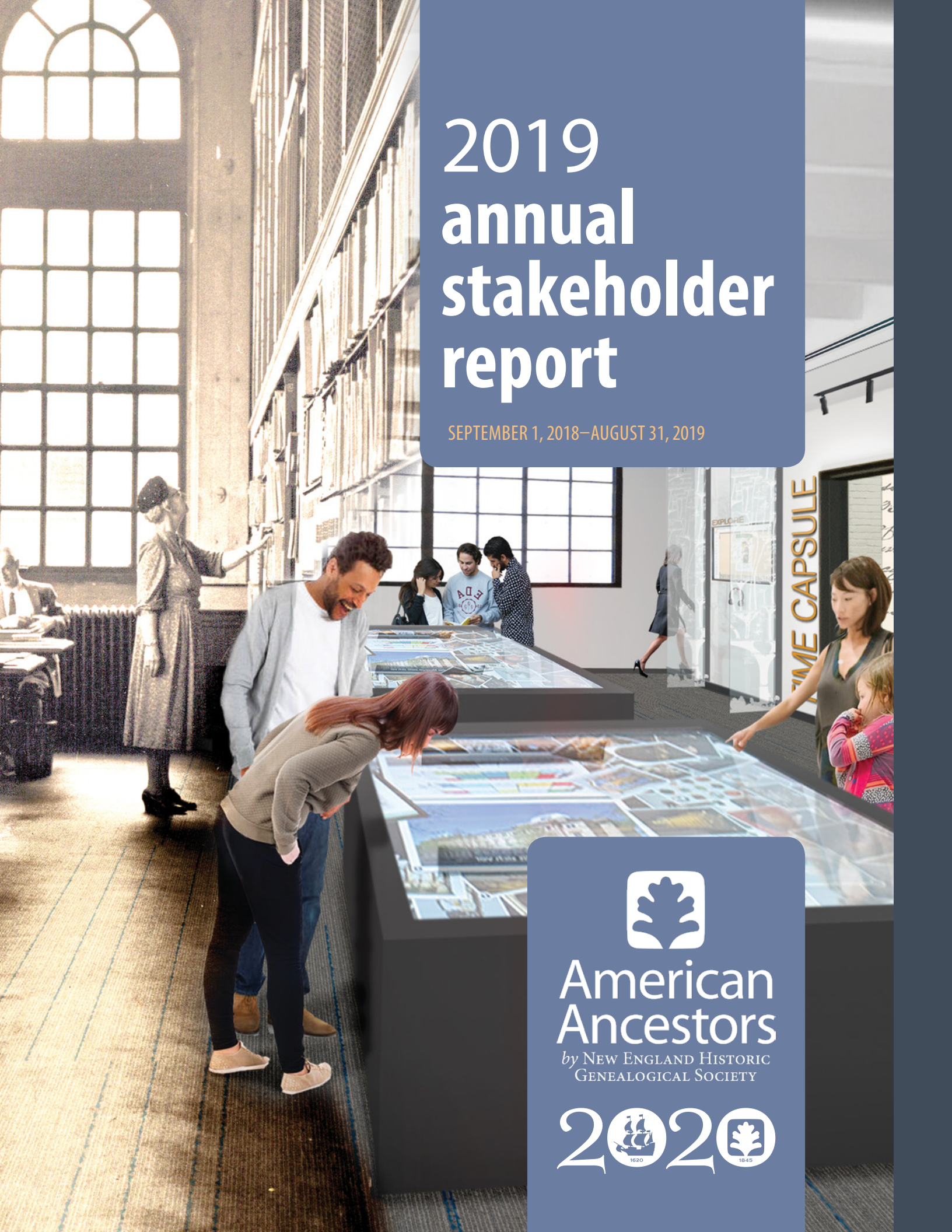


# 2019 annual stakeholder report

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018—AUGUST 31, 2019



American  
Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2020





# 2019 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

In the fiscal year ending August 31, 2019, 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 historic scholarship, collections, and expertise.

We began the fiscal year with accelerated work on our historic campus expansion. This project will provide urgently-needed space, spanning five floors, and will elevate American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society to a position we have earned over 175 years as a world-recognized destination for all people inspired by the power and importance of genealogy and history, and most recently, the burgeoning field of DNA technologies.

In addition to active partnerships with Plymouth 400, Mayflower 400 (UK), the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, FamilySearch, and many others, we kicked off our commemorative plans in April 2019 with an event at our headquarters unveiling a specially created *Mayflower* replica and a model of a Pawtuxet woman and child created by present-day members of the Wampanoag Nation. Traditional mainstream media outlets responded enthusiastically, and social media channels exploded with additional stories from the *Boston Globe*, CBS, Panorama, Boston.com, and bloggers in the genealogy space.

These are only two of the many ways we advanced our mission during fiscal year 2019 to create a sustainable future, build relationships to ensure our constituents identify as members of the American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society family, affirm our position as a center of scholarly excellence, and maximize the use of technology to connect with constituents.



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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

We made significant strides towards our goal of expanding our headquarters—The Cornerstone Project—by taking over occupancy of 97 Newbury Street on January 1, 2019. Our accelerated timeline for the building conservation has led to commensurately accelerated fundraising efforts, and in parallel, we have made concerted efforts to thoughtfully grow operations with scalable business and philanthropic models to ensure financial sustainability.

We worked to develop a plan to temporarily alter the first-floor space in 97 Newbury to create useable work areas for staff as part of converting portions of the building to tax-exempt status before the full renovation. We partnered with our architectural firm, Schwartz Silver, to establish a multi-year plan for design, review, permitting, and governmental approvals for the Cornerstone Project, including life-safety systems and structural engineering reviews.

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

During the year, the philanthropic response to our activities has been inspiring. We are grateful to have received more than \$8.2 million in support, including gifts to name two key components of



our expanded campus: the Brue Family Learning Center, in honor of Nordahl and Suzanne Brue, and the Robert Charles Anderson Scholarly Publishing Center, in honor of the longtime Director of the Great Migration Study Project. We also received our largest, single corporate gift: \$750,000, from The Software MacKiev Company, the owners of Family Tree Maker, to support a youth education program.

On an operating basis, we exceeded our bottom-line goal, kept expenses below budget, and concluded the year with a 17% positive variance to plan.

## ENGAGEMENT

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

As an outgrowth of our expanded efforts to concertedly engage audiences in the joy and benefits of learning about family history, we offered educational programs, interpretive and interactive exhibitions, heritage tours, and other personal experiences that enrich lives and preserve legacies. Among our activities this year, we installed a new exhibition, *Origins and Legacy of the Mayflower*, a multimedia display that considers the backstories of the *Mayflower* passengers—where they came from in England and what is known about their ancestry. The exhibit features a large-scale model of the *Mayflower* and a Native American legacy installation, as well as a timeline of the events leading up to and immediately following the landing. Through *Origins and Legacy of the Mayflower*, we seek to explore the origins of the *Mayflower* migration and its lasting legacy, as expressed through anniversary commemorations, and modern-day descendants. Items in this exhibition are drawn from our R. Stanton Avery Special Collections and Fine Art Collection.

Beyond our research and training programs, which attracted 20,000 people across more than 100 offerings, we also participated in events such

as Free Fun Friday and Open Newbury, sponsored series that allow businesses and institutions across Massachusetts to offer dynamic programming to the community in both indoor and outdoor settings. During each of the three, day-long instances of Open Newbury, for example, we served more than 1,100 people on each occasion, generating interest and enthusiasm about family history to a broad and diverse audience spanning the generations.

We launched American Inspiration, a new series of talks by best-selling authors presenting books that explore themes of personal identity, families and immigration, and social and cultural history. This series offers us the opportunity to introduce an expanded audience to topics associated with our work and increases the local awareness that we offer lively, not-to-be-missed programming. Launched in September and presented in partnership with WGBH Boston and Porter Square Books in Cambridge, our American Inspiration author series began with a discussion, Q&A, and book signing with author Susan Ronald about her newest biography on the publishing legend Condé Nast, who is known for such magazines as *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*.



Our domestic and overseas tours proved to be exceptionally popular including “English Elysium: Country Houses of Shropshire,” “Palladio and the English Country House,” “Pilgrim Escape to Leiden,” and “The Great Houses of Ireland.” We hosted major benefit dinners in honor of legendary anchor and award-winning broadcast journalist Dan Rather, award-winning presidential historian Douglas Brinkley, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Joseph J. Ellis, and celebrated thirty years of the Great Migration Study Project with Robert Charles Anderson.

## RELATIONSHIPS

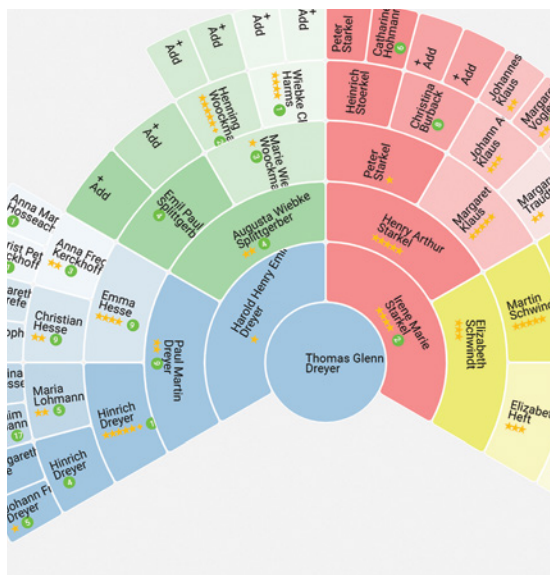
Ensure that our members and the public identify with and connect to the American Ancestors and NEHGS community

We continued to strive to connect with our members and the public in personally meaningful ways as respected expert genealogists and historians that care deeply about helping people. Through our activities, we grew our overall constituency to more than 300,000 individuals, including welcoming 3,400 new members.

A key moment this year in recognizing the importance of people and relationships was renaming the Jewish Heritage Center. It is now the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, in honor of Justin Wyner and his late wife, Genevieve Wyner, for their lifetime commitment to preserving Jewish history in Boston and beyond. We launched a new JHC Membership and added it to the suite of NEHGS member options, adding JHC-specific benefits, such as a consultation with a JHC archivist about family papers and discounts to JHC events. Over 60 attendees were present for our Archives Shabbat series on the history of Jews in China from the 8th and 9th century to present, presented by Cantor Robyn Helzner of

Washington, D.C., co-sponsored by the Chinese Historical Association of New England.

We were proud to build many relationships through the GU272 Memory Project, an online research portal containing information about the Georgetown University 272, the enslaved people who were sold in 1838. This project marks the first time that genealogical data about the GU272 was made publicly available and it is a milestone in online resources for African American family history. The database is a result of our partnership with the Georgetown Memory Project (GMP), a nonprofit organization founded by friends, allies, and alumni of Georgetown University. As part of our work, staff traveled to Louisiana and California to capture oral histories from GU272 descendants. We held a total of 50 interviews to date across many families. Each descendant interview is 60–90 minutes long and covers topics such as early childhood memories, close family relationships, school, marriage, professional work, and children.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

We remained committed to enhancing our use of DNA advancements and technological developments to create enriching personalized experiences for our members and the public.

To aid in our efforts, we officially launched American AncestREES, our new online family tree platform. Our unique platform allows users to create a tree from scratch, import an existing family tree, get hints to grow trees, and use social media features to share a tree with friends and family. American AncestREES offers many features not found in other online trees—including cutting-edge DNA tools—designed to help organize and advance genealogical research.

We also developed search enhancements that facilitate annotations to make a note of new research that updates information contained on primary records. Furthermore, we enhanced the search function by adding a 'hinting' feature that creates an integration between some of our most important databases and online family trees.

We launched a new companion website, [GU272.AmericanAncestors.org](http://GU272.AmericanAncestors.org), as the platform for the Georgetown Memory Project. The site includes a historical narrative, a guide with clues for determining whether one is a descendant, interviews with more than 40 GU272 descendants,

research tools for GU272 descendants and African American family historians, and short biographies of the heads of 32 of the families. The database comprises 50 volumes with nearly 1,000 images, more than 10,000 records, and 32,000 searchable names.

## SCHOLARSHIP

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

We advanced our position as the leader in scholarly excellence in family history during the year through important content collaborations and publishing activities. We published twelve books and ten periodicals including: *Puritan Pedigrees* by Robert Charles Anderson; the third edition of *A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries* by David Allen Lambert; *A Family Becoming American, Volume 4: Adams* and *Volume 6: Polter* by David Kruger; *A Parsons Story: 1570–1935*, by William Crozier with Eileen Curley Pironti; *Ancestors and Descendants of Lawrence Albert Waite and Hilda Marie Slaiger of North Attleborough, Massachusetts* by Judith Freeman with Christopher C. Child and Nancy G. Bernard; the 2nd edition of *By Faith Alone* by Bill Griffeth; *Ancestry of Dan Rather* compiled by Rhonda McClure and edited by Sharon Inglis and Scott Steward; the *Ancestry of Douglas Brinkley* compiled by Meaghan E. H. Siekman and Nancy Bernard and edited by Cécile Engeln; in our Experts' Choice category, we published *Historical*

*Collections of the State of New Jersey and All the Western States and Territories from the Alleghanies to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf*; and we published a new Portable Genealogist on *Using Probate Records* by Tricia Healy Mitchell.

