

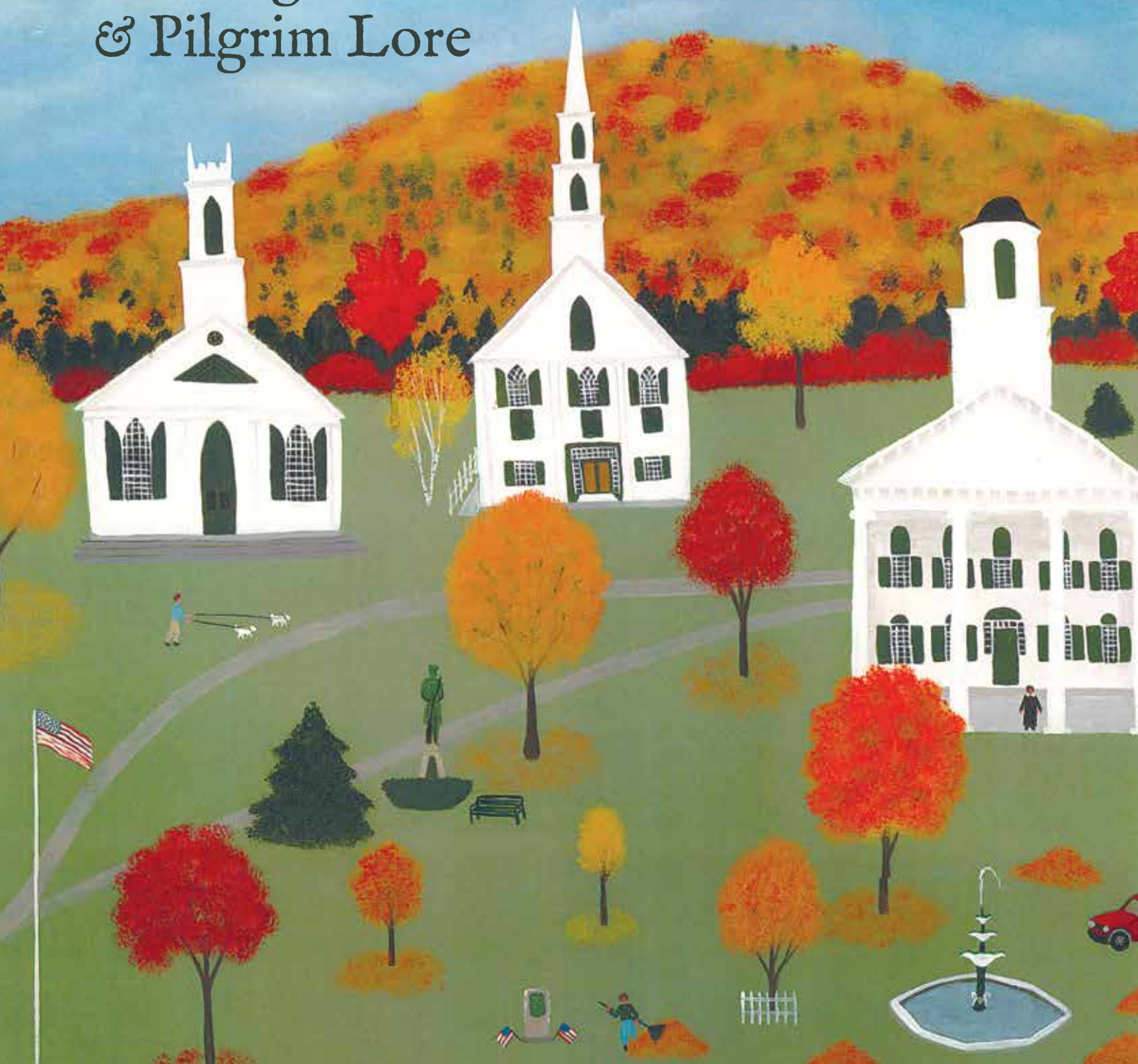


vol. 22, no. 3 \$6.95 Fall 2021

# American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## New England Probate & Pilgrim Lore



**It's Here!** The NEW Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research



# RESEARCHING CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS WITH DAVID ALLEN LAMBERT

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15, 2021; 6–7:30 p.m. EST • Cost: \$85

Nearly 3 million Americans served in the Civil War (1861–65), which resulted in approximately 750,000 casualties. All Americans were affected in some way by the events of this national tragedy. This three-week online course, led by Chief Genealogist and military history expert David Allen Lambert, will explore records, resources, and strategies for tracing Civil War veterans in your family tree.

## **Class 1: Service Records: Union and Confederate (December 1)**

Following a brief presentation on the history of the Civil War and its impact, David Allen Lambert will discuss how to search for evidence of military service in census records, gravestones, family heirlooms, and more—and how to find information in Army and Navy records for both the Union and the Confederacy.

## **Class 2: Filling in the Gaps: Other Records and Resources (December 8)**

This session will focus on methods for learning about specific battles, prisoner of war conditions, and injuries and illnesses. A variety of sources will be utilized, including newspapers, photographs, probate records, and manuscripts.

## **Class 3: Post-War Records & Strategies (December 15)**

This final class will provide information on how to access pension files, Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) records, and United Confederate Veterans (UCV) records. Several research strategies will be demonstrated.

**AmericanAncestors.org/Events**



BATTLE OF SHILOH BY THURE DE THULSTRUP, CA. 1888.  
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Brenton Simons

## A Message from the President and CEO

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It is an exciting time at American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society! We have just finished our fiscal year and have many successes to report.

Our efforts for online outreach extended to many thousands of participants, many of whom were new to American Ancestors/NEHGS. Over 32,000 people engaged in programming this past year, with over 150,000 views of our on-demand video archives. An increasing number of people are interested in family history, and we are delivering new programs to meet the high demand. Today, we have over 370,000 members. Our members are helping drive our success. This past year we were awarded a \$2.5 million challenge grant from a national corporate foundation for the Cornerstone Campaign. The philanthropy of our members in matching this gift has been inspiring. We achieved the matching requirement six months ahead of schedule due to this generous support. To those who gave, thank you!

I am also happy to report that this fall we will be moving forward with the next phase of our partnership with Ancestry.com. This is another exciting step for us. In 2012, we began a collaborative partnership with Ancestry.com to digitize and make accessible 40 million vital records for the six New England states—material previously only available in hard copy or on microfilm. These records appear on both [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) and [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com).

In 2017, we began a collaboration with Ancestry.com to digitize material for our Historic Catholic Records project, providing online access to over ten million records, for the years 1789 to 1900, from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. This was the first church-sanctioned Roman Catholic record project in the United States. In 2019, we continued this partnership and began digitization of the second set of ten million Catholic records, for the years 1901 to 1920.

Now, we will begin a fourth content collaboration to digitize 10,000 family history books from our library, approximately three million pages. We are using Ancestry.com's artificial intelligence technology to capture names, locations, and life events so the data will be searchable in a database and added to family trees. This process will substantially improve how we generate the index. We look forward to bringing our significant collection of genealogical scholarship from our Research Center in Boston to users with an internet connection anywhere in the world. Additionally, unlike with other digital book projects, the artificial intelligence software we are applying is specifically designed to create searchable content for family history research.

This latest iteration of our partnership with Ancestry represents exciting progress and will make our resources accessible to even more family historians. As we saw with our virtual programming over the past year, we can build on our successes and create more research opportunities for our valued members and constituents. We will continue to help people find and tell their family stories.

I wish you all a healthy and happy autumn and look forward to seeing many of you in person or online this year.

**D. Brenton Simons**  
President and CEO

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one family at a time.*

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## From our readers

**We want to hear from you!**

Email [magazine@nehgs.org](mailto:magazine@nehgs.org) or address letters to American Ancestors magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. *Letters will be edited for clarity and length. We regret that we cannot reply to every letter.*

I particularly enjoyed “Jeremiah Barker & Diseases in the District of Maine, 1772–1820” [Richard and Patricia Kahn, *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 2021 2: 24–29] in your latest issue. I had two sisters who developed Type 1 Diabetes, as well as an uncle. For me, the purpose of doing genealogy was to determine how diabetes occurred in our family. Although I did not uncover a history of diabetes, I learned a lot from focusing on family diseases. Through my research, I found cases of diphtheria, and discovered that my ancestor Peter VanDerveer and his daughter, Jannetje, likely died of smallpox during a 1777 epidemic in Montgomery Township, Somerset County, New Jersey.

Kristin Liddle, Ardsley on Hudson, New York

Thank you for “Adding a Medical Genogram to Your Genealogy Toolkit” by Ann G. Lawthers [*AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 2021 2: 30–35]. I have been collecting this information for years, providing each new doctor a genealogy form of family diseases. While one doctor told me I needed to “find something better to do with my time,” the gastroenterologist was thrilled. Thanks to death certificates, it’s easy to track a variety of illnesses that could have a genetic component. My gastroenterologist suggested some lifestyle changes and a different testing schedule for me, based on this information. He also was inspired to start his own genealogy!

Robin Rhein Hurwitz, San Jose, California

I enjoyed learning about the ICD and how it can assist in the interpretation of death certificates in the latest issue of *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* [Hallie J. Borstel, “The International Classification of Diseases for Genealogist,” *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 2021 2: 38–39]. I had seen these numbers in my research, but I had no idea what they meant. Regarding the hard-to-interpret cause of death of Annunziata Rastelli, I’m fairly sure the doctor wrote “cardiac exhaustion.” Being an archivist by profession, as well as a genealogist, I’ve had a lot of exposure to bad handwriting over the years. Please give my compliments to Ms. Borstel on her article.

Mary Burtzloff, Abilene, Kansas



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For visual updates on our Fine Art Collection treasures, events and tours, library recommendations, and more, follow [american\\_ancestors](https://www.instagram.com/american_ancestors).



## In this issue

In 1995, when I joined the NEHGS staff as Sales Manager, I quickly learned that the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* was one of our best-selling titles. This third edition, with a red paper cover and black spiral binding, was compiled by Marcia Wiswall Lindberg and published by NEHGS in 1993.

The book seemed to be required reading for members; I saw well-used and marked-up versions carried by countless researchers who visited our library and attended our seminars around the country. Many genealogists called the book their "bible" because the guide was such a comprehensive and essential resource for New England research. The *Handbook's* popularity has never waned.

Since we introduce the sixth edition of the *Handbook* in this issue, I decided to find a first edition. The original *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* was published in 1980 by the New England Library Association and prepared by the group's nine-member Bibliography Committee. Two members have had particularly strong and lasting connections to NEHGS: David C. Dearborn served as a reference librarian for 38 years, and Robert Charles Anderson has directed the Great Migration Study Project since its inception in 1988.

The *Handbook* "was conceived as a guide for the many hundreds of persons interested in tracing their family roots in New England"; it served as "a LOCATION GUIDE to public records, depositories, libraries, and genealogical societies in New England."

More than forty years later, I admire how well this 129-page version delivered key information and served as a foundation for future editions. (I also might observe that the potential audience for the guide was vastly underestimated!)

The *Handbook's* forty-year-old entry about NEHGS makes for interesting reading. At the time, our greatest technological assets were apparently "two microfilm readers." Our significant library and manuscript holdings were briefly described and summarized—and the building's air-conditioning was considered worth noting. A brief mention of a "well-trained staff" indicated one of the most vital and enduring qualities of our institution—then and now.

The changes in genealogical research and resources over the last four decades have been reflected in periodic *Handbook* updates. Edited by Rhonda R. McClure, the new 450-page, sixth edition includes a vast array of online records and indexes that could not have been imagined in 1980. We can only wonder at the resources that the *Handbook* will illuminate in future editions.

In this issue we present an introduction to the new and improved *Handbook* and a comprehensive article by Rhonda R. McClure on New England probate records, based on information in the *Handbook*.

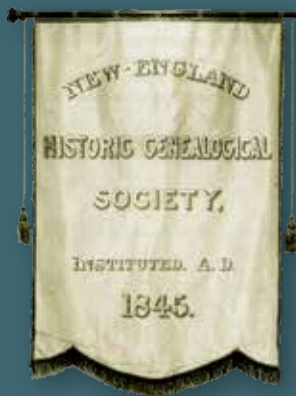
We are also pleased to feature "The Pilgrim Story in Popular Culture" by James W. Baker, Research Librarian and Director of Research at Plimoth Plantation from 1975 to 2001. And, after the tremendous focus on the 2020 *Mayflower* landing anniversary, we begin to explore the subsequent years in New England with "1621," the first in a series of annual articles written by Robert Charles Anderson.

We hope you enjoy the issue!



Lynn Betlock  
Managing Editor  
[magazine@nehgs.org](mailto:magazine@nehgs.org)

## American Ancestors



To advance the study of family history in America and beyond, NEHGS educates, inspires, and connects people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

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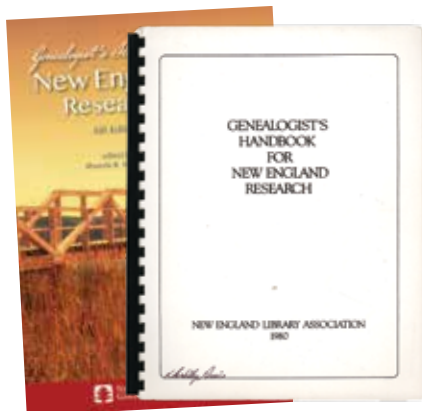
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# branches of our family



## JOHN FLEMING

"It's all about the family stories"

My interest in genealogy began in the 1990s when I received a 52-page Fleming genealogy booklet from a relative. I discovered that my Fleming ancestors migrated from Northern Ireland in 1767 and settled thirty miles west of present-day Augusta, Georgia. I learned about the family's participation in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and their moves to Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and, finally, Texas.

I also realized that this family history represented only a sliver of my total ancestry since the focus was solely on Flemings. I began researching in the early 2000s.

My wife, Jane, asked me why I was wasting time researching my genealogy. I decided to focus on her family, which eventually changed her attitude. She thought most of her ancestors were Irish immigrants who had settled in Wisconsin in the 1850s. Although she was adamant that none of her ancestors came from New England, my research proved her wrong.

I concluded that I needed access to the best New England records available, which led me to join NEHGS in

2004. The three most useful sources for me were the circulating library, which allowed members to borrow books through the mail; the *Register*; and the Great Migration Study Project. Using these records, data from Ancestry.com, and town records on CDs, I identified my wife's earliest immigrant ancestor as William Hilton, who arrived in Plymouth on the *Fortune* in 1621 and later moved to New Hampshire and then York, Maine. Many of her ancestors helped found communities in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, and three of her relatives (George Jacobs, Sr., Mary Towne Esty, and Rebecca Towne Nurse) were victims of the Salem witch trials. Three other ancestors narrowly avoided the same fate.

I retired in 2009, which allowed me more time for genealogical research. I decided that I should develop some degree of competence in the field and enrolled in Boston University's first 15-week online program and earned a Certificate in Genealogical Research. The instructors were well-known profes-

sional genealogists, and I found that taking the course was time well spent.

My most intriguing genealogical find was discovering the role my Millican ancestors played as one of the founding families of the Republic of Texas. The Scots Irish Millicans left South Carolina in 1816 and arrived in Texas in 1820. They received land grants issued under Mexico's 1823 Imperial Colonization Law, for holdings along the Brazos River. Part of "Austin's Old Three Hundred," Millicans were among the first Anglo-American settlers in Texas.

Millicans were early Texas leaders; participants in the Texas Revolution, including the Battle of San Jacinto; close family friends of Sam Houston; legislators in the government of the Republic of Texas; and ranchers, doctors, preachers, lawmen, and Texas Rangers.

Although my family members find genealogical details to be of little interest, I am pleased that they love stories about their ancestors and frequently relate these tales to friends and acquaintances. ♦

John Fleming, a research member of NEHGS since 2004, has been a Councilor or Trustee from 2011 to the present. Now retired, John has held a number of positions with Deloitte over 37 years, including Director of Global Operations for the Global Systems Implementation Group. He spent three years with a Japanese-based management and technology consulting firm as Director of Global Operations. He is a member of the Southern California Genealogical Society and past president and treasurer of the California Map Association.





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If you registered for an online course or online conference broadcast in September 2021 or later, the recorded sessions, as well as the course materials, can be accessed under your "My Account" page on the website. To access them, log into your account, click "My Account" in the upper right-hand corner, and select "Digital Content" from the left-hand menu. Please note that if you attended an online course or conference broadcast prior to September 2021, the recorded sessions are not available.

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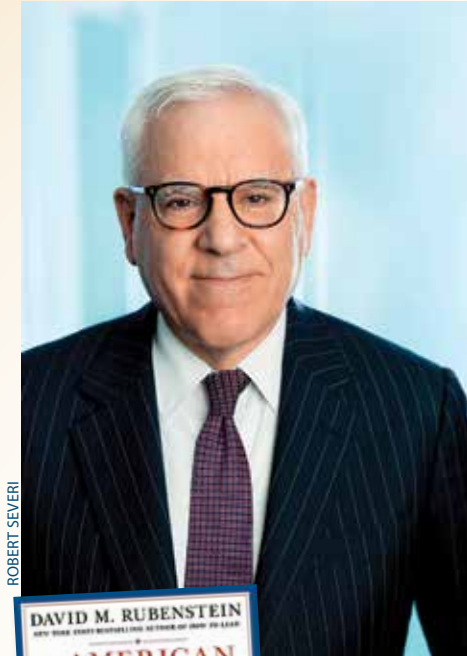
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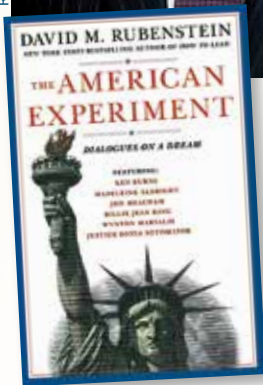
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# News



ROBERT SEVERI



## Dialogues on the American Dream: Our Winter Family History Benefit featuring David M. Rubenstein in conversation with Stacy Schiff

Join us for our virtual Winter Family History Benefit at 6 p.m. on January 27, 2022. We will honor philanthropist, author, and Carlyle Group co-founder David M. Rubenstein with a Preservation and History Award. Rubenstein will discuss his new book, *The American Experiment: Dialogues on a Dream*, which explores the diverse makeup of our country through interviews with Pulitzer Prize-winning historians, diplomats, music legends, and sports giants.

Following his presentation, Rubenstein will be in conversation with Stacy Schiff, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Great Improvisation: Franklin, France, and the Birth of America*; *The Witches*; and *Cleopatra: A Life*.

Rubenstein served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Smithsonian Institution. Long considered a leader of “patriotic philanthropy,” he has made transformative gifts for the restoration or repair of the Washington Monument, Monticello, Montpelier, Mount Vernon, Arlington House, Iwo Jima

Memorial, the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, the National Archives, the National Zoo, the Library of Congress, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. His philanthropic awards include the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy and MoMA’s David Rockefeller Award.

Rubenstein is host of Bloomberg TV’s *The David Rubenstein Show* and *Bloomberg Wealth* and author of *The American Story: Conversations with Master Historians* (2019) and *How to Lead: Wisdom from the World’s Greatest CEOs, Founders, and Game Changers* (2020).

In addition to the titles noted above, Stacy Schiff is the author of *Véra* (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov), winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and *Saint-Exupéry*, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Among her many honors, Schiff has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities and been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Schiff received the NEHGS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017.

For more information about the Winter Benefit, please contact Courtney Reardon at 617-226-1215 or [Courtney.Reardon@nehgs.org](mailto:Courtney.Reardon@nehgs.org).



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**D. BRENTON SIMONS** is President & CEO of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society.



**RYAN J. WOODS** is Executive Vice President & COO of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society.

## A decade of scholarship, education, and service: The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center's milestone celebration

On June 10, 2021, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) held a festive online event celebrating its tenth anniversary at New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). The program featured anniversary tributes and the awarding of the Tzedakah Lifetime Achievement Award to Margot Stern Strom, founder of the educational nonprofit Facing History and Ourselves, for her work inspiring millions of young people to investigate the root causes of prejudice and discrimination, and to understand the obligations of civic participation.

Following a virtual reception with mixologist Dammara Kovnats Hall of Jewish Cocktails, who demonstrated two signature cocktails for the occasion, the official program began with remarks from JHC Executive Director Rachel King and American Ancestors/NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons. Brenton acknowledged the many individuals and organizations who had supported the partnership and helped

the JHC grow at NEHGS. These speakers were followed by a video greeting from Rabbi Marc Baker, CEO of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and a photographic retrospective of the JHC at NEHGS over the past decade.

Executive Vice President and COO Ryan Woods introduced Margot, the evening's honoree, and moderated a conversation between her and her son, Adam Strom, co-founder of the nonprofit Re-Imagining Migration. They shared a fascinating discussion about their Jewish family history, the influence on Margot of growing up in the Jim Crow South, and her life's work to overcome antisemitism, racism, and discrimination through history and education. This warm conversation shed light not only on Margot's groundbreaking career but also on her family's intergenerational commitment to social justice. At the end of the event, Rachel presented Margot with the Tzedakah Lifetime Achievement Award. She also presented JHC Advisory Council member Herbert Selesnick with the Volunteer Service Award, in recognition of his commitment to the JHC and his pro bono work for the organization.

Audience members across the country joined the event and participated by submitting questions, comments, and tributes. One wrote afterward: "This was an absolutely terrific event, completely engaging and interesting and inspiring." Following the 2020–2021 anniversary celebration of a visionary partnership, and upon the completion of its Tenth Anniversary Campaign, the JHC looks forward to its next decade of scholarship, education, and service at NEHGS.



Left: The Tzedakah Lifetime Achievement Award. Right: Margot Stern Strom.



## We welcome our new Director of Database Search & Technology: Scott Colby

We are pleased to announce that Scott Colby has joined our staff as Director of Database Search & Technology. Scott will oversee the technical side of our database operation, improve our database production operations and American Ancestors TREES, and oversee some of the more technical aspects of data integrations for our new website.

Scott has fifteen years of experience in technology roles at prominent area cultural institutions. In his decade of employment at the Institute of Contemporary Art, he updated data management systems, built a new data department, and overhauled the online gift shop. He also worked at the Museum of Science as a systems administrator and help desk technician.





## Lives lost and hopes renewed: Plymouth 400 Remembrance Ceremony

A Remembrance Ceremony was held July 9, 2021, at Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The event, conceived of by D. Brenton Simons and hosted by Plymouth 400, commemorated the 400th anniversary of

the *Mayflower* voyage, the founding of Plymouth Colony, and the interaction of the Pilgrims with the Wampanoag people. The ceremony commemorated the “The Great Dying” of 1616–1619 that afflicted the Wampanoag people, and was the first memorialization of this tragedy with Native speakers. Wampanoag Medicine Man Troy Currance spoke at the ceremony, along with Linda Jeffers Coombs, author and historian from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). Tributes were paid to those who suffered during the first winter of 1620–1621, when half of the *Mayflower* passengers died of contagious sickness, and to everyone impacted by the 2020 global pandemic. Plymouth 400 Board President Ken Tavares discussed the significance of the *Mayflower*’s arrival in Plymouth and how it “has come to represent the first seeds of our nation,” while acknowledging the lives lost in the early days of the colony, and the settlers’ impact on the Wampanoag people.

The diverse speaker list included descendants of *Mayflower* Pilgrims; tribal council members from the Wampanoag tribes of Aquinnah, Mashpee, and Herring Pond; Pilgrim Society board members; state legislators; and Plymouth town officials. American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical was represented by President and CEO D. Brenton Simons, who co-chairs the Plymouth 400 State Commission and is a Plymouth 400 board member. In his address, Simons invoked the immortal words of his ancestor Governor William Bradford, “Just as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many.”

## Documentary explores Plymouth perspectives

On Monday, August 2, President and CEO D. Brenton Simons was interviewed in our historic Treat Rotunda by television station NBC 10 Boston for *Plymouth 400, Then and Now*. The documentary, which aired on NECN and NBC10 Boston in September, examined the historic events of the *Mayflower* arrival from the perspective of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag.

Simons provided a sense of where *Mayflower* descendants are living now, how people can discover if they are *Mayflower* descendants, how ties to the *Mayflower* create a global sense of community and connectivity, and how genealogy connects us all.

The interview was followed by background filming of our Research Center, the *Boston Mayflower* replica, and several of our publications: *Of Plimoth Plantation* (William Bradford, with a special introduction by Paula Peters of the Wampanoag Nation, and essays by editors Kenneth P. Minkema, Francis J.

Bremer, and Jeremy D. Bangs); *The Mayflower 500: Five Hundred Notable Descendants of the Founding Families of the Mayflower* (Gary Boyd Roberts); *Pilgrim Edward Winslow: New England’s First International Diplomat* (Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs); the Great Migration book series (Robert Charles Anderson); and issues of *Mayflower Descendant: A Journal of Pilgrim Genealogy & History*.

Additional interviewees for the documentary included Michele Pecoraro, Executive Director, Plymouth 400; Jane Riddell Hurt, Governor General, General Society of Mayflower Descendants; Dr. Donna Curtin, Executive Director, Pilgrim Hall Museum; Linda Jeffers Coombs, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Chair Plymouth 400 Wampanoag Advisory Committee; Paula Peters, Wampanoag Tribe of Mashpee, SmokeSignals; Dr. Kerima Lewis, an early American historian with a focus on New England



slavery; and Brett Phaneuf, Director of the Mayflower Autonomous Ship (MAS) Project, ProMare.

To view the documentary, visit [necn.com/news/national-international/righting-400-years-of-history-plymouth-then-and-now/2550555/](https://necn.com/news/national-international/righting-400-years-of-history-plymouth-then-and-now/2550555/).



