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American Ancestors

by New England Historic Genealogical Society

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NEW!

Researching Irish Ancestors



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Above: Glenoe Village, County Antrim, Ireland, ca. 1890–1900 (Detroit, Mich.: Detroit Photographic Company, 1905). Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

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If you've watched *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* on PBS, you may recognize our library as the anchor location for the show, and see our staff genealogists featured from time to time. Staff members also work with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on *The Root* (theroot.com) and consult on various genealogy television programs including *Who Do You Think You Are?*, *Genealogy Roadshow*, and *History Detectives*. Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert cohosts a show segment of the popular genealogy radio show *Extreme Genes*. And our expert staff participates in conferences throughout the year. You can find us next at the FGS Conference, August 31 to September 3, in Springfield, Illinois (see page 11 for details).

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View from the family tree



D. Brenton Simons

Two driving forces of our organization of which I am most proud are our enthusiasm for collaboration with like-minded partners and our dedication to making original documents and unique research materials available to wide audiences. I write to you today with news that combines these important impulses through the launch of a major new study center at NEHGS: the formation of our Jewish Heritage Center, with the New England Archives of AJHS, with whom we initially formed a partnership in 2010, as its central cornerstone. We are proud to introduce our extensive holdings of over two million documents, photographs, and artifacts that provide an important window into not just Jewish life in New England, but American life as it developed over the centuries. We have many people to thank for making such great strides possible, but no one more than our friend Justin "Jerry" Wyner, who successfully guided the AJHS–NEA for decades and whose dedication to advancing this project has been an inspiration. With his help, and the loyal support of many others, great things are happening here.

By the end of this year, more than 600,000 fully searchable records will be available online in our Jewish Heritage Center digital archives at AmericanAncestors.org. Once philanthropic support enables it, one collection we are especially eager to make accessible is that of the Boston office of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Founded in 1881 to assist Jews fleeing Russia and Eastern Europe, HIAS touched the lives of countless Jewish families in America. Our collection contains case files that detail the extreme difficulties and frustrations of Jewish refugees and their sponsors during World War II, preserving the human stories of an important era in our broad American story.

Our expanding resources at the Jewish Heritage Center are just one example of our continued commitment to diversifying our collections to better serve genealogists and historians whose research takes them down many paths of American life. I hope you will join me in exploring all that the Jewish Heritage Center has to offer and will share news of this important resource with friends and colleagues who will find it enlightening and helpful.



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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.

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In this issue

I am pleased to present the fall issue of American Ancestors, which focuses on Irish American family research. During my two decades at NEHGS, I've always been impressed—and perhaps a little envious—at the enthusiasm and camaraderie of genealogists pursuing Irish ancestors. I've observed a huge level of interest in Irish-themed classes, conferences, magazines, databases, and books, and our surveys indicate that many members are of Irish descent.

Demographically, these observations are not surprising. The Pew Research Center reported that "in 2013, 33.3 million Americans, or one-in-ten, identified themselves as being of Irish ancestry, making it the second-largest ancestry group in the U.S. after Germans."[1] New England is more Irish than most of the country. A ranking of states by percentage of population reporting Irish ancestry shows that Massachusetts is the most Irish state, at 21.2%, followed by New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Rhode Island. Connecticut ranks eighth. Today, Irish-American genealogists are active and proud of their heritage.

The landscape was entirely different not that many generations ago. Family history pursuits were more commonly undertaken by descendants of colonial-era English settlers—not more recent "ethnic" immigrants like the Irish. Few would have associated the venerable New England Historic Genealogical Society with Irish genealogy.

Marie Daly, who has been on the staff at NEHGS for twenty-nine years, shared her perspective with me: "I first became interested in my Irish heritage following a trip to Ireland in 1976. In 1987, when I began working at NEHGS as the comptroller, I looked up at the portraits of seemingly dour Puritans, and thought, 'These people must be rolling over in their graves.' My grandfather had grown up over a Beacon Hill stable in a warren of servants' quarters. His mother was a maid and his father was a coachman. NEHGS was located on Beacon Hill when my grandfather lived there, but the worlds of Old Boston and Irish Boston were riven with mutual antagonism. My grandfather would have been aghast at my employment at NEHGS. By 1987, though, times had changed. NEHGS proved to be a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds—Irish, Jewish, African American, and others—and a receptive home for me."

Marie has spent almost three decades honing her research skills, advocating for Irish resources, and assisting others through advice, consultations, lectures, and articles. Now, Marie has documented and shared her knowledge in a new book, *Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research*, written with Archivist Judy Lucey.

The book is very much a "how-to." Marie says, "Judy and I have encountered many genealogists with Irish ancestry who were knowledgeable about sources, but needed help using the records. While several excellent books have been written that detail available Irish resources, we wanted to teach people the best methods for tracing their Irish origins. Our book moves from beginning steps that pertain to all families to documenting Irish origins with American records. Once they are connected to Ireland, we show readers how to use online Irish records to further their research. We want to help readers successfully overcome brick walls and link their families to their ancestral Irish roots."

This issue's cover story, "Researching Irish Ancestors Using American Gravestones, Newspapers, & Specialized Records" is adapted from Chapter 5 of the new book. Other Irish-themed articles in the issue are Eileen Curley Pironti's "The Famine-Era Quarantine Station on Boston's Deer Island," and Sheilagh Doerfler's Research Services Case Study, "The Case of the Missing Neighborhood."

Today, Irish genealogy and genealogists are thriving and happily ensconced here at NEHGS—thanks in no small part to our long-term ambassador for Irish genealogy, Marie Daly.

Note

[1] Pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/03/17/the-fading-of-the-green.



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New England, New York & beyond



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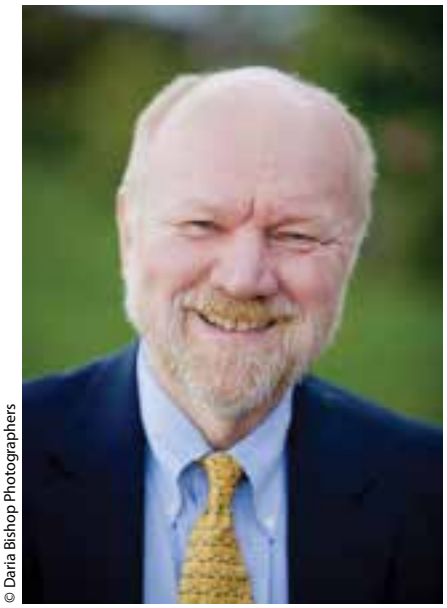
The roots of entrepreneurship

When I first developed an interest in genealogy there wasn't much known about my mother's side of the family. I asked her what she knew and she replied, quoting her dad, "Came from nowhere; descended from nobody." Mom knew her grandfather's name was Clyde Elwell, but not much else.



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Nord Brue.
Image courtesy of Vermont Public Radio.

As a young mother with four children, Mom's curiosity about her family grew. She approached her father's cousin, Sam, about the family's origins. Sam was direct and to the point: "Leave it alone, Ruby!"

That reply didn't satisfy her curiosity but she was, then and now, sensitive to the feelings of others, so she put her quest aside. Years later, I—a less sensitive person—asked her, "Should I look into this or should I leave it alone?" Mom asked her sisters and the next day told me that all three surviving siblings wanted to know the family story. My quest began.

A complete novice, I didn't know where to begin. Initially I spent a lot of time on ancestry chat boards and discovered a book called *Elwelliana: Memorabilia of Levi Henry Elwell, 1854–1916*, in the collections at NEHGS. When I called Boston I was overjoyed to learn that not only did NEHGS have *Elwelliana*, they also had copies for sale. I ordered one for my Mom and one for me. At that moment, I came to appreciate a genealogical institution that had more than databases of names and dates. NEHGS had a whole book on the very family I wanted to research. What a blessing!

So why all the mystery from my grandfather and his cousin Sam? What did I find? Mostly, I found hard-working, God-fearing farm folk. I traced the family's progress from Massachusetts to Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and finally Iowa. I tracked mom's grandfather, Clyde, a farmer who prospered in Iowa and Nebraska so much that he was able to buy a lumber yard and also give each of his four children a farm.

But I also learned why Sam told mom to "leave it alone." I discovered that Clyde had married a woman who had borne an out-of-wedlock child—not quite as scandalous in the twenty-first century as it was 140 years ago. I suspect my mom and her sisters were more amused than concerned, and they were certainly happy to learn a bit of the family history.

Of course there are always more lines to search and I've logged plenty of hours on AmericanAncestors.org. I've spoken from time to time with the friendly researchers at NEHGS for a little guidance and learned, not surprisingly, there are better research techniques than relying on the chat boards where I began.

With the records available on AmericanAncestors.org, I have traced, through my Roper-Hudson line, a lineage back to Stephen Hopkins of the *Mayflower*. So, here is a shout out to millions of cousins all descended from that publican beer maker of Plymouth who was "presented for selling beer for 2d.[pennies] the quart, not worth 1d. a quart." This and other infractions cost Stephen £5, a considerable sum in those days. Yes, you'll find all this and more in the records of NEHGS's Great Migration Study Project. What I found for myself were the roots of the entrepreneurial spirit that impels me.

No genealogist ever "completes" his work, but I feel that I've progressed enough on my own family to tackle my wife's Jewish family history. Needless to say, I was happy to learn that NEHGS has established the Jewish Heritage Center. Guess I'll be spending more time in the coming years trekking through those treasures at NEHGS. Jewish family history at NEHGS . . . what will they think of next? ◆

During the moments he was not researching family history, **Nordahl Brue** *built a law firm in Burlington, Vermont, founded Bruegger's Bagels, invented Yogurt Cream Cheese (Greek Cream Cheese) and chaired the Boards of Green Mountain Power and Grinnell College Trustees as well as the Board at Vermont Public Radio. He also served as a member of the Vermont Governor's Council of Economic Advisors and Council of Environmental Advisors. At the present, he is Chairman of Franklin Foods, a national supplier of cream cheese, including his favorite, Green Mountain Farms brand Greek Cream Cheese. Nord is a Life Member of NEHGS, and at the last annual meeting of the Society was elected Councilor. He can be contacted at nlb@nbrue.com.*

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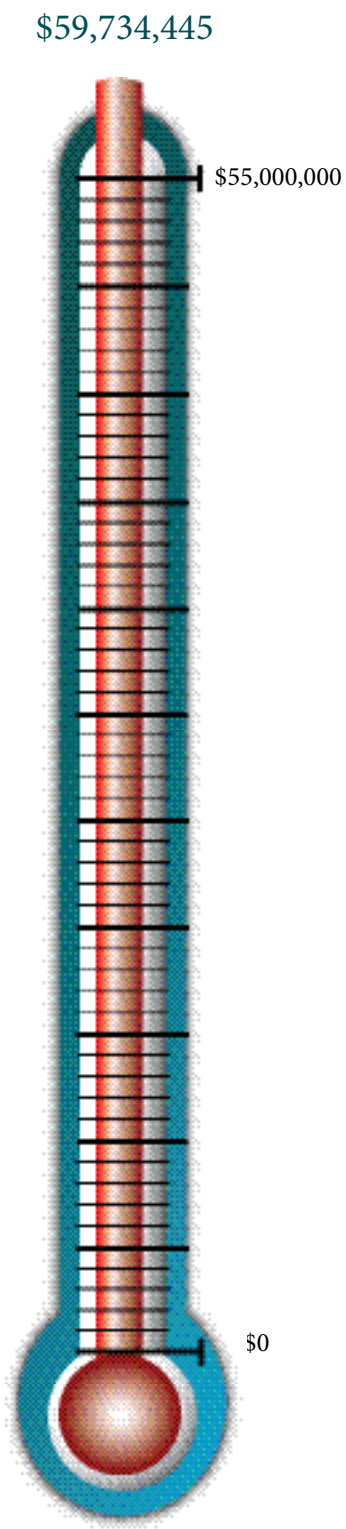

Capital Campaign commitments as of July 11, 2016



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For further information, please contact Ted MacMahon at tmacmahon@nehgs.org, 617-226-1218; or Steven Solomon at ssolomon@nehgs.org, 617-226-1238.

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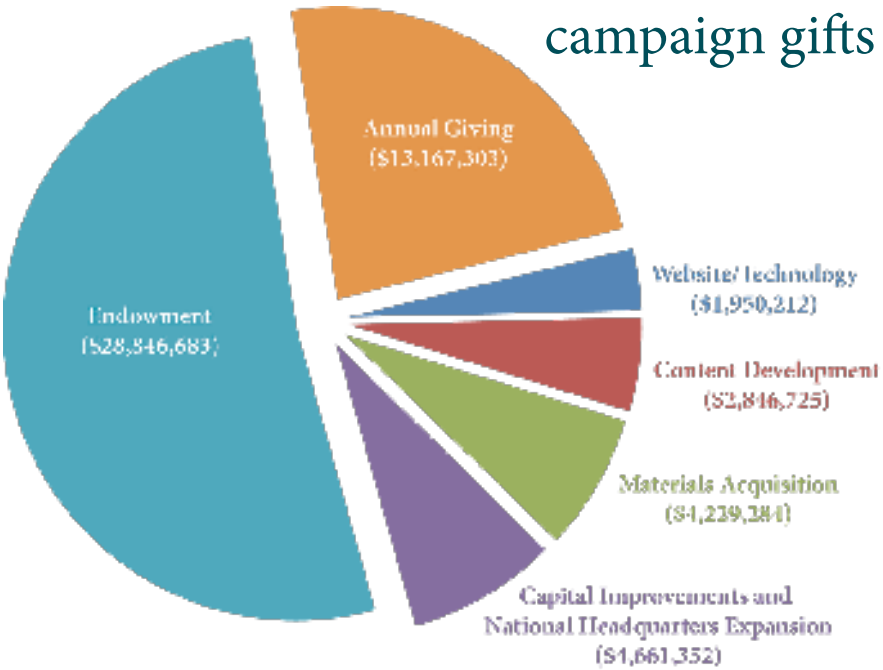

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ask our genealogists



Jeanne S. Belmonte is a specialist in Italian and Scottish genealogy. She is also interested in Catholic resources and research in Liverpool, England.

My ancestor died at the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, almshouse in 1816. Before living at the almshouse he lived in either Portsmouth or Newington, New Hampshire. In this time frame, would a person "commit" themselves to the almshouse? What kind of related records exist?

Generally, people in need of assistance and unable to care for themselves sought help from the Overseers of the Poor in their town. Those seeking help needed to prove that they were destitute and unable to find work. The Overseers could then grant admission to an almshouse. Records for almshouses include admission registers—which may include the reason for admission—and discharge registers. Overseers of the Poor offices kept records of expenses paid to support individuals and those who supplied goods and services to the almshouse. Town records often have information about the proceedings of the Overseers of the Poor that may include names of those who made a plea on behalf of a spouse or relative.

Records for the Portsmouth almshouse may be found at the New Hampshire State Archives (sos.nh.gov/arch_rec_mgmt.aspx) in Concord. A relevant database, Portsmouth, N.H.: Records for the Overseers of the Poor, 1817–1838, is available online on our website, AmericanAncestors.org. Newington Town Records (vol. 1, 1712–1843) are on FamilySearch.org. These records are not indexed but may be browsed.



A View of Portsmouth in Piscataqua River by Joseph F. W. Des Barres. Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library.

My grandfather died in Melrose, Massachusetts, in 1921, leaving my grandmother with four young children and another on the way. I found a document that showed my widowed grandmother had to apply for guardianship of her own children and make an accounting of all the children's assets. Was this practice typical?

If your grandmother had to apply for guardianship of her own children, she had most likely lost custody at some point. The children may have been placed in a children's home or she may have housed them with a friend or relative, until she could provide for them. If someone else was named a

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legal guardian to her children, the case would have gone through the probate court system in the county where she was living at the time. You did not mention what organization or court requested that she make an accounting of the children's assets. You should begin searching in that county's probate index to locate the guardianship. Some Massachusetts probate indexes and records have been microfilmed and are available on AmericanAncestors.org and Familysearch, and others are available on microfilm that can be borrowed. Check the Familysearch catalog (familysearch.org/catalog/search) for individual Massachusetts counties to learn what is available. If you locate the probate record with the guardianship appointment, the record may include details of why a guardian was needed.

The details of the laws regarding guardianships at the time may be found in *The General Laws of Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Enacted December 22 1920, to Take Effect January 1, 1922* (beginning on page 2081), available on Google Books.

John and Elizabeth (Pierce) Ball of Watertown, Mass., had five children. The two oldest, Mary and John, were apprenticed in 1656 to their maternal grandparents, and their names appear in later records. Within two years the three youngest Ball children (Abigail, Sarah, and Hester), aged six months to three years, were "fostered out" to three different families for one to four years. I can't find their names in later records. How common was it for young children to be placed with another family? How can I find out what became of these children?

The practice of parents apprenticing older children to learn a trade or go into service was not uncommon; often the payments parents received were needed to support the family. But placing children under three years old, as the Balls did, was a bit unusual. In most cases, if the mother died leaving small children or infants, those children were placed in the care of family or friends. Since the three Ball siblings were very young, I searched for a death for Elizabeth Ball. I did not find a death record but I did find an interesting notation.

The 1640 marriage of John Ball and Elizabeth Morse appears in Clarence Almon Torrey's *New England Marriages to 1700*, available as a database on AmericanAncestors.org. ("Torrey," or Torrey's Marriage Index, as it is often called, is a compilation of approximately 37,000 known or presumed marriages that occurred prior to 1700, arranged alphabetically by groom. The work is so comprehensive—estimated to include 99% of all marriages—that it is one of the principal resources for seventeenth-century New England genealogy.) The Ball marriage entry shows an additional notation: "became insane." So, we can theorize that Elizabeth Ball was unable to care for her children and, depending on age, they were either apprenticed out or sent to live with others. The entry in Torrey lists references to seventeen different sources. I suggest you check all of them, as you will likely find additional information on John and Elizabeth Ball and their children.

The Ball entry in Henry Bond's *Early Settlers of Watertown* (1860) states that Elizabeth Ball "was insane in 1660, and probably had been thus for some time. She gave much annoyance to her family and neighbours." The source is given as "Reg. of Deeds, vol. iii., p. 81."

The older Ball children may have retained their original surname, but the younger children may have quietly become members of the families that originally fostered them, adopting their surnames. A different scenario would have the children placed with new families after their initial foster periods had ended. You can search Watertown town records for members of the Ball family, especially to see if mentions were made of the children's placements. You should search for the children using both the Ball surname and the surnames of their foster families. If you can locate the death record of John Ball, Sr., then you should search for his probate record. If he left a will, he may have named his children and where they were living. ◆

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**.

Do you need more in-depth help?