In addition to publishing scholarship in book form, we developed key new online content, with significant additions to our Historic Catholic Records Online Project, with a total of 3.1 million records added to [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) this year, and more than 13,000 unique items added to the Digital Library and Archive.

These and many other accomplishments made this period truly remarkable. As we celebrate the historic milestones of our 175th anniversary and the Pilgrim Quadricentennial, and with the support of our world-class Board and Council, first-rate partners and collaborators, hundreds of thousands of supporters, and the continued exemplary work of our staff and subject-matter experts, we will sustain and grow NEHGS for future historians and generations to come.



Respectfully submitted,

D. Brenton Simons  
President and CEO

## Celebrating our history

New England Historic Genealogical Society is the world's founding genealogical organization and the nation's leading comprehensive resource for family history research.

As the largest nonprofit organization of its kind, we occupy a central and highly esteemed place in the fields of genealogy and history. In its earliest days, our organization was instrumental in establishing a new scholarly discipline that has had a widespread and lasting impact on the story of America and its people. Our example has influenced other organizations and sparked similar scholarly efforts around the globe. Today, our mission remains directly about people and heritage: we offer a compelling call for inspirational journeys of personal discovery through genealogy. This work, now embraced by a vast worldwide audience, has 175 years on, taken much greater root both in popular culture and academia than our founders envisioned in 1845.

Over a long history, we have brought priceless experiences of connection and meaning to generations of Americans. In so doing, New England Historic Genealogical Society and our members have documented the histories of countless individuals and communities—many of which would otherwise never have been gathered, published, or preserved. Now, on the occasion of our 175th anniversary, we are among a handful of American history organizations thriving at its present great age. Our legacy of service to the public and our present good health can be attributed, in part, to the fact that our organization has always been an innovator—imbued with an entrepreneurial and pioneering spirit. We do not rest on our laurels but, instead,

adapt to new constituencies, technologies, and approaches, even while championing our traditional core values and upholding the highest standards of genealogical and historical excellence.

Today, New England Historic Genealogical Society flourishes through its broader and more inclusive American Ancestors brand—positively informing an audience of millions of diverse users with more than a billion online records, unprecedented scholarly output and educational initiatives, and the dedicated work of a large cadre of renowned experts and loyal supporters who advance our mission in innumerable ways.

Since our founding in 1845, we have assembled a world-class collection of research material that dates from the fourteenth century to the present and spans the globe. By producing original scholarship of enduring value that serves as the gold-standard for authoritative family history research the world over, we bring together a broad and diverse audience who seeks knowledge of their heritage and the context of history—forming a community of people who honor the past and inspire the future.

Together, with our members, we serve as the nation's collective memory, and advance the study of family history in America and beyond by educating, inspiring, and connecting people.

The vibrancy of our beloved organization can be seen through the timeline of events, evolving from a Victorian initiative to that of a full-bodied cultural icon of international importance.





## 175 years of family history

- 1845** NEHGS established as nation's founding genealogical organization
- 1845** John Quincy Adams joined—first of many former U.S. Presidents
- 1847** First issue of the *Register*
- 1858** Publishing program for primary source historical materials launched
- 1859** First bequest to NEHGS by Dr. Henry Bond
- 1861** NEHGS played a role in founding Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- 1870** *Register* format introduced as standard for genealogies
- 1871** Library relocated to 18 Somerset Street
- 1876** U.S. Centennial spurred national genealogical activity
- 1880** Membership reached 1,000
- 1897** Women elected to membership
- 1902** *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* commenced publication
- 1912** Library relocated to 9 Ashburton Place
- 1931** Largest donation of research materials received: 6,400 volumes given by single donor
- 1955** Microfilm first added to library holdings
- 1963** Endowment reached \$1 million
- 1964** Library relocated to 99–101 Newbury Street
- 1976** U.S. Bicentennial and *Roots* television miniseries sparked major interest in genealogy
- 1978** First NEHGS tour to Family History Library in Salt Lake City
- 1984** Member newsletter introduced
- 1985** First "Come Home to New England" program
- 1986** First computer system
- 1990** First \$1 million gift received from a single donor
- 1995** NEHGS Sesquicentennial conference in Boston
- 1995** Great Migration series launched
- 1996** First NEHGS website
- 1996** Newbury Street Press founded
- 1999** Weekly electronic newsletter commenced
- 2000** Member magazine introduced
- 2000** Website relaunched with major searchable databases
- 2008** Capital Campaign commenced
- 2009** Historic \$7.5 million commitment received from single donor
- 2009** *Who Do You Think You Are?* filmed first episode at NEHGS
- 2010** American Ancestors brand introduced
- 2010** Partnership begins with American Jewish Historical Society
- 2012** Adjacent building at 97 Newbury Street purchased
- 2013** *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* debuted with NEHGS as anchor site.
- 2013** AmericanAncestors.org became most-used genealogical society website in world
- 2014** Partnership with FamilySearch added 1 billion records to AmericanAncestors.org
- 2014** Endowment surpassed \$25 million
- 2015** Staff grows to 80 employees
- 2015** *Family Tree Magazine* names our website as Best Large Database website 2015
- 2016** NEHGS exceeds 226,000 members
- 2016** Capital Campaign concludes, raising \$62.2 million
- 2017** Historic collaboration with Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston brings largest collection of U.S. Catholic records online.
- 2017** Cornerstone Project launched; lead gift of \$3 million announced
- 2017** 2020 Initiative launched to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower* and the 175th anniversary of the founding of NEHGS
- 2018** Launched JewishHeritageCenter.org
- 2018** Net assets surpassed \$50 million
- 2019** Took occupancy of 97 Newbury Street
- 2019** Georgetown Memory Project website collaboration goes live for African American slavery research
- 2019** American Ancestors online family tree program debuts
- 2019** American Inspiration, a best-selling author series launched
- 2020** Youth education program initiated
- 2020** Membership crests 300,000
- 2020** 175th Anniversary of NEHGS

# Cornerstone Project

## EXPANDING A NATIONAL TREASURE

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

In our expanded headquarters, we will engage the public with unparalleled learning experiences and serve both American and international audiences by making available—both in person and through portable, web-based extensions to millions of online users—the finest work from scores of genealogists, historians, educators, curators, and museum professionals.

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



## EXPANDING OUR REACH

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

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



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

By supporting this initiative, donors are helping to preserve the great American story for present and future generations—as told through the lives and legacies of countless millions of people who came before us.

## 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  
John F. Keane  
David W. Kruger  
Andrew P. Langlois  
Jo Anne Makely  
William R. Marsh, M.D.  
Nancy S. Malsby  
Carol R. McGee  
Bonnie A. Reilly  
Kristin and Roger Servison  
Peck Stacpoole Foundation  
The Arnold Garrison Foundation  
Nancy Clay Webster  
Wallace S. and Isabel B.\* Wilson  
Justin and Genevieve\* Wyner  
Anonymous (4)

\*Deceased

## NEW SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

A vital component of the Cornerstone Project will be the implementation of critical life safety and fire suppression systems to safeguard our most valuable resources: people and collections.

We will make sweeping upgrades to our facilities by utilizing leading technologies and practices for safety and security.

### FIRE SUPPRESSION

We will add a water mist fire protection system that uses small amounts of water to displace oxygen and cool surrounding areas to prevent a fire from spreading or reigniting. Water mist technologies keep both damage and downtime to a minimum.

The system uses a pure water mist, which is completely harmless to people and the environment. Spaces do not need to be evacuated or closed off for the system to be activated, and they can also be entered while the system is discharging without posing any risk to human life or affecting fire-fighting efficiency.

### FACILITIES AND ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES

In addition to fire suppression, through the Cornerstone Project, we will make Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance upgrades to the facility, add a new elevator, add a new egress stairwell, mount new emergency lighting, add improved security and intrusion alarms, and supply additional Automated External Defibrillator devices throughout the campus.



## ENRICHING OUR CONTENT, BOTH ONLINE AND IN-PERSON

Our expansion project provides the best opportunity to develop new content that will be made accessible in our innovative Discovery Center and at [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org). We will gather, digitize, and transcribe materials covering the United States and more than 30 other nations to provide the best experiences for a broad and diverse audience of visitors and online users from around the world. Through collaboration with content partners from across the field, we will augment our leading collections for the United States and the United Kingdom with new international materials covering several continents and many countries.

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

After completing negotiations with John Lewis in the last part of calendar year 2018, we were able to accelerate our use of 97 Newbury by four years, taking occupancy on January 1, 2019. Upon taking occupancy, we developed a plan to temporarily alter the first-floor space in 97 Newbury, creating useable work areas for staff as part of converting portions of the building to tax-exempt status prior to the full renovation.

Our accelerated conversion of the building led to commensurately accelerated fundraising efforts and we are grateful and inspired by the response. Gifts totaling \$2.1 million were committed to the Cornerstone Project during fiscal year 2019. These gifts will name two key components of our expanded campus: **The Brue Family Learning Center**, in honor of Nordahl and Suzanne Brue, and **The Robert Charles Anderson Scholarly Publishing Center**, in honor of our Director of the Great Migration Study Project.



## Cornerstone Project Outcomes

The expansion of our headquarters will allow us to create a lively and popular destination for anyone interested in the pursuit of family history. Project goals include:

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

## Ways to give

By supporting the Cornerstone Campaign now, you will help us continue to provide comprehensive expert family history services with historical narrative and cultural context for generations to come.

Your participation will help ensure the success of this campaign.

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

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

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

Please contact our Development team for more information at 617-226-1218 or [development@nehgs.org](mailto:development@nehgs.org).



## Get Connected. Be Inspired.

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

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

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

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

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

### EXPERT STAFF

Our professional genealogists are among the most respected and advanced in the profession. With research specialties including DNA and genetics, early American, New England, New York, Irish, English, Italian, Scottish, Atlantic and French Canadian, African American, Native American, Chinese, and Jewish genealogy, our expert staff can assist family historians by providing research advice in-person, over the phone, or in writing. Our expert staff can also conduct research on behalf of family historians, providing authoritative, documented research reports and family tree charts.



#### AWARD-WINNING WEBSITE

Bringing accuracy and integrity to your family history research endeavors wherever in the world you might be, we offer family history researchers the most-used genealogical society website in the world—AmericanAncestors.org. Providing access to more than 1.4 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.

#### ORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIP

To support the research of family historians around the world, we produce the most significant original research and important publications in genealogy, including, since 1847, the longest continually published academic journal in the field, the *Register*. In addition to the quarterly journal, we publish a quarterly magazine, the biannual *Mayflower Descendant* journal, twenty-to-thirty books per year, and an electronic newsletter, *The Weekly Genealogist*. As the leader in genealogical scholarship, we also produce important study projects such as The Great Migration Study Project, an endeavor to create genealogical and biographical sketches of the some 20,000 individuals who arrived in New England between 1620 and 1640; The Early New England Families

Study Project, 1641–1700, a successor study project to the Great Migration period; Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 Study Project, which captures families heading west at the time of the 1790 census, and the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 Study Project, which covers families that settled Vermont, the last frontier of New England.

#### WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH CENTER

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

#### EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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





## D. BRENTON SIMONS PRESIDENT AND CEO

D. Brenton Simons has changed the face of nonprofit-based genealogy in America 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 the organization, 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.

In 2020, Brenton was appointed Vice Chair of the Plymouth 400th Anniversary State Commission by Governor Charles T. Baker of Massachusetts. Brenton 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 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 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND COO

Ryan J. Woods is a thirteen-year veteran of key management positions at American Ancestors and NEHGS. He serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, as well as Clerk of the Council of the Corporation. In his roles, 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 1 billion searchable records to AmericanAncestors.org, and he was a lead staff member in the establishment of our 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.

A dedicated researcher, Ryan has authored pedagogical articles about the use of historical biographies to teach character and ethics. He has also contributed genealogical articles and several book forewords for historical and genealogical publications, and he regularly presents at national historical and genealogical conferences and events.