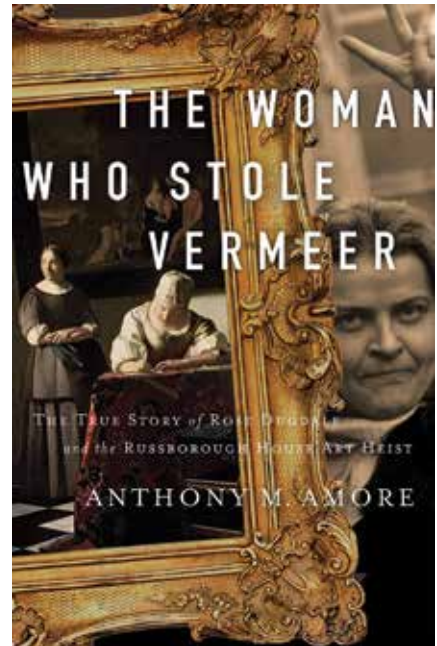
## Art theft and intrigue: Our Summer Family History Benefit

On July 29, approximately 150 attendees participated in our Summer Family History Benefit with special guest Anthony M. Amore, Director of Security at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Amore's discussion of his most recent book, *The Woman Who Stole Vermeer* (2020), was followed by a conversation with Curt DiCamillo, American Ancestors/NEHGS Curator of Special Collections, and a Q&A session with the audience.

*The Woman Who Stole Vermeer* profiles Rose Dugdale, the 33-year-old British heiress who in 1974 orchestrated the largest art heist of her time: the theft of 19 works from Russborough House in Ireland. During his presentation, Amore recalled the process of getting to know Dugdale as he researched and wrote the book over a three-year period. He touched upon several key points of her life and background as she transformed from debutante to activist and art thief, including Dugdale's time at the

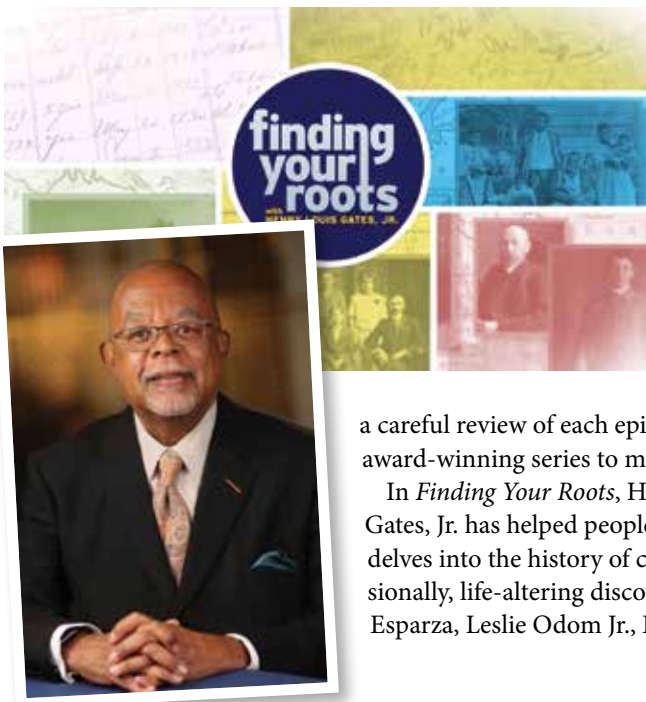
University of Oxford and Mount Holyoke College; her early career and travels, particularly a trip to Cuba to see Fidel Castro, which she described as a turning point in her life; her relationships, activism, and crimes with Walter Heaton and Eddie Gallagher; and finally the motivation for the theft at Russborough House and details about the heist.

Amore is an author and expert in security matters, especially those related to art and homeland security. As Director of Security and Chief Investigator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, he is charged with the ongoing efforts to recover 13 works of art stolen from the museum in 1990. He also co-authored, with reporter Tom Mashberg, *Stealing Rembrandts: The Untold Stories of Notorious Art Heists* (2011) and is the author of *The Art of the Con: The Most Notorious Fakes, Frauds, and Forgeries in the Art World* (2015).



Above: Author and security expert Anthony M. Amore.

Right: *The Woman Who Stole Vermeer: The True Story of Rose Dugdale and the Russborough House Art Heist* (Pegasus Crime, 2020).



## Finding Your Roots returns to TV—and to NEHGS— for a new season

The eighth season of the critically acclaimed PBS series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* will premiere January 2022 on PBS. Our Treat Rotunda at 101 Newbury Street figures prominently in the series as the anchor location for each episode. Our staff experts collaborate with the series in a verification process for all research and through

a careful review of each episode's script. We are delighted to play a role in bringing this award-winning series to millions of viewers.

In *Finding Your Roots*, Harvard scholar and NEHGS Honorary Trustee Henry Louis Gates, Jr. has helped people discover ancestral histories. The series reveals family stories, delves into the history of countries of origin, and uncovers secrets, surprises, and, occasionally, life-altering discoveries. The new season features Anita Hill, Tony Danza, Raúl Esparza, Leslie Odom Jr., Erin Burnett, and many more.





## A new and improved AmericanAncestors.org

American Ancestors will unveil a new version of our website, with an updated design, new features, and an overall improved user experience. New features will include an Events Calendar with filters to sort events by type. The calendar contains highly detailed event pages with maps of event locations, event-related videos, and other helpful information.

Website users can also anticipate a library of archived educational videos on a wide variety of topics, and a new way to search for and discover family history content across the site—including webinars, subject guides, helpful articles, and much more. The American Ancestors web team will announce updates on the new website on social media.

## Major updates to GU272 Descendants database

This fall will see a major update to the GU272 Descendants 1785–2000 database, produced in partnership with the Georgetown Memory Project (GMP). Since the original release of this database in 2019, genealogists at GMP have discovered more than 5,600 new descendants of the original 272 slaves sold by Georgetown University in 1838—a 40% increase in known descendants! The fall database update will include many of these names, but in the interest of personal privacy the online information will be confined to people born before 1940 who are known to be deceased. The updated project will include indexed descendant reports of GU272 family groups, browsable American Ancestors TREES for each group, and copies of vital records and other formal documents about these descendants. For more information on the history, stories, and perspectives on the GU272, please see the dedicated website on [gu272.AmericanAncestors.org](http://gu272.AmericanAncestors.org).



## Family heirlooms meet cutting-edge technology in a genealogical mystery

On Thursday, May 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a film crew from Your Legacy Your Story filmed portions of *The Missing Link*, a forthcoming documentary about one family's search for the origins of ancestor Nathaniel Titus and his siblings, born in 1700s New Jersey. One clue to solving the mystery of Nathaniel's origins may lie in an 1857 "hair wreath" passed from generation to generation and now the focus of a potentially revealing DNA test. Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press and Editor of *Mayflower Descendant* Christopher C. Child and Manager of Research and Library Services Sarah Dery were interviewed in our Research Center about the case. Updates on this documentary will be provided on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) and in *The Weekly Genealogist* newsletter.

*Top:* Sarah Dery reviews documents for the documentary.

*Bottom:* Christopher Child prepares for his interview.





## Family Treasures wins New England Society Book Award

*Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society* has been selected as the 2021 New England Society Book Award Winner in the Art & Photography category. Written by American decorative arts expert Gerald W. R. Ward, Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture Emeritus at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, *Family Treasures* includes a foreword by D. Brenton Simons, President and CEO, American Ancestors/

NEHGS, and a preface by Curt DiCamillo, Curator of Special Collections, American Ancestors/NEHGS, both of whom aided the author in the selection of items for study and inclusion. The NES Book Awards recognize books of merit that celebrate New England and its culture and are presented annually to authors of books published in the previous year. The awards ceremony took place Tuesday, September 14, at the National Arts Club on Gramercy Park in New York City.

Buy *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society* at [shop.AmericanAncestors.org](http://shop.AmericanAncestors.org).

Above: Curt DiCamillo and Ellen Scordato, 101st president of the New England Society in the City of New York.  
Photo by John Sanderson/AnnieWatt.com.

## New Publications from Newbury Street Press

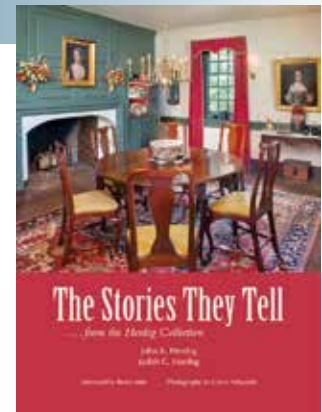
### The Stories They Tell . . . from the Herdeg Collection

9 x 12 hardcover, 296 pages, 145 full-color illustrations; \$69.95

By John A. Herdeg and Judith C. Herdeg

Foreword by Brock Jobe; photography by Gavin Ashworth

A visit to a historic home . . . and a walk through history as told by the art and objects inside. In these pages, longtime collectors John and Judith Herdeg introduce you to their salvaged eighteenth-century house and its grounds, and then take you on a tour of its rooms filled with favorite objects from their collection of American fine and decorative arts: colonial-era portraits, tall clocks, silver pap boats, embroidery, furnishings, and more. This is a place where art and history—and family history—merge in a unique American experience.



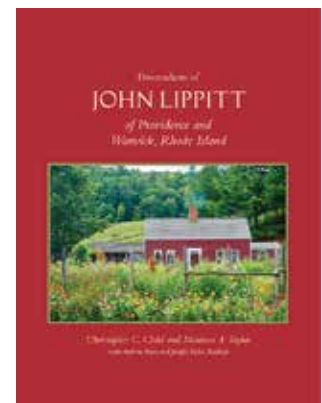
### Descendants of John Lippitt of Providence and Warwick, Rhode Island

9 x 11 hardcover, 262 pages; \$79.95

By Christopher C. Child and Maureen Taylor, with Andrew Krea and Jenifer Kahn Bakkala

Foreword by D. Brenton Simons

Descendants of John<sup>1</sup> Lippitt of Providence and Warwick, Rhode Island, have served their country as soldiers in four wars. The family has contributed four governors to the state of Rhode Island and three family members have represented the state in the U.S. Senate. Moses Lippitt of Cooperstown, N.Y., was a self-made businessman, much admired in his community and a leader in civic affairs. Strong women and men from this family have been influencing American life for nearly 400 years.



[shop.AmericanAncestors.org](http://shop.AmericanAncestors.org)

# the ANTIQUARTO

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



Our new hit series, *The Antiquarto*, features dynamic interviews conducted by our President and CEO Brenton Simons with expert guests on topics relating to history, genealogy, collecting, and the arts.

**EPISODE 7:** Brenton Simons speaks with Julian Radcliffe, founder of the Art Loss Register about his work as featured in the new book *Lost Art: The Art Loss Register Casebook Volume One* by Anja Shortland. This lively conversation explores Radcliffe's work with art crimes, theft, fakes, and forgeries.



Catch up on past episodes of *The Antiquarto*, and view new episodes, at [AmericanAncestors.org/watch](https://AmericanAncestors.org/watch), or on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors](https://youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors).

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



## The first of its kind: Our youth genealogy curriculum enters the pilot phase

Our national family history youth education program, begun in 2019, recently entered a new stage. The research phase, which included input from the Teacher Consulting Group, completed its work in December 2020. Beginning in January

2021, the findings from this research phase were incorporated over several months of additional curriculum development. In August, educators recruited from around the nation began field-testing the curriculum, lessons, content, and research methods with students.

Teachers from schools in Hawaii, Indiana, and Maine have met via Zoom with Youth Genealogy Curriculum Coordinator Dustin Axe (*top*) to create individualized plans for evaluating lessons. Through these customized lesson plans, teachers

are able to implement the curriculum in ways that work best for their students. We will use this data to ascertain strengths and areas in need of improvement in the curriculum.

This year, Dustin will introduce the pilot curriculum to students at several Massachusetts schools, beginning with Pine Hill Elementary in Sherborn and Wareham Elementary in Wareham. Additional schools are currently being recruited for this pilot phase.

Our team has made every effort to ensure that the pilot program will include feedback from a variety of school environments—urban and rural, public and private, etc. Our goal is to provide inclusive teaching strategies and lesson plans that give all students an equitable experience for exploring their roots.

This work is made possible by a generous grant from the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation and the Software MacKiev Company.



# NEW Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

## Census, tax, and voter lists

### Salem, MA: U.S. 1810 Census

We are pleased to announce this new database, the result of a partnership between American Ancestors and the Phillips Library/Peabody Essex Museum. Earlier this year the only surviving copy of the city of Salem 1810 federal census enumeration—long presumed lost—was discovered at the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum. This data, containing over 2,200 names, is appearing for the first time in an online searchable format.

## Genealogies, biographies, heraldry, and local histories

### Boston, MA: Provident Institution for Savings, 1817–1882—3 new volumes

About 80% of individuals who appeared in the early records of the Provident Institution for Savings in the Town of Boston were immigrants. The newly added “waste books” provide lists of daily bank transactions, often transfers between accounts. Residences (usually a town) are included, and occupations are often recorded.

### Early Vermont Settlers to 1784—16 new sketches

This study project, managed by Scott Andrew Bartley, presents information on heads of households who resided within the present-day borders of Vermont by 1784. A list of children, spouses, and all known vital records are included. The new sketches feature the following Brattleboro residents: Josiah Arms; Joel Atchison; Jacob Ball; Shadrach Ball; Benjamin Butterfield; Benjamin Butterfield, Jr.; Isaac McCune; William McCune; Henry Wells; Jonathan Wells; Samuel Wells; Elias Wilder; John Wilder; Joshua Wilder; Tilly Wilder; and Tilly Wilder, Jr.

### Portsmouth, NH: High School Students, 1846–1902

This project is the result of a partnership between American Ancestors and the Portsmouth Athenaeum. The information about the students in this database can provide insight into their high school experiences. This database contains 8 volumes with over 2,300 pages, over 48,000 searchable records, and 50,000 searchable names.

### Western Massachusetts Families in 1790—2 new sketches

This study project, managed by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG, profiles heads of families enumerated in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire Counties, an area that includes modern Franklin and Hampden Counties. The newest sketches treat Ebenezer Payne and Stephen Payne of Partridgefield.

## Journals

### The Narragansett Historical Register

Published from 1882 to 1891, this journal contains articles on the history of Narragansett Country and southern Rhode Island. The database is organized into 9 volumes, one for each year of publication, and includes over 3,300 pages and 5,500 records and names.

## Vital records

### Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1920—7 new parishes

Guest members can view the Archdiocese of Boston sacramental records for free in our browsable collection. The 29 new volumes include records from Brookline and Cambridge. We've also updated 10 volumes from these parishes, adding post-1900 records to volumes already posted on our site.

### Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1920—30 new parishes

American Ancestors and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston are collaborating on an online database of millions of sacramental records from over 100 parishes across eastern Massachusetts. The 182 new volumes include records from Beverly, Billerica, Brockton, Cambridge, Chelsea, Dorchester, Framingham, Haverhill, Hopkinton, Lawrence, Lowell, Malden, Marblehead, Melrose, Natick, Newburyport, and Randolph. We've also updated 27 volumes from these parishes, adding post-1900 records to volumes already posted on our site.

### Massachusetts: Catholic Cemetery Association Records, 1833–1940—4 new cemeteries

American Ancestors, the Archive Department of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, and the Catholic Cemetery Association of the Archdiocese of Boston are collaborating on a database of Catholic cemetery records from 1833 through 1940. Maps of each cemetery are included. Records were recently added from St. Francis de Sales (Charlestown), St. Joseph (Lynn), Holy Cross (Malden), and Immaculate Conception (Marlborough). Additional records will be added.

### Vital Records from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register—9 new volumes

We have undertaken an in-depth re-indexing of all the genealogical records in the database *Vital Records from the Register*, reviewing every published article and extracting a broad set of genealogical records. This database will provide a much more detailed index of these *Register* records than is currently available. Volumes 14–22 have recently been released.



# American Inspiration: Icons, wars, and friendships that changed history

Hosted by Director of Literary Programs Margaret M. Talcott, our American Inspiration speaker series presents engaging discussions of newly published histories, biographies, and memoirs from renowned authors.

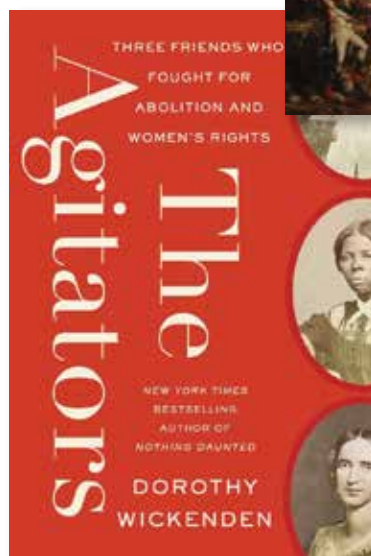
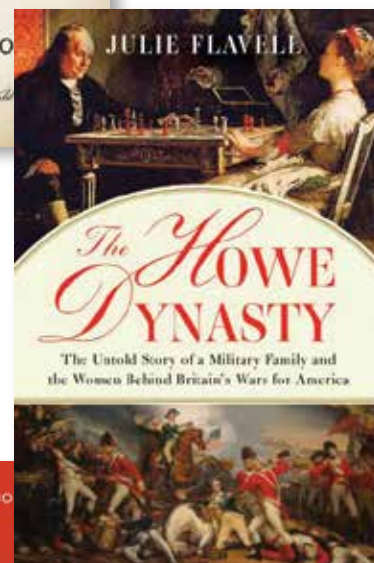
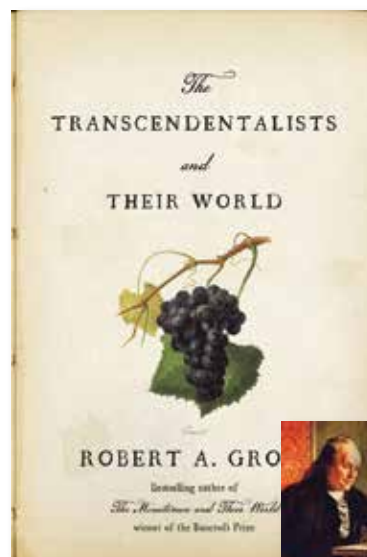
## Coming up

November heralds in a new batch of events featuring best-selling authors and historians. Robert A. Gross discusses *The Transcendentalists and Their World*, with moderator Lucinda Brockway, Program Director for Cultural Resources at The Trustees of Reservations. Longtime friend and board member Bill Griffith joins us as moderator for a conversation on adoption with Gabrielle Glaser (*American Baby*), adoption specialist Gregory Luce, and our own Genealogist Melanie McComb. And Anne Willan discusses *Women in the Kitchen: Twelve Essential Cookbook Writers Who Defined the Way We Eat, from 1661 to Today*, with moderator Sheryl Julian.

Our winter events include a discussion of Julie Flavell's *The Howe Dynasty: The Untold Story of a Military Family and the Women Behind Britain's Wars for America*, with moderator Mary Beth Norton; and a conversation with H. W. Brands on *Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution*, moderated by our Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods. Other upcoming events feature notable historians Brian Matthew Jordan (*A Thousand May Fall: Life, Death, and Survival in the Union Army*); Debby Applegate (*Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age*) with moderator John Matteson; and Nick Davis (*Competing with Idiots: Herman and Joe Mankiewicz*) with moderator Benjamin Frederick Mankiewicz, host of Turner Classic Movies.

## Watch past events in our online archive!

This past summer, we explored Scott Borchert's *Republic of Detours: How the New Deal Paid Broke Writers to Rediscover America*. Siân Evans discussed *Maiden Voyages: Magnificent Ocean Liners and the Women Who Traveled and Worked Aboard Them*. John N. Maclean led us through *Home Waters: A Chronicle of Family and a River*. We followed in the steps of George Washington through "the infant woody country" with Nathaniel Philbrick's *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy*. In *Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure*, Menachem Kaiser recounted his quest to reclaim his Holocaust-survivor grandfather's apartment building. The *New Yorker's* Dorothy Wickenden detailed the friendship between Harriet Tubman, Martha Coffin Wright, and Frances Seward in *The Agitators: Three Friends Who Fought for Abolition and Women's Rights*. Authors Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar discussed *Still Mad: American Women Writers and the Feminist Imagination*.



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Visit [AmericanAncestors.org/inspire](https://AmericanAncestors.org/inspire) to learn about upcoming events or view past events.

Our literary programs are often presented in partnership with Boston Public Library and GBH Forum Network, as well as with the State Library of Massachusetts and the Museum of African American History, both in Boston.

# Are you looking for a gift for the expert family historian in your life, or for a beginner who needs a bit of help taking that first step?



Our experts have selected several award-winning books sure to appeal to anyone interested in discovering more about the past. Spread lasting cheer this holiday season with these thoughtful and meaningful selections.

## For the detective...

### **Elements of Genealogical Analysis**

by Robert Charles Anderson (2014)

Winner of the National Genealogical Society's 2015 award for "Excellence: Genealogical Methods and Sources."

Analyze records and make sound genealogical conclusions using the same method applied by Robert Charles Anderson for the Great Migration Study Project! This handbook presents a step-by-step process for solving genealogical problems—a methodology thirty years in the making. Developed by Anderson and perfected through his work on the Great Migration Study Project, this systematic approach considers each source, each record, and each possible linkage before making a genealogical conclusion.

Clearly defined tools, checklists, and logically ordered steps throughout the book help make this method both accessible and effective.

## For the historian...

### **The Mayflower Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth, 1620**

by Robert Charles Anderson (2020)

This sixteenth book in the Great Migration Study Project opens with an essay on what led up to the sailing of the *Mayflower* and continues through its departure from Plymouth, England, describing the groups who made up the passenger list and how they were reshuffled when the *Speedwell* was abandoned. Following on the success of his most recent *Puritan Pedigrees*—which revealed the “why” of the Great Migration to New England—Anderson now returns to the “who” and expands on the 60 sketches that appear in *The Pilgrim Migration* (2004) by adding newly discovered material, including biographies of about 30 passengers for whom we have information about their lives prior to departure. The book contains up-to-date sketches of all passengers who arrived on the *Mayflower* in 1620. Like all of Anderson's books, this work is a must-have for early New England researchers.

**[shop.AmericanAncestors.org](http://shop.AmericanAncestors.org)**

## For the art lover...

### **Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society**

Written by Gerald W. R. Ward, Photography by Gavin Ashworth, Foreword by D. Brenton Simons, and Preface by Curt DiCamillo (2020)

*Winner of the 2021 New England Society in the City of New York Book Award in the Art and Photography category. The awards recognize books of merit that celebrate New England and its culture.*

The NEHGS Fine Art Collection is the story of the United States. From exceptionally rare 17th-century Boston portraits to images that tell the struggle of slavery, this important collection spans almost four centuries of American history. Elegantly photographed and displayed throughout the pages of this book are the first deathbed portrait in America; a rare image of the beginnings of West Point by the man who designed Washington, D.C.; unique art that was witness to the founding of the republic; stunning armorial and family history artistry; a very rare poster that is a snapshot of the birth of the historic preservation movement in the United States; beautiful early American furniture; and a collection of art and relics associated with John Hancock, the possessor of the most famous signature in American history. The pages of this unique and exceptional book will bring the history of these pieces—and the soul of NEHGS—into your home.







## BRICK WALLS submitted by our members

**We want to hear from you!** Send a brief narrative (200 words or less) about your “brick wall” to [magazine@nehgs.org](mailto:magazine@nehgs.org) or to AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your member number. We regret that we cannot reply to every submission. Brick walls will be edited for clarity and length.

I would like to find the ports of arrival for my Scottish grandfather, **Peter Caldwell Campbell**, and great-grandfather, **James Caldwell Campbell**, and learn when and where they were naturalized. The two were first enumerated in the 1892 New York state census, in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County. In 1900 and 1910, when they were in Cumberland and Atlantic Counties, New Jersey, the censuses state that James entered the country in 1882 and 1889; both give Peter an 1891 arrival date. The 1910 census seems to indicate that both men were naturalized. In 1920, the Somerset County, New Jersey, census shows that Peter arrived in 1889 and was naturalized in 1905, and the Philadelphia census states that James came to the U.S. in 1882 and was naturalized in 1888. The 1930 census for Middlesex County, New Jersey, claims that Peter arrived in 1890. I searched the Castle Garden website with no results. (Ellis Island did not open until 1892.) I checked for naturalizations in Dutchess County, New York, and Cumberland and Atlantic Counties in New Jersey, but found nothing.

M. Wesley Clark, Fairfax, Virginia  
[wc6@georgetown.edu](mailto:wc6@georgetown.edu)

I am seeking the names of the parents of my ancestor **Starr Taylor Hoyt** (1812–1885). According to his death certificate and multiple censuses, he was born in Connecticut. He was in Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, by about 1833, when he married Hester McFadden. He was in the tavern business and appeared in Baltimore by 1852. A cluster of Hoyt families lived in Fairfield County, Connecticut, mostly around Danbury. I have found four more men of the same generation named Starr Hoyt, three of whom lived from 1804–1849, 1807–1862, and 1808–1894, and one who drowned in New York City in 1862, aged 60. I can identify the parents for the first three of these Starr Hoyts but not for my ancestor.

Linda Lyons, Alexandria, Virginia  
[LyonsLW@aol.com](mailto:LyonsLW@aol.com)

I am seeking the maiden surname of my ancestor Sarah (\_\_\_\_) **Melendy/Melandy**, born January 3, 1673, in Duxbury or Plymouth, Massachusetts. She married William Melendy/Melandy, who was born in England in 1668 and died March 4, 1739, in Charlestown, Mass. She had six children: William (1701–1701), William (1703–1777), John (1705–1777), Thomas (b. 1707), Richard (1709–1710), and Sarah (1711–1711). Sarah died about February 12, 1744, in Plymouth or Plympton, Mass. She is buried in Copp’s Hill Burying Ground in Boston. Some online trees claim Sarah’s maiden name was Standish, Clark, or Doubleday, but I have found no proof.

