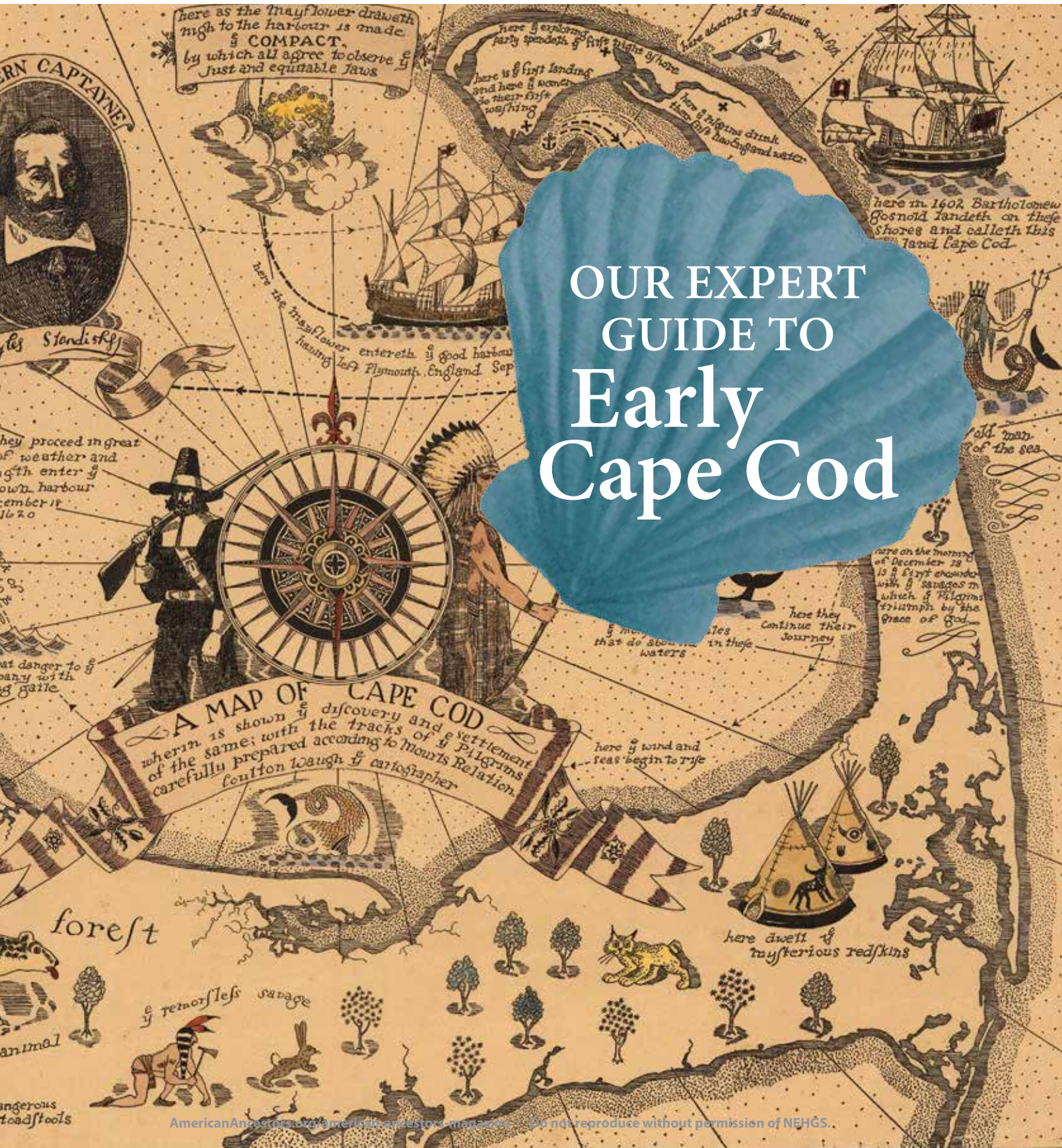




American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



OUR EXPERT GUIDE TO Early Cape Cod

American Ancestors
ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
THE EXPERTS AT NEHGS

The Register
NEHGS
The Journal

Research
sh An

*Don't let your research findings
fall victim to the sands of time . . .*

Publish a Genealogical Article!

NEHGS Summer Institute for Advanced Researchers: Publishing a Genealogical Article July 11–July 15, 2017

Ensure your genealogical legacy by publishing a scholarly article and contributing to the genealogical canon. During this immersive, week-long program the writing and publishing experts at NEHGS will help you craft your research into a polished and compelling article for submission to a scholarly journal or study project. Some pre-requisites apply.

Program includes:

- One-on-one consultations with expert researchers, authors, and editors
- Lectures pertaining to advanced research, proof analysis, writing, and editing
- Homework assignments and hands-on activities
- Writers group sessions
- Welcome reception and group dinner
- Preparatory webinar and program webpage

Learn more and register at
AmericanAncestors.org/Education
education@nehgs.org | 617-226-1226



Instructors include:



Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG
Editor of the *Register*



Christopher C. Child
Editor, *Mayflower Descendant*



Lynn Betlock
Managing Editor,
American Ancestors
Magazine

Spring 2017

VOL. 18, NO. 1

NEHGS staff members Beth Brown and Molly Rogers examine the new Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900, on AmericanAncestors.org. © Pierce Harman Photography. (For more information on this collection, see page 18.)

- 26** **Our Expert Guide to Early Cape Cod**
Alicia Crane Williams, FASG
- 31** **A Glimpse into the Captain Bangs Hallet House in Yarmouth Port**
Marcia Young
- 32** **Manuscript Resources for Cape Cod Genealogical Research**
Timothy G. X. Salls
- 34** **The Cape Cod-Cambridge Connection**
Peggy M. Baker
- 38** **Gallows Hill Project: [Re-]Discovering Proctor's Ledge**
Marilynne K. Roach

- 43** **Pilgrim Robert Cushman and *The Cry of a Stone***
Michael R. Paulick
- 46** **Bringing the Armenian Genocide to Light**
Ann Goolkasian O'Donnell
- 50** **The Ancestry of President Donald John Trump: An Initial Exploration**
Alexander Bannerman, Julie Helen Otto, and Gary Boyd Roberts
- 52** **A Underground Reunion at the Blecker Vault**
Jim Boulden

On the cover: Detail of "A Map of Cape Cod" by Coulton Waugh, 1926. Courtesy of David Rumsey Historical Map Collection. Seashell © Lisagerrard | Dreamstime.com.

Columns

Research Services: Case Files 54

Connecting an NEHGS Member to Alexander Hamilton's "Second"
Andrew Krea

Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight 56

Finis le Guerre: November 11, 1918, from the Perspective of Two World War I Jewish Soldiers
Stephanie Call

Focus on New York 59

Identifying the Original Owner of an Ulster County Account Book
Joan de Vries Kelley

From Our Collections 62

Desdemona's Struggle
Curt DiCamillo

View from the Family Tree 3

In this Issue 5

Branches of Our Family 6

Ask Our Genealogists 8

News 10

Programs & Tours 20

Staff Profile 25

Family Focus 64

Genealogies and other books recently published, family associations



How to . . .

Get in touch with NEHGS page 2

Visit NEHGS page 17

1-888-296-3447

AmericanAncestors.org

How can we help you?

Call toll-free 1-888-296-3447



NEHGS Directory *at a glance*

Ask A Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/
Services/Ask-a-Genealogist

Bookstore

617-226-1212
sales@nehgs.org

Education and Programs

617-226-1226
education@nehgs.org

Jewish Heritage Center

617-226-1245
jhc@nehgs.org

Library

617-226-1239
library@nehgs.org

Member Services

1-888-296-3447 ext. 1
membership@nehgs.org

Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Webmaster

webmaster@nehgs.org

Answers to some frequently asked questions

I'm not able to visit NEHGS very often. How can I improve my research skills and learn more about genealogy?

Our Education team has developed a variety of tools and resources to help you with your family history research. Our free webinars address a wide range of topics and are a great way to expand your genealogical expertise—from home and on your own schedule. New members will find “Using AmericanAncestors.org” and “Get the Most from NEHGS . . . from Home!” helpful for navigating our website and obtaining the best results from database searches. Experienced researchers will benefit from subjects like “Organizing and Preserving Your Family Papers” and “Ten Steps to Writing and Publishing Your Family History.” We also provide subject guides, created by our experts, on a variety of topics ranging from the basics of genealogical research to specific regions and resources.

Want to take your research to the next level? Check out our in-depth online courses (exclusively for NEHGS members). These classes give you the opportunity to interact with our experts, chat with other genealogists, and download helpful resources.

Visit AmericanAncestors.org and navigate to “Education” and then to “Learning Resources” to view all our offerings.

I'm having trouble logging into AmericanAncestors.org. What should I do?

From AmericanAncestors.org, click “Log In” at the top right corner of the page. When the login page appears, click “Forgot Password.” Enter the email address associated with your account, and click the “Submit” button. An email with a prompt to reset your password will be sent to you, and after following the instructions you can log in with your new password.

I want to follow what's happening at NEHGS. Do you have a social media presence?

We regularly post information on events, share pictures from our collections, and update our followers on exclusive insights into NEHGS on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Follow us on Facebook: @nehgs; Twitter: @AncestorExperts; and Instagram: @american_ancestors.

Administration

President and CEO D. Brenton Simons

Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods

Vice President for Development and Member Services

Edward G. MacMahon

Assistant to the President Susan Harrington

Board of Trustees

Chairman

David H. Burnham (MA)

Treasurer

Bill Griffeth (NJ)

Vice Chairman

Nancy S. Maulsby (CT)

Secretary

Nancy Clay Webster (NE)

Class of 2017

Andrew P. Langlois (CT)

Frank C. Ripley (VA)

Harold Hunter Leach, Jr. (MA)

Diana M. Smith (AZ)

Jo Anne C. Makely (NJ)

Morrison DeS. Webb (ME)

Class of 2018

John M. Fleming (CA)

Kristin L. Servison (MA)

William R. Marsh (NE)

Jonathan Buck Treat (MA)

Jonathan W. Montgomery (NY)

Lynn Bryan Trowbridge (CA)

Class of 2019

Stephen H. Case (NY)

Linda A. Pescosolido (CA)

Judith Waite Freeman (LA)

Peter C. Steingraber (RI)

David W. Kruger (NH)

Councilors

Class of 2017

James Rollinson Boulden (UK)

Susan Armstrong Henry (NY)

Dennis C. Brimhall (UT)

John A. Herdeg (PA)

Ann N. Brown (DC)

Marjorie Turrell Julian (NY)

Nordahl L. Brue (FL)

Joan Bennett Kennedy (MA)

Ronald C. Curhan (MA)

Cleon Talboys Knapp (CO)

Barbara L. de Mare (NJ)

Stephanie Jones Martineau (MN)

Frank J. Doherty (NY)

Carol R. Mc Gee (IL)

Sharon M. Donahe (NY)

George Marshall Moriarty (MA)

David Hackett Fischer (MA)

Elizabeth McCaslin Passela (TX)

Elizabeth Goddard (KS)

M. David Sherrill (NY)

Priscilla C. Greenlees (WA)

David N. Smith (AZ)

Thomas Bailey Hagen (PA)

Mary Anne Z. Wheeler (MI)

Edward M. Hawley (CA)

Justin L. Wyner (MA)

Class of 2018

Bruce R. Bartlett (CA)

J. Phillip London (VA)

Herbert J. Boothroyd (FL)

John C. MacKeen (MA)

Sara Stewart Champion (CT)

Jocelynn McCall (TN)

Jane M. Conlan (NC)

Ailsie McEnteggart (CA)

Donald R. Friary (MA)

Mark Kimball Nichols (MA)

Thomas F. Gede (CA)

Robert Russell Perry (CT)

Sarah E. Gunderson (TX)

Karen Lynne Pogoloff (VA)

Patricia Sezna Haggerty (NY)

Patricia R. Reed (TX)

Deborah Campbell Hale (MA)

Bonnie A. Reilly (IL)

Beverly M. Hector-Smith (MA)

Eric B. Schultz (MA)

Robert F. Hendrickson (NJ)

Christopher M. White (MA)

Joseph Swan Junkin (MA)

Jack L. White (CA)

John F. Keane (MA)

Thomas R. Wilcox, Jr. (CT)

Class of 2019

Vernard I. Adams (FL)

Peter M. Small (MA)

Helen H. Berkeley (NY)

Marjorie P. Snelling (PA)

David A. Bruce (MA)

Lionel B. Spiro (MA)

Mary M. Carter (MA)

Edward J. Sullivan (NH)

Arthur M. Geoffrion (CA)

Bryan Sykes (UK)

Gladys P. Gifford (MA)

Mary M. Tedesco (MA)

Virginia Whitman Koster (MA)

Kathleen A. Van Demark (MA)

Stephen J. McCarthy (MA)

Diana E. Warren (MA)

Olivia Parker (MA)

Brenda Williams (MA)

Eric D. Roiter (MA)

Albert J. Zdenek, Jr. (NY)

Trustees Emeriti

Rodney Armstrong (MA)

Kenneth E. Haughton (CA)

Judith Avery (CA)

James T. Larkin (CT)

Richard H. Benson (FL)

John A. Moore (CA)

John G.L. Cabot (MA)

Meriwether C. Schmid (CT)

William M. Crozier, Jr. (MA)

Alvy Ray Smith (CA)

Abbott Lowell Cummings (MA)

Robert C. Stevens (NY)

Allis Ferguson Edelman (FL)

John Lowell Thorndike (MA)

William M. Fowler, Jr. (MA)

Helen Schatvet Ullmann (MA)

Virginia M. Hamister (OH)

Honorary Trustees Emeriti

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (MA)

George Putnam (MA)

Beverly Haughton (CA)

View from the family tree



Most often in genealogical research, we are busy delving into the past. At the New England Historic Genealogical Society, we also have an eye on the future of our field. We are keenly interested in cultivating and supporting the next generations of family historians through youth-focused and community outreach programs.



Brenton Simons

Last December we hosted an “Open House” at our research headquarters in Boston. Throughout the day our experts gave lectures on a variety of topics, including Irish research and DNA testing, and we hosted a panel discussion on early New England families. Our doors were open to all, and we provided a number of engaging activities for children, including “photo hunts” that used historic images from our archives and family tree and heraldry coloring projects. The event was a wonderful opportunity for families and young people, in particular, to become acquainted with some of our many resources.

One of my favorite days of the year is “Free Fun Friday,” a summertime event. It, too, focuses on introducing visitors to what we do. For many years, our friends at the Highland Street Foundation have generously sponsored a day of no-cost admission to many treasured cultural venues in Massachusetts, including NEHGS. This year we offered free consultations with our experts, lectures on “Getting Started in Genealogy,” and activities for children, including family-focused arts and crafts projects and an “Archivist for a Day” exhibit featuring historic letters from our collections. We hosted over 500 visitors and provided 135 consultations, delivering a rewarding experience for all who attended.

Although many of our constituents did not develop an interest in genealogy until mid-life, some family historians start young. In fact, our Chief Genealogist, David Allen Lambert, joined NEHGS at age 17, and Senior Genealogist and Editor Christopher C. Child began using our library at the tender age of 11! Through these special programs, we hope to encourage many more young people to find the joy we all have experienced when discovering our ancestors’ stories.

Brenton Simons
President and CEO

Administration

President and CEO D. Brenton Simons

Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods

Vice President Edward G. MacMahon

Assistant to the President Susan Harrington

Development and Member Services

Director of Constituent Relations Meghan Walsh

Senior Manager of Member Services Sarah Liebenrood

Manager of Gift Planning Steven L. Solomon

Senior Development Officer Beth A. Brown

Visitor Services Representatives Valerie Beaudraut, James Heffernan

Member Services Coordinator Kathleen Mackenzie

Member Services Representatives Jenna LaRiviere, Savannah Renaud

Development Coordinator Danielle Torres

Director of Annual Giving Robin Wolfe

Education and Programs

Director of Education and Online Programs Ginevra Morse

Education Coordinator Tricia Labbe

Finance

Controller Jeremy Bento

Senior Accountant Michael Forbes

HR/Accounts Receivable Coordinator Michelle Major

Accounts Payable Associate Megan Peterson

Accounts Receivable Associate Emma Brightbill

Fine Arts

Curator of Special Collections Curt DiCamillo

Information Technology/Facilities

Director of Information Technology Steven Shilcuskus

Building and Maintenance Assistant Michael McIntyre

Library

Library Director Jean Maguire

Library Patron Services and Consultations Manager Alice Kane

Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert

Senior Genealogists Marie E. Daly, Rhonda R. McClure

Genealogists Jeanne Scaduto Belmonte, Tom Dreyer, Ann G. Lawthers

Manager of Manuscript Collections Timothy G. X. Salls

Archivist Judith Lucey

Curator of Digital Collections Sally Benny

Technical Services Manager Anne Meringolo

Technical Services/Metadata Librarian Emily Baldoni

Technical Services Assistant Olga Tugarina

Conservation Technician Deborah Rossi

Library Assistant Brigid Black

Marketing and Sales

Director of Marketing and Sales Jim Power, Jr.

Marketing Manager Henry S. Hornblower

Sales Coordinator Rick Park

Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS

Director Judith A. Garner

Collections Management Archivist Stephanie Call

Archives Assistant Kelsey Sawyer

Archivist Lindsay Sprechman

Digital Archives Assistants Jessie Xu

Publications

Publishing Director Sharon Inglis

Editor-in-Chief Scott C. Steward

Assistant Publishing Director Cécile Engeln

Managing Editor Lynn Betlock

Editor and Creative Director Carolyn Sheppard Oakley

Associate Editor Jean Powers

Publications Design Manager Ellen Maxwell

Editor of the *Register* Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG

Senior Genealogist, Newbury Street Press, and

Editor of *Mayflower Descendant* Christopher C. Child

Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press Kyle Hurst

Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press Eileen Pironti

Research Services

Director of Research Services Lindsay Fulton

Researchers Jason Amos, Nancy Bernard, Danielle Cournoyer,

Michelle Doherty, Zachary Garceau, Pam Guye Holland, Kathleen Kaldis,

Julie Wilmot

Senior Researchers Sheilagh Doerfler, Katrina Fahy, Andrew Krea,

Meaghan Siekman

Research Services Coordinator Mollie Braen

Volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator Helen Herzer

Website Development

Director of Digital Strategy Claire Vail

Front-End Developer Andrew Hanson-Dvoracek

Web Content Assistant Kelsey Jarboe

Database Search Specialist Don LeClair

Digitization Assistant and Facilities Coordinator John Phlo

Digital Database Coordinator Molly Rogers

Digital Collections Administrator Samuel P. Sturgis III

Genealogist Alicia Crane Williams



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

The *Vita Brevis* blog

Interested in thought-provoking explorations of genealogical topics? The *Vita Brevis* blog offers the opportunity to engage with scholars and professionals who share their unique perspectives and insights. Visit us at vita-brevis.org.

The *Weekly Genealogist* newsletter

Eager for some genealogical news in your inbox each Wednesday? *The Weekly Genealogist* highlights the latest NEHGS databases and online content, and includes a spotlight on resources around the country, "Ask a Genealogist" questions and answers, stories of interest, a survey, and more. Visit AmericanAncestors.org for more information.

Our Facebook page

Want to participate in our community and keep up-to-date on our latest news? Join our more than 35,000 friends and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/nehgs.

Twitter

Prefer to keep up with us on Twitter? Follow us via [@ancestorexperts](https://twitter.com/ancestorexperts) for news, bookstore specials, publication announcements, and genealogy-related points of interest shared by our staff.

In this issue

In this issue of *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*, we explore Cape Cod history and genealogical resources. Alicia Crane Williams, FASG, a *Mayflower* scholar and the lead genealogist on our Early New England Families Study Project, authored our cover story on early Cape Cod and compiled a list of essential genealogical resources that extend well beyond the seventeenth century. As part of our cover theme, Manager of Manuscript Collections Timothy Salls contributed an article on our significant and unique holdings for Cape Cod. Peggy Baker wrote about the network of Harvard College graduates on Cape Cod, and Marcia Young provided a glimpse into the home of a Yarmouth sea captain.

Both Alicia Crane Williams and Timothy Salls are NEHGS staff members. For each issue of the magazine we rely on in-house experts like Alicia and Tim to write feature stories and regular columns. Other staff authors featured within these pages are senior genealogist Andrew Krea, Jewish Heritage Center collections management archivist Stephanie Call, and curator of special collections Curt DiCamillo.

Our magazine also depends on authors from outside our organization sharing their perspectives and knowledge. We connect with these writers in a variety of ways, and how we find our authors may interest readers.

When I discussed the Cape Cod theme with Alicia Crane Williams, she suggested that I contact Peggy Baker, editor for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Silver Books project and Director Emerita of the Pilgrim Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum. Peggy then kindly agreed to write on Harvard-Cape Cod connections. Our article on the Bangs Hallet House also resulted from a personal contact; Publishing Director Sharon Inglis recommended I contact Marcia Young, who had written profiles of historic houses. Finally, a discussion with director Brenton Simons about the reprint of Robert Cushman's *The Cry of a Stone* led to an article by the book's editor, Michael R. Paulick.

Marilynne K. Roach—an NEHGS member for more than 25 years—has

shared her Salem witch trial expertise with us in several previous articles. Last year, after she and others in the “Gallows Hill Project” received nationwide publicity for determining the execution site of the Salem witch trial victims, Marilynne offered to write about that research and submitted a fascinating account. Jim Boulden, a 15-year member and NEHGS Councilor who also previously contributed articles, asked whether the story of his “underground” family reunion at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City would resonate with our readers; the answer was “yes”!

Since 1989, this magazine and its predecessors have treated the ancestry of recently-elected Presidents—George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and now Donald Trump. For this most recent article, Gary Boyd Roberts—known for his work on notable kinships—explores the new president's ancestry with Alexander Bannerman and Julie Helen Otto.

Last year, perusing the Brookline Adult & Community Education catalog, I spied an interesting lecture by Ann Goolkasian O'Donnell. Intrigued by her Armenian family story, I contacted her and she agreed to share her poignant account with *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* readers.

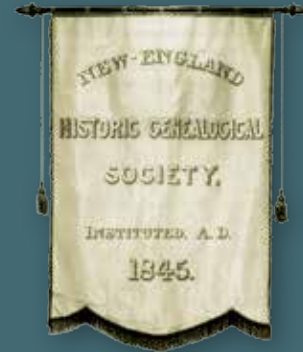
Member Joan de Vries Kelley transcribed an eighteenth-century Ulster County, N.Y., account book—and determined the original owner. She suggested an article and we accepted her manuscript for our New York column. Many of our articles are written by members—of all experience levels—who contact us with a good proposal.

Our strength as a magazine is due to our wide network of authors who generously share their expertise, discoveries, and insights. Our thanks to all of them—and to all of you for being part of our community.



Lynn Betlock
Managing Editor
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.

magazine@nehgs.org

Managing Editor

Lynn Betlock

Editor and Creative Director

Carolyn Sheppard Oakley

Associate Editor

Jean Powers

Assistant Editor

Gary Boyd Roberts

Genetics Editor

Christopher Challender Child

Contributing Editors

Robert Charles Anderson, FASG;
Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG

Editors Emeriti

D. Brenton Simons; Scott C. Steward

Proofreaders

Valerie Beaudrault; Cécile Engeln;
Linda Rupnow McGuire;
Scott C. Steward; Leslie A. Weston

Indexer

Steve Csipke



This publication is also funded in part by the Francis G. and Ruth (Wellington) Shaw Memorial Fund.

SUPPORTED BY



branches of our family

David & Diana Smith: The thrill of a shared pursuit

A co-worker who once asked Dave about his genealogy database remarked, “You have so many grandparents!” Dave responded, “We both have the same number; I just know more of mine.”

Since marrying 50 years ago, we have loved solving good mysteries together—and genealogy fit right into that shared interest. We started doing serious research twenty years ago, and soon noticed that NEHGS was often referenced as having one of the country’s most robust collections of genealogical material. As good detectives, we knew that we needed access to the books, manuscripts, and materials at NEHGS that might hold answers to our quest.

Our family research has taken us on many adventures. When we began, we thought a few trips to the towns associated with our families would be enough. But we found we enjoy visiting places where our ancestors lived, worked, and worshiped, because it “brings to life” the surroundings and circumstances under which they lived.

We had no idea how often our ancestors moved during their lifetimes. We traveled with Robert Charles Anderson on his “Great Migration” tour to Bury St Edwards, where we

learned about Dave’s ancestors who came to America with John Winthrop. On the “New England Captives Carried to Canada” tour with Donald Friary, we discovered that Diana’s French-Canadian ancestors came south into Massachusetts to capture Dave’s noble and peace-loving English settlers and their neighbors!

The diversity of experiences of our ancestors has been a revelation. Dave’s ancestors include Puritan and Congregational ministers, a president of Harvard, and a horse thief. One of Diana’s French-Canadian ancestors was born in Massachusetts and, at about age five, traveled with her family to Minnesota in a covered wagon in the early 1880s. As we learn more, both of us continue to appreciate the true grit and determination of our ancestors, several of whom faced enormous risks and uncertainties. One of the joys of our research has been discovering, at various ancestral gravesites, medallions commemorating military service.

Many of these discoveries were made possible through our involvement with NEHGS. We admire the commitment of the NEHGS staff and leadership to serve current members by bringing old books and genealogical manuscripts into the digital age. NEHGS’s inclusiveness and new partnerships with groups such as the American Jewish Historical Society and the Boston Catholic Archdiocese recognizes the rich and diverse heritage of our forefathers.

Although we live far from NEHGS in Arizona (we’re not fond of New England winters!), we feel connected to the organization and are always in touch by telephone and email. Diana serves on the NEHGS Board of Trustees and David serves as a Councilor, and we attend at least three Board meetings each year. We are honored to play a role in the growth and development of NEHGS. Through our work on the Board as well as our contributing membership as a Life Member Couple, we can draw on the resources of the Society while also helping to replenish this well of knowledge for future generations. ♦

Both **David and Diana Smith** are members of NEHGS under the newly created “Life Member Couple” program. Diana was elected to the NEHGS Board of Trustees in 2013, and David was elected Councilor at the same time. Before he retired, David followed a career in corporate finance, holding positions as CFO of the Tennessee Valley Authority and AMTRAK. Diana was active in various civic, arts, and historical organizations, while managing their family business, *Scottsdale Airpark News*, as its editor and publisher. They can be reached at diana1234@aol.com and davidsmith2@aol.com.

David and Diana Smith



What does family ♦ relationships ♦ involvement Life Membership belonging ♦ mission ♦ support mean to you? commitment ♦ priority ♦ connection



"I believe in philanthropy, and, by being a Life Member of NEHGS, I am able to provide consistent support to the organization that gives so much back to me. NEHGS represents the very best in genealogy, and it is my privilege to be a part of it in this way."

—NEHGS Life Member Nancy Maulsby

Call today

NEW! Life membership for couples
now available at a discount.

Life Membership

\$5,000

\$3,395 tax deductible
for age 62 or higher

Life Benefactor

\$7,500

\$4,415 tax deductible
no age restriction

To learn more, contact our Member Services team
at 1-888-296-3447 or membership@nehgs.org.



ask our genealogists

Tom Dreyer is a specialist in New England, New York, and Midwestern genealogy. He has an interest in Northern Germany and DNA testing and results.

I am looking for the birth record and the names of the parents of my ancestor, Christine Louise Russell. I believe she was born in Boston in 1848. In 1869, she married George Franklin Mortimer in St. Paul, Minnesota, and had six children there. She died in 1893.

Boston births in this time period often went unreported. The city was growing rapidly and doctors and clerks had difficulty keeping up with the paperwork. Without a birth record, we have to rely on other sources for this information.

I find it helpful to begin these types of searches by reviewing census records after a birth, looking for the father's surname. Narrowing the search criteria helps to limit the number of "hits" returned. In this case, I learned from the 1880 U.S. federal census taken in St. Paul that Christine was born about 1846 in Massachusetts, with both parents born in Sweden.

I then searched the 1850 census records for people with a Russell surname who were born in Sweden and living in Massachusetts. No one

matched my criteria but one name appeared when I searched the 1855 Massachusetts state census—John N. Russell. However, he did not have a daughter in his household and his wife was born in Ireland, not Sweden. Estimating that Christine's father was about 22 when she was born, I searched Massachusetts Petitions for Citizenship—part of the Boston U.S. Circuit Court records held at the Massachusetts Archives in Boston and available on Ancestry.com—for any Russell born about 1826 in Sweden who was living in Massachusetts. John N. Russell appeared again but he did not arrive in the United States until 1849, which was further confirmation that your Christine was not his child.

However, a second candidate for Christine's father also appeared on the list of Petitions for Citizenship. A Henry Russell arrived in the United States in 1842 and was living in Boston in 1852. This Henry Russell was born in Gefle, Sweden, on August 9, 1821. With a given name and birth date, I was able to search specifically for Henry and then link him to your Christine. I found Henry listed in the 1860 federal census in St. Paul with his wife, Mathilda, also born in Sweden, and three children, including daughter "Christian," born in Massachusetts about 1846.

View of St. Paul, Minnesota, 1874, by Geo. H. Ellsbury and Vernon Green. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, [loc.gov/item/75694648](https://www.loc.gov/item/75694648).



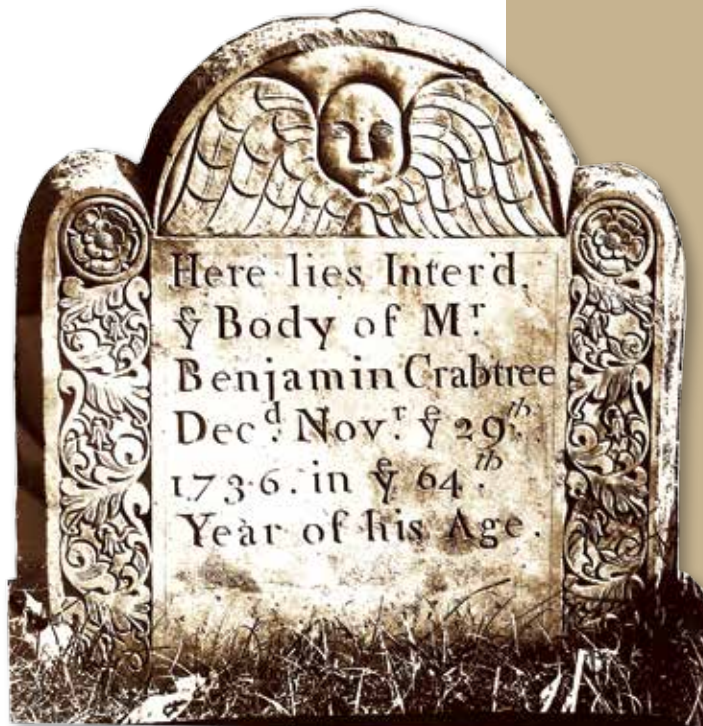
When a person dies “in the 91st year of her age,” does that phrase mean that she died at age 90 or age 91?

