. Sturgis III

**Genealogist**

Alicia Crane Williams, FASG

# Milestone Tenures

20 years Christopher C. Child  
Carolyn Oakley  
Jean Maguire  
Michael McIntyre

10 years Sally Benny

5 years Nancy Bernard  
Emma Brightbill  
Thomas Dreyer  
Henry Hornblower  
Tricia Labbe  
Kathleen Mackenzie  
Claire Vail



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