Diane Cunningham, Hillsborough, New Hampshire  
[momjbt@gmail.com](mailto:momjbt@gmail.com)

I am searching for the origins of **William Campbell and his wife, Wrest or Rest** (\_\_\_\_). In 1806, they appear in the records of Richmond, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, when their unnamed daughter died. The 1810 census shows Campbells in Berkshire County, but I can’t connect them to this family. Wrest Campbell is listed in the 1820 census for Schoharie County, New York, as a widow with six children; her son Erastus Campbell (b. 1800) is enumerated in a separate household. Documented children include Susan (Campbell) Farrell (b. 1812 in Mass.); and Elvira Ann (Campbell) Taber (b. 1815 in Mass.) Another child may be the Elizabeth Campbell who married John Green and died before 1847 in Schenectady County, New York. Wrest later married James Stewart. She appears in the 1875 census for Duaneburg, Schenectady County, and died in Schoharie County after 1875.

Kathleen Bronk Ridgeway, Rock Tavern, New York  
[ridges@frontiernet.net](mailto:ridges@frontiernet.net)

My ancestor **Alice Southworth** was born November 24, 1720, in Little Compton, Rhode Island, a daughter of Edward Southworth and Elizabeth Palmer. Alice married Aaron Brownell in 1745 and they had seven children. He died in 1754. In the 1760s, Alice became one of the original New England Planters of Horton, Nova Scotia.





(She went to Horton with her brother William Southworth.) At some point, Alice married a second time; according to a 1776 Nova Scotia deed, Alice Brownell became Alice Welch (or Welsh). She died on September 5, 1803, in Farmington, Connecticut, and is buried in the Old Farmington Cemetery, near the grave of her daughter, Elizabeth Brownell Bulkeley. Alice's stone reads "Mrs. Alice Welch," and her probate refers to her as "Widow Alice Welch." I would like to know the first name of her Welch husband, when and where they married, and what happened to him.

Karen M. Weaver, Northampton, Massachusetts  
karweaver@aol.com

My brick wall is the **William Ward** who lived on Ethan Allen's farm in Burlington, Vermont, prior to 1790. After successfully petitioning for an act of insolvency in 1793, he and his wife Mary moved their family to the Kingston area of Upper Canada, where he purchased 500 acres of land. He died there in February 1797. In the 1850 Canadian census, four of his children, all Methodist Episcopal, gave their birth locations as New York, England, and Vermont. Ward is a very common name; I found 20 other William Wards in Vermont in 1790. (I describe my William Ward at [wikitree.com/wiki/Ward-21135](https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ward-21135).) In 2018 I had my Y-DNA tested at FamilyTreeDNA and joined the Ward Surname project. I discovered that our line was in Haplogroup G, a separate group from other Wards. Multiple Y-DNA matches (who share a common ancestor prior to William) have ancestors in New York prior to the 1830s. These results support my belief that William resided in New York prior to the Revolution. I have yet to find documentation of William prior to 1790.

Daniel Ward, Sherwood Park, Alberta  
wardgenealogy@gmail.com

I am seeking information about the parents of my ancestor **William Francis Greene**. He gave his birthplace as New York City, although I have found no proof. Birth dates for him range from 1835 to 1840. The earliest record I have for him is the 1850 U.S. census. He was 15 and living in Wheatland, Wisconsin, with his uncle, William A. Kelly, whose sister, Ann, may have been William Greene's mother. In 1862, he enlisted in the Nebraska 2nd Cavalry at Florence, Nebraska. He

served for less than a year and received a pension. In 1867 William purchased a farm in Washington County, Nebraska, where he spent the rest of his life. In 1873 he married Mary Jane "Jenny" Pollard; they had eight children. The marriage license listed his parents as William Greene and Ann Kelly. Various censuses listed his father's birthplace as Rhode Island or England, and his mother's birthplace as the Isle of Man or England. William died December 23, 1897.

Mary Lou Montez, Temecula, California  
mlmontez@verizon.net

I am looking for information on the origins, parents, and death of my ancestor **Ivory or Ira Ramsdell**. On April 18, 1847, Ira Ramsdell married Suza Fitzgerald at Clinton, Kennebec County, Maine. Their son, Charles Greenleaf Ramsdell, was born July 5, 1847, at Canaan, Somerset County, Maine. Ivory Ramsdell appears in the 1850 census for Somerset County and in the 1860 census for Rollinsford, Strafford County, New Hampshire, with wife Susan and children Charles and Lydia. During the Civil War, Ira served as a member of a coastal artillery unit and was mustered out in 1862. Ivory/Ira presumably died by 1870; he does not appear in the 1870 census. Susan and Lydia are enumerated in 1870 in Newmarket, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

Waldo Spencer, Montgomery, Alabama  
spencerw405@gmail.com

**Jane (Gray) Copp** was born about 1826 in Gray Valley, Sullivan Township, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. She married Reuben Copp in the early 1840s and had nine children, including my ancestor Lafayette Copp. Geography, family names, and now DNA all suggest Jane is a granddaughter of Tioga pioneers James Gray, Sr., and Parthenia White, but no proof exists. (DNA suggests a Luce connection, and perhaps a Williams connection, but that is speculative.) James and Parthenia had five sons, including James, Jr., who also named his son Lafayette. The eldest son, John White Gray (1788–1860), is believed to have married three times; one marriage ended in 1822 and another began in 1833. An additional marriage later in the 1820s could have accounted for my ancestor. DNA suggests Jane is either his daughter or niece.

Blair Erhard, Burbank, California  
blair.erhard@gmail.com



# Meet David Trebing

## NEW CHAIR OF THE NEHGS BOARD

At the April 2021 NEHGS Annual Meeting, David Martin Trebing of Washington, D.C., was elected Chair of the NEHGS Board of Trustees, succeeding Nancy S. Maulsby, who had served in that position since 2017.

In his remarks, President and CEO D. Brenton Simons thanked Nancy for her four years of devoted service as Chair. Brenton observed that under Nancy's leadership, NEHGS made great strides and successfully navigated many new pandemic-related challenges. Brenton was delighted to welcome David Trebing as our new Chair, noting that David brings important professional experience and a passion for genealogy and history that will benefit American Ancestors and NEHGS.

David is the General Manager of External Affairs for Daimler AG, and he previously served in senior finance-related roles for Chrysler Corporation and DaimlerChrysler Corporation. He was the 37th Governor General of the General Society of Colonial Wars. David is a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the St. Nicholas Society in the City of New York, and the Sons of the Revolution. His board service includes the Historical Society of Michigan, the Detroit Historical Society, Michigan State University, and CulturalDC. He is a Commander in the Order of St. John. David is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Michigan State University. He joined NEHGS, where he is a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and a Benefactor Member, in 2016. He became a Councilor in 2017 and a Trustee in 2019.

Recently, Managing Editor Lynn Betlock posed some questions to David about his genealogy and about NEHGS.

### How did you get started in genealogy?

Family history—and, therefore, genealogy—has always been a part of my life. Starting in the mid-1930s, my father began filming home movies. He also made home recordings (on 78s in the 1940s and reel-to-reel tapes in the 1950s) of family members reminiscing about earlier times. My maternal grandmother kept diaries. These narratives based around a large farm in Brooklyn, at the turn of the twentieth century—when there still were farms in Brooklyn!—provided a fascinating record of a way of life long gone. I grew up seeing and hearing firsthand accounts from family members who died long before I was born.

This amazing foundation created the spark for me to learn more and preserve family records for future generations.

### What can you tell us about your family history?

I think my family history, which represents a broad cross-section of society, is typical of many Americans. I have ancestors who fled religious and political persecution, some who came for economic opportunity, and others who simply wanted a better life. My ancestors arrived from the earliest days of the colonies all the way through the late nineteenth century.

My Trebing ancestors lived in Großalmerode, a very small village in Hesse, from the middle of the sixteenth century. My great-grandfather, Henry Trebing, came to the United States in 1866 alone—at age 18—in the midst of the Seven Weeks' War. Recently, while visiting the impressive and important archaeological dig at Jamestown, I mentioned to Jim Horn, the President of Historic Jamestown, that my family came from Großalmerode. He immediately took me to a display of artifacts, which included glass fragments from 1610 traced to that same tiny village! I am amazed that my German ancestors might have produced items that ended up at Jamestown.

I truly believe it is critical for everyone to know their ancestors' origins. I think that collectively these ancestral accounts tell the story of America. It is impossible to understand the complex history of the United States if we do not understand our own family histories and the impact—great or small—made by our ancestors.

### How did you become acquainted with NEHGS?

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

Therefore, as I searched for someone to provide a comprehensive view of who my ancestors were, I discovered NEHGS. After my first introductory call with the Research Services team, I knew that NEHGS could do exactly what I wanted. I immediately joined as an Associate Member so I could learn about NEHGS, support its programs—and receive a valuable discount on research costs. I am truly amazed by the ability of the professional staff at NEHGS: they are not just genealogists—they are also historians, sociologists, anthropologists, and, with the introduction of DNA research, geneticists.

In August 2018, I was delighted to be part of the “Pilgrim Roots of the Great Migration” Heritage Tour in England. It was remarkable on many fronts, but spending time with Robert Charles Anderson, the dean of *Mayflower* research, was truly the high point. As a descendant of William Brewster, I was thrilled to see Scrooby Manor, St. Wilfrid's Church, and other sites I had read about. But having Bob Anderson—who is nothing short of a walking encyclopedia!—place events in context while we toured the sites gave me a true appreciation for the risks and challenges the Separatists faced. The tour was the experience of a lifetime.

### How do you view NEHGS's role in the field of family history?

I see NEHGS as “America's Family Album.” The story of “us” comes together under the roof at Newbury Street. By us, I mean everyone: Native peoples, those who came voluntarily and those who were enslaved or impressed, and new settlers who arrived during all time periods, whether they landed at Jamestown or JFK. Moreover, just like American history, family research is not simply focused on

the distant past. New chapters are written every day. The resources at NEHGS are equally valuable to those searching ancient roots, recent branches, or new shoots just emerging.

I see NEHGS as a critical resource for the serious researcher and as the “gold standard” of family history. Many online outlets are available to people interested in genealogy, but some are little more than posting sites for undocumented claims. Since 1845, NEHGS has maintained the highest standard of research, as reaffirmed every single day through interaction with members and clients. I believe the American Ancestors Research Center is better than any other genealogical research facility, and my job—with the Board of Trustees, Honorary Trustees, and Councilors—is to ensure that our management team has the resources necessary to continue that excellence unabated.

### What NEHGS initiatives are you most enthusiastic about?

We have the best management team and staff of the past 175 years. We have a dedicated group of Trustees, Honorary Trustees, and Councilors who wholeheartedly support the mission of NEHGS. We have new methods to deliver relevant, accurate, and important content to members around the world. We have an iconic building on Newbury Street that is the global epicenter of family history, and our headquarters is being expanded to include state-of-the-art technology for onsite visits. All of this comes together to reinforce awareness, appreciation, and support of the NEHGS mission. ♦

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Henry Martin Trebing and Mathilda Sophie Ruess—David Trebing's great-grandparents—with their four sons and one daughter, at home in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1900. The pocket watch worn by Henry (on upper left) is used by David Trebing every day.





# Ancestor STRONG

## STORIES OF RESOLVE

During the last year and a half of tremendous challenge and change, many of us reflected upon our circumstances in the context of history and our ancestors' lives. Family stories about the hardships experienced by past generations often took on new relevance. Accounts of ancestors enduring wars, pandemics, oppression, displacement, and economic crisis may have felt more immediate and meaningful.

In the spirit of finding strength from those who came before us, we asked members and visitors to share family stories for a new web project—Ancestor Strong. We encour-

age others to share their ancestors' stories to remind us of the determination and perseverance of previous generations and to inspire us in our own lives.

On the Ancestor Strong website, descendants have shared stories about struggles for security and shelter, the hurdles of starting a new life in a new country, the isolation and loss caused by epidemics and disease, and the horrors of war.

Below are some edited excerpts from the more than fifty responses received to date. To read the complete stories or submit your own account, please visit [ancestorstrong.AmericanAncestors.org](http://ancestorstrong.AmericanAncestors.org).



### **Ancestor: József Friedman Descendant: Bob F.**

Grandpa Joe was born in 1892 in the Hungarian village of Körössebes. The oldest of six siblings, he effectively became the head of the family at age twenty when his father and younger brother went to America in 1913. A year later World War I broke out, and Joe was conscripted into the Austro-Hungarian Army.

During the severe winter of 1914–15, he was deployed in the rugged Carpathians where he encountered frigid conditions. Dug in, surrounded by snow, he lost two toes to frostbite. After he recovered, he was sent back to the Russian front. In Ukraine, he was shot in the arm and leg, captured by the Russians, and spent the next twenty-two months in a military hospital. Finally, he escaped and made his way home. Joe married my grandmother and by June 1921 he was ready to lead his mother, three sisters, his wife and her twin sister, and her sister's husband to the United States. As a parting gift, his neighbors burned down his house so he would not be able to sell it before leaving.



**Hailey Philbin** is Marketing and Communications Specialist at American Ancestors/NEHGS.

### **Ancestor: Jo Wise Henderson Descendant: Sunny M.**

In 1918, 18-year-old Jo Henderson married Tom Hall, a widower twelve years her senior, becoming a stepmother to his four-year-old son. Within three weeks, Tom enlisted in the Great War and Jo had sole care of a child who was deeply traumatized by the disappearance of two parents and separation from his grandparents.

Months later, Jo and her mother went to visit Tom at Camp Funston in Fort Riley, Kansas, now named by many sources as “ground zero” for the Spanish flu outbreak in the United States. The outbreak happened while the women were there, and they were quarantined on the base.

They helped as best they could, cooking and caring for sick soldiers. Jo's mother got sick but recovered. After the war, Tom and Jo had two little girls, one of them my grandmother, who eventually married the son of a teenage survivor of the Johnstown flood in Pennsylvania. But that's another story.





### **Ancestor: Hin-Mah-Too-Yah-Lat-Kekht, Chief Joseph**

#### **Descendant: Marci B.**

As I research my Nez Perce family history, I have come across many articles about my ancestor Chief Joseph. As Chief Joseph once said, "My heart is sick and sad," and so is mine. I have read a lot about the Nez Perce flight from their homelands to Montana. I can only imagine the pain and suffering experienced by the elders, women, and children. The freedom Chief Joseph wanted for his people never happened. They say he died from a broken heart on September 21, 1904. The only dream he achieved was being buried in the land he loved at Nespelem, Washington.

I am compiling as much of this history as I can to leave to the next generation so they, too, will know the truth. My goal is to link all of our Nez Perce people. We are one family. Chief Joseph refused to abandon his Nez Perce culture and religion. Chief Joseph is still here. His spirit roams all over his land that he fought for and that many warriors died for.

### **Ancestor: Constance Craven Reilly**

#### **Descendant: Noreen R.**



My mother, Constance Craven, was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in June 1916. On Thanksgiving Day 1924, her beloved thirty-six-year-old mother died during childbirth, leaving behind eight children, ages two to twelve.

After contracting polio during adolescence, Constance spent six months in bed to

recover, and suffered no lasting physical effects. Constance felt lucky to graduate from Holyoke High in 1933, but a lack of funds meant she wasn't able to accept the place she was offered at Boston University's Sargent College. The Great Flood of 1936 significantly damaged her family's home. During World War II, three of her brothers served in combat. Constance supported the war effort by working at the Savage Arms factory in Westfield, Mass., where most of the submachine guns used in World War II were made.

Despite all of this, my mom never complained about anything! She took the bad with the good throughout her life and was an incredible role model of courage and resilience.



### **Ancestor: Cleo J. Koch**

#### **Descendant: Sheryl W.**

My father, Cleo J. Koch, born November 24, 1918, survived the 1918 flu pandemic. He got it when he was three weeks old. His mother also had it. The doctor said he wouldn't give 25 cents for his chances. My dad is still alive and living independently at 101+. He may be the oldest living survivor of the 1918 pandemic.

### **Ancestor: Clarence E. Taggart**

#### **Descendant: Paul S.**

My maternal grandfather was a veteran of both World War I (U.S. Army) and World War II (USMC). He was sickened by influenza twice when he was in France during the First World War. He returned home and raised four daughters, one of whom was my mother. He was an incredibly resilient man who demonstrated courage and patriotism on a daily basis, and I cherished the time I spent with him as I grew into adulthood.

Just prior to my departure for Vietnam we enjoyed a beer together, just talking the afternoon away. He never spoke about what he witnessed during his two wars, and I have never talked about my experiences. We both probably should have.



### **Ancestor: Fan Chung Meng**

#### **Descendant: Jessica W.**

My grandfather on my mother's side endured the Japanese raiding of China. Nearly all the property was taken or destroyed. My grandfather had a lot of money and was left with

absolutely nothing. He was also separated from his family for many years.

Our commitment to bringing you quality genealogical, historical, and cultural online programming continues. From free webinars to multi-day courses, we have something for everyone. Mark your calendars and get ready to expand your family history horizons. Registration for our online programs typically opens one month prior to the broadcast. Learn more at [AmericanAncestors.org/education/online-classes](https://AmericanAncestors.org/education/online-classes).

## NOVEMBER

- Starting 11/2/21... **ONLINE COURSE:** The Yiddish of Yankeeland: The Jews of Boston and America, 1840–1924, 4 weeks, \$
- Starting 11/3/21... **ONLINE COURSE:** Introduction to Heraldry for Genealogists, 3 weeks, \$
- 11/4/21 ..... **AMERICAN INSPIRATION AUTHOR EVENT:** Anne Willan with *Women in the Kitchen*, FREE
- 11/5/21 ..... **WEBINAR:** The Impact of the China Trade on New England Architecture, \$
- 11/9/21 ..... **AMERICAN INSPIRATION AUTHOR EVENT:** Robert A. Gross with *The Transcendentalists and Their World*, FREE
- 11/12/21 ..... **WEBINAR:** Facing Our Past: Addressing the legacies of Slavery and Empire at National Trust for Scotland Properties, FREE
- 11/15/21 ..... **ONLINE COURSE:** Discussing Adoption: Driving Positive Outcomes in the Search for Knowledge, Past and Present, \$
- 11/18/21 ..... **WEBINAR:** Where?: Understanding Boundaries and Jurisdictions, FREE

## DECEMBER

- Starting 12/1/21... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching Your Civil War Veteran Ancestors, 3 weeks, \$
- 12/4/21 ..... **AMERICAN INSPIRATION AUTHOR EVENT:** Julie Flavell with *The Howe Dynasty: The Untold Story of a Military Family and the Women Behind Britain's Wars for America*, FREE
- 12/7/21 ..... **AMERICAN INSPIRATION AUTHOR EVENT:** Writing History with H. W. Brands and *Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution*, \$
- 12/16/21 ..... **WEBINAR:** Making Royal Connections, FREE



\$ indicates a paid program

## JANUARY

- Starting 1/5/22... **ONLINE COURSE:** Connecticut Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy, 4 weeks, \$
- 1/7/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Collecting Rare Books, FREE
- Starting 1/11/22... **ONLINE COURSE:** Building Your Genealogical Skills, 3 weeks, \$
- 1/11/22 ..... **AMERICAN INSPIRATION AUTHOR EVENT:** Brian Matthew Jordan with *A Thousand May Fall: Life, Death, and Survival in the Union Army*, FREE
- 1/13/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Organizing and Progressing from Inherited Research, FREE
- 1/15/22 ..... **ONLINE COURSE:** Using MS Word to Write Your Family History, \$
- 1/19/22 ..... **AMERICAN INSPIRATION AUTHOR EVENT:** Debby Applegate with *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age*, FREE
- 1/22/22 ..... **ONLINE COURSE:** Preservation Roadshow, \$

## FEBRUARY

- Starting 2/2/22... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching Female Ancestors, 4 weeks, \$
- 2/4/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Ultimate Bling: Britain's Royal Collection, \$
- Starting 2/8/22... **ONLINE COURSE:** The Classical House, 3 weeks, \$
- 2/10/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Wanted! Researching Criminal Ancestors, FREE
- 2/17/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Researching African American Ancestry in New England, FREE
- 2/24-2/26 ..... **VIRTUAL RESEARCH PROGRAM:** Winter Research Stay at Home, \$

## MARCH

- Starting 3/2/22... **ONLINE COURSE:** Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy, 5 weeks, \$
- 3/10/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Understanding Irish Land Divisions, FREE
- 3/19/22 ..... **ONLINE COURSE:** Finding Irish Origins, \$
- 3/24/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Virginia Research, FREE
- Starting 3/30/22... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching Scottish Ancestors, 5 weeks, \$



## Archived Webinars, Subject Guides, Downloads, and More

Missed a past webinar? Want to learn more about a particular subject at your own pace? Looking for easy-to-use templates to help keep your research organized? Discover the hundreds of resources waiting for you at our Online Learning Center at [AmericanAncestors.org/education/learning-resources](https://AmericanAncestors.org/education/learning-resources). All of these resources are free and available to the public. You will need to log in with your member or guest account to access the content.

### APRIL

- 4/1/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Scottish Country Houses, FREE  
 Starting 4/5/22 .... **ONLINE COURSE:** Building Your Genealogical Skills, 3 weeks, \$  
 4/7/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org, FREE  
 4/14/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Discover the 1950 Census, FREE

### MAY

- Starting 5/4/22 .... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching Loyalist Ancestors, 4 weeks, \$  
 5/6/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Early Art Collecting in Venice, FREE  
 5/19/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Researching Veterans of the War of 1812, FREE  
 5/20/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Virtual Tour of Prestwold Hall, \$

### JUNE

- Starting 6/1/22 .... **ONLINE COURSE:** Getting the Most from the U.S. Federal Census, 5 weeks, \$  
 6/16/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Researching Enslaved Ancestors, FREE  
 6/23/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Remembering the Four Courts Fire, Dublin: What was Lost? What Survived?, FREE  
 6/24/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Armchair Travel to Berlin, FREE

### JULY

- Starting 7/6/22 .... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching French Canadian Ancestors, 4 weeks, \$  
 7/7/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Applying to Revolutionary War Lineage Societies, FREE  
 Starting 7/12/22 .... **ONLINE COURSE:** Building Your Genealogical Skills, 3 weeks, \$  
 7/23/22 ..... **ONLINE COURSE:** Digitizing Your Family History, \$

### AUGUST

- Starting 8/3/22 .... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching Ancestors on the Move, 5 weeks, \$  
 8/11/22 ..... **WEBINAR:** Stories from the Archives: Family Registers, FREE

*\*Schedule is subject to change.*

### VIRTUAL Winter Research Stay-At-Home

February 24–26, 2022

Cost: \$375

Due to the popularity of our virtual research programs over the last year, we will continue offering an online “Stay-at-Home” experience. This online workshop brings you the same one-on-one consultations and informative lectures as our in-person Research Getaways, plus live demonstrations, extended Q&A with our experts, *and* access to recorded content and other materials after the end of the program. Advance your research skills from home!



# Genealogical travel is back!

## Upcoming Research Tours & Programs\*

Not all records and family history resources are online! After a year of researching from home, it's time to explore the archives, libraries, and other repositories that are essential to the success of your family history project. American Ancestors offers a wide variety of guided research tours and extended programs for family historians at all skill levels. Whether traveling with us to repositories across the country or to our very own 8-story Research Center in Boston, our genealogical experts will help you maximize your research results and provide the support you need to make the most of your visit. Benefit from special orientations and tutorials, one-on-one consultations, informative lectures, cultural excursions, and more. [Register at AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Research-Tours-and-Programs](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Research-Tours-and-Programs).

### VIRTUAL Winter Research Stay-At-Home

February 24–26, 2022

[See Online Learning on previous pages.]

### Genealogical Skills Boot Camp, Boston, MA

May 5–7, 2022

Take your research skills to the next level! With the sheer number of online resources at your fingertips, it's easy to dive into your family history research without any formal training as a genealogist. This intensive three-day program will set you on the right path to getting the most out of your family history research and teach you how to tackle genealogical problems like a pro. Topics include: strategies for analyzing records, online research, breaking down genealogical brick walls, and more.

Members: \$450 Non-members: \$600

### Spring Research Getaway, Boston, MA

June 9–11, 2022

Escape to Boston for three days of research, one-on-one consultations, orientations, and social events while exploring the rich offerings at the American Ancestors Research Center and benefiting from the knowledge and assistance of expert genealogists.

Members: \$450 Non-Members: \$600

### NEHGS Summer Institute for Advanced Researchers: Writing and Publishing Your Family History

July 14–16, 2022

You've been researching your family history for years and no one knows your family's history like you do. Consider the legacy you will be leaving if you write and publish your own family research—not only a legacy for current and future family members, but an important resource for current and future genealogical researchers. This hands-on seminar, led by the writing and publishing experts at American Ancestors, will provide you with a step-by-step approach to turning your raw data into an illustrated narrative, *Register*-style genealogy, or *Ahnentafel*. Through lectures, group discussion, demonstrations, and activities, you will see how to transfer your years of research to words on the page. Topics include: organizing your materials, choosing a genealogical format, adding citations, composing narrative, page layout, and final steps in self-publishing. Open to current American Ancestors members only.

Members: \$1,500

## Introducing Genealogical Day Trips

Travel to a New England repository with experts from American Ancestors! Participation includes access to pre-program online resources, a tour and orientation to the library or archives, a lecture from an attending genealogist, and a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist.

**April**—Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT

**May**—Phillips Library, Rowley, MA

**June**—Massachusetts State Archives and Registry of Vital Records, Boston, MA

**July**—New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH

**August**—Maine State Library and Maine State Archives, Augusta, ME

\*Schedule is subject to change.

## Come Home to New England, Boston, MA

August 9–13, 2022

NEHGS has been collecting information about families in America for over 175 years. Our collections are international in scope and contain significant materials that cover the United States, especially New England and New York, as well as Canada and Europe. This research program provides the opportunity for you to “come home” to Boston and work closely with our staff to advance your research.

