2016 annual stakeholder report

planning our future

New England Historic Genealogical Society
AmericanAncestors.org

Artist's rendering of potential design for 97 Newbury Street renovations, courtesy of Schwartz/Silver.
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The desire to understand and connect to our family history is universal. This understanding represents who we are and how we came to live the lives we each have. Whether we are fully aware of it or not, the journeys our ancestors took and the choices they made have a profound effect on who we are today. Good fortune and bad, triumph and tragedy, prosperity and opportunity all comprise the incredible, winding path that leads from our ancestors to each of us. And while our stories may seem unique to us, we learn that they are also shared by many.

At NEHGS, we understand that as we uncover our families, we learn about history, too. The records we use, the sources we uncover, the information we gather, all need to be maintained and preserved. It is our mission to make sure everyone, everywhere, has access to their family’s story for generations to come.

Advancing History.
Greetings to our friends, far and wide. I am delighted to communicate our recent accomplishments at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and American Ancestors in this Annual Report. In the following pages, Ryan J. Woods and Ted MacMahon will set the stage for some of our future activities: in particular, our plans for 2020—the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim landing and the 175th anniversary of the founding of our Society—and our Cornerstone Project at 97 Newbury Street, an urgently-needed expansion of our headquarters.

The incredibly positive momentum of our capital campaign success, coupled with close attention to meeting or exceeding the goals of our strategic plan, swept across all activity areas of our Society in our fiscal year ending August 31, 2016, propelling us to a position of stronger financial well-being with unprecedented scholarly and web-based activity, robust earned revenue growth, and a dramatic expansion of our membership. Viewed through the lens of our four “Cornerstones,” here are a few of the highlights of a truly remarkable year.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

The most ambitious financial undertaking in our history, the groundbreaking Connecting Families. Advancing History Capital Campaign, concluded $7.2+ million over a $55 million target (previously revised upward from an initial goal of $50 million). The success of this comprehensive campaign at $62,219,472—which supported our endowment, infrastructure, website expansion, and collections development—is a credit to 8,569 donors who made more than 25,000 gifts to support our purpose and our growth. Not only did this historic campaign deepen our connections with thousands of supporters, but it made a permanent positive impact on our long-term financial sustainability and provided a highly visible platform from which we demonstrated our skills in preserving the past, creating excellence, sharing expertise, building collections, expanding resources, and embracing the future. Finally, it gave us the opportunity to take a significant step in fulfilling the future vision of our strategic plan by purchasing the adjacent building located at 97 Newbury Street, for which we will develop expansion plans and into which expand our operations and services in the coming years.
On an operating level, our performance in fiscal year 2016 was outstanding: we exceeded budget and achieved a $479,000+ cash-positive position. Earned revenue was especially strong, and membership generated $2.5+ million in income—a robust 14% over budgetary expectations. Donated support for operations, and other campaign contributions, crested $5 million for the year, a remarkable achievement made possible by our generous members and a dedicated staff and volunteer team.

Shortly after the close of the fiscal year, we received our largest cash gift ever: $5.3 million. An anonymous donor who previously made our Society the beneficiary of a trust as part of our capital campaign, converted that planned gift into a current gift, so those funds begin to benefit the Society sooner. This historic gift marks an important moment, perhaps even a key turning point, in the long-term success and prosperity of this organization, and we gratefully thank this generous individual who made such a magnificent act of philanthropy possible.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

During this period, we cultivated relationships broadly and expanded the number of our constituents into the hundreds of thousands—a first for our organization and for any society of our kind in America. We refined the benefits of membership in contributing, regular, and guest categories and defined strategies for serving these classes of members and numerous subcategories. As of the date of this report, our current membership stands at over 226,000 individuals, an historic accomplishment and a testament to our reputation, relationships, and high-quality offerings. We continued to reach new audiences as the anchor location of the PBS series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, as well as through key appearances on two other genealogy-based television shows, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *The Genealogy Roadshow*. David Allen Lambert, our Chief Genealogist, serves as co-host of *Extreme Genes*, a weekly radio show and podcast carried over 42 radio stations nationwide and downloaded more than 50,000 times per month. Our work was covered frequently in print and online media, including several articles in *The New York Times* and elsewhere. External partnerships were a key to developing or retaining new relationships and, accordingly, we developed or advanced affiliations with FamilySearch and FindMyPast, both of which generated many new memberships, much commerce, and useful content. Throughout the year, we organized programs with a host of like-minded organizations, including a national conference of The Sons of the American Revolution, held in Boston.

Our library extended relationships by offering an array of increasingly popular, highly personalized consultation offerings. These consultations, conducted between our staff genealogists and visiting members or guests, help forge closer connections and share our expertise. In addition, we hired a collections curator, Curt DiCamillo, to organize our fine arts collection, orchestrate heritage tours, and, in so doing, strengthen new relationships for the organization. Finally, we hosted two Family History Benefit Dinners, honoring best-selling author Nathaniel Philbrick and Emmy-winning television anchors Bob Schieffer, longtime moderator of *Face the Nation*, and David Hartman, formerly host of *Good Morning, America*. Both dinners attracted hundreds of our members, as well as corporate sponsors and numerous guests. These events, like many others, afforded us the opportunity to showcase our genealogical talents and create goodwill among our constituents and with the public.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

Our scholarly and educational activities thrived in this period, with major online resource additions, key publications, the introduction of a new activity center, recruitment of a venerable journal, and innumerable learning opportunities both in person and online. Among our most highly anticipated publications was the *Genealogist’s Handbook for Irish Research*, by Marie E. Daly with Judith Lucey. This book, hailed for excellence by independent reviewers, will educate thousands of readers in the techniques, long taught at NEHGS, that will advance Irish genealogical research goals. The first volume of a long-term study project, *Early New England Families, 1641–1700, Volume One,*...
by Alicia Crane Williams, FASG, was published and a groundbreaking memoir by Bill Griffeth, _The Stranger in My Genes_, told the moving story of a shocking DNA test discovery. That book became the most successful single volume in our publishing history, with 10,000 units sold to date, and its author made numerous public appearances, including a _Today_ show interview in September.

Our depth of scholarly activity grew with the addition of the _Mayflower Descendant: A Journal of Pilgrim Genealogy & History_, now edited by Christopher C. Child, published twice annually in our suite of periodical offerings.

Our scholarship was conveyed to members by many means, most especially through scores of educational programs, online seminars, and tours. During fiscal year 2016, we served more than 8,200 members in educational programs at our headquarters, online, and afield. Our eighteen online programs during the fiscal year—which included monthly webinars and in-depth online courses on a wide range of topics, such as newspaper research for genealogy, Native American resources for family history research, choosing a genealogical software program, and Chinese-American family history—served more than 4,000 people from across the country, and indeed, around the world. Special activities included a “Great Migration: By Sea and By Land” tour and an Atlantic crossing onboard the _Queen Mary II_ with Robert Charles Anderson, FASG; a “New England Captives Taken to Canada Tour” to Quebec and Montreal with Donald R. Friary; “NEHGS Roadshows” in Carlsbad, California, and The Villages, Florida; and guided research tours to London, Salt Lake City, New York City, Albany, New York, and Hartford, Connecticut, among many others. The reach of our scholarship was expanded through the development and launch of a Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS, an extension of our productive affiliation with
the American Jewish Historical Society – New England Archives. The JHC will eventually make its home in our annex at 97 Newbury Street and will continue in its program of developing web-based content and special exhibitions, and soon begin to produce more compiled family histories of Jewish families.

TECHNOLOGY

AmericanAncestors.org, far and away our most popular offering, was voted a Best US Genealogy Website 2016 by Family Tree Magazine, an honor that recognizes the position of our website in the uppermost echelons of worldwide Internet-based genealogical resources. We continued to add millions of new searchable records to an already huge corpus of more than one billion records while annual page views of our site topped 23 million—a 25% increase over the prior fiscal year—with more than 2.4 million unique visits. Online content added to AmericanAncestors.org in this period emphasized original record sets for all New England states, New York, the South, the United Kingdom, and the Caribbean. Throughout the year, our web team continued to enhance the online experience for our members and build our technology infrastructure behind the scenes. Likewise, our Digital Collections grew substantially. This online offering includes books and manuscripts previously only available in our library and today features more than 5,000 fully digitized materials. As an industry leader, we again participated in the RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, where we presented on trends in technology as it relates to genealogical research at a national forum that attracted more than 30,000 visitors. Lastly, we continued to increase our profile in the area of genetics scholarship through publications, and in the following fiscal year, a “DNA Day” of educational programming and a partnership with FamilyTree DNA. These and many other activities kept us busily engaged in stewarding multiple technology platforms and disciplines.