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 a 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 Order of St John, 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 NEHGS leadership team since 2017, Susan is responsible for the Advancement department, comprised of development and advancement support. Fundraising revenue is responsible for 45% of the organization's annual operating budget. In addition, principal and major gift fundraising is responsible for endowment, program, capital, planned, and deferred income essential to NEHGS's growth. Susan's areas of focus include identifying and securing funding for NEHGS headquarter expansion to 97 Newbury Street, concurrent program support, the Family History Fund, support for key NEHGS elements such as the Jewish Heritage Center and the Catholic Records Project, and strengthening annual operating income. Susan oversees a highly-experienced principal, major and planned gift team, stewardship and annual fund managers. 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, Susan began her career in philanthropy in planned 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; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she created a program in Family Legacy; and Walnut Hill School for the Arts, where she was Dean for Institutional Advancement. Susan has recently moved to Beacon Hill.



## BETH A. BROWN ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

A member of the fundraising team at NEHGS since 2015, Beth travels the country identifying new volunteer leadership, raising funds from individuals, corporations, and foundations to support the operating budget, the Jewish Heritage Center, the expansion at 97 Newbury Street, the acquisition of archives, and other special projects. During her 15-year career in fundraising, Beth has worked with 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, her husband Chuck, and their son Daniel 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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2002–2008	David Watson Kruger	1901–1921	James Phinney Baxter
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1991–1996	William Morgan Fowler, Jr.	1892–1898	William Claflin
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1948–1954	Walter Merriam Pratt	1845–1850	Charles Ewer

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



## THOMAS BAILEY HAGEN

### VICE CHAIRMAN

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



## ANDREW P. LANGLOIS

### TREASURER

Andrew Langlois is the retired President of Mormac Marine Group; Chief Financial Officer of several affiliated companies; and Investor and Director, of Moran Transportation Company. He held previous management positions with General Dynamics Corporation. He is a Life member of Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants and a member of New Hampshire Historical Society, Maine Historical Society, New Hampshire Society of Genealogists, and Society of Genealogists (London). Andrew is a published genealogist. He received a B.S., Carnegie Mellon University; M.B.A., Harvard Business School. He is married to Lynne Langlois. Andrew has been a member of NEHGS since 1979, holding roles of past Councilor; Trustee; and member, Executive, Audit, Finance, Investment, and Future Expansion Committees. He is a member of the Cornerstone Society for Giving and Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and is an Associate Member of NEHGS.



## 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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## Mayflower 2020: Commemorating 400 Years

Four nations—the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the Wampanoag Nation—have united in planning events to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing and the signing of the Mayflower Compact.

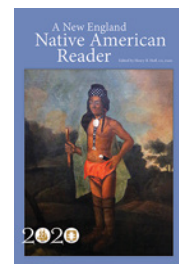
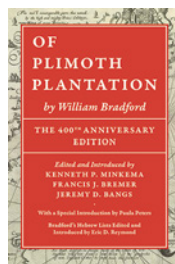
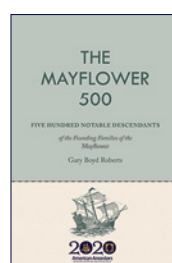
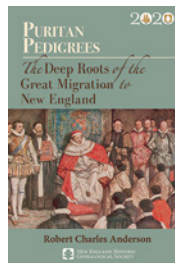
We are proud to be a key leader in this commemoration, and the largest nonprofit provider of Pilgrim and Wampanoag history-themed programming, publications, online resources, and tours. Throughout 2020 and beyond, we will host an array of cross-generational educational programs, exhibits, and events; publish new scholarship on the Pilgrims and Native American peoples; and continue to build the most comprehensive online portal for *Mayflower* genealogical research in existence.

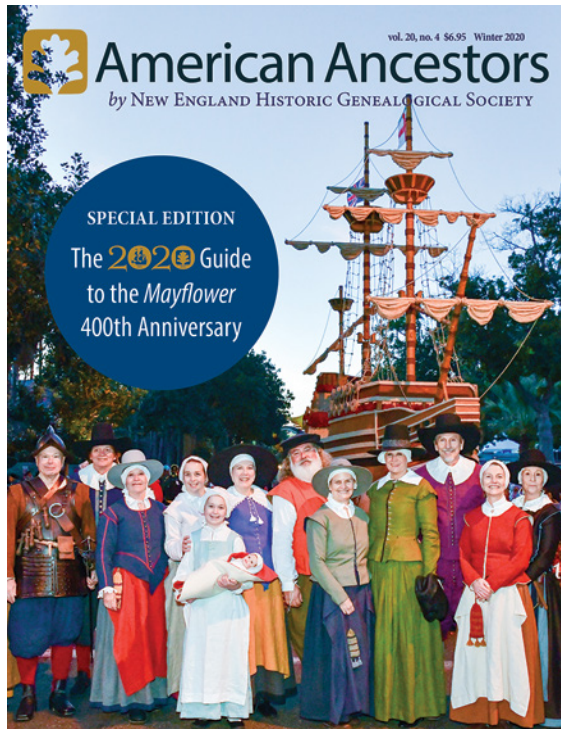
We will host a special Family History Benefit Gala honoring former UK Prime Minister Sir John Major. This event will also mark the 175th anniversary of the founding of NEHGS. Sir John's special visit highlights the important historical, cultural, and political bonds between the United Kingdom and the United States over four centuries.

### OUR COMMEMORATION ACTIVITIES

Our scholarly publishing program is preparing significant works in honor of this historic anniversary. Robert Charles Anderson's *The Mayflower Migration* will be the sixteenth book in the Great Migration series. The fully annotated

400th anniversary edition of William Bradford's *Of Plimoth Plantation*, with a foreword by Paula Peters, is produced and edited by a distinguished team headed by Francis Bremer, Kenneth Minkema, and Jeremy Bangs. *A New England Native American Reader*, edited by Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, will present a compilation of materials on New England Native American genealogy, history, and culture. And we are pleased to release a new work from Gary Boyd Roberts, *The Mayflower 500: Five Hundred Notable Descendants of the Founding Families of the Mayflower*. Our *Register* and *Mayflower Descendant* journals will publish new *Mayflower* discoveries, and *American Ancestors* magazine will continue to present *Mayflower* and Wampanoag-related articles and events.





### NEW DATABASE COMING SOON!

## General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications

This database includes all applications and supplemental applications to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, from its founding in 1897, for applicants born before January 1, 1920. The database index includes applicants, their ancestral *Mayflower* passenger(s), and birth, marriage, and death information for each generation of descendants. In addition, the General Society membership number is provided.

### THREE-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

## Verifying *Mayflower* Lineage

Presented by Lindsay Fulton, Katrina Fahy, and Marti Bobertz

Access to recordings and course materials until June 30, 2020.

Cost: \$85

Join experts from New England Historic Genealogical Society and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants for a three-part online course on verifying *Mayflower* lineage, creating a proof argument when vital records are hard to come by, and, ultimately, applying for membership in the Mayflower Society.

Our “Mayflower Embarkation” Heritage Tour will take place in England and will be led by Robert Charles Anderson. This research experience will explore Dartmouth and Plymouth, ports of call for the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell*, as well as Dorchester, East Budleigh, Lyme Regis, and more. Participants on our “New England Sojourn” tour will join *Mayflower* experts for visits to historic sites in Massachusetts associated with the Pilgrims, including Plymouth, Provincetown, Duxbury, and Boston—and an examination of the challenges faced by Pilgrims in the early years of settlement.

These upcoming Heritage Tours follow on our “Pilgrim Escape to Leiden” tour, which took place in June 2019 to places in Holland where the Pilgrims had lived or visited. Organized by leading puritan and Pilgrim scholar Robert Charles Anderson, the tour appealed to many genealogists with Pilgrim, puritan, and Dutch ancestry.

Our educational programs—online and in-person—will delve more deeply into the stories and legacies of the *Mayflower* passengers and Wampanoag. Online programs include a webinar on *Mayflower* resources available at [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org); a three-week online course, demonstrating how to verify a *Mayflower* lineage; and an online conference that will explore the context and trajectory of *Mayflower* migrations. From July 15–18, 2020, we will host a special institute with a *Mayflower* focus. This intensive program will guide advanced researchers on how they can contribute to scholarship: composing articles, leading study projects, administering

## NEW DATABASE

*Mayflower Quarterly*, 1935–1985

The *Mayflower Quarterly*, a publication of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), includes articles and news generated by GSMD and its member societies throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. This database index includes author names and article titles from the first fifty years of publication, from 1935 through 1985.

DNA groups, and more. Of particular note is our Four Nation Concert Series, which examines how the themes of the *Mayflower* story—exploration, innovation, religious freedom, self-governance, immigration, and Thanksgiving—have been expressed through the historical and more contemporary musical traditions of each nation.

Regardless of whether you are a *Mayflower* descendant, this 400th anniversary commemoration is of value to all Americans who enjoy freedoms inspired by the Mayflower Compact, who are prepared to now better understand the Wampanoag story and the impact European settlement has had upon that nation, and who wish to explore themes of religious freedom, exploration, heritage, and Thanksgiving, among other topics that have influenced generations and shaped our great American experience over the centuries.

## ONLINE VIDEO

*Mayflower Resources on AmericanAncestors.org*

Presented by Donald LeClair

Available on AmericanAncestors.org.  
Original broadcast: March 19.

Cost: FREE

Discover the databases and online resources at AmericanAncestors.org that can help you trace, verify, and explore your *Mayflower* ancestry. From scholarly journals to compiled genealogies and study projects, you will learn how to leverage these resources in your family history research.



## ONLINE CONFERENCE

*Mayflower Migrations: Origins and Diaspora*

Presented by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, and Katrina Fahy

Live broadcast: Saturday, May 9, 12–3:30 p.m. (EDT); Access to recordings and conference materials until August 31, 2020.

Cost: \$85

The *Mayflower* landing in 1620 began a twenty-year mass movement of people from England to New England, known as the Great Migration. By 1640 an estimated 20,000 people followed that migration pattern. In this half-day seminar, experts Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, and Senior Researcher Katrina Fahy will shed light on the known origins and interconnections of *Mayflower* passengers and look at the movements and migrations of their New England descendants.

## Website and new databases

AmericanAncestors.org continues to be our most-used resource, by volume and frequency, of all the NEHGS service offerings; it is the primary channel through which constituents conduct research, purchase memberships, and buy books and other services. We implemented various tools to enhance user experience including a new annotation feature (which alerts researchers to issues in our source documents) and print page range capability (which allows you to print more than one page from a database at a time).

The following databases were added to AmericanAncestors.org during fiscal year 2019:

### NEW DATABASES

- Boston, MA: St. Augustine Cemetery Records, 1819-1859
- Brattleboro, VT: Wesselhoeft Water Cure, 1845-1848
- Franklin County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1812-1915
- Chelsea, MA: Marriages by Rabbi Icik Benkovitz, 1922-1956
- Early Vermont Settlers Index Cards, 1750-1784
- GU272 Descendants, 1785-2000
- Massachusetts: Plymouth Colony Deeds, 1671-1673

### ADDITIONS TO EXISTING DATABASES

- Bath, NH: Births Attended by Dr. John French, 1807-1857
- Christian Intelligencer: Death reports of Reformed Dutch Church, 1830-1871
- Dorchester Antiquarian: Marriages and Intentions, 1733-1836
- Connecticut: Early Probate Records, 1635-1750
- Madison, CT: Vital Records, 1718-1890

### IMPROVED DATABASES

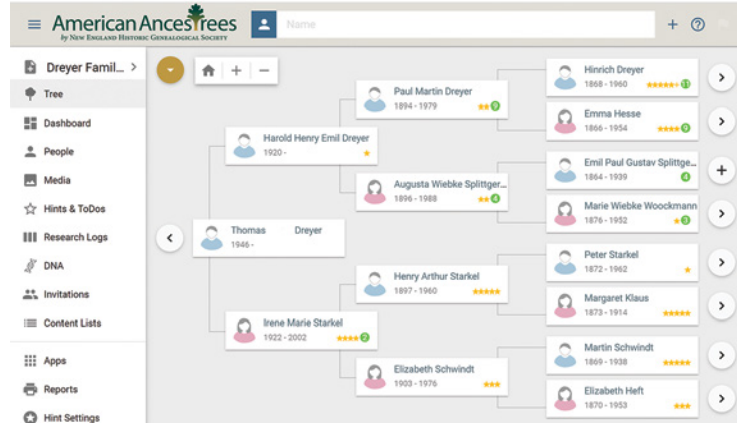
- Dutchess County, NY: The Settlers of the Beekman Patent
- Early New England Families, 1641-1700
- Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784
- *The Essex Genealogist*
- *The Maine Genealogist*

- Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900
- Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900
- *Mayflower Descendant*
- North American Cemetery Transcriptions from NEHGS Manuscripts, 1642-1977
- *Rhode Island Roots*
- Western Massachusetts Families in 1790
- *The American Genealogist*
- *Connecticut Nutmegger*
- Connecticut: Vital Records (The Barbour Collection), 1630-1870
- *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*
- Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine
- Rhode Island: Historical Cemeteries, 1647-2000
- Suffolk County, MA: Probate File Papers
- Vital Records from the *NEHGS Register*
- *American Ancestors* magazine
- Ireland: The Annals of Beara
- Norfolk County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1793-1900





In 2019, we rolled out several significant new digital offerings, including the launch of American AnceSTREES, a new online family tree platform; the launch of a website dedicated to the legacy of the GU272 (the men, women, and children sold by the Jesuits of Georgetown College in 1838), and regular additions to our portal for all *Mayflower* 2020 activities.