Members: \$850 Non-Members: \$1,000



## staff profile

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### MEET CURT DICAMILLO

#### Curator of Special Collections

I began working at NEHGS in February 2016 as the organization's first Curator of Special Collections. I am responsible for the Fine Art Collection, displayed on our building's seven floors. My job includes safeguarding our many pieces of art, a large portion in offsite storage, as well as strategically growing the collection, putting on exhibitions, writing about the collection, and conducting educational outreach through online webinars, in-person events, and leading the Heritage Tours.

NEHGS has an interesting, almost eccentric, collection of fine art that grew in wonderful ways over 175 years. Art was most frequently acquired as part of a gift of genealogical records. Today, art has been elevated to a full partner in telling the rich story of genealogy and history.

We have many amazing pieces of unique art, but my favorite is probably the Lemmon-Phillips Filigree. This quilled artwork, created in 1735 by Mary Lemmon (1717–1798) of Charlestown, Massachusetts, shows the combined coats of arms of her parents and is one of the earliest examples of American armorial works. Mary and her husband, Joseph Lynde, had seventeen children. In 1775, their home was destroyed during the Battle of Bunker Hill. This piece of art perfectly encapsulates everything that is paramount to American Ancestors and NEHGS: history, family, and beauty.

Believe it or not, I studied business administration in college—thank goodness that didn't stick! My career began in 1991, when I was hired by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Over thirteen years I held a variety of posi-

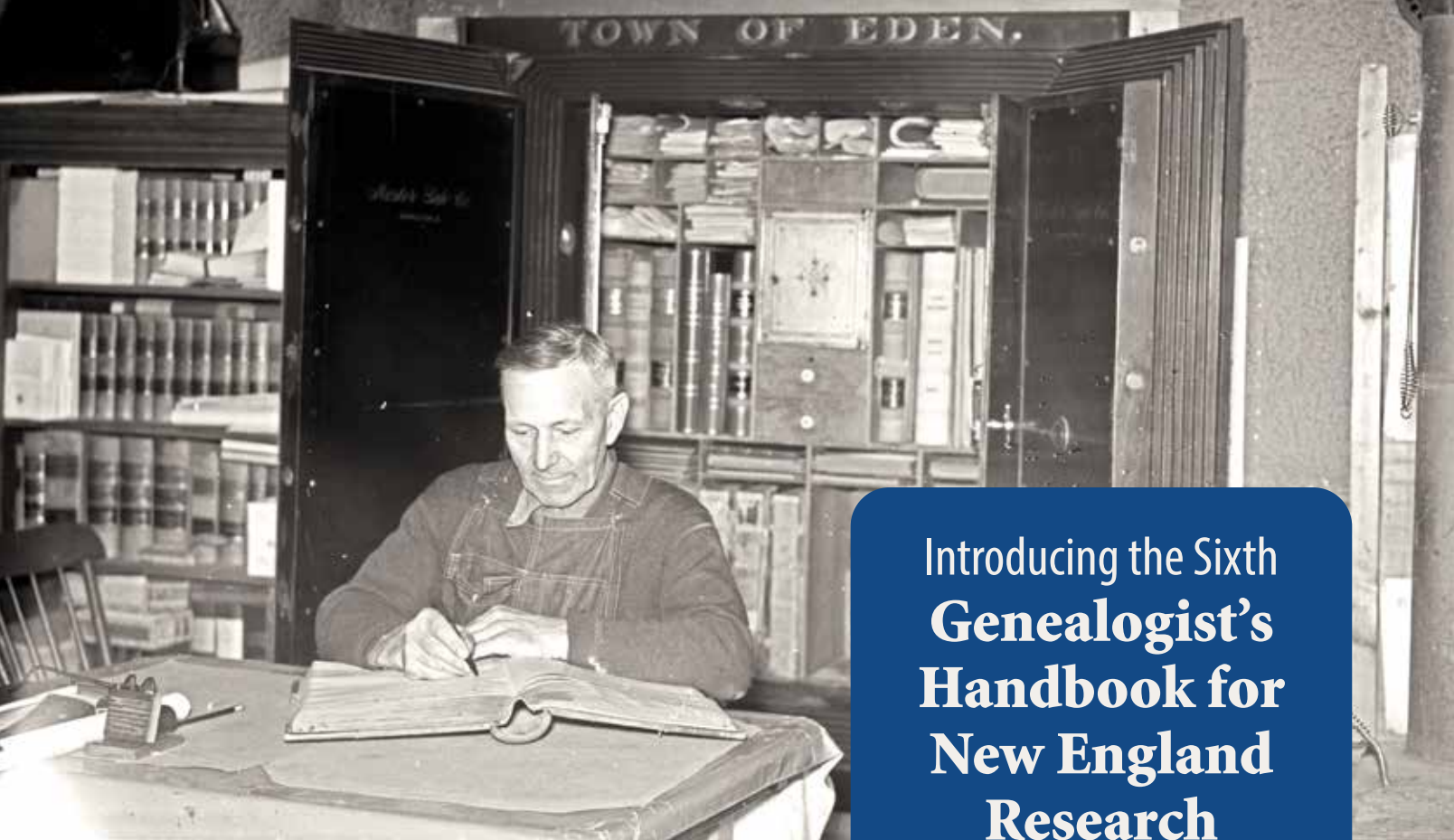
tions, ending with managing the Conservation Department. I then worked for the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA (based in Boston), where, as CEO, I helped raise over \$7 million. After eight years I left to lecture about and lead tours to Britain. While managing a 2015 tour to the Scottish Borders for NEHGS, CEO D. Brenton Simons asked me to become the Curator of Special Collections and lead NEHGS's Heritage Tours.

I can honestly say that I feel lucky every day to be at NEHGS. Like any place, the people make it what it is. My colleagues, in every department, are the most amazing and wonderful people I've ever worked with.

Since I was five, I've been passionate about everything British. When I was seventeen, an 85-year-old woman who lived across the street gave me my first book on British country houses and I was suddenly in a captivating new world! These unique historic houses fill me with passion. Nowhere else do art, architecture, and gardens come together in such a perfect celebration of beauty, and in no other European country do so many of them survive. It's astonishing to think of the immense influence that the United Kingdom has had on world culture, and it gives me great pleasure to share an exceptional part of this heritage.

In 1999 I created a website to share these treasures. TheDiCamillo.com attempts to document every English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish country house ever built, standing or demolished, as well as the histories of the gardens, the art, and the families who lived in the houses. ♦





## Introducing the Sixth Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research

Genealogists at the American Ancestors Research Center constantly consult the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*. Need to know how counties changed in a certain New England state? Trying to find when a town was settled, divided, or created from nearby areas? Looking to identify a parent town? Want to learn when a town's vital records began? The *Handbook* contains definitive answers.

First published in 1980, the *Handbook* is now available in a new sixth edition. Our first step in planning this latest revision of the principal family history research guide for New England was to analyze how material on each state was presented. While the history, records, and resources of each New England state are unique, we standardized the format across all states to make the guide easier to use.

The next step was to update the resources, repositories, and organiza-

tions for each of the six states. Much has changed in the world of genealogy since the *Handbook's* fifth edition was published in 2012—more original records are accessible online, and more records have been indexed. For example, in 2016 New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston began working together to digitize the Archdiocese's sacramental records and created an online searchable database of millions of sacramental records from over 100 parishes across greater Boston. The dioceses of New York City, Philadelphia, and Chicago all followed suit—their sacramental records are now available through various online sites.

In addition to our devoted editor Rhonda R. McClure, an expert for each state reviewed text and tables

for accuracy, inserting important resources and updates and identifying outdated material. A dedicated group of seven volunteers spent hours scrutinizing the lists of hundreds of repositories and organizations, ensuring that the information was as accurate as possible.

One of our biggest challenges was to identify records and resources unique to each state and determine the best way to present that information within the standardized format. In the fifth edition of the *Handbook*, the town table template for all six states was identical. But these tables did not demonstrate how record availability differed in some of the states. For instance, all records for Rhode Island—with the exception of court records—are created and maintained by the town clerk. Meanwhile, Con-



**Rhonda R. McClure** is Senior Genealogist at American Ancestors/NEHGS.



**Cécile Engeln** is Assistant Publishing Director at American Ancestors/NEHGS.

necticut's towns are responsible for vital and land records, but not necessarily probate, which is handled by an ever-changing system of probate districts. We decided that town tables in the new edition needed to reflect the uniqueness of each New England state, offering the researcher as much useful information as possible.

Finally, we needed to update the design of the book to better serve researchers. In discussion with NEHGS Publications Design Manager Ellen Maxwell, we utilized color to increase navigability and clarity. Each state now has a distinct colored tab, visible on the fore edge of the text block whether the book is closed or open. This new design feature allows researchers to quickly locate specific states. Within each state chapter, secondary tabs indicate each section: first, the state profile; second, the valuable county maps and information; and third, the alphabetical town table.

The *Handbook* already featured helpful maps created for the previous edition. In addition to state maps with county boundary outlines, detailed county maps show not only the existing towns for that county, but also the bordering towns, counties, and states. This presentation can suggest other towns for researchers to investigate and provides a better understanding of how some towns were created from earlier towns (especially if an earlier town is now located in a different county). For the new edition, we improved the map of post-2011 Connecticut probate districts. Previously published in grayscale, the map now uses a variety of colors to distinguish the districts.

The first chapter of *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* includes general information about researching and recordkeeping in New England, a focus on sources for early colonial-era ancestors, and a list of

major New England repositories. Chapters on the six New England states follow, each with the following elements:

## State profile

Each chapter opens with a map of the entire state with county boundaries marked and labeled, and reference given to the states (or province) with which it shares borders. A lengthy profile provides general information about the state and specific information about essential genealogical resources, including:

- Vital Records
- Probate Records
- Land Records (Deeds)
- Church Records
- Military Records
- Court Records
- Other Records

The major state repositories and organizations are listed, with contact information and web addresses:

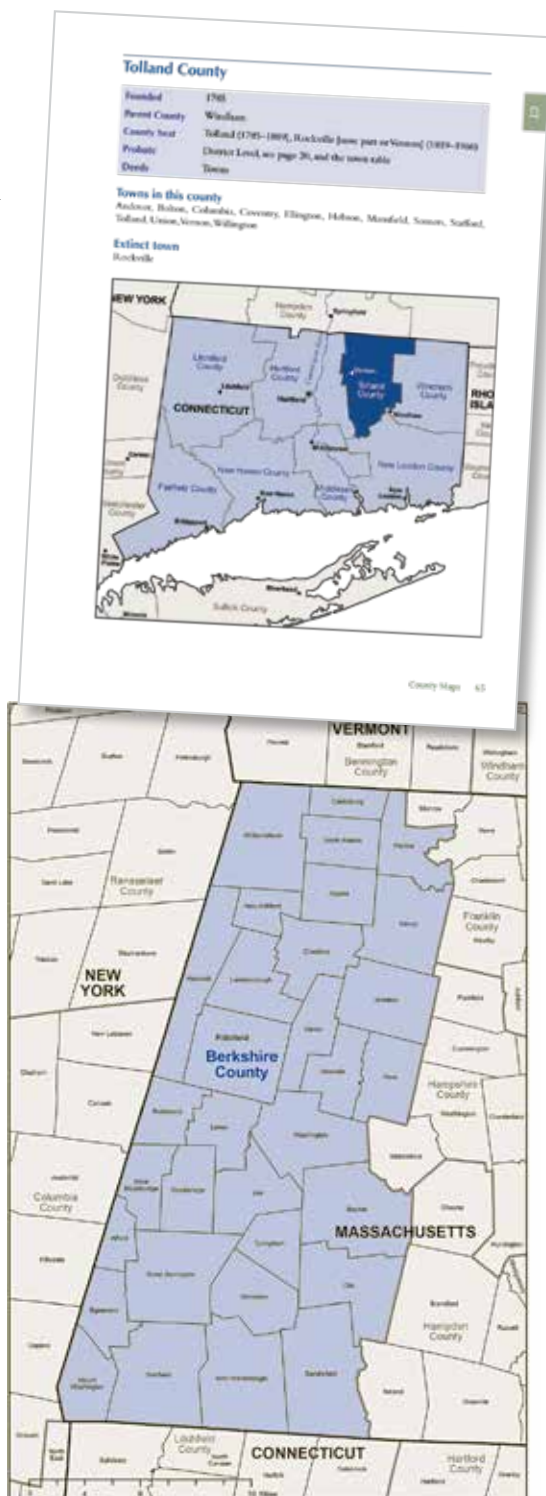
- State archives
- State library
- State judicial archives
- State historical society
- State genealogical society
- Major repositories with extensive collections of interest to genealogists

## County maps

Each individual county has an entry that provides:

- A map of the county, with towns named, including towns in bordering counties
- A map showing the county's placement in its state

- The date of county formation
- Parent county/counties
- The county seat
- Where to find probate records (courthouse, district, or other agency)
- Where to find land deeds (courthouse, district, or other agency)
- A list of towns in the county



Opposite page: Town clerk. Eden Mills, Vermont. 1937. Arthur Rothstein, photographer. Library of Congress, [loc.gov/item/201776277](https://loc.gov/item/201776277).

## Cities, towns, and plantations

This final section contains information about cities and towns (and plantations in the state of Maine). For each state, an extensive table offers the following information:

- Current city/town/plantation name
- Date of grant/incorporation as a town
- County in which the town is currently located
- Parent town(s)
- Daughter town(s)
- Special notes, such as date of settlement, date of original grant, name changes, etc.
- Information on vital and church records available in published form, manuscript, typescript, or on AmericanAncestors.org

After the town table, special tables list extinct towns, unincorporated (and most likely uninhabited) towns, and towns ceded to other states.

For this new edition, we aimed to update and increase the usability of the book while continuing to provide the region's most useful and comprehensive genealogical guide. Ultimately, we want researchers to be able to turn to one book—the new and improved sixth edition of the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*—when they begin work on their New England ancestry. ♦

Town	Inc.	County	Parent Town(s)	Notes	VRs	CRs
Barrington	1717	Bristol	Warren; Swansea, Mass.	Established 1653. Ceded from Mass. 1747.	A, W	A, W
Bristol	1681	Bristol		Established 1680. Ceded from Mass. 1747. Alias: Mt. Hope.	A, P, W	A, W
Burrillville	1806	Providence	Glocester	Established 1730.	A, W	F
Central Falls	1895	Providence	Lincoln	Established 1730.		F
Charlestown	1738	Washington	Westerly	Established 1669.	A, B, W	A, W
Coventry	1741	Kent	Warwick	Established 1639.	A, W	A, W
Cranston	1910	Providence	Providence	Incorporated as a town in 1754. Became a city in 1910.	A, P, W	
Cumberland	1747	Providence	Attleboro, Mass.	Ceded from Mass. 1747. Created from Attleboro Gore. Daughter Town: Woonsocket.	A, W	F
East Greenwich	1677	Kent		Called Dedford from 1678 to 1689. Daughter Town: West Greenwich.	A, B, W	A, B, W
East Providence	1958	Providence	Seekonk, Mass.	Established 1812. Ceded from Mass. 1862 and became a town. Became a city in 1958. Aliases: Rehoboth, Seekonk.	A, W	A, W
Exeter	1743	Washington	North Kingstown	Established 1641.	A, B, W	A, R, W
Foster	1781	Providence	Scituate	Established 1636.	A, W	
Glocester	1731	Providence	Providence	Established 1639. Daughter Town: Burrillville.	A, W	
Hopkinton	1757	Washington	Westerly	Established 1639.	A, B, W	A, W
Jamestown	1678	Newport		Established 1639. Alias: Conanicut.	A, B, W	
Johnston	1759	Providence	Providence	Established 1636.	A, W	
Lincoln	1871	Providence	Smithfield	Established 1650. Daughter Town: Central Falls.		F
Little Compton	1682	Newport		Established 1675. Ceded from Mass. 1747.	A, B, W	A, W

Towns 295



### Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 6th edition

Edited by Rhonda R. McClure

This 450-page book, published by NEHGS, is \$38.95. Place an order by visiting [AmericanAncestors.org/New-England-Handbook](http://AmericanAncestors.org/New-England-Handbook) or calling 1-888-296-3447.



# WORKING WITH PROBATE RECORDS

This article has been adapted from information in the sixth edition of the *Genealogist's Handbook to New England Research* (2021).

## New England Style

For family historians, probate records can often contain a gold mine of information, even when an ancestor or relative hasn't left a will. Probate records are created to distribute a person's land and personal property after death. Wills often name family members and define relationships. Sometimes, if a final distribution of the estate takes a year or more, a widow may have remarried, and her new surname is listed. Guardianship records for younger children may supply names of previously unidentified male relatives.

Some generalizations can be made about probate, whether in New England or elsewhere in the country. When a will is accepted by the court, the probate for that person is known as *testate*. In this case, the documents usually name the spouse, children, and perhaps other family members such as siblings of the deceased, and their residences. When no will exists or the will, for some reason, is not accepted, the probate is *intestate*. The *intestate* probate relies on "heir-at-law" legislation; the laws of the state in which the deceased lived determine who qualifies as an heir and the share of property to which each person is entitled. Although no will exists in *intestate* cases, the distribution of the property can help researchers identify relatives. To learn more about the process, you may need to research the state's laws. Most states organize probate records on the county level, although the exact name of the court may vary; probate and family court, orphans' court, and surrogate's court, are commonly used.

For probate research in New England, first determine what jurisdiction holds the records. Of the six New England states, only Maine, Massachusetts,



"Episcopal Church and Probate Office, Woodbury, Conn.," ca. 1910.

and New Hampshire handle probate records at the county level. (As will be discussed below, some exceptions to county-level recording occurred in earlier records.) Knowing how each state has organized its probate records is key to accessing the information on your ancestors and relatives.

### Connecticut

Connecticut's probate arrangement is more complicated than that of most states. Their records are organized on a district level. The district boundaries have been fluid since the recording of probate began in the 1600s. As with counties, when probate districts became too large, new districts were split off from the original one. While the districts were assigned specific town names, they often encompassed

surrounding towns—at least until new districts were created.

In 2011, Connecticut consolidated probate districts. The previous (fifth) edition of the *Handbook* (2012) indicated the current district for each town. But, since genealogists are usually researching historic districts, understanding the "genealogy" of the probate districts is essential to locating the correct district. The sixth edition of the *Handbook* has addressed the issue of historic districts by identifying the current post-2011 district and also its pre-consolidation district, along with



**Rhonda R. McClure** is the Senior Genealogist at American Ancestors/NEHGS.

the creation date of that earlier district. Cross references to the next earlier district are included, so you can work your way back through districts as needed.

If you visit the American Ancestors Research Center in Boston or have easy access to a Family Search Center or another affiliate library, you can access a useful index available through FamilySearch.org: *General Index to Probate Records: All Districts in Connecticut 1641–1948* (FamilySearch.org/search/catalog/354857). The index consists of cards arranged alphabetically, each showing the name of a person, the associated town, the year of death, the case number, and the relevant district. The types and number of documents in the case file are also listed on the card.

For most of the available probate district cases, each case file includes original written documents, such as a will (if written), inventory, distribution of estate, bonds, receipts, letters, and more, all signed by the individuals responsible for each item.

If you think you can identify the correct probate district, because you

have used the *Handbook* to trace the district's history, have found other family members recorded in a particular historic district, or used the *General Index*, you can access the case files digitally on FamilySearch.org if you are visiting our Research Center, a Family History Center, or another identified affiliate library. The collection can be found in two places:

- *Probate Files Collection, Early to 1880* (FamilySearch.org/search/catalog/141959)
- *Probate Estate Files, 1881–1915* (FamilySearch.org/search/catalog/606675)

When using these collections, examine the pages of Film/Digital Notes to locate the correct probate district in the list of alphabetically arranged districts. Then you can find the correct estate files according to surname and sometimes given name.

Some of the district case files are now available on Ancestry.com, but the districts are identified in a confusing manner. If you use this material on Ancestry, be aware that not all

the records are currently available and that the district you seek might not be identified by name, but only by a subject heading such as “Probate Packets, Butler–Everett, 1830–1880.”

Most Connecticut probate records that include estate packets are arranged alphabetically and chronologically. For instance, a district with many men named William Brown will arrange those packets alphabetically—“Brown, William”—and then chronologically from the earliest death (in perhaps the 1600s) to the latest. The probate records of a few districts are available only in probate copy books, not in estate packets with original documents, as described above. Probate copy books are bound volumes containing facsimiles of important items (such as wills, inventories, and distributions) that were hand-copied by the probate clerk for easy access. If you don't find your ancestor in the *General Index to Probate* mentioned above, search the FamilySearch.org

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Registry of Deeds and Probate Court, Taunton, Mass., ca. 1910.





catalog for your ancestor's town to see whether it was part of a district that only has copy books available.

## Maine

Maine probate records are handled on the county level. Once you know the city or town where your ancestor died, identify the corresponding county at the time of his or her death—which may be different from the current county for the same city or town.

You can find the historic county by using the *Handbook's* town table to identify the current county and then check the county pages to see when the county was created and the name of the parent county.

Although Maine was part of Massachusetts until 1820, early Maine probate records are not found in Massachusetts, but in York County, the state's oldest county, which covered all of present-day Maine. Although York County was founded in 1652, the county's probate records don't begin until 1687. William M. Sargent's *Maine Wills, 1640–1760*, published in 1887, has been digitized and is searchable on AmericanAncestors.org, as *Maine: Early Wills and Deeds, 1640–1760* (AmericanAncestors.org/search/databasesearch/84/maine-early-wills-and-deeds-1640-1760).

Maine's probate copy books—which contain facsimiles of important estate documents—are accessible from home on FamilySearch.org. Books from the following counties are available: Androscoggin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox (arranged by type of document), Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc (arranged by type of document), Somerset, Waldo, Washington, and York. Remember that if a county has copy books arranged by type of document (wills, guardianships, inventories), you may need to check many different volumes for a full picture of your ancestor's estate. When the copy books are not arranged by document type, you generally find the related probate records organized chronologically, in fewer volumes.

Probate packets, or estate files, are available on FamilySearch.org (accessible from home) for Aroostook, Cumberland (beginning in 1908, due to record destruction of earlier years), Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and York.

Check both the copy books and the probate packets to ensure that you have gathered all relevant records for the person you are researching.

## Massachusetts

Massachusetts holds probate on the county level, although some counties have additional satellite offices. The new edition of the *Handbook* lists all of the state's probate offices, including the satellites.

As with Maine, Massachusetts probate records can be found in copy books or full estate packets. Many of these records have been digitized through a partnership with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives and FamilySearch, and are available on AmericanAncestors.org. The website has extensive databases of probate file papers for ten of the state's fourteen counties, created from digital images and an index contributed by the Supreme Judicial Court Archives. (Suffolk County is the only one of the ten that is not complete.) An eleventh county, Barnstable, has a database of probate records from another source.

Suffolk County probate files can be more complicated than those from other counties. The published indexes refer to a docket number, which is also the case file number. Since Suffolk County has both copy books and estate files, researchers must sometimes convert that docket or case file number in order to find the volumes and pages of the copy books. Again, if both probate packets (estate files) and copy books exist, examine both sources. AmericanAncestors.org has estate files and FamilySearch.org has estate files and the copy books.

Once you have found the probate docket number in the online index at AmericanAncestors.org or via the

index on FamilySearch.org and want to examine the Suffolk County copy books, you can follow these steps:<sup>1</sup>

1. Access the *Suffolk County (Massachusetts) Probate Records, 1636–1899* at FamilySearch.org (FamilySearch.org/search/catalog/120561).
2. Find the relevant probate docket number range.
3. Find the page in the docket book with your docket number. The entry will identify the corresponding records that were recorded in the copy books.

In general, when a new county is created, the recording of documents such as probate begins immediately. But that did not happen in the case of Hampshire and Hampden Counties. For an unknown reason, the part of Hampshire County that became Hampden County in 1812 included Springfield, the Hampshire County seat, thus leaving the old courthouse in the new county. Hampshire County got a new courthouse in the new county seat of Northampton, but the county had been in existence prior to 1812. What to do with the older records? A compromise was struck: Hampden County kept the pre-1812 deeds, while Hampshire County moved the pre-1812 probate to their new courthouse. This split of records has caused a great deal of confusion for researchers in this area of Massachusetts.

## New Hampshire

New Hampshire also files probate records on the county level. For many counties, the copy books are arranged by record type: administration accounts, bonds, guardian records, distributions, wills, etc.

Most counties began recording probate when the county was formed. Again, the county pages in the sixth edition of the *Handbook* note when each county was created and names the parent county.



The five original New Hampshire counties—Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Rockingham, and Strafford—were established in 1769. County recordkeeping didn't begin until 1771, but people had settled in New Hampshire well before that date. For the pre-county period, New Hampshire has a collection of deeds and probate known as the Provincial Papers that covers the years 1623 to 1772. A collection index guides users to the appropriate provincial deeds and probate copy books. This collection has been digitized on FamilySearch.org; you must visit a Family History Center or an affiliate library such as the American Ancestors Research Center in order to use it. The Provincial Papers is an essential set of documents for anyone whose ancestors settled in New Hampshire in the colonial era.

As with Maine and Massachusetts, researchers should identify the county where an ancestor lived at the time of his or her death, to ensure they are looking for probate records in the right location. Sometimes record destruction accounts for a lack of records; Coos County, created in 1803, suffered a fire in 1887 that destroyed all of its probate records.

## Rhode Island

Rhode Island is the only state in which the probate records—indeed, all records except for court records—are held at the town level. Unfortunately, this arrangement means that researchers must know the town in which an ancestor lived before an effective search for probate can be undertaken.