Our institutional progress in Fiscal Year 2017 continues unabated, and NEHGS is flourishing. In January 2017, we finalized and announced an historic partnership with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston that will bring millions of sacramental records online for the first time, including births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths.
This multi-year endeavor will make records of 154 parishes in eastern Massachusetts available for the critical period of 1789–1900. We also entered into an agreement with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants to bring online the complete fifth generation of its “silver books” series for Mayflower descents, in what is sure to be an important offering on AmericanAncestors.org.

In closing, I wish to thank David H. Burnham, a good friend to NEHGS and a mentor to many, for five years of loyal service as Chairman of our Board of Trustees. During David’s tenure, our organization has achieved tremendous successes, due in no small part to his wise counsel and guidance. As David retires, we warmly welcome Nancy S. Maulsby as our Chairman. Nancy has ably served the Society in numerous capacities, including as an officer, trustee, committee chair, councilor, and patron. She brings many wonderful attributes to this important role, and we look forward to her increased board leadership as the Society continues to evolve.

Finally, we have much work ahead of us. We are preparing for major national and international commemorations in 2020 for the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower’s arrival (see page 13) and to advance our Cornerstone Project by the renovation of 97 Newbury Street in the coming years (see pages 14–15).

As you can see, your support of this Society makes great things happen. With your help, these strong positive trends will continue in the coming months and years. Please accept my heartfelt thanks to you, to members of our staff, volunteers, Board, Council, and to other friends as we advance our most worthy cause and tell the great story of our nation and her peoples. This work has an important impact on our national identity and in keeping our collective American heritage alive for centuries to come.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Brenton Simons
President and CEO
There is an innate yearning amongst people to know from where they come. Here at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, we give light to those opportunities that provide for discovery, understanding, and pleasure to all those who seek the knowledge and context of their heritage.

What we do, and what we help others to do, is uncover the histories — the stories — of people, their families, and their unique place in the human experience.

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

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

**Original scholarship:** We produce the most significant original research and important publications in genealogy, including, since 1847, the longest continually published academic journal in the field, the *Register*. In addition to the quarterly journal, we publish the quarterly magazine *American Ancestors*, the biannual *Mayflower Descendant* journal, twenty to thirty books per year, and a weekly electronic newsletter, *The Weekly Genealogist*. As the leader in genealogical scholarship, we also produce important study projects such as The Great Migration Study Project, an endeavor to create genealogical and biographical sketches of the some 20,000 individuals who arrived in New England between 1620 and 1640; The Early New England Families Study Project, 1641–1700, a successor study project to the Great Migration period; Families of Western Massachusetts in 1790, which captures families heading west at the time of the 1790 census; and the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784, which covers families that settled Vermont, the last frontier of New England.
World-class research center: We offer the largest collection of original family history research materials in the country. Our collection, which continues to grow through acquisition and preservation activities, dates from the fourteenth century to the present and spans North America, Europe, and beyond. It includes more than 28 million diaries, letters, photographs, and other manuscripts, and more than 200,000 books and microforms.

Award-winning website: We offer family history researchers the most-used genealogical society website in the world. AmericanAncestors.org provides access to more than 1.4 billion records spanning twenty-two countries covering the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond, including one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the largest collection of U.S. Catholic records online.

Education opportunities: We provide exclusive, in-depth learning opportunities through more than 100 annual lectures, seminars, intensive research programs, tours, online courses and webinars, and special events designed to benefit family history researchers of all levels.

For more than 172 years, we have been guided by a passion and a purpose that places people at the center of our work to advance history and connect families. Today, we continue to cultivate relationships to reflect excellence and diversity in family history, while abounding with an innovative spirit and a vibrant energy to be helpful, engaging, and inspiring to people everywhere who want to advance the understanding of these precious components of life: family and community.
For more than a decade, Brenton Simons, an award-winning historian and author, has led our organization in unprecedented growth and to its pivotal role in the widespread popular interest in genealogy today.

He recently spearheaded a $62+ million capital campaign for NEHGS and in 2017 launched two major initiatives: The Cornerstone Project, to expand the Society’s headquarters, and the organization’s Massachusetts 400 Commemorations through 2020. Brenton has been featured on CNN, FOX, and PBS, and in the New York Times. At annual NEHGS galas in Boston, he has presented family histories to distinguished guests including Ken Burns, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Doris Kearns Goodwin, Angela Lansbury, Cokie Roberts, David Hartman, and Bob Schieffer. Brenton’s most recent book, Boston Beheld: Antique Town and Country Views, was praised by historian Douglass Shand-Tucci as “the book Jane Austen might have written had she run into Charles Dickens after his return from his Boston visit of 1842.” For his first volume in a trilogy of Boston histories, Witches, Rakes, and Rogues: True Stories of Scam, Scandal, Murder, and Mayhem in Boston, 1630–1775, Simons received the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. In 2016 he received the Spirit of 1812 Award, with a special citation for excellence in non-profit leadership. He is a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, life member of the Colonial Society, a member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, the Club of Odd Volumes, the Somerset Club, a proprietor of The Boston Athenæum, and a board member of Plymouth 400 and The New England Quarterly.

A ten-year veteran of key management positions at NEHGS, Ryan J. Woods was promoted to Vice President and COO of our organization in 2013. In this role, he oversees all our day-to-day operations, including content and collection development, web services, publishing activities, research services, educational programming, financial operations, facilities management, and marketing strategies. Working closely with Brenton Simons to articulate the long-range goals for the institution and manage current business, our performance has blossomed in his tenure with substantial increases in earned revenue centers and massive growth in our total constituency. He has played a pivotal role developing and managing collaborations with commercial and nonprofit partners, including overseeing the recruitment of more than 1 billion searchable records to AmericanAncestors.org. Earlier roles here included developing and leading research tours and education programs, spearheading a business and technology initiative, and modernizing the services and scope of our research library.

Raised along Lake Champlain in Vermont, Ryan earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Boston University with concentrations in history education and program management. He has served in several key capacities at other Boston cultural and historical institutions, including the National Archives and Records Administration at the John F. Kennedy Presidential
Library and Museum. While at the Kennedy Library he was recognized by members of Congress and by the Archivist of the United States with a special commendation for outstanding achievement in public service. A licensed educator, he is the author of several education and genealogical articles and a frequent speaker at national conferences. Ryan serves on several nonprofit boards and committees, including as Chairman of the Committee on Heraldry, as a Director of the Seven and Eight Park Street Foundation, as a member of the Committee on Pretensions of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, as Secretary of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as Assistant Genealogist of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem–Priory of St. David of Wales, as a Governor of the Union Club of Boston, and immediate past-President of the Boston University School of Education Alumni Association. Ryan and his wife, Karen, are members of Plimoth Plantation and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

**EDWARD G. MACMAHON**

Since joining NEHGS in 2008, Ted MacMahon has helped implement philanthropic strategies that have resulted in historic fundraising gains for our organization. Utilizing twenty-five years of experience as a professional fundraiser and nonprofit leader, he helped to develop and expand a culture that provides compelling opportunities for constituents to invest in NEHGS. In 2012, he was promoted to his present executive role, including providing direction to our Member Services and Constituent Relations team, a unit central to unprecedented growth in our constituency. Ted oversaw all aspects of the Connecting Families. Advancing History Capital Campaign, which was completed in September 2016 with more than 25,000 gifts totaling $62.2 million, a tenfold increase over earlier efforts. As a result of the campaign, gift commitments were made to more than double our endowment, to redevelop and launch AmericanAncestors.org, acquire 97 Newbury Street, greatly expand collections and online databases, build a new garden/entranceway, construct a conservation laboratory, launch the Jewish Heritage Center, and quadruple annual giving.