The NEHGS Research Services Team offers in-depth research assistance that is available to everyone. Services cover a wide range of research help, such as hourly research, lineage society applications, assistance with organization and evaluation, photocopying, and accessing our vast collections. Visit **AmericanAncestors.org/research-services** to learn more.

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News



ABC News

NEHGS to honor Cokie Roberts at Family History Benefit Dinner

On Thursday, October 27, 2016, we will proudly honor distinguished journalist and bestselling author Cokie Roberts with our Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography. NEHGS treasurer Bill Griffeth, anchor of CNBC's *Closing Bell* will host the dinner, the proceeds of which will support expanding family history resources at NEHGS. The occasion will also serve as the launch of Bill Griffeth's new memoir, *The Stranger in My Genes*, published by NEHGS (see page 12).

Cokie Roberts is the author of several *New York Times* bestsellers and highly acclaimed books focusing on women in American history, including *Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848–1868* (2015); *Ladies of Liberty* (2009); and *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation* (2004). With her husband and fellow journalist Steven V. Roberts, she is co-author of *From This Day Forward* (2009) and *Our Haggadah: Uniting Traditions for Interfaith Families* (2011). Cokie Roberts has won countless awards, including three Emmys, the Edward R. Murrow Award, and the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award. She has been inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame, and she was cited by American Women in Radio and Television as one of the fifty greatest women in the history of broadcasting. The Library of Congress named her a "Living Legend."

For more information or to register, please contact Danielle Torres at danielle.torres@nehgs.org or 617-226-1215.

The Jewish Heritage Center at New England Historic Genealogical Society launched



On April 6, we announced the creation of the Jewish Heritage Center at New England Historic Genealogical Society. The Jewish Heritage Center is a resource for exploring and preserving the histories of Jewish families and institutions in New England and beyond. NEHGS CEO Brenton Simons noted, "This is an important moment in the Society's one-hundred-seventy-one year history as we launch the Jewish Heritage Center as a leading institution for Jewish history, genealogy, and community preservation."

In 2010, American Jewish Historical Society–New England Archives (AJHS–NEA) and NEHGS began a collaboration designed to enhance Jewish historical and genealogical research and the continued collection and preservation of Jewish history. The Jewish Heritage Center, with the AJHS–NEA as its cornerstone, will engage historians, genealogists, youth, and the general public in programming and research, connecting people through its scholarship, collections, and expertise. Learn more about the Jewish Heritage Center at AmericanAncestors.org/jhc.

יזכרון

Jewish Heritage Center

at New England Historic Genealogical Society

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NEHGS staff news

We are pleased to announce that Sharon Inglis was promoted to Publishing Director in June 2016. Since joining the staff as Assistant Publishing Director in October 2015, Sharon has worked with the Publications team on the development, writing, editing, and production of books, and she managed the publication of NEHGS's first issue of the *Mayflower Descendant* journal.

Sharon came to us with extensive experience from a long career in educational textbook publishing, having served as Director of Project Management at Vista Higher Learning and as Managing Editor in the Science group at Pearson. A novice genealogist, Sharon is exploring her own Scottish and Croatian roots. With assistance from Senior Research Scholar Emeritus Gary Boyd Roberts, Sharon has been able to trace her New England ancestry to the mid-1600s.

We look forward to Sharon's new role and the enthusiasm she brings to it as she helps to continue advancing our position as the leader in scholarly excellence in family history.





Employees of the Year

Every year, NEHGS honors staff excellence in three categories at our annual meeting. This year's recipients were, from left to right above, Senior Researcher Andrew Krea ("beyond the call of duty"), Member Services Representative Kathleen Mackenzie ("outstanding service to members"), Assistant to the President Susan Harrington ("beyond the call of duty"), and Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press and *Mayflower Descendant* Editor Christopher C. Child ("best contribution to the field of genealogy").

NEHGS on the road

In early May we traveled to sunny Fort Lauderdale for the National Genealogical Society's annual conference. We enjoyed meeting fellow family historians and hearing about their pursuits. Chief Genealogist David Lambert presented lectures on using nineteenth- and twentieth-century state census returns and researching WWI and WWII records. Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press Christopher Child spoke about the role of DNA research in genealogy at the sold-out NEHGS luncheon.

We will be in Springfield, Illinois, for this year's Federation of Genealogical Societies conference from August 31 to September 3. Chat with our expert staff and browse the selection of books at our booth. Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert will speak at our sponsored luncheon on September 1. To learn more, visit fgsconference.org.

The 2016 New York State Family History Conference will be held from September 15 to 17, in Syracuse, New York. NEHGS is a conference sponsor and exhibitor for the event. Visit nysfhc.org for more information.

Left: Christopher Child, NEHGS Councilor and *Genealogy Roadshow* host Mary Tedesco, and David Lambert at our booth at NGS.

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New Publications



The Stranger in My Genes: A Memoir

Bill Griffeth
6 x 9 Hardcover, $29.95, member $26.96; ebook, $24.99

How a simple DNA test complicated the author's life.

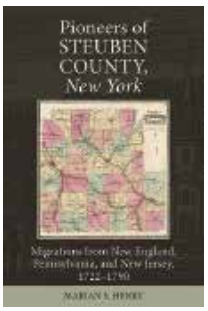
Bill Griffeth, longtime genealogy buff, takes a DNA test that has an unexpected outcome: "If the results were correct, it meant that the family tree I had spent years documenting was not my own." Bill undertakes a quest to solve the mystery of his origins, which shakes his sense of identity. As he takes us on his journey, we learn about choices made by his ancestors, parents, and others—and we see Bill measure and weigh his own difficult choices as he confronts the past.

"A seemingly routine genetic test launched television journalist Bill Griffeth on a fascinating, often harrowing quest. Both a memoir and a mystery story, *The Stranger in My Genes* is a riveting page turner."

Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *Mayflower* and *Valiant Ambition*

"A courageous personal account, *The Stranger in My Genes* brings science and genealogy together in a powerful story of family secrets. Bill Griffeth has infused his passion for the unfettered truth into his riveting revelation. I couldn't put it down."

Mary Tedesco, Co-Host of *Genealogy Roadshow* (PBS)



Pioneers of Steuben County, New York: Migrations from New England, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, 1722–1790

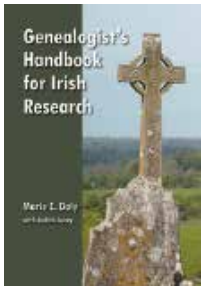
6 x 9 Paperback, $27.95, member $25.16

The first settlers of present-day Steuben County, New York, in the Genesee Country, were among the first wave of migrants moving westward after the Revolutionary War. The family sketches in this work link these early pioneers with their eastern origins—usually New England, Pennsylvania, or New Jersey.

Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research

Marie E. Daly with Judith Lucey
7 x 10 Paperback, $24.95, member $22.46

Through real-life examples and illustrations of records and techniques, NEHGS genealogy experts Marie E. Daly and Judith Lucey take a step-by-step approach to using American records to trace Irish ancestors in this country, with the goal of finding places of origin. They then explain how to use Irish records to learn even more! Drawing on their years of experience guiding those with Irish ancestry, Daly and Lucey focus not just on sources of records but—more importantly—on strategies for research and interpretation. Includes to-do lists, maps, a comprehensive table of online resources, and a detailed index.



"With superb unfussy clarity, Marie Daly has applied a lifetime's research experience to the task of connecting Irish and American records. The result is simply the best book ever written on how to research Irish-American ancestors."

John Grenham, author of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide*



A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England

James Savage
With a foreword by Gary Boyd Roberts
6 x 9 Paperback, 4-volume set; $79.95/set, member $71.96

This compendium by James Savage is the first "democratic" genealogical dictionary of New England settlers. This important work, originally published 1860–1862, provides a wealth of compiled material on early New England families. A key resource for American genealogists for more than 150 years, this four-volume set is a crucial component of every genealogical library. This edition includes an all-new by-volume supplemental index that covers males and females.

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Top: Outgoing Publishing Director Penny Stratton with incoming Publishing Director Sharon Inglis; *bottom left*: staff members enjoy tea and scones at Penny's farewell party; and *bottom right*: Penny with her custom retrospective book.

Penny Stratton: Paying tribute to our invaluable publishing director

On June 5, 2006, Penny Stratton, a veteran of the book publishing industry, joined the NEHGS staff—and on June 10, almost ten years to the day, she retired. During her time with us, Penny advanced to become Publishing Director, continuing to supervise all steps of book development, editing, and production, and overseeing NEHGS periodicals, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, *American Ancestors*, *Mayflower Descendant*, and *The Great Migration Newsletter*, as well as the *Weekly Genealogist* enewsletter. Penny also helped launch our Portable Genealogist reference guides and "Experts' Choice" series of reprints of genealogical classics, and she helped produce numerous customized genealogies for distinguished honorees.

Under Penny's watch, NEHGS published more than 65 books, including *The Great Migration Directory, Elements of Genealogical Analysis, Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research,* and the award-winning *Descendants of Judge John Lowell of Newburyport, Massachusetts*. She also oversaw the editing and early production stages of the soon-to-be-released *The Stranger in My Genes* by Bill Griffeth. Over the course of her career at NEHGS, Penny embraced the field of genealogy and, particularly, the topic of genealogical writing. Her most significant contribution in this area was *Guide to Genealogical Writing* (2014), which she co-authored with *Register* editor Henry B. Hoff. She also wrote for *American Ancestors* and the Society's *Vita Brevis* blog, and compiled several Portable Genealogists on writing and publishing topics. Penny expanded her impact by speaking at seminars and conferences, giving webinars, and teaching online courses.

In April, Penny was awarded our Jefferson Cup for extraordinary service and was recognized for her ten years of service. On June 2, friends, associates, and colleagues gathered at NEHGS to pay tribute to her. She was, appropriately enough, presented with a bound retrospective of her years at the Society, compiled and designed by her Publications staff. President and CEO Brenton Simons noted, "Everything you have touched has been stroked as if by a golden hand: you have improved manuscripts; provided expert guidance with care, thoughtfulness, and dignity; and shepherded much important scholarship to publication. You have made wonderful things happen for our society, our patrons, our authors, our colleagues, and our field."

Although Penny's last day as a full-time staff member was June 10, she hasn't left us completely. Penny will continue to work on publishing projects for NEHGS, largely helping develop new handbooks and how-to guides. We will look forward to her visits to NEHGS, as we have come to rely on her publishing expertise, her Midwestern common sense, and her sunny personality and sense of fun. Thank you, Penny, for a great ten years!

New look for the library catalog

In June, we launched a "new and revised edition" (to use a book term) of our library catalog on AmericanAncestors.org. Some notable improvements are:

- An appearance that is compatible with our new Digital Collections site, offering users a virtual library collections environment.
- The ability to focus your keyword search on only those items you can access from home. Select "Search for online resources only" beneath the keyword search box on the main search page. (Previously there were two separate "online" searches—one for searching for items in our digital library and archives collections, and one for searching for other online resources, such as databases on AmericanAncestors.org and e-books on other websites. Now all online resources can be found through one search.)
- Fewer icons and text that might be distracting.
- A clickable logo at the top brings you back to the main catalog search page, rather than taking you outside the catalog. To return to the AmericanAncestors home page, click "VISIT: AmericanAncestors.org" in the upper right.

We invite you to try out the new catalog and explore the library collections! If you have questions about how to use it or about items you find there, please contact us at library@nehgs.org.

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2016 Annual Benefit Dinner

with BOB SCHIEFFER & DAVID HARTMAN



Honorees **Bob Schieffer** and **David Hartman** with **Brenton Simons** and emcee **Bill Griffeth**.



Trustee Emeritus **William Crozier, Jr.**, with his wife, **Prudence Crozier**, of Wellesley, Mass.; Vice Chairman **Nancy Maulsby** of Greenwich, Conn.; and **Richard G. Schulze**, Chairman of Old Sturbridge Village.



Honorary Event Chair **Kristin Servison** of Brookline, Mass., with **Robert and Donna Storer**.

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, the immediate past anchor of the *CBS Evening News*, moderator of *Face the Nation*, and former *60 Minutes* correspondent, along with David Hartman, the documentary journalist and beloved former host of *ABC's Good Morning America*, were both given the 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.

Corporate sponsors included Platinum Benefactor Wells Fargo & Company; Silver Benefactor Freeman's; and Benefactors Eastern Bank, Traust Sollus Wealth Management (of which Councilor Albert J. Zdenek, Jr. is President and CEO), and Welch & Forbes, LLC. Eric and Susan Schultz and Kristin and Roger Servison were Honorary Event Chairs and Silver Benefactors. Other Silver Benefactors were Judith Avery, Thomas and Juliet Gede, Nancy S. Maulsby, Robert Pemberton and Barbara Jordan, and M. David Sherrill. David H. Burnham, Stephen H. Case, Bill and Cindy Griffeth, Thomas Bailey Hagen, Virginia M. Hamister, Gordon and Mary Ford Kingsley, Mark Kimball Nichols, Herbert D. Simons, Lionel and Vivian Spiro, Jonathan Buck Treat and Leslie Aitken, and Nancy and John Webster provided support as Benefactors.



Curator of Special Collections **Curt DiCamillo**, Silver Benefactor **Paul Roberts** of Freeman's, honoree **Bob Schieffer**, and **Stephanie Donaldson** and **Kelly Wright** of Freeman's.

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Dinner Silver Benefactors **Judith Avery** of San Francisco, Calif., and **Barbara Jordan** of Wayland, Mass.



Dinner Benefactor **Vivian Spiro** of Boston, Mass., and **Nicholas Gleysteen** of Weston, Mass.



Guests **Joan Crowley** and **Frank Callahan**.



Honoree **Bob Schieffer** enjoying a lighter moment with **MaryAnn Ekberg** of Wells Fargo.



Dinner Benefactor, Life Benefactor, and Councilor **Thomas Bailey Hagen** of Erie, Penn., with honoree **David Hartman**.



Patron Members **Tracy and Matthew Smith** of Palm Beach, Fla., with **Mary Ford Kingsley** of Wellesley, Mass.



Trustee **Peter Steingraber**, Councilor **Olivia Parker**, Councilor **Mary Tedesco**, and Associate Editor of American Ancestors **Jean Powers** with honoree **Bob Schieffer**.



Our emcee, **Bill Griffeth,** with Boston-area journalism students at the table he sponsored, along with honorees **Bob Schieffer** and **David Hartman.**

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NEHGS welcomes new Trustees and Councilors

The following trustees and councilors were elected at the annual meeting of the Society on April 23. The support of these individuals is invaluable to NEHGS, and we are grateful for their leadership.

New Board Members



Judith Waite Freeman of New Orleans, La., and Cashiers, N.C., is a former appointee to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D. C., and is a recent past president and current board member of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Louisiana. Her other board service includes the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival and the New Orleans Opera. A *Mayflower* descendant from the Howland, Tilley, Warren, and Brewster families, she published an article on Abiah Coye in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* in 2007. Having joined NEHGS in 1990, she has served as trustee, councilor, and honorary event chair for the 2015 James Carville and Mary Matalin dinner, and she is a member of the Charles Ewer Lifetime Giving Society and a Life Member.



Linda A. Pescosolido of Visalia, Calif., is a partner of Sequoia Orange Company, an agribusiness concern. She is a former trustee of the Governor Dummer Academy, and her educational credentials include Scripps College, Vassar College, and the Sotheby's Training Program. A member of NEHGS since 1999, she is a former trustee and councilor, has served on the Finance and Executive Committees, and is a member of the Charles Ewer Lifetime Giving Society and a Life Benefactor. She was a participant in the 2015 Great Migration: By Sea and By Land tour.

New Councilors



Vernard I. Adams of Tampa, Fla., is a consultant in forensic pathology for litigation attorneys and has previously been on the faculty at New York University, the University of South Florida, and West Virginia University. He has experience as a medical examiner in Massachusetts, New York, Florida, and West Virginia, and has authored numerous scholarly medical articles and book chapters. He is co-author of *Irvins, Irvines, and Irvings of St. Stephen, New Brunswick—A Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Irvin and Margaret Jane Bell*. Having joined NEHGS in 1997, he is a Patron Member and was a participant in the 2015 Great Migration: By Sea and By Land tour.



Nordahl L. Brue of Delray Beach, Fla., is a lawyer and entrepreneur. He built a law firm in Burlington, Vt., then founded Bruegger's Bagels and built a chain of 300+ bakery-cafés in 24 states. He is presently Chairman of Franklin Foods, a national supplier of cream cheese. He is a Life Trustee (former Chair) of Grinnell College, and serves on the boards of Green Mountain Power Corporation and Northern New England Energy Company. He formerly served as Chair of Vermont Public Radio and on the Vermont State Governor's Council of Economic Advisors as well as the Governor's Council of Environmental Advisors. His *Mayflower* lines include Hopkins and Rogers. Aside from genealogy, Nord has a passion for making, selling, and drinking wine. He joined NEHGS in 2002 and is a Life Member.

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Beverly Hector-Smith of Natick, Mass., worked as a Registered Nurse in Boston for over 50 years and was a Certified Advance Practice Nurse. Most recently, she was the director of Health Services at the Massachusetts College of Art. She previously worked in the Boston Children's Hospital's Ambulatory/Pediatric Gynecology Program, and was a clinical nursing instructor at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston College, Simmons College, and Northeastern University. An experienced speaker and author on medical and genealogical topics, including a feature in *American Ancestors* magazine, she is active with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., the Museum of African American History, the Boston African American National Historic Site, and the Daughters of the American Revolution, Framingham, Mass., chapter. She has been a member of NEHGS since 1998.



Elizabeth McCaslin Passela of Houston, Tex., is a former banking and investment executive whose career included positions as Director, High Technology Division, BankBoston, NA, Boston and Vice President of Bank of America, NA, Frankfurt, Germany. As an artist, she is represented by the Copley Society in Boston, Mass., and the Jack Meier Gallery in Houston, Texas. A member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lady Washington Chapter, Houston, Texas, her genealogical interests include Pennsylvania and Southeastern U.S. eighteenth- and nineteenth-century social history, Native American Studies, and DNA as a genealogical tool. She joined NEHGS in 2004 and is a Life Member.



Eric D. Roiter of Chestnut Hill, Mass., is a former Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Fidelity Management & Research Company (FMR Co.) with responsibility for all aspects of Fidelity's mutual fund business. In various other legal positions, and in teaching positions at several prestigious U.S. law schools, his career has focused on regulatory, financial, and investment counseling and transactions, government regulation of financial services, and corporate governance. He is a co-editor of a handbook on U.S. securities regulation and an author of numerous articles in his fields of expertise. A Life Member of NEHGS, he joined in 2012.