In some cases, probate records were handled by the town council and combined with town council minutes. No state-wide index exists for Rhode Island probate records. Most towns offer a separate index volume to their probate records. Many of these indexes are now available digitally through FamilySearch.org, via a Family History Center or an affiliate library such as the American Ancestors Research Center. Years of availability and ease of access vary from town to town.

AmericanAncestors.org offers a database, *Providence, RI: Index to Probate, 1646–1899*, that supplies docket numbers. As with Suffolk County, Massachusetts (above), researchers need to look up the docket number to identify the volumes and pages of the copy books. The docket index is located on FamilySearch.org.

## Vermont

Vermont's probate records are arranged by probate district. Until recently, some counties served as single coterminous probate districts, while other counties were split into two probate districts. Counties with two districts were divided geographically.

In some counties with two districts, records for one district are older than those of the other district. Similar to the expansion of the probate districts in Connecticut, a population increase would lead to the formation of a second district. For instance, in Addison County, Addison District was formed in 1785 to serve the entire county. In 1824 a second district, the New Haven District, was created. Unfortunately, a fire at Addison's courthouse on February 25, 1852, destroyed many records, including the complete pre-1824 county records, as well as those of Addison District from 1824 to 1852.

By 2011 the counties with two districts were merged, so each county again represents a single probate district. But for family historians, the district where probate records are likely to be found is based on the year and town of interest. These records are largely available through FamilySearch.org. Many of them are copy books, although some counties have made the estate files (probate packets) available, usually arranged alphabetically and, within each surname, chronologically. Some counties' probate records can be viewed from home via FamilySearch.org, while others require that you access the digital records through a FamilySearch Center or library affiliate. Additionally, some of the counties' records may not extend into the late 1800s, so

you may need to contact the probate court at a county courthouse; those addresses, phone numbers, and websites are included in the *Handbook*.



Probate records are essential for family history and New England's six states hold excellent records that often begin in the colonial era. Researchers who have used probate in other areas of the country might find the varied and sometimes complicated probate arrangements in New England to be a challenge, but understanding how each state handles probate will lead you to the existing records. ♦

## NOTE

<sup>1</sup> Further details about notations in the Suffolk County docket books are included here, as this information is not currently provided on FamilySearch. 1. A superscripted 2 in a volume indicates that there is a second volume of that number, usually on the same roll of film—within the same set of images on FamilySearch. 2. The notation *N.S.* refers to a set of volumes known as a New Series, with volume numbers from 1–42. Unfortunately, since the old series and new series both have volumes 1–42, two books were placed in the wrong series during microfilming. Volumes 8 and 19 found in the old series microfilm are actually volumes 8 and 19 of the new series. If the docket book refers to these two volumes without the *N.S.* notation, consult the new series volumes 8 and 19 to find the original probate volumes referenced in the docket book. Similarly, references to *N.S.* volumes 8 and 19 can be found in the old series. 3. A "Misc." notation sometimes appears in the alphabetical index that supplies the docket number. "Misc." refers to a Miscellaneous Docket, a collection of various documents, including estates that only appear in the probate packets. The Miscellaneous Docket is arranged alphabetically and lists the copy book volume and page for each item. The only option for accessing the material is to view the copy books.



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# THE PILGRIM STORY IN POPULAR CULTURE

*This article is adapted from Made in America: The Pilgrim Story & How It Grew, published in 2020 by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants*

The founder of Plimoth Plantation (now Plimoth Patuxet), Harry Hornblower II, once observed that “the difficulty of the Pilgrim Story is that there are really two stories—a true historical one and a romantic one.” The former is the documentary account of the historical Plymouth colonists; the other, the cultural construct of “The Pilgrims” that gave meaning to the colonists’ enterprise. Sober history may deserve precedence over the romantic, but the exemplary influence of “The Pilgrims” on American culture has a relevance in its own right. What *Made in America* investigates is how these two contrasting strands of Plymouth history—the archival history of Plymouth Colony and the legendary “Pilgrim Story”—became such a pervasive and lasting influence on our national heritage.

Without “The Pilgrims,” our Thanksgiving holiday would be unrecognizable, and there would be no Plymouth Rock, Pilgrim Hall, or Plimoth Plantation. We would lack stories and myths of the landing on Plymouth Rock; the “five kernels of parched corn”;<sup>1</sup> Longfellow’s romantic triangle of John Alden, Priscilla Mullins, and Myles Standish; and the First Thanksgiving. Although absent from the primary sources, these tales have exerted too strong a social influence to be ignored or casually discarded. The stories are expressions of the values and traditions that defined American culture over the past two centuries. Every society needs narratives that give meaning to the bare facts of history. We need to appreciate the role of the Pilgrim Story to better understand the circumstances by which those particular colonists were apotheosized as America’s honorary ancestors.

The curious thing is that the *Mayflower* colonists and their descendants were only modestly successful during the 72 years of Plymouth

Colony’s independent existence. Plymouth was never economically prosperous, nor did it produce any notable art, literature (Governor Bradford’s chronicle aside), or military or diplomatic triumphs. What it did exhibit in retrospect was integrity—of steadfast endurance and modest respectability. As Harvard pastor Peter Gomes noted, “In the contest of ideals, the Pilgrims always won, for they had virtue without power or responsibility. Their very ordinariness commended them to a nation unwilling to be embarrassed by demands of excellence. Because they left so little, they could be blamed for little.”<sup>2</sup>

The Plymouth colonists *did* aspire to make their mark on history, foremost as a model of a Christian commonwealth. Governor William Bradford was once confident that the colony had served as a beacon, exclaiming in 1630 “so the light here kindled hath shone to many, yea in some sort to our whole nation; let the glorious name of Jehovah have all the praise.” Early New England histories such as Nathaniel



**James W. Baker** served as Research Librarian and Director of Research at Plimoth Plantation from 1975 to 2001, and Curator at the Alden House Historic Site in Duxbury, Massachusetts, from 2002 to 2009. He has published several books, including *Thanksgiving: The Biography of an American Holiday* (2009).





Morton's *New England's Memorial* (1669), Cotton Mather's *Magnalia* (1702), and Thomas Prince's *Chronological History of New England* (1736) promoted Plymouth's role as the progenitor of the region by recounting the Old Colony's documented origins.

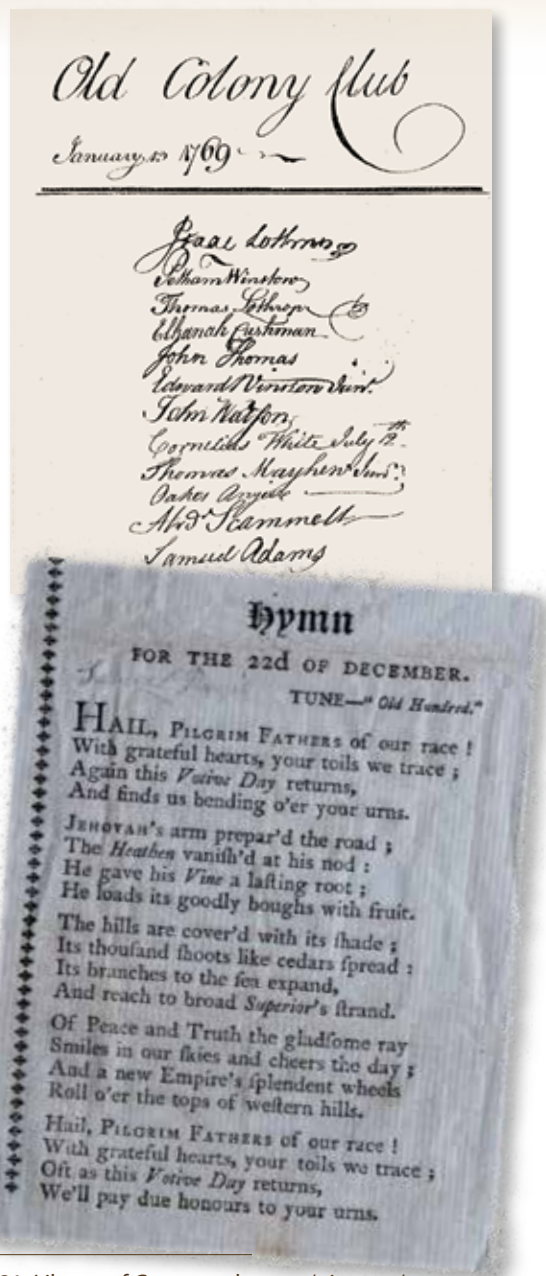
At the time of the American Revolution, however, the historical narrative was expanded to supply explicit inspiration as well as implicit information. The necessity for a unifying federal identity required a sublime exercise in promotion to furnish justification for the unprecedented establishment of a new nation. New England writers predictably chose their own forebears as the candidates for an etiological or foundational myth of the United States, and as they had a corner on the American publishing trade and education, their vision prevailed.

Promotion of the Pilgrim Story was also an exercise in the legitimization of their own interests, embedded in what was once called "Anglo-Saxon" culture and later termed nativist. The process began locally in a small way. In 1769, a group of elite young Plymouth men founded the "Old Colony Club" in honor of their *Mayflower* ancestors. The club chose the anniversary of the Plymouth landing of the *Mayflower* exploring party—December 22, 1620

(actually getting the date wrong, but that's another matter)—for annual commemoration. "Forefathers' Rock," where the landing was believed to have occurred, was conscripted as an icon for the 1620 event. The Old Colony Club called the date "Forefathers' Day."

"Forefathers' Day" was then adopted by Massachusetts Federalists. The Plymouth forefathers were renamed the "Pilgrim Fathers" by Bostonians who embraced the holiday as a patriotic festival in 1798. The New England Societies of New York (1805) and Charleston, South Carolina (1819), followed suit. The objective history of the Pilgrim immigrants was recast as a heroic saga incorporating the major civic and religious virtues Puritan New England had allegedly passed on to the nascent United States.

The original Pilgrim epic concentrated on the hazardous *Mayflower* voyage from the *Speedwell's* embarkation at Delftshaven to the remaining colonists' exhausted survival after



Top: Personnel of the Tercentenary Pageant, "The Pilgrim Spirit," Plymouth, Mass., 1921. Library of Congress, loc.gov/pictures/resource/pan.6a25561. The author's mother, F(rances) Jane Cooper Baker (age 13), appears in the photo. Above left: Detail of Thanksgiving menu at Quincy House, Boston, Mass., 1899. New York Public Library Digital Collections. Above right: Membership of the 1769–73 Old Colony Club of Plymouth. Author's collection. Above: "Hymn For the 22d of December" by Samuel Davis of Plymouth, published on the 1800 Sons of the Pilgrims song lyrics broadside. Author's collection.

the fatal "First Winter." In this narrative, the indomitable Christian faith of John Robinson's Pilgrim congregation made possible the immigrants' courageous voyage into the unknown, their perseverance in the face of unexpected adversity, the adoption of a democratic solution to communal unrest, and the stalwart endurance in which they established a new commonwealth. The climax of the epic was the landing on Plymouth Rock, but the Mayflower Compact and perilous expeditions of discovery and providential interaction with the native Wampanoag were significant elements.

This rather grim depiction of suffering and rectitude would be offset after the 1840s by two tropes that moderated the austere plaster-saint image of the Pilgrims. The legend of the courtship involving Miles Standish, John Alden, and Priscilla Mullins humanized Pilgrims as individuals while the "First Thanksgiving" story added a note of racial harmony, as well as supplying a more satisfying denouement to the original *Mayflower* epic.

### Growing the Pilgrim story

Initially the Pilgrim adventure and its imputed significance was conveyed through sermons, orations, and texts, but in the years that followed, the Pilgrim Story (the emotive rather than the historical version) underwent an allegorical efflorescence that reached into every corner of popular culture. The impact of the Pilgrim Story can be traced through a variety of media and shifting interpretations, allowing the opportunity to correct misunderstandings and uncover lesser-known details from the Plymouth chronicle.

Forefathers' Day was the primary occasion for Pilgrim commemoration before Thanksgiving overshadowed it in the twentieth century. Annual gatherings of New England Societies and Congregational Church Clubs

attracted notable speakers during the nineteenth century, such as John Quincy Adams (1802), Daniel Webster (1820), William H. Seward (1855), William Lloyd Garrison (1856), and Ralph Waldo Emerson (1870). Even more effective were the major anniversaries when all the celebratory stops were pulled out in Plymouth and elsewhere. Between 1820 and 1995, parades, buildings decked with greenery or bunting, massive public dinners (with orations), pageants and fireworks sanctified these occasions. The climactic celebration took place in 1920–21, after which enthusiasm for the *Mayflower* adventure was somewhat depleted.

Similarly, plays and fiction about the early colony—inoffensive and well-intentioned at best but often disconcertingly apocryphal—further expanded the range of Pilgrim folklore, as they were often taken as suggestively truthful. Of all the fiction writers between Joseph Crosswell's 1802 melodrama *A New World Planted* and Ernest G bler's *The Plymouth Adventure* (1950), Jane G. Austin (1831–1894) inadvertently contributed more to Pilgrim mythology than any other author. Several of her historical novels and short story collections about her Plymouth Colony ancestors had sufficient verisimilitude to convince readers that they were authentic history—such as Dorothy Bradford's alleged suicide or the First Thanksgiving episode in *Standish of Standish* (1889).

The Victorian passion for monuments, statuary, and memorials gen-

erated numerous Pilgrim edifices and markers, ranging in magnitude from Provincetown's 252-foot Italianate tower, Duxbury's 116-foot Standish monument, and Plymouth's 81-foot Forefathers' granite sculptures to the scattering of bronze tablets deposited wherever *Mayflower* passengers had tarried, lived, or died. In Plymouth itself, the Pilgrim Society (1819) constructed a granite hall in 1824 intended for filiopietistic commemorations that became an internationally known museum of Pilgrim art, relics, and local artifacts.

The initial basis of the Pilgrim Story may have been rhetorical, but easily recognizable visual images were an equally crucial step in constructing a positive cultural identity. The earliest depictions of the *Mayflower* immigrants included both anachronistic but respectful engravings such as the 1799 Sons of the Pilgrims' Forefathers' Day invitation by Samuel Hill (which spawned innumerable imitations) and enormous colorful history paintings, including Henry Sargent's *Landing of the Pilgrims* (1818) and Robert Weir's *Embarkation of the Pilgrims at Delft Haven* (1843).





Longfellow's best-selling *Courtship of Miles Standish* (1848) created a much-loved American romance that inspired many artists, from George Boughton to N. C. Wyeth. The transformation of the 1621 harvest celebration into the nation's "First Thanksgiving," with its peaceful portrayal of the Pilgrims and Massasoit's Wampanoag, began as a footnote in Alexander Young's *Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers* (1841) but didn't gain cultural traction until the close of the nineteenth century. Art by Jennie Brownscombe (1914), J. L. G. Ferris (1915), Percy Moran (1920), and others was inspired by the First Thanks-

giving, which has since become the dominant Pilgrim theme in popular imagination, overtaking Plymouth Rock and the *Courtship* as the primary representation of the Pilgrim Story both visually and literarily.

Graphic illustration and caricature led to the familiar stereotypes of black clothes with huge white collars, tall-buckled hats, blunderbusses, and Thanksgiving turkeys—all of which now connote "Pilgrim." Despite material culture research that refuted such parodies, the identification became too popularly ingrained to be rejected. Stereotypical caricatures in publications such as *Bill Nye's Comic History of the United States* (1894) and *Puck*, *Judge*, and *Life* magazines indelibly implanted the black-and-white Pilgrim/Puritan trope in the popular imagination. Satiric depictions of the pretensions of *Mayflower* descendency, antiques alleged to have come over on the *Mayflower*, and attacks by Indigenous archers on Pilgrims hunting or wandering in the wilderness were perennial favorites, in addition to the First Thanksgiving.

Once Thanksgiving rather than Plymouth Rock and Forefathers' Day became the primary Plymouth theme, an interesting iconographic shift occurred in the early twentieth century. Images of the Pilgrims had earlier almost

universally depicted the stern wintry conditions of the *Mayflower's* arrival (or of John Alden's romance), and Thanksgiving itself was visualized as an early winter occasion with sleigh-rides and cozy firesides. When Thanksgiving was redefined as a harvest celebration, both the holiday and the Pilgrims themselves came to occupy an autumnal world of pumpkins, corn stalks, and falling leaves.

### Selling the Pilgrim brand

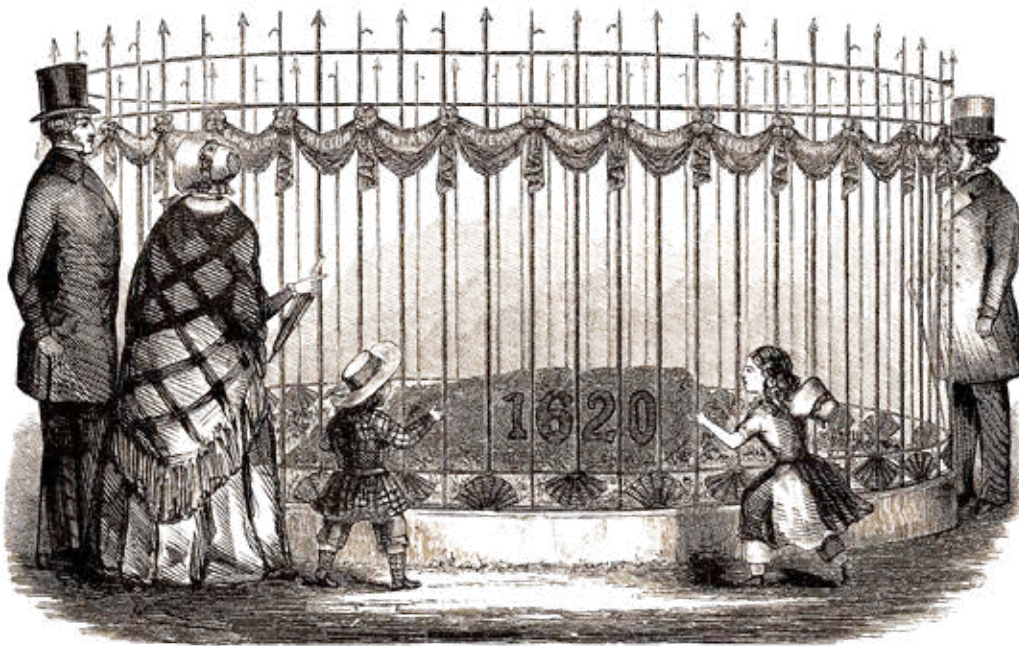
Images of the *Mayflower* colonists were absorbed into the massive proliferation of advertising that accompanied the shift from bulk sales to brand-name mass merchandising in the late nineteenth century. "Plymouth Rock Pants," Nabisco's "John Alden Molasses Cookies," Eatmor's "Myles Standish" and "Mayflower" cranberries, Towle's "Mary Chilton" silverware, and "Plymouth Rock Phosphated Gelatin" were a few of the myriad Pilgrim brands. Having a Pilgrim illustration on a label was often just simple product differentiation, but in some cases may have been in part an effort at aesthetic valorization. Given the suspect social status of tobacco and alcohol, John Carver cigars, Old Colony pipe tobacco, John Alden cigarettes, Pilgrim Rum, Plymouth Rock Bourbon Whiskey, and Pilgrim Ale could benefit by appropriating some of the Pilgrims' purity and virtue.

Pilgrim images proliferated in the souvenir trade. Ranging from a "piece of the rock" itself to generic objects with "Plymouth, Mass." stamped on them, these tokens of remembrance served generations of visitors as evidence that they indeed had followed in Pilgrim footsteps. The famous Rock was

Above: George H. Boughton's *Priscilla and John Alden*, New York Public Library Digital Collections. Left: A label from Mayflower Brand cranberries, ca. 1925. Collection of Lynn Betlock.







Visitors to Plymouth Rock, Plymouth. *Gleason's Pictorial*, October 2, 1852. Archive.org.

plundered for relics from an early date, as Alexis de Tocqueville noted in the 1830s:

This Rock became an object of veneration in the United States. I have seen bits of it carefully preserved in several towns of the Union. . . . Here is a stone which the feet of a few outcasts pressed for an instant; and the stone becomes famous; it is treasured by a great nation; its very dust is shared as a relic—but what has become of the doorsteps of a thousand palaces? Who troubles himself about them?<sup>3</sup>

Commercially produced Pilgrim souvenirs for those unable to collect their own bits of the Rock began in 1820 with a line of ceramic transferware by the British firm of Enoch Wood and Sons, bearing Samuel Hill's *Landing* image. Plymouth merchants, in particular the enterprising Alfred S. Burbank, hastened to supply *Mayflower* keepsakes and generic kitsch to the tourist trade—the results of which can be found on eBay and in antique shops today. Postcards became an enormous fad after the mailing cost was reduced to one cent in 1898. From 1907 to 1915, Americans sent hundreds of millions of postcards every year, of which Burbank's Plymouth and Pilgrim images had a fair share.

### The pedagogic Pilgrim

The Pilgrim Story was utilized in the antebellum era as an educational tool for instilling moral and patriotic values in American children through juvenile histories and didactic publications by organizations such as the Massachusetts Sabbath School Society and the American Sunday School Union. The Pilgrims were similarly pressed into service for the Americanization of immigrants when “Old Americans” feared the potential eclipse of Anglo-American ethnicity at the turn of the twentieth century. So much emphasis was placed on the Pilgrim Story as a vehicle for childhood instruction that the subject underwent juvenilization. The vast majority of publications about the Plymouth adventure have for years been children's literature—aside from the most recent spate of titles inspired by the 2020 anniversary.

Museums also interpreted Plymouth Colony history. Pilgrim Hall and Plimoth Plantation (and the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum) featured collections and exhibits representing the history of the Pilgrims. Pilgrim Hall displayed numerous artworks depicting the best-known scenes from the Pilgrim Story but also held an unparalleled collection

of historic Plymouth artifacts, some with a reliable provenance as Pilgrim possessions. The interpretive content remained traditional until the 1970s and was later updated to address contemporary standards. However, beginning in the 1950s, like most gallery museums, Pilgrim Hall was seen as too static for modern visitors in an age of television and open-air reconstructions. A Pilgrim Society committee was established to look into alternative ways to “bring the Pilgrim Story to life.”

The result was Plimoth Plantation, the brainchild of Henry Hornblower II, whose family had a summer home in Plymouth. The Plantation began in 1948 with a small reproduction house near Plymouth Rock, but the vision and scope of the institution changed in 1958 when the Hornblower family granted the organization a sizable property on Warren Avenue bordering the Eel River. The goal of the new open-air museum was to actively depict early Plymouth rather than just reference it. The addition of a Wampanoag homesite and the introduction of first-person living history in 1978 resulted in an internationally recognized interpretive program. Plymouth now had more to offer visitors than historic sites and a scattering of monuments.

## Tying up loose ends

The final chapter in *Made in America* is comprised of 23 short topical sections on common misunderstandings and outmoded myths concerning the Pilgrims that have appeared over the past two centuries. For example, the Plymouth colonists were long believed to have built log cabins—although they never did. English colonists had no knowledge of this type of structure, but since the log cabin was a potent symbol of pioneer virtue, it was duly associated with them. Other myths include the contention that the *Mayflower* was a slave ship; that Myles Standish was a Catholic and Priscilla Mullins a Huguenot; that a printing press was used to repair a beam on the *Mayflower*; that a barn in England was built from the timbers of the Pilgrim vessel; that Squanto had been captured twice by European slavers; and that no turkey was eaten at the First Thanksgiving.

Egregious contemporary misrepresentations in which the Pilgrims are vilified as archetypal imperialists and racists are also addressed. Having long enjoyed exaggerated if naive credit as America's emblematic European immigrants, unsurprisingly the Pilgrims became an obvious symbolic target for

those who deplore the invasive effects of colonization. However, attempts to misrepresent the interactions between the Pilgrims and Indigenous peoples only lay the foundation for new myths.

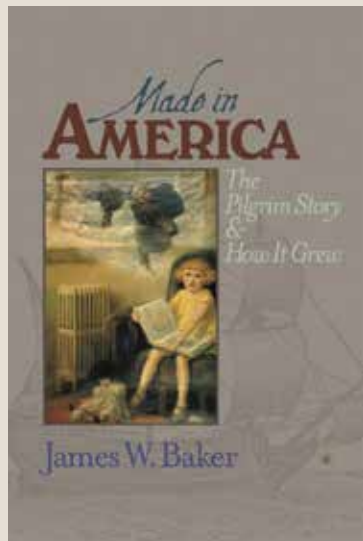
Innumerable accounts of and inquiries into Plymouth Colony's place in American history and a similar number of commentaries on the *Mayflower* Pilgrims' contested cultural significance have been published. My interest was not to revisit such well-trodden ground but examine instead why Plymouth's modest, middle-status founders were chosen as cultural exemplars and how their fame

was generated. The Plymouth colonists have long been accorded a central role in America's civic folklore through their archetypal depiction as "The Pilgrims." Blessed and burdened as the font of national virtue and founders of America's Thanksgiving holiday, the Pilgrims and their fluctuating repu-

## Made in America

The first chapters of this fascinating book discuss why the Plymouth colonists were chosen as exemplars and how they were initially represented in historical accounts. Subsequent chapters focus on how invented narratives and various mediums of social communication contributed to the production of meaning and popularization of the Pilgrim Story.

*Made in America: The Pilgrim Story and How It Grew* (General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2020) by James W. Baker is available from [shop.themayflowersociety.org](http://shop.themayflowersociety.org).



tation encapsulates the contest of myth and fact in the construction of popular history. ♦

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> According to this myth, during the harsh first winter in Plymouth the Pilgrims sometimes survived on a mere five kernels of corn a day. See Heather Wilkinson Rojo, "The Five Kernels of Corn Myth at Thanksgiving," at [nutfieldgenealogy.blogspot.com/2016/11/the-five-kernels-of-corn-myth-at.html](http://nutfieldgenealogy.blogspot.com/2016/11/the-five-kernels-of-corn-myth-at.html).
- <sup>2</sup> Peter J. Gomes. "Pilgrims and Puritans: 'Heroes' and 'Villains' in the Creation of the American Past," *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 3rd series, vol. 95 (1983): 13.
- <sup>3</sup> Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*, vol. 1 (Cambridge, Mass.: Sever and Francis, 1863), 41, footnote.



