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**Brenton Simons Awarded History Medal by the  
National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution**



November 1, 2021—Boston, Massachusetts—D. Brenton Simons, President & CEO of American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)—a national center for family history, heritage, and culture—was awarded the prestigious History Medal by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in a ceremony in Boston last Thursday, October 28.

Laura McCrillis Kessler, Historian General of the NSDAR, presented Simons with The History Medal “for significantly advancing the understanding of America’s past on a national level.”

## **2/Brenton Simons Awarded History Medal by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution**

The award recognizes Simons's contributions to the study of American history – as a nonprofit leader, author, publisher, speaker, and educator, and for a distinguished career in which he has championed the work of historical societies, libraries and archives, museums, and other organizations and publications in the fields of American history and genealogy. Simons, who joined the staff of American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1993, has served as the Society's President and CEO since 2005. He is author of the award-winning *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues*, and several other books.

The event also honored noted historian and bestselling author Mary Beth Norton, who was presented with the New England Historic Genealogical Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography and a detailed genealogy of her family.

Mary Beth Norton is the Mary Donlon Alger Professor of American History Emerita at Cornell University, where she taught from 1971 to 2018. Her highly acclaimed works include *1774* (2020), which was recently awarded the George Washington Book Prize; *In the Devil's Snare* (2002), *Founding Mothers & Fathers* (1996), *Liberty's Daughters* (1980, 1996), and *The British-Americans* (1972). She is a co-author of *A People and A Nation*, a leading history textbook since its initial publication in 1982. Professor Norton has received four honorary degrees and held fellowships from, among others, the Rockefeller and Guggenheim Foundations and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is an elected member of the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and has served as president of the American Historical Association (2018). She is a longtime member and friend of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

### **About American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society**

American Ancestors is a national center for family history, heritage, and culture. It is the global brand of New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), America's oldest and largest genealogical society (founded 1845). American Ancestors serves almost 400,000 members and millions of online users engaged in family history nationally and around the world through its website [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) with more than 1.4 billion names in its databases.

Its national headquarters, located in Boston's Back Bay, is home to a world-class research center and archive, an expert staff, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. It maintains a publishing division which produces original genealogical research, scholarship, and educational materials, including the Register, the leading journal of American genealogy since 1847; American Ancestors, its award-winning magazine; and Mayflower Descendant, a quarterly journal of Pilgrim genealogy and history, and books, including Ancestors of American Presidents, the Great Migration series, and more.

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