M. David Sherrill of New York, N.Y., is Executive Director, Senior Portfolio Management Director, The Vector Group, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, New York, N.Y. He is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and formerly served as a governor of the Society of Colonial Wars (N.Y.) and as a board member and treasurer of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society. He authored *The American Ancestry of Edward Mason Knight, The American Ancestry of Julia Hutchinson,* and *From Hoy to Hoyt*. A member of NEHGS since 1999 and a Life Benefactor, he is a former trustee, councilor, and treasurer, and has served on the Investment and Finance Committees, the latter as chair.



Lionel Spiro of Boston, Mass., was, from 1964 to 1997, the chairman and CEO of Charrette Corporation, which he co-founded. He has prior work experience with the Boston Redevelopment Authority and on the board of Monro Muffler and Service. His volunteer experience includes roles as director of the Executive Service Corps, Brookline Community Fund, Family to Family Fund, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and President of Chappaquiddick Island Association, among other organizations. He is currently an overseer of the Trustees of Reservations, an overseer emeritus of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and a trustee emeritus of the Boston Athenæum, and he serves on the investment committees of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts and the Boston Athenæum. An Associate Member of NEHGS, which he joined in 2014, he is co-chair of the Jewish Heritage Center Advisory Council.



Edward J. Sullivan of Londonderry, N.H., is director of client development at Welch & Forbes, a 178-year-old wealth management firm in Boston, where he oversees the company's marketing and sales initiatives and works with specialists in portfolio management, tax preparation and planning, and estate settlement. Previously, he held positions with Wilmington Trust, Citizens Bank Investment Services Group, and Fleet Private Clients Group. He is a former chairman of the board of visitors and past trustee of the Newman School, a former trustee of the Bostonian Society, and a past member of the board of directors of the Family Firm Institute/New England Chapter. He has been an event patron for NEHGS, which he joined in 2013.

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Mary M. Tedesco of Gloucester, Mass., has been one of three hosts of *Genealogy Roadshow* on PBS-TV since 2014, and is the founder and CEO of Origins Italy, a company specializing in in-depth Italian genealogical research, including multi-week onsite research conducted in Italy. Her career has also included positions as vice president, Bank of America Global Capital Management (formerly Columbia Management) and fixed income research analyst for Lehman Brothers Asset Management. She is a past board member, co-director of programs, and director of communications for the Massachusetts Genealogical Council and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Italian Genealogical Society of America, and The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA). An Associate Member of NEHGS, she joined in 2011.



Kathleen A. Van Demark of Rockport, Mass., is a retired internist/geriatrician and adjunct associate professor of medicine at Boston University, and was previously a medical director and senior executive for health plans in Rochester, N.Y., and Boston, Mass. She has served on the boards of a charitable foundation and several social service and arts organizations. A member of NEHGS since 1994, she is a previous trustee, councilor, and vice-chairman and has served on the Strategic Planning, Executive, Audit, and Human Resources Committees. She was a participant in the 2015 Great Migration: By Sea and By Land tour. She is a member of the Dr. Henry Bond Heritage Society and a Life Member.



Brenda Williams of Siasconset, Mass., was a Registered Staff Nurse in Cardiac Intensive Care, Massachusetts General Hospital and Greenwich (Conn.) Hospital, and in Surgical Intensive Care at Norwalk (Conn.) Hospital. She has served as a volunteer for Symphony Hall, Boston, Mass.; Boston's First Night Celebration; the Hospital Thrift Shop, Juno, Fla.; and as vice president and member of the board of directors of the Nantucket Cottage Hospital Thrift Shop. She is a member of the Maine Genealogical Society, Nantucket Historical Association, Society of Mayflower Descendants, Daughters of the American Revolution, and other genealogical and family associations. A Life Member of NEHGS, which she joined in 2010, she was a participant in the 2015 Great Migration: By Sea and By Land tour.



Albert J. Zdenek, Jr. of New York, N.Y., is president, CEO, and founder of Traust Sollus, with over thirty years' experience in providing wealth management-related counsel and services to high net worth individuals, senior executives, physicians and business owners. He authored *Master Your Cash Flow: The Key to Grow and Retain Wealth*. His public service includes nine years on the Borough of Flemington (N.J.) Council, and he spends time supporting the Global Partnership for Afghanistan, the Inner-City Scholarship Fund of New York City, Virtual Enterprises, Inc., and teaching. He joined NEHGS in 2002 and is a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving.

New Trustees Emeriti

Judith "Judy" Avery of San Francisco, Calif., is president of the BayTree Fund, a private family foundation, and is a past chairman of the Durfee Foundation, past board member of Pitzer College, and past founding board member of the California Heritage Museum. She is a member of the California Genealogical Society, San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, Avery Memorial Society, and Dickinson Family Association, and she was a contributor to *The Ancestors and Descendants of Christopher Avery* (Newbury Street Press, 2004). An NEHGS member since 1981 and past trustee and councilor, she served on the Preservation, Development, Nominating, and Executive Committees, and as vice-chair of the Campaign Committee. She is an Annual Dinner benefactor, as well as a member of the Dr. Henry Bond Heritage Society and the Cornerstone Society, and a Life Member.

William M. Crozier, Jr. of Wellesley, Mass., is a past chairman and president of BayBanks, Inc. and has served on the boards of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Babson College, and the Nantucket Land Council. He is a past president of The Commercial Club of Boston—The Merchants Club, and the Union Club of Boston, and is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati and the Society of Colonial Wars. He joined NEHGS in 2001, is a past trustee and councilor, and served as chair of the Investment Committee and on the Finance and Investment Committees. He is a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and a Life Member.

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From our readers

I was so thrilled to see the article about the addition of the Rose Family Association Collection [American Ancestors 17 (2016) 2:56–57]. My DAR ancestor is Abel Rose born in Granville, Massachusetts, in 1759. Thank you, Christine Rose, for all your work and for your donation to NEHGS!

Marcia DeHaven, Evans, Georgia

I could not believe that American Ancestors could get any better, but you surprised me. I liked all the articles and read the magazine from start to finish. I learned a lot.

Bea LaPlante, Mercer, Maine

I always look forward to receiving American Ancestors, hoping to find articles that can help me with my research. The spring/summer edition contained one of those instances. The Focus on New York article by Henry Hoff on guardianship records in New York [American Ancestors 17 (2016) 2:58–59] introduced me to two databases that produced a base hit with the potential for a home run. My brick wall has long been Daniel Pierce, born in the 1760s. Searching Abstracts of Wills, Administrations and Guardianships of NY State led me to a letter of administration from his Washington County, New York, probate file. I then moved on to New York Probate Records, 1629–1971 on FamilySearch.org and found further documentation. I've uncovered many new clues and sent off requests for additional information. This family file had been sitting in a drawer for five years because I'd reached a dead end. It is only because of the article that it has been resurrected.

John Mason, Matthews, North Carolina

When the June 8 *Weekly Genealogist* with the survey about American Ancestors magazine hit my inbox, I was sitting at the breakfast table, highlighter in one hand, latest issue of American Ancestors in the other. I was poring over the article about genealogy programs [Rhonda R. McClure, "Choosing the Right Genealogical Software for You: Our Expert Advice," American Ancestors 17 (2016) 2:24–29], learning about things to look for, and finding several good reasons not to abandon my long-beloved OLD program that works just fine for me. Keep up the great work, all!

Betsy Scott, Salem, Oregon

We want to hear from you! Respond at **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, photographs, and much more. Patrons request manuscripts in advance 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 on three floors 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 brick wall questions!

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

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NEW Searchable Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

Compiled genealogies

Early New England Families—five new sketches

In this study project, Alicia Crane Williams uses Clarence Almon Torrey's bibliographic index of early New England marriages (and its recent successors) to compile authoritative documented sketches. The focus is on immigrants who arrived in 1641 or later. The sketches are grouped by year of marriage rather than immigration; eventually all marriages through 1700 will be treated.

Early Vermont Settlers to 1784—fifteen new sketches

This study project, managed by Scott Andrew Bartley, contains modified *Register*-style genealogical sketches for every identifiable head of household who resided within the present-day borders of Vermont by 1784. A list of children, their spouse(s), and all their known vital records accompanies each sketch.

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790—sixty new sketches

This study project contains genealogical sketches of families enumerated in the 1790 census for Berkshire and Hampshire Counties (which now includes Franklin and Hampden Counties). These sketches, submitted by NEHGS members and staff, were edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG.

Probate records

Hampshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1660–1889

This database was created with digital images from FamilySearch.org and an index produced by a volunteer team at the Hampshire County probate court. The images and index were contributed to NEHGS by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives. The collection contains the records of 8,732 Hampshire County probate cases initiated between 1660 and 1889. The probate cases include wills, guardianships, administrations, and various other types of probate records. The cases range in length from one to several hundred pages, with a total of over 164,000 individual file papers. This portion of the collection represents the first half of the Hampshire probate cases, as stored in file boxes 1–165. The latter half of the collection (in file boxes 166–267) will be released in the future.

Suffolk County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1636–1893

This database, an index to the Suffolk County, Massachusetts, probate records, was contributed to NEHGS by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives. The collection indexes approximately 95,000 cases and 110,000 names.

FamilySearch collections added to AmericanAncestors.org

Argentina, Baptisms, 1645–1930

Index to selected Catholic Church baptismal records from some localities in Argentina. The year range in the collection title represents the years covered by the majority of the records; some records may be from earlier or later years. This collection does not include images of the original records.

California, Birth Index, 1905–1995

Name index of birth index created by the California Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics Section in Sacramento. The index includes name, date of birth, sex, mother's surname, and county of birth.

California, Births and Christenings, 1812–1988

Name index to birth, baptism, and christening records from the state of California. Microfilm copies of these records are available at the Family History Library and Family History Centers. Due to privacy laws, recent records may not be displayed. The year range represents most of the records; a few records may be earlier or later.

England, Norfolk Parish Registers, 1538–1900

Norfolk parish registers containing baptisms, marriages/banns, and burials. Date ranges of available records vary by locality.

Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950

Index to selected Scotland births and baptisms. Only a few localities are included and the time period varies by locality. Due to privacy laws, recent records may not be displayed. The year range represents most of the records; a few records may be earlier or later.

Scotland, Marriages, 1561–1910

Index to selected Scotland marriages. Only a few localities are included and the time period varies by locality. Due to privacy laws, recent records may not be displayed. The year range represents most of the records; a few records may be earlier or later.

West Virginia, Naturalization Records, 1814–1991

The collection consists of a variety of naturalization records for 32 of the 55 West Virginia counties. Records include declarations of intention, petitions, oaths of allegiance, certificates of naturalization (stubs), registers of naturalizations granted and/or denied, card files of naturalization, naturalization orders, lists of naturalized citizens, naturalization dockets, etc. Counties included are Barbour, Berkeley, Brooke, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Lewis, Logan, Marion, Mason, McDowell, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Nicholas, Ohio, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Roane, Summers, Tucker, Upshur, Wetzel, Wood, and Wyoming.

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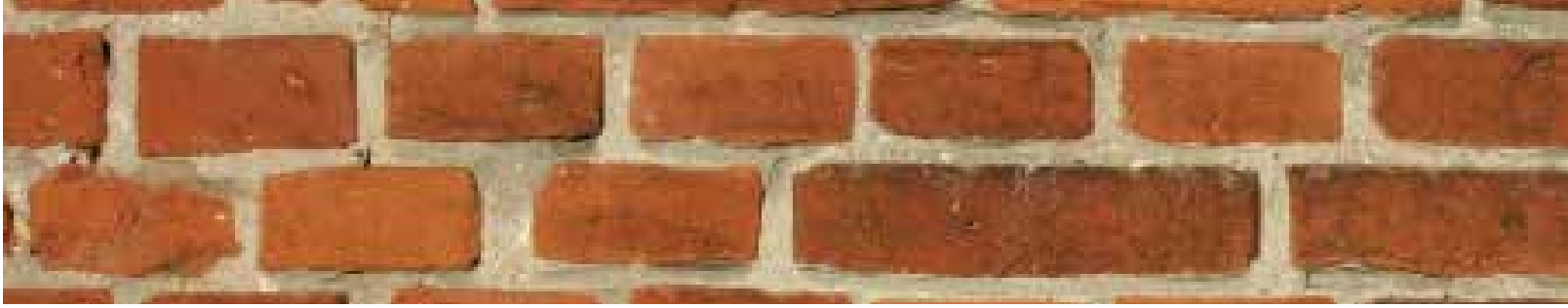

Brick Walls *submitted by our members*

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.*

My brick wall is the **parents of my ancestor Mary Howe**, who married George Young in Rensselaer County, New York, in 1794. One clue is provided by the obituary for Mary's son: it claimed she had *Mayflower* ancestry. Two main theories exist about Mary's parentage. The first asserts that Mary was born 16 May 1772 in Canaan, Connecticut, to Abner Howe and Abigail Brooks/Brookins. Abner, a *Mayflower* descendant through William White, was born 17 November 1747 in Marlborough, Massachusetts, to Nehemiah and Beulah (Wheeler) Howe, and died in Wells, Vermont, about 1781. A James Brookins was appointed Mary's guardian and moved, presumably with Mary, to Rensselaer County in 1793. The second theory claims that Mary Howe was born 16 March 1772 in Canaan to Samuel Howe and Mary Pierce. Samuel, who has no known *Mayflower* ancestry, was born 24 June 1713 (or 1716) in Plainfield, Conn., to John and Phebe (Butterfield) Howe. Samuel's grandparents were Samuel and Mary (Nutting) Howe. My DNA results show matches with the surnames Howe, Pierce, Butterfield, and Nutting, which seems to favor the second theory, but I am seeking proof.

Bob Waxham, Smithfield, Virginia

My persistent brick wall is my ancestor **Permelia Church**. Permelia married Benjamin F. Church, a carpenter, who came from Ulster County, New York, to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1835. Census and cemetery records tell us she was born in 1815 in New Hampshire, and her oldest daughter's death record lists her mother's maiden name as Clemens. Permelia and Benjamin had six children. She was interred in 1856 in Milwaukee with infant son Benjamin F. Church, Jr., but as Elizabeth Church. So far, I have not found a birth record for either "Permelia" or "Clem" in New Hampshire vital records in the 1810 to 1820 time frame. Any leads would be appreciated.

Barbara Bradley Petura, Pullman, Washington

Samuel Lowder Sr. (1764?–1847), his wife Caroline (d. 1879), and their son Samuel Lowder Jr. (1784?–1832), were early settlers of Bangor, Maine. I found the death dates of Samuel Sr. and Caroline, and learned through newspaper accounts that Samuel Jr. was buried in Bangor with full military honors in 1832. But I have been unable to find any record of their final resting places. In 1841, Samuel Sr. tried to start his own private cemetery, but the venture failed due to damage to the vaults from "frost heaves"—frozen ground damaging the structures. Could the family have been buried in this private cemetery, and their bodies later moved? Where are the Lowders buried?

Charles H. Lagerbom, Northport, Maine

I've been searching for quite some time for the origins of my paternal great-grandfather, who emigrated from Northern Ireland in 1852. A professional researcher in Northern Ireland found that my great-grandfather was the son of Joseph Alexander (1785–1866) from County Tyrone, and that Joseph married **Mary McIntyre** (1798–1878) in 1819 in Maghereagh, Donagheady. But we have not been able to determine Mary's townland, parish, or county of origin. Who was Mary McIntyre, and where did she come from?

Harriet Myers, Madison, Connecticut

The NEHGS cartoon



"Remember, genealogy requires your COMPLETE attention."
— Dorothy Lara, Facebook
Drawing by Jean Powers, NEHGS.

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programs & tours



2016 RESEARCH TOURS

Salt Lake City, Utah

October 30–November 6, 2016

"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

Experience the world's largest library for genealogy and family history as NEHGS returns to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library for our thirty-eighth annual research tour. Activities include individual consultations with NEHGS genealogists, lectures, and other special events.

Member registration: $1,700 single; $1,500 double; $1,950 with non-researching guest; $850 commuter. **Nonmember registration:** Add $150 to the above prices

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The NEHGS research library in Boston holds millions of manuscripts, records, books, microfilms, photographs, electronic resources, and other items that preserve and reveal our history. Visit our headquarters and explore genealogical treasures with personalized guidance from our expert staff.

NEW! Fall Research Getaway

October 13–15, 2016

"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

Due to popular demand, we are offering another research getaway program to our library and archives! Escape to NEHGS for three days of research, consultations, lectures, and social event.

Member registration: $350. **Nonmember registration:** $500. **Guest:** $50

MONTHLY LIBRARY EVENTS

Visit AmericanAncestors.org/education/events-and-programs for a full schedule.

New Visitor Welcome Tour

This free orientation introduces you to the resources available at our research facility. With more than 15 million artifacts, books, manuscripts, microfilms, journals, photographs, records, and expert staff, NEHGS provides the tools you need to research your family history. Tours are offered twice monthly.

Art & Architecture Tour

NEHGS has been collecting unique items of Americana and fine art since 1845. Our collections include an easy chair that belonged to John Hancock, early family registers, and portraits of New England's known and lesser known heroes and heroines. Learn the story behind these pieces and more. Tours are offered monthly.

First Fridays Brown Bag Lecture Series

First Friday of each month, 12–1 p.m.

Share your lunch hour with the experts at NEHGS and partner institutions! Learn about New England's early history, gain valuable research techniques, discover record collections and new resources, and more.

Register for NEHGS events

Online: Register for most programs at **AmericanAncestors.org/Education**.

Phone: Call 617-226-1226 or 1-888-286-3447 to register for seminars and research tours.

Online programs: 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 or 1-888-286-3447.

Lodging in Boston

A short three-block walk from NEHGS, the Charlesmark Hotel at 655 Boylston Street offers special rates for NEHGS members throughout the year on a space-available basis. The hotel can be reached at 617-247-1212 or **thecharlesmark.com**. Identify yourself as an NEHGS member and expect to show your membership card upon arrival.

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Special Upcoming NEHGS Education Programs—*Mark Your Calendars!*



SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Appraisal Day at NEHGS

Sponsored by Skinner, Inc.