Originally from Lincoln, Massachusetts, Ted attended the Belmont Hill School in Belmont, Massachusetts, before earning a bachelor of arts from St. Lawrence University and masters of science in Fundraising Management and Institutional Development from Lesley University. Serving on senior staff or as a Trustee, Ted has provided leadership to several prestigious institutions in Massachusetts, including the Home for Little Wanderers, the Head of the Charles Regatta, Belmont Hill School, the Fenn School, and the Harvard Conservation Trust. Elected by his peers, he served as the President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. During his tenure, Ted has greatly enjoyed exploring his family roots in New England, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.
NANCY S. MAULSBY
CHAIRMAN

Nancy S. Maulsby of Greenwich, Connecticut, is former Vice President of Corporate Communications and Protocol at Chase Manhattan Bank and co-founder of Development Unlimited, Inc., a provider of management services for not-for-profits. She has served on several boards of not-for-profits and educational organizations, including the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, the Buckley School, Grosvenor Neighborhood House, the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and Hartwick College. She is a member of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which supports the international humanitarian endeavors of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. While living in Greenwich, Connecticut, she was actively involved with Christ Church Greenwich, having served on its vestry and in the Junior and Senior Warden positions. Nancy is the immediate past Vice Chairman of NEHGS, a past Trustee and past Councilor, has served on the Strategic Planning Committee, is the immediate past Chair of the Development Committee, and is currently Co-Chair of the Future Expansion Committee and a member of the Executive, Human Resources, and Garden Advisory Committees. She has been a member of NEHGS since 2002, a Life Member since 2009, and is a member of the Founders’ Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving. She is presently working on a genealogy of the Sands and Van Volkenburgh families for publication in 2018.

CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD, 1845–PRESENT*

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<td>William Armstrong</td>
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<td>Theodore Chase</td>
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*Prior to 2006, the Chairman of the Board was titled “President.”
STEPHEN H. CASE  
VICE CHAIRMAN

Stephen H. Case of New York, New York, is Managing Director and General Counsel of Emerald Development Managers LP, Vice Chairman of the Museum of the American Revolution, a retired Partner of Davis Polk & Wardwell, a former Chairman of the Board, Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation), and a Trustee Emeritus of Columbia University, New York Presbyterian Hospital, and Glimmerglass Opera Company. He is the co-author of Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold’s Plot to Betray America (2012). Having joined NEHGS in 2007, he is a past Trustee and Councilor, serves on the Executive and Development Committees, and is a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving.

BILL GRIFFETH  
TREASURER

Bill Griffeth of Park Ridge, New Jersey, is a veteran financial journalist who has been covering Wall Street on television since 1981. He currently co-anchors CNBC’s Closing Bell each weekday from the New York Stock Exchange. He has been nominated for six Cable ACE awards, including Best News Anchor, and one Emmy for the CNBC documentary Game On! In 2001 he was the recipient of the National Association of Investors’ Distinguished Service Award in Investor Education. Bill is the author of By Faith Alone: One Family’s Epic Journey Through American Protestantism, Ten Steps to Financial Prosperity, The Mutual Fund Masters, and The Stranger in My Genes, and he has contributed articles to American Ancestors magazine. He is a past NEHGS Trustee and Councilor, current Chair of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Executive, Investment, and Development Committees. He has been a member of the Society since 2005, a Benefactor member since 2016, and has emceed our Family History Benefit Dinners for several years.

NANCY CLAY WEBSTER  
SECRETARY

Nancy Clay Webster of Omaha, Nebraska, is a past member of the Joslyn Art Museum’s Board of Governors and its Executive Committee, and is a past president of the Joslyn Art Museum Association. She has served on the boards of the Brownell Talbot School, Salvation Army, American Lung Association, Omaha Symphony Guild, Children’s Hospital Guild, Ronald McDonald House, Omaha Public Library, and Webster Family Foundation. She is a past NEHGS Trustee and past Councilor; a member of the Executive, Development and Future Expansion Committees; a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving; and has been a Life Member since 2013, having joined the Society in 1990.
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Vice Chairman
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Stephanie Jones Martineau
George Marshall Moriarty
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Deborah Campbell Hale
Beverly M. Hector-Smith
Robert F. Hendrickson
Joseph Swan Junkin
J. Phillip London
John C. MacKeen
Jocelyne McCall
Ailsie Baker McEnteggart
Mark Kimball Nichols
Robert Russell Perry
Karen Lynne Pogoloff
Patricia R. Reed
Eric B. Schultz
Jack L. White

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Judith Avery
Richard H. Benson
John G. L. Cabot
William M. Crozier, Jr.
Abbott Lowell Cummings
Allis Ferguson Edelman
William M. Fowler, Jr.
Judith Huber Halseth
Virginia M. Hamister

Kenneth E. Haughton
James T. Larkin
John A. Moore
Frank C. Ripley
Merrwether C. Schmid
Alvy Ray Smith
Robert C. Stevens
John Lowell Thorndike
Helen Schatvet Ullmann

HONORARY TRUSTEES EMERITI
Ralph J. Crandall
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Priscilla C. Greenlees

Beverly Haughton
George Putnam
The story of the Pilgrims and the native people of the Wampanoag Nation is no less than the story of the founding of America.

The creation of the New England Historic Genealogical Society as the first genealogical organization in the world has allowed for countless millions of people to explore their heritage in ways not possible elsewhere and as a result, our work has forever influenced the way people see history and themselves.

Beginning in 2017 and continuing through 2020, we will engage in a series of programs, publications, exhibitions, and tours that will touch on the key themes of exploration, innovation, religious freedom, self-governance, immigration, and Thanksgiving as we commemorate the enduring legacies of a country and an institution.

Specific activities will include 400th anniversary tours with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and Plimoth Planation to places of historical and cultural importance. The first of three tours in our series Pilgrim Pathways: Celebrating 400 Years of History and Heritage Since the Mayflower Crossing will be a 2018 tour to Scrooby Manor and environs led by Robert Charles Anderson, where we will follow the paths of William Bradford, William Brewster, and others in the important years leading up to the decision to leave England. The second tour in the series will be a 2019 visit to the Netherlands, where we will explore Leiden, the Leiden congregation, Delft, and Amsterdam to gain an understanding of Pilgrim life before the voyage to the New World. The third tour of the series will bring us to the south of England to see Plymouth, Southampton, London, Sandwich, and Canterbury to illuminate the moments before the launch of the Mayflower and the journey that would change the world.

Planning for domestic tours is also underway as Plymouth and Massachusetts are foundational to American history and genealogy.

During the commemorations, we will be proud to host a ground-breaking exhibition: “Our Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History,” which will be an essential educational resource for telling an often passed over part of early American history. The exhibit teaches that the Pilgrims did not, of course, arrive in a New World devoid of people or culture. They arrived in the Wampanoag Nation. Amongst other key aspects of Wampanoag history, visitors will learn of the kidnappings and enslavement of Wampanoag people by Europeans in the years prior to 1620; the messenger runners who carried news throughout the nation, often traveling up to ninety miles per day by foot; and visitors will see some of the devastating effects of the European-brought plague that wiped out up to 90% of the Wampanoag people in a two year span.

Understanding the triumphs and tragedies of life in New England in the seventeenth century is vital to understanding the birth of the nation.

New scholarship will also emerge from our commemorations; four new books from the Great Migration Study Project are in the works—a narrative history of the period: Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England, and three research compendia: The East Anglian Migration, The West Country Migration, and The Mayflower Migration.

We are proud to hold leadership positions in the national and international planning and execution of commemoration activities for 2020 with Brenton Simons serving on the Board of Directors of Plymouth 400, the lead organization charged with 400th anniversary events, and many other members of the staff are participating with key partners to make 2020 a success.

Our institution is well poised to be at the forefront of our country’s celebrations and remembrance because as the first institution dedicated to genealogy, we are the nation’s collective memory and we serve a broad and diverse audience by educating, inspiring, and connecting people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

Mayflower Illustration courtesy of Ashley Turner. www.onnedesign.com
The Cornerstone Project at 97 Newbury Street

In April 2013, NEHGS approved a strategic plan that called for communicating “our compelling and clearly articulated purpose that places people first and explains why what we do is important.” The plan continues, “We will express ourselves effectively to national and international audiences through a greatly enriched website, AmericanAncestors.org, and an enhanced range of personalized services provided at our expanded headquarters… The expanded space will allow us to reach out to a broader audience of local visitors and tourists.”