It means she died at age 90. In his book *Elements of Genealogical Analysis* (p. 112), Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, wrote about Abigail Gay, who died in Lebanon, Connecticut, on August 9, 1844. According to her gravestone, she died “in her 78th year.” Anderson noted that “The formula ‘in her 78th year,’ if used correctly, would mean that Abigail was somewhere between her 77th and 78th birthday.”

Where can I find land registry deeds for Andover, Massachusetts, from 1660 to 1716? I’m trying to verify information about land purchases and sales by Robert Russell, who died in 1710 in Andover. Sources (with no attribution) mention several deeds I would like to locate.

Massachusetts land records from 1620 to 1986 (with varying coverage) can be found online at FamilySearch.org. Click on the search tab at the top of the page, then select “records” from the drop-down menu. You will see a new page with a map of the world under the heading “Research by Location.” Click on the United States, then select Massachusetts from the drop-down menu of states. Scroll down the new page to the “Massachusetts Image Only Historical Records” section, which displays records from digitized microfilms that have not been indexed. Then look for the “Probate and Court” heading and, underneath it, “Massachusetts Land Records 1620–1986.”

Click this link, and then click “Browse through images.” You will then be able to select a county—in this case, Essex, which will bring you to a list of grantee and grantor indexes, as well as all of the related deed volumes. Searching for Robert Russell in the grantee index, 1640–1799, Pla–Zac,



The gravestone of Benjamin Crabtree in Attleborough, Massachusetts, records that when he died on November 29, 1736, he was in the 64th year of his age. From *New England Gravestones 1653–1800*, Mss 936, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, NEHGS.

produces an entry for him, which references Volume 6, page 129. Returning to the main Essex page, you should be able to select Volume 6 and browse through to 129 for the deed. In this case, however, the corresponding deed was not found on page 129. Apparently a mistake was made when the index was originally compiled. I then looked at the Volume 6 index, at the beginning of that volume, and saw that Robert Russell’s deed is on page 819, which is where I located it.

After you review this deed you can then return to the main Essex page to search for Robert Russell in the grantor index. Keep in mind that you should also search for deeds using the names of Robert Russell’s children, as you might be able to track the later history of the inherited land that way. ♦

Do you have a question for our genealogists?

NEHGS offers its members a free Ask A Genealogist service to answer quick genealogy or local history questions. Submit your question at [AmericanAncestors.org/ask-a-genealogist](https://www.americanancestors.org/ask-a-genealogist).

Do you need more in-depth help?

The NEHGS Research Services Team offers a wide range of in-depth research assistance available to everyone. Services include hourly research, lineage society applications, help with organization and evaluation, photocopying, and accessing our vast collections. Visit [AmericanAncestors.org/research-services](https://www.americanancestors.org/research-services) to learn more.

News



REGISTER TODAY! Family History Benefit Dinner featuring Stacy Schiff

On Friday, April 28, 2017, NEHGS will present the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for History and Biography to author and historian Stacy Schiff. Her book *Vera* (*Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov*) won the Pulitzer Prize in 2000, and her most recent book, *The Witches, Salem 1692*, was praised by the *New York Times* as “an almost novelistic, thriller-like narrative” and by fellow author David McCullough as “brilliant from start to finish.”

The emcees will be noted historian William M. Fowler, Jr. and *Genealogy Roadshow* co-host Mary M. Tedesco. Proceeds of the dinner will support our Annual Fund. For more information or to register, visit AmericanAncestors.org/dinner.

DNA Day

On October 22, we welcomed 345 enthusiastic participants to DNA Day in Worcester, Massachusetts. Bill Griffeth, host of CNBC's *Closing Bell* and author of *The Stranger in My Genes*, delivered the keynote address, and took questions from the audience during a special luncheon. *Mayflower Descendant* Editor Christopher C. Child lectured on the possibilities of DNA testing and sharing data. AncestryDNA's Anna Swayne discussed the autosomal test offered by Ancestry and offered strategies for maximizing results.

We also made our first foray into Facebook Live broadcasting at the conference! Development Coordinator Dani Torres gave viewers a live look at event activities. Check out the video at facebook.com/nehgs/videos.

Right: Bill Griffeth signs books for a fan.
Below: Lecture attendees listen to Chris Child's expert tips.



Cokie Roberts honored at our fall dinner

On October 27, we gathered with 175 guests at the Taj Hotel in Boston to honor historian and journalist Cokie Roberts, who was presented with the NEHGS Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography.

Cokie Roberts is the author of several *New York Times* bestsellers and highly acclaimed memoirs, including *Our Haggadah: Uniting Traditions for Interfaith Families*. In her more than 40 years in broadcasting she has won numerous awards, including three Emmys and the Edward R. Murrow Award. The Library of Congress named her a “Living Legend.”

Born in New Orleans, she is a daughter of Hale Boggs, Democratic Congressman from Louisiana, Majority Leader in the House of Representatives, and member of the Warren Commission. Her mother, Lindy Boggs, was a longtime Congresswoman from Louisiana and Ambassador to the Holy See. Cokie’s immigrant forebears hailed from France, (French) Canada, Switzerland, Spain, Scotland, and England, and she has connections to Lady Mary Boleyn, three kings, and Princess Diana. Her ancestors settled in Massachusetts, Virginia, Louisiana, and Alabama.

After President and CEO Brenton Simons presented Cokie with her genealogy, guests were treated to a lively discussion between Cokie and our Emcee, NEHGS Treasurer and co-anchor of CNBC’s *Closing Bell* Bill Griffith. Bill had captivated the audience earlier in the evening with a behind-the-scenes look at his best-selling memoir, *The Stranger in My Genes*. Attendees also enjoyed Cokie’s thoughtful, straightforward take on the history of women in America, Southern family traditions, and the upcoming election. It was an evening not to be missed!

Special acknowledgements are due to Silver Benefactors Stephen H. Case, Bill and Cindy Griffith, and Lynn Bryan Trowbridge and Thomas Trowbridge. We are also grateful to Benefactors Judith Avery, Thomas Bailey Hagen, Nancy S. Maulsby, Mark Kimball Nichols, and Welch & Forbes, LLC.



Clockwise from top: NEHGS Treasurer and Benefactor Bill Griffith with Cokie Roberts and NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons; Patron member Carron Leigh Haight, Roberts, and Councilor and Life Benefactor Thomas Bailey Hagen; Senior Development Officer Beth Brown and NEHGS Councilor and *Genealogy Roadshow* Host Mary M. Tedesco; Trustee and Life Member Lynn Trowbridge and her husband Tom Trowbridge with Roberts; Roberts with NEHGS Vice Chairman and Life Member Nancy S. Maulsby; Roberts with Trustee Emerita and Life Member Judith Avery.





NEHGS at NERGC 2017

This year's New England Regional Genealogical Conference, "Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow To Understand the Past," will be held in Springfield, Massachusetts, from April 26 to 29. NEHGS is a conference sponsor and exhibitor, and our expert genealogists David Allen Lambert and Alice Kane will be lecturing. Family historians of all levels will have the opportunity to advance knowledge and hone research skills. Learn more and register at nergc.org/2017-conference.

Earliest church records of Northampton, Mass.

New England's Hidden Histories has announced its online publication of the earliest church record book from Northampton, Massachusetts. The volume includes records kept by Reverend Solomon Stoddard (1643–1729), known as the "Pope of the Connecticut Valley," and the famous pastor Jonathan Edwards, America's foremost eighteenth-century theologian. The book contains a fourteen-page covenant and statement of principles. Also included are extensive membership and baptismal lists, which help document the origins of the Great Awakening, and Jonathan Edwards's records of church discipline. The records kept by Edwards's successor, John Hooker, cast much-needed light on "life after Edwards" in Northampton. The originals are held by the Forbes Library in Northampton. View the records at congregationallibrary.org/nehh/main.

New England's Hidden Histories, a project of the Congregational Library & Archives in Boston, seeks to preserve, digitize, and transcribe New England's earliest manuscript church records. The project has partnered with the New England Historic Genealogical Society and will be assisting in the digitization of manuscripts of great historical interest drawn from our extensive collections.

Above: "Central Part of Northampton, Mass." John Warner Barber, *Historical Collections . . . Relating to . . . Massachusetts* (1848), 329.

Genetics & Genealogy curriculum

In the Winter 2016 issue of *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*, we brought you news regarding funding for an exciting curriculum inspired by the *Finding Your Roots* TV series. The working group is led by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and consists of representatives from NEHGS and several universities. The aim is to develop a curriculum that engages students of color in the study of genealogy and in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation supported the development of two genetics and genealogy summer camps for middle school learners; a grant from the National Science Foundation supported the creation of relevant modules in introductory undergraduate biology classes.

In 2016, Director of Education and Online Programs Ginevra Morse worked with the curriculum group to develop an engaging, age-appropriate family history module for the two-week summer camps held at Penn State and the University of South Carolina. Senior Researcher Sheilagh Doerfler traveled to the University of South Carolina to assist students researching their family histories. Through these programs, students became scientists as they investigated their DNA, unearthed information on their genealogies, measured the dimensions and physiological responses of their own bodies, learned about the meaning of biological variation, and carried out their own independent research projects.

NEHGS and the curriculum working group are now preparing for the expanded range of 2017 summer camps and undergraduate modules. We hope that these efforts may one day lead to a curriculum that can be implemented in schools and universities across the country.



Volunteers set a milestone

Volunteers, interns, and staff gathered in the NEHGS Treat Rotunda on November 16 for our annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon.

During fiscal year 2016, some 173 volunteers, including college and high school interns, retirees, and Trustees and Councilors, helped further our mission by working at our library or from home. By the close of the year, 24,538 hours were contributed—the highest number of volunteer hours recorded to date. Their contribution is the equivalent of 12 full-time staff years—a tremendous boon for our nonprofit institution.

NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons opened the program, acknowledging the range of activity areas that benefit from volunteer assistance—providing help to library patrons; assisting with publishing, research, or archival projects; preparing mailings; restoring or conserving documents; serving on the Council of the Corporation; and working on database projects. “Volunteers help us in so many ways, it’s impossible to imagine functioning without them.”

Department supervisors shared some of the accomplishments and innovations produced with the assistance of volunteers. Many volunteer projects involved digitization—scanning manuscripts, publications, or photographs—or the creation of searchable databases or metadata. These contributions aided the expansion of the NEHGS and Jewish Heritage Center Digital Collections, as well as new databases on AmericanAncestors.org. We thank all our volunteers for helping to increase the number of records available to family historians everywhere!



Interested in becoming a volunteer?
Contact Volunteer Coordinator Helen Herzer at 617-226-1276 or at hherzer@nehgs.org.



Top: Volunteers Patty Fagan, Helen Ullmann, and Karen Proctor with Director of Education Ginevra Morse. Bottom: Volunteers Maureen McCarthy and Edna Curtin with Genealogist Tom Dreyer.

NEHGS featured on *Chronicle*

Tim Salls, Manager of Manuscript Collections, and our scrapbook from Malaga Island, Maine, were featured on *Chronicle*, a New England newsmagazine television series. An inter-racial community lived on Malaga Island from the Civil War until 1911, when the residents were forcibly evicted. The program is now available online, in three parts: “What Happened On Malaga Island?,” “Malaga Island: Discovering Family History,” and “Remembering Malaga Island.” Images from the scrapbook appear at various times throughout the show, and Tim’s main appearance can be found from around 6:00 to 8:00 in the first segment. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/about/press-and-media for links to the show.

The scrapbook can be viewed on our Digital Collections site: digitalcollections.AmericanAncestors.org.

Tim Salls with *Chronicle* co-host Shayna Seymour in our library.



Special NEHGS anniversaries

The New England Historic Genealogical Society recognizes the milestone anniversaries of members who are celebrating thirty, forty, fifty, and sixty years of membership in 2017. They have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to NEHGS and the pursuit of genealogical scholarship.

These lists were compiled from older NEHGS membership records and are intended to be as accurate as possible. We apologize for any inadvertent omissions.

60 years; member since 1957

Charles R. Haugh

50 years; members since 1967

Douglas B. Ayer
James B. Haley, Jr.
Barbara A. Mason
Michael A. Melnick
J. Wesley Miller III
Susanne Provo
Paul J. Rich
Norris M. Whiston

40 years; members since 1977

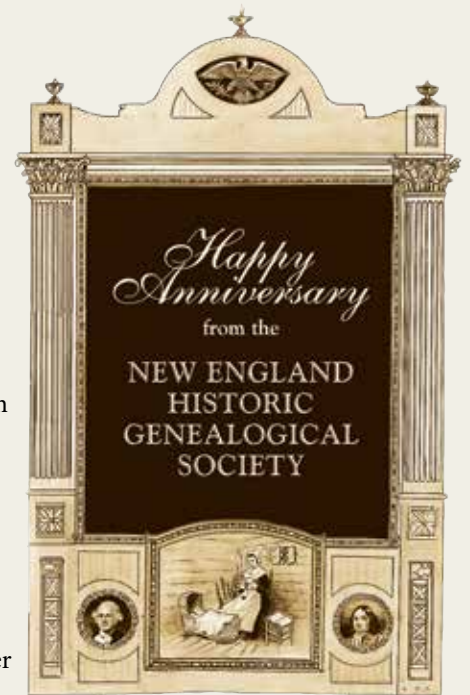
Neil and Mary Bouchard
Ardeen S. Burgess
James B. Case
Robert T. Coolidge
Joann Coombs
Florence H. Cummings
Nancy L. Dodge
W. Herbert Doty
Sheila E. FitzPatrick
Ralph William Grant
Eastham Guild, Jr.
Elizabeth Nowell Hughes
Ann S. Lainhart
Thomas S. Martin
Barbara L. Merrick
Ruth Powell
Lura S. Provost
Linda S. Reinfeld
Mary Alice Burke Robinson
William B. Saxbe, Jr.
Damaris and Samuel Stoddard
Patricia B. Swan
Glenna and Arthur Symons
Maxine Houghton Wallin
William and Margaret Weiler
James H. Wick

30 years; members since 1987

Marjorie and Thomas Abbott
Jack and Joyce Akerboom
Nancy E. Allen
John R. Amundson
Ellen L. Anderson
Pamela Anderson
Shirley York Anderson
Sandra E. Atkins
Sandra Jerome Atwood
Michael Bachelder
Kathleen C. Beals
Sally Bixby Bailey
Molly B. Barrett
Charles Bates
Anne and Don Bentley
Dorothy D. Booth
Stephen Ralph Boswell
Carol Botteron
John C. Brandon
Sharon L. Brevoort
Lloyd C. Briggs
Thomas and Madeline Brockway
Carol and Jerry Bullins
Jane L. Butler
Frank L. Calkins
Prudence K. Calvin
Joanna Case
Carolyn H. Collins
Donald Vinton Coes
Margery Swain Conley
James P. Cope
Christopher William Davenport
Emma-Jo Davis
Juanita Plummer Dixon
Josephine Donahue
Robert Maxwell Donnell
Frederick A. Drake
Dorothy G. Duncan
Wolcott B. Dunham, Jr.
Arlene H. Eakle
Robert H. Einhaus
Mary and Andrew Erickson

William P. Farrington
Elaine and Allen Fernald
Carol Denise Foss
Kay H. Freilich
Melba L. Fryer
Sylvia M. Garfield
Alice D. Gedge
Leigh Maxfield Gelser
Jean C. Gobel
Patricia L. Goitein
Rosemarie R. Golden
Nancy Goodman
Lois J. Gonzales
Donald C. Grant
Edward S. Gray
Helen R. Gross
Lee Strom Guerra
Elaine and William Habelt
Judith C. Harbold
Marjorie E. Herold
Winifred P. Hershberger
Henry B. Hoff
Betty Louise Holmes
Bett Houston
Diantha B. Howard
Harriett E. Hubbell
Beverly E. Hurney
Adele B. Hynes
Barbara C. Iliff
Daniel R. Ireland
Margaret Davis Jacobs
Jean Jensen
Richard S. Johnson
Joan R. Jones
Robert S. Jordan
Dennis M. Joy
John R. Keefe
Betsy Strong Kent
Robert Alan Kraft
Roger N. Lane
Newbold Le Roy
Frank G. Lesure
Karen and Brian Leverich
J. C. Lillywhite
Joan K. Lince
Richard J. Lindsey

Robert and Carole Livingston
Frances Lloyd
Pam Longfellow
Jean and Mark Loudenslagel
Carolyn Lovejoy
Alfred N. Luce, Jr.
Eugene R. Major
Jean S. Manthorne
Marilyn Booth Manzella
Linda L. Mathew
Barbara J. Mathews
Deborah Norris Matthews
Gerald G. Mattison
Carol and Gary McClure
Rhonda McClure
Patricia McHugh
Nancy B. McKarahan
Elizabeth D. Meyer
Ronald Meyer
Julie M. Michutka
John Darryl Miller
Stephen J. Montgomery
Grayden C. Moorhouse
Everard Munsey
Sandy Murray
David V. Naramore
Colleen Nelson
Lolene G. Newman
Glendene and Roger Nichols
Kathleen Marie O'Brien
Marsha and William Ocain
Robert M. Patt
Daniel J. Pelletier
Joanne Perry
Richard Andrew Pierce
Carol S. Piper



Peggy L. Plimpton
 Kelly J. Powers
 James B. Reilly
 Fred Wetherbee Richardson
 Anne A. Robinson
 Harveta Rockwell
 Nancy Louise Roemer
 Janet M. Rogge
 James Sager
 Sharon L. Seaver
 Sylvia S. Sebelist
 Robert Bayard Severy
 Mary B. Shannon-West
 Susan H. Shead
 Robert S. Sherman
 Alden L. Shores
 Diane B. Sisson
 Douglas G. Smith
 Emma Jean Smith
 Kathie Maria Smith
 Marie Sprague
 T. Elaine Stegmaier
 Jeffrey R. Stevens
 Elizabeth Stickley
 Francis D. Stillman
 Patricia Strati
 Stephen L. Symchych
 Sheldon and Rebecca Taft
 Kenneth Mark Thompson
 Mary Ann Tock
 Lynn Bryan Trowbridge
 Kevin D. Tvedt
 Nancy P. Underwood
 Anne Louise Clap
 Van Nostrand
 Stanford Bates Vincent
 Leslie Faye Vogel
 James Otto Warren, Jr.
 Lynn and Cliff Watts
 Barbara Ham Webber
 Michael Stephen Welch
 Charles Chauncey Wells
 Judith W. Welna
 Barbara M. Wilson
 Anne C. Wing
 Tracy C. Winkler
 Ann Taylor Wisner
 Penelope S. Wolfe
 Sharyn Kelley Worrell
 William E. Wright
 Marilyn W. Wyman
 Sherrill Seale Yates



Holiday Open House

In December we opened our doors to the public for our annual Holiday Open House. Throughout the day we hosted lectures from our experts on a variety of topics, including tips for Irish research and using DNA tests in genealogy. Our “Fireside Chat” panel discussion on early New England families featured scholars Robert Charles Anderson, Alica Crane Williams, and Helen S. Ullmann. Family activities included “photo hunts” using historic images from our archives, create-your-own family tree, and heraldry coloring. We had a great time sharing our enthusiasm for family history with new friends.

Left, top: A Fireside Chat with Publications Director Sharon Inglis, Helen Ullmann, Alica Crane Williams, and Robert Charles Anderson; *Left, middle:* An aspiring genealogist searches historical documents for clues; *Left, bottom:* Dani Torres and Tricia Labbe greet visitors in style.

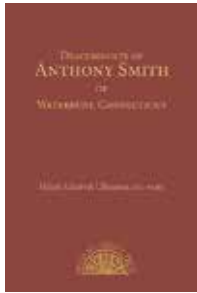
Italian heritage event at NEHGS

On August 31, NEHGS, in partnership with the Order of Sons of Italy in America, hosted an event on researching Italian ancestry. Brenton Simons opened the evening with a speech on his own Italian ancestry and was initiated as a member of the Greater Boston Renaissance Lodge by Lodge President Dr. Dean Saluti. NEHGS Genealogist Jeanne Scaduto Belmonte delivered the keynote address and shared her expertise in Italian research as well as anecdotes from her professional career and travels.



Pirandello Lyceum Chairman of the Board Dr. Stephen Maio, NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons, Chairman of the Italian Culture/Historical Commission Dr. Dean Saluti, and Pirandello Lyceum Vice President Frank Ciano. Photo courtesy of Chuck Centore.

New Publications



Descendants of Anthony Smith of Waterbury, Connecticut

Helen Ullmann, CG, FASG
6 x 9 hcvr; 280 pp.; \$44.95, member \$40.46

Helen Ullmann's research of her Anthony Smith line was halted forty-five years ago when she could not find anything to connect Anson Smith with the man she thought was his father, Revolutionary War pensioner Anthony Smith. In this book, she analyzes eight possible sons of Anthony and determines that all of them are indeed his children. This fascinating genealogy chronicles four generations of Anthony's descendants.



Portable Genealogist: Cemetery and Gravestone Research

Helen Herzer
8 1/2 x 11, laminated, 4 pp.; \$6.95, member \$6.26

This handy reference guide gives tips on locating a cemetery, finding a specific gravesite, and reading and interpreting gravestone inscriptions.



Chronicles of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, From 1623 to 1636

Alexander Young
Foreword by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
6 x 9 pbk; 572 pp.; \$29.95, member \$26.96

Originally published in 1846, Young's compilation of two dozen contemporaneous documents paints a vivid picture of Massachusetts Bay Colony in the late 1620s and early 1630s.

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers of the Colony of Plymouth, From 1602 to 1625

Alexander Young
Foreword by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
6 x 9 pbk; 504 pp.; \$29.95, member \$26.96

In his 1841 publication, Young gathered a variety of documents—including narratives by William Bradford, Edward Winslow, and Robert Cushman—related to the Pilgrim's church in Scrooby and Leiden and their settlement of Plymouth Plantation.



The Founders—Portraits of Persons Born Abroad Who Came to the Colonies in North America Before the Year 1701

Charles Knowles Bolton
Foreword by Elizabeth E. Barker, Ph.D.
In collaboration with The Boston Athenaeum
6 x 9 pbk; 1,164 pp. in 3 vols., illus.; \$59.95, member \$53.96

Originally published by the Boston Athenaeum in 1919 and 1926, these beautiful volumes include portraits by Rembrandt and Van Dyck. Each founder's portrait is accompanied by detailed biographical commentary.

AmericanAncestors.org/store

From our readers

I LOVED the article by Janine Sobiski—"The Charming Rogue: Uncovering My Grandfather's Deeds & Misdeeds" [AMERICAN ANCESTORS 17 (2016) 4:38–41]. I laughed out loud—which wasn't good, since I was at Mid-Continent Genealogy Library in Independence, Missouri. Many of us have found ancestors who didn't quite fit what we had expected, but Ms. Sobiski's grandfather is on a whole different level!

Annie Williams, Lawrence, Kansas

I really enjoyed the article about Yorkshire surnames ["Studying Yorkshire Surnames," AMERICAN ANCESTORS 17 (2016) 4:46–48] and plan to buy George Redmond's dictionary. My great-grandfather Peace was born in Denby Dale, Yorkshire, and I have traced all of his lines back to the mid-eighteenth century or earlier. All of his ancestors lived in the West Riding, though some collateral relatives went off to India, Australia, Canada, and Africa. Most worked in the woolen weaving industry, though one branch made scythes, knives, and razors in Sheffield. Many of the names remained fairly localized—besides Peaces, there were Hemsworths, Garthwaites, and even a Murgatroyd.

Jennifer Willis, Cincinnati, Ohio

The latest issue was terrific. I was particularly taken with the article on stepfamilies ["Remarriage and Stepfamilies in Early America," AMERICAN ANCESTORS 17 (2016) 4:33–37]. I am a stepmother, and have a wonderful family and extended family as a result. Because I enjoy the magazine so much, I try to "ration" out the articles and not read everything the day it comes—but it doesn't always work out!

Betsy Fosburgh, Laconia, New Hampshire

I read your issue cover to cover, as always. I totally agree with others who have said AMERICAN ANCESTORS is better than ever. Keep up the great work!

Marjorie C. Younglof, Gainesville, Virginia

I would like to comment on *The Stranger In My Genes*, the book featured in the last issue of AMERICAN ANCESTORS. I found it fascinating and could not put it down. I am telling anyone who does genealogy how well written it is, like a good mystery novel. Thank you for publishing and selling this book.

Cheryl R. Buxbaum, Chebeague Island, Maine



We want to hear from you! Respond at [Facebook.com/nehgs](https://www.facebook.com/nehgs), email magazine@nehgs.org, or address letters to AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. *We regret that we cannot reply to every letter. Submissions will be edited for clarity and length.*

Visit us in Boston!

Our library is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and until 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. We are located at 99–101 Newbury Street in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood and can easily be reached by subway or commuter rail. Information about directions, parking, and accommodations is available at AmericanAncestors.org/visit.



Admission to our Research Library is free for our members. Nonmembers are always welcome and may purchase a day pass for \$20.

Our genealogical and historical materials number more than 200,000 titles and 28 million items. To check for a particular item, search our catalog at library.nehgs.org. Our general library stacks are open, and visitors can pull books from the shelves and make photocopies. For a detailed library guide, visit AmericanAncestors.org/library-guide.

The R. Stanton Avery Special Collections contain more than 6,000 linear feet of material, including unpublished genealogies, diaries, letters, cemetery transcriptions, and photographs. Patrons request manuscripts at the fifth floor reference desk and an archivist retrieves the requested item. (Access to manuscripts is a benefit of membership, and copying is at the discretion of the archivist.)

Staff genealogists at reference desks are available to help you locate and use our resources. You can use a flash drive at our computers, copiers, and microfilm scanners, and you can bring laptops and cameras.

Be sure to bring your research questions!

For more information, call 1-888-296-3447.

NEW Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

Cemetery records

North American Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections

Thirty-two new volumes—including cemeteries in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont—were recently added to this database. The database provides images of cemetery transcriptions and names of related individuals where available. More information on this database is available in Don LeClair's *Vita Brevis* blog post from November 11, 2016 (vita-breviis.org/2016/11/ancient-burying-grounds/).

Vital records

Randolph, MA: Vital Records, 1731–1875

Quincy, MA: Vital and Church Records, 1672–1870

Braintree, MA: Vital and Church Records, 1638–1850

Having researched in town offices, various churches, and private sources, Waldo C. Sprague (1903–1960) transcribed many vital records in Norfolk County, Massachusetts. The transcriptions are part of the collection donated to NEHGS from Mr. Sprague's estate in 1962. These three databases compiled from the collection are now indexed by last name, first name, record type, parents' and spouses' names (when known), date, and location. Braintree, formerly known as "Mount Woollaston," was incorporated as a town May 13, 1640. Portions of the original town of Braintree were separated into the towns of Quincy (1792), Randolph (1793), and Holbrook (1872).

New Haven, CT: Vital Records, 1649–1850

Vital Records of New Haven was published in two volumes by the Connecticut Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America in 1917. The work includes 8,938 births, 11,885 marriages, and 7,873 deaths.

Seymour, CT: Vital Records 1700–1910

This database contains all records in the four-volume *Vital Statistics of Seymour, Connecticut* (1883). Included are 467 baptisms, 4,118 births, 3,487 marriages, 3,067 deaths, and 1,063 burials. Seymour, located in New Haven County, was incorporated in 1850.

Hingham, MA: Vital Records 1637–1845

In 1917, NEHGS purchased a handwritten two-volume extract of the vital records of Hingham, ca. 1639–1844, from Goodspeed's Book Shop of Boston. Transcriber Reuben Hersey (1780–1844) was a life-long Hingham resident who extracted genealogical and vital statistic data from the town's original records.

Census records

United States 1920 Federal Census

This collection contains the population schedules listing U.S. inhabitants in 1920. This collection was contributed to NEHGS by FamilySearch.org.

Woonsocket, RI: 1842 Heads of Families

In 1842, Alanson S. Daniels was asked by residents of the village of Woonsocket, in Providence County, to record the names of the heads of each family.

Military records

Massachusetts Revolutionary War Pensioners' Receipts, 1827–1836

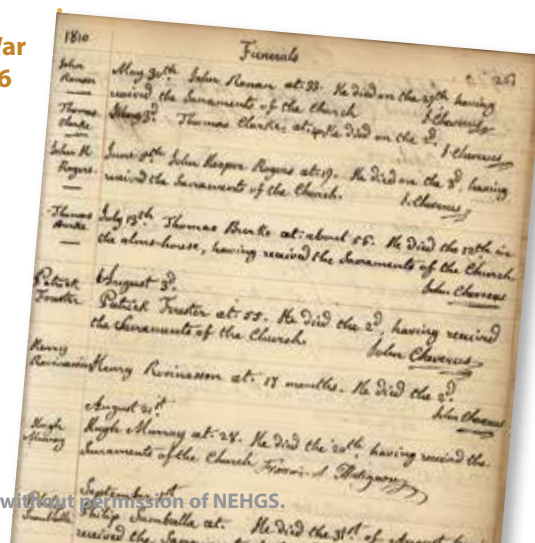
Many soldiers who served during the Revolutionary War were given federal pensions for their service. The NEHGS manuscript collection contains many original receipts with soldiers' signatures that acknowledge they received their pension funds. This database contains images of those receipts.

Right: An 1810 record from the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston.

New database: Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900

In January, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston and NEHGS entered into a new partnership to create a searchable online database of millions of sacramental records. This database will contain records from 1789 to 1900, documenting Catholic sacraments including Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. This collection includes hundreds of volumes to be scanned and indexed, so this project will be completed in stages. Currently users can access a browsable collection of records from the following Boston parishes: Holy Cross, Holy Trinity, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Victories, St. Cecilia, and Sacred Heart—as well as records from a mission to Providence, Rhode Island, and St. John, New Brunswick. In the future, as our volunteers index images as they are scanned, we will have a fully searchable database available to NEHGS members.

