



# Experts from New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), to Visit the Villages Genealogical Society—Florida's Largest Genealogical Organization—on Friday, April 1

Lectures by NEHGS Genealogist Rhonda McClure and NEHGS Researcher Anna Todd to Offer Florida Genealogists Valuable Insights on Researching Family History

March 2, 2016—Boston, Massachusetts—The nation's oldest and largest genealogical society, New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), headquartered in Boston, Mass., is coming to Central Florida on Friday, April 1, to offer a full-day seminar to local family historians. At the event hosted by the Villages Genealogical Society, Florida's largest genealogical organization, NEHGS expert genealogists Rhonda R. McClure and Anna Todd will lecture on topics designed to offer participants a better understanding of migration patterns out of New England, how to utilize technology to organize and advance genealogical research, and recommendations for getting the most out of researching probate records and immigration files. The seminar will be held from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm at The Waterfront Inn, 1105 Lakeshore Drive, The Villages, Florida, and is open to the public.

An explosion of interest in the field of genealogy, one of the most popular topics on the Internet, has led to the creation of a number of software resources purporting to help the researcher organize family history records, generate charts and reports, correct entry mistakes, and visualize progress. Over the last several months, a number of changes in the software category in the genealogical industry has caused widespread concern and much debate. Rhonda R. McClure, NEHGS genealogist, with years of familiarity with this technology, will offer her perspective on how these changes might affect the family historian and advise on how to select a program that meets varying needs.

Southern migrations from New England—site of some of the earliest American colonial settlements—figure prominently in the understanding of an ancestor's journey to and settlement in southern colonies and states. Often the communities on the move were of similar religious leanings, seeking more welcoming places to practice religious beliefs. Anna Todd, NEHGS researcher, will address an interesting aspect of this in her lecture "Migrations Out of New England." Among them, Todd will trace the movement of Quakers from the island of Nantucket, Massachusetts to Guilford County, North Carolina, near Greensboro, in the late 1700s. This settlement became the focal point of Quakerism in North Carolina and in the South and soon became the center of a very active community engaging in trade and local industry. People came long distances to procure the quality products of their mills, kilns, tanneries, and stores, and the resulting growth later led to important migrations from the Piedmont region into Ohio and

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e covered during the day-long seminar given by NEHGS on April 1. A complete s well as an opportunity for immediate registration is available on the dataorida.

pportunity to chat with NEHGS genealogists and visiting staff, enter to win tage of NEHGS membership specials, and enjoy a meal and special reception

servations may be made at AmericanAncestors.org/florida or by email at

Rhonda R. McClure is a nationally recognized professional genealogist and lecturer specializing in New England and celebrity research as well as computerized genealogy. She has compiled more than 120 celebrity family trees. McClure has been a contributing editor for *Heritage Quest Magazine*, *Biography* magazine, *The History Channel Magazine* and *American History Magazine*. In addition to numerous articles, she is the author of ten books, including the award-winning *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy*, now in its second edition, *Finding Your Famous and Infamous Ancestors*, and *Digitizing Your Family History*. Her areas of expertise include immigration and naturalization, late 19th and early 20th century urban research, missionaries (primarily in association with the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions), state department federal records, New England, Mid-West, Southern, German, Italian, Scottish, Irish, French Canadian, and New Brunswick research as well as Internet research, genealogical software (FTM, RootsMagic, TMG, Reunion), and digital peripherals for both Mac and Windows machines.

Anna Todd holds a Master's degree in history from the University of Connecticut where she specialized in gender and law in colonial New England. She completed a Bachelor's degree in history with a minor in English at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to joining the research services staff at NEHGS she worked as a page at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut and volunteered with the McCain Library and Archives at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Eudora Welty House, and the National History Day Organization. Her areas of expertise include colonial America, New England, Pennsylvania, and the South. She enjoys infusing family histories with interesting information found in court records, wills, city directories, and other supplementary sources.

### About American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

The founding genealogical society in America, New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) was established in 1845. Today it has a national collecting scope and serves more than 150,000 constituents through an award-winning website, www.AmericanAncestors.org. Since 1845, NEHGS has been the country's leading comprehensive resource for genealogists and family historians of every skill level. Today NEHGS provides constituents with worldwide access to some of the most important and valuable research tools anywhere.

American Ancestors is the public brand and user experience of NEHGS representing the expertise and resources available for family historians of all levels when researching their origins across the country and around the world. NEHGS's resources, expertise, and service are unmatched in the field and their leading staff of on-site and online genealogists includes experts in early American, Irish, English, Scottish, Italian, Atlantic and French Canadian, African American, Native American, Chinese, and Jewish research. Expert assistance is available to members and nonmembers in a variety of ways. The NEHGS library and archive, located at 99—101 Newbury Street in downtown Boston, is home to more than 28 million items, including artifacts, documents, records, journals, letters, books, manuscripts, and other items dating back hundreds of years.

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