The vision for expanded facilities began to be realized in 2012 with an agreement to purchase the four-story 1874 brownstone next door at 97 Newbury Street. The initial funds for acquiring the building were raised during the final stages of the Connecting Families. Advancing History – A National Campaign for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, which concluded in September 2016. Working with the renowned Boston architectural firm, Schwartz/Silver, NEHGS is now moving forward with planning for the ways in which 97 Newbury can be renovated and expanded to serve individuals and families by offering compelling experiences that will educate, inspire, and connect them to NEHGS through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

The goal of architectural planning is to encourage larger audiences of diverse backgrounds and varying ages to become involved in researching and understanding their heritage by creating, at 97 Newbury, a set of inviting spaces that are people-centric, focused on direct and personal interactions with members and the public:

A new, open, and welcoming PUBLIC ENTRANCE to our headquarters that will invite visitors to enter an intimate retail space and encourage further engagement with other experiences in the building.

A street-level MUSEUM SHOP offering family history resources and gifts from NEHGS and other collaborating nonprofit organizations.

An engaging, high-tech DISCOVERY CENTER where visitors of all ages can experience family history and explore the stories of four centuries of immigration to America through interactive museum installations and smart technology platforms, including a groundbreaking exhibit on DNA and genetics.

A state-of-the-art LEARNING CENTER with expanded programming for younger people and more diverse communities, and with quiet study spaces and flexible classrooms equipped for the production and broadcasting of seminars and webinars on family history.

A COLLABORATION CENTER with offices for the newly launched Jewish Heritage Center (a collaboration with the American Jewish Historical Society) and similar groundbreaking research centers (e.g., African-American, Irish, etc.) and collaborative initiatives (e.g., DNA screening) that will enable us to reach broader, previously underserved audiences.

We look forward to keeping our members apprised of this exciting development as it progresses in the years ahead. If you would like more information about the Cornerstone Project at 97 Newbury Street, including its naming opportunities, please contact Ted MacMahon, Vice President, at tmacmahon@nehgs.org or 617-226-1218.
THE CORNERSTONE SOCIETY

Judith Avery
Helen H. Berkeley
Nordahl and Suzanne Brue
Stephen H. Case
Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman
Thomas Bailey Hagen
John F. Keane
David W. Kruger
Andrew P. Langlois
Jo Anne Makely
William R. Marsh, M.D.
Nancy S. Maulsby
Carol R. McGee
Peck Stacpoole Foundation
The Arnold Garrison Foundation
Wallace Stedman Wilson
Nancy Clay Webster
Anonymous (4)

**Bold** indicates new members of the Cornerstone Society.
### SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS OF YEAR-END AUGUST 31, 2016

#### BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$49,268,007</td>
<td>$49,078,871</td>
<td>$52,211,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
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<td>$43,610,424</td>
<td>$46,395,944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</td>
<td>$49,268,007</td>
<td>$49,078,871</td>
<td>$52,211,328</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OPERATING FINANCIAL STATEMENT^ SEPTEMBER 1, 2015–AUGUST 31, 2016

#### REVENUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Return Designated for Operations^b</td>
<td>$1,480,732</td>
<td>$1,501,521</td>
<td>$1,306,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income from Operations</td>
<td>$4,292,073</td>
<td>$4,069,941</td>
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<td>Contributed Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
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#### EXPENSES

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<th>FY16</th>
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<th>FY14</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Services</td>
<td>$805,009</td>
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<td>Research Library</td>
<td>$2,599,673</td>
<td>$2,268,674</td>
<td>$2,094,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tours and Seminars</td>
<td>$800,620</td>
<td>$921,031</td>
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<td>Retail Store</td>
<td>$237,625</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
<td>$1,507,094</td>
<td>$1,379,769</td>
<td>$1,353,449</td>
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<td>Website</td>
<td>$1,298,401</td>
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<td>$1,083,279</td>
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<td>General and Administrative</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>$7,791,798</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY15</th>
<th>FY14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Income from Operations</td>
<td>-$6,858</td>
<td>-$439,302</td>
<td>-$364,047</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endowment Assets^cd</td>
<td>$19,937,475</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain/(Loss) on Investments^d</td>
<td>$1,302,936</td>
<td>-$724,570</td>
<td>$3,047,207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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a. This financial statement represents the general operating activities for New England Historic Genealogical Society only. Other non-operating activity, including realized and unrealized gains on restricted assets, can be found within the audited financial statements.
b. “Investment Return Designated for Operations” represent capital campaign, endowment funds and additional Family History funds approved by the Board of Trustees to support annual operations and implement capital campaign components. The annual draw is based on appropriating 4.45% of the preceding twelve quarter fair market value of the investments. The released Family History board designated funds amounted to $675,000 in FY16; $650,000 in FY15; and $550,000 in FY14.
c. Excludes beneficial interest in pooled income funds and charitable gift annuities.
d. FY15 was an anomaly: poor market performance, net asset adjustment for bequests, and release of campaign funds.
Revenue

- INCOME FROM OPERATIONS: 47%
- INVESTMENT RETURN DESIGNATED FOR OPERATIONS: 16%
- CONTRIBUTED INCOME: 37%

Expenses

- RESEARCH LIBRARY: 29%
- MEMBERSHIP SERVICES: 9%
- GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE: 13%
- WEBSITE: 14%
- PUBLICATIONS: 17%
- TOURS AND SEMINARS: 9%
- RETAIL STORE: 3%
- FUNDRAISING: 7%
We gratefully acknowledge the following members and donors for making it possible for us to advance the study of family history in America and beyond.

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

R. Stanton Avery*
The R. Stanton Avery Foundation
BayTree Fund
Ruth Chauncey Bishop*
John B. Black*
John G. L. Cabot
Laurence E. Crofutt*
Fidelity Charitable
Waldo C. Friedland*
Virginia M. Hamister
Kenneth and Beverly Haughton
Carolyn* and Peter Lynch
Nancy S. Mualsby
L. Ted and Alice R.* Sloane
Robert G. Shaw
Vivian B. Treat
Wallace S. and Isobel B.* Wilson
Anonymous (1)

*Bold indicates new members of the Founders’ Society.
*Deceased

The John Quincy Adams Society
This Society is named in honor of John Quincy Adams, a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1845. It recognizes the generosity of individuals who have made cumulative gifts of $500,000 to $999,999 in their lifetimes.

Robert O. F. Bixby*
David and Holly Bruce
Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman
Constance Wadley Fuller*
Albert H. Gordon*
Ernest Henderson, III*
John F. Keane
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin M. Knights, Jr.
David W. Kruger
Robert L. Massard*
Bruce F. and Diane M. Roubaud
Meriwether C. Schmid
Dean* and Roberta* Smith
Ethel Farrington Smith*
Robert M. Stone
Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange*
Anonymous (1)

*Bold indicates new members of the John Quincy Adams Society.
*Deceased
The Charles Ewer Society

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

Rosalind Case Avrett*
Gwedolyn Garland Babcock
Bruce R. Bartlett
Richard and Sue Benson
William Bentinck-Smith*
Helen H. Berkeley
Shirley P. Bickel
Eloise Bishop*
Herbert J. Boothroyd
Mrs. Henry G. Bradlee, Jr.*
Yvonna E. Brewer*
H. Day Brigham, Jr.*
Barbara J. Brown*
William Bentinck-Smith*
Helen H. Berkeley
Shirley P. Bickel
Eloise Bishop*
Herbert J. Boothroyd
Mrs. Henry G. Bradlee, Jr.*
Yvonna E. Brewer*
H. Day Brigham, Jr.*
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North and Suzanne Brue
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Marsh and Missy Carter
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Hollbrook R. Davis
Darthea S. diZerega*
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Ann Margaret Flanders*
John M. Fleming
Brandon Fradd
Churchill and Janet Franklin
Muriel T. French*
Leigh Maxfield Gelser
Thomas Putman and
Judith Eyres Goodwin
Ruth Gray
Priscilla C. Greenlees
Nancy S. and Alfred W. Guenther Thomas Bailey Hagen
Deborah Campbell Hale
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Dana A. Hamel
Robert F. Hendrickson
Marlan S. Henry
Katharine W. Hiam*
Elysabeth C.B. Higgins*
Seth P. Holcombe*
Robert B. Holmes*
Priscilla* and Gustavus* Ide
Natalie Jaquith*
Francis R. Jenne*
Robert A. Jones*
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Tabitha King
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Virginia Whitman Koster
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Margery H. Webb
Nancy Clay Webster
Warren Brinson Weeks, Jr.
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Judith Williston, Ph.D.
Mary Ellen Wright
Helen L. Wright
Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.
Anonymous (9)