NEHGS Library and Archives, Boston

$20/item (limit 3 per person)

Want to learn more about your family heirlooms? Bring your items to NEHGS to receive information and appraisal values from experts at Skinner! Limit of three items per person. Visit AmericanAncestors.org to learn more about restricted items and about the appraisers.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

Italian Genealogy: Resources at NEHGS

In partnership with the Order Sons of Italy in America

NEHGS Library and Archives, Boston

Free and open to the public; registration is required

Between 1880 and 1920, an estimated four million Italians immigrated to America. Today their descendants make up more than 5% of the total U.S. population. Although a surge of Italian records has been made available online, the nuances of Italian genealogy can pose a number of stumbling blocks. Join Jeanne Belmonte for an introduction to Italian family history and learn how NEHGS can help you in your research. A reception will follow.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

DNA DAY: Everything You Need to Know about Genetic Testing for Genealogy

In partnership with AncestryDNA

Worcester, Massachusetts

DNA tests can break down genealogical brick walls, connect distant cousins, unlock mysteries, and even reveal long-kept family secrets. But accurately deciphering results is not without its challenges. Join experts from NEHGS and AncestryDNA for a full-day seminar on how to interpret DNA findings and apply that knowledge to your own family history research! Special guest Bill Griffeth, co-anchor of *Closing Bell* on CNBC and author of the new book *The Stranger in My Genes*, will discuss how his own genetic findings altered his sense of identity and his family tree.





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Heraldry in America

NEHGS Library and Archives, Boston

Discover the history of heraldry in America from colonial times to the present day. Join esteemed representatives from the American Heraldry Society, Académie Internationale d'Héraldique, and the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. An exhibit of heraldic items from NEHGS special collections will be on display.



"I would go back to New York City with NEHGS again and again. It was extremely valuable to me. Thank you for offering a terrific trip that taught me how to research in New York City the right way."

—Kathryn Collins, NYC research tour participant

NEHGS in New York

In May, NEHGS embarked on its inaugural research tour of New York City! Participants researched in some of the city's best genealogical repositories—the New York Public Library, Municipal City Archives, Brooklyn Historical Society, and Ackman & Ziff Genealogy Institute. In addition to lectures and consultations, the group explored what life was like for their ancestors with visits to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum and Ellis Island. Trips to the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society and Green-Wood Cemetery rounded out a successful week of research, history, and camaraderie.

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New from the Online Learning Center

Did you know that you can expand your genealogical expertise without leaving home? Our growing online learning center offers an array of resources and educational opportunities for family historians of all levels and all interests. From our interactive webinars and in-depth online courses to our informative how-to videos and subject guides, you can access the expertise at NEHGS without having to travel to Boston. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education and start learning today!

WEBINARS

Visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Online-Classes to register for our FREE monthly webinars. Upcoming topics include:

- Pennsylvania Research and Resources at NEHGS
- Mapping Your Ancestors
- Researching a Home's History

You can also watch a number of previously broadcast presentations at AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Watch.

SUBJECT GUIDES

Developed by the experts at NEHGS, our subject guides provide how-to tips, best practices, lists of key resources (in print and online), and more. View a full list at AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Read. Topics include:

- Pennsylvania Research
- African American Genealogy
- Scottish Genealogy

VIDEOS

Gain valuable skills by watching how-to videos, archived webinars, lectures, and interviews. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Watch for a full list. Topics include:

- Using New England Probate Records (1:05:36)
- Searching Study Projects on AmericanAncestors.org (1:03:54)
- Writing for NEHGS Periodicals (59:01)

DOWNLOADS

Download commonly used templates to help organize your research, save you time, and present your information in a consistent and accurate way. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Download. Templates include:

- Early census comparison charts
- Suggested interview questions
- Research log

ONLINE COURSES—*EXCLUSIVELY FOR NEHGS MEMBERS!*

Our Online Courses offer NEHGS members a way to enhance their genealogical education through online presentations, handouts, and assessment. 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. Upcoming topics include:

- Mastering New York Genealogy
- Researching Early New England
- Elements of Genealogical Analysis: A Class in Methodology with Robert Charles Anderson
- Breaking Down Brick Walls: Strategies for Success
- Immigration and Naturalization in America: from 1620 to 1920 and beyond
- For those who Served: Military Research from Colonial conflicts to World War II

NEW!

Missed an online course? You can now purchase previously broadcast courses, which include access to recordings, handouts, slides, and more. Visit shop.AmericanAncestors.org.

Currently available:

Using DNA in Your Family History Research
Presented by Christopher C. Child
$24.95

Bridging the Atlantic:
From New England Back to England
Presented by David Dearborn
$24.95

New courses will continue to be offered as live broadcasts for members only that feature special Q&A time with instructors, communication with fellow students, and more.

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Meet JEAN MAGUIRE

Library Director



I have the good fortune to be the Library Director at NEHGS. It's a wonderful and challenging job—one that encompasses every area of our library's collections, services, and staffing.

The Library consists of four divisions: Patron Services, Special Collections, Technical Services, and Volunteers. We assist members and the public with their research, in person at NEHGS, by phone and email, on our website (check out our subject guides at AmericanAncestors.org/read), and through lectures and publications. We manage the Society's extensive print and digital collections of books, manuscripts, photographs, and other materials. This work includes acquiring items for the collections, processing and cataloging them so they can be discovered and used, and conserving them for future generations. The Library is responsible for the Society's online catalog (library.nehgs.org) and Digital Collections site (digitalcollections.americanancestors.org).

After earning a master's degree in library and information science, and having worked for twelve years in public, corporate, and university libraries, I began at NEHGS as Technical Services Librarian in 1999 and became library director in 2012. One of the most rewarding parts of this job is working with colleagues who are just starting out in the field of libraries or genealogy. I am inspired by their ideas and enjoy seeing them grow as professionals.

I'm especially enthusiastic about working with Library staff to digitize NEHGS collections and make them available online. Digitization requires a great deal of planning and coordination of funding, technology infrastructure, content selection, workflow, and staffing. Our goal is for the collections to be as accessible as possible and not merely sit on a shelf. I want our members to know that their Society is working hard every day to bring the collections to them. I encourage readers to visit our new Digital Collections site and watch for future developments.

My first exposure to genealogy came when I was a teenager, through Maguire family research, which my father began and I have continued. Searching for the elusive origins of our ancestors in Ireland has provided me with good training for advising researchers attempting to trace their Irish ancestry. I have also researched my Italian-born maternal grandfather's Belforti and Mazzini lines. Working with Italian civil records, both here in the U.S. using microfilm and at the local comune office in my grandfather's birthplace, was fascinating and took me back several generations.

A particularly gratifying project has been investigating my maternal grandmother's origins: only late in her life did my family learn she had been adopted. After years of dead ends, I had some major breakthroughs, thanks to orphanage records and DNA analysis. As I look back, I realize that my urge to research family history is due not just to an interest in the larger fields of U.S. and world history, but to the close connection I have had with my grandparents, and my wish to know and record their lives as fully as possible. I'm sure that many NEHGS members have been similarly inspired. ◆

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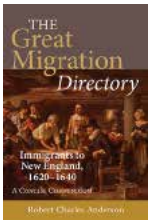
American Ancestors

My Reading List

BY FORMER NEHGS PUBLISHING DIRECTOR
PENNY STRATTON

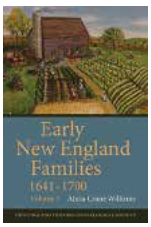


Now that I'm retired, I finally have time to concentrate on my own research—and to enjoy the books I helped publish during my ten years at NEHGS. These are some of the titles I consider "bookshelf essentials" for genealogists of all skill levels.



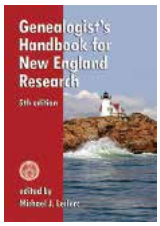
THE GREAT MIGRATION DIRECTORY
by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

The more I became familiar with the Great Migration Study Project, the more I came to realize its vast importance. I kept the books on the shelf directly above my workspace and consulted *The Great Migration Directory* frequently to check for the best sources of information about early immigrants to New England. This is a book you will find yourself going back to again and again! ($64.95, NEHGS member $58.46)



EARLY NEW ENGLAND FAMILIES
by Alicia Crane Williams

Another book giving authoritative information about early New Englanders, picking up in 1641, where the Great Migration Study Project leaves off. Alicia is continuing to fulfill the need for accurate and concise sketches of early New England families. ($32.95, NEHGS member $29.66)



GENEALOGIST'S HANDBOOK FOR NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH
by Michael J. Leclerc

What a comprehensive guide to doing research in the six New England states! I am very proud of the features we added in this edition, and I would recommend owning the book if only for the several hundred helpful maps. A must-have for anyone with New England roots! ($24.95, NEHGS member $22.46)

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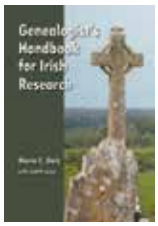
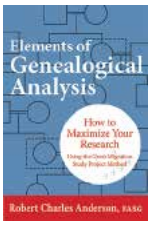


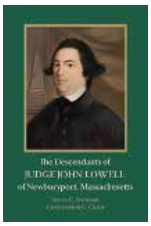
GENEALOGIST'S HANDBOOK FOR IRISH RESEARCH
by Marie E. Daly with Judith Lucey

Marie and Judy worked hard to make this the best possible book on how to research your Irish ancestry, with a focus on methodology. Readers will find the text very approachable and the many examples and illustrations helpful. If you have Irish roots, this book should be in your personal library! ($24.95, NEHGS member price $22.46)



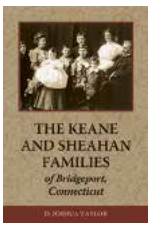
ELEMENTS OF GENEALOGICAL ANALYSIS
by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

I am in awe of Bob Anderson's research skills, so I highly recommend this explanation of rigorous but straightforward and logical methods you can apply to your own research. ($24.95, NEHGS member $22.46)



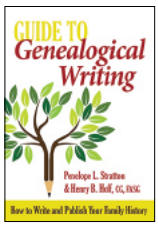
THE DESCENDANTS OF JUDGE JOHN LOWELL OF NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS
by Scott C. Steward and Christopher C. Child

AND



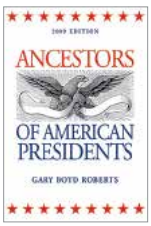
THE KEANE AND SHEAHAN FAMILIES OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
by D. Joshua Taylor

These Newbury Street Press books are examples of how to write an engaging family history. The Lowell genealogy, which has won multiple awards, is almost a textbook in the use of *Register* style, and the Keane/Sheahan genealogy shows how to incorporate compelling family stories into your family history. (Lowell, $74.95, NEHGS member, $67.46; Keane and Sheahan, $44.95, NEHGS member $40.46)



GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL WRITING
by Penelope L. Stratton and Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG

For this update of *Genealogical Writing for the 21st Century*, Henry Hoff and I tried to lay out all the steps for writing and publishing your family history, from planning to publishing. One of my favorite additions is the "Genealogical Manual of Style," which covers how to deal with alternate names, unusual date styles in records, and more. ($19.95, NEHGS member $17.96)



ANCESTORS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS
by Gary Boyd Roberts

Ancestor tables of all the presidents, and of first ladies, written by one of the country's top genealogists. Who could want more? The charts at the back—showing presidents' relationships to notable ancestors, and sometimes to each other—are worth the price of purchase. ($39.95, NEHGS member $35.96)

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We are pleased to introduce a new NEHGS guidebook: *Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research*, written by long-time senior genealogist Marie E. Daly with archivist Judith Lucey.

Researching Irish Ancestors Using American Gravestones, Newspapers, & Specialized Records

Unlike a search for colonial New England ancestors, which can lead to numerous sources of information about many forebears, Irish research has some inherent hurdles and frustrations. Many people have similar or the same names. Pre-1901 Irish censuses were largely destroyed in a fire, and other records can be scanty. Nevertheless, Irish church and land records, many available online, can offset a number of these hurdles. For Irish Americans, the quest is less about quantity and more about understanding who their ancestors were, locating their places of origin, and discovering what life was like for them.

The book arose from materials and methods the authors developed over the years as they helped people with Irish research problems. Marie and Judy believe that genealogists not only need knowledge of key records (and access to them) but also require a set of proven strategies for research and interpretation. In their new book, Marie and Judy aim to demonstrate the approaches that will increase chances for success in Irish research.

This book is divided into four basic sections: Part 1 covers the basics of genealogical research; Part 2 discusses the most fruitful sources and techniques for finding Irish origins and biographical information; Part 3 explains Irish place names and administrative divisions and delves into records created in Ireland; and Part 4 offers a four-page listing of useful online resources.

For this article, we present an adapted version of Chapter 5 from Part 2 of *Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research*, "Researching Your Ancestors through Gravestones, Newspapers, and Business Records."



Marie E. Daly, *Senior Genealogist at NEHGS, is a nationally recognized expert in Irish genealogy. She has written numerous articles and lectured on Irish genealogical topics. Her other interests include Italian and Jewish genealogy, Prince Edward Island research, and local history and land research.*

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Find relevant gravestone inscriptions

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, many Irish immigrants in North America included their places of origin on family gravestones. Not all Irish immigrants had gravestones, or if they did, the gravestones did not survive or are now so worn as to be illegible. But gravestones with useful information occur often enough to make them worth locating.

In small communities, there may be only one graveyard in town, making the task of locating the cemetery easy. In large cities, however, locating a gravestone can be daunting, especially since many cemetery records are either missing or deficient. Check the death record, which may indicate the place of burial and the undertaker. Other helpful clues might come from the fact that, in larger cities, many graveyards can be categorized by religion and time period. Until the twentieth century, most Catholics were buried in Catholic graveyards. In many cities, Catholic graveyards are located outside the city center in surrounding "streetcar" suburbs, since the density of land development in the city center precluded acquiring enough open land for a cemetery. The development of many cemeteries was frequently chronological rather than geographic. That is, since grave lots were sold when the burial ground was established, a person who died in the mid-nineteenth century is not likely to be buried in a seventeenth-century graveyard.

For example, a resident of Charlestown, Massachusetts, who died in 1875 may not have been buried in the Charlestown Catholic Cemetery on Bunker Hill, which was established in 1830, since most of the lots in that cemetery were sold by 1850. Nineteenth-century Irish graveyards tended to fill up quickly since mortality rates were high. Checking sources such as *A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries* by David Allan Lambert (Boston: NEHGS, 2009) will reveal that Holy Cross Cemetery in Malden would be a more likely location for an 1875 burial of a Charlestown Catholic.

But families may have purchased a grave lot in a much earlier time period for the burial of a child. Therefore, a 75-year-old parent who died in 1875 could be buried in a lot that was purchased in 1830 for a deceased child. Looking at the history of the family over time, especially at the lives and deaths of the children, may help determine where an immigrant ancestor is buried.

Newspaper obituaries—full articles summarizing the life of the deceased—may also name the graveyard of the deceased's burial, but ordinary one- or two-line death notices of the nineteenth and early twentieth

Opposite page: "A Map of Ireland" from Bernard Scales, *An Hibernian Atlas: or General Description of the Kingdom of Ireland* (London: 1798). NEHGS Library Collection. *Below:* Gravestones showing Irish places of origin.



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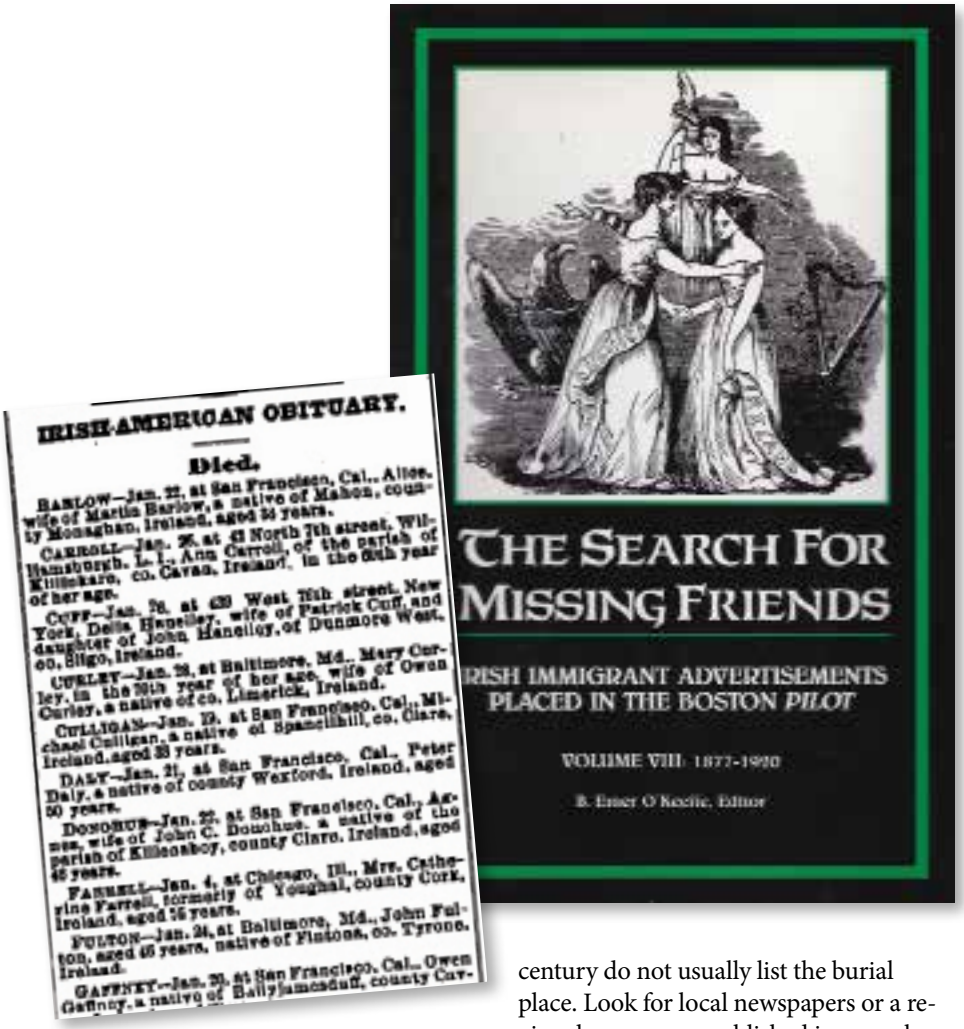

Death notices in the *Irish American Weekly* newspaper, New York, February 2, 1877.

century do not usually list the burial place. Look for local newspapers or a regional newspaper published in a nearby city which would include news of many surrounding towns. Many newspapers are now being digitized and are searchable on the web: see the NEHGS website, AmericanAncestors.org, as well as newspapers.com and genealogybank.com. The latter has several Irish newspapers based in New York City. Local libraries may have subscriptions to online newspaper archives and even offer remote access to town residents. For a comprehensive list of online newspaper archives, consult cyndislist.com.

Once you determine the location of the cemetery, you need to find the specific grave. Burial records may refer to a row and a grave number, and rectangular graveyards may be laid out in a grid. In those cases, locating the grave is relatively easy and straightforward. Without this sort of information, the search can be more challenging. It can be helpful to recall that the grave lots were sold consecutively over time. So graveyards will often be laid out from the oldest to the newest sections. Look at the dates of death inscribed on the other gravestones to get a sense of the layout.