For instructions on how to search this browsable collection, please visit CatholicRecords.AmericanAncestors.org. Contact webmaster@nehgs.org if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering (remotely or in person) to contribute to this project.



Boston Transcript column now online

The genealogy column in the *Boston Evening Transcript* has been a heavily used resource at our library for more than a century. From 1906 through 1941, the column featured queries and replies, resulting in an estimated two million names. Readers responded to specific questions, submitted corrections to published genealogies, and theorized about genealogical puzzles.

Until now, online access to the full text of the *Transcript* column has been spotty. The American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI), available through Ancestry.com, includes an index to the *Transcript* column. Many issues from the 1850s to 1910s are accessible in the Google News archive. Otherwise, researchers needed to visit a library for print or microfilm copies.

Last year, wonderful and energetic FamilySearch volunteers arrived at NEHGS to photograph our clippings. As a result of their efforts, we now host a browsable (not searchable) online collection from 1911 to 1941 on AmericanAncestors.org. (We will add pre-1911 columns later this year.)

To use the collection, search by name in the AGBI—available on Ancestry.com or in the AGBI volumes in many libraries, including NEHGS. Then visit the Search page on AmericanAncestors.org, select *Boston Evening Transcript* from the “Database” drop-down menu, and choose the year from the “Volume” drop-down menu. Then, click “Search.”

To browse the collection, choose the *Boston Evening Transcript* from the “Database” drop-down menu and use the “Click here” link under “Search Tips.”

As with most secondary sources, and especially older ones, researchers should attempt to verify information found in the *Transcript* columns. Since the entries were written, a great deal of new scholarship has been published and many more records have become available.

—Jean Maguire, NEHGS Library Director

A longer version of this article appears on our blog, at vita-breviis.org/2016/11/boston-transcript-online. If you have questions about navigating this browsable database, email webmaster@nehgs.org.



Brick Walls *submitted by our members*

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

For many years I have looked for the parents of my ancestor **Anson Shay**. (I have also seen his surname spelled Sha, Shaw, and Shea.) An older history published in Michigan claimed he was born in Dutchess County, New York, about 1768. Anson Shay served as a Baptist minister in Manchester, New York, from about 1804 to 1830, and was known as a fiery orator. He was an acquaintance of Joseph Smith, who later founded the Mormon Church. Anson married Hannah Canfield and was the father of several children, including my ancestor, Polly Shay. Hannah is buried in Hopewell Center, New York. Rev. Shay married Lucy Church as his second wife and moved to Northville, Michigan, where he died in 1840. I have discovered that Anson was the great-grandfather of American poet Will Carleton. I am seeking Anson Shay’s parents and their origins.

Laura Bliss
Marshall, Michigan

I am searching for the parents of **William Frederick Belcher**, who was born in New York State in 1802. His son, Lewis Napoleon Belcher, lived in Lopez, Pennsylvania, and married Mary Ann Doll. One source indicated that William was descended from the New England Belchers, but I have found many William Belchers and have not been able to identify William Frederick’s parents.

Carole Belcher
Haslet, Texas

My ancestors **Maria Cullen** and Alfred Beaudry were married in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1865. They moved to Holyoke, Mass., about 1870. Both Maria and Alfred were Roman Catholic. Alfred was sometimes known as Fred and his surname was sometimes spelled Bodrey. In the 1880 census, the family (Alfred, Maria, and four children) was living in Holyoke. That census is the last record I have for Maria. In April 1888, Alfred married Mary Carroll in Holyoke. I’ve found no record of Maria’s death between 1880 and 1888—not at the Mass. Archives nor the Holyoke City Clerk’s office. When and where did Maria die and where is she buried?

Ed O’Connor
Hudson, Massachusetts

The parents of my ancestor **William Campbell** have evaded discovery for years. William Campbell (1796/97 VT–1880 IL) married Hannah Ladd (1808 NH–1894 IL) in Washington, Orange County, Vermont, in 1824. According to the census, they were still living there in 1830. I have explored five possible Campbell lineages in Vermont and adjacent New York—including James Campbell (1770 NH–1854 VT) and Sarah/Sally Weed (1775 NH–1856 VT)—but to no avail.

James Campbell
Woodstock, Illinois

programs & tours



Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls: Strategies for Success Boston, MA

Sunday, April 30, 2017
9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Research your ancestry long enough and you're bound to hit a brick wall—the paper trail vanishes, the family seemingly disappears, and you're unable to go back to earlier generations. Whether you are struggling to find an immigrant's exact origins, uncover a maiden name, determine parentage, or discover where a family moved to, cluster research can help. The Research Services team at New England Historic Genealogical Society is routinely contracted to solve such genealogical mysteries. In this full-day seminar, our experts will teach you valuable organizational tips and practical strategies to circumnavigate common genealogical brick walls and enrich your understanding of an ancestor's life. Breakfast and lunch included. **Cost:** \$125



Edinburgh, Scotland

June 18–June 25, 2017

Have you dreamed of visiting Edinburgh to research your Scottish ancestors? Let us be your guide!

Receive research assistance and support as you comb through 500 years of Scottish history at the National Archives of Scotland and ScotlandsPeople.

Tour includes:

- Research at ScotlandsPeople Centre and National Archives of Scotland
- Consultations and lectures with our genealogists and local experts
- Cultural excursions to the National Museum of Scotland and Edinburgh Castle
- Seven-night stay in the heart of Edinburgh

Member registration: \$3,450 single; \$2,950 double; \$3,700 with non-researching guest; \$1750 commuter

Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to the above prices



Spring Research Getaway, Boston, MA

June 1–June 3, 2017

"The extended weekend format helped me to become comfortable working in one of the best repositories in the country. It is an experience that is both deeply humbling and deeply inspiring. Thank you!"

—Research Getaway participant

Escape to Boston for three days of research, consultations, lectures, and social events while exploring the rich offerings at the NEHGS research library and benefiting from the knowledge of expert genealogists.

Member registration: \$350

Nonmember registration: \$500



NEHGS Summer Institute for Advanced Researchers Boston, MA

Publishing a Genealogical Article
July 11–July 15, 2017

You've been tracing your ancestry for years and are most likely the foremost expert on certain families. Preserve your research and ensure your legacy by publishing a scholarly article and contributing to genealogical knowledge. During this immersive week-long program, the writing and publishing experts at NEHGS will help you craft your research into a polished and compelling article for submission to the *Register*, *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* magazine, *Mayflower Descendant*, or even a sketch for a published study project.

Program includes:

- One-on-one consultations with expert researchers, authors, and editors
- Lectures pertaining to advanced research, proof analysis, writing, and editing
- Homework assignments and hands-on activities
- Writers group sessions

To learn more about pre-requisites and to view application guidelines, please visit AmericanAncestors.org/education.

Member registration: \$1,200



Come Home to New England, Boston, MA August 8–12, 2017

NEHGS has been collecting information about families in America for 170 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 NEHGS staff to advance your research.

Member registration: \$675 (before May 1, 2017); \$750 (after May 1, 2017)

Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to the above prices



Fall Research Getaway, Boston, MA October 12–October 14, 2017

Autumn in Boston is about bright foliage, pumpkin pie, and research! Discover the millions of genealogical resources at the NEHGS library and maximize your results with help from our experts.

Member registration: \$350

Nonmember registration: \$500



Salt Lake City, UT

November 5–12, 2017

“This was a really great introduction to the Family History Library for me. I had been afraid to tackle it on my own, but with the help of NEHGS I had a very productive week.”

—Salt Lake City Research Tour participant

Navigate the resources of the world’s largest genealogy library with the help of our experts. With nearly 40 years of experience leading researchers of all levels to Salt Lake City, you will benefit from special orientations and tutorials, one-on-one consultations, informative lectures, and more.

Member registration: \$1,700 single; \$1,500 double; \$1,950 with non-researching guest; \$850 commuter

Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to the above prices

Register for NEHGS events

Registration for most programs is available at AmericanAncestors.org/Education.

Call **617-226-1226** to register for seminars and research tours.

To register for Online Learning Center webinars and courses, visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Online-Classes.

For more information, email education@nehgs.org or call **617-226-1226**.

Events at the NEHGS Library & Archives in Boston

Below are just a few of the educational programs happening at NEHGS this spring. For a full listing, visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Events-and-Programs.

- 3/1/2017** Book Event: *Darkness Falls on the Land of Light: Experiencing Religious Awakenings in Eighteenth-Century New England* with author Douglas Winiarski
- 3/3/2017** First Friday Lecture: Using Manuscripts for Family History Research
- 3/8/2017** *The Fun of Writing Oral History and Biography*, with author Larry Ruttman
- 4/7/2017** First Friday Lecture: Applying to Lineage Societies
- 4/27/2017** Book Event: *With Their Bare Hands: General Pershing, the 79th Division, and the Battle for Montfaucon* with author Gene Fax
- 4/30/2017** Annual Seminar: Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls: Strategies for Success
- 5/5/2017** First Friday Lecture: Researching WWI Veterans



On the Trail of the Captives . . .

From Saturday, July 16, until Sunday, July 24, 2016, twenty-one NEHGS members—accompanied by Beth Emery, Senior Development Officer, and guided by Donald Friary, Councilor, past Trustee, and Principal of History for Hire—followed the routes and the fates of more than one thousand English captives—men, women, and many children—taken from their homes on New England’s frontier to Native villages and French communities along the St. Lawrence River.

Our group included participants from all over the U. S.—five Californians, three from Arizona, a Texan, two each from Colorado, Missouri, and Wisconsin, one from Connecticut, one from New Hampshire, and a family of four from Hamilton, Massachusetts. All but three were descendants of captives, eager to learn about the experiences of their ancestors.

After departing from NEHGS headquarters in Boston we ascended the Merrimack River Valley, the route of captives from eastern Massachusetts and New Hampshire, then picked up the trail of those captured in western New England across the Connecticut River, up the White River and down the Winooski—Algonkian for “where the wild onions grow”—to Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River. Once in Canada, we explored the settlements and cultures of the captors in French forts like Chambly; the large towns of Montréal, Québec, and Trois-Rivières; and the rural seigneuries of Boucherville and St.-Jean on Île d’Orléans.

To understand the Native raiders we went to several villages—of the Mohawks at Kahnawake and Kanasetake, the Abenaki reserve at Odanak or St. Francis, and the Huron traditional site at Jeune Lorette—to meet members of Canada’s First Nations and hear their stories. At Kahnawake we were told the Mohawk creation story and shown the village by Michael Rice, a descendant of one of the Rice boys captured in a raid on Marlborough, Massachusetts, in 1704. The Fur Trade Museum at Lachine introduced us to the French *coureurs du bois* and *voyageurs*, whose wilderness skills prepared many to join raids on the New England frontier. As our bus passed through the countryside, dramatic readings from captivity narratives and observations by the Swedish scientist Peter Kalm on his travels in Canada in 1750 provided background for what we were seeing.

Our local guides were without exception excellent. Some were friends of mine who had interacted with my groups on previous Canadian tours. Others were intrigued by the interests

and enthusiasm of our NEHGS group. Matthieu Drouin of the Musée des Ursulines at Québec wrote,

“It is rare that we welcome such a prestigious genealogical association as the NEHGS, and we will give all the efforts necessary to make your visit a memorable one. I will . . . personally give you this unique guided tour.”

Luc Nicole-Labrie at the Plains of Abraham Museum was especially memorable in the guise of Général Montcalm. Rosemarie Belisle was quite engaging at Oka (the Mohawk community of Kanasetake at the mouth of the Ottawa River), as she discussed devotional paintings sent from France in 1740 to the Native mission chapels.

A highlight of the tour was a visit to a house built for two captives soon after their marriage at Oka in 1721. Josiah Rising, who became Ignace Raizenne, and Abigail Nims, who was renamed Elisabeth, had been captured as children in 1704 in Deerfield, Massachusetts. Yvon Beaupré, the present owner of this venerable structure, not only showed us



Opposite page: The group was met on arrival at the Plains of Abraham Museum by Luc Nicole-Labrie, who walked across the battlefield with us, portraying a very lively General Montcalm, and recounted the fall of Québec and all of Canada in 1759–1760. Photo by tour participant Harold Leach. **Left:** Château Ramezay was built for Claude de Ramezay, Governor of Montréal, in 1705, when many New England captives had recently arrived in the city. Photo by tour participant Diana Smith. **Below left:** In several Native villages we heard about the Iroquois longhouses that accommodated as many as twenty families and finally saw one at the traditional Huron site at Wendake, or Jeune Lorette, just outside Québec City. Photo by Harold Leach.



foundations of a warehouse built on the site, exhibition cases of artifacts unearthed there, and a vitrine [a glass display case] in every guest room showing an item excavated beneath the hotel all brought us in closer touch with Canada's past.

Participants commented on how much they were learning about the history of French Canada and the cultures of several Native groups involved in the frontier raids and capture of English settlers. We were studying not only the life stories of individual captives, but the dramatic conflict among English, French, and Native peoples for control of the borderlands that they all claimed and coveted. Judith Calise of Surprise, Arizona, wrote after the tour,

“One of the main values that I acquired from our tour was that I developed more of a tolerance for different sides of an issue. I have always understood how people are products of their times and that their decisions were influenced by values different from those we have today. In spite of knowing something intellectually, however, the ‘gut’ doesn’t always follow suit.”

New England Captives Carried to Canada: Following their Routes and Fates was a valued learning experience, but also an opportunity to enjoy the lovely scenery of the St. Lawrence Valley, to become acquainted with the cosmopolitan cities of Montréal and Québec, and to have a really nice time. A

dinner cruise on the St. Lawrence under a full moon was a high point of our stay in Montréal. An organ concert of eighteenth-century French music in the splendid 1851 church of Saint-Pierre-Apôtre was arranged especially for us by the Montréal journalist Jean-Pierre Bonhomme, who has long been interested in the captives and has written about them. At Musée des Beaux Arts we saw four centuries of Canadian art, as well as a special exhibition on Pompeii. An elegant high tea at the legendary Hotel Frontenac brought us back to its origins as a Canadian Pacific railway hotel. Passing the majestic Montmorency Falls—higher than Niagara—we made a circuit of Île d’Orléans to see its fertile fields and riverside villages.

Most of all, our tour was a journey into the past to gain a better understanding of American and Canadian history and of our own family histories. As Dr. Kathryn Bush of Madison, Wisconsin wrote,

“A week has passed and I’m still glowing from the satisfaction of the wonderful Heritage Tour we just completed. I cannot thank you enough for the richness you have added to my understanding of the history of my ancestor, Elisha Searle, the wonderful tour, and the knowledge you gave me. . .”

—Donald Friary

the house and discussed his painstaking restoration, but entertained us in the garden with honey wine and Oka cheese, all locally produced.

I led walking tours of Vieux Montréal; the seigneurie of Boucherville; Trois-Rivieres; and La Basse Ville and La Haute Ville in Québec that outlined the development of these communities and featured surviving buildings from the French regime. Our understanding of the world that the captives knew was enhanced by a traditional Quebecois dinner at Aux Anciens Canadiens and a Huron lunch at Jeune Lorette. Our Québec hotel, Auberge Saint-Antoine, focused our attention on the archaeology of its waterfront location. Exposed

online learning center

Online courses

Exclusively for our members!

Our Online Courses offer NEHGS members a way to enhance their genealogical education through online presentations, handouts, and assessments. Can't attend the live broadcast? You can still enroll! Course participants have access to all course materials, including a recording of the online seminar, for a month after the online presentation. To register, visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Online-Classes.



Mastering New York Genealogy

Wednesdays, March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2017

Cost: \$125

Finding information about New York ancestors can be tricky. A fire in 1911 at the State Library and the fact that statewide registration of vital records did not start until 1880 only add to the difficulty. This five-week course will guide you through the maze of genealogical pitfalls, to the bright spots in New York research. Our New York experts will discuss the settlement of New York and early migrations, vital records and substitutes, New York City in the 19th and 20th centuries, land and probate records, the state census, and more.

Elements of Genealogical Analysis: A Class in Methodology

Presented by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2017

Cost: \$125

Learn how to analyze records and make sound genealogical conclusions using the same method applied by Robert Charles Anderson in the Great Migration Study Project, but applicable to genealogical problems of all times and places. This five-week online course will present a systematic approach that considers each source, each record, and each possible linkage before making a genealogical conclusion. In addition to more than seven hours of live instruction and video content, the course will provide handouts, downloadable tools, and checklists to help make this method both accessible and effective. Registration for this course will open in late March.

Researching Early New England

Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 2017

Cost: \$125

As a group, 17th-century New Englanders are arguably the most studied people in history, and their descendants are blessed with a multitude of resources. In many cases, vital, town, church, colony, court, probate, land, military, and tax records not only have survived, but have been abstracted and published. This five-week course will discuss the settlement of and migrations within New England, how to locate and utilize original and published records, and strategies for breaking down brick walls. Registration will open in late May.

Have you seen?

Below are just some of the resources we've recently added to our Online Learning Center. Access archived webinars, how-to videos, subject guides, and more at AmericanAncestors.org/Education. Expand your genealogical expertise without leaving home!

Subject guide Pennsylvania Genealogy

Archived webinar . . . Organizing and Preserving Your Family Papers

Archived webinar . . . Researching the History of a House

Left: New York map by Frances A. Henshaw, 1823. Courtesy of David Rumsey Historical Map Collection.



staff profile

Meet KATHLEEN MACKENZIE

Member Services Coordinator

After graduating from UMass Amherst with a history degree in 2014, I began searching for a position that would allow me to share my passion for history with others. After completing internships at a local historical society and a museum in Western Massachusetts, I was pleased to join the NEHGS Member Services team in the fall of 2014. Our six-person Member Services team helps members navigate the Society's resources in order to advance their family history research.

This past June, I was promoted to Member Services Coordinator. In this role, I coordinate logistics for membership programs and communications, develop Life Member stewardship initiatives, and implement new processes to help the department run more smoothly and efficiently.

I am fortunate to be able to speak with NEHGS members over the phone each day—by far the most enjoyable aspect of my role. I always enjoy assisting people and connecting them with the resources needed for their research. NEHGS members never fail to brighten my day with their passion and enthusiasm for family history and the Society's work. Recently, I even received a handwritten thank you note in the mail from a member who I had helped to locate *The American Genealogist* database on our website.

I also enjoy conversing with members about the stories they have uncovered about their ancestors. I've heard fascinating tales of immigrants and refugees,

kings and queens, and countless interesting anecdotes.

Our members have also inspired me to begin tracing my own family history, and I have enjoyed delving into my Irish and Scottish roots. Most recently, I was thrilled to locate the 1911 ship passenger record of my great-grandmother, Jean Harris, who emigrated from Inverness, Scotland, to Holyoke, Massachusetts, with her sister when they were teenagers. Interestingly, the record indicated that the sisters had lived at the District Asylum in Inverness. Using information from the ship record, I located the Harris family in the 1901 Scotland census, and discovered that my great-great-grandfather was a plumber at the asylum, and lived on the grounds with his family. On Google Earth I was even able to view the abandoned asylum building where my ancestors had lived!

My rewarding experience on the Member Services team has inspired me to further my education in the field. Last fall I entered the Library and Information Science Master's program at Simmons College, and have been attending classes part-time. I have found that my class material complements my work at NEHGS and, as part of an assignment, I even led an instruction session for my classmates on using AmericanAncestors.org! Looking forward, I am grateful and excited for the opportunity to continue connecting people with the many facets of their family histories, and with history as a whole. ♦



OUR EXPERT GUIDE TO Early Cape Cod

Cape Cod is that iconic hooked peninsula of sand extending sixty-five miles into the Atlantic Ocean from the southeastern coast of Massachusetts. Henry David Thoreau's quotation best explains its geography: "Cape Cod is the bared and bended arm of Massachusetts: the shoulder is at Buzzard's Bay; the elbow, or crazy-bone, at Cape Mallebarre; the wrist at Truro; and the sandy fist at Provincetown, —behind which the State stands on her guard."¹



Alicia Crane Williams, FASG, is Lead Genealogist of the Early New England Families Study Project. In forty years of work as a professional genealogist, she has compiled and edited a number of multi-

family genealogies and surname works and was editor for fourteen years of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants' periodical, *The Mayflower Descendant*. She is the past genealogist of the *Alden Kindred of America* and one of the editors of the *John Alden* family for the *General Society of Mayflower Descendants'* series, *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*. She may be contacted at acwcrane@aol.com.

Researching early Cape Cod ancestors

Despite the compact geographic area of the Cape, no single genealogical source provides information on Cape Cod families. Only for the town of Barnstable has there been an attempt at a formal collection in print, in the form of Amos Otis's late nineteenth-century treatment, *Genealogical Notes of Barnstable Families*, and it is sorely antiquated. The only town to have a comprehensive historical treatment is Sandwich—with R. A. Lovell, Jr.'s, *Sandwich, A Cape Cod Town*—but that does not contain major genealogical material. Neither Yarmouth nor Eastham have been treated in town or genealogical histories.

Published vital records for Cape towns are very good, with three of the four founding towns—Sandwich, Yarmouth, and Barnstable (but not Eastham)—in print, along with Falmouth, Chatham, Dennis, Harwich, and Truro. All of these VRs are available on AmericanAncestors.org, as are transcriptions of Barnstable town, church, cemetery, and probate records: “Barnstable, MA: Probate Records 1685–1789”; “Barnstable, MA: Church Records, 1639–1892”; and “Barnstable, MA: Town Records, 1640 to 1793.” Databases with Plymouth County probate and court records often also contain material relating to Barnstable County families; see “Plymouth Court Records, 1686–1859” and “Plymouth County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686–1881” on AmericanAncestors.org.

A fire in the Barnstable courthouse unfortunately destroyed almost all land records prior to 1827, although some of the deeds were later re-recorded. A few “unrecorded deeds” for the county were transcribed in the *Mayflower Descendant*, which published vital, church, or cemetery records for Barnstable, Sandwich, Yarmouth, Eastham, Orleans, Harwich, Chatham, Truro, Brewster, and Provincetown. An archive of past issues of *Mayflower Descendant*, now published by NEHGS, is available on AmericanAncestors.org.

Useful resources

- *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Historical Data relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts*, prepared by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Division of Public Records (Boston: 1920). Available at Archive.org. Although later editions feature towns arranged alphabetically within the entire state, this version is useful because it lists towns by counties.
- Caroline Lewis Kardell and Russell A. Lovell, Jr., *Vital Records of Sandwich, Massachusetts, to 1885*, 2 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1996), Foreword, ix-xiv, which contains an excellent summary of genealogical resources for Plymouth Colony and Cape research as well as for Sandwich.
- Sturgis Library, Barnstable, Lothrop Genealogy and Local History Collection.
- Cape Cod Genealogical Society, CapeCodGenSoc.org.

Lists of early Cape Cod settlers

- “First Settlers of Barnstable,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 2 (1848): 64–67, 194–98.
- “First Settlers of Eastham,” *Register* 6 (1852): 41–46, 234–35; 7 (1853): 279–80, 347–48.
- “First Settlers of Chatham,” *Register* 7 (1853): 81–82, 153–45.

History

- William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620–1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1966).
- Frederick Freeman, *The History of Cape Cod: the Annals of Barnstable County, including the District of Mashpee* (Boston: 1858–1862), 2 vols.
- S. L. Deyo, *History of Barnstable County* (New York: 1890).
- Charles F. Swift, *Cape Cod, The Right Arm of Massachusetts: an Historical Narrative* (Yarmouth, Mass.: 1897).
- Eugene Aubrey Stratton, *Plymouth Colony, Its History & People 1620–1691* (Salt Lake City, Utah: 1986).
- R. A. Lovell, Jr., *Sandwich, A Cape Cod Town* (Sandwich, Mass: 1996), 3–11.
- Paul Schneider, *The Enduring Shore, A History of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket* (New York: 2000).
- Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower, A Story of Courage, Community, and War* (New York: 2006).



Left: “House on Cape Cod.” John Warner Barber, *Historical Collections . . . Relating to . . .*

Massachusetts (1848), 46.
Opposite page: An early 20th-century postcard of the Eastham Windmill, the oldest on Cape Cod. Built in 1680 in Plymouth, the windmill was moved to Eastham in 1793.

Edmund Freeman, leader of the group, brought dozens of families south from Saugus to the new town of Sandwich. Thirteen families from the Duxbury/Plymouth area joined them.⁸

As early as 1638 several individuals settled to the east of Sandwich in an area known as Mattacheese/Mattakeese, some of which would become Yarmouth and some Barnstable. A failed attempt at a settlement was made there that year by a group from Lynn led by the Reverend Stephen Bachiler, who in his 70s walked with his party from Lynn to Mattakeese, in the “severe winter of 1637/8.”⁹ The hardships of that winter and lack of resources (because they were “poor men”) pushed Bachiler’s group to relocate to Hampton, in what became New Hampshire, instead.¹⁰

In the summer of 1639, the town of Yarmouth was established on a grant of land awarded to Anthony Thacher, John Crow, and Thomas Howes.¹¹ In September 1639 Barnstable was established between Sandwich and Yarmouth on a grant given to the Rev. Joseph Hull and Thomas Dimmock three months earlier. That October the Rev. John Lothrop brought a large contingent of settlers from Scituate to Barnstable. A 1634 arrival to New England, Lothrop was a founding member and minister of the church at Scituate before differences caused him to take most of his congregation to the new settlement.¹²

In 1644 the Plymouth Colony General Court granted “unto the church of New Plymouth or those that goe to dwell at Nausett [Eastham] all that tract of land lying between sea & sea. . .” to the east of Yarmouth in the “elbow” of the Cape.¹³

An important community of Quakers (eighteen families) gathered in Sandwich in 1657 but experienced vigorous persecution through the early 1660s. The Sandwich Friends Meeting is the oldest continuous Quaker meeting in North America.¹⁴

Prominent early settlers

The English settlers of Cape Cod were energetic, pro-active individuals who played influential roles in Plymouth colony government and in their communities. Their family names can still

be found among Cape residents today.

Edmond Freeman, the founder of Sandwich, was a wealthy and influential investor who arrived in New England with his family in 1635 and first settled at Lynn. Once established in Sandwich, he served briefly as Plymouth Colony assistant but was not re-elected because of his professed sympathy toward the Anabaptists and Quakers. His son John² Freeman became a founder of Eastham.¹⁵

Richard Bourne, also of Sandwich, was actively involved in town and colony business, most particularly in teaching the local Indians. He was formally ordained a pastor of the Indian Church at Mashpee in 1670 and became a substantial landholder.¹⁶

Thomas Hinckley of Barnstable—oldest son of Samuel Hinckley, who brought his family on the *Hercules* in 1635 and first settled in Scituate and then Barnstable—was the last governor of Plymouth Colony before it merged with Massachusetts Bay in 1692. A substantial landholder in Plymouth Colony, Thomas was also a political leader who served as a deputy, magistrate, assistant, deputy governor, and governor.¹⁷

After living in Plymouth, Marshfield, and Yarmouth, John Gorham brought his family to Barnstable, where he owned a grist mill and tannery. John served as captain of the militia and died from wounds suffered in the Narraganset fight against King Phillip in 1675.¹⁸

At age 16 John Chipman arrived in New England in 1637 as a servant to his cousin Richard Derby. Chipman eventually became a ruling Elder of the West Barnstable church, a deputy for the town of Barnstable, and town clerk.¹⁹

Edmund Hawes, a passenger on the *James* in 1635, settled first at Duxbury and then removed to Yarmouth in 1643. He served multiple terms as a deputy to the colony court, and was a commissioner for the Kennebec trade and a long-term selectman in Yarmouth.²⁰



A minister in England, Anthony Thacher, arrived in New England in 1635 and briefly settled in Newbury and Marblehead before removing to Yarmouth. He became an innkeeper and served as a deputy for the town.²¹

Thomas Prence arrived at Plymouth in 1621 on the *Fortune* and married Patience, daughter of *Mayflower* passengers William and Mary Brewster, as the first of his four wives. Prence settled in Eastham and served as Colony governor for a total of sixteen years, alternating with William Bradford and Edward Winslow.²²

Rev. John Mayo brought his family to New England in 1640. He settled first at Barnstable, removed to Eastham where he was the first pastor of the church, and finally transferred to Boston to become the first minister of the Second Church (the “Old North Meeting House”). The surname Mayo is still well represented on Cape Cod through descendants of his sons Samuel, Nathaniel, and John.²³

Edward Bangs arrived on the *Anne* in 1623 and was prominent in Plymouth before moving to Eastham, where he

was licensed to sell wine and liquor for “the refreshment of the English,” but not the Indians. His son Jonathan married Mary Mayo, daughter of Reverend John Mayo.²⁴

Mayflower connections

While none of the first generation of adult *Mayflower* passengers moved to Cape Cod, subsequent generations did. Through the intermarriages of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, the Cape became arguably the most concentrated area of *Mayflower* descendants in the world. As John Barber wrote in 1848, “The inhabitants of the Cape are literally more purely the descendants of the ‘pilgrim fathers’ than any others in any part of the state, as very few foreign emigrants have settled among them.”²⁵

For example, two sons of Edmond Freeman, the founder of Sandwich, married sisters, daughters of the already mentioned Plymouth Colony governor Thomas Prence and Patience² Brewster. John Gorham and John Chipman of Barnstable, also mentioned above, married sisters Desire² and Hope² Howland, daughters of *Mayflower* passengers John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland. Rev. Anthony Thacher’s daughter Bethia married Desire and Hope’s brother Jabez² Howland. Edmund Hawse’s only son, John Hawes, married Desire³ Gorham, daughter of John and Desire (Howland) Gorham.²⁶ Nicholas Snow married Constance² Hopkins, a young *Mayflower* passenger, and moved to Eastham; their daughter Elizabeth Snow married a grandson of Thomas Rogers of the *Mayflower*.²⁷

As the saying goes, “Once a Cape Codder, always a Cape Codder.” No one knows how many of today’s more than 200,000 year-round Cape Cod residents are descendants of seventeenth-century settlers, but given the isolated geography of the Cape and the opportunity for intermarriage, the numbers have to be significant. Seasonally, Cape Cod residents are joined by more than five million tourists—many of whom likely have Cape Cod ancestors also, whether they realize it or not—who leave the real world behind to enjoy the same breathtaking natural landscape of beaches, dunes, marsh and sunshine that has attracted people for centuries.²⁸ ♦

Notes

¹ Henry David Thoreau, *Cape Cod* (Boston: 1866), 2.