Teapot with image of Priscilla and John Alden, Courtship of Miles Standish pattern, c. 1900–15, Sterling China Co., Ohio. Collection of Lynn Betlock.





# 1621

In the years immediately preceding 2020, the 400th anniversary of the Plymouth Colony was anticipated with a renewed focus on Pilgrim and Native New England scholarship. Although most of the tours, exhibits, and gatherings planned for 2020 were canceled due to the pandemic, our understanding of the English and Dutch origins of the colony, and Pilgrim and Native life in New England, was significantly augmented and enhanced by this new wave of historical research. Now, in 2021, with the 400th anniversary of the first Thanksgiving nearly upon us, we are looking beyond 1620. This article, part of a planned yearly series, addresses what happened in New England after the calendar turned to 1621. —Editor

When the *Mayflower* sailed for England on April 5, 1621, having been anchored in Plymouth Harbor for the winter, it left behind about fifty survivors of the hundred or so who had made the voyage to New England the year before. This small community of English men, women, and children was at that time and would be for the next year the only permanent settlement of Europeans in what would become New England. There were small seasonal groupings of English fishermen farther north, especially at Monhegan Island off the coast of Maine, but these were not yet year-round establishments.

This article will survey developments in the settlement of New England in 1621, the year considered as running from spring 1621 to spring 1622, consonant with what would become the usual sailing season for passenger vessels during the Great Migration. We will first review the events at Plymouth, note the arrival of the passengers on the *Fortune*, and then explore the plans being made in England for further settlement in 1622.<sup>1</sup>

In early April, soon after the *Mayflower* departed for England, the survivors, aided by Squanto, began to plant their crops and fish for alewives. While engaged in these agricultural activities, Governor John Carver fell ill and died sometime in April; his wife died about

five or six weeks later.<sup>2</sup> William Bradford was then chosen Governor, with Isaac Allerton being made Assistant. These two officers continued to lead the colony at Plymouth for several years.<sup>3</sup>

Most of the men, women, and children spent the summer hunting and fishing and tending to the crops in the ground. Also, during this season, some of the able-bodied men, assisted by Squanto, were sent on a variety of diplomatic and military expeditions into the adjoining countryside. The first of these was a mission, led by Stephen Hopkins and Edward Winslow, to Pokanoket (near present Bristol, Rhode Island). This was the habitat of Massasoit, sachem of the Wampanoags, a tribe that had been much diminished in the plague that had hit this area three years earlier.<sup>4</sup>

Shortly after this mission, word came to Bradford that John Billington, son of John Billington of the *Mayflower*, had become lost in the woods and was now in the hands of the Nauset Indians. Winslow was again sent out as an emissary to retrieve the boy. This episode provided an opportunity for the Plymouth settlers to make amends to this tribe for the corn that the Pilgrims had stolen shortly after the *Mayflower* arrived in New England.<sup>5</sup>

In August Bradford learned that Massasoit was being challenged by

his neighbors, the Narragansetts, a much stronger tribe, and also by Corbitant, who led a faction of the Wampanoags. Bradford sent Captain Myles Standish with about a dozen armed men to Namasket (present-day Middleborough) to gather intelligence and restore the peace. Standish and his party were able to rescue Squanto, who had been captured by Corbitant.<sup>6</sup> Finally, in mid-September, Bradford sent an exploration party to Massachusetts Bay. The group made contact with some members of the Massachusetts tribe and engaged in barter with them before returning to Plymouth.<sup>7</sup>

The summer being over, the harvest was brought in and the Plymouth planters, joined by Massasoit and some of his men, held a three-day feast. This celebration has been considered by some to be the first Thanksgiving. The Church of England, and the nascent Congregational Church in New England, frequently declared days of thanksgiving to thank God for his



**Robert Charles Anderson, FASG**, author of *The Mayflower Migration and nineteen other books*, became Director of the Great Migration Study Project in 1988.



goodness in providing for their needs, and this was certainly such an event.<sup>8</sup>

Not long after this feast, on November 9, 1621, the *Fortune* sailed into Plymouth Harbor, carrying thirty-six passengers led by Robert Cushman, one of the men who had negotiated with the London merchants in preparation for the sailing of the *Mayflower* the year before. No passenger list for the *Fortune* survives, but the 1623 Plymouth land division names thirty-two of the passengers who were still living at Plymouth at that time. In 1974 Robert S. Wakefield carried out a careful analysis of the land division and his resulting list stands as a reliable substitute for a passenger list.<sup>9</sup>

Only three of the passengers on the *Fortune* were from Leiden: Robert Cushman, Philip Delano, and Moses Simonson. The rest had been recruited by the London merchants and probably did not share the religious beliefs of those who had been members of John Robinson's church in Leiden. Certainly, Bradford was not pleased to see them added to his little colony, calling them "ill-conditioned people, who will never do good, but corrupt and abuse others."<sup>10</sup>

The year 1621 would not see any further migration to Plymouth, or to anywhere else in New England, for that

matter. But the *Fortune* had carried to New England the seeds of the migration to occur in 1622. Thomas Weston, one of the London merchants who had been involved in the preparations for the sailing of the *Mayflower*,<sup>11</sup> had sent a letter on the *Fortune*, dated at London on July 6, 1621, and addressed to Governor John Carver. (Weston was apparently still unaware that Carver had died and been replaced by Bradford.) Weston chastised the Plymouth colonists for not properly lading the *Mayflower* with salable merchandise on its return trip in early 1621, but proclaimed that "I promise you, I will never quit the business, though all the other adventurers should."<sup>12</sup> In other words, no matter what the other merchants who were assisting the Pilgrims might do, Weston was claiming that he would never be disloyal to the Plymouth settlers.

Weston also declared that "We have procured you a Charter the best we could, which is better than your former, and with less limitation."<sup>13</sup> The Pilgrims had obtained a charter from the Virginia Company, but on November 3, 1620, the territory where they settled had come under the control of the newly organized Council for New England. The new charter sent by Weston, known as the "second

Peirce patent," was the first known grant made by the Council for New England and was dated June 1, 1621.<sup>14</sup> What Weston did not say, and perhaps did not yet himself know, was that, despite his promise, he would soon abandon the Plymouth settlers, obtain his own

patent for New England land from the Council for New England, and attempt in 1622 to establish his own New World plantation on the south shore of Massachusetts Bay, just twenty-five miles north of Plymouth. ♦

An article by Robert Charles Anderson on the events in New England in 1622 is planned for the fall 2022 issue of *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> We rely on two contemporary sources for our knowledge of the events at Plymouth in 1621: William Bradford, *Of Plimoth Plantation*, ed. Kenneth P. Minkema, Francis J. Bremer and Jeremy D. Bangs (Boston: The Colonial Society of Massachusetts and NEHGS, 2020); and [Edward Winslow], *A Journal of the Pilgrims at Plymouth: Mourt's Relation*, ed. Dwight B. Heath (New York: Corinth Books, 1963).

<sup>2</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, *The Mayflower Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth, 1620* (Boston: NEHGS, 2020), 54–56.

<sup>3</sup> Bradford [note 1], 200–1.

<sup>4</sup> Bradford [note 1], 202–4; Mourt [note 1], 60–68.

<sup>5</sup> Anderson, *Mayflower Migration* [note 2], 31–34. Bradford [note 1], 205; Mourt [note 1], 69–72. Bradford and Mourt provide conflicting dates for this event and for the journey to Pokanoket, but both episodes seem to have taken place in July 1621.

<sup>6</sup> Bradford [note 1], 205–6; Mourt [note 1], 73–76.

<sup>7</sup> Bradford [note 1], 207; Mourt [note 1], 77–80.

<sup>8</sup> Mourt [note 1], 82; Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, *Strangers and Pilgrims: Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation* (Plymouth, Massachusetts: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2009), 643–46.

<sup>9</sup> Robert S. Wakefield, "The 1623 Plymouth Land Division," *The Mayflower Quarterly* 40 (1974):7–9, 5501–56.

<sup>10</sup> Bradford [note 1], 211–12.

<sup>11</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony, 1620–1633* (Boston: NEHGS, 2004), 490–93.

<sup>12</sup> Bradford [note 1], 209–10.

<sup>13</sup> Bradford [note 1], 209.

<sup>14</sup> Samuel F. Haven, *History of Grants Under the Great Council for New England* (Boston: 1869), 26.



Opposite page: "The Departure of the Mayflower," from an early 20th-century postcard. Left: The Second Peirce Patent. Image courtesy of the Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, Massachusetts.



“It’s the stories, not the stuff”

For more than twenty years, Matt Paxton has helped homeowners sort through their accumulated possessions. What began as a small attic-cleaning business developed into the hit A&E show *Hoarders*, which was renowned for its compassionate and resourceful approach. Driven by his fascination with family stories, Paxton launched *Legacy List with Matt Paxton* on PBS in 2019. Using time-tested organizational techniques and genealogical and historical research, the *Legacy List with Matt Paxton* team of Matt Paxton, Jaime Ebanks, Avi Hopkins, Mike Kelleher, and Lex Reeves helps people downsize their inherited family history collections while preserving the stories behind their possessions. Senior Editor Jean Powers spoke with Matt about his work and what family historians can learn from the show.

Helping people sort through a lifetime of accumulated stuff takes a lot of patience and compassion. How did you get into this line of work?

I lost my dad, my stepdad, both my grandfathers, and one grandmother in 2002, when I was 24. After they died, I went through their houses, and sorting through their stuff brought up memories of the stories they told. My dad was a character. I went through his house first. I found his *Miami Vice*-style jacket. The week before he died, he cut off the ponytail he’d had since the 1980s and put it in the back of a drawer. I found it three months later. He died twelve years before my kids were born, but my sons know their grandfather because I tell them his stories.

I got into this work because I really enjoyed hearing the stories. I started cleaning attics, and word got around in our church. One time I found matchbooks from a restaurant that no longer existed, and the homeowner told me that she and her girlfriends would pick up soldiers returning from the war [World War II] at the train station and walk with them to the restaurant to dance and stay out until ten at night. Hearing an 80-year-old describe her 18-year-old self was fascinating, and I know she enjoyed sharing her stories. I started getting calls from people who had lived in one house over fifty or so years and amassed a lot of belongings and didn’t know how to begin the decluttering process. They knew that I’d walk them through the steps and



**Jean Powers** is Senior Editor at American Ancestors/NEHGS.



**Matt Paxton** is a downsizing and cleaning expert, television host, author, and host of *Legacy List with Matt Paxton*.

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respect their memories instead of just stuffing everything into donation bags.

#### What is the process for guests on *Legacy List with Matt Paxton*?

The process begins with the creation of a list of five treasured items. If your house burns down, what would you want to save? From this list of possessions, future generations will be able to connect with the most important stories of you and your ancestors.

*Legacy List with Matt Paxton* has two main goals for guests. We want people to know that they CAN downsize, and we help them get started. We also want to help them explore their family history and create legacy lists. The show gives our guests a voice so they can share these great stories with our audience.

#### There's a running joke among genealogists about the fine line between hoarder and family historian.

Yes, I first went to the RootsTech conference when *Hoarders* was gaining popularity, and everyone knew the show. I'm not used to being that well known. I think the show also made genealogists feel better about their collections, which were meaningful and informative, not just an accumulation of stuff.

Your *Hoarders* subjects were constantly acquiring more things through shopping or trash-picking etc., whereas family historians are absorbing all the heirlooms and documents of multiple branches of the family.

On *Hoarders* we discussed how the fixation on a "perfect past or fake future" prevents one from living in the present. We hold onto an idealized past or we buy things to prepare for an amazing future, and it keeps us from facing

the struggles of the life we have right now. Hoarders have often experienced severe pain and trauma and are looking for happiness and self-worth in material possessions.

The *Legacy List with Matt Paxton* situation is different. The people we work with are inheriting their parents' or grandparents' houses and collections. These earlier generations worked hard and were proud of the lives they built for themselves and the things they were able to buy for their families. They saved these many items because they wanted their children and grandchildren to be able to enjoy the possessions their parents and grandparents worked so hard for.

You're working with Boomers. Their children—Generation X and Millennials—often don't have the ability or the interest in inheriting these large collections of furniture, heirlooms, and papers.

I just got off the phone with my mom, who is moving. She never fully appreciated what I did for a living before, but now she's always calling me for advice on what to do with all the things she's inherited or collected. She wants me to take more than I'm able to, so I'm helping her sort and prioritize everything.

My sister and I have been in negotiations about my mom's china set since 2011. Do we send it to gather dust at a thrift

store? We're never going to use it. But it was important to my mom, who didn't have many expensive possessions. Similar decisions are being faced by Boomers and Gen-Xers who find there's no next stop for family heirlooms.

On the show, we help people find places to donate their heirlooms and possessions that repurpose or upcycle. China sets are always a topic of discussion. As family sizes shrink, the number of possible recipients for china sets becomes more limited. One grandchild can find herself owning three or four sets from previous generations. There's a feeling that letting these sets go is a betrayal of someone's memory. But if the china isn't being used, its real meaning lies in its story. What did it mean to your mother? Can we record that memory, save one setting, and let the rest go? The story lives on but the obligation is lifted.

We love our parents, but we may not love the same items they loved. In my family, the dining room was the center of family life. The furniture, dishware, and cutlery in that room was important to my parents. For my own family, experiences are important. We go to the beach, or we go skiing. The moments we cherish were created in other rooms and other homes. What it all comes down to is the stories, not the stuff. I created *Legacy List with Matt Paxton* to preserve those stories and send them out into the world.



*Opposite:* Annemarie of Morristown, New Jersey, sorts through her father's extensive collections with Matt Paxton ("Don't Go in the Basement," season 2, episode 7). *Right:* The *Legacy List with Matt Paxton* team, Jaime Ebanks, Mike Kelleher, Matt Paxton, and Avi Hopkins.



I find it heartbreaking when I go to a flea market and see piles of family photos and family albums that someone lovingly compiled. By narrowing down the number of items on the legacy list, you ensure that the stories are preserved.

If the story isn't told, the legacy is lost. If our parents and grandparents can share the story of an item, it becomes easier for them to let go of it. Because it's not the silverware or the soap dish that's important, it's the memory. And sometimes it turns out that a child or grandchild wants an item once they hear the story connected to it!

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*Top:* Chris of Manheim, Pennsylvania, reviews family photos with Matt Paxton ("Haul in the Family," season 2, episode 3.)

*Bottom:* Matt and Chrystal of Boston, Massachusetts, sort through the contents of Chrystal's garage ("We Are Family," season 2, episode 6).



Family historians can also forget to record their own experiences.

That's definitely a problem for many family historians—they get so caught up in documenting the past they may forget to talk about themselves and record their own stories and memories.

We interviewed Crystal Haynes, an amazing woman in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Crystal is a retired schoolteacher and the family historian for several branches of her incredibly successful African American family of activists and musicians. Her uncle was close with Martin Luther King Jr., another uncle is a renowned jazz percussionist, and her nephew was a member of Bel Biv DeVoe. Crystal's equally important story had gotten lost among the artifacts of her famous family. We wanted to help her record her own memories while also sorting and organizing her collections.

In one episode, a New Jersey family put a vintage battery charger on their legacy list. It's interesting to see the difference between the items of significant monetary and historical value in a collection, and what items are cherished by the family. It seems that those objects are often totally different.

That was a ten-dollar battery charger, in a collection of priceless antiques and one-of-a-kind artifacts. Family members recall their grandfather using that battery charger every day; he always had it with him. Creating a legacy list helps families clarify which items they want to keep and which can be sold, donated, or passed to someone else.

I don't want any price tags on the show. That's not what we're about. We're not interested in how much someone was worth, we're interested in the impact they had and the stories they left behind. We did bring in an appraiser for a family that planned to use the proceeds from the sale to fund a school in Nepal. That's their new legacy, coming out of the old legacy. Or we may make connections with local museums or historical societies that can receive items and preserve them. I discuss this in my new book—many families find

that they get more intrinsic value from donating an item than from selling it, and they get more satisfaction from donating it than from keeping it.

In an episode called “Don’t Go in the Basement,” the grandfather collected the most amazing items—massive geodes, dinosaur teeth, vintage electronics, just everything under the sun. Most of the episode was about him and his life, and you helped the family with the daunting task of sorting through this amazing collection while preserving the memories. If you looked at each object individually, you wouldn’t know much about him, but when the stories are collected, a clear picture emerges of who he was and the curiosity that drove him.

That house sold quickly, and the family had just two days to pack up the collection and move it to the adult daughter’s basement. When our team arrived, the basement was packed to the ceiling. We were able to start cataloging everything, donating some items, and selling others, and using the process to record the stories of this larger-than-life figure.

Because the grandfather died during the Covid pandemic, the family was unable to hold a proper funeral, so we used the end of the show to memorialize him. A lot of people really connected with that episode, because many of us have a crazy, awesome grandparent. This guy lived his life really well, he enjoyed every minute. That’s a good message for the rest of us. It was a joy to watch this family laugh and cry at the same time about their grandpa. I felt a real connection to that family, and we still keep in touch.

*I really like that you’re telling the stories of regular people. You show that their stories are just as interesting as those of a celebrity. It’s the story of America, the setbacks and the triumphs.*

I want to hear stories of the failures as well as the successes. We want to feature the people whose stories don’t get told as much in traditional media. We actively seek diverse subjects for our shows.



Matt Paxton’s grandparents in front of their Colorado store.

Lillian Lambert was the first African American woman to get an MBA from Harvard. One of her legacy list items was a standard iron water pump. Her father was a tobacco farmer in Virginia and they lived in a shack with a dirt floor. Young Lillian had to carry buckets of water from the creek to the house. When she was twelve the family got the water pump, and suddenly Lillian had two extra hours a day to read. That pump changed her life trajectory.

*Sometimes the show goes into a deep dive on a certain item—it could be historically significant and rare, or it could be something common and ubiquitous, like a plastic Cozy Coupe kids’ car. How do you decide which items to feature in these mini documentaries?*

We call those two-minute segments “history pods,” and we select the items we think are interesting. In 1991, the Cozy Coupe was the top-selling car in the US. It outsold the Honda Accord! Little facts like that get us excited. We talk a lot in our work about how family history isn’t just about documenting your own family’s lines or stories, but also about placing them in a historical context.

The history pods show a snapshot of America at a certain time. We did a story on telephones, and I showed my kids an old rotary-dial phone. I told them about my grandmother’s phone



## What’s on your list?

We want to hear from you! We are inviting our readers to contribute stories to a future article. What are your most treasured possessions and why are they special to you? Email your submissions of no more than 300 words to [magazine@nehgs.org](mailto:magazine@nehgs.org), subject line “My List.”

number, which began with two letters. They were fascinated. It's so different from what they know. We want this show to be watched by three or four generations. I've watched the show with my grandma, my mom, me and my wife, and the kids. Everyone has something they find interesting in the show. My kids love the history pods. If that keeps them learning about history, it's great.

**What's the most unusual thing you found on *Legacy List* with Matt Paxton?**

I would have to say the historical hair collection. This guy in New Jersey had hair from John Lennon, John F. Kennedy, and Abraham Lincoln. That was pretty out there for me, but I ended up finding it fascinating. We've found books, especially in Mormon and Pennsylvania Dutch communities, of ornate hair knots and other hair art. Hair art seemed odd when I encountered it for the first time, but the more I learn about it the more intricate and beautiful it becomes to me.

**What is on your legacy list?**

My dad's old Tiffany ring is on the list, along with a painting of the Beastie Boys that was sent to me by an artist who appreciated *Hoarders*. My mom put a generational cookbook together for me, with all the recipes she could

collect from her and my father's families. All the ladies from my church contributed recipes, and so did my wife. Every person who has really valued me has shared a recipe in their own handwriting. Watching my son cook using that book is really cool. He and my grandma would have loved each other, and when he's reading her recipe for apricot pie it's like she's there with us.

One of my favorite items is a photo of my grandparents in front of their country store. When they were in their fifties, my grandparents took a driving trip from their home in Oklahoma to Colorado on the Wyoming border. They stopped at a little store so my grandpa could pick up some bait worms for fishing. My grandmother waited in the car. She said, "You know, he was in there about ten minutes longer than normal. Then he came out and he says, 'We're moving here. I bought the store.' And I said, 'Okay.'" They moved to Colorado, built up their store, established a post office and became postmasters, and lived there happily for the next thirty years. I grew up spending every summer on their ranch. My kids all tell this story like they heard it directly from their great-grandparents because they hear it all the time from me.

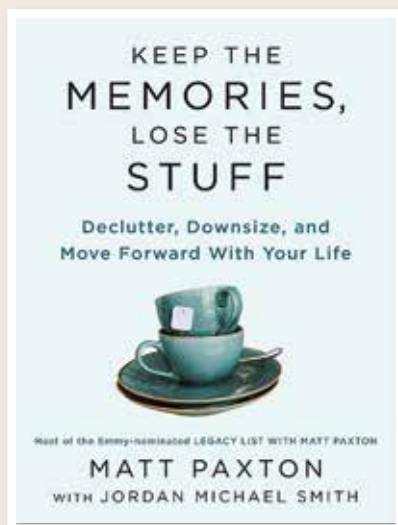
**You come in when people need to downsize, or their collections have spiraled out of control. What advice would you give to our readers who are trying to manage their family heirlooms and papers?**

Start with your legacy list. Write down your must-haves. What do you want people to know about you? How do you want to be remembered? Choose those five items and write down the stories.

Get serious about the heirlooms you want your kids or grandkids to have and give them away while you are still alive. Don't wait until you are dead—you can enjoy watching your family using those things now. And it gives you the opportunity to share the story of the item now, and to see new stories being made with it.

**A lot of our readers are going to want to appear on your show. How do they contact you?**

We want to be on the air for a long time and we are always looking for more families to feature. Visit [MyLegacyList.com](http://MyLegacyList.com) and click "Be on the show" to submit your story! You can also view past episodes and read about the show on the site. ♦



**Coming in February 2022!**

**Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff:**  
**Declutter, Downsize, and Move Forward With Your Life**  
**By Matt Paxton**

Your boxes of photos, family china, and even kids' height charts aren't just stuff; they're attached to a lifetime of memories—and letting them go can be scary. With empathy, expertise, and humor, *Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff* helps you sift through years of clutter, let go of what no longer serves you, and identify the items worth keeping so that you can focus on living in the present. Paxton's unique, step-by-step process gives you the tools you need to get the job done.





**Judith Lucey** is Senior Archivist at American Ancestors/NEHGS.

## Portuguese American Manuscript Resources in the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections

The American Ancestors Research Center's holdings related to Portuguese American family history are small but reflect the overall migration and settlement patterns of Portuguese immigrants to the United States, with particular emphasis on those who settled in New England.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the whaling industry drew Portuguese settlers to communities such as New Bedford, Massachusetts, and Newport, Rhode Island. But migration from Portugal to the United States began in earnest after

1870, when large groups of Portuguese immigrants from the Azores, Madeira, and Cape Verde settled in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts, many Portuguese came to work in the textile and fishing industries, and continued to settle in New Bedford, as well as Fall River, Taunton, Gloucester, and, near Boston, the cities of Cambridge and Somerville. The cities and towns in Rhode Island with the largest number of Portuguese Americans were Pawtucket, Bristol, Warwick, and East Providence.

This article highlights a small selection of our manuscript holdings that

represent Portuguese American migration and settlement patterns. The D'Oliveira family genealogy looks at the successes and struggles of a Portuguese immigrant family. The Mirandas of Bretanha volumes examine the family's early island origins and the diaspora of their descendants. The Botelho and Veator family photographs provide a visual record of individuals and families who settled in one Portuguese community in Massachusetts.

### The D'Oliviera Family, Mss C 3583

The D'Oliviera family manuscript explores the maternal ancestry of the compiler, David Thomas Robertson. Donated in 1991, this typescript copy traces the ancestry and descendants of Jose Joao D'Oliviera (1878–1951) of Madeira, the largest of four islands in the Madeira Archipelago, off the northwest coast of Africa.

Robertson became interested in his mother's ancestry after working on his paternal lines for several years. He was unsure how much information he would find since his mother's family did not arrive in the United States until 1911. But, using LDS microfilms of parish and government records, Robertson was able to trace his Portuguese ancestry to the late eighteenth century in Madeira and identify various collateral lines.

In addition to documenting his discoveries, Robertson chronicled the push-pull factors of migration that led Jose D'Oliveira, his wife Maria da Gloria Fernandes (1876–1939), and their three children to leave Madeira.

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An unidentified family group from the Botelho and Veator Family Photograph Collection.



Social unrest and economic decline in the early twentieth century led to the assassination of King Carlos I in 1908 and the overthrow of the Portuguese monarchy in 1910. Madeira's economic dependence on agriculture and its increasing population meant many people competed for a diminishing amount of land. The availability of work in the United States, albeit for low wages, meant that immigrating led to a higher standard of living than remaining in Madeira. Perhaps all or some of these factors contributed to Jose and Maria's decision to immigrate to America.

The family arrived at Ellis Island on August 27, 1911, and settled in East Cambridge—a neighborhood in Cambridge—near Maria's brother, John Lawrence Fernandes. Many Azoreans and Madeirians settled in East Cambridge and worked in local factories and meat packing plants in Cambridge and the adjacent city of Somerville. Jose and Maria's pursuit of the American Dream was not without its struggles. Robertson traces their movements in the Boston area and documents their financial hardships and failed attempts at home ownership. In 1947, Jose, by then a widower, returned to Madeira, where he lived until his death in 1951. His three children remained in the United States.