Don't focus solely on your ancestor. Make note of the other gravestones in the burial ground. The information inscribed on them may reveal a cluster of immigrants from specific areas in Ireland. Write down the inscriptions of others with the same surname. Perhaps your ancestor did not have a gravestone but his or her cousin did. Keeping a wide focus will lead to more success.

Consult websites and printed sources of gravestone inscriptions,

Sources for newspaper "missing friends" ads, biographical notices, obituaries, and vital statistics

Irish Immigrant Advertisements, 1831–1920 (Search for Missing Friends), online database, AmericanAncestors.org. Originally published as *The Search for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in The Boston Pilot 1831–1920*, Vols. 1–8, edited by Ruth-Ann M. Harris and B. Emer O'Keeffe (NEHGS, 1989–99).

Voices of the Irish Immigrant: Information Wanted Ads in "The Truth Teller" New York City, 1825–1844, compiled by Diane Fitzpatrick Haberstroh and Laura Murphy DeGrazia (New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2005)

Genealogy Bank newspapers, all from New York, New York:

Irish American Weekly Newspaper Archives (1849–1914)

Irish World (1890–1905)

Shamrock Newspaper Archives (1810–1817)

Western Star Newspaper Archives (1812–1813)

Exile Newspaper Archives (1817–1817)

Irish Citizen Newspaper Archives (1867–1868)

Irish Nation Newspaper Archives (1881–1883)

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such as findagrave.com, *Tombstones of the Irish Born: Cemetery of the Holy Cross, Flatbush, Brooklyn* by Joseph M. Silinonte (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1994), and Ronald Chase Murphy and Janice Church Murphy, *Irish Famine Immigrants in the State of Vermont: Gravestone Inscriptions* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 2000). When viewing online sources, look at the inscriptions on the other gravestones in the cemetery. Even if you strike out with your own ancestor, the other gravestones in the cemetery may help reveal the origins of other Irish immigrants in the area.

The gravestone of John McQuaig in Chapel Hill Cemetery, Trescott, Maine (pictured on the right on page 29), shows he was a native of Rathlin Island, County Antrim. A number of other gravestones near his indicate a Rathlin Island birthplace. Although the burial ground is located in Trescott, the Rathlin Island immigrants lived primarily in Lubec and Pembroke. At the time of the Great Famine, hundreds of Rathlin Islanders settled in Washington County, Maine.[1]

The information on gravestones isn't foolproof and should be viewed with some skepticism, since the data could have been transcribed incorrectly by the stonecutter. In addition, some monuments are erected years after the person died, with the information obtained from oral history rather than primary sources such as death records. Even death records can be erroneous, since the informant is often the undertaker, who obtains the information from the bereaved family. The age upon death in particular should be viewed with circumspection.

The place name in Ireland is often misspelled on gravestones, since the families were often illiterate, and the stone carvers were unfamiliar with Irish names and places. So it may take some imagination and patience to decipher the place of birth on a gravestone. King Sale, County Cork, is probably Kinsale. County Mede is probably County Meath, and so on. One good source for determining place names is *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies of Ireland: Based on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851*, otherwise known as the "Townland Index."[2] This book contains alphabetical listings of townlands, parishes, and baronies. Another online source is the place name search function at John Grenham's website, JohnGrenham.com. The site allows you to perform wildcard searches for parts of place names, which is especially useful in discerning corrupted or hard-to-read places on gravestones. For gravestone inscriptions, see Find A Grave, findagrave.com, a site that relies on volunteer efforts to transcribe and photograph graveyards not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. But keep in mind that negative results on a search do not mean that no gravestone exists, but rather that no one has transcribed the gravestone.

Include newspaper records in your search

Newspapers can provide a wealth of information about the origins of Irish immigrants, in obituaries, "missing friends advertisements," and coverage of repeal society meetings. In the nineteenth century, the cities of the East Coast supported numerous newspapers, often associated with political points of view or ethnic groups. Not necessarily focused on only one location, these newspapers reported on news from across the country and beyond.

The *Boston Pilot* newspaper published death notices and obituaries from various locations in the United States and Canada. In 1864, the *Boston Pilot* charged 25 cents for a death notice and $1 for an obituary. The following is an example: "Died in Albany, NY, December 28th, 1863—BRIDGET, wife of James BURKE, aged 53 years. She was a native of Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland."

In the nineteenth century, family immigration was often accomplished in stages: one person left first, established himself or herself, and sent money back to Ireland to fund the passages of other family members. In the chaos of the Great Famine, the Irish fled in whatever ship they could find, sailing to whatever port they could afford. Communication lines were poor, and families often lost track of each other. Family members frequently placed advertisements in Irish American newspapers, such as the *Boston Pilot*, seeking lost siblings, parents, or children. Because the ads frequently mentioned the place of origin in Ireland, they are extremely useful for genealogists. Some



Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland Membership Card, 1846, Box 1, Folder 3, Loyal National Repeal Association of Ireland Collection, MS2007-019, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

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35,000 ads were placed between 1831 and 1916 in the *Boston Pilot* alone.[3]

Here's an example of how newspaper records such as immigrant advertisements can help you in your genealogical search. Say you were to research President John F. Kennedy's Fitzgerald ancestors in the North End of Boston. You would see that his great-great-grandfather, Thomas Fitzgerald, was naturalized in the United States District Court in Boston on April 29, 1857.[4] The birthplace was recorded as County Limerick—which doesn't give enough information to find the family in Ireland. Note, however, that one of the witnesses to the naturalization petition was an Edmond Fitzgerald.

Your next step would be to search the NEHGS database *Irish Immigrant Advertisements, 1831–1920 (Search for Missing Friends)* at AmericanAncestors.org. You would enter Fitzgerald in the surname field and Boston in the "Place of Last Residence" field toward the bottom of the screen.

Twenty-nine results came back. You have to scan through all of them, but it is better to be more inclusive than too exact. If you had typed "Thomas Fitzgerald" in the name fields, you would have missed this important information: an 1857 advertisement placed by Edmond Fitzgerald of 192 North Street (a North End address), Boston. He was looking for his son, James Fitzgerald, a native of the parish of Bruff, County Limerick. Edmond Fitzgerald was the godfather of one of Thomas Fitzgerald's children and a witness to Thomas Fitzgerald's naturalization petition. So here is a good clue that the Fitzgerald family came from Bruff, County Limerick.[5]

You can manipulate the database to show other information. For instance, you can leave the name fields blank and type Bruff in the keyword field to see where other people from Bruff, County Limerick, settled. You can also leave the name fields blank and enter the town of last residence to see where people in an American town came from.



"New York City—Irish depositors of the Emigrant Savings Bank withdrawing money to send to their suffering relatives in the Old Country." Courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.

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This technique works only for smaller towns, since you will have too many results for large cities such as Boston or Philadelphia.

From 1842 through 1844, numerous "repeal societies" formed in support of Daniel O'Connell's quest to repeal the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland. Meetings were held throughout Irish communities in the United States and Canada, and some newspapers reported the names and origins of the attendees. The reports typically listed the attendees, their Irish county of origin, and their donation amount. The *Boston Pilot*, in particular, reported on meetings not only in large communities such as Boston, Portland, Providence, and Springfield, but also in small villages such as Dalton and Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The *Albany Evening Journal* reported on meetings in West Troy and Albany, and those reports have been made available online on the Old Fulton NY Post Cards website, fultonhistory.com. The Family History Library has a wiki about using the Old Fulton NY Post Card website, listing all the newspapers in its database: FamilySearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Old_Fulton_NY_Post_Cards.

Access bank records

Records of bank depositors can also be another source for documenting an ancestor's Irish origins. The most well-known collection of banking records is the *New York Emigrant Savings Bank, 1850–1883*, available on microfilm, and also as a database at Ancestry.com. In the days before photo identifications, banks kept detailed information about the depositors, such as name, address, birthplace, next of kin, and passenger ships.

Other banking institutions can be equally useful in supplying information about Irish immigrants. Some of the records have been collected by various archives. In the case of the Old Stone Bank of Providence, Rhode Island (formerly the Providence Institution for Savings, founded in 1819 as a mutual savings bank), its records are preserved at the Rhode Island Historical Society. The incoming correspondence of depositors from 1885 to 1897 has been partially abstracted and are available on the website of the Rhode Island Historical Society, rihs.org. After 1882, signature books in this collection routinely gave a depositor's birthplace. Other bank records are located in archives such as the Boston Athenaeum, Boston College, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



Seal from *Ritual of the Catholic Order of Foresters* (1902).

Although bank records can be useful, finding them can take some patient research. In large cities, Irish immigrants tended to favor certain banks, perhaps as a result of a more welcoming attitude on the bank's part. Inventories in probate records of wills and administrations often detailed the name of the bank and the amount in the account of the deceased. Even if your own ancestor did not leave a probate record with a detailed inventory, researching other Irish immigrants in the same neighborhood will give you a starting point. City directories frequently listed the banks, with accompanying addresses and lists of officers.

Small towns or small cities may have had only one bank. Researching the history of the town, local directories, newspapers, and probate records will help identify the banks. Many banks in the nineteenth century were established through an act of the state legislature, and the acts and resolves of the legislature can be searched online or in print at state archives.

Once you have identified a likely bank, the next step is to determine the bank's status. Many banks are no longer operating under their original names, having merged with, or been taken over by, other banks. The U.S. Federal Reserve System operates a useful website, National Information Center (ffiec.gov), that allows researchers to track the history and status of a financial institution. If the acquiring bank is still in business, you can contact the current bank to determine the status of historical records. Many national banks have archives where historical records of the institution are stored. For instance, Wells Fargo Bank, founded in 1852, maintains corporate archives in San Francisco, as well as several corporate history museums.[6] But if the records have not been preserved nor made available, you might be out of luck in pursuing this avenue.

Examine the records of fraternal organizations

In the nineteenth century, fraternal organizations provided venues for social and civic life in cities and towns throughout America. Many were organized around the provision of benefits, particularly life insurance. Their records, when preserved, can document birthplaces in Ireland, as well as other important data.

Masonic lodges

Freemasonry is the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world. Each lodge belonged to a Grand Lodge, and there is a Grand Lodge in every state. Each Grand Lodge is sovereign, so there is no master database of records covering the entire country. To find the name and address of Masonic Grand Lodges around the world and in the United States, you can access the Masons' website: masonicinfo.com/grandlodges.htm.

Membership applications to Freemasonry lodges occasionally document detailed birthplaces in Ireland. Although many Grand Lodges will provide information for free, others, such as New York's, charge a fee to search their records. Some state records, such as those of California and Arkansas, burned.[7] The membership cards of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts are available online at AmericanAncestors.org: Massachusetts, Grand Lodge of Masons Membership Cards, 1733–1990.

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Catholic Order of Foresters

In 1879, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Boston organized the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters to provide insurance benefits to its mainly Irish immigrant members. By 1930, there were 60,000 members in Massachusetts. The organization changed its name to the Catholic Association of Foresters in 1958. A similar but separate organization established in Chicago in 1884 was named the Catholic Order of Foresters of Illinois.

The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA) was granted ownership of the records of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters and then deeded ownership to the University of Massachusetts Boston. The records from 1880 to 1935 have been digitized and will eventually be available on the Family History Library website, FamilySearch.org. They include applications, beneficiary records, correspondence, and death disbursements. The collection is preserved and maintained in the Joseph P. Healey Library of the University of Massachusetts Boston.

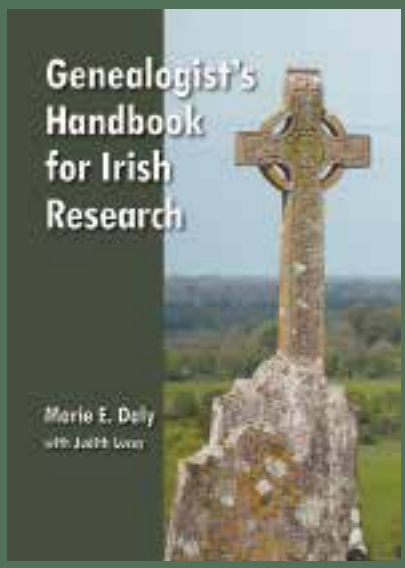
TIARA members are adding new index records monthly, records more than 72 years old may be requested by researchers. An index to the records and information about how to obtain copies can be found at blogs.umb.edu/archives/collections/foresters/.

Summary

The sources discussed in this article offer promising avenues for locating Irish ancestral origins, especially useful when more obvious sources have not produced results. These records may require more work and a higher level of sleuthing skill: they are not always digitized and searchable in databases, and accessing the information may require visiting a graveyard or scanning through microfilm in a library. But gravestones, newspapers (obituaries, "missing friends" advertisements, and repeal society reports), and the records of banks and fraternal organizations can shed a great deal of light on the lives of our ancestors. Irish researchers may be surprised by the amount of detail yet to be uncovered. ◆

Notes

1. Marie E. Daly, "Rathlin Islanders Down East," *Nexus*, 6: 6 (1989).
2. *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies of Ireland: Based on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851* (1861; repr., Baltimore: GPC, 1984); also at archive.org/details/op1248631-1001.
3. The *Boston Pilot* is available on microfilm at NEHGS; at libraries in Boston, New York City, and Chicago: and at numerous university libraries. NEHGS has transcribed the ads from the *Pilot* and placed them in a searchable database, *Irish Immigrant Advertisements, 1831–1920 (Search for Missing Friends),* on its website, AmericanAncestors.org.
4. United States District Court, Boston, Massachusetts, Naturalization Petition, vol. 26, p. 64.
5. *Irish Immigrant Advertisements, 1831–1920 (Search for Missing Friends)* database, AmericanAncestors.org. See also, Richard Andrew Pierce, "The Fitzgerald Ancestry of President John F. Kennedy" in *NEHGS Nexus* 8 (1991): 61–62.
6. wellsfargohistory.com/archives
7. "Now What? Online: Researching Ancestors Who Were Freemasons," *Family Tree Magazine*, posted 12/12/2011, familytreemagazine.com/article/Now-What-Freemason-Records.



How to order

Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research, by Marie E. Daly with Judith Lucey, was published by NEHGS. The 300-page book is available online (shop.AmericanAncestors.org) or by calling 1-888-296-3447 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

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The Famine-Era Quarantine Station on Boston's Deer Island

During the period of the Great Hunger (An Gorta Mór) in Ireland, between 1845 and 1852, approximately one million people died of starvation and illness, and an additional two million emigrated. Countless Irish immigrants sailed to American and Canadian ports in squalid conditions, simply hoping for a chance to survive.

The following 1847 arrival notice in a Salem, Massachusetts, newspaper reported on the condition of immigrants at the end of their ocean crossing:[1]

> MORE IMMIGRANTS —On Saturday, the British ship *Omega*, from Liverpool brought 387. She started with 398, but eleven died on the passage. Twenty were so sick on her arrival that they could not be got on deck. Forty more, in a little better condition, were enabled by assistance to leave the confined and fever-generating atmosphere of the steerage. The ship was in a filthy state; and the immigrants not only bore marks of having suffered from want of comforts and cleanliness, but many of them were aged and helpless, and destitute.

Many people in Massachusetts were sympathetic to the plight of the Irish. In the spring of 1847, donations were collected in Boston to send food and provisions to Ireland as part of a relief effort. However, when Irish immigrants arrived at American ports, including Boston, they generally did not experience the same kindness from residents. In 1846 alone, over 65,000 Irish immigrants arrived at the port of Boston.[2] The displeasure felt by some locals about these destitute immigrants was reflected in a Newburyport, Massachusetts, newspaper article on July 17, 1846:[3]

Above: Detail of "Map of the Vicinity of Boston," in *A New Universal Atlas* (Philadelphia: 1849). Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection.



Eileen Curley Pironti, *Newbury Street Press Researcher, joined the NEHGS staff in March 2012. Eileen's areas of expertise include Irish and nineteenth-century New England research.*

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> We have just been informed that the city authorities of Boston have just sent back, by the ship *Joshua Bates*, some seventy or eighty Irish paupers, who have recently been sent out here probably from pauper houses in Ireland . . . and if it be true that they were sent back by the city authorities, we think no one will complain.

Boston's resources were stretched to the limit by the massive number of immigrants arriving in the city. An 1847 report by the city's Committee on Public Buildings noted that "the famine which has been prevalent abroad during the last year, and especially in Ireland, has given an impetus to immigration never before felt, and has forced upon our charity a more destitute class of persons, and in a more sickly state, than we have ever received before . . . the City has from sheer necessity been obliged to adopt extraordinary measures for their accommodation."[4]

Between November 1846 and May 1847, approximately 355 alien passengers were sent to the House of Industry, a poorhouse located in South Boston, Massachusetts.[5] This institution became so overcrowded that additional wooden structures were built in an attempt to house everyone. The cramped conditions no doubt contributed to the increasing number of typhus cases at the House of Industry in the spring of 1847, which "assumed the character of an epidemic or infectious disorder."[6] A number of Irish immigrants had arrived at the House of Industry suffering from typhus, or "ship fever," which soon spread to other residents.

Petitions and letters sent by Bostonians to the mayor and aldermen expressed concern about the burgeoning immigrant population, including one by an anonymous letter writer dated May 12, 1847, addressed to Alderman George E. Head:

> I am glad the City government is about moving in the matter respecting foreign paupers to be sent by Rich English & Irish land lords to this country . . . unless a different plan is adopted we shall be driven from our houses by the Lazy – Ungrateful, Lying & Thieving population of old Ireland.[7]

In the first line, the author of the letter was referring, no doubt, to the City Council Joint Committee on Alien Passengers, formed in May 1847. The group, consisting of several members of Boston's Board of Aldermen and Common Council, was charged with determining how to deal with the influx of alien (mainly Irish) passengers. The Committee reviewed information provided by the directors of the House of Industry concerning the crowded conditions and precarious health of its residents. To prevent typhus and other illnesses from spreading across the city, the Committee chose Deer Island, located in Boston Harbor, as the site for a quarantine station and hospital for sick and pauper arrivals. Under the new plan, passengers would be examined upon arrival, and those deemed healthy enough to continue into the city would be released, while the sick would remain at Deer Island.

Dr. Joseph Moriarty was chosen as Superintendent and Resident Physician, and a number of other staff were hired to assist with medical duties, cleaning, and cooking at the new facilities. The Deer Island station opened on May 29, 1847; by August, 1,373 patients had already been admitted, with 506 still hospitalized.[8]

One of the Irish immigrants hospitalized at Deer Island was twenty-one-year-old Jeremiah Collins. He was admitted to Deer Island Hospital on September 25, 1847, suffering from "Fever."[9] He died of typhus ten days after his arrival. He had emigrated from Cork, Ireland, on the brig *Seraph*. The brig initially sailed from Cork to Boston, but was turned away when Boston port authorities learned that bonds would not be paid for the 118 passengers.