## AmericanAncestrees

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In January 2019, we officially launched American AncestTREES, our new online family tree platform, and within a few months the total number of unique TREES users grew to 4,000. Guest Members and Research-level Members get the standard version for free, so that NEHGS can market TREES to a wide audience as a robust and easy-to-use tool for beginning tree users.

American AncestTREES allows users to create a tree from scratch, import an existing family tree, get hints to grow trees, and use social media features to share a tree with friends and family.

American AncestTREES offers many features not found in other online trees – including cutting-edge DNA tools– designed to help organize and advance genealogical research.

American AncestTREES is a new and important source of revenue for NEHGS, through the purchase of Advanced and Premium plans, which offer additional features over and above the standard version. Higher-level plans with additional features are available at a low annual cost of \$19.99 (Advanced) and \$34.99 (Premium). Contributing Members are automatically eligible for the Advanced plan at no additional cost.

Before we launched the platform, we spent close to one year in beta, a period of time that allowed us to collect and respond to a large amount of user feedback. This feedback helped us make significant improvements to the TREES sign up experience and to address user concerns and questions in the documentation we added to the TREES user support center.

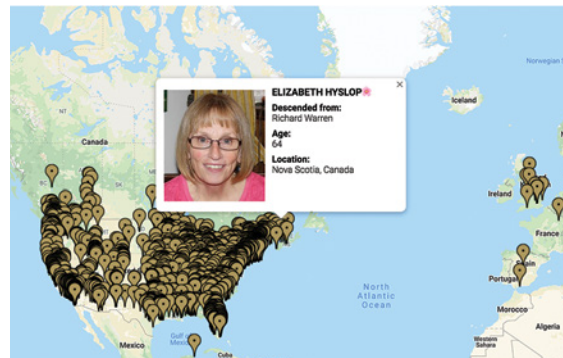
## MAYFLOWER 2020

Our dedicated site for the 400th anniversary commemoration, [Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org](http://Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org), continues to serve as a leading destination for people who want to validate their *Mayflower* ancestry through our Research Services offerings, people who want research assistance when applying to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and people who are looking for general information and contextual history about the *Mayflower*, its passengers, and contextual history about the impact of the *Mayflower's* landing.

Since launching the site, we have hosted nearly 1 million visitors from 178 countries around the world.

One feature of the site allows visitors to indicate that they are interested in using Research Services to advance their family history discoveries. To date, more than 4,500 have completed the help request form.

In addition, we created a number of *Mayflower*-branded print collateral pieces, including an attractive folder, that will be used throughout 2020.



# GU272 MEMORY PROJECT

## GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY 272: BUILDING AN ONLINE RESEARCH PORTAL

Throughout 2019, the Website Development team was busy building a unique and exciting new digital family history project: an online research portal containing information about the Georgetown University 272, the enslaved people who were sold in 1838 by Maryland's Jesuit colony. The site launched in the first half of 2019. This database is a result of our partnership with the Georgetown Memory Project (GMP), a nonprofit organization corporation founded by friends, allies, and alumni of Georgetown University.

We traveled to Oakland to capture first-hand the life stories of descendants of the GU272. We interviewed and photographed more than 20 people who were eager to share their memories and family history. Development of the website continued apace, including significant coding and design work.

Our project marked the first time that genealogical data about the GU272 would be publicly available. The site is a milestone in online resources for African American family history.

At least one-third of the people we interviewed have memories of growing up in Maringouin, Louisiana, the town that the majority of first generation GU272 descendants moved to in the 1870s. People who are in their 70s and 80s today recall moving from Maringouin in the 1960s to locations out west or north to attend college or get jobs and have families.

### History of slaves sold for Georgetown detailed in new genealogical website

Jun 24, 2019

by [Adelle M. Banks, Religion News Service](#) | [People](#)



Photos of GU272 descendant Donna Comeau's family, (Claire Vall)

A genealogical association has launched a new website detailing the family histories of slaves who were sold to keep Catholic-run Georgetown University from bankruptcy in the 1800s.

American Ancestors announced the new GU272 Memory Project website on Wednesday (June 19), the anniversary of Juneteenth, the day in 1865 when some American slaves learned they had been freed.

Twenty-seven years earlier, a document dated June 19, 1838, showed that Maryland Jesuit priests sold 272 slaves to the owners of Louisiana plantations. The Jesuits used the proceeds to benefit then-Georgetown College.

### GU272 WEBSITE LAUNCH AND RECEPTION

The Website Development team launched the GU272 Memory Project on Juneteenth (June 19, 2019), a date commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

The Associated Press ran a story on the GU272 that had national (and some international) pick up. *US News* featured the story prominently in their national section, and the *Washington Post* did original reporting to write their own story, interviewing NEHGS staff and also Richard Cellini of the Georgetown Memory Project.

The descendant community reacted very positively to the website launch and the information the site contains. The GU272 Family Association said the site was the first of its kind for African American history and genealogy, and that it was a "wonderful" and welcome project for descendants everywhere.

# In the news

In print, broadcast, and digital formats, media outlets showcased the renowned research of American Ancestors and NEHGS in family history to an expanding global audience—an audience passionate about new advances in genealogical research and findings, and knowledgeable about the leading role our organization plays in developing them.

Major events at our organization and innovations within our programming, products, and services earned our American Ancestors brand name and the NEHGS organization places of high visibility in media throughout the year. As excitement built around the *Mayflower* 400th anniversary commemorative events, national and international media interest deepened in several areas, including the culture of the Wampanoag, dedication of the new Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS, and our expanding expertise in DNA study.

With the launch of the GU272 Memory Project through a data-rich web project, expansion of the celebrated Historic Catholic Records Online Project, announcement of a generous philanthropic gift of \$1.25 million to NEHGS from Stephen and Tabitha King, and a growing awareness of and appreciation for our professional expertise in many segments, American Ancestors and NEHGS made headlines, feature stories, radio and podcast appearances, and television news.

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

**US News**  
November 16, 2018

### Jewish Genealogy Center Named in Honor of Wyner Family

**BOSTON (AP)** — The Jewish Heritage Center at the New England Historic Genealogical Society has been named in honor of a longtime supporter. The Boston center will now be known as the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center in honor of Justin Lawrence "Jerry" Wyner and his wife Genevieve Geller Wyner. Justin Wyner has been a board member and president of the American Jewish Historical Society.

The Wyners in the fall made the lead gift to launch a new multimillion-dollar initiative to build the center's endowment.

The Center is home to the records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society-Boston, the archives of Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the *Boston Jewish Times* newspaper, as well as the personal papers of some of the region's most prominent Jewish citizens and institutions.

Rachel King was recently introduced as the center's new director.

*Copyright 2018 The Associated Press.*

(L-R): Brenton Simons, NEHGS President and CEO, Rachel King, Director of the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at New England Historic Genealogical Society, and Justin "Jerry" Wyner.

**The Boston Globe Metro**  
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

### A 400th anniversary to remember

By Yaabelle Kempe  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Festivities have begun in Boston to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society hosted the opening ceremony Wednesday, unveiling two new installations to mark the 1620 arrival by the Pilgrims, who founded the Plymouth colony. One is a giant replica of the Mayflower, and the other is a lifelike display of a Patuxet mother and daughter.

The Patuxet, now extinct, were a Native American band of the Wampanoag, the tribal confederation that greeted the Pilgrims upon their landing.

Both pieces will be on display through 2020 in front of the society's home on Newbury Street, accompanied by signs describing the history of the Mayflower landing. They will be brought inside at night and on Sundays, when the Society is closed.

"The idea for these exhibits was so we could portray both the Mayflower story and the Native American story, side by side, on Newbury Street," said D. Brenton Simons, president and CEO of the genealogical society and American Ancestors. "People can interpret both histories and learn about them."

Mayflower 400 celebrations will occur on a global scale throughout the next year, including throughout the state, in England, and in the Netherlands — where the Pilgrims spent 11 years in exile before making the perilous crossing. The story of the Mayflower is one of triumphs and trage-

The colonists spent that first winter living aboard the Mayflower. By the time warmer weather arrived, only 53 passengers and half the crew were alive.

During that same period, the Mayflower Compact was written and signed by the adult male passengers. The governing document sought to maintain order and lay the groundwork for a civil society.

The replica of the ship was created by Terry Goughan, a Maine-based artist who specializes in maritime exhibitions. The installment took him about a year to complete, a task made more difficult by the fact that the piece will be outdoors and must be able to weather the elements. The 10-foot-long final product is constructed from Eastern white pine.

To thank them, the society established a fund to allow members of the Wampanoag Nation to participate in the group's education programs and provide opportunities for Wampanoag scholars to educate society members. The fund is valued at \$10,000 per year.

In the exhibit, the mother is shown holding a wampum belt, used by the Wampanoag people to share stories of ancestors through intricately woven symbols.

"The wampum belt represents one's ancestors," Steven Peters said. "I imagine that the mother is looking at the belt, thinking about how her and her daughter will be remem-



# Research projects

## COURTYARD BOSTON DOWNTOWN

Experts from the Research Services team, as well as our Creative Services and Publications teams, researched and designed eight museum-quality panels for the Courtyard Boston Downtown, walking guests through the rich history of the hotel's property. The centerpiece of the project, an eight-by-twelve-foot timeline, ushers guests from the 1600s, when the property stood on the original Shawmut Peninsula in an area known as Colbron's Field, to the 1920s, when the still-standing building was built as the home of the

Elk's Boston Lodge No. 10 by architects James E. McLaughlin (of Fenway Park fame) and G. Houston Burr, through to the current day.

The hotel has a long history of attracting top-name acts to its clubs throughout the 20th century, including Duke Ellington, Miles Davis and other musicians and actors of that caliber.

In addition to the oversized timeline in the lobby, American Ancestors and NEHGS also designed panels for the elevator area, the 5th floor, as well as the penthouse lobby on the 15th floor. Guests are enamored by the hotel's commitment to its history and have commented, "I enjoyed the hotel because of the building's rich history . . . from the famous MGM lion to JFK, the history is amazing. The hotel does a great job of making this known with their collection of black and white photos in the lobby and on certain floors. I found it extremely fascinating."

**How can the Research Services team be contacted?**  
 Visit us online at [AmericanAncestors.org/services/which-service](http://AmericanAncestors.org/services/which-service), email us at [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org), or call us at 617-226-1233.

### History of Courtyard Boston Downtown

**1600s**

When settlers arrived in Boston in 1630, the Shawmut Peninsula was a 300-acre swampy area of land known as Colbron's Field. In the early 1600s, the area was used for agriculture and as a site for the first wooden fort in Boston. The area was later developed into a residential neighborhood.

**1700s**

In 1702, Jonathan Mather and John Cane purchased the land upon which the Courtyard Boston Downtown now stands. The area was used for agriculture and as a site for the first wooden fort in Boston. The area was later developed into a residential neighborhood.

**1800s**

The children of the children of the founders of the City of Boston were founded in 1808. The area was used for agriculture and as a site for the first wooden fort in Boston. The area was later developed into a residential neighborhood.

**1920s**

The Boston Lodge No. 10, 10 of the downtown and the Boston Club of the City of Boston were founded in 1920. The area was used for agriculture and as a site for the first wooden fort in Boston. The area was later developed into a residential neighborhood.

**1930s and 1940s**

WWE Radio opened studios on the 10th floor of the hotel in 1937. The area was used for agriculture and as a site for the first wooden fort in Boston. The area was later developed into a residential neighborhood.

**1940s and 1950s**

John F. Kennedy was the national president of the United States from 1961 to 1963. The area was used for agriculture and as a site for the first wooden fort in Boston. The area was later developed into a residential neighborhood.

**Current Day**

Over the past century, the hotel has changed several times. The area was used for agriculture and as a site for the first wooden fort in Boston. The area was later developed into a residential neighborhood.





## RESEARCH SERVICES BY THE NUMBERS

The Research Services team helps family historians across the country, and indeed, around the world, knock down brick walls, apply to lineage societies, and find proof of their families in written records.

Here are a few of our favorite sources and behind-the-scenes information about our team.

### Top 5 research inquiries we receive

1. I have a *Mayflower* passenger in my ancestry. How do I apply to the Mayflower Society?
2. How can I trace an immigrant ancestor? [This question is most frequently asked about ancestors who arrived before 1820, when federally-mandated passenger lists began.]
3. How can I confirm that an ancestor served in the American Revolution?
4. How can I find my ancestor's maiden name? It is not on her marriage record, and I don't know her parents' names.
5. I took a DNA test—now what do I do?