² Technically, the Cape was made into an island in 1914 by the construction of the Cape Cod Canal, which separates it from the mainland.

³ S. L. Deyo, *History of Barnstable County* (New York: 1890), 5–11, 14–15 (including a “Map of Cape Cod before 1620” that designates all of the tribes and their territory on the Cape).

⁴ historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6617 (Gabriel Archer, *Gosnold’s Settlement at Cuttyhunk* [Boston: Old South Work, 1902], 1–11); Nathaniel Philbrick, *Mayflower, A Story of Courage, Community, and War* (New York: 2006), 110–13.

⁵ William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620–1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1966), 60–72, 87–88; Philbrick, *Mayflower* [note 4], 110–13. The Nausets were compensated for the corn a year later.

⁶ For a thorough discussion of the complex topic of how settlers obtained title to land from the Indian Sachems, see Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, *Indian Deeds, Land Transactions in Plymouth Colony, 1620–1691* (Boston: NEHGS, 2002), 1–32.

⁷ *Historical Data relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts* (Boston: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1920), 5–8.

⁸ Russell A. Lovell, Jr., *Sandwich, A Cape Cod Town* (Sandwich, Mass.: 1996), 3–11; Jonathan A. Shaw, “A Brief History of Sandwich,” sandwichhistory.org/history (accessed 3 August 2016); Deyo [note 3], 265–66.

⁹ V. C. Sanborn, *Stephen Bachiler and the Plough Company of 1630* (Exeter, England: 1903), 21.

¹⁰ John Winthrop, *The History of New England from 1630 to 1649*, ed. James Savage, 2 vols. (Boston: 1853), 1:93–94, 210–11, 313.

¹¹ Frederick Freeman, *The History of Cape Cod: the Annals of Barnstable County* (Boston: 1858–1862), 135–39.

¹² Freeman [note 11], 139; Deyo [note 3], 368–69;

¹³ *Historical Data* [note 7], 5–8; “First Settlers of Eastham,” 6 (1852): 41.

¹⁴ Sandwichhistory.org/history, accessed 25 July 2016.

¹⁵ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635* (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), 2:576–82.

¹⁶ Lovell, *Sandwich* [note 8], 120–22; Lydia B. (Phinney) Brownson and Maclean W. McLean, “The Rev. Richard Bourne of Sandwich, Mass.,” *Register* 118 [1964]: 86.

¹⁷ *The Great Migration, 1634–1635* [note 15], 3:331–38.

¹⁸ Elizabeth Pearson White, *John Howland of the Mayflower, Volume 1, The First Five Generations Documented Descendants Through his First child Desire² Howland and her Husband Captain John Gorham* (Camden, Me.: 1990), 9–12.

¹⁹ Elizabeth Pearson White, *John Howland of the Mayflower, Volume 3, The First Five Generations . . . Through his Third Child Hope² Howland, Wife of John Chipman* (Rockland, Me.: 2008), 29–35.

²⁰ *The Great Migration, 1634–1635* [note 15], 3:247–50.

²¹ *Ibid.*, 7:14–22.

²² Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), III: 1518–24.

²³ Jean (May) Mayo-Rodwick, *Rev. John Mayo and His Descendants*, 6th ed. (Fruita, Colo.: 2010), 9–12; hylbom.com/family/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Rev_John_Mayo_and_his_Descendants_by_Mayo-Rodwick_2010.pdf.

²⁴ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, eds., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England*, 12 vols. in 10 (Boston: 1855–1861), 1:238.

²⁵ John Warner Barber, *Historical Collections . . . of . . . Massachusetts* (Worcester, Mass.: 1848), 33.

²⁶ *The Great Migration, 1634–1635* [note 15], 3:247–50, 7:14–22; Ann Smith Lainhart and Robert S. Wakefield, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations . . . Volume Twenty-Three, Part One, Family of John Howland, the First Four Generations of his Children Lydia, Hannah, Joseph, Jabez, Ruth and Isaac* (Plymouth, Mass.: 2006), 10–12.

²⁷ *The Great Migration Begins* [note 22], III: 1701–04; John D. Austin, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations . . . Volume Six, Family of Stephen Hopkins*, 3rd ed. (Plymouth, Mass.: 2001), 9–10, 22–23.

²⁸ wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Cod.



Captain Bangs Hallet House. Photo by Amy Heller, Historical Society of Old Yarmouth.

A Glimpse into the CAPTAIN BANGS HALLET HOUSE in Yarmouth Port

In the mid-nineteenth century, the thriving village of Yarmouth Port, in the mid-Cape town of Yarmouth, was home to many sea captains and their families. Today, “schooner plaques” awarded by the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth adorn more than 50 historic sea captain homes along Captains’ Mile on Old Kings Highway (Route 6A). Most homes are private, but the Captain Bangs Hallet House, owned and operated by the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth, is open seasonally. A tour of the house offers a glimpse into the life of a Cape Cod sea captain and his family.

Built in the 1840s, the house has been restored and furnished to the mid-1800s. In 1863, the first owner, Captain Allen Hinckley Knowles, needed a larger home just when his neighbor, Yarmouth native Captain Bangs Hallet, was ready to retire and move to a smaller residence. The captains sold their homes to each other. Captain Hallet (1807–1893) lived in his “new” house with his wife Anna (Eldredge) (1809–1887) from 1863 until his death.

Large oil paintings of Bangs and Anna Hallet are on display downstairs, while smaller portraits of the couple hang in their upstairs bedroom. The second floor portraits were probably painted in China in the 1830s. Captain

Hallet would have been painted from life but, since it was too early for photographs, Anna’s likeness would have been based on her husband’s description. Several other items owned by the Hallets are on display in the bedroom, including their bed and the trunk Anna Hallet took on her travels.

The children’s room contains doll furniture and toys. The Hallets had eight children, six of whom died in infancy or early childhood. The year 1846 was particularly difficult; the Hallets lost a seven-week-old child in April and a three-year-old daughter, Marianne, in September. Only two daughters lived to adulthood: Amelia (Hallet) Hawes (1830–1906) and Anner (Hallet) Tripp (1835–1869). The rocking horse on display belonged to the Hallets and was used by their grandchildren.

Other areas of the house display a variety of items—from near and far—that evoke the Cape’s maritime heritage. Local pieces include the rib of a whale killed at Yarmouth Port in 1828, Native American artifacts, and portraits of several local ship captains. Other items show how widely Cape Cod sea captains traveled. In 1846, Captain Hallet commanded the *Faneuil Hall*, which brought a group of Baptist missionaries to Burma, and made a number of

China trade voyages, which typically lasted from sixteen to eighteen months. Displays on the China trade include silk cocoons, tea, and spices; the tea and spices were so valuable that they were kept in special locked boxes.

The Historical Society of Old Yarmouth has beautifully restored and preserved this charming sea captain’s home. A tour of this house museum and its grounds provides a unique introduction to the seafaring life, the China trade, and everyday aspects of mid-nineteenth century Cape Cod. ♦

Captain Bangs Hallet House

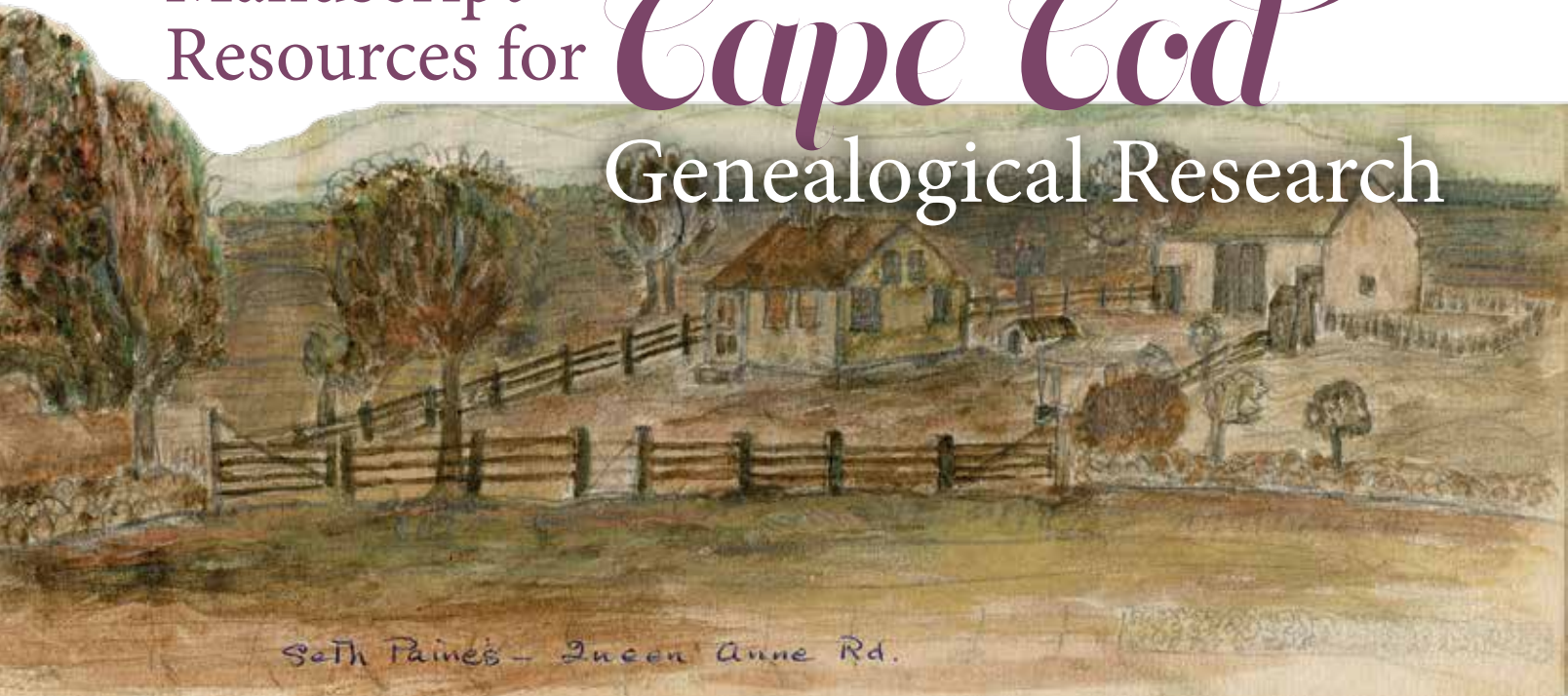
11 Strawberry Lane
Yarmouth Port, MA 02675
508-362-3021

Owned and operated by the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth
hsoy.org



Marcia Young is a graduate of Georgetown University and Boston College Law School. She is currently working on a directory of Massachusetts house museums.

Manuscript Resources for *Cape Cod* Genealogical Research



The R. Stanton Avery Special Collections at NEHGS contains significant holdings for Cape Cod genealogical research. These resources include a large number of individually cataloged Cape Cod family genealogies (both handwritten and typed), as well as transcriptions and extracts of genealogical data from cemetery, church, town, and vital records. In addition to those useful resources, NEHGS holdings also feature a number of manuscript collections commonly used by patrons researching Cape Cod ancestors. Nine of these collections are summarized below.

William Henry Eldridge Papers, Mss 276

William Henry Eldridge (1873 East Middlebury, Vt.–1943 Boise, Idaho) was elected an NEHGS member in 1911 and a life member in 1918. His collection contains handwritten genealogical sketches for descendants of Samuel Eldred of Kingston, R.I.; William Eldred of Yarmouth, Mass.; Robert Eldred of Chatham, Mass.; and Thomas Eldred of Surry County, Va. William also gathered notes and correspondence and compiled

genealogies for more than three hundred allied families, especially Bissell, Buttolph, Henry, Little, Rich, and Smith.

Edith Phemister Ferguson Papers, Mss 366

Edith Beverly Phemister (1913 Saint Louis, Mo.–2003 New London, Conn.), daughter of Walter R. and Alice Irving (Estes) Phemister, was married July 1, 1939 to Leonard Wilton Ferguson (1912–1988). Edith and her husband gathered information on Provincetown families and Truro families who were Provincetown-related, and recorded it on 5x8 inch index cards. The data was taken from vital, Bible, cemetery, and census records; Unitarian and Methodist church registers in Provincetown; several family genealogies; and town reports. Family group sheets were created and arranged alphabetically by surname, and large newspaper-sized pages were used to construct family charts. The final data was presented in a dictionary format, cross-referenced under spouses' name.

Colored sketch of Seth Paine House (Harwich, Mass.) by Josiah Paine, ca. 1880, Paine Family Collection.

Gustavus Adolphus Hinckley Papers, Mss 419

Although we hold several manuscripts relating to the town of Barnstable, the primary collection was compiled by Gustavus Adolphus Hinckley (1822 Barnstable, Mass.–1905 Barnstable, Mass.), who sought to preserve historical material related to his native town by transcribing cemetery, church, military, probate, town and vital records, 1640–1866; Old Colony papers relating to the town; a householders list of 1777; and extracts from the diary of the Reverend John Lothrop, 1634–1653. Some of the data recorded in his collection is also available through three databases on AmericanAncestors.org: Barnstable, MA: Church Records, 1639–1892;



Timothy G. X. Salls is
Manager of Manuscript
Collections at NEHGS.

Barnstable, MA: Probate Records 1685–1789; and Barnstable, MA: Town Records, 1640–1793.

Maclean Warren McLean Papers, Mss 369

Maclean Warren McLean (1906 Pittsburgh, Penn.–1990 Squirrel Hill, Penn.) was the son of Thomas S. and Marian Louise (McLean) Schultz; he legally changed his surname to McLean. He compiled more than a dozen five-generation genealogies on Sandwich families for the *Register* and was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. This collection's primary focus is compiled genealogies of southeastern New England, with a particular focus on Sandwich, Massachusetts, families. The collection contains significant research on the Crosby, Ellis, and Gifford families. The Bourne, Dimmock, Fish, Gibbs, Handy, Howland, Landers, Nye, Parker, Perry, and Swift families were also researched.

William Emery Nickerson Papers, SG NIC 40 [289]

William Emery Nickerson (1853 Provincetown, Mass.–1930 Boston, Mass.) was elected to NEHGS membership in 1899 and life membership in 1928. An important focus of this collection is data that Nickerson gathered and compiled in notebooks, including transcribed vital and cemetery records and genealogies. The Nickerson family and the allied families of Bangs, Bassett, Covell, Mayo, and Vickery are prominently featured. Of particular interest are seven boxes of genealogical forms filled out by Nickerson family members and descendants, 1897–1920, and fifteen boxes of genealogical correspondence sent and received, 1879–1927.

Warren Sears Nickerson Papers, Mss A N55

Warren Sears Nickerson (1880 East Harwich, Mass.–1966 Volusia, Fla.), son of Warren J. and Mary (Atkins) Nickerson, was elected a member of NEHGS in 1925. His collection contains genealogical correspondence, notes, and charts for more than fifty Cape Cod families, as well as original documents, particularly papers concerning

Jonathan Eldridge (1792–1880) of Harwich, Mass. In 1945, Nickerson summarized his collection: “It is to be remembered that the information contained in ‘My Ancestors’ folders are merely the summing up of notes accumulated by me . . . and in many cases are far from complete . . . Many of the lines, however, can be substantially relied on, having been compared and rechecked with authentic publications or original documents, with the exception of minor errors the following can be taken as approximately correct. . . I have gotten them together in permanent form . . . so that they may be preserved for posterity.”

Paine Family Collection, SG PAI 11 [222]

Although only consisting of a few boxes, the Paine Collection is a heavily used resource because it contains data collected and compiled by well-known historian and genealogist Josiah Paine (1836–1917) of Harwich, Mass., and his son John Howard Paine (1883–1964). *Genealogical Notes of Harwich Families by Josiah Paine . . . mostly prepared before 1878* is a 529-page leather-bound volume containing genealogical sketches for the Allen, Areys, Butler, Bassett, Burgess, Cahoon, Chase, Covell, Doane, Eldridge, and Ellis families, as well as many others.

Josiah Paine wrote on the title page, “This mss book is a valuable one. A great many facts in it have been collected from individuals long since dead and could not now be collected and should not be destroyed.” The collection also contains a 155-page volume of sketches on Eastham families, including Arey, Crocker, Crowell, Doane, Higgins, Knowles, Rider, and Young; a 196-page volume devoted primarily to families from Harwich and Eastham, including Freeman, Crosby, Wing, Bangs, Winslow, Clark, Dillingham, Snow, Lincoln, Cole, Hopkins, and Sears; and a 194-page volume on the Nickerson family. The collection also includes genealogical correspondence to both Paines and various deeds and other documents, 1726–1842, presumably collected by Josiah Paine for his Harwich town history.

Records of the First Church of Sandwich, Mass., Mss 638

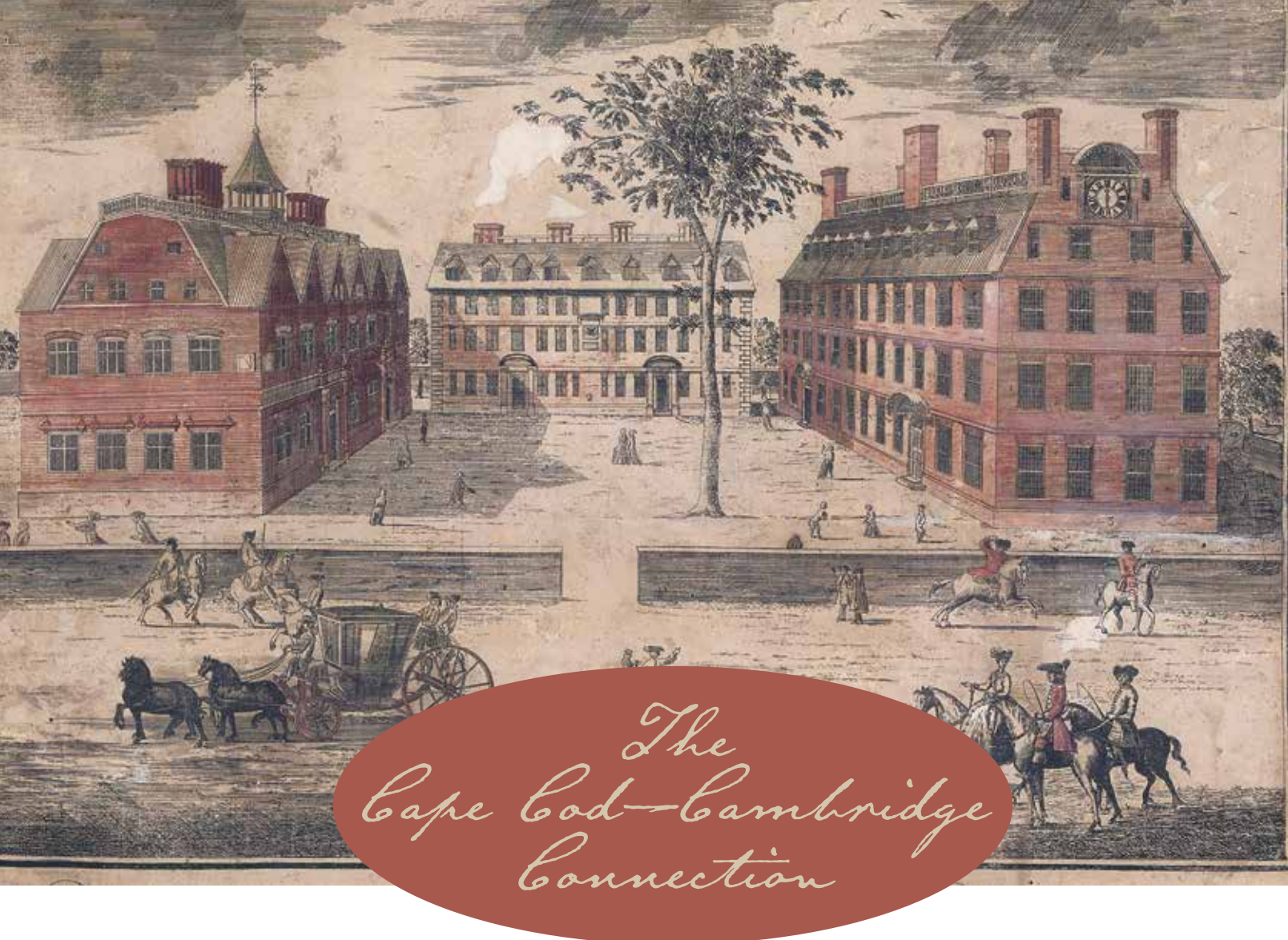
This collection contains two ledgers, begun in 1749 and 1786, that contain lists of members, baptisms, deaths, and dismissals, as well as meeting minutes. Earlier records dating back to 1694 were re-recorded into the first volume. Most entries in the first volume end in 1818, with the exception of an 1824 member list. The entries in the second volume end in 1853. This item has been selected for digitization as part of our partnership with the Congregational Library & Archives' New England Hidden Histories Digitization Project.

Bertha Ellis Walsh papers, Mss 32

Bertha Lillian (Ellis) Walsh (1906 Harwich, Mass.–1983 Brookline, Mass.) was elected an NEHGS member in 1968. This collection contains genealogical research on Cape Cod families, particularly the Ellis and Nickerson families. Included are vital records and cemetery transcriptions. ♦

Valued sources

Digital images of genealogical publications and primary source documents are increasingly accessible online, diminishing the research value of copies of these same records in a collection of papers. Many of the genealogical collections highlighted here, however, remain relevant. Their value stems from collected data having been analyzed, evaluated, and compiled into genealogies. NEHGS Special Collections seeks genealogical papers that contribute to the study of American family histories. Collections related to a current strength of our holdings, such as Mayflower families, should address a family or issue that our current holdings do not. Otherwise, our collecting priority is for families with little or no documentation in our manuscript holdings, especially 20th- and 21st-century immigrant families that settled on Cape Cod, other areas of New England, and beyond.



The Cape Cod-Cambridge Connection

Cape Cod is noted for its tightly-woven communities with family names reaching back into the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. While many genealogists focus exclusively on these lineal ancestral relationships, other more amorphous affiliations should not be ignored.

The strong ties formed by military or civic service, a shared profession or occupation, or attendance at an institution of higher learning, for example, were often of prime importance to the “ancestors” themselves.

One such Cape Cod web, combining both “intellectual genealogy” and “family genealogy,” had its origins in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Harvard College was founded in 1636.

Harvard’s curriculum, patterned on that of an English university, was built around scriptural studies and theology, and included Latin, Greek, Hebrew, logic, rhetoric, ethics, metaphysics, composition (in both prose and poetry), mathematics, history, and botany.¹ Like its English models, Harvard attracted sons of the wealthy and well-bred. In England, their fathers had seen first-hand the broader value of both education and social connections.

Harvard almost immediately became THE place for New England’s “elite” young men to mature—and to bond.

Harvard’s early success was also due to one of its primary missions: educating the ministers needed for the new communities being settled by a rapidly expanding population.² Young Harvard men, often from prestigious families, were soon fanning out from Cambridge to all over New England.



Peggy M. Baker is *Thomas Rogers Family editor of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants Silver Books project and Director Emerita of the Pilgrim Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum.*

Cape Cod began to be integrated into Harvard's network of influence in 1655, when it gained its first Harvard-educated minister, Thomas Crosby. Others followed in the decades to come. These ministers, often their town's most educated residents, were well-prepared to serve as mentors to the brightest and most ambitious of their young male parishioners, motivating and preparing them for a journey north to attend Harvard themselves. These young men in turn widened Harvard's reach beyond the pulpit, to include the Cape's social and political leaders.

Early Harvard–Cape Cod Connections

Thomas Crosby arrived in Massachusetts Bay in 1635 as an infant, travelling on the *Susan & Ellin* with his parents Simon and Ann (Brigham) Crosby. The family settled in Cambridge.³ Thomas graduated from Harvard in 1653 and, two years later, he appeared on the Cape, filling the vacant pulpit in Eastham.⁴ Crosby's pastoral career is a bit shadowy. He did not seem to have studied for an M.A., as did most aspiring ministers, and he was never officially ordained. Crosby left Eastham—and the ministry—in 1670 and moved with his wife Sarah and their four eldest children to Harwich (the couple would eventually be the parents of twelve). There Crosby led a successful and respected mercantile life.

The Eastham pulpit sat unoccupied for three years until 1673, when it was filled by the Cape's first American-born Harvard-educated minister. Samuel Treat, eldest son of Connecticut governor Robert Treat, had graduated from Harvard in 1669 and received an M.A. in 1672.⁵ He served as Eastham's minister until 1717. The *Plymouth Church Records* describe him as

... a Godly able man, whoe hath and doth Carry on the worke of the lord amongst them; soe as they Remaine an exemplary flock of Christ att this day.⁶

A year after settling into his new position, Treat married Elizabeth Mayo, granddaughter of the Rev. John Mayo,

Thomas Crosby's predecessor. The couple had eleven children, several of whom married into Eastham's founding families (Freeman, Snow, Rogers, and Higgins). Elizabeth died in 1696, and in 1700 Treat married Abigail (Willard) Estabrook. His new wife, the daughter and widow of Harvard graduates, strengthened the family's Harvard ties. Both of the children born of this marriage formed Harvard connections of their own. Daughter Eunice Treat, born in 1704, married in 1721 the Rev. Thomas Paine, Harvard Class of 1717. (Their son, Robert Treat Paine, signer of the Declaration of Independence, was Class of 1749.) Son Robert Treat, born in 1706/7 and admitted as a member of the Class of 1726, died January 15, 1723/24.

The first two young men from Cape Cod to attend Harvard, however, were members of the Class of 1707.⁷ Both came from prominent Cape families: John Otis was the son of a Barnstable magistrate, and Thomas Prince, of Sandwich, was the grandson of Thomas Hinckley, former governor of Plymouth Colony. After college, John Otis returned to Barnstable, where he practiced law and was appointed a county judge. John's younger brother Solomon, and his nephews James and Samuel Alleyne Otis—who would become prominent in the American Revolution—followed him from Barnstable to Cambridge as members of the classes of 1717, 1743, and 1759, respectively. Thomas Prince did not return to the Cape. He enjoyed a stellar career in Boston as a minister and historian.

Opposite page: A Prospect of the Colledges in Cambridge in New England, engraving attributed to John Harris after William Burgis, 1726. Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Right, top to bottom: The gravestones of Sarah (Newcomb) Fessenden (d. 1794) and William Newcomb (d. 1736), in Sandwich's Old Town Cemetery.

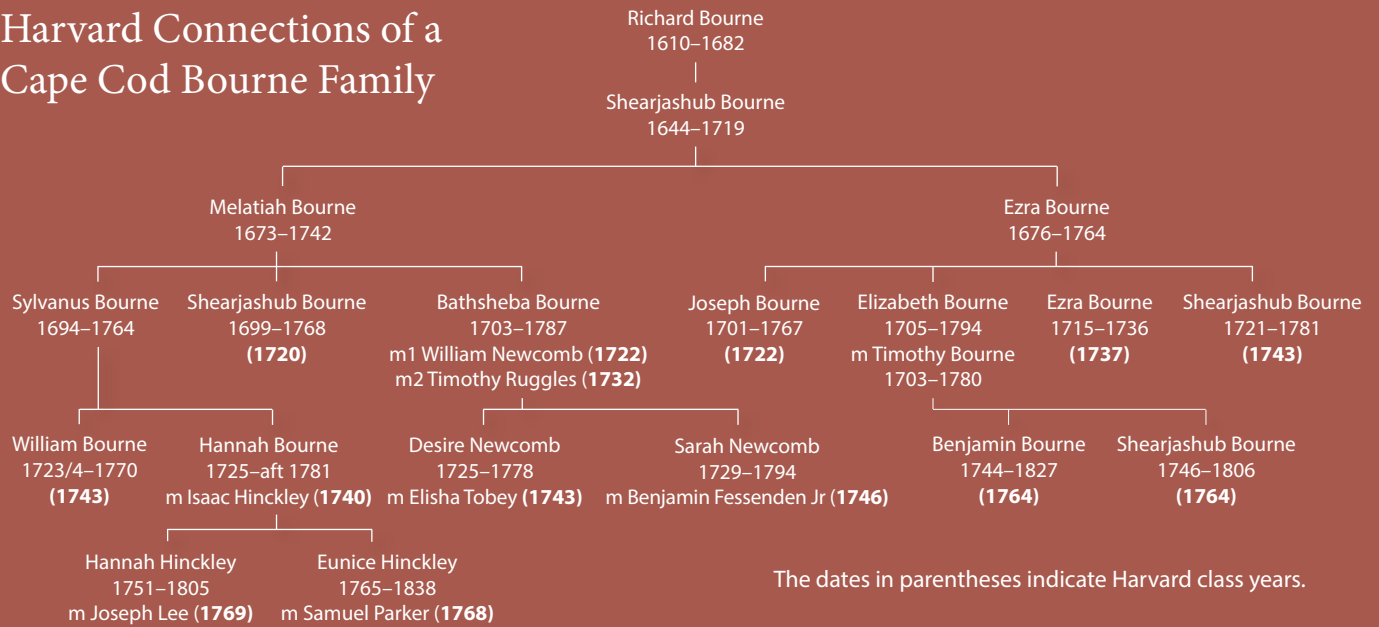
The Bourne family

In 1720, Shearjashub Bourne, another young man from a prominent Sandwich family, graduated from Harvard. The Bournes of Cape Cod would develop, over a fifty-year period, a remarkable extended network of familial and Harvard connections.⁸ Shearjashub, born at Sandwich on December 21, 1699, was the second in the Bourne family to carry that distinctive name (the lone Scriptural precedent is an obscure son of the prophet Isaiah). Shearjashub Bourne was the son of Melatiah Bourne, grandson of Shearjashub Bourne, and great-grandson of Richard Bourne, one of the original settlers of Sandwich.⁹

After his graduation this second Shearjashub Bourne, intent on entering the ministry, received an M.A. in 1723. Ordained at Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1724, he married Abigail Cotton six months later. She was the daughter of the Rev. Rowland Cotton, Harvard Class of 1685, the Plymouth-born



Harvard Connections of a Cape Cod Bourne Family



Sandwich's Newcomb Tavern, which descended in the family of William and Bathsbeba (Bourne) Newcomb, was a gathering spot for Cape Cod Tories in the years prior to the Revolutionary War.

Sandwich minister who was probably Shearjashub's mentor. The wedding ceremony was performed in Boston by the Rev. Thomas Prince. Shearjashub served as Scituate's pastor until his retirement in 1761.