At the time, shipmasters were required to pay a head tax of two dollars per passenger upon arrival. For each passenger deemed a high risk for becoming a financial burden on the city, shipmasters were to pay a $1,000-dollar bond. Like the *Seraph*, other ships were turned away from Boston for failure to pay bonds. These vessels often then continued on to Canadian ports; some immigrants remained in Canada, while others made their way back to American ports, including Boston. The following account of the *Seraph* was reported in the *Portland [Maine] Advertiser* of July 6, 1847:[10]

> The British brig *Seraph*, from Cork . . . has been ordered away, no person being



One of many petitions to the mayor and aldermen of Boston "to take all the proper steps to cause all paupers in our Alms Houses to be sent or conveyed to the places beyond seas or otherwise, to which they may belong." City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division, Collection No. 0140.011, Series II: Petitions and Memorials, 1847 May-June, box 2, folder 2.

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Photos taken on Deer Island; the bottom photo shows the marker for Rest Haven Cemetery. Courtesy of Jack Nee.

> willing to give the necessary bonds that they shall not become a burden to the State. . . . There are several very sick on board, one died on Friday. . . . We learn from another source that the passengers of the *Seraph* were pacified on being assured that the captain had tickets to give each of them a passage from St. John, N.B., to Boston, and that the delay would not probably exceed their detention in quarantine here.

When the *Seraph* arrived at Saint John, New Brunswick, the ship was placed in quarantine. M. H. Perley, an emigration agent at Saint John, noted in his report to the Government Emigration Office that many of the passengers were sick with fever, and that the captain "promises me to send such of his passengers as desire it to Boston, free of expense, and I shall take care that he does so; but I fear that many of them will never travel so far, being greatly debilitated."[11] Jeremiah Collins survived the return trip to Boston, only to succumb to illness shortly after his arrival.

Between late May 1847, when the quarantine station opened, and January 1848, approximately 347 people were buried at Deer Island.[12] The risk of dying from diseases such as typhus extended beyond the immigrant population. Treating the large number of contagious patients at Deer Island placed the hospital staff in great danger, as evidenced by the death of Dr. Joseph Moriarty from typhus in December 1847. His brother, Dr. John Moriarty, then took over as Deer Island's resident physician and superintendent.

By October 1848, fear of a typhus epidemic had subsided and the quarantine station was scheduled for closure. The small number of residents who remained in late 1848[13] were transferred from Deer Island Hospital to another facility. The City of Boston continued to use Deer Island for public purposes. Even at the time the quarantine station opened, officials had already begun to look ahead to the future use of Deer Island, especially the possibility of relocating the House of Industry from South Boston to the island.[14] In the early 1850s, a building constructed on Deer Island served as the city's almshouse and House of Industry, then housed the Deer Island House of Correction from the late 1890s until 1991.

Located on Deer Island is Rest Haven Cemetery, where many people were buried in unmarked graves. Among them are many Irish immigrants sent to the quarantine station, who, like Jeremiah Collins, landed just short of their final destination, never having the opportunity to reclaim their lives in a new country. ◆

Notes

1 "More Immigrants," *Salem (Mass.) Register*, May 27, 1847, 2.

2 Oscar Handlin, *Boston's Immigrants: A Study in Acculturation* (Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1979), 242.

3 *Newburyport (Mass.) Herald,* July 17, 1846, 2.

4 *Report on the Removal of the House of Industry and other Public Institutions at South Boston to Deer Island,* city document no. 39 (Boston: J. H. Eastburn, 1847), 12.

5 May 20, 1847, meeting minutes, City Council Joint Committee on Alien Passengers, City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division, Collection No. 0140.011, Series I: Minutes, 1847–1848, box 1, folder 1.

6 Ibid.

7 Anonymous letter dated May 12, 1847, to George E. Head, Esq., Boston Alderman, City Council Joint Committee on Alien Passengers, City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division, Collection No. 0140.011, Series II: Petitions and Memorials, 1847 May–June, box 2, folder 2.

8 Deer Island Hospital weekly reports, June 6, 1847–November 24, 1847, City Council Joint Committee on Alien Passengers, City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division, Collection No. 0140-011, Series IV: Deer Island Hospital Administrative Records, 1847–1848, box 2, folder 34–49.

9 Ibid.

10 "Quarantine," *Portland (Maine) Advertiser,* July 6, 1847, 1.

11 July 23, 1847, report from M. H. Perley to the Government Emigration Office, *Papers Relative to Emigration to the British Provinces in North America, and to the Australian Colonies, Part I: British Provinces in North America,* (HMSO: University of Southampton, 1848), 85.

12 January 28, 1848, meeting minutes, City Council Joint Committee on Alien Passengers, City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division, Collection No. 0140.011, Series I: Minutes, 1847–1848, box 1, folder 1.

13 Deer Island Hospital weekly reports, December 1, 1847–November 14, 1848, City Council Joint Committee on Alien Passengers, City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division, Collection No. 0140-011, Series IV: Deer Island Hospital Administrative Records, 1847–1848, box 2, folder 50-100.

14 *Report on the Removal of the House of Industry* [note 4], 3.

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NEHGS *by the numbers*

Members at the New England Historic Genealogical Society are part of an involved community of family historians that spans the United States and the world. From all of us at NEHGS, *thank you.*

In one year, our constituents . . .

Visited our website, AmericanAncestors.org, 2,359,213 times

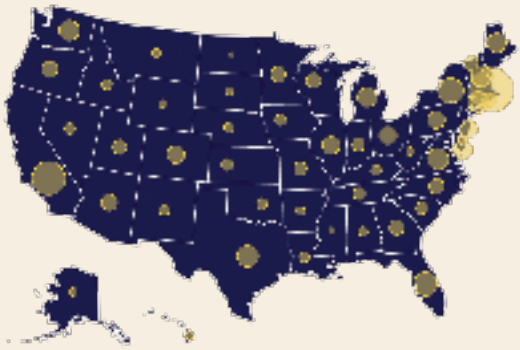
Participated in educational programs 8,005 times

Visited our Boston Research Center 7,367 times

Consulted one-on-one with our genealogists 1,253 times

NEHGS members reside in all 50 states and in 28 different countries.





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The "Year Without a Summer"

Two hundred years ago, people around the globe experienced an extraordinarily cold summer. 1816 became known as the "year without a summer," the "poverty year," and "eighteen hundred and froze to death."

In New England, June 1816 started out hot and then temperatures plummeted. During the summer and fall, frost and snow across the region destroyed foliage, ruined crops, and killed great numbers of sheep and birds. Drought and damaging fires wrought further devastation. The extreme conditions led to food shortages and economic hardship, and encouraged westward migration.

Amariah Frost, Jr. (1750–1819) of Sanford, Maine,[1] kept an 1816 diary that is now at NEHGS. Select entries are below.

June

7 Fri high NW wind all night last—some ice this morning but I do not find anything injured here by any frost I had covered some plants last night for fear of their being destroyed

10 Mon fair—a great frost which has covered the ground like a snow—which has cut down most of the corn—beans and vines—&c. cold all day tarried at Doct. G Willards

July

8 Mon cold N. Westerly Wind A frost in Maine which destroyed Beans & vines etc.

August

22 Thurs fair—very cold for the Season frost in many places but not to kill any plants etc. A fire in Salem which destroyed about 16 Buildings, a Distillery & it caught from a stable

28 Wed Remarkably cold For the season Commencement at Cambridge [Harvard College]

September

Sept 10 Tues cloudy and the air as before and very calm The air is not so full of smoke As it has been for many Day No Dew last night, and all Signs of Rain fail—there Were a few Drops of Rain Yesterday noon and dark Clouds but the night was Fair except the smoky air NB the storm began yesterday At N York as by papers

26 Thurs fair but cool thick smoky air I have been unwell with a cold several days

27 Fri a very cold morning and much frost—Wind N

28 Sat a great frost this morning which we fear has damaged the corn in some places—very calm thick smoky air—as has been for many Days



"A Volcano," *The Elements of Geography Made Easy* (Philadelphia: Morgan & Yeager, ca. 1824). Courtesy, American Antiquarian Society.

October

13 Sun fogg & smoky, cloudy Air—I rested better last night Than for some nights past Attended Meeting Rev Mr Ide of Medway preached text AM on 1 Thes 4 8 "He that despiseth despiseth not man but God". PM text John 5 40 "Ye will Not come to me that ye might Have Life" afternoon fair & Warm N.B. there have been great fires in the woods in many places in the new settlements also the season has been very dry which may account perhaps for the smoky air—It has been a remarkably cold summer in Europe as well as here whether a great number of spots on the sun than usual have produced this change will remain undetermined until further observations are made.

At the time, many people believed that the large sun spots that appeared in the spring of 1816 reduced the number of rays of light and caused global cooling. Not until the latter part of the twentieth century was the "year without a summer" linked to its actual cause: the eruption of Mount Tambora in the Dutch West Indies in April 1815.

— Lynn Betlock

Note

[1] Amariah Frost, Jr., son of Rev. Amariah and Esther (Messenger) Frost, was born 5 Feb. 1750 in Milford, Massachusetts, and died 13 Jan. 1819 in Sanford, Maine. He married Esther Messenger, daughter of John and Melatiah (Corbett) Messenger, born 25 March 1759 in Wrentham, Mass. Children: 1) Olive, d. 1 Feb. 1783; 2) Clarinda, d. 23 Sept. 1784; 3) Charlotte, d. 22 Aug. 1797; and 4) Deacon John Frost, 1787–1851.

Recommended reading: William K. Klingaman and Nicholas P. Klingaman, *The Year without Summer: 1816 and the Volcano that Darkened the World and Changed History* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2013).

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Deep Ancestry and the Golden Thread

I well remember the very first time I came to an NEHGS conference. It was in July 2001 and the location was Farmington, Connecticut. Thanks to an introduction by NEHGS trustee Meriwether Schmid, I was invited to talk on "Genetics and Genealogy."

I had just written *The Seven Daughters of Eve: The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Ancestry*, and I was in the U.S. to publicize the book. I think I'm right in saying that this was one of the first instances of the subject of DNA being addressed by a genealogical society. As so often, NEHGS led the way. Not surprisingly, the talk was very basic and I illustrated it with a few examples of the co-inheritance of Y-chromosomes and surnames that my research team had uncovered.

We all take the link for granted these days, but we few scientists working on the Y-chromosome in the mid-1990s—principally in order to study large-scale migrations of peoples—had dismissed any correlation between surnames and Y-chromosomes as highly unlikely. As geneticists, we were familiar with the high rate of non-paternity, which would have disrupted the surname/Y-chromosome association over time. But because I was due to speak to a large pharmaceutical company whose chairman was also a Sykes, I decided to test our Y-chromosomes to look for a match. Only four markers were available at that time—it was 1996—and, to my surprise, we matched at all of them. Luckily for the next step, our Y-chromosome was rare in the UK.

Intrigued, I wrote to 269 other Sykes men living in the counties of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire (which the 1881 census showed had the highest concentrations of the name) to see what information a wider sample could provide. About 50% of the respondents' Y-chromosomes matched at all four markers (give or take the odd mutation). The strength of the correlation (later reproduced and sometimes improved on with other surnames) was high enough to make it a useful tool for genealogists and showed, incidentally, that the historical rate of non-paternity in England was far lower, at around 1.3% per generation, than it is assumed to be today.

To the credit of genealogists everywhere, DNA has now become a routine consideration in any genealogical research project. This rare example of a technically complex area of academic research adopted with gusto by a group of lay enthusiasts remains a source of great satisfaction to me and my colleagues. To have introduced something genuinely useful, with a widespread appeal and application, is an achievement indeed.

"Five Living Generations," Mount Vernon, Ohio, 1853. From the Bryant and Taggart Family Collection, Mss. 1148.





Bryan Sykes, *professor of human genetics at Oxford University, pioneered the use of DNA in exploring the human past. He is the founder and chairman of Oxford Ancestors (OxfordAncestors.com), which helps individuals explore their genetic roots using DNA. He is the author of* Saxons, Vikings, and Celts: The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland, The Seven Daughters of Eve, Adam's Curse, *and* DNA USA: A Genetic Portrait of America. *He is also an NEHGS councilor.*

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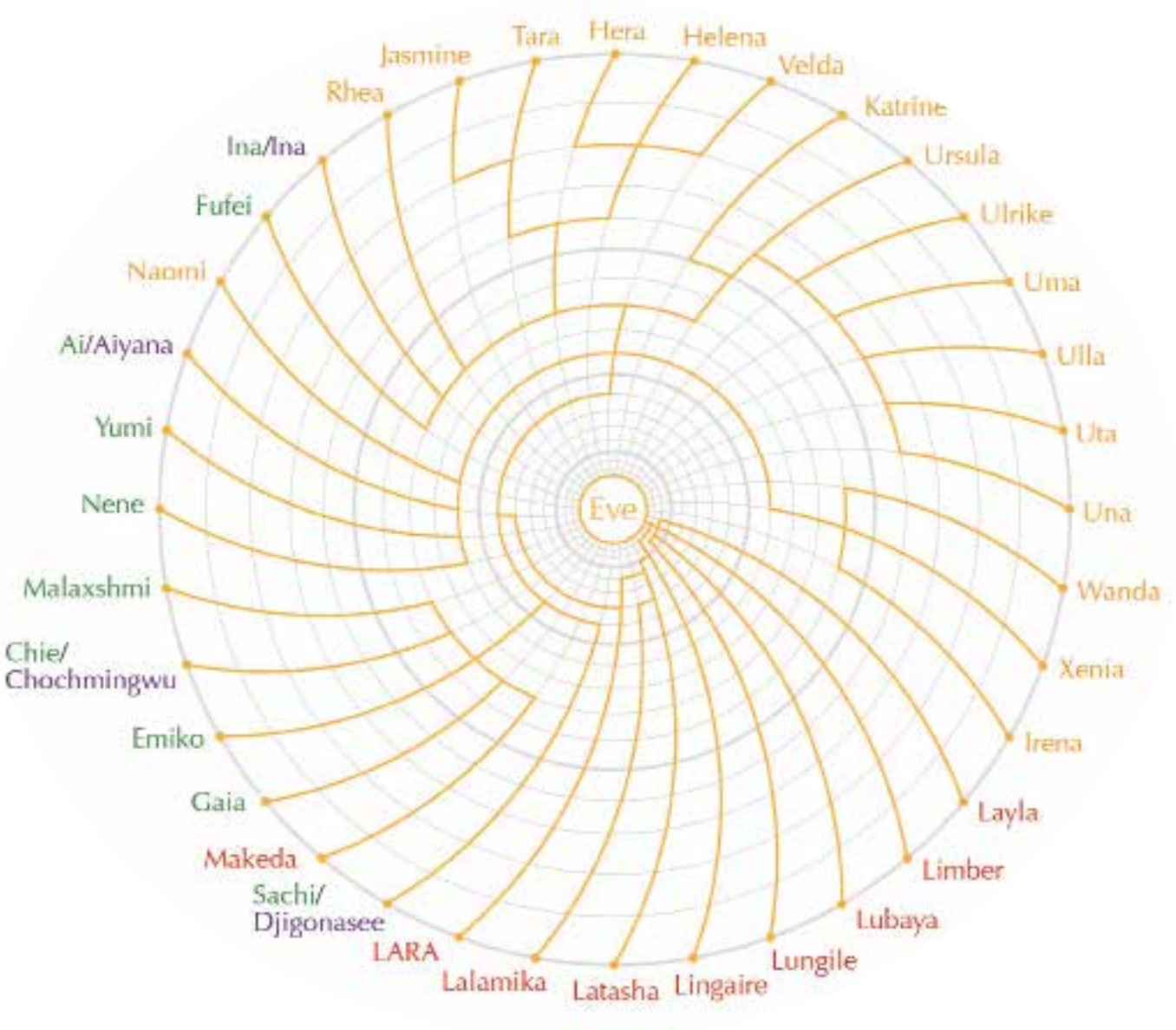
The tremendous technical advances in DNA analysis in the last fifteen years have been taken up without delay by genealogists. It's now easy and cheap to test a million or more autosomal markers and find matches with dozens of DNA relatives—even though the precise genealogical connections are not usually revealed. Determining those connections requires hard work in the records, and may not always be possible.

Matrilineal genealogies are, of course, much more difficult to trace through written records, but from a purely genetic perspective, the links are far more robust. After all, the mother is always present at the birth while the "father" may not always participate in the conception. I have always had a particular fondness for matrilineal genealogies and the precision with which they are traced by mitochondrial DNA ever since I first used this astonishing molecule to trace the origins of Polynesian islanders in the early 1990s—research that led ultimately to *The Seven Daughters of Eve*.

While mitochondrial DNA is perhaps of only limited use in traditional genealogy, as a route into the deep past it has no equal. We genealogists, if I may include myself here, often refer to the family tree but, in truth, we only rustle the outermost leaves. The bulk of the tree—the branches, the trunk, and the roots—we leave entirely untouched. These hidden parts of our ancestry, thousands, even tens of thousands of years in the past, can most easily be reached by following the "golden thread" of mitochondrial DNA. Mitochondrial DNA leaves a trail through the labyrinthine twists and turns of our genetic ancestries as true as Ariadne's gift to Theseus.[1]

Studying mitochondrial DNA leads, first, to the realization that all of us,

The genealogy of the "Golden Thread." The golden lines show the connections between clans. The main geographical focus of each clan is denoted by the font color of their names. Red is Africa, gold is Europe, green is Asia, and purple is North and South America. The concentric circles, resembling tree rings, represent time in ten thousand year intervals from the present day at the circumference to the universal common ancestor, known as mitochondrial Eve, at the center. This representation shows how we are all connected, very recently in evolutionary terms.