### Top 5 locations of Research Services clients furthest from Boston

1. Strathdale, Australia: 10,521 miles
2. Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: 6,655 miles
3. Volcano, Hawaii: 5,030 miles
4. Split, Croatia: 4,201 miles
5. London, England: 3,269 miles

### Television programs that featured our research

1. PBS: *Finding Your Roots*
2. TLC: *Who Do You Think You Are*
3. NBC: *Meet the Markles*

### Our longest research case (in years)

An ongoing research case for an NEHGS Life Member began in 2008. The objective was to determine the lineage of David Frank, who was born in Virginia about 1790 and died in May 1867 in Muscatine County, Iowa. We are on round 26 of research. If you are a Frank and have taken a DNA test, let us know. We'd love to hear from you!

### Our largest research case (in hours)

FOX's *Assassin's Creed* (Movie), 1,260 hours (equivalent to 75,600 minutes or 52.5 days): Research Services helped compile data for an online database (WhoIsInYourBlood.com) that was released with the movie.

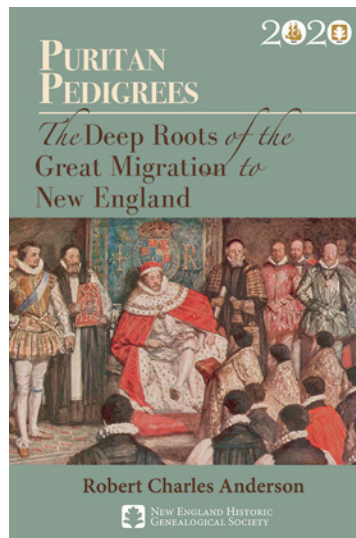
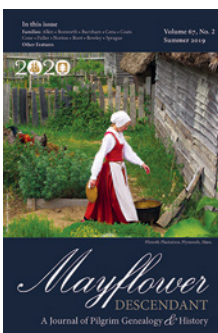
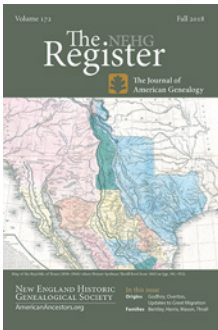
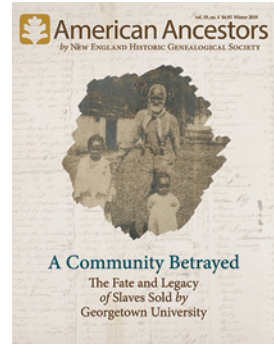
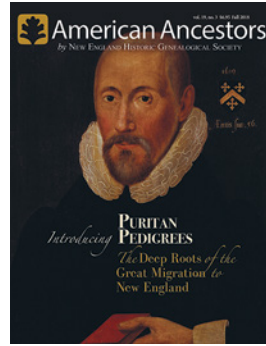
### Largest digitization and archive project

Our re-organization of a client's materials resulted in the filling of 141 Hollinger archival boxes—the equivalent of 601 folders.

# Publications

The year has been full of work on exciting and unique books for 2020 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower* and the 175th anniversary of New England Historic Genealogical Society. In the coming months you will see the fruits of our labor in Robert Charles Anderson's *Mayflower Migration*; Gary Boyd Roberts's *Mayflower 500*; Gerald W. R. Ward's *Family Treasures*, a beautifully illustrated book on our collection of art and furniture; and six other titles.

In addition to the usual four issues of *American Ancestors* magazine, four issues of the *Register*, and two issues of *Mayflower Descendant*, we published nine new titles during fiscal year 2019.



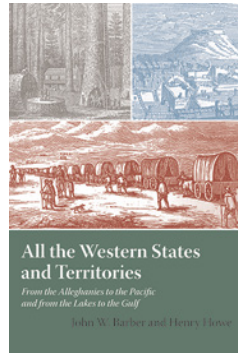
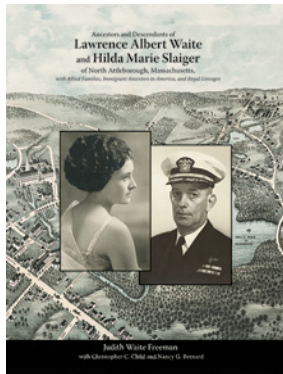
## NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BOOKS

*Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England* by Robert Charles Anderson

*A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries, Third Edition* by David Allen Lambert

## NEWBURY STREET PRESS PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IN 2019

- *The Knapp Family in America's Story*
- *The Livingston Ancestry of Anne Delafield Finch Cox*
- *Ancestry of Isabella Sofia Bailey*
- *Ancestors of Harold Latham Fish and Elizabeth Tyler Hollister*
- *Immigrant Ancestors of Jean Francis Webb 3rd and Martha Ann Bukeley*
- *Ancestors of David Barker Ford*



## NEWBURY STREET PRESS BOOKS

*A Family Becoming American: Vol. 4: Adams* by David Watson Kruger

*A Family Becoming American: Vol. 6: Polter* by David Watson Kruger

*Ancestors and Descendants of Lawrence Albert Waite and Hilda Marie Slaiger of North Attleborough, Massachusetts, with Allied Families, Immigrant Ancestors to America, and Royal Lineages* by Judith Waite Freeman with Christopher C. Child and Nancy G. Bernard

*A Parsons Story: 1570–1935* by William Marshall Crozier Jr. with Eileen Curley Pironti

## EXPERTS' CHOICE COLLECTION: REPRINTS OF GENEALOGICAL CLASSICS

*Historical Collections of the State of New Jersey* by John Warner Barber and Henry Howe, Foreword by Kyle Hurst

*All the Western States and Territories from the Alleghenies to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf* by John Warner Barber and Henry Howe, Foreword by Lynn Betlock



## PORTABLE GENEALOGIST QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDE

*Using Probate Records*  
by Tricia Healy Mitchell

# Vita Brevis

*Vita Brevis* marked its fifth birthday in 2019. With 2.2 million page views as of August 2019, the blog continues to be an important resource for American Ancestors and the genealogical community.

*Vita Brevis* is more than the numbers, the percentages, the ongoing series. It is meant to educate; it is meant to entertain. Like P. L. Travers' *Mary Poppins*, it aims to guide its readership—gently, with carrots, not sticks—to the right path, toward genealogical breakthroughs. How? By breaking down the thought processes that successful genealogists use to undertake fresh research, building upon previous work when assessing a new genealogical problem.

During the last year *Vita Brevis* published posts on topics including the new Great Migration map database, Finnish forebears, the Boston Molasses Flood of 1919, leper colonies in Hawaii, the ancestors of the Princess of Wales, and reflections on “extinct families.” Authors range from interns at the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center to NEHGS authors to bloggers writing from across the country.

*Vita Brevis* tells stories about our research strategies (and successes). Sometimes, too, it features stories that capture the personal in our histories. In response to an August post about a family heirloom, a commenter noted “Many of the pieces [in my collection] are fine china that had been carefully taken care of for as many as four or five generations before me in my mother’s family. But my favorite piece of crockery is a plain stoneware bowl that had belonged to my paternal grandmother’s grandmother. It had been her bread bowl and now it is mine.”

# Tours and programs

## FY2019

- Genealogical Resources at New Hampshire Historical Society  
September 7, 2018
- Open Newbury  
September 9, 2018
- Oakland, CA Roadshow: Researching 17<sup>th</sup>-Century New England  
September 22, 2018
- The Settlement of New England  
September 22, 2018
- The Royal Descents of Americans  
September 29, 2018
- Occupations in Early New England  
October 3, 2018
- The African American Heritage Trail at Tufts University  
October 5, 2018
- The Devil Dogs: A Documentary Film about Americans in WWI  
October 10, 2018
- Fall Research Getaway  
October 11–13, 2018
- The Évian Conference and the Creation of a Jewish Legacy in the Dominican Republic  
October 16, 2018
- The 1918 Influenza: Epidemic on the Global Scale  
October 17, 2018
- Ulster-Scots to America  
October 21, 2018
- Raising the Dead: Finding Clues to Ancestors from Headstones, Family Plots, and Burial Records  
October 24, 2018
- Saying Kaddish in the 21st Century: Ancient Wisdom in Modern Times  
October 24, 2018
- Salt Lake City Research Tour: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour  
November 4–11, 2018
- Exploring the Treasures of Castle Howard  
November 5, 2018
- Applying to the National Society Daughters of the Union, 1861–1865  
November 10, 2018
- Highland Retreats: The Architecture and Interiors of Scotland's Romantic North  
November 15, 2018
- Archives Shabbat: Yiddish Music  
November 16, 2018
- For Those Who Served: Researching Veterans of Colonial Wars, American Revolution, and War of 1812  
November 17, 2018
- Bound to Sell: Nineteenth Century American Commercial Bookbindings  
December 7, 2018
- American Eden: David Hosack, Botany, and Medicine in the Garden of the Early Republic  
December 11, 2018
- Founding Martyr: The Life and Death of Dr. Joseph Warren, the American Revolution's Lost Hero  
December 12, 2018

This was one of the most enlightening and practical workshops of my genealogical experience. . . This Summer Institute was an inspiration for me. . . An all-around winner!"

—Summer Institute for Advanced Researchers participant



- The Family Tree Toolkit: A Conversation with Kenyatta D. Berry  
January 9, 2019
- Building Your Genealogical Skills  
January 12, 19, and 26, 2019
- 30 Years of the Great Migration Study Project  
January 26, 2019
- Using AmericanAncestors.org  
February 13, 2019
- Winter Research Getaway  
February 21–23, 2019
- Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in a Young America  
March 7, 2019
- Irish Immigrant Communities and Settlements in Boston and Beyond  
March 9, 2019
- Using Religious Records in Your Family History: Catholic and Jewish Records of New England  
March 23, 2019
- Washington, DC, Research Tour  
March 24–31, 2019
- America, Alsace, and Peacemaking 1919  
March 26, 2019
- Lives of Consequence: Blacks in Early Kittery & Berwick in the Massachusetts Province of Maine  
April 5, 2019
- Hidden Treasures from the Fine Art Collection at New England Historic Genealogical Society  
April 6, 2019
- Official Boston Launch of the *Mayflower* 400th Anniversary  
April 17, 2019
- Organizing and Preserving Your Family History Treasures  
April 27, 2019
- The Palatine Wreck: The Legend of the New England Ghost Ship  
May 3, 2019



An Evening with Ambassador  
John Loeb, Jr.

May 8, 2019

Genealogy Boot Camp

May 16–18, 2019

AZ Roadshow: It's in the  
Genes: Leveraging DNA in  
Your Family History Research

May 18, 2019

Tracing Lafayette's Trail

May 22, 2019

Gardens of the Arts &  
Crafts Movement

May 28, 2019

Essex, England: the Home  
of the *Mayflower*?

June 7, 2019

Using AmericanAncestors.org

June 12, 2019

Spring Getaway

June 13–19, 2019

Archives Shabbat:  
Kreplach & Dim Sum

June 21, 2019

Building Your Genealogical Skills

June 22, 29, and July 6, 2019

Dublin Research Tour

June 23–30, 2019

Summer Institute for Advanced  
Researchers: Preserving and  
Organizing Your Family Papers

July 10–13, 2019

Open Newbury

July 11, 2019

Free Fun Friday

July 19, 2019

Genealogical Resources at the  
Godfrey Memorial Library

August 2, 2019

Come Home to New England

August 6–10, 2019

Open Newbury

August 25, 2019

## Online programs

FY2019

*"Thank you for providing these webinars! I live in a very rural area and am unable to travel to many genealogical workshops. Quality webinars like this help me think outside the box and keep me updated on current research skills and information available."*

Applying to the DAR

September 27, 2018

Researching Upstate New York

September 20, 2018

Volunteer Opportunities at  
AmericanAncestors.org

October 28, 2018

Raising the Dead: Finding Clues  
to Ancestors from Headstones,  
Family Plots, and Burial Records

November 15, 2018

DNA for Beginners

November 28, December  
5, and 12, 2018

Family History at Your  
Fingertips: Strategies  
for Conducting Effective  
Online Research

December 1, 2018

Using Maps in Family  
History Research

December 13, 2018

Locate, Research, Analyze

January 9, 16, and 23, 2019

Preserving Your Family Treasures

January 17, 2019

Organizing Your Family  
History: Expert Strategies  
from Start to Finish

January 19, 2019

Applying to the  
Mayflower Society

February 6, 13, and 20, 2019

Introducing American  
AnceSTREES

February 14, 2019

Using Irish Land Records

March 16, 2019

Using and Evaluating  
Published Genealogies

March 21, 2019

An Advanced Look at  
Basic Records

April 10, 17, 24, May  
1, and 8, 2019

Researching Women in Archives

April 18, 2019

For Those Who Served:

Researching Veteran Ancestors

May 18, 2019

Introducing the GU272

May 23, 2019

Conducting, Collecting, and  
Recording Oral Histories

June 5, 12, and 19, 2019

Using Occupations to  
Trace Ancestors

June 20, 2019

Getting Started in  
Polish Research

July 18, 2019

Tracing Ancestors on the Move

July 20, 2019

Researching Your French-  
Canadian Ancestors

July 31, August 7, 14,  
21, and 28, 2019

Breaking Down  
Genealogical Brick Walls

August 3, 2019

Top 10 Published Resources for  
Early New England Research

August 22, 2019



## Exhibits

On April 17, 2019, we hosted Boston's opening event for the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the *Mayflower*. More than 500 dignitaries, honored guests, members of the press, and the general public took part in our open house activities, including family friendly games and activities, traditional Wampanoag crafts, one-on-one consultations with genealogists, and dancing with the Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers. During this official Boston launch, we unveiled four exhibits that explore 400 years of *Mayflower* and Wampanoag history: The Wampanoag Scene: Creating Tribal Legacy; The *Mayflower* Scene: *Mayflower* Legacy; The Origins and Legacy of the *Mayflower*; and The History of Wampum Belts. These exhibits will remain on display at our headquarters in Boston through December 2020 and are free and open to the public during regular library hours.