Shearjashub's younger sister, Bathsbeba Bourne, married two Harvard graduates. Her first husband, William Newcomb, Class of 1722, was born in Sandwich and mentored by Rowland Cotton. A tavern keeper, shopkeeper, and merchant, William died at Sandwich April 8, 1736, at age 33, leaving "7 desirable children and his

widow the only daughter to the Hon. Melatiah Bourn."¹⁰ Five months later, on September 18, 1736, "Bathshua" Newcomb of Sandwich and Timothy Ruggles, Jr., of Rochester published their intention to marry. Bathsbeba was 32 years old, the daughter of a prominent man, the mother of a large family, and the owner of several lucrative properties—including the Newcomb Tavern—that she was then managing.¹¹ Timothy Ruggles, Class of 1732, was an energetic, outgoing and ambitious 25-year-old lawyer, representing Rochester in the Massachusetts

House of Representatives. Timothy and Bathsbeba Ruggles had seven children born in Sandwich between 1737 and 1748 before moving west to Hardwick, Massachusetts.

Three of Shearjashub and Bathsbeba Bourne's first cousins also attended Harvard. Joseph, Ezra, and Shearjashub Bourne (the third of that name) were sons of Ezra Bourne, brother of Melatiah. Joseph received his B.A. in 1722 and, after receiving an M.A. in 1725, served for over forty years on the Cape as pastor of the Wampanoag church at Mashpee. Ezra died at Harvard in 1736, a year before his expected graduation, "of a sore throat & terrible fever."¹² Shearjashub the 3rd graduated in 1743 and received an M.A. in 1746. He later moved to Rhode Island where, in 1778, he was appointed Chief Judge of the Superior Court of Judicature and Court of Assize.

After this first generation came waves of succeeding connections. William and Hannah Bourne of Barnstable were the nephew and niece of Shearjashub Bourne (the 2nd), Class of 1720.

William, born in Barnstable in 1723/24, and Hannah, born there in 1725, were the children of Shearjashub's older brother Sylvanus Bourne, who did not attend Harvard.

William Bourne was, like his cousin Shearjashub Bourne the 3rd, a member of the Harvard Class of 1743. He earned his M.A. in 1746 and was absent at graduation, "being now necessarily detain'd at home in raising Levy's for the Canada Expedition."¹³ William left the Cape, moving to Marblehead, where he became a judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Three of his daughters married Harvard men, but none formed connections to Cape Cod.

William's sister, Hannah Bourne, married Isaac Hinckley of Barnstable, on December 18, 1748. Isaac, Class of 1740, earned a very leisurely M.A., not awarded until 1747. Returning to the Cape, Isaac served as a Barnstable selectman and town clerk. The couple had eight children born between 1749 and 1765, including two daughters who carried the family's Harvard connections into the third generation. Hannah married Joseph Lee, Class of 1769, a Marblehead merchant; Eunice became the second wife of the Rev. Samuel Parker, Class of 1768, the minister at Provincetown on the Cape.

William Bourne's first cousins Desire and Sarah Newcomb also married Harvard men. Desire and Sarah, born in Sandwich in 1725 and 1729 respectively, were the daughters of Bathsheba Bourne and her first husband William Newcomb (Class of 1722). Desire Newcomb married Dr. Elisha Tobey, born in Sandwich in 1723, a third member of the Class of 1743. The couple lived in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

On October 19, 1760, Sarah Newcomb married innkeeper Benjamin Fessenden, Jr. of Sandwich, Harvard Class of 1746. Benjamin's father, Benjamin, Sr. (Class of 1718), had been Sandwich's minister. The younger Benjamin converted his father's parsonage—next to the meetinghouse on Main Street—into a tavern. In 1776 Benjamin Fessenden Jr. served as clerk of the Sandwich (Patriot) Committee of Correspondence, which met at the Fessenden Tavern. The town's Tories

met at the Newcomb Tavern, then operated by Sarah's brother, William Newcomb, Jr.¹⁴ This political division in the family was not unique. Sarah's stepfather, Timothy Ruggles (Class of 1732), a notorious Loyalist, went into exile in Canada at the end of the war. He and Sarah's mother, Bathsheba (Bourne) (Newcomb) Ruggles, parted company; she remained in Hardwick.

Benjamin and Shearjashub Bourne of Sandwich, sons of Elizabeth Bourne—sister of Joseph, Ezra, and Shearjashub the 3rd, who had married her cousin Timothy Bourne—continued to keep the Bourne name alive at Harvard.¹⁵ Benjamin Bourne was born January 25, 1744, and Shearjashub Bourne on March 10, 1746. When they entered Harvard as members of the Class of 1764, Benjamin was 16 and Shearjashub 14. Both earned their M.A.s three years after graduation and then returned to the Cape. Benjamin became a physician in Sandwich, while Shearjashub settled in Barnstable, where he was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

In the years leading to the Revolutionary War, Benjamin Bourne fell afoul of Cape Cod Patriots for selling tea. Matters descended into a violent altercation between Bourne and Dr. Nathaniel Freeman, an ardent Patriot, which ended with Bourne forced to stand beneath the town Liberty Pole and publicly recant. Thereafter he avoided politics.

Benjamin's brother Shearjashub lost his position as Justice of the Peace in 1775 when the royal courts were closed. Shearjashub's father-in-law, Colonel Elisha Doane of Wellfleet, hired him as supercargo of a trading vessel sailing for London. While there, in an effort to recover a cargo of impounded goods, Shearjashub described himself in court documents as "one of his Majesty's loyal Subjects," who had:

... while in America publicly and privately disavow'd all actions that might have a Tendency to subvert his Majesty's Government.¹⁶

Beyond this one self-serving "lapse," Shearjashub Bourne was not known to have Loyalists leanings. After the war he returned easily to public

life, served as a member of the 1788 Constitutional Convention, and in 1791 was elected to the United States House of Representatives.

The flourishing careers of the Bournes who attended Harvard during the colonial period were undoubtedly the result of hard work, ambition, and strong family support. Their accomplishments were also in part the fruit of Thomas Crosby's 1655 Eastham ministry. Crosby, and the Harvard-educated pastors who followed him on the Cape, exposed the most promising young parishioners to the vibrant intellectual and philosophical debates that were (and still are!) a staple of Cambridge life. Each generation of Cape men admitted to Harvard then widened the web by forging their own social, professional, and political bonds.

The Bourne family connection with Harvard—which began with Shearjashub Bourne the 2nd (Class of 1720)—greatly expanded over the next fifty years. Ultimately this network included family members (by either birth or marriage) who not only followed Shearjashub into the ministry, but also became attorneys, merchants, physicians, and innkeepers. Although no Cape family had as many Harvard ties as the Bournes, colonial-era Harvard graduates throughout the Cape show a similar pattern. Sons and nephews attended Harvard, sisters and daughters married Harvard men, and Harvard's influence increased exponentially. Slowly but surely, as the Cape was joined to Cambridge, a network emerged that ensured that its residents were informed, active, and engaged citizens of the wider New England world. ♦

Notes

- ¹ *New England's first fruits: in respect, first of the conversion of some, conviction of divers, preparation of sundry of the Indians 2. Of the progresse of learning, in the colledge at Cambridge in Massachusetts bay.* (London: 1643), 28–29.
- ² *Ibid.*, 23.
- ³ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume II, C–F* (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), 232–36. (Available as a database at AmericanAncestors.org.)

(continued on page 45)



GALLOWS HILL PROJECT

[Re-]Discovering Proctor's Ledge

Since 2010 I have had the privilege of being part of the Gallows Hill Project, an effort by several concerned parties to preserve and mark the actual spot in Salem, Massachusetts, where nineteen people were hanged in 1692 after being wrongly convicted of the crime of witchcraft.

Competing traditions placed the location of the executions in two different areas of the long rocky height now called Gallows Hill: on the summit in Gallows Hill Park, and on a lower ledge of the hill currently surrounded by a thickly populated neighborhood. We believe the latter location is correct—Proctor's Ledge, named for the family that owned it for a century and a half, a family descended from the John Proctor hanged there.

When we announced the location in January 2016 many reporters assumed not only that we had started our five-year search with a blank slate, but also that science alone located the spot. Although the Project benefited from geophysical instruments and computerized mapping programs, these tools only confirmed what we already knew: that lawyer-historian Sidney Perley had verified the spot in 1901 using basic research methods available to the average family historian.

Perley's sources were:

- seventeenth-century court documents;

- contemporary commentary;
- local traditions and oral history;
- town records;
- deeds and wills;
- maps and the land itself.

Court papers for the trials provided few clues. Perley knew the warrant for Bridget Bishop's execution, for example, ordered the sheriff to "safely conduct the s^d Bridge[t] Bishop alias Olliver from their Maj^{ties} Gaol in Salem . . . to the place [of] Execution . . ." while Sheriff George Corwin's report mentions only "the place provided for her Execution."¹

Before 1692 capital crimes were tried in Boston and the condemned hanged there. The witch trial court convened at Salem due only to the unprecedented number of defendants; Salem then had no place of execution.

Contemporary commentary offered a possible eye-witness account from trial critic Robert Calef. Written in 1697 and



Marilynne K. Roach is an associate editor of *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt* (2002), author of *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege* (2009), and *Six Women of Salem: The Untold Story of the Accused and Their Accusers in the Salem Witch Trials* (2013). She has also written several witch trial-related articles for *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*.

published in 1700, his book *Wonders of the Invisible World* noted:

“The Cart going up the Hill with the Eight to Execution, was for some time at a sett; the afflicted and others said that the Devil hindered it.”²

Calef also described some of the dead hastily (and probably temporarily) buried in “a Hole, or Grave, between the Rocks, about two foot deep.” Official court records are silent on the matter.³

Traditions needed careful scrutiny. Nineteenth-century historian and politician Charles Wentworth Upham was positive that the hangings took place “on the brow of the highest eminence in

the vicinity of the town” for maximum effect. “There is no contemporaneous nor immediately subsequent record, that the executions took place on the spot assigned by tradition,” he admitted in his 1867 history, *Salem Witchcraft*, “but that tradition has been uniform and continuous.”⁴

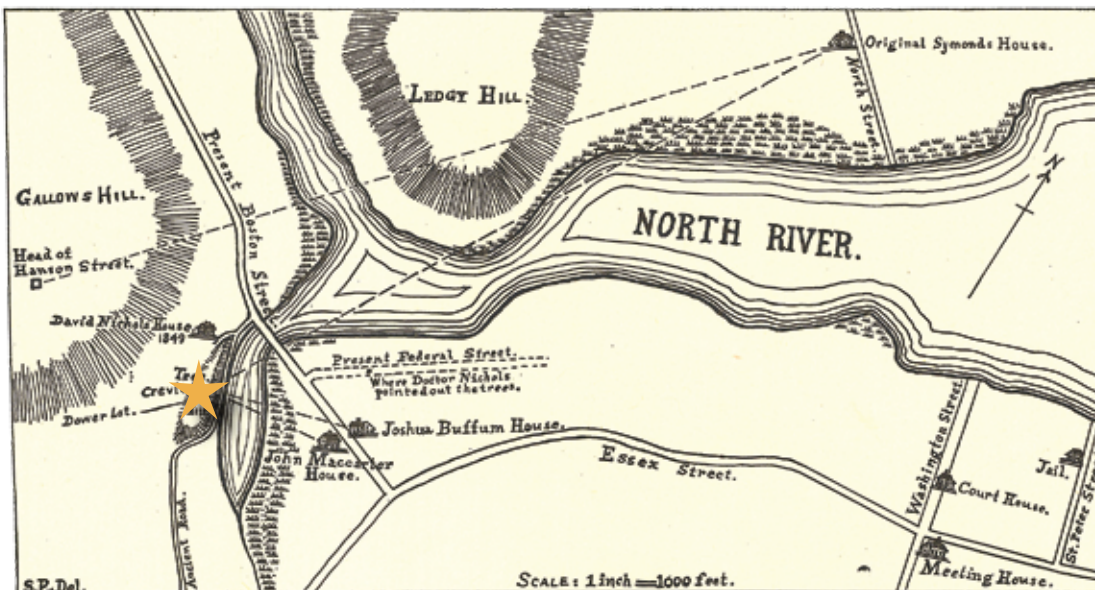
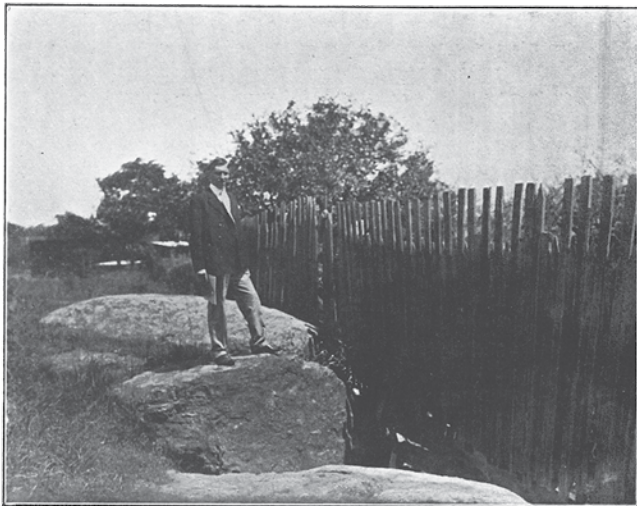
Even Upham admitted the climb was “fatiguing.” It would have been still more difficult to get a cart-load of prisoners up there so far from the road—more work than was necessary. The purpose of any public hanging was to serve as a public warning so hangings were normally held in an accessible area—at the edge of a town on public land. (All of Gallows Hill was common pasture land in 1692.)

In contrast to Upham’s conclusion, Perley found several traditions that pointed to Proctor’s Ledge. He read that in 1766 lawyer and future president John Adams took an after dinner stroll to “Witchcraft Hill” and noted in his diary that he saw locust trees planted on the

site as if for a memorial to those hanged for witchcraft.⁵ But just where were the trees? Perley knew of no evidence or tradition that locusts ever grew on the hill’s summit.⁶

Perley knew that Joshua Buffum’s descendants claimed that their ancestor had observed the executions and burials from his home and, once it was dark, helped remove the bodies for more proper burial elsewhere. Buffum was a kinsman of Rebecca Nurse by marriage and lived on the Boston Road east of the Town Bridge. The Proctor and Jacobs families also had traditions of their ancestors’ bodies being removed.⁷

Oral history referenced in a letter written in 1791 by Dr. Edward Augustus Holyoke of Salem provided a second-hand anecdote related to the doctor by an elderly John Symonds. The nurse who had attended Symonds’s birth in 1692 often told him that “while she was attending his mother . . . she saw, from the chamber windows, those unhappy people hanging on Gallows Hill, who were executed for witches.” If the memories of John Symonds and his nurse were correct, from what location did the nurse watch?⁸ Perley’s deed searches showed him that in 1692 the Symonds house was north of the North River, with a view of the lower ledges but not of the hill’s summit.⁹



Left, top to bottom: Author Sidney Perley standing at “the crevice,” and Perley’s map showing key locations related to the execution site. Proctor’s Ledge is marked on the map with a star. Both images from Sidney Perley, “Where the Salem ‘Witches’ Were Hanged,” *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute* 57 (1921), 8, 16. Opposite page: Locust tree image courtesy of tinyfarmblog.

The Proctor's Ledge site identified by Sidney Perley as "the probable site of the execution of 'the witches.'" Sidney Perley, "Where the Salem 'Witches' Were Hanged," *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute* 57 (1921), 1.



In 1901 Perley proceeded to seek further oral history about the site by interviewing older Salem area residents.

Andrew Nichols, who, as a boy, had accompanied his father, Dr. Andrew Nichols, on his rounds, told Perley how his father once halted the carriage as they turned into Federal Street, looked back toward a plot of "large trees" across Boston Street behind them, and said, "That is where the witches were hung." Born in 1785, the doctor learned the story as a boy. The "large trees" had grown on the ledge of bedrock between Proctor and Pope Streets. These trees, Perley concluded, were the same locusts that Adams had seen,¹⁰ but no longer stood in 1901.

Perley next interviewed the Stevens family who lived on Pope Street in a small house tucked into the rock, just below where the trees once grew, "to see if there were any stumps or other large remains of any large trees at that spot."¹¹ The owner, Solomon Stevens, was in his nineties, "unable to talk intelligently." His son Thomas showed Perley the spot where, about 1860, Thomas himself cut down two sizeable trees at "the brow of the ridge or hill," one growing from a crevice in the bedrock. Thomas dug out the stumps and he and his father "pulled down into their garden all the soil that was in the crevice." (Perley thought that some of the bodies had been buried at least temporarily in that now-empty crevice.) Thomas then gave Perley a fragment of the locust wood as a souvenir.¹² (The rest of the salvaged wood, the Stevens house, and a wide swath of Salem burned to ashes in 1914 from a spark that began in the Korn Leather Factory directly below Proctor's Ledge.¹³)

Edward F. Southwick told Perley that as a boy he had lived from 1847 to 1852 with Stevens' neighbors above the ledge, David and Martha Nichols. Both they

and Martha's elderly relative Thorndike Proctor told young Edward that the executions had taken place on the ledge. Mrs. Nichols was a great-great-granddaughter of the John Proctor who had been hanged in 1692.¹⁴

Of course, family lore and oral tradition may or may not be accurate and should always be verified. The Proctor descendants may have been the one source for all those neighborhood recollections.

Deeds and wills provided Perley with information about who lived where, and a specific reference to the vanished locust trees on the ledge. He published a series of thirty-six articles, "Part of Salem in 1700," in his historical journal, *The Essex Antiquarian*, from 1898 to 1909. In 1901 the seventh installment identified the location between Pope and Proctor Streets as the site of the hangings.¹⁵ In 1921 *The Essex Institute Historical Collections* published Perley's "Where the Salem 'Witches' Were Hanged," which further explained his reasons for identifying Proctor's Ledge as the site of the hangings.

Proctor's Ledge was first purchased by blacksmith Samuel Pope when the town's Proprietors of the Common Land sold several parcels at the edge of the great Pasture in 1719.¹⁶ Pope sold his acre in 1737 to bricklayer Moses Steward,¹⁷ who, at some unknown time (the actual conveyance appears to be lost, although mentioned in a later deed) sold it to blacksmith Thorndike Proctor¹⁸—a grandson of the John Proctor hanged in 1692—and this Thorndike may have planted the locust trees above the ledge.

In 1748 the Proprietors of the Great Pasture encouraged the planting of locusts, offering a bounty of five shillings for these windbreaks—two shillings and sixpence when planted, the remaining half if the sapling survived fifteen months.¹⁹

When Thorndike Proctor died in 1774 the acre with the locusts became part of his widow's thirds. "Widow Abigail Procter as her Right of Dower in said real Estate . . . during her natural Life" was allowed, among other considerations, the right to share the mansion, house, barn, garden, "liberty of the well," various pastures and fields, and:

"Also a Piece of Land about one acre which was purchased of Moses Steward on which the Locust Trees now stand."²⁰

The locust trees were already a landmark to distinguish this lot from others nearby.

After Abigail died in 1784,²¹ a grandson, another Thorndike Proctor,²² mariner, purchased the lot in 1789. It was then described as "a certain lot of land containing about one acre more or less belonging to said Thorndike's estate which was purchased of Moses Steward, said land lays near the town bridge in said Salem."²³ The Town Bridge crossed a tidal inlet at a bend in the North River near the later junction of Boston and Federal Streets. The inlet was filled in before the end of the nineteenth century.²⁴

When Thorndike the mariner died in 1792,²⁵ the land passed to his brother Robert. Robert Proctor died of "lung fever" in 1841,²⁶ and his estate passed



Proctor's Ledge, 2016. Courtesy of Emerson W. Baker.

to his only child Martha Ann, who had married tanner David Nichols in 1835.²⁷ After David Nichols died in 1882,²⁸ a railroad spur was built below the ledge in 1886. “The digging and blasting” for it, Perley noted, “greatly changed the appearance of the side of the hill to the south east” (facing Boston Street).²⁹ Martha Ann (Proctor) Nichols died February 2, 1892, and, as she had no children, eight “heirs at law”—cousins and their spouses—inherited the estate.³⁰ They, in turn, sold the land to James H. Gannon in 1893.³¹ The Gannon family further sub-divided it.

Although the Ledge was no longer owned by John Proctor's family, the neighborhood continued to pass on its traditional history, and in June 1936, the City of Salem purchased a small lot on Proctor's Ledge from Thomas F. Gannon³² (son of James H. Gannon) and another adjoining lot from Francis P. Gahagan,³³ who owned the former Stevens property. The deed for each specified the land was “to be held forever as a public park.” However, the site was not marked and although the combined lots were listed for decades in Salem's annual City Reports as “Witch Memorial Land,”³⁴ the land was nearly sold by the city in the 1980s as surplus.

A 1963 attempt to mark the site of the executions evaporated because organizers could not determine which of three possible locations (Proctor's Ledge, the summit, and Mack Park) was correct.³⁵

Another rediscovery of Proctor's Ledge in 1976 led to talk of nominating the site for the National Register of Historic Places but ultimately went nowhere.³⁶

While researching my history of the Salem trials (*The Salem Witch Trials: a Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community under Siege*,³⁷) I discovered new evidence in a court record written only hours, at most, after the August 19, 1692, hangings. Notes summarizing the Salem magistrates' questioning of suspect Sarah Eames included the following:

. . . she was askt if she was at y^e execution: she s^d she was at y^e hous below: y^e hill: she saw a few folk: the woman of y^e hous had a pin stuck into her foot: but: she s^d she did not doe it.³⁸

Goodwife Sarah Eames of Boxford had been brought under arrest to Salem that morning. When the cavalcade passed the site of the day's executions, her guards left her at “the house below the hill” so they could watch the hangings. Sarah's presence made the woman of the house nervous enough to feel spectral pain in her foot.

The road south from Boxford into Salem ran past Proctor's Ledge. Perley had already determined the locations of the nearby houses and one of them still stood at 19 Boston Street when he wrote his 1901 article. Although he noted that

John Maccarter sold that house at a loss in November 1692, and speculated that having the executions so close to home may have been a reason to leave, Perley did not mention the Eames testimony. Most of the houses on that stretch of the Boston Road in 1692 had a clear view of Proctor's Ledge.³⁹ The Eames testimony further bolsters Perley's conclusion that Proctor's Ledge was the place where the nineteen were hanged.

I included this information in my 1997 self-published booklet *Gallows and Graves*, along with a plea that the place be respected.⁴⁰ The *Salem Evening News* interviewed me on the site and ran the piece as a front-page story for Halloween. Little to no reaction followed.⁴¹

In 1992 a monument honoring the people put to death in 1692—the nineteen hanged plus Giles Corey, who was pressed to death—was built next to the Charter Street Burial Ground in downtown Salem. In 2010, several of us concerned with the fate of the site on Proctor's Ledge formed the Gallows Hill Project. Core members include me; Emerson Baker, history professor at Salem State University; Elizabeth Peterson, director of the city's Corwin House, a.k.a. Witch House; Tom Phillips, filmmaker and director of the National Park's *Salem Witch Trials: Examine the Evidence*; Benjamin Ray, religion professor at the University of Virginia; and Peter Sablock, geology professor at Salem State. More and more of Salem's economy focused on the witch trials, yet the spot where the victims died was still neglected and perhaps still in jeopardy.

Professor Sablock and his students performed noninvasive ground-penetrating radar and electronic resistivity tests, which revealed the shallowness of the soil over the bedrock and no signs of burials. The area's farm and factory history had greatly “disturbed” and polluted the ground. If any bodies had been buried there, they would have been removed (as Nurse, Proctor, and Jacobs family traditions relate), or the

bones would have been broken down by roots, rodents, and the acid effects of the area's former leather and shoe factories, plus the acidity of the bedrock itself.⁴² Prof. Ray and Chris Gist of the University of Virginia's Scholars Lab used computerized view-shed analysis mapping—which takes topography into account while eliminating view-blocking buildings—to further verify available sight lines with Perley's maps and the Eames testimony.⁴³

After several discussions with the office of Salem mayor Kimberley Driscoll, in which we all agreed on the importance of respectful care for the site, we announced the discovery on January 11, 2016, by sending a press release summarizing the evidence for the site, its present state, and its importance to history to the *Salem News* and the *Boston Globe*. Our hope was that publicity would ensure the proper preservation of the site. Unlike all the past rediscoveries of the site, news of this one went viral. Last December, *Archeology Magazine*, a publication of the Archaeological Institute of America, even named the identification of Proctor's Ledge as one of 2016's ten most important archaeological discoveries in the world. The city of Salem engaged landscape architect Martha Lyons to design a memorial for the site. After multiple public meetings, work began in 2016 and should be complete by summer 2017—the 325th anniversary of the hangings on that spot.

By itself, the Eames reference is fragmentary and obscure. The oral history Perley collected about the locust tree landmarks is not proof by itself. But taken together with Perley's property research and the requirements of a public execution, Proctor's Ledge is the most reasonable location for the hangings of 1692. Geophysical instruments and high-tech computer programs may not be available to most family historians, but the basic tools of oral history bolstered by contemporary accounts, court records, deeds, probate records, maps, and the landscape itself can combine to solve a late seventeenth-century mystery. ♦

Notes

¹ Bernard Rosenthal, ed., *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), doc. 313, 394–95.

² Robert Calef, *More Wonders of the Invisible World* (1700), selections in George Lincoln Burr, ed., *Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases 1648–1706* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914), 367.

³ *Ibid.*, 361.

⁴ Charles W. Upham, *Salem Witchcraft*, 2 vols., facsimile of 1867 original (Williamstown, Mass.: Corner House Publishers, 1971), 2:376–77.

⁵ Sidney Perley, "Part of Salem in 1700. No. 7," *Essex Antiquarian* (hereafter *EA*), 5 (1901): 145–49; Sidney Perley, "Where the Salem 'Witches' Were Hanged," *Essex Institute Historical Collections*, (hereafter *EIHC*) 57 (1921): 1–18, 11.

⁶ Perley, "Where" [note 5], 13.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 14; Sidney Perley, "Part of Salem in 1700. No. 11, *EA* 7 (1903): 69, 72; Walter Goodwin Davis, "Ancestry of Sarah Johnson," in *Massachusetts and Maine Families in the Ancestry of Walter Goodwin Davis* (Baltimore: GPC, 1996), I: 193; and Sidney Perley, *The History of Salem, Massachusetts*, 3 vols. (Haverhill, Mass.: 1928), 2: 39–40.

⁸ Perley, "Where" [note 5], 2–3.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 6–17; "Northfields, Salem, in 1700. No. 2," *EIHC* 48 (1912): 261 and map opp.

¹⁰ Perley, "Where" [note 5], 12–13.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 13.

¹² *Ibid.*, 12, 13; Solomon Stevens household, 1900 federal census, Salem Ward 4, Essex, Massachusetts; roll 647; page 11B; enumeration district 451; viewed at Ancestry.com.

¹³ Perley, "Where," [note 5], 13; Barbara Pero Kampas, *The Great Salem Fire of 1913: Images from the Phillips Library Collection* (Charleston, S.C.: History Press, 2008), 15.

¹⁴ Perley, "Where," [note 5], 15–16.

¹⁵ Perley, "Part of Salem in 1700. No. 7," [note 5]: map opp. 145, 147–49.

¹⁶ George Francis Dow, ed., "Salem Commoners Records, 1713–1739" [part 4], *EIHC* 37 (1901): 285.

¹⁷ Essex Deed 74, leaf 85, Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, Salem, Mass.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 151: 244; Perley, *History of Salem* [note 7] 2: 22, 24.

¹⁹ Salem Town Records, Box 4, Folder 1, "Salem Great Pastures Record Book 1724–99," 23 February 1748, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Mass.

²⁰ Essex County Probate Record 351: 125–27, 592–93; Essex County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1638–1881. Online database. AmericanAncestors.org. (From records supplied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives.)

²¹ *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849*, 6 vols. (Salem: Essex Institute, 1916–1925), 6: 165.

²² Perley, *History of Salem* [note 7], 2: 24.

²³ Essex Deed [note 17], 151: 244.

²⁴ Perley, "Where," [note 5], 12–13.

²⁵ *Salem Vital Records* [note 21], 6: 165; Thorndike Proctor Probate 22898, Essex County Record Book 362: 38–39.

²⁶ *Salem Vital Records* [note 21], 6: 164; Robert Proctor Probate 51037, Essex County Record Book 121: 78 and verso.

²⁷ *Salem Vital Records* [note 21], 4: 221.

²⁸ David Nichols Probate Docket 58650, Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, Salem, Mass.

²⁹ David Nichols Probate Docket 58650 [note 28]; Essex Deed [note 17], 1178: leaf 295 and verso; Perley, "Where," [note 5], 12.

³⁰ Martha Ann Nichols Probate Docket 72006, Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, Salem, Mass.

³¹ Essex Deed [note 17] 1367: 272; plan by C. A. Putnam, Plan Book 1532: 202, Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds, Salem, Mass.

³² Essex Deed [note 17], 3080: 469–470.

³³ *Ibid.*, 3080: 468.

³⁴ City Document No. 21: "Report of the Board of the Park Commissioners," in *Salem City Documents 1936* (Salem: 1937), 146.

³⁵ Joe Harrington, "If not on Gallows Hill . . . Just Where Did Salem Hang Her 'Witches'?" *Boston Sunday Globe*, November 3, 1963, 3.

³⁶ David W. Johnson, "Witch Execution Site Believed Found," *The Salem Evening News*, October 20, 1976, clipping, Salem Public Library, Salem file; David W. Johnson, "Officials Concerned about Future: Witch Hanging Site May Have Survived Intact," *The Salem Evening News*, October 29, 1976, clipping, Salem Public Library, Salem file.

³⁷ Marilynne K. Roach, *The Salem Witch Trials: a Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community under Siege* (Lanham, Md.: Taylor Trade Pub., 2004).

³⁸ Rosenthal, *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt* [note 1], document 511, 548.

³⁹ Perley, "Part of Salem No. 7 [note 5]," 146; "Part of Salem, No. 11 [note 7]," 72 and map 6; Perley, "Where," [note 5], 16.

⁴⁰ Marilynne K. Roach, *Gallows and Graves: the Search to Locate the Death and Burial Sites of the People Executed for Witchcraft in 1692* (Watertown, Mass.: Sassafras Grove Press, 1997).