### The Mirandas of Bretanha, Mss A 10650

"The Mirandas of Bretanha," compiled by John Miranda Raposo, documents the Mirandas and related families in Bretanha, a civil parish located on the northwest coast of Sao Miguel Island, part of the Azores. The typescript consists of seven volumes<sup>1</sup> with illustrations and family charts tracing the Mirandas and collateral lines. The manuscript is dedicated to Raposo's maternal grandparents, Manuel Pacheco Miranda and Mariana Oliveira Soares, who settled in Fall River.

In his introduction, "The Mirandas of Bretanha: Solving an Enigma," Raposo summarizes his efforts to trace the origins of the Bretanha Miran-

das and identify a possible common ancestor of all Mirandas. He consulted various published and manuscript resources, and relied on three key sources housed at repositories in Ponta Delgada, Sao Miguel.

The earliest work, *Saudedes da Terra*, was written between 1586 and 1590 by Gaspar Frutuoso (1522–1591), a San Miguel priest and historian who wrote detailed accounts of the history, geography, and families of the Azores, Madeira, and the Canary Islands. Raposo also relied heavily on Father Octavio Luis Reis's manuscript, *Registros Paroquias da Bretanha*, and Carlos Maria Gomes Machado's *Genealogias*, a handwritten volume of pedigree charts for families from the islands of Sao Miguel and Santa Maria. Machado's work identifies five branches of the Bretanha Mirandas: Pacheco Mirandas, Cordiero Mirandas, Miranda de Araújos, Vivieros Mirandas, and Tavares Mirandas. After examining these records, Raposo concluded that all five branches descend from one individual, Afonso Ledo, who came from the Algarve region of Portugal and settled on Sao Miguel in the sixteenth century. Other chapters of Raposo's typescript trace the Mirandas of each branch from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries.



Unidentified images from the Botelho and Veator Family Photograph Collection.



Sebastian and Louise (Souza) Rose were married in Gloucester, Massachusetts, on November 29, 1900. The Botelho and Veator Family Photograph Collection.

### The Botelho and Veator Family Photograph Collection, Mss 1321

In spring 2019, I received a phone call from an archives staff member at the Smith County Historical Society in Tyler, Texas. She asked whether we would be interested in acquiring a small black and white photograph collection of a Massachusetts family with the surname Botelho. These images fell outside the scope of that historical society's collection policies and the archivist was hoping NEHGS would be interested in giving the images a home. The photos, I learned, had belonged to the late Adeline Veronica (Botelho) Francis (1921–2013) of Tyler, formerly of Gloucester, Massachusetts. The images, dating from the early 1900s to about the 1920s, were all portraits of individuals or couples, and included some children and infants.

We turned to Adeline's online obituary for clues about her life and family. Adeline Botelho was born March 2, 1921, to Joseph and Marguerite (Veator) Botelho. Joseph Botelho was from the island of Sao Miguel, Azores. His wife, Marguerite, was born in Gloucester to

Azorean immigrant parents. After graduating from Gloucester High School in 1939, Adeline moved to Texas and attended East Texas Business College. According to the obituary, she was a self-made woman who had owned two businesses in Tyler. She married Archie Francis, who predeceased her; the couple did not have children. Adeline's three sisters, her only siblings, also predeceased her.

Photographs are an important primary source, as they capture a moment in time and

can provide information that a written document cannot. Like all primary sources, images should be examined carefully. With historical photographs, we must also ask "who, what, where, and when," to ascertain the details. Researchers should also look for textual clues such as words or signs. In this collection, the name and address of the photographer's studio is printed on most of the images, so we know that many of the individuals pictured probably lived in Gloucester or the surrounding area. Two images of the same individual were taken at a studio in New Bedford. We can assume that the Botelho or Veator families had relatives or friends among the Portuguese community in New Bedford, or perhaps lived there at one time.

We found only one identified photograph in the collection, but it provided some helpful clues. The image shows a couple on their wedding day, in a typical pose of the period with the husband seated and his wife standing with her hand on his shoulder. Written on the back of the photograph was "Mrs. S. Rose 5

Elwell Street Gloucester." Elwell Street is in the Gloucester neighborhood known as Portuguese Hill. A search of Gloucester city directories produced a Sebastian Rose, fisherman, living at 5 Elwell Street in the early 1900s. Sebastian was an Azorean immigrant from Pico Island. Although we could not find a civil marriage for the couple, a family tree on Ancestry.com showed a marriage for Sebastian Rose and his wife, Louise Souza, at Our Lady of Good Voyage in Gloucester on November 29, 1900.

We wondered whether this couple could be related to Adeline. Further research on Adeline's ancestry showed that her maternal grandparents, Joseph and Mary Veator, lived on Elwell Street about the same time as the Roses. Joseph died at 4 Elwell Street in 1907. Like Sebastian, Joseph was from Pico Island, Azores. With this knowledge, researchers could pursue additional research in U.S. and Portuguese records that might reveal family connections.



These Portuguese American items represent a small but growing collection of materials documenting late nineteenth and twentieth century immigrants. The R. Stanton Avery Special Collections continues to seek to diversify its holdings while collecting, preserving, and providing access to materials that support the genealogical and historical research of American families. ♦

### NOTE

- <sup>1</sup> NEHGS is missing volume 6 of this manuscript.





**Zachary Garceau** is a Researcher at American Ancestors/NEHGS.

# research services: case files

## A Change in Plan Overturns a Murray Brick Wall

After hitting a “brick wall” in a recent Research Services case, we found a change in direction led to a fruitful search on another line. We had conducted many hours of research for a client who was seeking the parentage of Lucretia (Wait) Vincent (1796–ca. 1879) of Saratoga and Albany Counties, New York. Despite finding significant evidence suggesting that Lucretia was the daughter of Daniel Wait and Phebe Manchester, the necessary proof—the “smoking gun”—eluded us. The client then suggested setting aside this problem and instead researching a different ancestor, Catherine (Murray) Vincent (1841–aft. 1900), Lucretia’s daughter-in-law.

Since Catherine’s maiden name was Murray, we began the case expecting her ancestry to be mainly Irish, but what we discovered was quite dif-

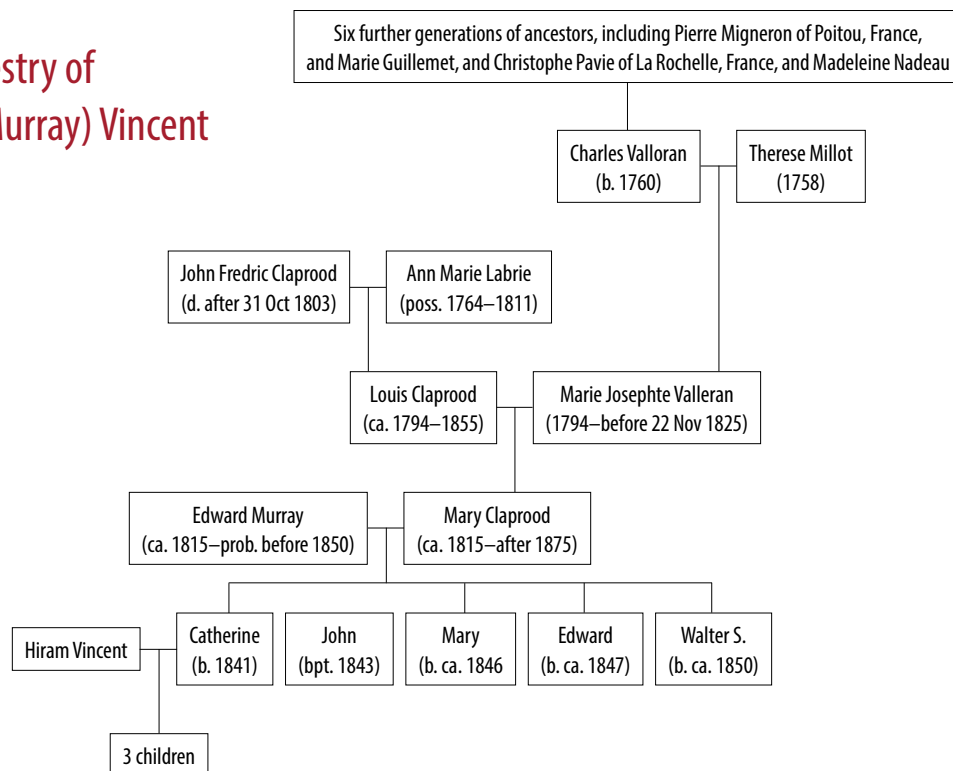
ferent. Preliminary research showed that Catherine Murray was the daughter of Edward Murray (c. 1815–poss. before 1850) and his wife, Mary (c. 1815–aft. 1875). The last known record for Mary Murray, the 1875 New York State Census, offered the first indication that Mary was Canadian.<sup>1</sup> We then compared various records from federal and New York state censuses that enumerated women named Mary Murray. The 1855 New York State Census for Albany showed Mary Murray and her oldest child, Catherine, as Canadian-born, with her three younger children (Mary, Edward, and Walter) born in Clinton County in northern New York.<sup>2</sup> We then consulted the 1850 federal census, which enumerated Mary Murray in Chazy, Clinton County, with four children; the two oldest—Catherine and John (the latter not listed in 1855)—were born in Canada.<sup>3</sup>

The record most vital to our early research was the 1880 Manhattan marriage record of Mary’s son, Walter S. Murray. This document showed his parents as Edward Murray and Mary “Cleppard.”<sup>4</sup> With this new information, we discovered a baptism record for a Mary Claprood; the record indicated she was the daughter of Louis Claprood and Marie Josephte Valleran.<sup>5</sup> Using baptism, marriage, and burial records, as well as the *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes Depuis la Fondation de la Colonie Jusqu’à nos Jours* (1871–90) by Cyprien Tanguay,<sup>6</sup> we traced the ancestry of Marie Josephte Valleran back

*The Market Place, Québec* by William Henry Bartlett, 1840. Courtesy of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.



## Ancestry of Catherine (Murray) Vincent



to a number of seventeenth-century French immigrants. Marie's ancestors came from several different communities in northern and central France, including Rouen, Paris, Le Mans, La Rochelle, Cognac, and Poitou.

We located the marriage record of Louis Claprood and Marie Josephte Valleran, which was also critical in establishing the parentage of Louis Claprood.<sup>7</sup> The document showed that Louis was the son of Jean Claprood and Marie-Anne Labrie. We found strong evidence to suggest that this Jean Claprood was Jean Frederic Claprood, a Hessian soldier who came to Canada to fight for the British in the Revolutionary War and remained in Québec after the end of the war.<sup>8</sup> Unfortunately, few records remain for these Hessian soldiers, and the origins of Jean Frederic Claprood have not yet been discovered. An Ernest Claprood was also known to have served as a soldier in Canada during the Revolutionary War, but no kinship between the two men has been proved.

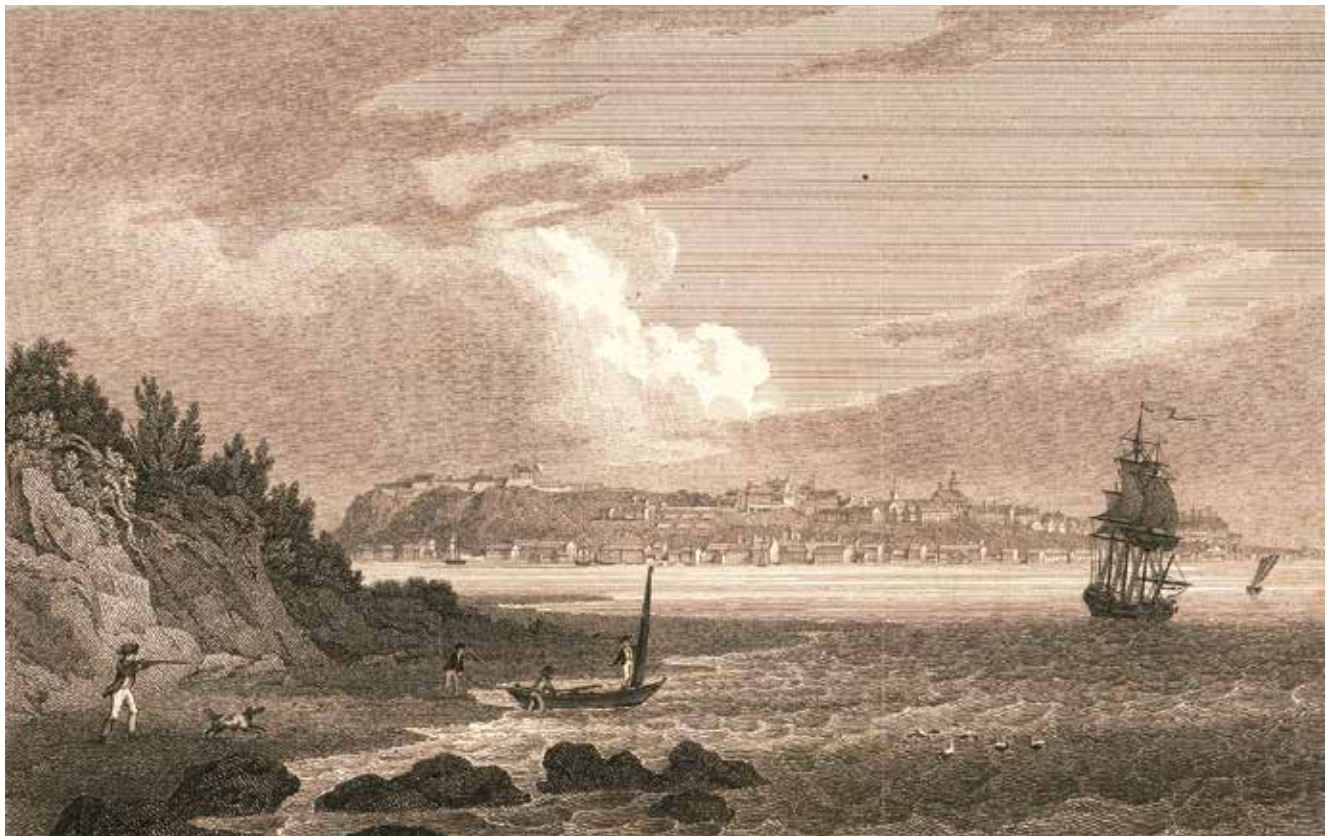
The marriage record of Edward Murray and Mary Cleppard/Claprood,

along with several baptism records, supplied a key piece of information—that the members of this Murray family had lived in Québec City prior to their appearance in Chazy, New York, in 1850.<sup>9</sup> We then located a valuable entry in the 1842 Québec census. The record indicated that Edward Murray was a tinsmith and a Congregationalist. Most importantly, we learned he was a native of Ireland born between about 1812 and 1821 and arrived in Québec about 1832.<sup>10</sup> Edward Murray was the only Congregationalist in his household; his family members were all Roman Catholics. Interestingly, several families on the same street also lived in households split between different faiths.

Since Edward Murray apparently arrived in Québec in 1832 and his first appearance in a record there was in 1842, we looked for evidence of his activities between those years. We searched the databases maintained by the Library and Archives of Canada and one of them—*Persons Incarcerated in Québec Prisons, 1813–1907, 1914*—returned several promising

matches. On August 18, 1836, a nineteen-year-old Irish tinsmith named Edward Murray was found not guilty of assault with intent to murder. Just over two months later, on October 25, 1836, Edward Murray was indicted on charges of assault with an iron saw, with intent to murder a man named Joseph Dorion. Three years later Edward Murray provided a deposition against three other individuals facing assault charges. This last record, which proved Murray remained in Québec City until at least 1839, further bolstered our theory that this man and our Edward Murray were the same person.<sup>11</sup>

Continuing our search, we found a 29-year-old Edward Murray admitted as an alien on February 10, 1849, in Chazy,<sup>12</sup> where the rest of the Murray family would be enumerated without him just over a year later. This man was the Edward Murray who married Mary Cleppard. Unfortunately, despite extensive searches, we were unable to locate records corresponding to the index entry. But the entry allows us to surmise that Edward Murray either



died or left his family between February 1849 and the time of the 1850 census.

By redirecting our efforts from our first line of inquiry, we were able to trace the client's ancestry to several sets of sixth great-grandparents for Catherine (Murray) Vincent. Although the research we performed did not answer the client's original question, perhaps, in due time, new efforts will yield a more satisfying conclusion. For now, a new focus on a different ancestor resulted in some fascinating discoveries. ♦

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Hiram Vincent household, 1875 New York State Census, Cohoes Ward 04, Albany, New York. Ancestry.com.
- <sup>2</sup> Mary Murray household, 1855 New York State Census, Saratoga County, Saratoga, New York. E.D. 2. Ancestry.com.
- <sup>3</sup> Mary Murray household, 1850 United States Census, Chazy, Clinton County, New York, roll 490, p. 381a. Ancestry.com.
- <sup>4</sup> *New York, New York City Marriage Records, 1829–1940*, Walter S. Murray and Emily Jane

Jesser, 28 March 1880, FHL film 1,562,357. FamilySearch.org.

- <sup>5</sup> *Québec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621–1968*, Québec City, Congregational Society, 1841, marriage of Edward Murray and Mary "Carpred." Ancestry.com.
- <sup>6</sup> *Québec, Genealogical Dictionary of Canadian Families (Tanguay Collection), 1608–1890*. Ancestry.com.
- <sup>7</sup> Drouin Collection [note 5], Notre-Dame, 1816, marriage of Louis Claprood and Marie Josephe Valleran.
- <sup>8</sup> Bill Beaudoin, "Supplement to 'Do I Have German Ancestry'" *Je Me Souviens* 41, no. 1 (2018); *U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s–1900s*, entry for Claprood, citing Jean-Pierre Wilhelmy, *German Mercenaries in Canada*, (Beloeil, Québec, 1985), Ancestry.com; and Virginia Easley DeMarce, *The Settlement of Former German Auxiliary Troops in Canada after the American Revolution: A Monograph* (1984), 81.
- <sup>9</sup> Drouin Collection [note 5], Notre-Dame, 1841, baptism of Catherine Ellen Murray; baptism of John Murray; Notre-Dame, 1820, baptism of Louis Claprood.
- <sup>10</sup> *Canada, Lower Canada Census, 1842*, Notre-Dame (à l'extérieur de la ville), Québec, Ed. Murray. FamilySearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:X73C-WW2.
- <sup>11</sup> *Persons incarcerated in Québec prisons, 1813–1907, 1914*, records for Edward Murray,

*Québec*. 1821. Engraved by Storer and published by Sherwood Neely & Jones, London. Library of Congress, loc.gov/item/2003674449/.

database at [banq.qc.ca/archives/genealogie\\_histoire\\_familiale/ressources/bd/recherche.html?id=PRISON\\_2020](http://banq.qc.ca/archives/genealogie_histoire_familiale/ressources/bd/recherche.html?id=PRISON_2020), Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec; *Inventory of documents from the Court of General Sessions of the Peace and the Court of Sessions of the Peace, judicial district of Québec, especially 1800–1927*, records for Edward Murray, database at [banq.qc.ca/archives/genealogie\\_histoire\\_familiale/ressources/bd/recherche.html?id=THEMIS\\_2\\_IM&2=Murray&3=Edward&4=&5=&6=&7=&8=&9=&10=](http://banq.qc.ca/archives/genealogie_histoire_familiale/ressources/bd/recherche.html?id=THEMIS_2_IM&2=Murray&3=Edward&4=&5=&6=&7=&8=&9=&10=), Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.

- <sup>12</sup> New York, County Naturalization Records, 1791–1980, Clinton County. Naturalization index 1820–1960, A–R, Edward Murray. FamilySearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9M8-V7F3?i=566&cc=1999177&cat=238298.





# Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight

**Lindsay Sprechman Murphy** is Senior Archivist at the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

**Stephanie Call** is Associate Director of Archives & Education at the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

## A Guide to Researching Labor History in the Jewish Heritage Center Collections<sup>1</sup>

Although much of the history of early American Jewish labor organizing centered on New York, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center holds institutional records and personal papers detailing Jewish involvement in labor movements throughout the twentieth century. Between 1880 and 1920, the Jewish labor movement was invigorated by the mass immigration of Eastern European Jews, many of whom were socialists or Bundists from pre-Revolution Russia.<sup>2</sup> Jews created their own labor unions and labor-centric mutual aid societies, including the United Hebrew Trades and Workmen's Circle (Der Arbeter Ring), and also took on prominent roles in non-Jewish organizations.

American Jewish women were also involved in many memorable labor movement moments. Clara Lemlich Shavelson, an organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), led the Uprising of 20,000, a massive 1909 strike of primarily Jewish women in New York City shirtwaist factories. The next year, the ILGWU led an even bigger strike of New York City cloak makers, the majority of whom were Jewish. In 1911, the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire killed 146 women and girls, 102 of them Jewish. Other Jews, including Emma Goldman, Bessie Abramowitz Hillman, Pauline Newman, Rose Pesotta, and Rose Schneiderman played vital roles in the American labor movement.<sup>3</sup>

## Labor History Collections at the Jewish Heritage Center<sup>4</sup>

### **Boston Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Records, I-123\* and I-123A**

In 1938, the Associated Jewish Philanthropies (AJP) organized an interim committee to examine interfaith cooperation in Boston and address community concerns about increasing anti-Semitic attacks in primarily Jewish neighborhoods. After this committee dissolved, AJP organized the Central Advisory Committee during World War II. The new committee established the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston in 1949, with representatives from several central Jewish organizations in the area. The Council continually modified its goals and purpose to reflect the changing political and economic land-

scape. Labor practices and employment discrimination were among the many issues the JCRC explored.

### **Boston Workmen's Circle (Brookline, Mass.) Records, I-494**

Created to provide mutual aid and education, the Workmen's Circle was established in New York in 1900 and officially chartered in 1905. Massachusetts established an Independent Workmen's Circle in 1903 but merged with the national organization in 1921. The Boston District often mirrored National's development, establishing cemeteries, a chorus, a camp, and I. L. Peretz schools.<sup>5</sup> The Workmen's Circle focused on Jewish life and culture, promoted the use of Yiddish, and

provided members with a place of learning. The organization was also instrumental in the creation of the Jewish Labor Committee in 1934. By 1940, the Workmen's Circle operated 100 Labor Lyceums (community centers) around the country, including some in Massachusetts.

**Farband Labor Zionist Order (Boston, Mass.) Records, I-534\***

The Farband Labor Zionist Order was a Jewish fraternal organization founded in 1910, chartered in New York State in 1913, and initially known as the Jewish National Workers' Alliance. Eventually establishing branches across the United States and Canada, the Farband functioned as a mutual aid society aligned with the socialist and Zionist political party Poale Zion. The Farband focused on an actively positive approach to the rehabilitation of Jewish life and culture, and the democratization of the organized Jewish community. As a benefit society, the Farband's responsibilities to members and their families primarily involved supplying

aid in times of sickness, distress, or death; community educational programs; participation in national activities for the defense of Jewish and labor rights; and the development of Israel.

**Albert I. Gordon Papers, P-86\***

Rabbi Albert I. Gordon was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 11, 1903, to Hyman S. and Martha (Rosenzweig) Gordon. His first rabbinate was at Temple Israel of Washington Heights in New York City (1929–30). Following his resignation, Rabbi Gordon and his wife moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was installed as Rabbi of Adath Jeshurun. While in Minneapolis, Rabbi Gordon served as a labor arbitrator for 23 different industries and was a member of the National War Labor Board. This collection contains materials pertaining to arbitration between a local union and dry cleaning business owners.

**Labor League (Brockton, Mass.) Records, I-267**

In the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries, Brockton, Massachusetts, was an industrial center and manufacturing hub for shoes and textiles. Jewish artisans and laborers were drawn to the city for work, and they formed an organization known as the Labor League. This collection contains ledger books with member names and financial records.

**Labor Lyceum Association (Brockton, Mass.) Records, I-268**

The Labor Lyceum Association of Brockton was established in the mid-

1920s as the governing body of the city's Labor Lyceum building. In addition to being centers for Yiddish culture and socialist values, the lyceums also acted as headquarters for labor unions and other political and social groups. The collection consists of two books containing minutes from the weekly meetings of the association's board of directors, plus a small group of notes, receipts, and newspaper clippings.

**Massachusetts Board of Rabbis Records, I-56 and I-56A**

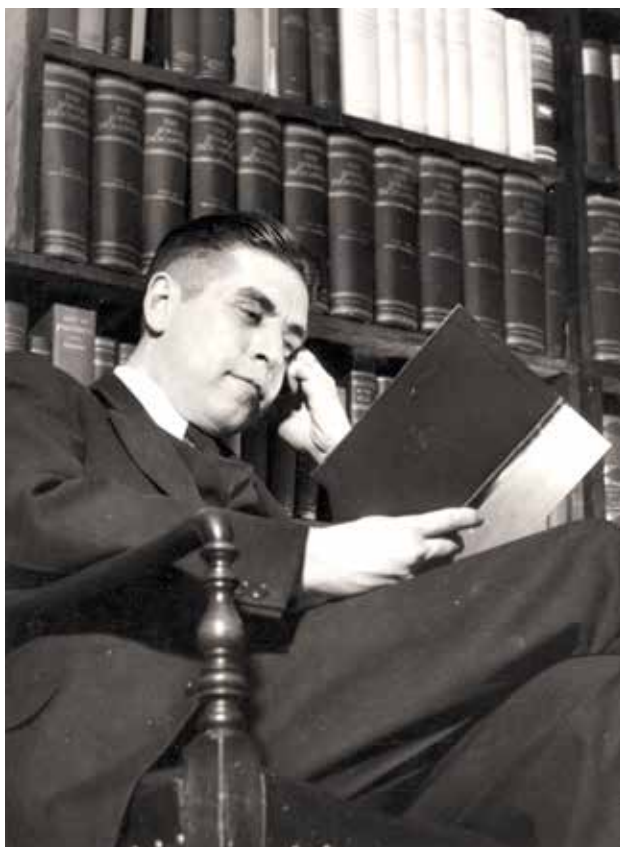
Founded in 1938, the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis not only focused on its primary hospital chaplaincy role, but also on social justice issues, including labor organizing, chavruta (study of Torah), and health insurance for rabbis.