### THE WAMPANOAG SCENE: CREATING TRIBAL LEGACY

In this exhibit you see a young Patuxet mother looking over a wampum belt while her child sleeps by her side. The beads in the belt are organized in a way to remind them of their ancestors— a great-grandfather known for his fishing, a grandmother sachem, a messenger runner father, a mother that tended the crops, their many uncles and aunts and a husband that were taken as slaves in 1614. The young woman thinks of how she will record their place in the village. Produced by SmokeSygnals, a Native American owned marketing and communications company.



### THE MAYFLOWER SCENE: MAYFLOWER LEGACY

A scaled model of the *Mayflower*—known as the *Boston Mayflower*—created by artisan Terry Geaghan. In September 1620 the *Mayflower* set sail from England carrying 102 passengers. After more than two months at sea, the ship anchored off the coast of Cape Cod in what is current-day Provincetown Harbor. Four centuries later, we honor the legacy of the Pilgrims and the native Wampanoag people. Their stories embody the triumphs and tragedies of life in early America. This handcrafted 1:10 model of the *Mayflower* was made possible by the generous support of Nancy S. Maulsby, Chairman of the NEHGS Board of Trustees.

### 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 cultural heritage. While not the first group of European settlers to arrive on the shores of America, 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?



## 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. This exhibit explores the history, usage, and meaning behind wampum belts and their place in Wampanoag culture. Produced by SmokeSignals, a Native American owned marketing and communications company. It is also available to view online at [wampum.AmericanAncestors.org](http://wampum.AmericanAncestors.org).



This exhibit seeks to explore the origins of the *Mayflower* migration and its lasting legacy, as expressed through anniversary commemorations, American myths, and modern-day descendants. Items in this exhibition are drawn from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections and the Fine Art Collection at New England Historic Genealogical Society. This exhibition has been generously supported by Anne Louise C. Van Nostrand, Brenda Williams, and Elizabeth H. Owens. Braille version of the exhibit made possible by the Flora Nichols Beggs Trust.



Image courtesy of SmokeSignals.

## Heritage tours

American Ancestors 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 as well as other specialists along the way, each tour explores the art, architecture, history, and landscape of our forebearers.

### 2019 TOURS

In spring of 2019, Curator of Special Collections Curt DiCamillo accompanied American Ancestors members and friends on the tour “English Elysium: Country Houses of Shropshire.” Based for the week at the stately 17th-century home of Weston Park, the group stepped off the beaten path to discover the best of England’s country houses and the gracious hospitality of the owners.

Next, Curt was on-hand to lead the second tour in a three-year Palladio tour series, “Palladio and the English Country House” which focused on British interpretation of the Italian master’s work in England. In September, Curt with American Ancestors members and friends, experienced the best of the Emerald Isle while exploring the finest houses and gardens in and around County Kilkenny. In October, the “Delightful Day in Delaware” event began with a visit to the collection of John and Judith Herdeg in their 18th-century Georgian home, followed by a curator-led tour of Winterthur Museum’s exhibition, *Costuming THE CROWN*. To cap off the day, the group enjoyed high tea and Curt’s lecture, “The British Crown Jewels Triumph & Tragedy” to a sold-out audience of 400 enthusiastic guests.

Director of the Great Migration Study Project Robert Charles Anderson led a group of loyal fans to the Netherlands in June on the second of the Pilgrim Pathways programs to explore the roots of the Pilgrims on “Pilgrim Escape to Leiden.” Based in the Hague, the group visited Leiden, Amsterdam, Delfshaven, Franeker, and beyond to immerse themselves in the lives of the Pilgrims before their journey to the New World in 1620.

Right, top to bottom: Friends of NEHGS spend “A Day Delightful Day in Delaware;” Jeremy Bangs, Director, Leiden American Pilgrim Museum on “Pilgrim Escape to Leiden” tour.



# Upcoming Heritage Tours



## A New England Sojourn

Date to be announced



By kind Permission of Trustees of the Weston Park Foundation

## An English Country Christmas

December 1–6, 2020



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

## Hidden Philadelphia

April 8–13, 2021



© Holkham, Lewis / CC BY-SA

## A Slice of Heaven: Country Houses Of Norfolk

June 6–12, 2021



© China Crisis / CC BY-SA

## Mayflower Passengers: The Southeast English Contingent

September 9–15, 2021



## Nova Scotia: Celtic Connections in the New World

September 2021

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



©Pierce Haman 2018

## Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

In 2019, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) acquired several new collections and raised its profile through events, community outreach, and partnerships with Jewish and historical organizations throughout the region. Activities of note during the year include the publication of the first book with the JHC imprint, Justin “Jerry” Wyner’s memoir, *Have I Told You About ...?* An upcoming book is Newbury Street Press’s new volume of David Kruger’s family history published in collaboration with the JHC in early 2020. We accessioned a very large collection, the records of Building 19, a well-known New England discount retailer. We developed a new JHC Membership; launched a new program model, “Archives Shabbat”; and created new JHC marketing materials.

We are grateful to the NEHGS Board for its support of and engagement with the JHC and invite your participation in our 2020 activities!

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center hosted its first-ever benefit dinner on October 18, 2018. Nearly 130 people enjoyed a lovely evening at the Taj Boston honoring Justin “Jerry” and the late Genevieve Wyner for their longtime support and leadership of the JHC. A few weeks later, in November, the JHC introduced its first Archives Shabbat event, a lively format which highlights fascinating areas of Jewish history, showcases thematic content from the JHC archives, and brings the community together for Shabbat dinner. “A Yiddish Music Shabbat” featured music and musicians from JHC’s collections, and a performance by Cantor Elana Rozenfeld. In June, we bookended our program year with a second Archives Shabbat, entitled “From Kreplach to Dim Sum: The History of Jews in China.” The sold-out program drew a diverse and rapt audience.

Other programs the JHC hosted in 2019 included:

- “Evian Conference and the Creation of a Jewish Legacy in the Dominican Republic” at the historic Adams Street Shul in Newton (October);
- “Saying Kaddish in the 21st Century,” a talk by author Anita Diamant at NEHGS, in conjunction with the NEHGS exhibit “Rituals of Death and Mourning” (October);

- A program with former Ambassador John Loeb, Jr., who shared stories and highlights from a new memoir of his long, accomplished life (May);
- “Bearing Witness: The Story of the Nentershausen Synagogue,” a presentation at the Adams Street Shul, about the community and synagogue in Nentershausen, Germany, before and after World War II (May);
- And a screening of *Henri Dauman: Looking Up*, a documentary about Holocaust survivor and renowned photojournalist Henri Dauman, which we sponsored as part of the National Center for Jewish Film’s 2019 Film Festival (May).

We consider organizational partnerships an important means of raising our visibility and cross-fertilizing audiences. Some of the many organizations we collaborated with included Brandeis University Archives and Special Collections, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Documenting Maine Jewry, Jewish Arts Collaborative, Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, Massachusetts Historical Society, Vilna Shul, Walnut Street Shul, and the Yiddish Book Center.

### COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the year, the JHC continued to make digitization of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)–Boston Port records a top priority, ensuring that this vital collection will be as accessible as possible to historians, genealogists, and the public. From September 2018 through August 2019, we digitized nearly 23,000 pages of documents from 2,151 folders and uploaded 15,623 pages to the JHC-NEHGS Digital Library and Archives.

Overall, we processed 23 collections and accessioned 28 new collections. In addition to the Building 19 collection previously mentioned, other new collections included the records of several historic synagogues across Massachusetts; the personal papers of several Jewish women; and numerous addenda to existing collections. The new collections add depth to the JHC’s holdings and contribute to a larger understanding of Jewish congregational life, immigrant settlement, and business development in New England.

### OUTREACH

In addition to the events listed above, JHC archivists offered a number of educational programs for schools and community

organizations. We staffed a table at the American Jewish Studies conference in December 2018, hosted a Connecticut school group in February 2019, and presented at the Massachusetts History Camp in March 2019. Additionally, our archivists collaborated with NEHGS colleagues on a number of webinars and presentations for external audiences, including the entire JHC archives staff teaching at the 2019 Summer Institute.

As part of our campaign to raise visibility and support, we developed new marketing materials, including a new JHC brochure and a bimonthly informational eLetter. This year, we launched the first-ever JHC Membership; now people can become annual members of the JHC and receive all the same benefits as an NEHGS Individual or Family Membership, as well as some added benefits exclusive to the JHC. We are excited to grow and add to these initiatives in the upcoming year.

Top to bottom: Former Ambassador John Loeb discusses his memoir at a JHC event; Robyn Helzner presents the history of Jews in China at a JHC Archives Shabbat dinner.





## 2019 Annual Family History Benefit Dinner with Dan Rather

On Friday, April 26, more than 225 guests enjoyed our Annual Benefit Dinner with the legendary anchor and award-winning broadcast journalist Dan Rather. The full scope of Rather's work was on display for the sparkling array of guests, benefactors, and honorees. The evening program included dramatic news clips from Dallas's Dealey Plaza, where Rather broke news to CBS anchor Walter Cronkite—and to the world—of JFK's assassination. The evening concluded with a thought-provoking discussion with CNBC *Nightly Business Report* co-anchor and NEHGS Trustee Bill Griffeth about Rather's generation-defining career and the power and pitfalls of news coverage today.

Brenton Simons presented Rather's genealogy. Compiled by NEHGS Senior Genealogist Rhonda R. McClure, the genealogy revealed Rather's relationships to former presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and to notable political figures John Kerry, Mitt Romney, William Henry Seward, and Thomas Dewey. Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr. is a distant cousin, as is the infamous Benedict Arnold. Other distant relations include Patrick Swayze and Hollywood legends Lilian and Dorothy Gish.

### PLATINUM BENEFACTORS

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### GOLD BENEFACTORS

Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.  
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Nancy S. Maulsby  
Barbara Jordan and Robert Pemberton  
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### BENEFACTORS

Janis and Arthur Carty	Nancy and John Webster
Stephen H. Case	Eastern Bank
Kenneth E. Haughton	Fiduciary Trust Company
David Kruger	Wellesley Bank
Mark Kimball Nichols	

Ryan Woods presented Rather with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcast Journalism. The evening also celebrated Margo Georgiadis, the CEO of Ancestry, for her Outstanding Leadership in Family History, and Jonathan Tufts Woods, the President General of the Society of the Cincinnati, for his Outstanding Leadership in Historic Preservation and Genealogy.





Opposite page: Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree Dan Rather with Moderator and NEHGS Trustee Bill Griffeth.

This page, top to bottom: Robert Spofford, NEHGS Councilor Thomas Warren Thaler, NEHGS Trustee Morrison DeS. Webb, Randall Hammond, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Ryan Woods, President and CEO Brenton Simons, Edward F. Woods, and Honoree Jonathan Tufts Woods; Dan Rather, Chairman of the Board Nancy S. Maulsby, and Brenton Simons; Brenton Simons, Dan Rather, Ryan Woods, and Bill Griffeth; honoree and CEO of Ancestry Margo Georgiadis. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2019.