Bold indicates new members of the Charles Ewer Society.
*Deceased
The Daniel Webster Society

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

- Cabot Family Charitable Trust
- Caroline Blanton Thayer Charitable Trust
- City of Quincy
- Compaq
- D.A. Hamel Family Charitable Trust
- Fidelity Foundation
- Hawk Rock Foundation
- Highland Street Foundation
- IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program
- Institute of Museum and Library Services
- Joseph and Rae Gann Charitable Foundation
- Kresge Foundation
- KSD Foundation
- Massachusetts Cultural Council
- Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati
- Mays Family Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Peck Stacpoole Foundation
- Robert and Phebe Collins Trust
- Sarracenia Foundation, Inc.
- Schwab Charitable Fund
- Symonds Foundation
- Talbert and Leota Abrams Foundation
- Thaxter P. Spencer Trust
- The Arnold Garrison Foundation
- The Boston Foundation
- The Figgie Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.
- The Lynch Foundation
- The Oxford League, Inc.
- Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program
- Wells Fargo
- West Charitable Foundation
- William E. Robinson Foundation
- Yawkey Foundation

The Dr. Henry Bond Heritage Society

The Dr. Henry Bond Heritage Society recognizes those donors who have invested in the future of NEHGS through their estate plans. It is named for Dr. Henry Bond, a preeminent genealogist known for his work on the history of Watertown, Massachusetts, and who left NEHGS its first bequest in 1859.

- Elain Noyes Abelson
- Robert L. Akin
- Janet Alpert
- Joseph and Philippa Anderson
- Claire M. Anderson
- George Archer
- Thomas D. Arnold
- Ralph H. Bacon*
- Janet L. Bailey
- Marcia J. Band
- Shirley M. Barnes
- Eleanor H. Barrett*
- Herbert E. Barrett
- Lillian E. Batchelder
- Virginia Batchelder
- Billie C. Beatty
- Jean Harvie Beatty
- John B. Black*
- Barbara Y. Bodden
- A. Margaret Bok
- Herbert J. Boothroyd
- James Rollinson Boulden
- Frederick R. Boyle
- Carl and Barbara Brage
- Jeanne B. Bratton
- Anna Brown
- Juanita M. Bryan
- Mary Z. Bryant
- Shirley V. Burton*
- Jane Butler Shuler
- Sara Stewart Champion
- Dana B. Cobb
- Wayne A. Coleman
- Lelah E. Crockett
- Thomas R. Crowley
- Abbott Lowell Cummings
- Barbara L. de Mare
- James G. Dempsey
- Robert E. Dempster
- Anne Hood Denny*
- Stuart Drake
- Marilyn R. Drury
- David W. Dumas
- James I. Dwinell
- Kathleen Carroll Earshaw
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- Leigh Maxfield Gelser
- Arthur and Helen Geoffrion
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- Susan A. Gillette
- Roger Gorham
- David C. L. Gosling*
- Marjorie D. Goss*
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- Ruth Gray
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- Bett Houston
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Jane Knowles Lindsey
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Edward G. MacMahon
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Marianne* and Charles* McDemmon
Liddell Sandra McDougall
Mary Ellen Miller
Barbara and John Moore
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Nancy Woodard Nakamura
Lee Nettnin
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Edna L. Roberts
Robert H. Rodgers
Oma L. Rose
Bruce F. and Diane M. Roubaud
Holly Margaret Rubin
Caroline S. Ruda
Lawrence A. Ruttman, Esquire
Jeanne Patricia Morrison Schlitters
Meriwether C. Schmid
Eric and Susan Schultz
James M. Seeley*
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D. Brenton Simons
Susan P. Sloan
L. Ted and Alice R.* Sloane
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Gregory Bell Smith
Grace Bliss Smith, Ph.D.
Marilyn V. Snodgrass*
Barbara and Darrell Sorenson
Lionel and Vivian Spiro
Nancy Fowlie Spooner
James C. Staples*
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William C. Sullivan
Anne Stearns Tanner
James H. Tenney
Anson Joseph Thurston, Jr.
Vivian B. Treat
Kathleen Roe Trevena
Delinda Bryan Trowbridge
James E. Turner
Kathleen Van Derrmack, M.D.
Anne Louise Clap Van Nosrand
Patricia Warden
Judith A. Watson
Linda Wensrich
Emily N. Wharton
Jack L. and Rhoda L. White
Edward B. Wilber
Cynthia Cook Winterhalter
Muriel Winterscheid
Ryan J. and Karen K. Woods
Anonymous (11)

Bold indicates members of the Ashburnon Circle, named for the site of NEHGS’s first permanent home, who have given an irrevocable gift to the Society.

*Deceased
The Benjamin Franklin Society

The Benjamin Franklin Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who donated materials to our archives, including the R. Stanton Avery Collection, and made a gift of $10,000 or more to support its long-term care. In 1856, NEHGS participated in the construction of a statue in Boston commemorating Benjamin Franklin, who recounted his family history in his famous autobiography.

Thomas H. Adams, III
Rodney Armstrong
William and Patricia Austin
Gwedolyn Garland Babcock
Carol Macomber Bartz
Marjorie Gahan Beardsley
Shirley P. Bickel
Jane Blinn*
A. Margaret Bok
Juanita M. Bryan
Mary Z. Bryant
Marshalee Wood Douty
William D. Carr
Marian P. Congdon
Francis and Barbara* de Marneffe
Natalie Brooks Friendly*
Gail M. Gaustad
Benjamin H. Gaylord*

Albert H. Gordon*
Ada Yates Harris*
Roger Bruce Johnson
Peter Haring Judd
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Patricia P. MacFarland
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Robert L. Massard*
Lois M. McNamara*
Nancy A. Mekie
Mrs. Albert Moorman
Arthur* and Judith Obermayer
Marian E. Ovington*
Dr. James Rabb
Richard H. Rhoads
Oma L. Rose
Bruce F. and Diane M. Roubaud
Richard and Lucy Sallick

Betty Sutton Shelhamer
Ellen C. L. Simmons
Marjorie P. Snelling
Elliot Snider
Stanley and Mary Ann Snider
Thaxter P. Spencer*
Robert I. Sperber*
Lionel Spiro
James C. Staples*
Ray Watkin Hoagland Strange*
Delinda Bryan Trowbridge
Susan Finlay Watkins
James H. Wick
Justin and Genevieve Wyner
Anonymous (1)

*Deceased
September 2016 marked the close of our historic Connecting Families. Advancing History Capital Campaign. An unprecedented $62,219,472 was contributed with 25,239 gifts from our loyal membership. We thank you, again, one and all, especially our volunteer campaign leadership, including Eric Schultz, Judy Avery, John Cabot, and Nancy Maulsby. As has been detailed in subsequent reports, some of the many transformative outcomes were:

- The recruitment of significant funds earmarked for our endowment
- The successful purchase of our new annex at 97 Newbury Street at a bargain price
- Acquisition of the tools to help us dramatically grow our total membership to over 226,000 individuals
- Investments in award-winning scholarship covering multiple regions and time periods
- The development of a fully revamped and twice award-winning AmericanAncestors.org with more than 1.4 billion records
- Numerous capital improvements to our headquarters, including an all-new HVAC system, a state-of-the-art conservation laboratory, more office space, and an award-winning entryway design
- The introduction of our Jewish Heritage Center with the New England Archives of the American Jewish Historical Society as its cornerstone

Our internal culture has evolved and been professionalized in many meaningful ways, and we continue to make serving people our chief priority. These are just a few of our numerous campaign accomplishments.
WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE LEADERSHIP DONORS OF $100,000 OR MORE LISTED BELOW.