**Leo Shapiro Newspaper Collection, P-929\***

Leopold (Leo) Shapiro began his career with the *Boston Globe* as a copy boy on the night shift. By 1928, Shapiro was reporting on local education topics. Through much of his career, from the 1940s through the 1970s, Shapiro wrote about the Jewish community in Boston and abroad. This collection contains several articles related to organized labor and unions, retirement ages, labor law, and unemployment.

**Sara Wernon Sloan Papers, P-640\***

Born in 1888 in Odessa, then part of the Russian Empire, Sara (Buminowitz) (Wernon) Sloan immigrated to the United States at age ten with her mother and siblings. She became a garment worker. This collection contains her memoirs, typed manuscripts written in the 1970s describing her experiences as an immigrant to New York City and a garment worker. Her account describes her participation in political movements and unionization, and Sara's first marriage to Ben Wernon, an American Federation of Labor organizer.



Rabbi Albert Gordon, circa 1950s. From the Papers of Albert I. Gordon, P-86.

Members of Palagras with students in Kannot, Israel, in April 1955. From the Records of the Women's Palestine Agricultural Association, I-294.



### Myer Starr Papers, P-525\*

This collection contains the unpublished memoirs of Myer Starr, a Jewish immigrant from the Ukraine who owned a laundry service in Boston, first located on Charles Street, then on Hanover Street. Starr's memoir addresses both his own life and Jews in the Ukraine under the late 19th- and early 20th-century Tsarist government. He also relates what occurred after his 1913 immigration to the United States, including his work at a sugar cone bakery and a shirt shop, and his membership in a labor league organization.

In one chapter, Starr writes of an encounter with the owner of the bakery over his wages: "I was flabbergasted to find three single dollars in the envelope. For a while I pondered what to do and I gained courage to speak to the owner whether there was an error in my pay. His answer was blunt. He said, 'Three dollars are worth six rubles in Russian money exchange.' However, my answer was 'Presently I am in America and the dollar value is only one dollar; therefore, I can purchase only a dollar's worth of goods.'"

### The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts (I-454)

The Synagogue Council of Massachusetts was founded in 1941 as the Associated Synagogues of Greater Boston. The documents in this collection

describe the proceedings and activities of the Council, as well as those of its affiliated organizations, including the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis (MBR), the Rabbinical Association of Greater Boston (RA), the Kashruth Commission, the Beth Din, and the Jewish Chaplaincy Council. Through its association with the MBR and RA, the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts advocated for labor rights.

### Henry Wise Papers, P-944

Henry Wise was a Boston-area lawyer whose practice focused mainly on housing, fishing, and labor, three areas in which he crafted important local legislation. He also became an instructor and professor of law at several colleges in the Boston area, including Suffolk University and Wellesley College.

### Women's Palestine Agricultural Association (Boston, Mass.) Records, I-294\*

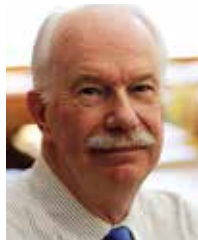
The Women's Palestine Agricultural Association, or Palagras, was a Boston-area women's organization committed to the development of agriculture and vocational causes for girls in Palestine/Israel. The group began around 1929 when labor activist Rahel Ben Zvi visited Boston and inspired several local women to take up the cause on behalf of the women of Palestine. ♦

If you have historical materials related to Jewish contributions to the labor movement, or if you are interested in viewing any of these collections, either in-person or online, please contact the JHC staff at [jhcreference@nehgs.org](mailto:jhcreference@nehgs.org) or 617-226-1245.

### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> The original version of this subject guide, compiled by Lindsay Murphy, is available on our website, [JewishHeritageCenter.org](http://JewishHeritageCenter.org).
- <sup>2</sup> Bundists were members of a secular socialist movement that began in Russia in 1897.
- <sup>3</sup> Learn more by viewing our August 2020 webinar with Judith Rosenbaum, "Jewish Women in the Labor Movement." Visit [JewishHeritageCenter.org](http://JewishHeritageCenter.org) for more information.
- <sup>4</sup> Many of these collections have been digitized and are available in our Digital Library & Archives, at [digital.AmericanAncestors.org/digital/custom/jhc](http://digital.AmericanAncestors.org/digital/custom/jhc). Digitized collections are marked by an asterisk (\*) next to the collection number. Collection finding aids are on our website, [JewishHeritageCenter.org](http://JewishHeritageCenter.org).
- <sup>5</sup> I.L. Peretz (1852–1915), a Yiddish writer, is considered one of the most influential people in modern Jewish culture. The schools bearing his name were secular Jewish educational institutions that stressed Yiddish language and literature, and Jewish history.





Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, is editor of the Register.

# focus on New York



## New York Census of Slaves in 1755

Although the 1911 fire in the New York State Library destroyed thousands of colonial documents,<sup>1</sup> many were rescued and have been transcribed. In addition, many documents had been transcribed or abstracted in the nineteenth century, before the originals were destroyed in 1911. As a result, these transcriptions are the only source for the information they contain.

The 1755 census of slaves is one of these transcriptions for which the original presumably no longer exists. Edmund B. O'Callaghan, a prolific transcriber, published the census in his multi-volume set, *The Documentary History of the State of New-York*, in the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>2</sup> Several lists and censuses in *The Documentary History* were reprinted in 1979 as *Lists of Inhabitants of Colonial New York*, with

an every-name index.<sup>3</sup> The 1755 census of slaves is at pages 196–219, by county, and then is sometimes by precinct, township, or militia unit.

The lists comprising the census are not always consistent and may not be complete for each county. Each list includes at a minimum the number of males and females over the age of fourteen. Several of the lists give the name of each slave, and two lists even provide ages. The counties for which there are lists are Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, Westchester, Kings, Queens, Suffolk, and Staten Island. O'Callaghan notes that the lists for the "counties of Albany, New York and Suffolk are missing." There are, however, lists for three Suffolk County towns: Huntington, Smithtown, and Islip. Most owners had one or two slaves. A few men had ten or more slaves, and Lewis Morris of Morrisania had the most at twenty-nine.<sup>4</sup>

No comparable census has been found for other years, but some county censuses in the eighteenth century include the number of "slaves" or "negroes" by category, e.g., gender and age bracket. Some examples include the 1702 census of Orange County,<sup>5</sup> the 1703 census of New York City,<sup>6</sup> the 1714 census of Dutchess County,<sup>7</sup> and the 1731 census of Kings County.<sup>8</sup>

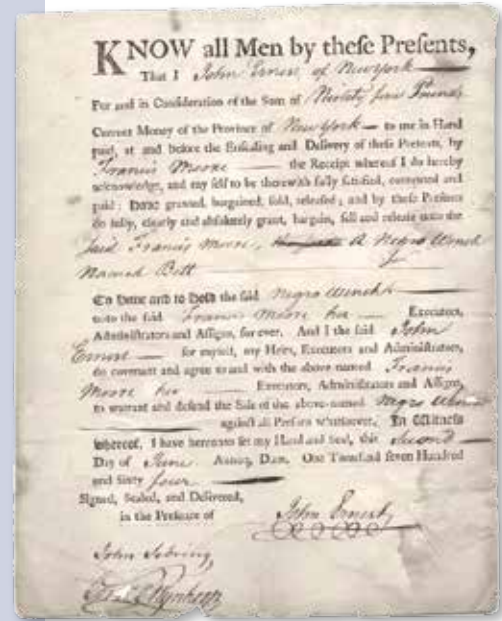
The 1755 census may eventually have great importance in identifying the families of former slaves. For example, Joan DeVries Kelley's groundbreaking work on the family of Nancy

The 1755 Census of Slaves for Rhinebeck Precinct, Dutchess County. From *The Documentary History of the State of New-York*, 1849–51.

CENSUS OF SLAVES.		
RHINEBECK PRECINCT, March y <sup>e</sup> 22 Day.		
A list taken of the Slaves or Negroes In my District according to the act of the General Assembly.		
Masters or Mistres.	Male.	Female.
Mrs. Aleda Rutsen.....	Thom. Robin, Coffe.....	Fillis, Riet, Dean
Mrs. Rachel Van Steenberg	Lou, Pieter	
Lauwrence Tiel.....	Tam	
Henry Tiel.....	Jack	
Philip Veller.....	Lou.....	Betty
Johannes Lambert .....		Bett
Jack Keip.....	Tom, Pieter.....	Jan, fillis
Roelof Keip.....	Tom.....	Keet
Abraham Keip.....		Betty, Mary, Bess
Gerrit Van Benthuisen.....	Herry.....	floor, Dill
George Toevelt.....		sebe
George Adam Toevelt.....		Dien
Susan Angenes Sheeferen.....		Kinno
Corneles Ostevanter.....		Wench fillis
Mrs. Cathlynje V. fretenborg.....		Yud
Taken op by me, FRANS NEHER Capt.		

## Some relevant publications on slaves and their descendants in New York

- Susan Stessin-Cohen and Ashley Burlburt-Biagini, *In Defiance: Runaways from Slavery in New York's Hudson River Valley, 1735–1931* (Delmar, N.Y.: Black Dome Press, 2016).
- Graham Russell Hodges and Alan Edward Brown, *'Pretends to Be Free': Runaway Slave Advertisements from Colonial and Revolutionary New York and New Jersey and New York* (New York: Garland Publishing, 1994).
- Michael Edward Growth, "Forging Freedom in the Mid-Hudson Valley: The End of Slavery and the Formation of a Free African-American Community in Dutchess County, New York, 1770–1850," Ph.D. thesis, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1994.
- Vivienne L. Kruger, "Born to Run: The Slave Family in Early New York, 1626 to 1827," Ph.D. thesis, 2 vols., Columbia University, 1985.
- Ruth P. Heigerd, ed., *Ulster County in the Revolution: A Guide to Those Who Served* (Ulster County Bicentennial Commission, 1977).
- Eric G. Grundset, *New York in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians* (Washington, D.C.: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2012).
- Eric G. Grundset, *Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources and Studies* (Washington, D.C.: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2008, 313–371 [New York]).
- Graham Russell Hodges, *Root & Branch, African Americans in New York & East Jersey, 1613–1863* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1999).



Bill of sale for enslaved woman Bett from John Ernest of New York to Francis Moore for ninety-five pounds, 1764. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, New York Public Library Digital Collections.

Franklin (born ca. 1786), of New Paltz and Newburgh,<sup>9</sup> shows how much can be discovered from the records leading up to the emancipation of all slaves in New York on July 4, 1827. Most of these records were generated by the Gradual Manumission Act of 1799, which required the registration of the birth of every child born to an enslaved woman after July 4, 1799. Those children had to serve as indentured servants until age 28 (males) or age 25 (females) to be freed.<sup>10</sup> It's difficult to call that freedom! ♦

## NOTES

- 1 Harry Macy, Jr., "The 1911 State Library Fire and Its Effect on New York Genealogy," *The NYG&B Newsletter* 10:2 (Spring 1999), 19–22.
- 2 Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New-York*, 4 vols. (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons & Co., 1849–51), 3:843–68.
- 3 Edmund Bailey O'Callaghan, *Lists of Inhabitants of Colonial New York* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1979), 196–219. The Library of Congress call number is F118.D62 1979.
- 4 O'Callaghan, *Documentary History* [note 2], 3:352–53; O'Callaghan, *Lists of Inhabitants* [note 3], 203–04.
- 5 Orange County 1702: O'Callaghan, *Documentary History* [note 2], 1:366–67; O'Callaghan, *Lists of Inhabitants* [note 3], 14–15.
- 6 New York City 1703: O'Callaghan, *Documentary History* [note 2], 1:611–24; O'Callaghan, *Lists of Inhabitants* [note 3], 22–35.

- 7 Dutchess County 1714: O'Callaghan, *Documentary History* [note 2], 1:368–69; O'Callaghan, *Lists of Inhabitants* [note 3], 16–17.
- 8 Kings County 1731: O'Callaghan, *Documentary History* [note 2], 4:188–200; O'Callaghan, *Lists of Inhabitants* [note 3], 236–48. See Harry Macy, Jr., and Henry B. Hoff, "'1738 Census' Was Actually Taken in 1731," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, 123 (1992):85–86.
- 9 Joan de Vries Kelley, "Some Ancestors of Nelly Jane (Franklin) LeFevre: An African American of the Mid-Hudson Valley," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, 145 (2014):245–58; 146 (2015):107–16, 187–97, 283–98, 311; 147 (2016):46–65.
- 10 Ibid. 145 (2014):253; Graham Russell Hodges, *Root & Branch, African Americans in New York & East Jersey, 1613–1863* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), *passim*.



**Curt DiCamillo** is Curator of Special Collections at American Ancestors/NEHGS.

## from our collections

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### The Massachusetts Governor Who Helped Win the Civil War and End Slavery

"I know not what record of sin awaits me in the other world, but this I know, that I was never mean enough to despise any man because he was ignorant, because he was poor, or because he was Black."

—Governor John Albion Andrew

This three-foot-tall plaster statue of Massachusetts Governor John A.

Andrew was created around 1875 by Thomas Gould as a maquette (a model or study) for the life-sized granite statue later placed on Andrew's grave in the Old Ship Burying Ground in Hingham, Massachusetts.

Thomas Ridgeway Gould (1818–1881) became an artist relatively late in life, when, in his forties, he abandoned a failed business career and opened a sculpture studio in Boston. One of his early subjects was John Albion Andrew (1818–1867), the governor of Massachusetts during the Civil War. Gould's busts of Andrew, from the mid-1860s, are in the collections of several institutions, including the Boston Athenæum and the Massachusetts Historical Society. In the late 1860s, Gould moved to Florence, Italy, as did many sculptors of his generation; he worked there, almost exclusively, from 1868 until his death in 1881. He is most remembered today for his statue of King Kamehameha I that stands in

front of Aliʻiōlani Hale (the former seat of government of the Kingdom and Republic of Hawaiʻi) in Honolulu.

During the Civil War, Governor Andrew was a leading force in promoting the enlistment of Black men as uniformed soldiers in the Union Army. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass had advocated this measure from the start of the war; Andrew viewed it as a necessary equalizing step and a means to help fill the state's enlistment quotas. After lobbying the Lincoln administration, Andrew was granted permission to raise a Black regiment in January 1863. Due to Massachusetts's small Black population, the 54th and, later, the 55th, Massachusetts regiments were composed of Blacks recruited not only from Massachusetts, but also New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and other states.

Governor Andrew wanted these regiments to be staffed by Black officers, but this proposal was rejected, and their officers were instead hand-picked by Andrew from strong anti-slavery circles. The man Governor Andrew chose to command the Massachusetts 54th was Colonel Robert Gould Shaw (1837–1863), member of a prominent Boston Brahmin abolitionist family. Like the governor, Colonel Shaw sup-

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Governor John A. Andrew statue by Thomas Ridgeway Gould, mid-1860s. NEHGS Fine Art Collection.





ported equal rights for his regiment and encouraged his men to refuse their pay until it was equal to the wages of white troops.

At the Second Battle of Fort Wagner, a beachhead near Charleston, South Carolina, Shaw was killed while leading his men to the parapet of the Confederate-held fort. Although his troops were overwhelmed and eventually had to retreat, Shaw's leadership passed into legend. The Massachusetts 54th inspired tens of thousands of African Americans to enlist in the Union Army, which contributed to its ultimate victory. (Over 200 letters that Shaw wrote to his family and friends during the Civil War are today in the collection of the Houghton Library at Harvard University.)

On Boston Common, opposite the gold-domed Massachusetts State House, is one of the most important pieces of American sculpture ever created: Augustus Saint-Gaudens' bronze relief memorial to the Massachusetts 54th Volunteer Infantry Regiment. An international destination for scholars and tourists, the memorial depicts Colonel Shaw leading the regiment in a march down Beacon Street on May 28, 1863, en route to fight in the South. A key advocate for the creation of the sculpture was Joshua Bowen Smith, a former slave who had established himself in Boston as a caterer and Massachusetts state legislator. Governor Andrew, Samuel Gridley Howe, and Senator Charles

Sumner also participated in planning for the memorial. The sculpture was unveiled to the public on May 31, 1897, amid great ceremony.

The memorial to the 54th has inspired artists and writers since its inception and has been referenced in many creative endeavors, including William Vaughn Moody's 1909 poem, *An Ode in Time of Hesitation*; the first movement of *Three Places in New England* (1903–29) by American composer Charles Ives; Robert Lowell's famous 1964 poem, *For the Union Dead*; and the ending credits of the 1989 movie *Glory*.

After serving as the 25th Governor of Massachusetts, Andrew was elected president of NEHGS in 1866. His only address to members, on January 2, 1867, enthusiastically and forcefully stressed the importance and relevance of genealogy, biography, and history. He declared, "For the sake of History itself, let us deal honestly and fearlessly with the record our predeces-

sors have left behind them." Andrew died October 30, 1867.

Our statue of Governor John Andrew, an important piece of American art, was donated to the Society in 1918 by Mrs. G. L. Marsh and holds pride of place in our second floor Education Center. ♦



Above: Carte-de-visite studio portrait of John A. Andrew by J. W. Black, Boston. Wikimedia Commons. Right: Robert Gould Shaw Memorial, Boston. Wikimedia Commons, image by Rhododendrites.



**Richard  
Fipphen,  
1959–2021**

Richard Churchill Fipphen died in Connecticut on June 5, 2021, aged 62. He was born January 16, 1959, in Worcester, Massachusetts, to John Stanley and Christine L. (Churchill) Fipphen.

Richard attended schools in Northborough, Massachusetts, and earned his BA from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, in 1981. He received his law degree from Cornell University in 1984 and became an attorney in New York City.

On October 13, 1985, he married Janet Beth Rosenblum, in Glenwood Landing, New York. They had two children who they raised in Fairfield, Connecticut.

In 1975, a one-page high school essay on the origins of his surname led Richard into the world of genealogy. He and his father, John S. Fipphen, undertook a decades-long research project on the family's origins in the United States and England. In 2017, their book, *Phippen Genealogy: Ancestors and Descendants of David Phippen (c. 1585–1650) of Melcombe Regis, Dorset, and Hingham and Boston, Massachusetts* was published by Newbury Street Press.

Richard joined NEHGS in 1976, and later became a Friend member. He served on the NEHGS Council from 2019 until his death and was a member of the Henry Clay Giving Circle. Richard contributed an article to the spring 2018 issue of this magazine, "My Visit to Stephen Hopkins's Baptist Church." He was also a graduate of the Genealogical Research Certificate Program at Boston University.

Richard is survived by his son, Daniel Fipphen, and his daughter, Emily Fipphen.



**John Herdeg,  
1937–2021**

John Andrew Herdeg died in Mendenhall, Pennsylvania, on June 27, 2021, aged 83. He was born in Buffalo, New York, on September 15, 1937, to Franklin Leland and Susannah Estelle (Clark) Herdeg.

John graduated from Deerfield Academy, received a BA from Princeton University in 1959, and an LLB from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1962.

In 1961, John married Judith (Judy) Coolidge Carpenter in Mendenhall. In 1964, they moved to Delaware, where John worked at the Wilmington Trust Company as a staff attorney. After 20 years, he left Wilmington Trust as a Senior Vice President and founded the law firm of Herdeg, du Pont & Dalle Pazzo LLP. In 1992, John co-founded the Christiana Bank and Trust Company in Greenville, Delaware, and served as its chairman.

John served as board member and Chairman of the Board at the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, and as Trustee at Historic Deerfield, Inc. He was a longtime member of American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Society for Colonial Wars in the State of Delaware.

John and Judy's shared love of American history and 18th-century decorative arts resulted in a 2021 book published by American Ancestors/NEHGS about their historic house and art collection, *The Stories They Tell . . . from the Herdeg Collection*. (A profile appeared in the summer 2021 issue [vol. 22, no. 2], pp. 44–46.)

John is survived by his wife Judy; their children Judith (Leli) Leland Herdeg Wilson, Andrew Carpenter Herdeg, and Fell Coolidge Herdeg; seven grandchildren; and two sisters, Lorraine Herdeg Murray and Suzanne Herdeg.



**Jason Stevens,  
1934–2021**

Jason Henry Stevens died in Hilton Head, South Carolina, on June 18, 2021, aged 87. He was born in Corning, New York, on February 3, 1934, to Fred and Helen (Swetland) Stevens. He was raised in Painted Post, New York.

Jason attended the University of Michigan and graduated with an AB in English Literature in 1955. He moved to Buffalo, New York, and earned his MD at the University of Buffalo. In 1959, Jason relocated to Orange County, California. He interned at Orange County General Hospital before moving to UCLA, where he completed his ophthalmology residency in 1963. Jason then served in the 45th MASH and 121st Evacuation Hospital in Korea; as the only eye surgeon in that country, his services were much in demand. He then worked at San Francisco's Letterman Army Hospital before returning to Orange County to establish a private practice that thrived for thirty years. Jason retired in 1995, and in 2000 he and his wife Clara relocated to Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Jason was Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of California, Irvine; founded the Orange County Eye Bank; and was the first physician to perform corneal transplants in Orange County. He worked as an ophthalmologist to the California Angels and the Los Angeles Rams.

Jason joined NEHGS in 1991 and was a loyal donor and Life Member. He served as a Councilor from 2006 to 2012, and 2017 to 2020. He was also a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants (Calif.), Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and Sons of the American Revolution.

Jason is survived by his wife, Clara; six children; twelve grandchildren; and his brother, John Stevens.

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**Morse/Alden** *The Ancestors of Priscilla Alden Morse in two Volumes*, Susan Kilbride (the author, 2021). Softcover, Vol. 1: 490 pp., Vol. 2: 466 pp., index, references, illustrations, appendix. Traces Priscilla Alden Morse to immigrant ancestors in both male and female lines. Contains information on many New England families. Available on Amazon.

**VanDerveer** *The VanDerveer Family and the Line of Some VanDeveers of New York and New Jersey*, Kristin Liddle (Genealogy House, 2021). Hardcover, 498 pp., bibliographic references, index, photos, maps, charts, graphs. Thirty years in the making, this genealogy is best described as a reference work on the VanDerveer family. \$75. Available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

## Family Associations

**Cox/Hussey/Bachiler** Brandywine Crucible, Inc., is a lineage/research/fellowship organization for descendants of Solomon and Naomi Hussey Cox and related families. Notable ancestors include Capt. Christopher Hussey, Rev. Stephen Bachiler/Bachelor, and London vintner John Cox. Annual meeting and reunion: Lampasas, Texas, June 3–5, 2022. Contact Joe Cox, jandhcox@grandecom.net, 412-392-2097; Gary Sutton, gary@upgradetechnologies.com, 325-286-4005; or Linda Atkins, Doublell2010@yahoo.com, 405-549-6588. Homepages.rootsweb.com/~brandywi/.

## Our experts on Facebook Live

Join us on our Facebook page, “American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society” (facebook.com/nehgs), every other month for our Facebook Live events! Led by our expert genealogists, Facebook Live events include live demos and Q&As on a variety of genealogical topics and resources—all from the comfort of your own home! Upcoming topics include Preserving Your Family History, The New AmericanAncestors.org, Free Resources on AmericanAncestors.org, Getting Ready to Write, and more! Be sure to “like” the American Ancestors Facebook page for the most up-to-date schedule and information. Questions? Contact education@nehgs.org.

## Submit your book notice

Members may submit details of their relevant books published within the last year. Please provide: surname (genealogies) or subject (other books); title; author(s)/editor(s)/compiler(s); place of publication; publisher/self-published; year of publication; hardcover/softcover/other; price; page count; specify if index, illustrations, or appendixes are included; description in 25 words or less; contact/ordering information.

## Genealogies in Progress, Family Associations, DNA Studies, and Websites

Members may submit notices of 75 words or fewer. Submit Family Association notices at least six months in advance. Website notices—which list URLs of independent genealogy websites—can run once per year.

To place your listing, email [magazine@nehgs.org](mailto:magazine@nehgs.org).

## The NEHGS cartoon



*“That’s my second cousin, once removed.”*

*Submitted by D. P. Keiber.*

*Drawing by Jean Powers.*

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*with Curt DiCamillo*

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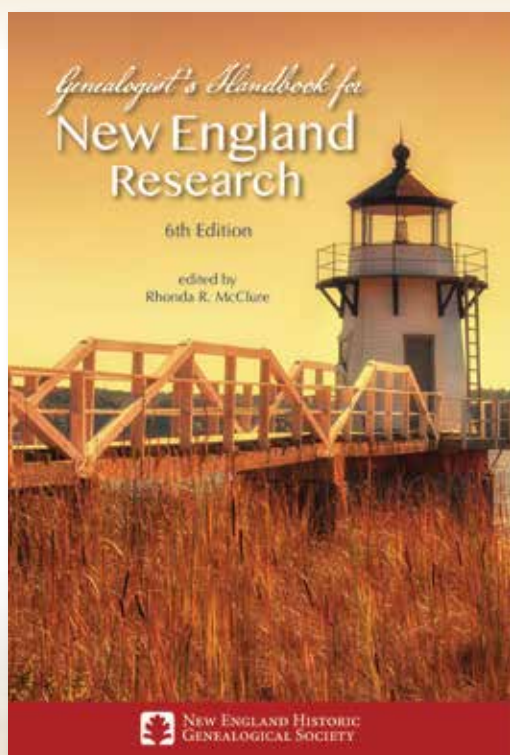
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## The indispensable New England research guide!



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Edited by Rhonda R. McClure

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