## RECENT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND HONOREES

- 2020 Scott Simon
- 2019 Joseph J. Ellis  
Douglas Brinkley  
Dan Rather
- 2018 David Hackett Fischer  
David McCullough  
William M. Fowler, Jr.
- 2017 Winston Groom  
Stacy Schiff
- 2016 Cokie Roberts  
Bob Schieffer  
David Hartman
- 2015 Nathaniel Philbrick  
James Carville and Mary Matalin  
HRH Princess Michael of Kent
- 2014 Dame Angela Lansbury  
Doris Kearns Goodwin
- 2013 David Gergen
- 2012 Michael and Kitty Dukakis  
Bryan Sykes
- 2011 Ken Burns
- 2010 Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
Annette Gordon-Reed



## Honoring 30 years of the Great Migration Study Project

On January 24, 2019, more than 100 guests gathered at a private club in Boston to celebrate thirty years of the Great Migration Study Project. The dinner and reception featured project director Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, in conversation with historian and past NEHGS Chairman of the Board William M. Fowler, Jr.

The Great Migration Study Project, launched in 1988, has produced the most authoritative and comprehensive scholarship ever published on early immigrants to New England, 1620 to 1640. The Great Migration Study Project, which has published fifteen volumes to date, is the essential resource for any genealogist, historian, or descendant with early New England interests and connections.

Anderson has been the director of the Great Migration Study Project since its inception. A native of Bellows Falls, Vermont, he holds degrees from Harvard, Caltech, and UMass Amherst. He was educated as a biochemist and served in the U.S. Army in electronics intelligence. Anderson is a Fellow and former President of the American Society of Genealogists, past co-editor of *The American Genealogist*, and editorial consultant to the *Register: The Journal of American Genealogy*.

### GOLD BENEFACTORS

Robert Pemberton and Barbara Jordan  
Nancy S. Maulsby  
Albert J. Zdenek Jr.

### SILVER BENEFACTOR

Stephen H. Case

### BENEFACTORS

Thomas Bailey Hagen  
Virginia Whitman Koster  
William R. Marsh  
Richard and Margaret Rhoads  
Morrison DeS. Webb  
Nancy and John Webster  
Welch & Forbes LLC

NEHGS Chairman of the Board Nancy S. Maulsby opened the program with her reflections on Anderson's work on the Great Migration Study Project and its importance to NEHGS and to the study of family history in America. After dinner, Executive Vice President and COO Ryan Woods introduced Anderson, who spoke on his work, discussed highlights with William Fowler, and answered questions from the audience. President and CEO Brenton Simons thanked Anderson for his many years of service and presented him with a Life Membership and a commemorative chair.



Opposite page: William Fowler interviews Robert Charles Anderson.

Left, top to bottom: John W. Webster, NEHGS Secretary Nancy Clay Webster, NEHGS Board Chairman Nancy S. Maulsby, and NEHGS Treasurer Andy Langlois; William Fowler, Brenton Simons, Robert Charles Anderson, Thomas Wilcox, and Ryan Woods; Carroll Cabot, Brenton Simons, and Honorary Trustee and past NEHGS Chairman John G. L. Cabot; Christopher C. Child, NEHGS Trustee Nordahl Brue, and Councilor David Smith. Above, top to bottom: Nancy S. Maulsby asks Anderson a question; NEHGS Trustee Diana M. Smith enjoying the Q&A. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2019.



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

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

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

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

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

### SILVER BENEFACTORS

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Nancy S. Maulsby  
Robert Pemberton and Barbara Jordan  
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### BENEFACTORS

Stephen H. Case  
Howard Cox and Wendy Bingham  
Lucy S. Dillon and Kevin Kuester  
Thomas Bailey Hagen  
Gerry and MaryLee Halpin  
Julie and Bayard Henry  
Mark Nichols and Lowell Massey  
Vivian and Lionel Spiro  
Jonathan B. Treat and Leslie Aitken  
Welch and Forbes LLC



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



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





### SILVER BENEFACTORS

Stephen H. Case  
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 Nancy S. Maulsby  
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### BENEFACTORS

Gerry and MaryLee Halpin  
 Gary and Susan Kearney  
 Jo Anne C. Makely  
 Elizabeth and George Passela  
 Helen and DuWayne Sayles  
 Lea Sinclair Filson and Ronald Filson  
 Jonathan B. Treat  
 Elizabeth B. Vitton

## Presidential Historian Douglas Brinkley honored at Summer Dinner

More than 100 guests enjoyed our July 25, 2019, Summer Dinner honoring award-winning presidential historian Douglas Brinkley. The event was held at a private club in Brookline, Massachusetts. Brenton Simons presented Brinkley with an expertly prepared genealogy that revealed Brinkley’s connection to three former presidents—including Richard M. Nixon, the subject of three Brinkley books. Ryan Woods presented our Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography, a prize for which he was nominated by NEHGS Trustee Thomas Bailey Hagen.

Brinkley delighted guests and benefactors with a discussion of “The Art of Presidential Biography.” The evening program concluded with a thought-provoking conversation on the legacy of political leaders, facilitated by Margaret Talcott, Director of Signature and Literary Events and curator of the American Inspiration author series.



Above: Douglas Brinkley speaks on “The Art of Presidential Biography.” Top right: Honoree Douglas Brinkley with NEHGS Trustee Thomas B. Hagen. Bottom right: NEHGS Councilor Elizabeth Vitton, NEHGS Chairman Nancy S. Maulsby, and Brenton Simons. Photo ©Pierce Harman Photography 2019.



## The Annual DiCamillo Companion Rendezvous in New York City

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

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



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





Left: *New York Times* columnist Gail Collins in conversation with Margaret Talcott, Director of Signature and Literary Events. Bottom: Author Brian Jay Jones signing copies of his latest book *Becoming Dr. Seuss: Theodor Geisel and the Making of an American Imagination*.



**AMERICAN  
INSPIRATION**  
A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR SERIES  
BY AMERICAN ANCESTORS

## American Inspiration

Launched in September, our American Inspiration author series has featured insightful speakers and fascinating topics. Susan Ronald discussed *Condé Nast: The Man and His Empire*, her biography of the visionary publisher whose life and works exemplified New York City's café society, and whose magazines—the *New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, and *Vogue*—continue to inform and influence to this day. Brian Jay Jones spoke on *Becoming Dr. Seuss: Theodor Geisel and the Making of an American Imagination*, an in-depth look at the life and work of the twentieth-century creative genius. And *New York Times* columnist Gail Collins shared insights on American women, the subject of her new book, *No Stopping Us Now: The Adventures of Older Women in American History*.

In the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020, some of our speakers included Grammy-nominated



biographer Holly George-Warren with *Janis*, historical novelist William Martin with *Bound for Gold*, and George Howe Cult's *The Game: Harvard, Yale, and America in 1968* the story of our country, our college city, and several young men in the turbulent sixties, a transformative time in American culture. We were joined by Kristen Richardson who discussed her debut novel *The Season: A Social History of the Debutante*. Marcia Chatelain, Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor of History and African American studies at Georgetown University, discussed her most recent novel *Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America*.

In March, American Inspiration collaborated with the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center to present Adam Hochschild's *Rebel Cinderella: From Rags to Riches to Radical, the Epic Journey of Rose Pastor Stokes*. A master of narrative nonfiction, Hochschild discussed inspiring American, Rose Pastor Stokes, from her arrival in New York City in 1903 as a Jewish refugee from Russia through meeting her partner James Graham Phelps Stokes and joining the burgeoning Socialist Party.

Join us in the future for American Inspiration, our thought-provoking speaker series that presents best-selling authors and their latest books on personal identity, families and immigration, and social and cultural history.

Presented in partnership with 89.7 WGBH Boston and Porter Square Books in Cambridge. Contact [signatureevents@nehgs.org](mailto:signatureevents@nehgs.org) or 1-888-296-3447. For more information and to register, visit [AmericanAncestors.org/Inspire](http://AmericanAncestors.org/Inspire).



## Open Newbury

In 2019, American Ancestors was once again an active participant in the City of Boston's Open Newbury program. Held three Sundays in the summer—in 2019: July 11, August 25, and September 15—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. Our outside exhibits were also a huge hit, drawing hundreds of people through our front doors. Through this program, we broke our own record for the number of people visiting our research center in a single day—on September 15, we welcomed 638 people on a day that we would otherwise be closed!



## 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 July 19, 2019, 539 people visited our library and archives—the highest number of visitors we’ve ever had on a Free Fun Friday. NEHGS staff and volunteers from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston provided 120 one-on-one consultations (approximately 30 hours’ worth of genealogical help); children participated in genealogical games, activities, and demonstrations; and our four *Mayflower* and Wampanoag exhibits drew quite a crowd. All visitors—no matter their background, age, or level of experience—left with a new passion for family history.



“Having the doors open and inviting to the public is an amazing way to engage us with history.”





## Baron Hubert de Vinols talks of tablescapes and European style

The renowned French decorator, interior architect, and restorer of chateaux and castles across Europe, Baron Hubert de Vinols joined us on Thursday, April 25, for a special dinner hosted in partnership with the French Heritage Society (FHS) at a private club in Boston. Brenton Simons was the evening's host, along with FHS Boston chapter co-chairs François Bardonnet and Francis de Marneffe, NEHGS Councilor; and Tom Thaler, FHS membership chair and NEHGS Councilor.

Following a French-style champagne reception, Vinols spoke to the gathering of more than sixty people on the topic of the French Art de Recevoir—the art of receiving or hosting. His presentation was rich with history, addressing the subtle differences in style among European countries, and included images of “tablescapes” through time as well as modern-day dinner party tables elegantly and fancifully created from his remarkable collection of more than 7,000 pieces of European fine antique china, silver, and glassware.

Vinols's collection, reportedly the largest privately owned in the world, has been built over three decades and through inheritances of magnificent eighteenth- and nineteenth-century tableware from his family domiciled in Paris, Auvergne, and the Loire Valley. It includes pieces by such venerable marques as Sevres, Meissen, Loire, Daum, and Saint Louis. Vinols's most recent creation is Tables d'Exception, an international event business drawn from his passion for reviving the French Art de Recevoir.

In response to the devastating fire in Paris the week before the event, Brenton Simons called for a portion of the event's proceeds to be donated to the FHS's Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund.

Top, left to right: A tablescapes created by Baron Hubert de Vinols; Hubert de Vinols, the Honorable Alexandra Foley, who works with Vinols on Tables d'Exception, President and CEO Brenton Simons, and NEHGS Councilor Thomas Warren Thaler. Bottom: Vinols presents to guests “The Secret History of Tablescapes—Reviving the French Art de Recevoir.”

## SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS OF YEAR-END AUGUST 31, 2019

BALANCE SHEET	FY19	FY18	Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)
Total Assets	\$56,470,249	\$56,381,093	\$89,156	0%
Liabilities	\$4,512,092	\$4,891,788	(\$379,696)	(8%)
Net Assets	\$51,958,157	\$51,489,305	\$468,852	1%
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$56,470,249	\$56,381,093	\$89,156	0%