Janet Alpert
Judith Avery
Janet L. Bailey
Bruce R. Bartlett
BayTree Fund
Helen H. Berkeley
Ruth Chauncey Bishop*
Eloise Bishop*
Robert O. F. Bixby*
John B. Black*
Herbert J. Boothroyd
Yvonna E. Brewer*
H. Day Brigham, Jr. *
David and Holly Bruce
Nordahl and Suzanne Brue
John G. L. Cabot
Marsh and Missy Carter
Stephen H. Case
Laurence E. Crofutt*
Thomas R. Crowley
William M. Crozier, Jr.
Holbrook R. Davis
Barbara L. de Mare
Anne Hood Denny
James N. Favor
Fidelity Charitable
John M. Fleming
Churchill and Janet Franklin
Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman
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Anonymous (10)
*Deceased
During Fiscal Year 2016, NEHGS received 2,145 gifts totaling $2,814,364 to support current programs.

William Howard Taft Circle, $25,000+

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

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Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS’s Special Projects or Family History Fund.
*Deceased
Grace Goodhue Coolidge Circle,  
$10,000 to $24,999

First Lady of the United States from 1923 to 1929 and a champion of the deaf, Grace Goodhue Coolidge was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1935, the first of many American First Ladies to be so honored.

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Anonymous (1)

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*Deceased

William E. Gladstone Circle, 
$5,000 to $9,999

Consistently ranked as one of Britain’s greatest Prime Ministers, William E. Gladstone served in the office four times, the most of any person. He was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1884.

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Anonymous (2)

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*Deceased
Henry Clay Circle, $2,500 to $4,999

One of the great figures of 19th-century American politics, Henry Clay was a member of the United States Senate, a three-time Speaker of the House of Representatives, Secretary of State, and a presidential candidate in 1824, 1832 and 1844. He was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1847.

Luella P. Bartes
Paul C. Bartlett, Ph.D.
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Howard Cox
Eastern Bank
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Madeleine R. Gleason*
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Morrison DeS. Webb
William W. Treat Foundation
Candace Wilmot
Anonymous (2)

*Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS's Special Projects or Family History Fund.

Washington Irving Circle,
$1,000 to $2,499

The prolific American author and Minister to Spain, who is best known for “Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” Irving was elected to membership in the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1847.

Thomas H. Adams, III
Virginia Smith Alexander
Madeline M. Allen
Amica Mutual Insurance
B. Jane Anderson
Donald G. Armstrong
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Janet L. Bailey
Mary Anne Nyburg Baker
A.L. Ballard
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Tamarack Foundation

*Deceased
Harrison Gray Otis Circle, $500 to $999

A successful Boston businessman, Otis was a member of the House of Representatives (1797–1801), the United States Senate (1817–1822), and Mayor of Boston (1829–1831), and was elected a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1846.
Honorary Members

Baroness Blackstone  
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President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter  
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Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz  
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Harry Connick, Jr.  
Ellen DeGeneres  
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*Deceased
Memorial Gifts
$250 and above

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Honorary Gifts
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John and Nancy Webster
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Arthur Wood
Rusty and Jody Wood

Gifts herein were made between September 1, 2015, and August 31, 2016, unless otherwise specified. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy in this Annual Report. We apologize for any inadvertent error. Please notify Danielle Torres at 617-226-1215 or danielle.torres@nehgs.org to report any corrections.
### New Life Benefactors ($6,000)

Sarah E. Gunderson  
Gretchen E. Johnsen  
Pamela Jane Pescosolido  
Donella J. K. Spencer  
Anne Louise Clap Van Nostrand

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

Katherine L. Blair  

*On July 1, 2016 Life Membership rates increased from $3,000 to $5,000 and Life Benefactor rates increased from $6,000 to $7,500.

### New Life Members ($3,000)

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ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

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Elizabeth A. Watson  
Alexander and Laura Webb  
Raymond Butler Weiss  
Diana Wild  
Michael and Gail Wise  
Barbara Zino  
Anonymous (3)
The following databases were added to AmericanAncestors.org during Fiscal Year 2016:

- Early New England Families, 1641–1700 (9 new sketches)
- Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 (73 new sketches)
- Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 (42 new sketches)
- Western Massachusetts: Jewish Cemeteries of Western Massachusetts
- Worcester County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1731–1881
- The American Genealogist (Volumes 83 & 84)
- The Essex Genealogist (Volumes 28–30)
- Essex County, MA: Early Probate Records, 1635–1681
- The Maine Genealogist (Volume 32)
- New York Evening Post: Death Notices, 1801–1890
- The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (Volume 169)
- American Ancestors magazine 2015 (Volume 16)
- New Hampshire Gazette: Newspaper Abstracts, 1756–1769
- Norfolk County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1793–1890
- Brooksville, ME: Vital Records, 1762–1890
- Farmington, ME: Vital Records, 1784–1890
- Gov. John Winthrop Papers, Vol. 1–5, 1557 to 1649
- North American Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections
- Family Registers by Richard Brunton
- Hampshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1660–1858
- Chatham and Harwich, MA Vital Records
NEHGS/FamilySearch.org partnership databases

- Indiana, Births and Christenings, 1773–1933
- Indiana, Marriages, 1780–1992
- Iowa, Deaths and Burials, 1850–1990
- Iowa, Marriages, 1809–1992
- Norway Burials, 1666–1927
- Norway Census, 1875
- Norway, Baptisms, 1634–1927
- Norway, Marriages, 1660–1926
- Sweden Burials, 1649–1920
- Sweden, Baptisms, 1611–1920
- Sweden, Marriages, 1630–1920
- Costa Rica, Baptisms, 1700–1915
- Costa Rica, Deaths, 1787–1900
- Costa Rica, Marriages, 1750–1920
- Denmark, Baptisms, 1618–1923
- Denmark Burials, 1640–1917
- Denmark, Marriages, 1635–1916
- Finland, Baptisms, 1657–1890
- Finland Burials, 1725–1909
- Finland, Marriages, 1682–1892
- Germany, Births and Baptisms, 1558–1898
- Germany Deaths and Burials, 1582–1958
- Germany, Marriages, 1558–1929
- United States 1900 Census
- United States 1910 Census
- Guatemala Deaths, 1760–1880
- Guatemala, Baptisms, 1730–1917
- Guatemala, Guatemala, Ciudad de Guatemala, Censo, 1827
- Guatemala, Marriages, 1750–1930
- South Africa, Dutch Reformed Church Registers, 1660–1970
- South Africa, Free State Dutch Reformed Church Records, 1848–1956
- Germany, Baden, Church Book Duplicates, 1810–1869
- Germany, Prussia, Brandenburg and Posen, Church Book Duplicates, 1794–1874
- Germany, Mecklenburg–Schwerin Census, 1890
- Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin Census, 1900
- Germany, Westfalen, Minden Citizen Lists, 1574–1902
- United States 1920 Census
- Wales Deaths and Burials, 1586–1885
- Barbados: Baptisms, 1739–1891
- Barbados: Burials, 1854–1885
- Barbados: Marriages, 1854–1879
- Alabama, Marriages, 1816–1957
- Dominican Republic Baptisms, 1726–1924
- Dominican Republic Marriages, 1743–1929
- Dominican Republic Deaths, 1666–1862
- North Carolina, Deaths, 1931–1994
- Caribbean, Births and Baptisms, 1590–1928
- Caribbean, Marriages, 1591–1905
- Caribbean Deaths and Burials, 1790–1906
The project spans parish records from 1789 to 1900, a period of significant growth for the Catholic Church in Boston and surrounding towns. The records to be digitized predate the founding of the first Catholic Church in Boston. They document several sacraments of the Catholic Church, including baptism, confirmation, Holy Communion, marriage, holy orders, and the anointing of the sick.

These historic records contain detailed information about the Catholic parishioners of greater Boston, their relationships with each other, their church, and their community. Historians, genealogists, scholars, and the public at large will now have online access to unique data from the Catholic Church’s earliest founding in Boston.