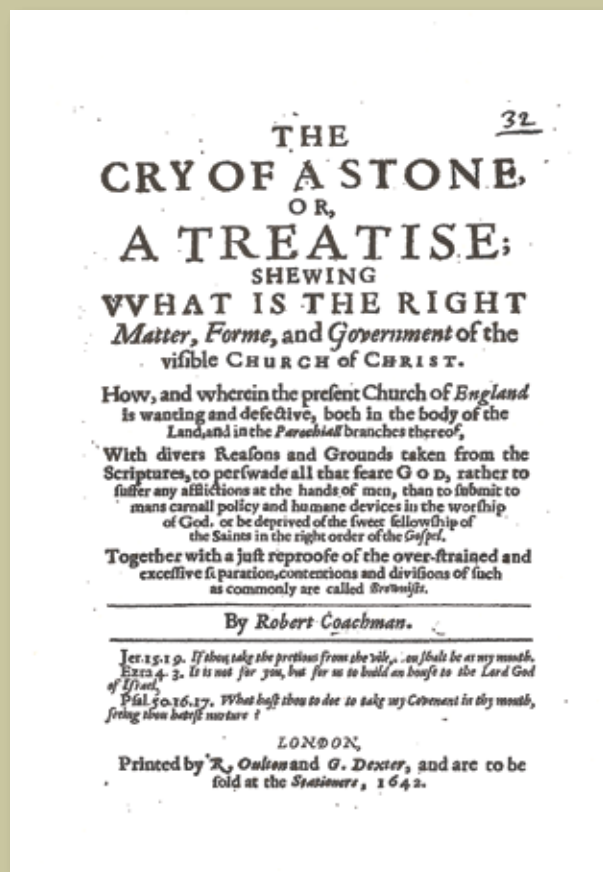
⁴¹ Tom Dalton, "Site Unknown: Author Says Salem Witchcraft Victims Were Not Hanged Atop Gallows Hill," *The Salem Evening News*, October 31, 1997.

⁴² Email communication from Peter Sablock, January 26, 2016.

⁴³ Caroline Newman, "X Marks the Spot," January 19, 2016, news.virginia.edu/content/uvas-help-salem-finally-discovers-where-its-witches-were-executed.

Pilgrim ROBERT CUSHMAN

The Cry of a Stone



Title page © The British Library Board, All Rights Reserved, shelfmark E.137.(32). Image published with permission of ProQuest. Further reproduction is prohibited without permission. Image produced by ProQuest as part of Early English Books Online. ProQuest.com.

Robert Cushman served as the chief agent of the Pilgrims and worked on their behalf in London from 1619 until his death from an unknown cause in 1625. He was born in Rolvenden, Kent, in 1577/8, son of Thomas and Elynour (Hubbarde) “Cutchman” [Cushman] and lived his early life in Canterbury, Kent. In 1606 he married Sara Reader, a daughter of Paul Reader, of Lenham, Kent. Their only surviving child, Thomas Cushman, was born in Canterbury in 1607/8.¹

Cushman and his family joined the Pilgrim Church in Leiden, the Netherlands, in about 1609, the year the Pilgrims established themselves in that city.² The highly regarded nineteenth-century historian Henry Martin Dexter compiled a list, from many sources, of early English exiles in Amsterdam. Cushman, and other Pilgrims from Kent, were not included in that list. The Kent contingent probably went directly to Leiden from the southeast port of Sandwich, Kent.³ Cushman moved to London in 1617, as a Pilgrim agent, to facilitate the *Mayflower* and *Speedwell* voyages in 1620. He did not sail, as planned, on the *Speedwell* because that ship was leaking badly and he was unwell.⁴ William Bradford, the long-time governor of the Pilgrim Colony, wrote that Cushman “was as their right hand with their friends the Adventurers, and for divers years had done and agitated all their business with them, to their great advantage.”⁵ (The Adventurers were investors in the *Mayflower* voyage and later in Plymouth Colony.)

During this period, Cushman was working on a religious treatise, called *The Cry of a Stone*. In the book, Cushman described himself as “an Apprentice of ten yeeres in a society” of “excellent Christians,” which establishes the year as 1619.⁶ We know, from an 1619 letter from Cushman to William Bradford, quoted in *Of Plymouth Plantation 1620–1647*, that Cushman was writing his book somewhere in London. A 1624 deposition record gave an address of “Rosemary Lane, London,” located in the eastern part of the city, near the Aldgate and close to the Tower of London.⁷

The Cry of a Stone is the only known detailed, eyewitness description of the religious practices of the Pilgrim Church in the Netherlands written close to the time of the 1620 *Mayflower* sailing. William Bradford, in his book *Of Plymouth Plantation*, intentionally avoided the subject:

But seeing it is not my purpose to treat of the several passages that befell this people [the Pilgrims] whilst they thus lived in the Low Countries . . . but to make way to show the beginning of this plantation.⁸



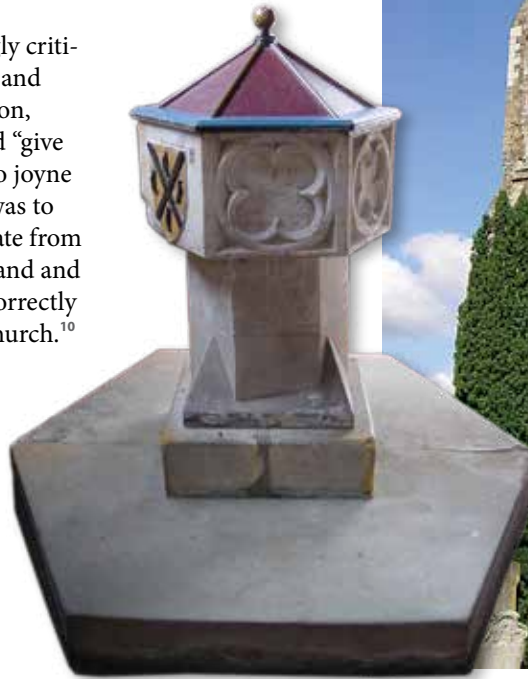
Michael R. Paulick is a researcher specializing in the study of the lives of Kent Pilgrims. He edited the 2016 reprint of *The Cry of a Stone* and donated the North American book publishing rights to the General Society of *Mayflower* Descendants. His email is paulickmike@gmail.com.

St. Mary the Virgin Church, Rolvenden, Kent, England, was the home parish of Robert Cushman. He was baptized in the baptismal font shown below. Photos by Judy Vinson.

Cushman's short work strongly criticized the Church of England and concluded that a "sequestration, and not a reformation" would "give us a right Church estate for to joyne unto."⁹ The aim of the book was to convince Christians to separate from the defective Church of England and to join a "rightly gathered," correctly constituted, and governed Church.¹⁰ Cushman also undertook to reconcile "these differences between those Christians of the English Parishes, and those of the [strict] Separation."¹¹ Today the book is essential reading for those interested in Pilgrim history and a better understanding of the Pilgrims' religious ideas. Cushman wrote:

Indeed, the matters concerning the right gathering, constituting and governing the Church, are in our dayes matters of great difficulty, and deserve the greatest care and paines of the deepest wits, and greatest learning that is amongst us;¹²

The book was first published in 1642, seventeen years after Cushman's death. Stephen Foster, an author and historian, published an article in 1977 that first identified Robert Cushman as the writer.¹³ A 1606 incident described in the book—the Canterbury Church of England heresy prosecution and imprisonment of Gilbert Gore, in which Cushman was involved—was described by Cushman on page 36.¹⁴ "Master T.W." Thomas Wilson, was the rector and "G.G." Gilbert Gore, a parishioner. Both men were from St. George the Martyr Church, Canterbury, the same parish Robert Cushman belonged to when he first moved to Canterbury.¹⁵ The account of this very obscure event in Canterbury further confirmed that Cushman was the author.



Robert Cushman is also an important historical figure because his only surviving child, Thomas Cushman, is the ancestor of many Americans. In 1621, father and son arrived in New England on the *Fortune*. When Robert Cushman returned to England later that year, Thomas, about fourteen, remained in Plymouth Colony under the guardianship of Robert Cushman's close friend William Bradford.¹⁶ Thomas Cushman married *Mayflower* passenger Mary Allerton in about 1636.¹⁷

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to try to imagine, now with a little more information available, what religious life was like for the Pilgrims centuries ago. ♦

The author thanks Robert C. Cushman for his helpful suggestions. Robert C. Cushman, a twelfth-generation descendant of our subject, Robert Cushman, and his wife Sara Reader, hosts a Cushman genealogy at [cushmansite.com/CushmanGen site/Home_Page.html](http://cushmansite.com/CushmanGen%20site/Home_Page.html) and is co-administrator of the Cushman/Couchman Y-DNA Project at worldfamilies.net/surnames/cushman.

Notes

- ¹ For his parents and Robert Cushman's birth, see Elizabeth French, "Genealogical Research in England," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 68 (1914):182. Sara Reader was christened in St. Mary's, Lenham, Kent, on 17 September 1585. Her older brothers, associates of Robert Cushman in Canterbury, were also christened in St. Mary's, Lenham, Thomas in 1580 and Helchea, or Helkias, in 1583. Their father was Lenham yeoman Paule Reader, who died in 1597. This new information was recently published in Michael R. Paulick and Robert C. Cushman, "The Probable Origins of Sara Reader, First Wife of Robert Cushman, Chief Agent of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims," *Mayflower Journal* 1 (2016):22–28. See Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Canterbury, Kent, *St. Andrew Parish Records, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1564–1637*, CCA-U3-5/1/A/1, for the christening on February 7, 1607/8 of "Thomas Cushman sonne of Robart." Robert Cushman married a second time in 1617 to Mary (Clarke) Shingleton of Sandwich. See Johanna W. Tammel, comp., *The Pilgrims and Other People from the British Isles in Leiden, 1576–1640*, (Isle of Man: The Mansk-Svenska Publishing Co. Ltd., 1989), 154.
- ² Request of John Robinson and members of the Christian Reformed Religion [Pilgrim

- Church] to reside in Leyden [Leiden], 12 February 1609. Archives of the City of Leyden 1574–1816, Inv. 51, folio 33 verso, Court Journal G.
- ³ Henry M. Dexter, “English Exiles in Amsterdam, 1597–1625,” *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, Second Series 6 (1890–91): 41–64.
- ⁴ William Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation, 1620–1647*, ed. Samuel Eliot Morison (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998), 32, 44–46, 48, letter re *Speedwell* continually leaking and Cushman feeling unwell, 55–57.
- ⁵ *Ibid.*, 180.
- ⁶ Robert Coachman [Cushman], *The Cry of a Stone, or, a Treatise; . . . Commonly Called Brownists* (London: R. Oulton and G. Dexter, 1642.) British Library E.137. (32.), the fore speech to the Reader, a2 recto.
- ⁷ Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* [note 4], London letter 1619, 357. Caleb H. Johnson (introduction) and Simon Neal (transcriptions and Latin translation), “Documents in The High Court of Admiralty Case of Stevens and Fell vs. The Little James, 1624,” *Mayflower Descendant* 60 (2011):86. Citing HCA 13/44 documents at the United Kingdom National Archives, folio 412, 1624.
- ⁸ Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation* [note 4], 19.
- ⁹ Robert Coachman [Cushman], *The Cry of a Stone* [note 6], 17.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, “A Fore-speech to the Reader”, A3, verso.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, “An Advertisement to the Reader.”
- ¹² *Ibid.*, “A Fore-speech to the Reader”, A3, verso.
- ¹³ Stephen Foster, “The Faith of a Separatist Layman: The Authorship, Context, and Significance of The Cry of a Stone,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 34 (1977):375–403.
- ¹⁴ Coachman [Cushman], *The Cry of a Stone* [note 6], 36. Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Court Records, Register of depositions 1606–1609, CCA-DCb-PRC/39/30, folio 166r, Thomas Wilson, rector of St. George. f168v, Thomas Reader, Cushman’s future brother-in-law, testified “Cushman is also of Gore’s opinion.” [Gore is also recorded as Gower.]
- ¹⁵ Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Judicial (Church Courts), Precedent Book, William Somner, CCA-DCb-J/Z/3.26, folios 37v to 38v.
- ¹⁶ George Ernest Bowman, ed., *Governor William Bradford’s Letter Book* (Boston: Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1906), 11, in which Cushman implored his friend Bradford “to have a care of my son, as of your own.”
- ¹⁷ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Pilgrim Migration* (Boston: NEHGS, 2004), 158–60.



A 2016 reprint of *The Cry of a Stone*—which features twenty-first-century transcriptions alongside a facsimile of the 1642 text—was published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and may be purchased at shop.AmericanAncestors.org. A PDF copy of the British Library original, shelf mark E.137. (32.), is available for free download at major universities that subscribe to Early English Books Online, eebo.chadwyck.com/home.

(The Cape Cod-Cambridge Connection, continued from page 37)

- ⁴ John Langdon Sibley (vols. 1–3, 1873–1885), Clifford K. Shipton (vols. 4–17, 1933–1975), and Conrad Edick Wright and Edward W. Hanson (vol. 18, 1999), eds., *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates; Biographical Sketches of Those who attended Harvard College* (Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1873–1999), 1: 382–83. The multi-volume *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates* contains biographies of all colonial-era Harvard graduates, from its beginnings through 1774; the *Colonial Collegians* database can be accessed, along with published biographies of the graduates of eight other colonial colleges, at AmericanAncestors.org.
- ⁵ According to the *Quinquennial Catalogue of the Officers and Graduates of Harvard University 1636–1900* (Cambridge, Mass.: The University, 1900), 81, unless otherwise specifically noted in either the *Catalogue* or in *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates*, Master of Arts degrees were awarded three years after the date of the Bachelor’s degree.
- ⁶ *Plymouth Church Records 1620–1859*. CD-ROM. (Boston, Mass.: NEHGS; Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 2003.) (Online database: AmericanAncestors.org, NEHGS, 2008)
- ⁷ The scanty records for Harvard’s early years list a “Prince” in attendance on 5 March 1643/44, probably Thomas Prence, Jr., son of the Plymouth Colony governor who moved from Duxbury to Eastham between 1644 and 1649. No evidence shows whether Thomas, Jr. remained at Harvard for any length of time or ever lived on the Cape; he removed to England before June 1655. *Harvard College Records, Part I: Corporation Records 1636-1750 I*, vol. 15, *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts* (Boston: The Society, 1925), 4; Barbara Lambert Merrick, *The Descendants of Elder William Brewster, Part I: Generations 1 Through 4*, ed. Scott Andrew Bartley, vol. 24, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2014), 64, 142–43.
- ⁸ Bourne, Massachusetts—set off from Sandwich and incorporated in 1884—was not named for the Cape’s “Harvard Bournes” but for a distant cousin, Jonathan Bourne, Jr. (1811–1889), a Sandwich native who moved to New Bedford, where he became enormously wealthy as owner of one of the world’s largest whaling fleets. Betsy D. Keene, *History of Bourne from 1622 to 1937* (Bourne and Taunton, Mass.: Bourne Historical Society & Wm. S. Sullwold Publishing, reprinted 1975), 124, 213.
- ⁹ Lydia B. (Phinney) Brownson and Maclean W. McLean, “The Rev. Richard Bourne of Sandwich, Mass.,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 118 [1964]: 83–89, 197–214, 275–90; 119 [1965]: 26–42.
- ¹⁰ Caroline Lewis Kardell and Russell A. Lovell, Jr., eds. *Vital Records of Sandwich, Massachusetts, to 1885*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1996), 2:1532, in *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* (Online database: AmericanAncestors.org, NEHGS, 2001–2016).
- ¹¹ Russell A. Lovell, Jr., *Sandwich: A Cape Cod Town*, 3rd ed. (Sandwich, Mass.: Town of Sandwich, Sandwich Archives and Historical Center, 1996), 154–55.
- ¹² “Benjamin Wadsworth’s Book” in *Harvard College Records, Part III*, vol. 31, *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts* (Boston: The Society, 1935), 505.
- ¹³ *Harvard College Records, Part II: Corporation Records 1636-1750 II*, vol. 16, *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts* (Boston: The Society, 1935), 762.
- ¹⁴ Lovell, *Sandwich* [note 11], 143–44.
- ¹⁵ Brownson and McLean [note 9], *Register* 118 [1964]: 275–76.
- ¹⁶ *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates* [note 4], 16: 21.

Bringing the ARMENIAN GENOCIDE to Light

I always perceived a mystery surrounding my father's family—a vague secret, something so deep and silent that I was never quite conscious of it.

But it was there, I now know, in the blackening skies and thunderclouds of the oil paintings of my grandfather, Kachadoor Goolkasian (b. 1883) and in his dark moods. A 1902 immigrant from Turkish Armenia and a stonecutter by trade, "Hairig" (Grandfather) furtively wrote and painted in the attic studio of his Boston home, while my grandmother held his angry tile customers at bay during the Depression.

Their house was rather grandiose for its surroundings and, as kids, we looked forward to our Sunday visits to Hairig and Granny's. Their world seemed exotic, so richly different than the sleek sterility of our own suburban neighborhood. I was drawn to the mysterious foods, echoing tiled hallways filled with paintings, and the deep guttural sounds of spoken Armenian. Once a week a mysterious newspaper covered in impossible letters appeared in the vestibule in a pool of scarlet light cast by the stained glass window. The house sat high on a hill overlooking a Dorchester neighborhood of triple-deckers housing Irish families. My grandparents' house was always dark, with a distinctive smell that I would recognize again in a heartbeat—a rich perfume that evoked "the Old Country," composed, perhaps, of oil paint, incense, cardamom, and moth flakes.

During one of our Sunday visits when I was about six, it suddenly occurred to me to ask why Hairig, who had died when I was two, had no relatives. My mother, who was Italian and never one to hide from the truth, sat down next to me and explained that his family had all been killed in massacres



Ann Goolkasian O'Donnell is a teacher and memoir writer. She speaks on the Armenian Genocide to middle and high school students, and to adults. She lives in Rockport, Massachusetts. Her email address is annpgoo@hotmail.com.



The author's paternal grandparents, Kachadoor and Aghavnie Goolkasian, two genocide survivors who married in Milford, Massachusetts, in 1912.

in the Old Country, which he had witnessed, and that was why he had sometimes been so serious and quiet.

Hairig died at age 70, after throwing out his heart medication and saying, "If I have to live like this, I'll take my chances." Granny—Aghavnie (Toomajianian) Goolkasian (b. 1894)—a mover and shaker in the Armenian community who survived Hairig by sixteen years, died when I was 18. Years later, I came to view her as a quietly noble hero. A veteran of orphanages of Aleppo, then part of the Ottoman Empire, she had lived with hundreds of other half-starved child survivors before being reunited with her mother and sisters; her father had been killed. She came from Aleppo to America, pledged to marry my grandfather—a man she had never met. In their wedding photo, they stand a foot apart. She was his partner and backbone for 45 years.

The fate of Hairig's family was a dim memory until my father's reclusive sister Virginia died in the family home in 1996. She had preferred to live in isolation, and the grand

house had been her domain. My father was responsible for emptying the home, and my siblings and I came to help. For the first time in ten years, I walked the dark hallways of the old house, to Granny's kitchen—still loaded with spice powders in countless little paper bags, to the attic studio filled with paintings, hundreds of yellowed pages covered in handwritten Armenian, and drawers full of photographs. This visit stirred my fifty-year-old memories and inspired me to learn more about my family history. My guess is that many enthusiastic genealogists are nudged toward research by the death of a relative.

The first "relic" from my grandparents' home that captured my attention was a black and white postcard, printed in Italy, with a view of a closely stacked mountain village of simple homes with flat roofs. The handwritten message in Armenian, translated, read, "This was our lovely village before the genocide." (Years later I discovered that the writer was my grandmother's uncle, a monk in a Venetian monastery where postcards were printed. He escaped the killings because he was out of the country.)

Shortly after the house cleanout began, I began my quest. Here's how my initial conversation with my father went: "So Dad. . ." I pause for emphasis. He is involved in his nightly ritual of tidying up the kitchen and shows no sign that he has heard me. Over the crumbs on the dinner table, I have unfurled a rough family tree, which I sketched out on the back of some gift wrap.

"Okay, so, Dad," I begin again. "I'm trying to connect us—our family—with other Goolkasians, you know, those nice people we always knew who lived over in Belmont? Remember? You told me that Balthazar was chosen by your father to be the witness at your wedding. You did say that that was a big deal, to be the one chosen."

"Yes, well, they made a big thing of it."

"How was he related to us?"

"I don't know."

"Well, was he a cousin?"

"Oh, I suppose so. His last name was Goolkasian."

"What was his father's name?"

"Oh, I don't know." He is now meticulously cleaning the light fixture over the stove.

"Well, Dad. What about your *mom's* parents—the Toomajaniens? What was your maternal grandfather's name?"

"Oh, I don't know."

"Dad, are you listening? Your grandfather's name?"

"Ann, I know what you're saying, but I don't know. I never met the man."

"Didn't you ever ask your dad or mom about your grandfathers!?"

"No, it never occurred to me. Kids didn't ask in those days. I would hear some whispering from the women about the Turks. My father and mother didn't talk much."

"But, remember, you mentioned that widow with the glass eye and the two sons. . ."

"Yes, but I don't know how she was related. She would come visit and talk with the women. We were always fascinated that she could only look at you with one eye."

"And Mom said some of the women had been tattooed?"

"I don't really remember."

"Well, your dad's family and your mom's father—they must have been killed in 1915 and maybe that's when your father escaped."

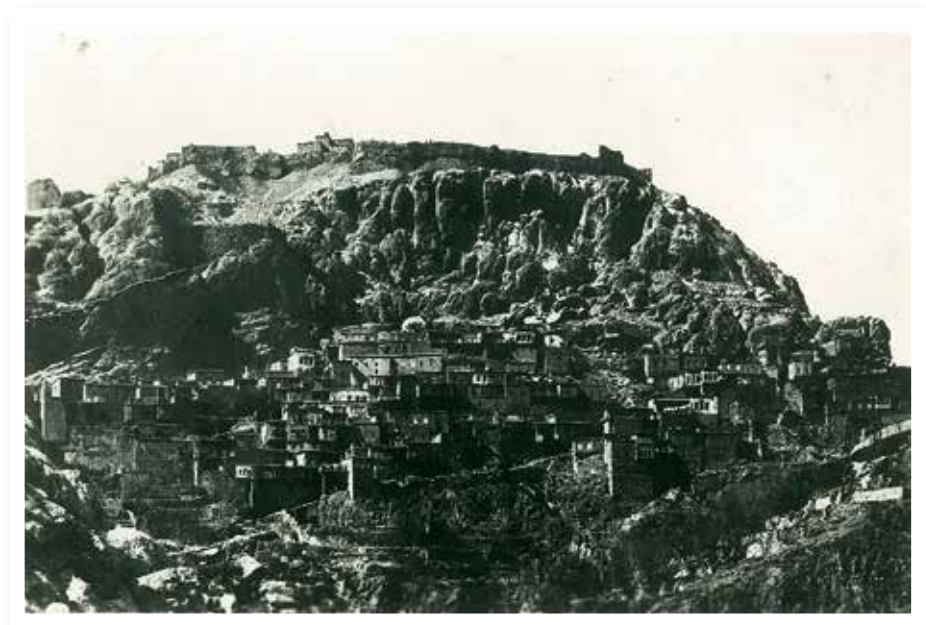
"No, my father came here earlier than that, I think." He is hunched over the stove like a man with a burden, and has not once looked up from his cleaning.

"Well, Dad, thanks. Do you think that's all you remember? How do you think I could find out what happened to the family in the genocide?"

Still without looking up, he says, "You know, don't you, that there were earlier genocides? I think they may have been killed in the earlier ones." He turns to the sink, his back to me, and rinses out the sponge.

There was much my father didn't know. Like many offspring of genocide survivors, my father and his siblings were probably shielded by their elders from discussions about the horrific events connected to the massacres: rapes, murder, torture, and starvation. Not talking about the horrors of the genocide no doubt led to silence on pre-genocide family history as well. At the same time, the conspicuous absence of any living relatives, and occasional references to "the massacres," "the Turks," and "the Kurds" created an undercurrent that flowed deep. Despite my father's hurry to grow up and out of the "Old Country" atmosphere of his family home, he had a subconscious knowledge of a history handed down in whispers, and of pogroms that had killed thousands before the main genocide in 1915.

In the 1890s, as the Ottoman Empire lost land to Russia and to Christian



Postcard of Husinig, my grandfather's village. The message on reverse reads, "This was our village before the genocide."

minorities achieving independence, Abdul Hamid II, known as the Bloody Sultan, responded to increasing calls for equal rights for Armenians by sacking towns and killing 300,000 Armenians. He was overthrown in 1908 by the Young Turk government headed by Talat Pasha, who claimed to favor equal rights. But in 1915 Talat Pasha, in a wave of paranoia, hatred, and nationalism, telegraphed orders to the governors of Armenian provinces to deport all Armenians. Men were rounded up and killed, and women and children were forced to trek through the Syrian Desert, away from villages, and forbidden to drink water. Witnesses, including Henry Morgenthau, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey from 1913 to 1916, as well as missionaries and survivors, testified to the clear intention of annihilation disguised as deportation, and widespread atrocities. This 1915 genocide resulted in the death of approximately 1.2 million Armenians.

Recalling my grandmother's story of surviving in an orphanage, I began to

investigate the lives of some of the missionaries who were stationed in Turkey from 1850 until 1915. American and European missionaries risked their lives in an effort to protect thousands of orphans in their care. In Harvard University's Houghton Library I pored over microfilm and papers from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions collection. I came across a crumbling carton containing hundreds of closely packed tissue-thin files. Each represented an orphan, and nearly every one reported: "Father killed. Mother raped." That day, the horrors my grandparents had endured as children and young adults became chillingly real to me.

Growing up, my family's connection to the Armenian Genocide was barely acknowledged. I assumed my grandfather's story—that of a young man who witnessed his family slain by Turks but somehow survived and managed to make it to America—was tragic but anomalous. But my understanding changed as I began to speak



with many elderly Armenians and read memoirs—eventually over fifty of them. As I learned more, the biggest surprise for me was slowly but surely realizing that my grandparents' lives were far from unique. In fact, most descendants of Armenians—and probably many descendants of Rwandans, Jews, Cambodians, Native Americans, and other peoples—come face to face with genocide when they attempt to sort through their family histories. Records of birth, marriage, and death were scarce in the old country—and most importantly, virtually all churches, schools, and universities in the Armenian areas were obliterated. Written evidence of my family history doesn't exist in Turkey prior to the genocide.

Today, when I give talks on the Armenian Genocide and genealogical research, I explain that individuals who manage to survive genocides generally

Torn photograph of the family of the author's grandfather's brother, Manoog Goolkasian (first on left), with his children and wife's family. His daughter Annaguelle (fourth from left) was the sole survivor.

For more information

For a portrait of the life in the "Old Country," see **Armenian Village Life Before 1914** by Susie Hoogasian Villa and Mary Kilbourne Villa, Wayne State University Press, 1982.

For a thorough and methodical analysis of the Armenian Genocide, see **Survivors: An Oral History of the Armenian Genocide** by Donald E. Miller & Lorna Touryan Miller, University of California Press, 1999.

Armenian Museum of America (armenianmuseum.org/), 65 Main St., Watertown, Massachusetts, has both ancient and modern holdings.

Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives (projectsave.org), 65 Main Street, Watertown, Massachusetts, is the premier archive of Armenian photographs in the United States.

Mardigian Library & Bookstore (naasr.myshopify.com/pages/mardigian-library), 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts, holds a vast collection of survivors' memoirs.

do so in one of three ways: 1) pure luck, as in, “the bullet missed its mark”; 2) ingenuity, such as finding a hiding place or forging documents; or 3) altruism of “the enemy.” During the genocide, a number of Turks, Bedouins, and Kurds sheltered Armenians who otherwise would have died. This help was provided despite the fact that non-Armenians found giving shelter to Armenians were subject to death, along with their family members, for defying the government-ordered massacre.

When I tracked down my grandmother’s niece, Florence, then in her ’70s, and living outside of Boston, she told me a story about altruism during the 1915 genocide. Her grandmother, Miriam Shapazian, was a widow with four children, and said to be a fine baker of Armenian pastries. Her children (one was Florence’s mother) played with the children of the Turkish governor living next door, and Miriam often sent baked goods to his house in a neighborly way. Shortly before the genocide began, he approached Miriam and said “Something is going to happen. I can’t tell you what, but I want you to bring your children and stay in my basement until things pass.” So for months Miriam and her four children quietly waited out the deportation, catching agonizing glimpses of their fellow villagers being led at bayonet point to the death march. Captivated by the heroism of the Turkish governor (whose name, no one knows) I asked Florence, “Were there any others hidden in his cellar?” “Sixty others,” was her stunning answer. When the danger had passed, Miriam was able to buy passage to Marseilles, where she opened a bakery. She arrived in the United States in 1930, and the ship manifest shows that she was accompanied by all four of her children.

My research continued, and I succeeded mainly in finding relatives on my grandmother’s side. Ancestry websites were largely unhelpful, often suggesting connections with families with similar names but no proven link. Telephone conversations with strangers inevitably worked backwards from present-day “who-do-you-knows” to that family’s



genocide stories. My search has gone back to stories from the late 1800s. The oldest photo I have is dated 1875. It could be of my grandmother’s father. Memoirs specific to my ancestors’ village (Husinig) continue to help me piece together and substantiate stories.

My memory was jogged by an old photograph, mysteriously torn in half. I recalled hearing that Manoog, one of my grandfather’s brothers, came to America in 1907, and bought a piece of land in Wilmington, Massachusetts, intending to bring his wife and children there. But he was persuaded to return to Turkey by his wife and her family of successful silk merchants who insisted that all was fine for Armenians under the banner of “Liberty, fraternity, and equality,” as professed by the new Young Turk government. Manoog and most of his family perished just five years after his return. I became acquainted with Manoog’s grandson, Charlie, age 80 and living in California. His mother was Manoog’s daughter Annaguelle, who had somehow escaped the fate of most of her family and reached the safety of a Syrian orphanage. Charlie sent me a family portrait of 23 people taken just before the genocide. And he had an intact copy of my

Kachador Goolkasian (1883–1953)

mysterious torn photograph. Charlie and I thought the fact that my grandfather’s copy was missing the portion showing Manoog’s wife was significant, and we speculated that my grandfather could not forgive her for convincing his brother to return to Turkey.