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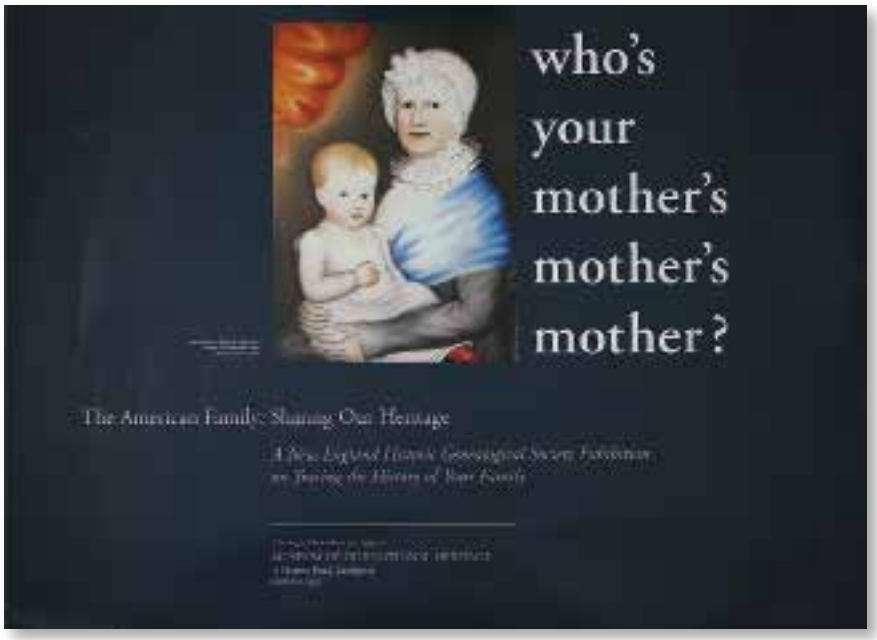

Poster from "The American Family: Sharing Our Heritage," an NEHGS exhibition at the Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, Mass., 1995.

throughout the world, are connected by this golden thread—both to our ancestors and to each other. The only difference between any two people alive today—or in the past—is the length of the thread. I believe the thread follows, in a literal sense, the myriad umbilical connections between mother and child with their overtones of pain, love, and nurture over millennia. Mitochondrial DNA reminds us of the debt we owe our ancestors who overcame countless struggles so that we might live.

While the numbers of our genealogical and autosomal ancestors increase exponentially with each past generation, we have only a single mitochondrial ancestor in each one. Further, it follows by an irrefutable logic that the threads converge on individual human mothers and, therefore, the mitochondrial ancestors of any two people in the same clan were once siblings, daughters of the same mother.

To emphasize that these ancestral mothers were living, breathing individuals and not simply abstract constructs, I gave them names. The women that genetics revealed were the ancestors of the seven main mitochondrial clans in Europe came alive as Ursula, Xenia, Helena, Velda, Tara, Katrine, and Jasmine. Their equivalents elsewhere in the world became Aiyana, Lingaire, Malaxshmi, and a handful of others.

Since its founding in 2000, Oxford Ancestors has tested tens of thousands of individuals, each one seeking to discover his or her own archetypal ancestral mother. Even more remarkable than the curiosity that drives one to pursue this information in the first place is the reaction that often occurs when people from the same clan meet. Many, many people have written to me reporting that these encounters conjure up a curious feeling of kinship. I have experienced this feeling myself. A few years ago I tested Dr. John Hood, then vice-chancellor of Oxford University, and discovered that not only were we both in the clan of Tara but also that our detailed sequences showed our ancestral connection, through the golden thread, was relatively recent. After that, whenever I saw him on official business it was like meeting up with a relative—which is what he was—without any of the apprehension that would normally accompany such appointments. I found my own reaction, and similar ones reported to me by Oxford Ancestors users, both surprising and enthralling and determined to look into it further.

In October 2015, I invited a group of twenty "Tarans" to Oxford for the day. None of us had met before and all we had in common (aside from a sufficient interest to have our DNA tested) was that we descended through the maternal line from Tara, a woman alive about seventeen thousand years ago. I wanted to know if such a gathering would produce any tangible feeling of kinship, such as I had experienced with Dr. Hood and had been reported to me by others. Since this meeting was intended to be only a preliminary encounter, to see if it produced any interesting responses, we made no attempts at measurement or quantitation.

Nonetheless the reaction was unmistakable. A very obvious sense of kinship was evident right from the start. We were all entirely relaxed as if it this were a family reunion rather than a meeting of strangers. That feeling was reflected in the comments participants sent me afterwards. For example, Ian wrote "What really made a mark was the instant rapport and friendliness of everyone present," while Trudi was "thrilled to meet some of my 'extended family' and amazed how quickly we were all chatting away comfortably at ease as though we had known each other all our lives."

It is too early to say whether this response was *caused* by the special genetic connection between us, or whether it was the *perception* of kinship that was responsible—but there was no doubting it was real. And that is no surprise when one bears in mind that for the great majority of our evolutionary past we entirely depended on our kinship group for protection, for retaining territory and for hunting.

Further similar days are planned for summer 2016 when our Taran group will explore what it is we have in common and whether we behave differently to members of other clans. In my view, in addition to experiencing the strength of kinship ties, which all genealogists can easily appreciate, we are also glimpsing highly evolved ancestral instincts that, though relegated to the realm of the subconscious, still exert their influence today—and often surprise us when they do. ◆

Note

[1] Aside from its use in genetic studies, mitochondrial DNA has a vital purpose, allowing us to use oxygen, a process that vastly increases the amount of energy we get from our food.

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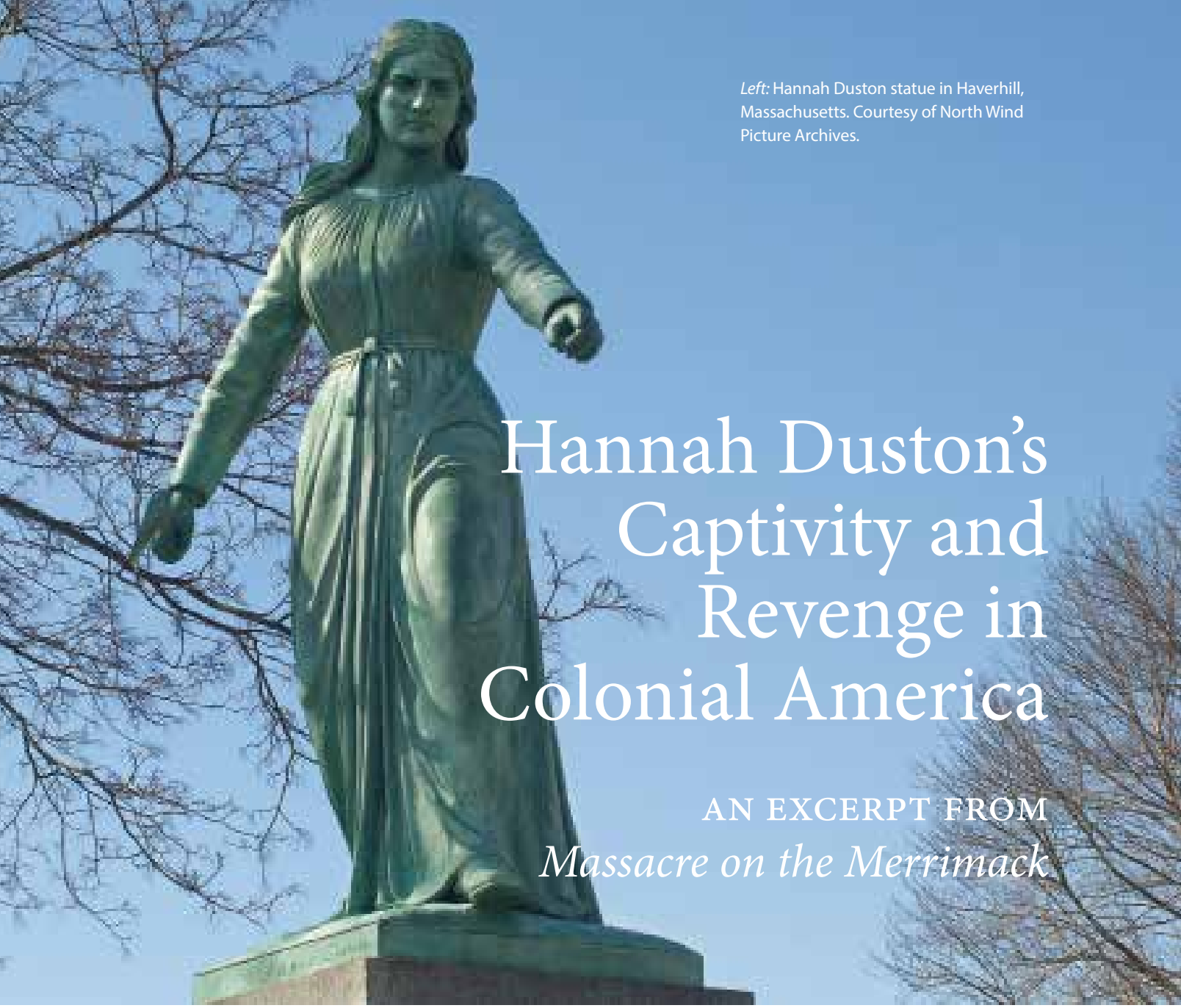

Left: Hannah Duston statue in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Courtesy of North Wind Picture Archives.

Hannah Duston's Captivity and Revenge in Colonial America

AN EXCERPT FROM *Massacre on the Merrimack*

Early on March 15, 1697, a band of Abenaki warriors in service to the French colonial governor, Count Frontenac, raided Haverhill, Massachusetts. Striking swiftly, the Abenaki killed twenty-seven men, women, and children, and took thirteen captives, including Hannah (Emerson) Duston and her week-old daughter, Martha.

A short distance from the settlement, one of the warriors murdered the squalling infant by dashing her head against a tree. After a forced march of nearly one hundred miles, Duston and two white companions were transferred to a smaller band of Abenaki, who camped on a tiny island located at the junction of the Merrimack and Contoocook Rivers, several miles north of present day Concord, New



Jay Atkinson *is the author of eight books, including* Ice Time, *a* Publishers Weekly *Notable Book of the Year, and* Legends of Winter Hill, *which spent seven weeks on the* Boston Globe *hard-cover bestseller list. Atkinson teaches writing at Boston University and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize three times.*

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Hampshire. The Abenaki intended to make the captives run the gauntlet at their village in Quebec, after which they would be sold as slaves.

These events occurred at the height of King William's War (1690–1697), both a war of terror and a religious contest, with English Protestantism vying for control of the New World with French Catholicism.

After witnessing her infant's murder, Duston resolved to get even. Two weeks into their captivity, thirty-nine-year-old Duston and her companions, fifty-one-year-old Mary (Corliss) Neff—whose husband William Neff had been killed by Indians at Pemaquid, Maine, in 1681—and twelve-year-old Samuel Lenorson, who had earlier been taken from Worcester, moved among the sleeping Abenaki with tomahawks and knives, killing two men, two women, and six children. After scalping their victims, Duston and the others escaped down the Merrimack in a stolen canoe. They braved treacherous waters and the constant threat of attack and recapture, returning to Haverhill to tell their story to English colonial authorities and collect a bounty for the scalps.

I grew up hearing about Hannah Duston in Methuen, Massachusetts, which was part of Haverhill until 1726. After studying Duston's ordeal in scholarly sources for two years, I realized this episode was equally the story of a hostile New England landscape. If a settler contracted influenza or stepped on a rusty tool, he or she could die. A bad winter or a blighted corn crop could lead to a family's death by starvation. In my research, I paired the examination of Duston's firsthand accounts, genealogies, land records documenting transactions between settlers and local tribes, captivity narratives, and early New England town histories with a year spent retracing Hannah Duston's journey. Both approaches were crucial in informing the writing of my book, *Massacre on the Merrimack*.

The following excerpt from "Chapter IV: A Forced March," describes the beginning of Hannah Duston's journey in captivity from Haverhill.

As they departed the last bit of cultivated land, the mood of the savages changed from threatening and boastful to stealthy and cautious. They were strange Indians, inhabitants of another territory, and they hurried the captives along at the point of their lances, maintaining silence through angry gestures and glances. Three of the captives had been murdered since they lost sight of their farms, all of whom were either helpless, like the infant Martha, unwilling to go with the Indians, or unable to keep up with them. While the rest of the settlers moved along beneath the snowy pines, Goodwife Duston noticed that the handful who remained—not all of them young, but hardy—were capable of matching the Indians' grueling pace and hadn't offered any resistance or voiced a single complaint. Those were the only reasons they were still alive.

The party had traveled a short way into the forest when, after a brief conference among the savages, a quartet of warriors, some of the youngest and largest who had taken part in the raid, broke off from the others. Choosing a narrow deer trace that ran along the river, they made great haste back toward the village. Two of these warriors had muskets and the others were armed with lances and hatchets. Watching them race away, Hannah Duston and Goodwife Neff were startled back into motion by a sharp prodding in their lower backs. Without so much as a word, the Indians forced their captives onward, moving farther away from the settlement—and any possibility of rescue—at an alarming speed.

Duston and Neff leaned on each other for support, their gowns encrusted with mud as they rushed along in the pine-scented gloom. Hannah wore her husband's field coat, and since it had been very cold in the house that morning, each of the women had donned her skirt, bodice, two pair of linen sleeves, and an apron over the shift, underskirt, chemise, and double stockings she had worn to bed the previous evening. In addition to these items, their heads were covered by the kerchiefs and caps they always wore, even indoors, because of the ash and soot. The penetrating chill, had they taken any notice, stung their faces and hands, and crept down the back of their necks. Beneath the trees their footing was uncertain, a dim latticework of icy rocks, exposed roots, and blotches of snow, and they knew that a stumble or grunt of surprise could mean their skulls being crushed by the blow of a hatchet.

Having seen her week-old infant and two of her neighbors murdered without warning, Duston went where she was directed without feeling her limbs, or the sharpness of the air against her skin, trotting along on instinct, like a herded animal. Intermittently, it was like she had ceased to exist, and was aware of only a numbing series of disconnected moments, her entire being emptied of any thoughts, recollections, or desires—even for freedom from this persecution. With her husband, and several of her children, most likely dead or dying from their wounds, all she knew was terror.

In this trancelike state, Duston failed to mark the captives in front of her diverting from the path until she felt Mary Neff clutch at her arm and draw up short. There on the half-frozen ground was a dead Englishman, stripped naked and disemboweled, lying right where she was about to tread. Steam was rising from the mass of bloody entrails piled up beside the corpse, which emitted the overpowering stench of blood even in the cold air, like a newly slaughtered pig or oxen. Apparently he had been overtaken while making his way toward the settlement earlier that morning, perhaps on his return from hunting. It didn't matter now. The front part of the man's skull, including his face, had been nearly shorn off by the force of the blow. Duston would not have recognized the man even if he had been their closest neighbor.

They had not paused before the corpse longer than a few seconds when

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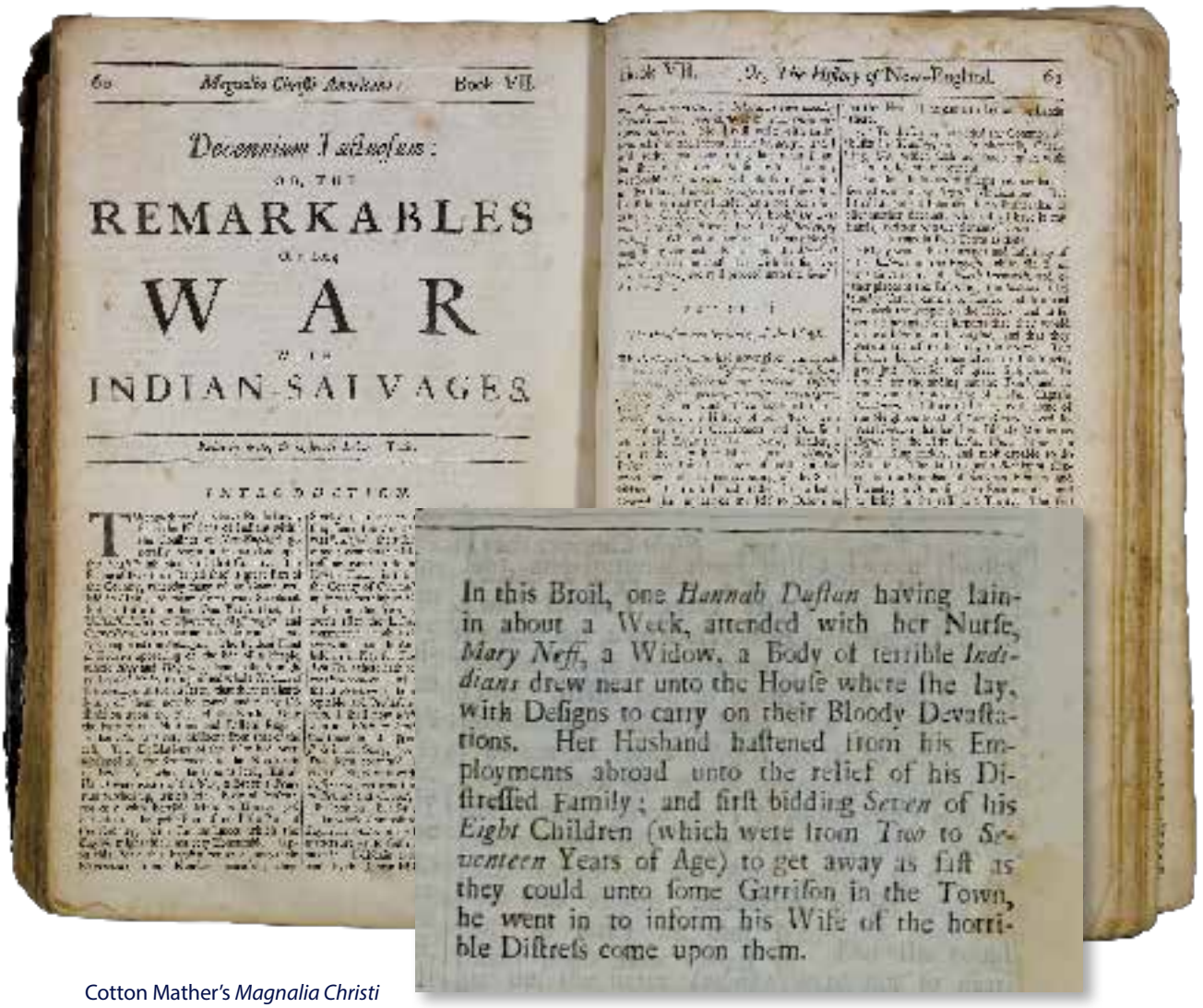

Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana: The Ecclesiastical History of New England from Its First Planting in 1620, until the Year of Our Lord 1698* (London, 1702) contains Hannah Duston's story. A few weeks after returning to Haverhill, Hannah Duston and her husband, Thomas, met with Cotton Mather and she recounted her experiences for him. Mather included her tale in a sermon and three books. Images from the NEHGS Library Collections.

the women drew the ire of one of their captors. The Indian, a chieftain or sachem, was attired in nothing but a breechclout, with a string of bear teeth around his neck. His hair, which had been plucked or shaved back from his forehead, was long and thick with bear grease, worn in a braid that was strung with bits of metal and seashells. He had a pole-ax in his hand and raised it to shoulder height, gesturing up the trail. Quickly, Goodwives Duston and Neff, and the English boy, who had just come up, veered around the dead man, the three captives rushing ahead in silence.