“The Archdiocese of Boston and New England Historic Genealogical Society understand the significance of these records for Catholics, but also for historians and researchers of all backgrounds,” said Cardinal Seán P. O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston. “We are grateful for this opportunity to preserve these records for future generations.” The Cardinal also noted that the collaboration will provide indispensable assistance to Catholics by consolidating resources and providing a breadth of information unavailable elsewhere.

NEHGS CEO Brenton Simons called the project “a unique opportunity to provide the world with a fascinating and historically important set of records about Boston’s Catholic community.”

Learn more about the project, and explore the history of Catholic parishes in Boston, at CatholicRecords.AmericanAncestors.org.
Finding Your Roots

NEHGS is proud to be the anchor filming location for a fourth season of the hit PBS TV series Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Since 2013 NEHGS Researchers have partnered with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., to co-write over 150 weekly articles to date for TheRoot.com about African-American genealogy, helping people trace their ancestors. Our researchers provide the nuts and bolts of the genealogical research, looking to solve a specific ancestry question asked by a reader, while Dr. Gates provides historical context, and lends expertise on DNA testing and the history of slavery. These well-read articles receive on average 1,000 views per week.

NEHGS RESEARCHERS AND CO-AUTHORS

Nancy Bernard
Katrina Fahy
Lindsay Fulton
Zachary Garceau
Kyle Hurst
Andrew Krea
Eileen Pironti
Meaghan Siekman
Daniel Sousa
Julie Wilmot

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on NEHGS:

“… the greatest genealogical society in the world is the New England Historic Genealogical Society. And the warm welcome that you gave me from my first approach, the level of sophistication among your researchers, your professional genealogists, the lovely building! The building is a work of art. It’s just the perfect combination.”

From a reader of The Root:

“I am just floored by all the information you and your team and Dr. Gates were able to find about my family history! You are all amazing people! … What a fun and fulfilling job this must be for you, helping people find answers to their history. You and everybody involved are amazing and I am eternally grateful to you all!”
Marie E. Daly and Judith Lucey’s long-awaited Genealogist’s Handbook for Irish Research was published in the summer of 2016 and has joined Bob Anderson’s The Great Migration Directory and Elements of Genealogical Analysis on our list of top sellers. Commonly referred to as the “Irish guide,” the book was hailed by FamilySearch’s David Rencher as “The first real methodology book for identifying your Irish ancestors in America.” John Grenham, author of Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, called it “the best book ever written on how to research Irish-American ancestors.” Our NEHGS experts’ step-by-step approach and real-life examples have made this book a must-have for every genealogist with Irish forebears.

NEHGS Treasurer Bill Griffeth is a respected financial journalist, co-anchor of CNBC’s Closing Bell, and a longtime family historian. His memoir, The Stranger in My Genes, takes readers along on a journey that began with a DNA test Bill took in the name of genealogical research and led to his rediscovering what “family” really means. Bill’s courageous personal account, published at the end of summer 2016, quickly surpassed sales of any other title that NEHGS has ever published. Bill’s book is also our first to come out in an e-book format.

James Savage’s A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England is the first “democratic” genealogical dictionary of New England settlers. Originally published between 1860 and 1862, it has been a crucial resource for American genealogists for more than 150 years. This “Experts’ Choice” reprint includes a foreword by Gary Boyd Roberts and an all-new by-volume supplemental index that covers males as well as females. The four-volume set also became one of our best-selling titles this year.

A SEASON OF CHANGE

On June 10, 2016—almost ten years to the day that she started—Penny Stratton retired from her position as Publishing Director. Friends and colleagues celebrated her contributions with a tea in the Treat Rotunda. In addition to producing more than 65 books during her tenure, Penny helped launch our series of very successful Portable Genealogist reference guides and “Experts’ Choice” reprints of genealogical classics. She is author of several Portable Genealogists and co-author (with Register editor Henry Hoff) of our very popular Guide to Genealogical Writing. Penny received the Jefferson Cup for extraordinary service at our 2015 Annual Meeting. Penny will continue to work on select projects as a freelancer and appear at events on behalf of the society as Publishing Director Emerita. Formerly the Assistant Publishing Director, Sharon Inglis has moved to the Publishing Director role.
New Publications

- Ancestral Lines: From Maine to North Carolina by Carl Boyer 3rd
- Ancestry of Micajah Stokes Stude and Lucy Agatha Binyon by Patricia Law Hatcher and Kelvin L. Meyers
- Early New England Families, 1641–1700, Volume 1 (paperback) by Alicia Crane Williams
- Genealogist’s Handbook for Irish Research by Marie E. Daly with Judith Lucey
- The Great Migration, Volumes I–VII (paperback) by Robert Charles Anderson
- The Scotts of Pittsburgh by Chip Rowe
- The Stranger in My Genes by Bill Griffeth
- Western Massachusetts Families in 1790, Volume 2 by Helen Schatvet Ullmann

REPRINTS OF GENEALOGICAL CLASSICS

- A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England by James Savage, foreword by Gary Boyd Roberts

PORTABLE GENEALOGISTS

- Compiling a Bibliography by Kyle Hurst
- Rhode Island State Census by Zachary Garceau
- Using the Federal Census: 1790–1840 by Lindsay Fulton
- Using the Federal Census: 1850–1940 by Lindsay Fulton

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

- Ancestors of Nathaniel Philbrick by David Allen Lambert
- Ancestors of Bob Schieffer by Rhonda R. McClure
- Ancestors of David Hartman by Rhonda R. McClure with Andrew Krea

NEWBURY STREET PRESS TITLES UNDERTAKEN

- Ancestors and Descendants of John Shepherd and Emilie Beaumont
- Ancestors of Anna Louise Worrell and William Harvey Lawshe
- Ancestors of Leonard Harold Walker DeBernardi and Judith Elaine Ontko
- Ancestors of Stephen King and Tabitha Spruce King
- The Goodwins of New England and Nova Scotia and Allied Families
A History of Stepfamilies in Early America
September 2, 2015
Minning the Treasures in Newspapers
September 4, 2015
Paper Love
September 9, 2015
Guild of One Name Studies workshop
September 24–25, 2015
Daisy Turner’s Kin
September 30, 2015
Great Migration:
By Sea and By Land
September 4–16, 2015
Welcome to NEHGS Open House
October 2, 2015
Family History Day
October 3, 2015
Fall Research Getaway
October 15–17, 2015
Home Movie Day
October 17, 2015
Salt Lake City Research Tour
October 25–November 1, 2015
Book Event: Paul Zoll
October 28, 2015
Stirring Up the Past: Puritan Beliefs About Food
November 4, 2015
Mapping Your Ancestors
November 6, 2015
Taking Your Family History Hobby to the Next Level
November 14, 2015
Genealogical Resources at the Boston Public Library
December 4, 2015
Family Day at NEHGS
December 5, 2015
Getting Started in Genealogy
January 16, 23, and 30, 2016
Jewish Genetic Genealogy: A Study in Endogamy
January 27, 2016
RUSA Librarian Open House
January 8, 2016
Crime and Punishment in Early New England
February 5, 2016
Scout Day
February 16, 2016
Winter Research Getaway
February 25–27, 2016
Getting Started in Genealogy
March 12, 19, and 26, 2015
Catholic Records in New England
March 4, 2016
Irish Family History Day
March 6, 2016
Hartford Research Tour
March 7–12, 2016
Handel and Haydn Concert
March 19, 2016
English Court Records
April 1, 2016
NEHGS Comes to Florida
April 1, 2016
Lincoln and the Jews: A History
April 6, 2016
London Research Tour
April 8, 2016
Tartan Tales: Stories from Historic Scottish Houses
April 21, 2016
A History of Boston in 50 Artifacts
April 23, 2016
Choosing a Genealogical Software Program
April 23, 2016
Writing & Publishing Your Family History
April 24, 2016
Researching Polish Ancestors
May 6, 2016
Gentry, Generals and Industrialists: English Country Houses in the Thames Valley
May 10, 2016
New York City Research Tour
May 15–22, 2016
Saturday Evening Girls
May 18, 2016
Albany Research Tour
May 22–26, 2016
The Atkinson Lancaster Collection
June 3, 2016
When God Looked Down and Wept
June 8, 2016
Ancestry of American Presidents
June 11, 2016
French-Canadian Genealogy Workshop
June 25, 2016
Quebec Notarial Records
July 1, 2016
The Culinary Lives of the Adams
July 6, 2016
Making America: Researching Early New England and Revolutionary War Ancestors
July 9, 2016
Quebec Heritage Tour
July 16–23, 2016
Nathaniel Bowditch and the Power of Numbers
July 27, 2016
Women’s Voices in the Archives
August 5, 2016
Finding Your Family’s Role in American History
August 8, 2016
Come Home to New England
August 9, 2016
Free Fun Friday
August 19, 2016
Appraisal Day
August 20, 2016
Italian Genealogy
August 31, 2016