### OPERATING FINANCIAL STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 1, 2018–AUGUST 31, 2019

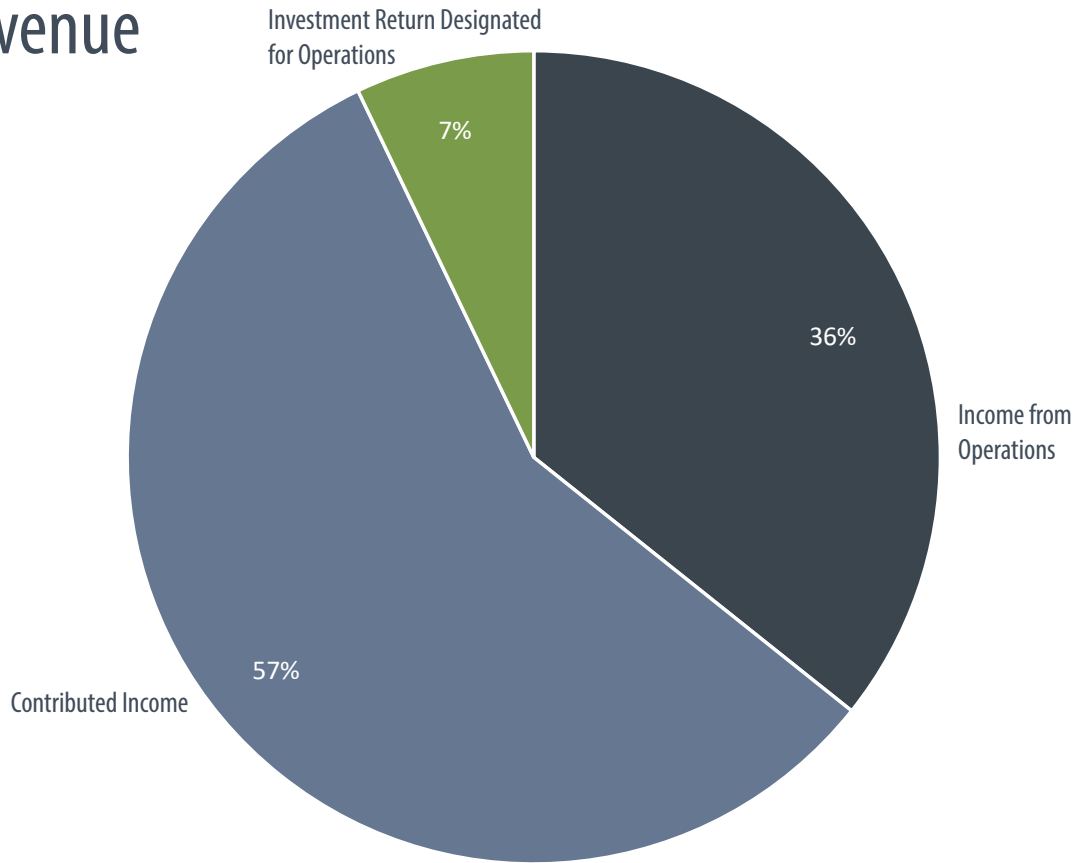
REVENUE	FY19	FY18	% Increase (Decrease)	% of total
Earned Revenue	\$4,921,246	\$5,102,459	(4%)	36%
Contributed Revenue	\$7,877,248	\$5,684,784	39%	57%
Investment Return Designated for Current Operations <sup>a</sup>	\$980,648	\$933,860	5%	7%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$13,779,142</b>	<b>\$11,721,103</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>100%</b>
EXPENSES	FY19	FY18	% Increase (Decrease)	% of total
Member Services	\$1,244,886	\$1,184,110	5%	10%
Research Library	\$2,892,811	\$2,671,738	8%	23%
Tours and Seminars	\$1,289,417	\$1,174,713	10%	10%
Retail Store	\$287,588	\$243,473	18%	2%
Publications	\$1,887,912	\$1,745,712	8%	15%
Website	\$1,591,139	\$1,454,788	9%	12%
General and Administrative	\$2,092,168	\$1,766,188	18%	16%
Fundraising	\$1,510,559	\$1,324,060	14%	12%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,796,480</b>	<b>\$11,564,782</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Consolidated Net Income from Operations	\$982,662	\$156,321		
Non-Operating Revenue, including Investment Return <sup>b</sup>	(\$513,810)	\$1,859,631		
<b>Consolidated Net Income</b>	<b>\$468,852</b>	<b>\$2,015,952</b>		
Endowment Net Assets <sup>c</sup>	\$23,532,416	\$24,063,109		

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

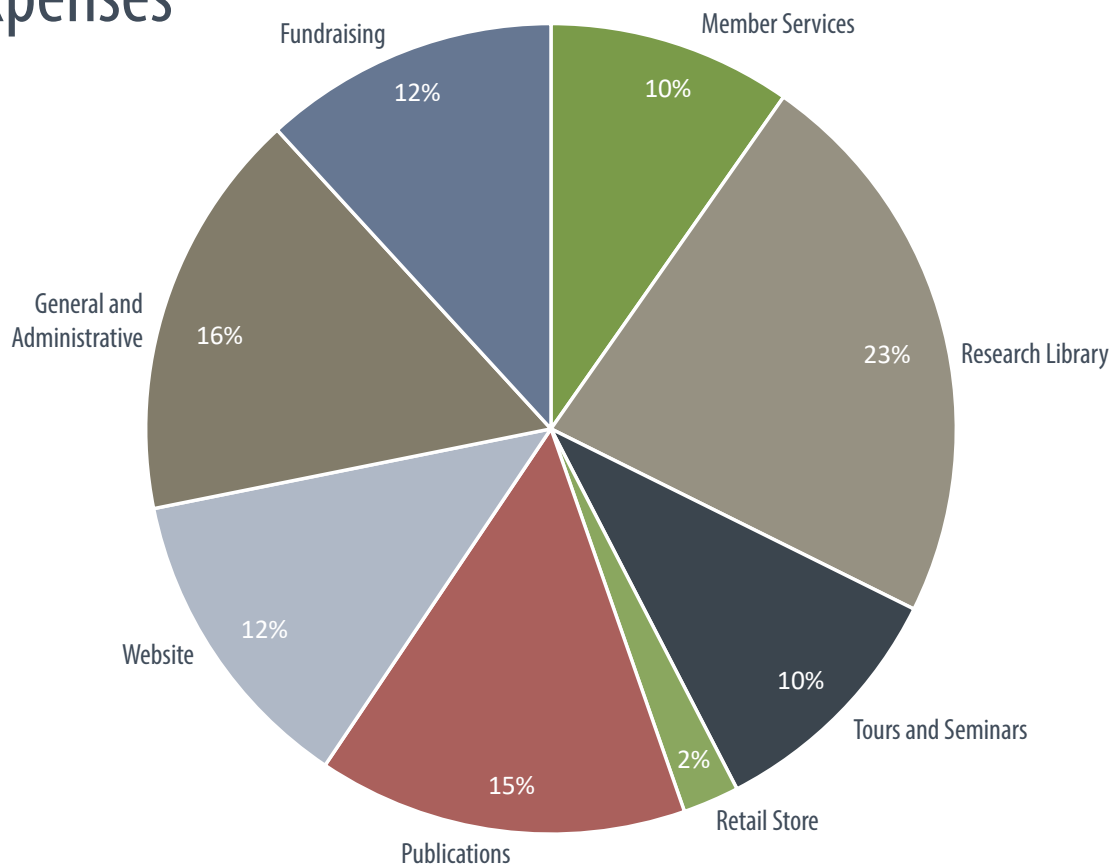
b. Includes: (1) Interest and Dividends, Realized and Unrealized Gains, net of Investment Management Fees, and (2) Appropriation of Investment Return Designated for Operations.

c. Includes Board Designated Endowment, Appreciation on Endowment and Permanently Restricted Endowment.

# Revenue



# Expenses



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

## The Founders' Society

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

Judith Avery  
R. Stanton Avery\*  
R. Stanton Avery Foundation  
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Carolyn\* and Peter Lynch  
Nancy S. Maulsby  
Robert G. Shaw  
L. Ted and Alice R.\* Sloane  
Vivian B. Treat\*  
Wallace S. and Isabel B.\* Wilson

\*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  
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Ernest Hendersson\* III  
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Bruce F. and Diane M. Roubaud  
Meriwether C. Schmid  
**Roger and Kristin Servison**  
Dean\* and Roberta\* Smith  
Ethel Farrington Smith\*

Robert M. Stone  
Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange\*  
Justin and Genevieve\* Wyner  
Anonymous

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

\*Deceased

# The Charles Ewer Society

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

Rosalind Case Avrett\*  
Gwedolyn Garland Babcock  
Barbara A. Barnes\*  
Bruce R. Bartlett  
Reiner Beeuwkes III  
Jack F.\* and Shirley\* Bennett  
Richard and Sue Benson  
William Bentinck-Smith\*  
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 Tracy and Matthew Smith  
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 Peter C. Steingraber  
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 Marjorie M. Stewart\*  
 Mrs. Anson P. Stokes Jr.\*  
 Davida Symonds  
 Arthur E. and Glenna J. Symons  
 Anne Stearns Tanner  
 Caroline Blanton Thayer\*  
 Jonathan Buck Treat  
 David M. Trebing  
 Lynn Bryan Trowbridge  
 Kathleen Van Demark, M.D.  
**Eric Norman Ward**  
 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 (11)

**Bold** indicates new members of the Charles Ewer Society.

\*Deceased

## The Daniel Webster Society

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

Ancestry.com  
 Cabot Family Charitable Trust  
 Caroline Thayer Bland Trust  
 City of Quincy  
 Combined Jewish Philanthropies  
 Compaq  
 D.A. Hamel Family Charitable Trust  
 Fidelity Foundation  
 Hawk Rock Foundation  
 Herman Dana Trust  
 Highland Street Foundation  
 IBM Matching Grants Program  
 Institute of Museum and Library Services  
 Kresge Foundation  
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**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.

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**Bold** indicates new members of the Benjamin Franklin Society.

# 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 Larry Akin**  
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## 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 \$741,278 since September 1, 2018.

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



## Why I Give

"I connected with New England Historical Genealogical Society very early in my family history research for a straightforward reason: I discovered that I had New England roots on my father's side. I was confident that NEHGS would hold the key to unlocking my lineage and my ancestors' stories. It was going to be a breeze because New England families are well documented and NEHGS would have it all. As I look back to that time nearly 30 years ago, I was clearly naïve about how long documenting my family history would take—particularly since my New England ancestors had the habit of migrating west through upstate New York—but not about the wealth of resources available through NEHGS.

Over my many years of membership, I have been impressed by the incredible transformation of NEHGS from the quiet brick-and-mortar presence on Newbury Street in Boston to the dynamic and vibrant institution it is today. In the early 1990s, NEHGS shared its resources with researchers at home through its circulating library; today, it shares them with those at home through its outstanding AmericanAncestors.org website with over 1.4 billion names in searchable databases. The range of resources shared over time has extended beyond genealogical materials in its library to

online webinars and seminars to help researchers improve their research skills from the comfort of their homes. And the organization's commitment to helping members connect to their family histories extends to its research services team, which can help with a lineage society application, or with your genealogical brick wall.

It takes visionary and committed leadership to transform organizations, particularly nonprofit organizations in their second century of existence. It would have been so easy for management to be lulled into complacency by the age and prestige of the organization and stay in the organization's comfort zone. But, not NEHGS. Brenton Simons delivered on the initial plan, crafted under his predecessor Ralph Crandall, of making records and content available online and expanded the vision to encompass educational resources, research services, and now the Cornerstone Project, to create a welcoming, educational presence on Newbury Street.

As the organization has grown, my use of its many resources has increased considerably. From my home, I have accessed the databases on AmericanAncestors.org and improved my research skills through five online courses on topics such as Quebec research, Westward migration, and Im-

migration. And when I was still stymied by my Adams family, the outstanding work of the research services team helped corroborate some family lore, correct others, and unlock some mysteries. When in Boston, I took advantage of the marvelous manuscript collection. I finally discovered a *Mayflower* ancestor while using the beautiful seventh-floor research room. It was really hard to keep myself from doing a happy dance for all to see!

I am so proud to be a member of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society. Its mission to advance the study of family history in America and beyond by educating, inspiring, and connecting people speaks to my heart. As they have blossomed during my nearly three decades of membership, so too has my support for this incredible organization and its necessary investments in automation infrastructure. The organization's vision, its outstanding management and staff, and the fascinating people whom I have met, are all treasures. I have greatly benefited from my association with NEHGS. Thanks to them, the quality of the family history work that I will leave for future generations will be far better than anything I could have produced without it."



Cheryl "Sherry" Edwards, a Life Benefactor Member, became a Councilor in 2019. She was a Senior Economist at Federal Reserve Bank of New York. She served on the staff of Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, rising to Senior Associate Director in the Division of Monetary Affairs. She is an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a Life Member of the National Society of New England Women. She currently resides in McLean, Virginia, and Lovell, Maine.



During Fiscal Year 2019, NEHGS received 2,300 gifts totaling \$4,751,625 to support current operations.



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

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

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*\*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.

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## 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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## 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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## 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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## 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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Gifts herein were made between September 1, 2018, and August 31, 2019, 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 Member Couple (\$7,500)

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

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## Life Member Keli D. Levine

When I was young I first opened my grandmother's buffet drawer. There were the two stacks of old quilt squares signed with names going back to the Revolutionary War ancestors, a copy of Faith White's diary from the *Mayflower*, a letter from a distant cousin that Edward VIII composed during his brief time as King, and more.

Who knew this was genealogy? It was her treasure chest and became mine.

A few years ago I came to American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society because I heard it was the best in New England for genealogical research, preservation of manuscripts, and expertise. Through NEHGS I have taken relevant and informative courses, gone on research trips, and met wonderful distant relatives and others who share this passion. The excellent staff has guided me through the organization's extensive resources.

I wanted to be certain that my husband's Jewish heritage would be embraced. My focus was American ancestry and for my husband's family, who arrived in the 1880s and 1908 from Austria-Hungary and Russia respectively, much of their tangible history began with their arrival on these shores.

I'm sensitive to the fact that many Jewish people I've met have no desire to go back past their arrival in the United States. For our family, the goal is to fill in the color between the facts of their lives and to preserve our history. The establishment of the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center validated my choice of membership.

American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society and I have grown in genealogy alongside each other in recent years. Life Member? You didn't have to ask, but so glad you did.



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It was another milestone year for the Volunteer program, with 309 volunteers, interns, trustees, and councilors donating 26,855 hours, the equivalent of over 13 unpaid staff years. Volunteer activities ran the spectrum from setting governance policies, processing special collections, assisting library patrons, cataloging acquisitions, conserving books and documents, proofreading manuscripts, helping with used book sales, scanning images into digital collections, and creating new databases for online research.



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10 years Steven Solomon  
Ginevra Morse  
Stephanie Call

5 years Beth Brown  
Thomas Grebenchick  
Pamela Holland  
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