As for my grandfather, family lore claims that he cheated death in the massacre of 1896, escaping showers of bullets and playing dead. He lost most of his family. In 1902 he somehow made it from an orphanage in Aleppo to Cairo, where he arranged passage to Rhode Island using a forged Egyptian passport. The ship manifest stated he was 20, with \$20 dollars to his name. He received a scholarship to the Rhode Island School of Design, when a wealthy patron saw his drawings on the wall of the Providence cobbler shop where he worked. He later put aside his art to support his family. Hairig’s paintings were eventually all stored in the attic, except for one I always remember being prominently displayed in the living room. It was a fine oil painting of the American flag proudly waving against a clear blue sky.

After years of hard work and real estate investment, he and my grandmother settled in their house in Dorchester. They raised three children, lost one to influenza, weathered the Depression and World War II, and found richness and fulfillment in the lives of their children and friends. Hairig would often wake in the middle of the night and write obsessively, in Armenian, addressing philosophical questions and asking God how evil could exist in the world. During the day, my father tells me, his father was loving and attentive—a man who sang joyously in the car. My father was the first to marry and produce a grandchild. I am that grown child, now long involved in a life-long commitment to seeking facts and bringing the history of the Armenian Genocide to light. ♦



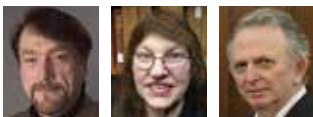
THE ANCESTRY OF President Donald John Trump AN INITIAL EXPLORATION

President Donald John Trump is half German and half Scottish, the son of real-estate developer Frederick Christ “Fred” Trump (d. 1999) and Scottish immigrant Mary Anne MacLeod (d. 2000), this latter born on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. The President’s paternal grandparents Friedrich “Fred” Trump (d. 1918) and Elizabeth Christ (d. 1966) were late nineteenth-century immigrants from Kallstadt, Pfalz (in the Rhineland), Germany. Alexander Bannerman and Julie Helen Otto compiled an ancestor table that will appear in the next issue (No. 14) of *Executive Papers*,¹ which Mr. Bannerman edits. The Trump ancestry was initially covered, as a narrative,

in Gwenda Blair, *The Trumps: Three Generations That Built an Empire* (2000), later reprinted as *Three Builders and a Presidential Candidate* (2015), which names the four German grandparents of the President’s father. Further German ancestry may well be traced and confirmed, and may first appear on the Internet (as did some of the data below). Isle of Lewis surnames in Mary Anne MacLeod’s ancestry include MacLeod (at least three lines), MacIver, Cameron, MacKenzie, Smith, MacSwane, Campbell, and MacAulay (at least two lines).

In compiling the President’s Scottish ancestry extensive use was made of ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk, the essential

website, which includes (among many other records) pre-1855 Old Parochial Registers (births/baptisms, marriage, and burials, only for the Established Church); post-1855 Statutory Registers (civil VRs—births, marriages, and deaths); and Scottish census images. Below is an initial ancestor table through great-great-great-grandparents; the treatment in *Executive Papers* will be more detailed. Earlier generations of Scottish ancestry may also appear on the Internet but will require confirmation. The following *Ahnentafel* may alert readers to Kallstadt-area surnames shared with the President. Inhabitants of the Isle of Lewis were long of largely Celtic and/or Viking descent and many



Alexander Bannerman edits *Executive Papers* and approves applications for various hereditary societies. **Julie Helen Otto**, a former Staff Genealogist at NEHGS, indexes the Register and serves as Transcriber for Mayflower Descendant. **Gary Boyd Roberts** is Senior Research Scholar Emeritus at NEHGS.

still speak Gaelic. Kinships to mainland Scottish families with the above and following surnames may date from common ancestors only of the seventeenth century or earlier. MacLeod and MacAulay are among the most common surnames on the island.

1. **Donald John Trump**, born New York City 14 June 1946; married (1) Marble Collegiate Church, New York City 7 April 1977, as her second husband, **Ivana Marie Zelníčová** (b. Gottwaldov, Moravia, Czechoslovakia [now the Czech Republic] 20 Feb. 1949) (div. 1991); (2) New York City 20 December 1993, **Marla Ann Maples** (b. Cohutta, Georgia 27 Oct. 1963) (div. 1999); (3) Palm Beach, Florida 22 January 2005, **Melania Knauss** (b. Novo Mesto, Sevnica, Yugoslavia [now Slovenia], 26 April 1970, as Melanija Knavs). Research by Mr. Bannerman has identified the First Lady's parents as Victor and Amalija (Ulčnik) Knavs of Slovenia and New York City. Her grandparents were Josef and Antonija (Ribic) Knavs, and Anton and Amalija (Gliha) Ulčnik.

2. **Frederick Christ "Fred" Trump** (Bronx, New York 11 October 1905–New Hyde Park, New York 25 June 1999), real estate developer; married New York City, 11 January 1936

3. **Mary Anne MacLeod** (Tong, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland 10 May 1912–New Hyde Park, New York 7 August 2000), naturalized Brooklyn, New York 10 March 1942

4. **Friedrich Trump** (Kallstadt, Rheinland-Pfalz, Bavaria [part of Germany from 1871] 14 March 1869–Queens, N.Y. 30 May 1918), naturalized Seattle, Washington 27 October 1892, married Kallstadt 26 August 1902

5. **Elisabeth Christ** (Kallstadt 10 October 1880–Manhasset, New York 6 June 1966)

6. **Malcolm MacLeod** (Stornoway 27 December 1866–Tong 22 June 1954), fisherman and crofter; married Stornoway 23 April 1891

7. **Mary Smith** (Tong 11 July 1867–Tong 27 December 1963)

8. **Johannes Trump, Jr.** (bp. Kallstadt 30 June 1829–Kallstadt 6 July 1877); married Kallstadt 29 September 1859

9. **Katherina Kober** (Augsburg, Bavaria ca. 1836–Augsburg in November 1922)

10. **Philipp Christ** (bp. Kallstadt 17 February 1856–Kallstadt 1908); married Mannheim, Baden-Württemberg, Germany 15 December 1877

11. **Anne Maria Anthon**, living in 1908

12. **Alexander MacLeod** (Vatisker, Isle of Lewis 10 May 1830–Tong 12 January 1900), fisherman and crofter; married Stornoway 3 December 1853

13. **Anne MacLeod** (b. Tong 12 February 1833)

14. **Donald Smith** (Stornoway ca. 1833–26 October 1868, drowned in Broad Bay, off Stornoway); married at Garrabost, Stornoway 16 December 1858

15. **Mary MacAulay** (b. ca. 1835)

16. **Johannes Trumpf** (ca. 1788–Kallstadt 24 November 1835), son of Johann Paul Trumpf and Maria Elisabetha Setzer; married 12 November 1826

17. **Susanna Maria Bechtloff** (ca. 1805–Wachenheim, Bavaria 14 May 1861), daughter of Jakob Bechtloff and Anna Katharina Böhringer

18. **Johann Jakob Kober** (1802–1871), of Augsburg and Wachenheim, Bayern (Bavaria)

19. **Elisabeth Peter** (1814–1895)

20. **Johann Georg Christ** (1823–1878), son of Johannes Christ and Katharina Klingenschmitt; married Kallstadt 5 February 1851

21. **Sabina Christina Hartung** (1823–Kallstadt 1868, bur. 4 October), daughter of Martin Hartung and Christina Henzel

22. **Johannes Anthon** (bur. Kallstadt 25 March 1889); married Bad Dürkheim, Pfalz 3 September 1840

23. **Eva Farny** (Bad Dürkheim, Pfalz 9 April 1818–bur. Kallstadt 30 December 1875), daughter of Adam Farny and Katharina Bühler

24. **William MacLeod** (Aird Tong, Stornoway 26 April 1806–Vatisker 12 November 1869), son of Kenneth MacLeod and Catherine MacIver; married Stornoway 19 November 1828

25. **Christian/Catherine MacLeod** (b. Stornoway ca. 1809), daughter of Donald MacLeod and Margaret Cameron

26. **Alexander MacLeod** (b. Tong 12 October 1806); married Stornoway 15 November 1831

27. **Ann MacKenzie** (b. Back, Isle of Lewis 30 December 1811)

28. **Duncan Smith** (b. Stornoway ca. 1803); married Stornoway 7 January 1832

29. **Henrietta "Essie" MacSwane/MacQueen** (Lochs Ross, Druimtong, Scotland ca. 1810–Stornoway 26 March 1882 "aged 72"), daughter of Angus MacSwane and Margaret Campbell

30. **John MacAulay**; married Stornoway 22 February 1825

31. **Ann MacAulay**.

Sources, in addition to those mentioned above, include several German databases on Familysearch.org (covering births and baptisms, 1558–1898; marriages, 1558–1929; and deaths and burials, 1582–1958); FindAGrave memorials (for Fred Christ Trump II, brother of the President; Frederick Christ "Fred" Trump and Mary Anne MacLeod Trump; Friedrich "Fred" Trump and Elisabeth Christ Trump; Christian Johannes Trump; and Philipp Christ); *New York Times* obituaries and other newspaper items; U.S. Naturalization Record Index (1794–1995), Eastern District of New York, and the Social Security Death Index (both on Ancestry.com); and Trump tombstones at the Lutheran All Faiths Cemetery, Middle Village, Queens Co., New York. ♦

Notes

¹ *Executive Papers* is the journal of The Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies. All 13 issues of the journal to date are at NEHGS. Mr. Bannerman has treated all presidents (extending every line in *Ancestors of American Presidents* to the immigrant generation) and First Ladies, Washington through Kennedy, plus the Nixons, Fords, and Reagans. The next two issues will cover the Lyndon Johnsons, Carters, Clintons, and Bushes.

Opposite page: Donald Trump at the Peabody Opera House, Saint Louis, Missouri, March 11, 2016. © Ginosphotos | Dreamstime.com.

An Underground Reunion at the BLEECKER VAULT

One sunny Saturday in October 2016, tourists were streaming to the Alexander Hamilton monument in the churchyard of Trinity Church Wall Street. The excitement around the musical *Hamilton* has led to renewed interest in our first Treasury Secretary and, perhaps surprisingly, one of the country's most historic churchyards.

Off to the side were a handful of my relatives looking at the new marker indicating the burial vault of our ancestor, Anthony Lispenard Bleecker (ALB). The tourists were unaware of the historic day for the Bleecker family; our events were occurring not just in a quiet corner of Trinity churchyard, but in the Bleecker vault below the church, just yards away from Hamilton's burial site. We would not have been there without an interest in genealogy and if a family story about a "Bleecker vault" had not been pursued.

The story starts in 1790 when ALB bought a burial vault alongside the newly rebuilt edifice; the original 1698 structure was destroyed in the Great New York City Fire of 1776. Funds to pay for the new church were raised by selling land and burial vaults.

Anthony, whose farm now includes part of Bleecker Street, placed his father's remains in the vault in 1791. For nearly 100 years the remains of Anthony's extended family were interred there, even as the second church was replaced with the current gothic structure built in 1846.

Then, after 1884, Bleecker burials stopped, but for one set of ashes in 1970. It's not clear why they ended. My mother, the last Bleecker in her line, never mentioned the Bleecker family vault to me and neither did her father.

In the 1960s the Manning Wing was built to the south of the church over some thirty vaults, with historic New York names like Morris, Livingston,

Lawrence, Seymour, Willett, Ludlow, and Bleecker. Luckily, some vaults, like the Bleecker one, remained intact. Plans from 1964 show that other vaults had to be "disturbed or relocated" for a new mechanical room under the wing, and ten new vaults were built for the remains. At some point, the large vault stones for four families, including the Bleecker one, were placed in a niche of the new wing, left neglected and largely forgotten.

Until 1981, when my distant cousin Richard Bleecker had a question. From his apartment in Jersey City, New Jersey, he could see lower Manhattan and he wondered what happened to the Bleecker vault, and, if it still existed, whether the ashes of his family members could be interred there. He approached the church hierarchy and was told it was not at all clear whether any of the vaults were still accessible. His inquiry was apparently the first from a descendant of any vault owner in decades.

So on a chilly November day in 2000, with the aid of two ladders, Richard and members of the Trinity staff ventured under the Manning Wing, climbed over a wall, down a hallway and then descended through a roof and into the vault area. The Bleecker vault, along with a few others, was found to be intact. Eventually Richard was given permission to be one of the few people buried in Lower Manhattan in decades.

This page: Trinity Church. From Morgan Dix, *A History of the Parish of Trinity Church in the City of New York* (1906), 278. *Opposite page, clockwise from top left:* Brass plates displayed at the rededication, courtesy of Andrew B. Parke; workman repairing the Bleecker vault door, courtesy of Trinity Wall Street; and Anthony Bleecker's vault stone, courtesy of Andrew B. Parke.



Jim Boulden is copy editor for CNN in London. He has been researching his family for more than 35 years and is a member of the NEHGS Council. Richard Bleecker contributed to this article.

Then, in 2002, the vault was desecrated. Workers hired to fix a wall and upgrade the ventilating system apparently destroyed the remaining coffins, pushing human remains and brass plates to one side. Leaving bones and teeth exposed, the workers locked the vault and left.

In 2014, Richard asked for another visit—after all, more than a decade had passed and he knew that, with staff changes, promises can fade. He and the Trinity staff were quite unprepared for the vandalism they found. It took two years of negotiations, and a considerable amount of investment on the part of the church, for Trinity to put the situation right. Thankfully, the church's staff did just that.

Last October 8, the family gathered on a Friday at the New York Stock Exchange for a special tour and viewing of the Buttonwood Agreement, considered the founding document of the New York Stock Exchange. The document was signed by stock brokers in 1792, including ALB's brother Leonard and son Garrat Noel Bleecker.

The next day, on that sunny Saturday morning, sixty or so Bleecker descendants and well-wishers gathered for a private service to rededicate the Bleecker Vault. (The ceremony was also streamed live to relatives.) The Reverend Daniel Simons, who officiated during our liturgical service, sprinkled holy water onto the new crushed stone floor under which the remains now rest. Cleaned brass plates, including one for ALB I did not know existed, and a set of ashes now rest on recently-installed shelves. New family name plaques adorn the top of each of the four accessible family vaults (Bleeker, Morris, Rogers, and Atkinson) in that hallway. (Serendipitously, I also descend from this Morris family, so I can be interred in that vault, too, if I wish.) Finally, the vault stones for those four families, exposed for decades in the niche, had been professionally cleaned, brought inside, and placed on the floor, where they are preserved for future generations.

Access is now easier. A portion of a thick foundation wall from the 1846 church was removed so guests can



scramble through the opening into the restored and well-lit hallway and enter the vault.

Richard's emotional recounting of the efforts that led to this service showed that digging into your past can affect the present and the future. I had the privilege of reading out the names of those interred there.

After the church service, a host of Garrat Bleecker's descendants, who had not been with us previously, excitedly bounded up to me and said they had gotten wind of the service on Facebook and come along. I'd previously been in contact with them in the early 1990s to exchange genealogical information, but we'd lost contact. The service brought us together again.

As we all walked out, the nave of the church was opened again to an endless stream of tourists. Yet the vaults are not on the tour. The candles were blown out, the cameras removed, and the door to the Bleecker Vault was shut. This time around, the vault won't be forgotten.

A video of the reconsecration of the Bleecker family vault can be viewed at trinitywallstreet.org/video/bleecker-vault-reconsecration. ♦

Those buried in the vault, with year of death

James Bleecker, 1791
 Mary Noel Bleecker, 1810
 Anthony Bleecker, 1816
 Garrat Bleecker McDonald, 1820
 Mary Bleecker, 1828
 Alice Bleecker, 1842
 James Noel Bleecker, 1842
 Alexander Noel Bleecker, 1844
 Pierre E. F. McDonald, 1844
 Louis Bleecker Hansford, 1850
 Infant Bleecker, 1851
 Sarah Bache Bleecker, 1852
 Frances Elizabeth Schuyler, 1852
 Josepha Matilda Bleecker, 1854
 Frances Wade Bleecker, 1856
 Mary Bleecker, 1858
 Cornelia Bleecker, 1859
 Infant Bleecker, 1860
 Maria F. Hansford, 1862
 John V. B. Bleecker, 1864
 Alexander L. McDonald, 1864
 Elizabeth DeHart McDonald, 1864
 Sarah B. Bleecker, 1866
 Antonia Bleecker, 1869
 Richard V. B. Bleecker, 1875
 Mary B. Clerke, 1882
 Anthony James Bleecker, 1884
 Helen Murray MacDonald, 1970

Andrew Krea is a Senior Researcher in the Research Services Department.

Connecting an NEHGS Member to Alexander Hamilton's "Second"

The recent Presidential election was characterized by pundits as “fractious,” “controversial,” and “politically divisive.”¹ But imagine if Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton settled their political differences with a duel, as Vice President Aaron Burr and former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton did in 1804. The two men belonged to different political parties—Burr was a Democratic-Republican and Hamilton a Federalist. Each bitterly despised the other, and for years had traded countless insults and political injuries. Their hatred culminated in an infamous duel, with Burr mortally wounding Hamilton on July 11, 1804. Hamilton died the next day from his wounds.

An 1808 engraving of William Peter Van Ness in Elias Dexter, *The St.-Meëmin Collection of Portraits* (1862). Courtesy of the Boston Athenæum.



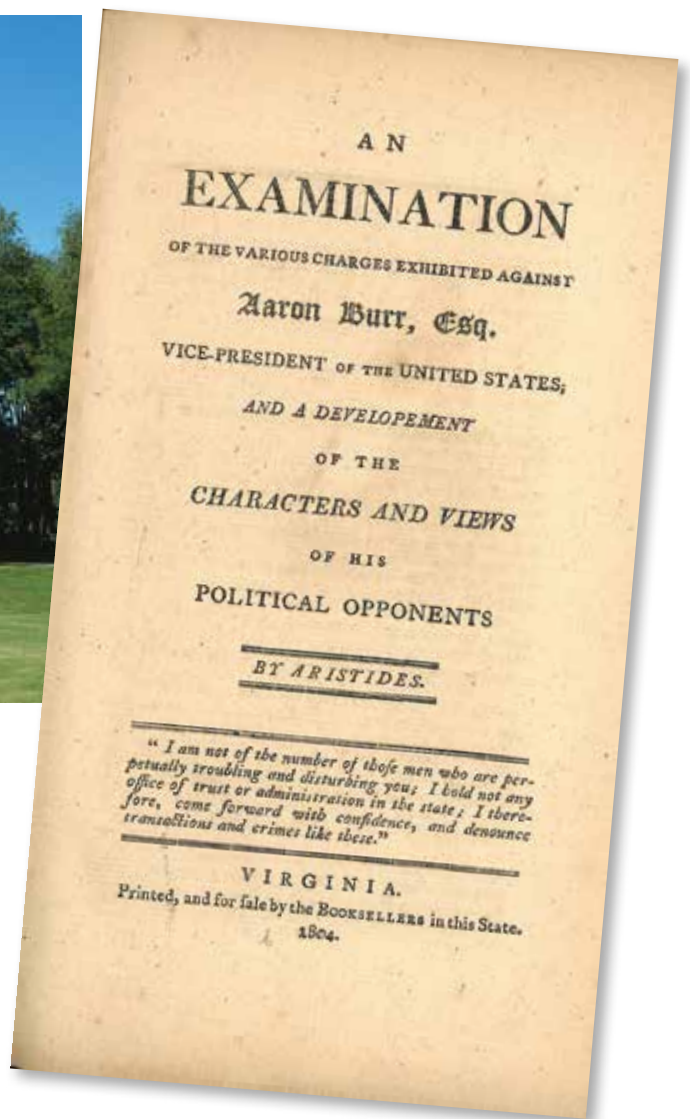
At a duel each “principal” was represented by a trusted “second”—usually a good friend responsible for negotiating, handling logistics, and witnessing the event.² Aaron Burr’s second was his close friend William Peter Van Ness. In 2015, NEHGS member George Stephan contacted Research Services and asked us to investigate his Van Ness lineage to see whether he was related to William.

Tracing the lineages of both George Stephan and William Peter Van Ness, we found that their common ancestor was Cornelis Henricksen Van Ness, who arrived in New Amsterdam from Holland in the mid-seventeenth century and lived in Amersford, Long Island (today the Flatlands neighborhood of Brooklyn); Greenbush; and Albany.³ George Stephan descended from Cornelis’s son Simon, and William Peter Van Ness descended from Cornelis’s son Jan. George Stephan is the 3rd cousin, 7 times removed of William Peter Van Ness.

Peter Van Ness, the father of William Peter Van Ness, was a lawyer and judge, and a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. His son William was born at Ghent, Columbia County, New York, on February 13, 1778. Two years later, Peter built a majestic house on Old Post Road in Kinderhook, Columbia County, where William spent his childhood. As a young man William removed to New York City where he graduated from Columbia College and studied law in the office of Edward Livingston. By 1800 William was practicing law in New York City and on September 20, 1800, he married Anne McEvers at Red Hook, New York. In 1802 young law student Martin Van Buren completed his legal studies in Van



Above: William Peter Van Ness's family home in Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York, was later purchased by President Martin Van Buren and named Lindenwald. Right: Using the name Aristides, William Peter Van Ness published a defense of Aaron Burr, *An Examination of the Various Charges exhibited against Aaron Burr, Esq., Vice-president of the United States; and a Development of the Characters and Views of his Political Opponents* (1804). NEHGS Library Collection.



Ness's office. Van Ness was appointed a Judge of the U.S. District Court for the southern district of New York by President Madison, and served in this capacity for many years.⁴

During the presidential elections of 1796 and 1800, William Peter Van Ness supported the political career of his friend Aaron Burr with great fervor and enthusiasm. When the Hamilton-Burr feud boiled over, a challenge was carried to Alexander Hamilton by Jacob Van Ness—William's cousin and colleague. After the fatal duel in 1804, public sentiment forced Aaron Burr to flee and he retreated to Red Hook; for a time, he concealed himself at the house of General David P. Van Ness, an uncle of William Peter Van Ness.⁵

Burr's second, William Peter Van Ness, died at New York City on September 6, 1826, and is buried at the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.⁶ William's childhood home—where

Washington Irving wrote much of his 1809 book *A History of New-York from the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty*, by *Diedrich Knickerbocker*— was purchased in 1839 by President Martin Van Buren. Van Buren named the property Lindenwald and lived there after he left the White House.

Researching this case, we were fascinated to learn how various members of the Van Ness family were connected to the infamous Hamilton-Burr duel—as well as to Washington Irving and President Van Buren. This research proves, once again, that many of us could be connected to notable men and women of the past, perhaps through a familial connection to some of the key people who fought, and worked, and lived alongside them. ♦

Notes

- ¹ CNN.com/2016/12/01/politics/donald-trump-thank-you-tour
- ² "The History of Dueling in America," pbs.org/wgbh/amex/duel/sfeature/dueling.html.
- ³ *Baltimore, Its History and Its People, Vol. III* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1912), 531–35.
- ⁴ Peyton F. Miller, *A Group of Great Lawyers of Columbia County, New York* (Hudson, N.Y.: De Vinne Press, 1904), 133–35; William Raymond, *Biographical Sketches: Distinguished Men of Columbia County* (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1851), 33.
- ⁵ Miller [note 4], 133–35.
- ⁶ Barbara Doxey, "William Peter Van Ness" (#6998562), Find A Grave. Accessed December 2, 2016.



Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight

Stephanie Call is Collections Management Archivist at the Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS

Finis le Guerre: November 11, 1918, from the Perspective of Two World War I Jewish Soldiers

The First World War was a turning point for Jews, many of whom lived in and fought for belligerent nations. For American Jews, the events of World War I established the community's philanthropic drive to help Jews internationally.¹ The Jewish Welfare Board, organized just days after the U.S. declared war in April 1917, ensured that Rabbis were trained as army and navy chaplains and, for the first time, the military allowed leave for religious observances. On August 19, 1918, U.S. Navy Ensign Rudolph Wyner received a notice about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: "Where military necessity does not interfere, leave for men of the Jewish faith is authorized from noon September sixth to morning of September ninth and from noon September fourteenth to morning of September seventeenth. Where impracticable to grant leave arrangements should be made to allow divine services to be held wherever possible."² Rudolph was granted time to attend Rosh Hashanah services that year.

Our collections allow us to tell the stories of two American Jewish soldiers—one an immigrant from the Russian Empire and the other born in Boston—who were in France in November 1918 as World War I drew to a close. Although their experiences differed greatly, William Marcus and Bernard (Ben) Gorfinkle shared a common hope to return home to their families in Massachusetts.

Private William Marcus, 345th Infantry, 87th Division: "Be sure and bring me the head of the Kaiser"³

Wolf Shevitz was born on June 14, 1892, to Abraham and Sarah Shevitz in Bialystok, then part of the Russian Empire and now in Poland. At age 17, Wolf "Schewitz" boarded the *Lusitania* with his 11-year-old brother Leon and 8-year-old sister Etel, and arrived in New York on January 15, 1910.⁴ The siblings joined their father in Worcester, Massachusetts; their mother, Sarah, remained in Bialystok.

In Worcester, Wolf met Minnie Feldman, the love of his life. A fellow Russian immigrant, Minnie was born on June 23, 1895, in Yelisavetgrad. (The town, now in the Ukraine, recently changed its name to Kropyvnytskyi.) Wolf found work as a garment cutter, and on November 23, 1914, at age 22, he signed a Declaration of Intention renouncing his allegiance to Nicholas II, Emperor of Russia. On this document Wolf assumed a new name: William Marcus.

On June 29, 1918, William enlisted in the United States Army. He was sent to Camp Fort Dix, New Jersey, for training, along with his friend Charlie Siegel. The two remained together throughout their service in the war. William was sent overseas to England—where he reported that he found the countryside lovely, but the people less so⁵—and France, where he was stationed as a guard at the American hospital in Savenay.⁶ William was in Savenay in November 1918, when rumors of a German surrender and the end of the war came to fruition.

William and Minnie exchanged letters frequently during his time in the service. Most of their letters focused on how much they missed one another, with William providing very little information about his day-to-day experiences. On November 7, 1918, William does refer to the war's imminent end: "As you know allready [sic]

Below: William Marcus in his uniform, circa 1918. *Opposite page:* Undated photograph of William Marcus and Minnie Feldman, captioned "love crazy." Postcard from William Marcus to Minnie Feldman, July 6, 1918. On the back he wrote, "For God sakes so quick you forget me. I wrote you about 10 letters already and received from you only 2 letters. Write oftener remain with love your Willie." Minnie did write often, and usually expressed confusion as to why William did not receive her letters.



that every one of the german [sic] allies gave up, so we are expecting every minute for Germany to lay down her arms. And I think the time is near when we will change our correspondence for a nice personal heart to heart talk.”⁷

Although William does not share much about his wartime activities with Minnie, he does hint at the difficulties. In the same letter, William asked Minnie to give their friends, Morris and Bertha, who were new parents, “my belated congratulations . . . and my wish that their boy should grow up and mak [sic] a success in every way, but should never have to make a success as a soldier.”⁸

On November 15, four days after the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m., William wrote again to Minnie, confident that he would soon be home in Worcester. “Charlie and I were celebrating the end of the war last night. The reason we did it 5 days later is that it took Charlie that time to realize and me to convince him that the war is realy [sic] over . . . Now be a good girl and wait patiently for my return.”⁹

Captain Judge Advocate Bernard Louis Gorfinkle, 26th (Yankee) Division: “Keep from Mother”¹⁰

By the time William Marcus reached Savenay, Ben Gorfinkle was already a seasoned soldier. Born on October 29, 1889, to Harris and Sarah (Milontaler) Gorfinkle in Boston, Massachusetts, Ben began his military career in 1913 when he enlisted in a Massachusetts cavalry unit and served at the Mexican border under General Pershing in 1914. A lawyer who earned his degree from Boston University’s School of Law in 1911, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the American Expeditionary Forces when the United States entered World War I. Ben eventually earned a promotion to Captain Judge Advocate in the 26th Infantry Division. Wounded twice at Verdun, he received multiple commendations and awards, including a Purple Heart,¹¹ and, in 1919, the Belgian Order of the Crown.



On November 4, 1918, Ben wrote his sister Bess from Verdun, “Am still here and getting darn sick of it all. Nothing to see except the same every day [sic] things which now are d--- monotonous as we crave for home. This peace is a long time coming for each day is like a year. We want to get home and that is all there is to it.”¹²

More concerning, however, was the influenza epidemic affecting Boston.¹³ “The news about Anna E.’s death sure did upset me. The general news about conditions in the States caused me more anxiety than here at the battle front. For God’s sake everybody take care of yourselves.”¹⁴

On November 11, Ben received the news he wanted:

Finis le guerre: finis le guerre— its [sic] on everybody’s lips. The Frenchmen holler it at us as we go by them and we holler it in return. Everyone has a smile, there is a feeling of released tension but does not seem true. It cannot seem possible but yet it is if the sound of gun fire which is not now heard can be taken as a sure sign. And to think that I finished the war at a celebrated place like Verdun. Have been here for some time and I can truthfully now tell you that I never expected to leave it. Of all the danger I have been in since my more than a year

here, the many long weeks at the famous Verdun¹⁵ was the worse. Now that it is over, Mother dear, I can truthfully tell you that many times I never expected to again see you and my letters have all been written with a view not to worry you more than necessary.¹⁶

Ben was competent and good at his job, and others took notice. In March 1919, Ben believed he would be home soon, but was asked to stay in France to help settle remaining legal cases. In April 1919, he was offered a position as an aide to Bernard Baruch, staff advisor to President Woodrow Wilson and member of the Paris Peace Commission. Ben remained in Paris until July 1919, first as aide to Bernard Baruch during the American Peace Commission and then at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles as an aide to President Wilson.

After the war

Minnie Feldman did wait for William, and on June 27, 1920, the couple married. William and Minnie had three sons, Joseph, Seymour, and Norman.

Bernard Gorfinkle's American Expeditionary Forces identification card, with an excerpt of the letter he sent home on November 11, 1918.

The family remained in Worcester, and prospered. William entered the manufacturing trade, eventually owning a factory that produced women's bathrobes. William died on February 22, 1978, Minnie on May 3, 1982.

Ben returned to Boston and married Freida Edinberg in 1921. He continued to practice law, and at the recommendation of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was appointed Field Supervisor of the War Manpower Commissions for New England during World War II. Ben and Freida settled in Newton, Massachusetts, and had three children, Herbert (a veteran of World War II who was present at the liberation of Buchenwald), Ruth, and Sarah. Ben died February 14, 1974.