PRAISE FOR RESEARCH TOURS

“Your trips are so well done and professional. I always get more from my research when I travel with NEHGS.”
—Phyllis Scanlan, New York City Research Tour participant

“The tour included all the places I had wanted to visit and it was great to be able to do it with others that have the same interest.”
—Vicki Rodda, New York City Research Tour participant

“I’ve done ‘research’ tours on my own in the past, but to do it with NEHGS meant getting straight to the sources, with good introductions to what’s available, and access to professional genealogists to help you target your search.”
—Genevieve Niessen, London Research Tour participant
Online Programs
FY2016

- Mining the Treasures in Newspapers
  September 30, 2015
- Advanced Search Techniques on AmericanAncestors.org
  October 20, 2015
- French Canadian Resources
  November 12, 2015
- Atlantic Canadian Resources
  December 10, 2015
- Writing and Publishing Your Family History
  January 13–February 10, 2016
- Chinese-American Genealogy
  January 21, 2016
- Choosing a Genealogical Software Program
  January 26, 2016
- Using the Federal Census
  February 18, 2016
- Advanced Records: Land, Court, and Probate
  March 16, 23, and 30, 2016
- Digital Collections at NEHGS
  March 22, 2016
- Researching Native American Ancestors
  April 27, 2016
- Writing for NEHGS Publications
  April 28, 2016
- Using New England Probate Records
  May 31, 2016
- Researching Italian Ancestors
  June 8, 15, and 22, 2016
- Searching Study Projects on AmericanAncestors.org
  June 21, 2016
- French Canadian Genealogy
  August 17, 24, and 31, 2016
- Native American Resources at NEHGS
  August 25, 2016

PRAISE FOR ONLINE PROGRAMS

“Thanks so much for this informative presentation. I have been using census records for 20+ years, and I still learned from this!” —Mary-Kay Canfield, webinar participant

“Great to sit in Kent, England, and hear the presenter speaking as though in same room with clear visual displays. Thank you.” —Barbara Hill, webinar participant

“Although I have visited the library on numerous occasions, these webinars are invaluable to me as an out-of-state researcher. It is very easy for me to watch a webinar and learn—classroom style. The demonstrations provided during the webinar are useful.”
—Carol Sutton, webinar participant
PLANNING OUR FUTURE

Heritage Tours

NEHGS Heritage Tours provide our constituents and their friends and families with educational opportunities that illuminate the lives of our ancestors through exclusive, behind-the-scenes experiences. Led by one of our experts—including Director of the Great Migration Study Project Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, historian Donald R. Friary, or Curator of Special Collections Curt DiCamillo—each tour explores the art, architecture, history, and landscape of our forbears.

GREAT MIGRATION TOUR: BY SEA & BY LAND

Our popular Great Migration tour series, led by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, continued in September 2015. More than 30 participants embarked on the journey of a lifetime, crossing the Atlantic aboard the Queen Mary 2 and headed for Southampton, England. During the Atlantic crossing, guests enjoyed lectures from NEHGS experts and social gatherings. The adventure continued with an exploration of the Hampshire and Wiltshire environs, filled with the churches, manors, and historic sites that made up the world of a number of important Great Migration settlers.

QUÉBEC AND MONTRÉAL HERITAGE TOUR: NEW ENGLAND CAPTIVES CARRIED TO CANADA

In July 2016, expert guide Donald R. Friary led a group of 20 from our headquarters in Boston along the path of 17th- and 18th-century captives taken from the New England frontier to Canada. Participants were immersed in fascinating history while enjoying two of Canada’s most enchanting cities at the height of their summer beauty.

For more information on Heritage Tours, please contact Meghan Walsh, Director of Constituent Relations at 617-266-1253 or meghan.walsh@nehgs.org.

Coming in 2017

THE DOWAGER’S DELIGHTS: DOWNTON ABBEY & THE BEST OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE

September 24–October 1, 2017

Join NEHGS and Curt DiCamillo on this enchanting tour, and immerse yourself in the world of the acclaimed television series, Downton Abbey! Tour participants will visit Highclere Castle, the primary filming location, and other breathtaking English country houses. SOLD OUT! Please enquire about our waiting list.
Jewish Heritage Center

In 2016 the Jewish Heritage Center has expanded community outreach and engagement through programming, exhibits, collections development and reference. Our goal, going forward, is to increase awareness of what we have to offer historically and to those doing family research. We continue to emphasize the importance of preserving the history of the community for future generations.

COLLECTIONS AND Archives Highlights

• We accessioned 15 collections, including those of the Jewish Historical Society of Western Massachusetts, Jewish Heritage Center of the North Shore, Records of the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts, Records of the American Physicians and Friends of Israel, and Records of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

• We continue to scan, create metadata, and put online the 234 boxes of Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Records (HIAS).

• Over 120,000 documents were added to the digital archives.

• 165,000 viewers from the United States, Israel, Australia, Germany, and other countries accessed documents from the archive electronically.

• Our staff fielded over 550 research inquiries.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Using the Digital Collection at NEHGS and AJHS-NEA Webinar
March 22, 2016

Lincoln and the Jews book release with Jonathan Sarna and Barry Shrage, April 2, 2016

Saturday Evening Girls lecture with Dorothy King, May 18, 2016

When God Looked Down and Wept lecture and book signing with Fred Goldber, June 8, 2016


From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America exhibit opening with Dr. Michael Feldberg and Jerry Wyner, June 8, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Family History Benefit Dinner with Bob Schieffer and David Hartman

On April 22, more than 200 guests gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston to honor two legendary television anchors, Bob Schieffer and David Hartman. Bob Schieffer—immediate past anchor of the CBS Evening News, moderator of Face the Nation, and former 60 Minutes correspondent—along with David Hartman—documentary journalist and beloved former host of ABC’s Good Morning America—were both given our Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions to history through distinguished broadcast journalism.

Each honoree also received a genealogy, researched by our experts, which revealed the detailed—and sometimes surprising—stories of their respective ancestries. Bob Schieffer learned that he has Native American heritage, and David Hartman discovered that he is descended from Massachusetts Bay Colony exile Anne Hutchinson.

Guests were treated to a spirited discussion between the honorees, moderated by NEHGS Trustee and CNBC Closing Bell anchor Bill Griffeth. Topics ranged from early journalistic ventures to current events and personal interests.

Contributing to the celebratory mood was the announcement from President and CEO Brenton Simons that our Connecting Families. Advancing History capital campaign had exceeded its $55 million goal by $3 million, a record achievement.
Fall Family History Benefit Dinner with Cokie Roberts

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, 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 Griffeth. 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!
Volunteers

Robert Akin
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Ben Woznick
Hannah Yetwin
Mary Alice Yost
Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.
Scott Zoeller

Trustees and Councilors are listed on page 12.

Opposite page, top: NEHGS volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Opposite page, bottom: Volunteers Becky Philio and Ned Schultz demonstrate the work they do in our conservation lab.

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Alicia Crane Williams

Milestone Tenures

30+ YEARS
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20+ YEARS
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David Allen Lambert
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Rick Park
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Steven Shilcusky
Scott C. Steward
Valerie E. Beaudraut
Jean M. Powers

10+ YEARS
Michael Forbes
Judith M. Lucey
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Rhonda R. McClure
Helen R. Herzer
Michelle E. Major
Ryan J. Woods
To advance the study of family history in America and beyond, we educate, inspire, and connect people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society

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