More information on the Marcus and Feldman Family Papers is available in the collection finding aid, located online at findingaids.cjh.org.



ajhsboston.org/?pID=3482853. The Bernard Gorfinkle Papers have been digitized. For more information visit the online finding aid at digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=201608, or to request access to the collection, email reference@ajhsboston.org. ♦

Notes

- ¹ For more on the impact of World War I on American Jews, see Paul Berger's article on "How World War I Shaped Jewish Politics and Identity," published online in the *Forward* on June 25, 2014: forward.com/news/200509/how-world-war-i-shaped-jewish-politics-and-identit.
- ² August 19, 1918, memo from the Commandant of the Second Naval District in Newport, Rhode Island, to the personnel of the Second Naval District. From the Wyner Family Papers, P-803, box 7, folder 19.
- ³ Minnie Feldman to William Marcus, letter dated June 30, 1918. From the Marcus-Feldman Family Papers, P-1008, box 1, folder 3.
- ⁴ William Thomas Turner, the captain of the *Lusitania* on this voyage, was also captain of the ship in May 1915. While en route from New York to Liverpool, the ship was torpedoed by a German U-Boat off the coast of Ireland. Turner survived. Immigrantships.net/v12/1900v12/lusitania19100115_01.html, Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, accessed 11/2/2016.
- ⁵ "I didn't have a chance to see yet much of France but as far as I saw of England I didn't like that country much. The country itself is a very nice plase [*sic*], but the people and their ways I don't like." William Marcus to Minnie

- Feldman, September 13, 1918. From the Marcus and Feldman Family Papers, P-1008, box 1, folder 4.
- ⁶ William's unit was "Hospital Unit F, field hospital company, Ambulance Company No. 345, 87th Division." See Joseph H. Ford, *The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War*, vol. II, *Administration American Expeditionary Forces* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1927), 597. Accessed 11/2/2016 at collections.nlm.nih.gov/ext/kirtasbse/14120390RX2/PDF/14120390RX2.pdf.
- ⁷ William Marcus to Minnie Feldman, November 7, 1918. From the Marcus-Feldman Family Papers, box 1, folder 4.
- ⁸ *Ibid*.
- ⁹ William Marcus to Minnie Feldman, November 15, 1918. From the Marcus-Feldman Family Papers, box 1, folder 4. William was discharged in January 1919 and worked in New York City before returning to Worcester.
- ¹⁰ Bernard Louis Gorfinkle was a prolific letter writer. In addition to sending letters home to his entire family, he also wrote personalized notes to his siblings. Letters with more graphic wartime descriptions were often sent to his brother, Mem, with the note,

- "keep from mother." The 26th Division of the U.S. Army, comprised mostly of men from New England, earned the nickname "Yankee Division." The men wore "YD" patches on their uniforms.
- ¹¹ Purple Hearts did not exist before 1932 but were retroactively presented to World War I veterans.
- ¹² Bernard Gorfinkle to Bess Gorfinkle, November 4, 1918. From the Bernard Gorfinkle Papers, P-664, Box 1, Folder 3.
- ¹³ The influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 killed approximately 45,000 people in Massachusetts. United States Department of Health and Human Services, "The Great Pandemic: Massachusetts" web.archive.org/web/20160826144531/http://www.flu.gov/pandemic/history/1918/your_state/northeast/massachusetts/index.html accessed online on 12/2/2016.
- ¹⁴ See note 12.
- ¹⁵ Gorfinkle was referring to the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, fought from September 26 to November 11, 1918.
- ¹⁶ Bernard Gorfinkle to his family, November 11, 1918. Box 1, Folder 3. See note 12.



focus on New York



Joan de Vries Kelley is a retired IBM systems engineer who lives in the Mid-Hudson Valley. She holds a certificate from Boston University's Genealogical Research program. She can be reached at joandevries.kelley@gmail.com.

Identifying the Original Owner of an Ulster County Account Book

In the spring of 2016 an account book was donated to Historic Huguenot Street, a collection of historic houses within a 10-acre National Historic Landmark District in New Paltz, Ulster County, New York.¹ The donor, Ann (Deyo) Brinker, had found the book in a box of papers she received after her cousin, Ann (Deyo) Pearce, died in 1997. Most of the entries were dated between 1716 and 1725. Ann (Deyo) Pearce had immediate Ulster County ancestry but the original owner of the account book was unknown. This project seemed to offer an interesting challenge, so I volunteered to transcribe the book and research its owners.

In a society where barter was far more common than currency, account books were used to keep track of financial obligations. The book was technically a “day book,” used daily to track money owed or due, and included receipts from various purchases. Although many New York documents of this period were written in Dutch, this book was in English. The handwriting was readable but the spelling was creative and some symbols and abbreviations needed decoding; for example, “7br,” “8br,” “9br,” and “xbr” were September, October, November, and December.²

The account book gave several clues about its owners. Based on the 1716/17 and 1720/21 tax assessment lists of Ulster County and records of the Kingston Dutch Reformed Church,³ I determined that the majority of those mentioned in the book were residents of Marbletown. Several others lived in Kingston and a few in Hurley or Rochester. I found eight references

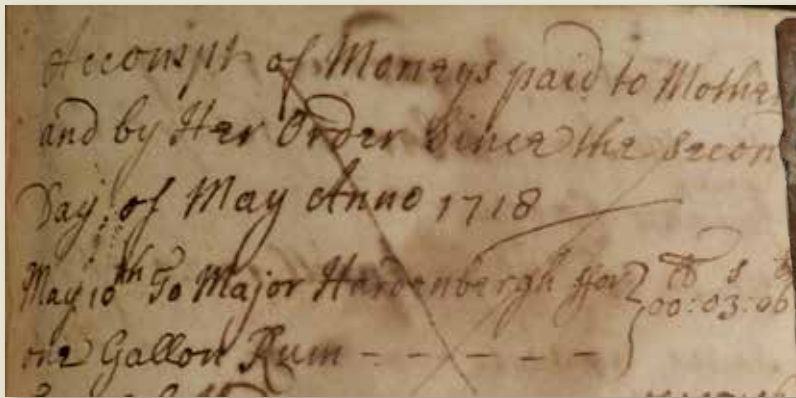
to relatives: one to “mother,” one to “our family,” four to “Cousin Daniel Brodhead,” and two to “Cousin Garton.”

Tracing the ancestry of the last known owner of the book led to Brodheads and Gartons who lived in Marbletown in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries:

Ann (Deyo) Pearce (1935–1997), was the daughter of Thomas Jones Deyo (1908–1985), who was the son of Warren van der Veer Deyo (1878–1948), who was the son of Thomas Jones Deyo (1839–1911), who was the son of Daniel A. Deyo (1788–1865), who was the son of Abraham D. Deyo (1764–1805), and Ann Brodhead (1765–1845), who was the daughter of Charles Brodhead (1729–1789), who was the son of Daniel Brodhead (1693–1755), who was the son of Richard Brodhead (1666–1758), who was the son of Capt. Daniel Brodhead (ca.1640–1667), and Ann Tye (1640–1714), who married (2) Lt. William Nottingham (ca. 1640–1680) and (3) Thomas Garton (ca.1640–1717)⁴

By following the chain of references in the account book, it became clear that Anne Garton, Junior—who settled the estate of her mother, Ann (Tye) (Brodhead) (Nottingham) Garton—was the original owner.

Anne Garton, Junior, was the only child of Ann (Tye) (Brodhead) Nottingham and her third husband,



Labor & goods bought & sold, 1716–1725

Labor	£:s:d	Goods	£:s:d
1 day slave labor	6:0	1 pound butter	0:6
1 day ploughing	12:0	1 quart rum	1:0
Riding 2 loads of hay	6:0	1 pail beer	1:0
Sowing ½ Schippel flax	9:0	1 pound of flour	4:0
Weaving 1 Ell of cloth	0:9	1 quart strope	0:6¾
Making waistcoat/breeches	5:0	1 pound baken	0:6
		1 schippel pease	3:0
		1 schippel wheat	3:0
		1 schippel rye	2:5
		1 schippel maize	3:0
		1 schippel Indian corn	2:3
		1 pound wool	2:0
		1 pound goose feathers	2:6
		1 pound pigeon feathers	9:0
1 pound pewter	2:6	1 hog - 93 lbs @3d/lb	1:03:3
1 pound iron	0:6	1 cow with calf	4:10:0
		1 sheep	12:0
		1 pound deer skins	3:6

Above left: A selection of entries from 1718.

Above: The handmade leather-bound Garton-Brodhead Account Book. Left: The table lists examples of wages paid and prices of goods bought and sold. Photos by Carrie Allmendinger.

Most of the goods and labor were evaluated in English currency; 1 pound (£) = 20 shillings(s), 1 shilling(s) = 12 pence(d). In a few cases early cases, Dutch currency (guilders), was used. Note: A "schippel" is a bushel, "strobe" is molasses, and an English ell is 45".

Thomas Garton.⁵ Before they married, likely soon after March 3, 1680/81, when a prenuptial agreement was written,⁶ Ann Nottingham made sure her surviving children from previous marriages—Charles, Richard, and Daniel Brodhead, and William, Elizabeth, and John Nottingham—would receive the inheritance to which they were entitled under Dutch law.⁷ Any child born of the third marriage would inherit the remainder of marital assets.⁸ On May 19, 1714, Thomas Garton issued a quitclaim to Ann's three surviving sons, and Thomas and Ann Garton deeded land to their daughter, Anne.⁹ The older Ann probably died shortly thereafter.

Three years later, Thomas Garton likely fell ill—a payment was recorded on January 24 to "Doctor Hans . . . for Attending and giving medicines to our family in ye yeare 1717" on page 7. A

December 31, 1717, entry referencing the "Late Captn Thomas Garton" indicates he died by the end of that year. That entry and another one documenting payment of money owed by Thomas Garton suggests that Anne Garton handled her father's estate.¹⁰ An inventory of Thomas Garton's estate was filed and witnessed by his daughter Anne Garton on November 1, 1718.¹¹ The 1718/19 tax assessment of Anne Garton, £370, comparable to the 1716/17 tax assessment for Thomas Garton, £380,¹² was the highest in Marbletown.

The account book entries continue through 1725, then nearly forty years lapse before the next entry. Anne Garton's account book was next used in the settling of her own estate in 1763. Anne Garton of Marbletown, "spinster," wrote her will in 1752, leaving her entire estate to her "loving nephewe,

Daniel Brodhead of Dansberry in the County of Bucks and Provence of Pennsylvania, Esq; and to his heirs."¹³ But by the time Ann died, Daniel Brodhead had predeceased her. Charles, Daniel's oldest surviving son, who lived in Marbletown, was appointed executor of Anne's estate.¹⁴

Daniel, son of Richard Brodhead and Magdalena Jensen, was born in Kingston in 1693.¹⁵ Daniel's aunt—Ann Garton, his father's half-sister—was twelve years older than Daniel, and he might have spent considerable time with her during his childhood. Daniel Brodhead married Hester Wyngaart on September 21, 1719 in Albany.¹⁶ An entry recording a payment to Manuel Gonzalis in June 1719 suggests Anne purchased Daniel an outfit for his wedding. Daniel had ten children; his oldest son was named "Thomas Garton Brodhead" and his

only surviving daughter “Ann Garton Brodhead.”¹⁷ The family relocated to Marbletown before 1729, and in 1738 moved to Pennsylvania, settling near Stroudsburg. Daniel laid out the town of Dansbury, Pennsylvania, and established a mill and a Moravian church there.¹⁸ Daniel died in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on July 22, 1755.

Daniel Brodhead’s son Charles (1729–1789) returned to Marbletown as a young man and married Mary Oliver there in 1761.¹⁹ In 1766, he and his family settled about twenty miles further south in what is now Shawangunk.

In addition to Anne Garton, Junior, and Charles Brodhead, several unidentified writers made entries in the account

book. One writer wrote in shaky handwriting and mostly bought and sold rum to men too young to be included in the 1716/17 Tax Assessment, and to a Native American.²⁰ Although these entries generally appear at the bottom of pages dated from 1716 to 1725, the entries are not dated and cannot be assigned a particular time frame. A later writer listed the names of several individuals who were paid or who owed money. Many of these people were likely contemporaries of Charles Brodhead and were subsequently located in later Ulster County documents (1780s New Hurley records and the Plattekill Tax Assessment of 1801). The last of the entries, perhaps written by Charles or Charles’s widow,

Mary, is a credit for Abraham D. Deyo, their son-in-law.²¹

Then, over nearly two hundred years, the account book passed down through six generations of Charles and Mary Brodhead’s descendants. The entries in the Garton-Brodhead Account Book represent more than a series of financial transactions—these notations supplement birth, marriage, and death records by providing details of everyday life. Researching the clues gleaned from the book not only revealed the identity of the book’s owners but the web of interconnectedness between them and other members of their community. ♦

Notes

¹ “Garton-Brodhead Account Book,” 1716–after 1764, Personal and Family Papers Collection, Historic Huguenot Street Archives, New Paltz, New York. An indexed transcription is available in the Schoonmaker Library, Historic Huguenot Street. The book is not paginated, but pages assigned in the transcription are used in subsequent notes.

² Michael Russell, “Dorchester & Fordington Glossary: Index of Terms used in 17th & 18th Century Wills, Inventories and other Documents,” viewed at freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fordingtondorset/Files/Glossary.html.

³ Ulster County Clerk, Archives Division, “Exhibit—Duty & Disaster, Tax Assessment List for the County of Ulster, 1716/7,” digital image and transcription, ulstercountyny.gov/archives/exhibits/burning/TaxAssessment.html; “Ulster County, New York, Tax Lists, 1709, 1709–10, 1711–12, 1718–19 and 1720–21,” *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 63 [1932]:199–202; Roswell Randall Hoes, *Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster County, New York* (New York: De Vinne Press, 1891).

⁴ Carol Van Wagner, Esther Deyo Aldridge, and Nancy Gentile, *The Deyo (Deyoe) Family* (New Paltz, N.Y.: Deyo Family Association, 2003), 37, 90, 185–86, 305, 436 (based on earlier editions); Anne Goodwill and Jean M. Smith, *The Brodhead Family: The Story of Captain Daniel Brodhead and His wife Ann Tye and Their Descendants*, 11 vols. (Port Ewen, N.Y.: Brodhead Family Association, 1986–2002), 1:5–32, 39–44, 71–72; 2:121. The source for the 1717 death date for Thomas Garton comes from the account book.

⁵ “An,” daughter of Thomas Garton and “An Tuway” [Ann (Tye) (Brodhead) Nottingham] was baptized 12 February 1682, at Jan

Joosten’s in Kingston (Hoes, *Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston* [note 3], 16). More about Thomas Garton and possible candidates for “cousin Garton” can be found in Shirley Garton Straney, “Thomas Garton of Ulster County, New York,” *Record* 110 [1979]:132–34.

⁶ Marriage bond between Thomas Garton and Ann Nottingham, Marbletown, N.Y., in “Deeds; Translations, Dutch Records of Ulster County,” Dingman Versteeg, trans., 1896–99, vol. 2, 567–569, Ulster County Clerk’s Office, Kingston, New York. English translation at ulstercountyny.gov/archives/dutchsearchscreen.html: enter book 2, page 567.

⁷ Nathalie Grogan, “Going Back in Time: The Rolling Back of Women’s Rights in New York, 1650–1680,” at ojs.geneseo.edu/index.php/great/article/viewFile/1763/1230.

⁸ Marriage bond [note 6].

⁹ Thomas Garton quitclaim to Charles and Richard Brodhead and William Nottingham, 19 May 1714 (Ulster County Deeds, BB:403); Capt. Thomas Garton and Anne, his wife, to their daughter, Anne Garton, Junior, 19 May 1714 (Ulster County Deeds, DD:210–12).

¹⁰ “Garton-Brodhead Account Book” [note 1], 42, 44.

¹¹ Inventory of Estate of Captain Thomas Garton (New York County Wills, 9 (recopied):54–55; *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate’s Office, City of New York*, 17 vols., Publications of The New-York Historical Society, vols. 26–41 (New York, 1893–1909), 2:188; 16:78).

¹² “Ulster County, New York, Tax Lists [note 3], 88.

¹³ Anne Garton’s will, written 20 May 1752, proved 1 December 1653 (New York County Wills, 24:225; *Abstracts of Wills* [note 10], 6:279; 17:261), proved 24 November 1653 in Albany (Berthold Fernow, *Calendar of Wills on File and Recorded. . . at Albany. . .* [New York:

Colonial Dames of the State of New York, 1896], 158).

¹⁴ Charles Brodhead appointed executor of Anne Garton’s estate, 1 December 1653, New York County Wills [note 12], 24:225.

¹⁵ Daniel, son of “Ritcherd Bradid” and Magdelene Jensen, was baptized 23 April 1693 in Kingston (Hoes, *Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston* [note 3], 40).

¹⁶ Daniel Brodhead married Hester Wyngaart (with banns) on 21 September 1719 (*Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Albany, New York, 1683–1809: Marriages, Baptisms, Members, Etc.* [Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978], Part 2, 14).

¹⁷ Thomas Garton, son of Daniel Brodhead and Hester Brodhead, was baptized 27 August 1723 (*ibid.*, Part 2, 101). Daniel Brodhead’s will names his daughter as Ann Garton (New York County Wills, 21:245; *Abstracts of Wills* [note 10], 5:294–95; 16:222).

¹⁸ John W. Jordan, Edgar M. Green, and George T. Ettinger, *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of the Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania*, 2 vols. (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1905), 1:230.

¹⁹ Charles Brodhead’s birth and marriage record can be found in Hoes, *Baptismal and Marriage Registers of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston* [note 3], 182, 619.

²⁰ “Garton-Brodhead Account Book” [note 1], 10.

²¹ “Garton-Brodhead Account Book” [note 1], 37. I was surprised to find the connection to Abraham D. Deyo. He was the owner of a slave, Nancy Franklin, whom I have researched. See Joan de Vries Kelley, “Some Ancestors of Nelly Jane (Franklin) LeFevre: An African-American of the Mid-Hudson Valley,” *Record* 145 [2014]:245–58; 146 [2015]:107–16, 187–97, 283–98, 311; 147 [2016]:55–74.

Desdemona's Struggle

One of the newest and most intriguing items in the NEHGS Fine Art Collection is a framed, paneled series of sketches entitled *Desdemona's Struggle*. Each of the six panels features a Civil War-era pen and ink drawing. Each of these sepia ink sketches, probably drawn in a sketchbook in the 1870s, measures only 5 x 3 inches. Together, these illustrations and a small amount of text tell the story of Desdemona Carter's struggle to obtain a pension from the federal government for her husband Joe.

In spite of many attempts to discover more about them, Desdemona and Joe remain a mystery. We know they were African Americans, probably ex-slaves, and we can safely speculate that Joe fought for the Union in the Civil War. The federal government promised pensions to former slaves who enlisted, and Desdemona was likely attempting to claim one for her husband or for herself, if she was a widow. The little information that we possess suggests that Joe was likely denied his pension—unfortunately, not an uncommon occurrence.

We don't know who drew these little vignettes. Perhaps it was an official in the War Office in Washington or a clerk in the veterans' office—someone who encountered Desdemona as she attempted to secure compensation for her husband. The artist could have quickly sketched Desdemona after each visit to his office. Or possibly these little snapshots of history were sketched by a soldier applying for relief himself—someone who witnessed Desdemona's pleas on behalf of her husband.

All six vignettes are remarkable. We learn from them that Joe had measles in his left eye and that Desdemona's daughter, aged 10, went to school. But it is the sixth and final panel that is the most interesting and enigmatic. A one-armed Joe is pictured in uniform accompanied by some (highly ironic) text: "Was introduced to Genl. Forrest at Ft. Pillow—so glad to see me he shook my arm off."

What happened at Fort Pillow during the Civil War remains one of the most controversial incidents of the war. Named for Brigadier General Gideon J. Pillow, the Confederate fort was built

in 1861 approximately 40 miles north of Memphis at a strategic bend in the Mississippi River. (The site today is part of Fort Pillow State Park.) Fort Pillow was seized by the Union in 1862 and garrisoned with between 500 and 600 troops. On April 12, 1864, the poorly defended and ineptly led fort came under a sustained attack by between 1,500 and 2,500 Confederate cavalrymen led by General Nathan Bedford Forrest. Amid increasing chaos, the defenders quickly lost the fort. An unknown number of Union soldiers were gunned down after attempting to surrender. Many more were shot as they fled, while others drowned in the Mississippi River. While it's impossible to determine how many men died in battle and how many in the massacre, between 277 and 295 Union troops—the majority of whom were African American—were killed. Only 14 Confederates were killed. Additionally, only 20% of black soldiers were taken prisoner, compared to 60% of the white troops.

Today there's little doubt that the incident known as the Fort Pillow



Joe gets the measles



The witness



Present at the birth

Massacre—the killing of unarmed men who were trying to surrender—stemmed from Southern outrage at the North's use of black soldiers. The use of African American troops by the Union during the Civil War is primarily known today due to the Academy Award-winning 1989 movie *Glory*, which told the story of Robert Gould Shaw and the all-black Massachusetts 54th Regiment. The 54th was one of the first official African American units in the United States armed forces.

Shaw, who was white, belonged to one of Boston's elite Brahmin families, but was not a typical aristocrat. He came from an abolitionist family and famously encouraged his men to refuse their pay until it was equal to the white troops' wages. (Black Union soldiers did not initially receive equal pay or treatment. African American soldiers were paid \$7 a month, while their white counterparts received \$13 a month. In June 1864, however, Congress granted retroactive equal pay.)

The famous Shaw Memorial, considered one of the finest American sculptures in existence, commemorates the ill-fated regiment. Located on Beacon Street in Boston, at the edge of Boston Common and across the street from the gold-domed Massachusetts State House, the 1884–98 bronze relief sculpture was created by Augustus Saint-Gaudens,

America's foremost nineteenth-century sculptor. It depicts Colonel Shaw and the 54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry marching down Beacon Street on May 28, 1863, on their way to war. They left the city on a huge wave of popular support; morale was high among the regiment, even though the men knew that Jefferson Davis's proclamation of December 23, 1862, effectively put both African American enlisted men and their white officers under a death sentence if captured. Two months later, half the regiment, including Shaw, was dead.

Of the regiment, John A. Andrew, the governor of Massachusetts who authorized the creation of the 54th, said: "I know not where, in all of human history, to any given thousand men in arms there has been committed a work at once so proud, so precious, so full of hope and glory."

The regiment was reactivated on November 21, 2008, to serve as the Massachusetts National Guard ceremonial unit to perform military honors at funerals and state functions. The new regiment is known as the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment.

Even in the North, blacks were usually not treated as equals. Racial discrimination was particularly prevalent in the Union Army. The Massachusetts 54th was a notable exception when

compared to the other segregated regiments (African American enlisted men commanded by white officers), which were poorly trained and outfitted.

So it's particularly interesting that one of the sketches connects Joe Carter to the Fort Pillow Massacre. We know that Joe lost his arm, very possibly during the Civil War. He could even have been one of the survivors of the massacre. The sketch certainly must have been meant to be humorous. (The General, who later served as the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, would not have shaken the hand of a black man.) We can only speculate. Like the Alamo a generation earlier, the Fort Pillow Massacre became a rallying cry—it hardened the resolve of African American soldiers. "Remember Fort Pillow!" became their battle cry.

We purchased this amazing piece of history at a March 2016 auction to help fulfill our mission to inform, educate, and interpret the American experience.

—Curt DiCamillo,
Curator of Special Collections

Desdemona's Struggle: a series of six sketches, circa 1875. Unknown artist. NEHGS Fine Art Collection.



Applying for the pension



Desdemona's daughter



Joe and General Forrest

Genealogies

Atwood *The Atwood Book—15 Generations of Atwoods in America Beginning with Immigrant Thomas Atwood*, George Carlton Atwood and Janis Atwood Clark (Charleston, S.C.: the authors, 2016). Softcover. Black and white \$29.95, color \$74.95. 486 pp., 2500-name index, portraits, photos, obituaries, newspaper articles, family homes. George Atwood's research was continued by Janis Atwood Clark, Ed.D., who fleshed out her own branch beginning with Hobert Augustus Atwood (1822–1866), generation 7. Available from amazon.com. Contact janishclark@gmail.com.

Harvey and Evans *Remember the Women! Heading up the Branches of our Women's Family Tree, part 1*, Erica Dakin Voolich (Somerville Mass.: Lulu.com, 2016). Softcover \$27.50, hardcover \$38. 398 pp., every-name index, photos. The first volume of the maternal genealogy of Erica Dakin Voolich, covering the grandmothers' generation, including research into the lives of Adelaide Copeland Harvey, Marion Evans Dakin, and Claire Evans. Available from lulu.com. Contact voolich@gmail.com

Gates, Bryan, Davis *Southern Planters: The Gates, Bryan, Davis and Related Families of Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida 1650–2000*, Stephen F. Gates (Charleston, S.C.: Southern Planters Press, 2016). The ancestry of the author's father of the Florida west coast, tracing to immigrant John Gates (1675–1721) of Henrico County, Virginia. Chapters on the Gates, Bryan, Davis, Bagby, Massey, Bazemore, Roquemore, Lenoir, Dickey, Plowden, Patton, and Sasser lines, among others, with notes, illustrations, and appendices. Contact sgates100@gmail.com.

Kraemer *Kraemer Families in Alsace, France: My 20-year Search for a French Army Officer, Joyce Draganchuk* (Amherst, Mass.: Genealogy House, 2016). Hardcover \$29.95. 396 pp., photos, maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. This genealogy explores the author's Kraemer ancestors, along with her research process. Available from jdraganchuk@comcast.net.

Wampanoag *Wampanoag Families of Martha's Vineyard: The Wampanoag Genealogical History of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Volume II*, Richard Andrew Pierce and Dr. Jerome D. Segel (Berwyn Heights, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 2016).

2 volumes. Softcover \$97. 1344 pp., index, addenda, bibliography. Comprehensive genealogies of Martha's Vineyard Wampanoag families. Available from heritagebooks.com.

Other books

Philatelic Genealogy *Philatelic Genealogy: Old Envelopes, Letters, and Postcards as Genealogical Sources*, by James R. Miller (Caroga Lake, NY: Philatelic Genealogy, Inc., 2016). Softcover \$37, PDF \$3.95. xiii+363 pp., appendix, index, photos. 100 old envelopes and postcards are examined, and genealogical details for each sender and recipient are cited. Handwriting comparisons help identify eight senders. Available from Philatelic Genealogy, Inc., 112 Irving Pond Road, Caroga Lake, NY 12032; Philgen.org.

Piatt *Piatt Family Newsletter, Volumes 1–12 and Cumulative Index*, Elizabeth Grace Branstead (Charleston, S.C.: the author, 2016). Softcover, Kindle. 4-volume set. 1600 pp., index. More than 50 researchers combed archives, vital records, census records, wills, and family Bibles for all Piatt spellings. Available from amazon.com.

Submit your book notice

Members may submit their relevant books published within the last year. Donation of one copy to NEHGS is required. 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, and DNA Studies in Progress

Members may submit notices of 75 words or less. The same notice will be published only once per year. Submit Family Association notices at least six months in advance.

To place your listing, email magazine@nehgs.org. Send book donations to Family Focus, AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, NEHGS, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The NEHGS cartoon



"Yes, I'm a tree hugger . . . a family tree hugger!"

— Leona Amerman, Facebook

Drawing by Jean Powers, NEHGS.

AMERICAN ANCESTORS: NEW ENGLAND, NEW YORK, AND BEYOND, incorporating NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS, Copyright © 2017 (ISSN 2154–6533), is published quarterly by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116-3007; tel. 617-536-5740; email magazine@nehgs.org. All rights reserved. All editorial content of this magazine is archived for member access at AmericanAncestors.org. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without the permission of AMERICAN ANCESTORS. The periodical's name and logo and various titles and headings herein are trademarks of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, a nonprofit corporation qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. **Postmaster:** send address changes to Member Services, NEHGS, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116-3007. **Submissions:** AMERICAN ANCESTORS invites the submission of articles. Submissions should be directed to AMERICAN ANCESTORS, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116, or to magazine@nehgs.org. Opinions and statements expressed herein are attributable solely to individual authors and are not endorsed by AMERICAN ANCESTORS or the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS).



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
AmericanAncestors.org

NOTICE: The name and seal of the New England Historic Genealogical Society are trademarks belonging to the New England Historic Genealogical Society and may not be used without the express permission of the Society's Board of Trustees.



Hire the Experts



NEHGS
Research
Services

For more information and a free estimate, contact us at research@nehgs.org or 617-226-1233.

Visit AmericanAncestors.org/hire

Whether you've researched for years or are just beginning, NEHGS Research Services is here to assist you with your family history.

Research Report

Do you have a mystery to solve? Our expert staff will utilize the NEHGS library, as well as other repositories—both national and international—to assist with your research request. We will follow a research plan and produce a report with scholarly citations and photocopies of relevant documentation.

Ahnentafel or Register Style Report: Our expert researchers can create an engaging and comprehensive biographical narrative of your family with images and photographs.

Lineage Society

Our expert staff can organize, arrange, research, and locate the proper documentation necessary for a membership application for many popular lineage societies, such as DAR, SAR, GSMD, Society of Cincinnati, and Colonial Dames. This package includes completing your lineage society application.

Above: Schoolchildren in Houston, Texas, circa 1910.

Expert Review and Research Package

Can't decide between scheduling a consultation to guide your genealogical efforts or hiring Research Services to do the work for you? Do both with this combo package. First, a staff Genealogist will provide a one-on-one assessment of your research and offer recommendations for the future. Second, a member of the Research Services team will execute the research plan and produce a report with scholarly citations and photocopies of relevant documentation.

Family Archive

Do you have boxes of family papers, photographs, and letters in your basement or attic? Let the NEHGS Research Services team organize your family materials in archival quality boxes and folders, and create a finding aid for your collection.

Chart

Let our expert researchers create a custom fan chart or drop chart using genealogical information that you collected yourself or commissioned from the NEHGS Research Services team.



American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

99-101 Newbury Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-3007

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New England Historic
Genealogical Society

Give to our Annual Fund!



NEHGS . . .

on behalf of America's legacy.



For further
information,
please contact
Robin Wolfe,
Director of
Annual Giving,
617-226-1217,
rwolfe@nehgs.org.

To donate, please visit AmericanAncestors.org/Support