Several captives and a few warriors had already rounded a bend in the trail, heading northwest, away from the ice-clogged span of Little River. But the chieftain kept pace alongside the two women and the boy, occasionally hefting his ax and taking it up with both hands. He was half-starved and gaunt, his eyes deep in the hollows of his skull, with sinews running downward from his neck to the point of his shoulders, working in minute detail in his arms and across his chest when he repositioned the ax. The Indian was smeared all over with a grainy, oxidized paint the color of iron; he appeared neither young nor old, his bony face streaked with red and black markings radiating outward from his hooded eyes and upward, over his brow, giving him a frightening visage. His clan sign—a fish—was emblazoned across his torso in bright yellow and vermilion against a black background. A long scar gouged his ribcage from a previous battle, and one of his ears was mangled.

Duston had known so-called praying Indians—those who had converted to Christianity, and either lived among

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How to order

Massacre on the Merrimack: Hannah Duston's Captivity and Revenge in Colonial America by Jay Atkinson was published by Lyons Press in 2015.

"A strong sense of place and vivid narration underscore journalist Atkinson's tale of war, survival, and murder in colonial Massachusetts. . . . Atkinson's storytelling skills are superb; he crisply moves from events in Haverhill across the panorama of colonial rivalries in North America to Hannah's captivity experiences."
—Publishers Weekly

The 309-page book is available in hardcover, paperback, or ebook from Amazon.com and other retailers.

whites in the settlements or in nearby encampments known as "praying towns." Although there were very few, if any, Pentuckets residing in the vicinity of Haverhill during Goodwife Duston's lifetime, there's little doubt she had seen Indians during her infrequent trips to Rowley and Salem, as well as the occasional Christian Indian who paddled downriver to do some trading. But she had never seen a strange Indian—accoutered for war, his blood up, and in a killing mood—before that day.

The sachem was an Abenaki, from one of the fierce river tribes in Maine, known collectively as the Tarrantines. These Indians, most likely the Androscoggins and the Sacos, who not long before had offered sanctuary to the warlike Kancamagus of the Pennacooks, had descended on Haverhill two years earlier, and taken young Isaac Bradley and Joseph Whittaker captive. Boys of twelve or thirteen were suitable for adoption into the tribe: too small to fight back, but strong enough to work, and young enough to eventually forget the settlements and farms they were taken from.

The English lad who was with the Tarrantines on this particular raid looked about the same age as Hannah's own son Nathaniel, who was twelve. At first glance, Duston and the other captives probably took the boy for one of the Indians. His hair, falling to his shoulders, was lank and ragged; grime covered his face and neck, and he was dressed in a pair of foul-looking trousers and a torn deerskin mantle. He also walked freely among the Indians, without the stooped furtiveness of the other captives. But when Goodwife Duston had put on the dead man's shoe that the lad had brought to her, their eyes met, and it was plain he was English.

The boy spoke at least a few words of the Tarrantines' language, enough that the young chieftain lowered his ax, replied in an offhand manner, and with a last baleful glare at the two English women, continued up the trail. It took Duston another moment before she realized that he was the savage who had grabbed baby Martha away from them a half hour earlier. So it was here that a new emotion—something besides fear—must have been planted in Hannah's breast, lodging itself there like a knot in a tree. She felt the knurl of it, hard and rough. But more Indians came up and dogged their heels, gesturing the captives onward.

The boy remained beside the two women, going on in silence. Up and down they went, over hillocks and into snow-filled gullies and washes, and across frozen brooks. Their breathing was labored. The captives staggered along, not knowing or caring about their destination, living moment to moment. The last dwelling house of the settlement was far behind and growing more distant as they mastered each obstacle before them.

At length, the war party and their captives emerged from some fir trees, crossing a field of thigh-high sedge and skirting a small pond, which was skimmed over with ice. The boy captive indicated they should drink, and each of them knelt quickly, punched a hole in the thin ice, and drank several handfuls of the cold, sweet water before the Indians roused them to their feet. They were steered across an oval plain covered in a brittle layer of snow that crunched underfoot. Ahead was a knoll that rose from the patchwork of dried marshes, old Indian fields, and bands of tall gray trees that ran back over the ridge the way they had come. At the top of this hill, with a stand of fir trees back-grounding them, the Indians stopped, flinging down their stolen bounty. By an ancient oak tree that had been toppled by lightning, the Indians pointed with their hatchets and lances, forcing the captives to sit on the ground.

From a blackened split in the tree, the savages removed a few bundles wrapped in moose hide. Working quickly, the Indians, steam rising from their bare heads and torsos, unrolled the bundles and began pulling out ragged items of clothing, almost all of them made from animal hide. The mantles, simple deerskin or raccoon capes worn with the fur against the skin, were tied in a knot at the peak of the left shoulder, leaving the right arm exposed. Fit snugly about the waist with a hollow belt made of woven fibers and reeds, the mantle fell to mid-thigh with a tail, or flag as it was called, hanging in the back. Next, the warriors donned their leggings: well-worn deerskin punched with an awl and sewn into a tube. These hung from the belt by lateral thongs and were fastened beneath the foot, many of them imprinted down the outer leg with clan images of the fish or bear. The captives, shivering on the ground, soon realized that the savages were preparing themselves for a much longer march, through cold, hard country.

From this vantage point, Goodwife Duston and the other captives gazed

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back over their route, traced easily through the beaten-down rushes and trammeled snow along the edge of the pond. Anyone following the war party would be visible for nearly half a mile, with nothing but a few shallow ravines that veined the lowlands to offer cover. But no one pursued them. The militia was not coming, and Duston's heart must have sunk.

While the Indians wrapped the iron tools, household items, bolts of cloth, and food they had stolen in the deerskin bundles, from across the vale a few tiny figures gradually enlarged to reveal four Indians running fast and steadily over the open ground. They dropped from the ridgeline opposite where the captives looked on, plunged into the first ravine, and, heads bobbing, their strides tossing up clods of snow, made their way swiftly past the frozen pond, through the gray tangle of the meadow, and up the near slope.

The Indians who had guarded the retreat from Haverhill now rejoined their brethren, steaming and snorting from the effort; one of them, doubled over with his hands upon his knees, began retching. He had a gash on his upper arm, the blood having spattered his hand, and with the agitation of that bloody hand he had made prints upon his breechclout. No Indian offered him any word or gesture of solace, and in less than a minute he had straightened up, and began to exhibit the same impassive expression as the others.

So, having finished retying their moccasins and thongs, the other Indians rose from the ground, and chucking a deerskin bundle to the scouts who had just returned, they arranged their bobcat skins and tightened their belts and gaiters. The raid had been successful to this point, and now they were determined to move their captives north to an Abenaki village, probably the French mission at Chaudière, 250 miles distant. Here they could sell their captives to the French, who would trade them to the English for French prisoners, or sell them back to their families. One or two, including the English lad who traveled with them, might be adopted into the tribe to replace a warrior who had been killed on the journey. Just as beaver furs were an important commodity in this New World, human lives were frequently bought, sold, and traded between enemies, or abroad through the slave markets.

But Hannah Duston would never reach the French colony in Quebec. Instead, the story of her escape would take on near mythic proportions, earning Duston a unique place in New England history. ◆



Hannah Duston and two other captives escaping down the Merrimack River. Hand-colored woodcut. Courtesy of North Wind Picture Archives.

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research services: case files



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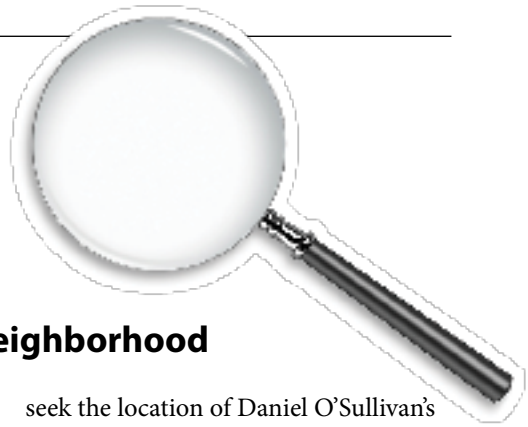

Magnifying glass image © Alexstar | Dreamstime.com

The Case of the Missing Neighborhood

Visiting the places where our ancestors hailed from in Ireland, whether a townland or a parish, can be a very powerful experience. For those with Irish roots, identifying ancestral origins is often our ultimate genealogical goal. But as anyone who has done Irish research knows, this process can be long and frustrating. Church records are often incomplete or contain minimal information, and the first all-Ireland census available to us was only taken in 1901. Simply put, Irish research takes patience, and successfully pinpointing origins in Ireland is often the culmination of much effort.

Research Services is often hired to locate townlands and parishes of Irish ancestors because clients are planning trips to Ireland, often with the express purpose of visiting ancestral homes. Recently, we were hired by a client who planned to take her father to Ireland for his 70th birthday. Her father's father, Daniel Joseph O'Sullivan, was born in Tralee, County Kerry, on September 11, 1902, and she hoped to surprise her father with a trip to Tralee and a visit to her grandfather's childhood home.



St. John's Parish (Roman Catholic), Tralee. Photo by Greg Everett.

Supplied with the names of the parents of Daniel Joseph O'Sullivan—Joseph and Kathleen O'Sullivan—and his siblings, John, William, Jerry, and Kathleen, we began to seek the location of Daniel O'Sullivan's childhood home.

A search of Irish civil registration records in the Tralee Civil Registration District revealed many Daniel O'Sullivans and Daniel Sullivans born in Tralee. After some examination, we uncovered the birth record of our client's grandfather, recorded as expected on September 11, 1902. But his parents were listed as *Dan* Sullivan and Catherine O'Grady of Steeple View in Tralee.[1] Despite the difference in the names of the fathers, Dan versus Joseph, we were confident that we had identified the correct birth record. We also felt that Kathleen was a close match for Catherine, given their similarity. We then examined the 1901 Ireland census, recorded the year before Daniel Joseph Sullivan's birth. But we did not find a good match for Daniel and Catherine O'Sullivan in Tralee, and we theorized that perhaps the couple married after the 1901 Ireland census was taken.

We turned back to Irish civil registration records, which showed that a Dan Sullivan and a Kathleen O'Grady married in the summer of 1902.[2] Assuming that Daniel and Catherine were married in the Catholic Church, we contacted St. John's Parish in Tralee. We learned that Daniel O'Sullivan, son of Daniel O'Sullivan, and Catherine Grady, daughter of Jeremiah Grady, all of Tralee, were married at St. John's on August 17, 1902 by Rev. Fr. James Crowley. Jeremiah Grady and Joanna O'Sullivan witnessed the marriage.[3] Our suspicions were confirmed: Daniel and Catherine were married after 1901. And we had our first place for our clients to visit—the church where their ancestors

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Left: Sullivan family members visiting St. John's Parish (Roman Catholic), Tralee: Katie Sullivan Everett, John Sullivan, Joseph Everett, Mary Sullivan, and Samantha Everett. Photo by Greg Everett. *Below:* St. John's (Church of Ireland), Tralee, Co. Kerry, c. 1890?, National Library of Ireland.

had married. In addition, the marriage record revealed vital information: the names of Daniel and Catherine's fathers. These names would be important, because both individuals were likely enumerated with their respective families in the 1901 Ireland census.

When we searched the 1901 Ireland census, we found Mary Catherine O'Grady in a household with her parents, Jeremiah and Hannah O'Grady, and her brother, James O'Grady, in the Steeple View section of Tralee, the place listed on Daniel Joseph O'Sullivan's birth record.[4]

We located Daniel O'Sullivan at 3 Davy's Lane in Tralee, with his widowed mother Kate Sullivan, and his siblings Daniel, Patrick, and Margaret.[5] Using an 1893 Tralee Ordnance Survey map, we examined the city center and found that Davy's Lane once ran perpendicular to Moyderwell Lane. Situated near the Moyderwell National School, Davy's Lane is now a part of Dean's Lane. We now had a second area for our clients to visit.

We next searched the 1911 Ireland census. We located the O'Sullivan family on McEnnery's Lane in Tralee. Daniel Joseph O'Sullivan, aged nine, was enumerated with his parents, Daniel and Kathleen, and his four younger siblings: Michael Joseph, John Patrick, William James, and Hannah Mary. Daniel Joseph O'Sullivan's widowed grandmother, Catherine Sullivan, and his aunt, Margaret Sullivan, were also in the household. The census confirmed information supplied by the client, that Daniel Joseph O'Sullivan had brothers named John and William. This census record also contained important information about family origins, namely that the elder Daniel O'Sullivan and his mother, Catherine O'Sullivan, were born in Killarney, County Kerry. Margaret Sullivan, Daniel's younger sister, was born in Tralee, thus establishing a general time frame for the family's move from Killarney to Tralee.

We then turned to modern maps and late nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey maps in an attempt to locate McEnnery's Lane. Ordnance Survey maps, originally created for tax purposes, are a key source in Irish research. We initially had difficulty pinpointing a present-day location for McEnnery's Lane—and for Steeple View, where the O'Gradys lived in 1901 and the O'Sullivans in 1902. From its name, we believed that Steeple View was probably located near one of Tralee's churches, but we could not identify it further from sources available to us. So we reached out to the Kerry County Museum (kerrymuseum.ie) and the Kerry Library (kerrylibrary.ie) and asked for assistance. After much research and discussion by staff members at both institutions, we learned that McEnnery's Lane is now also a part of Dean's Lane, and was likely in proximity to Davy's Lane, where the O'Sullivan family lived in 1901. We found that Steeple View, also known as Peter Street, was located off Brogue Makers Lane. The aptly named neighborhood likely had a view of St. John's, a Church of Ireland church. Today, Steeple View is part of St. John's Park.

Using civil registrations, census records, and Ordnance Survey maps—with some help from Irish colleagues—we were able to locate a church and two neighborhoods for our clients to visit on their trip to reconnect with their Irish roots. ◆

Notes

1. Births entry for Daniel Sullivan; citing Tralee, Jul–Sep 1902, vol. 5, p. 498, General Registry, Custom House, Dublin; FHL microfilm 101,069.
2. Marriages entry for Dan Sullivan; citing Tralee, Jul–Sep 1902, vol. 5, p. 321, General Registry, Custom House, Dublin; FHL microfilm 101,260.
3. Ciaran O'Connell, email message to author, June 15, 2016.
4. 1901 Ireland Census, Kerry, Tralee Urban, Steeple View, The National Archives of Ireland, Dublin.
5. Ibid.

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Using Maps in Irish Research

Maps—an invaluable genealogical resource—provide us with a physical connection to our ancestors by offering a glimpse into their townlands, villages, and cities. In Irish research, maps are especially essential because they supplement incomplete and sparse record collections.

Irish genealogists owe a debt of gratitude to the Ordnance Survey Office. Established in 1824, the Ordnance Survey Office was tasked with creating a detailed map of Ireland for land valuation purposes. Their meticulous maps date as early as the 1830s, and consequently provide an invaluable pre-Famine snapshot of Ireland. Houses, outbuildings, streets, geographic features—even hedgerows—are all visible on these maps. Over time, Ordnance Survey maps were updated to document the changing landscape.

Here at NEHGS, we have a collection of early Ordnance Survey Maps on microfiche, as well as some physical maps and atlases and related books. Today, Ordnance Survey Ireland (osi.ie), the Irish State's National Mapping Agency, provides a free map viewer called GeoHive (geohive.ie), which allows you to access various Ordnance Survey maps including the Historic 6" and Historic 25" Ordnance Survey Maps. (The Historic 6" to mile maps represent the years 1837 to 1842, while the Historic 25" to mile maps represent the years 1888 to 1913.) Using GeoHive, you can also overlay historic maps on modern day satellite images.

Another free website, askaboutireland.ie (an initiative of Irish public libraries and local museums and archives), can help you pinpoint the exact locations where your ancestors lived. You can begin the process by finding your ancestors in Griffith's Valuation, the land valuation survey overseen by Sir Richard John Griffith and published between 1847 and 1864 (askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation). Once you find your ancestor in the search results, you can see the details of their valuation record, a scan of the original document page, and the relevant Griffith's Valuation map.

Griffith's Valuation assigned each land occupier a number, which appears in the "No. and Letters of Reference to Map" column on the original Griffith's page. This number directly corresponds to an accompanying Valuation map. Once you have the identifying number, you can locate the particular parcel within the townland or village where your ancestor lived. The map viewer also allows you to overlay the historic map over a modern satellite map, which helps you determine whether your ancestral home still stands today. Amazingly, the original footprints of countless parcels remain the same.

Dublin. Published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge by Baldwin & Cradock, 1836. Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection.

Another website that provides free access to hundreds of interesting maps of Ireland is the David Rumsey Map Collection (DavidRumsey.com). This useful resource offers a wide variety of maps of Ireland, created from 1541 to the mid-twentieth century.

These free mapping resources can enhance your knowledge of your Irish ancestors—and may lead to some surprising discoveries.

— Sheilagh Doerfler

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Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight

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

"There is no Chance Left Save U.S.A.": World War II Case Files from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Boston

On December 6, 1940, Carl Cohen stood before three inspectors from the Board of Special Inquiry at the United States Immigration Station in East Boston. He had arrived in Boston the day before on the steamship *Nova Scotia* with his wife, Dorrith, and just fifty dollars between them. The Cohens, both teachers and writers, planned to travel to New York City, where Dorrith's sister Lore Harris lived, and their sponsor, a cousin named Morris Cooper, practiced law. Upon disembarking, authorities detained them on the public charge clause: Dorrith was paralyzed from the waist down.

Originally from Germany, the Cohens, who were both Jewish, had been living in England for almost two years prior to making the journey to Boston. Carl was 38 years old and Dorrith, 27. On November 9, 1938—now known as *Kristallnacht*, or the "Night of Broken Glass"—Carl was arrested and sent to Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where he was imprisoned for six weeks.[1] Dorrith procured a visa for Carl, which allowed his release from Buchenwald. British authorities permitted the couple to immigrate to England on two conditions—that Carl would not accept employment and that they had to leave the country as soon as possible.

In Boston, Carl and Dorrith faced the distinct and horrifying possibility of deportation back to Germany. Dorrith, however, had taught mathematics and was a historian specializing in medieval Scandinavian manuscripts; she was also fluent in Danish, Swedish, and Icelandic. Both Dorrith and Carl were fluent in English. During her hearing, when asked if she thought she could find work in her field in the U.S., Dorrith replied with confidence, "I think so; there is plenty of that sort of study being done here. There are several associations, etc."[2] Immigration officials were impressed. They liked Dorrith, and wanted Dorrith and Carl to be allowed admission to the United States.[3]

The Boston office of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) was notified of the Cohens' plight the day they arrived in Boston. Helen Alpert, then executive secretary of HIAS Boston, immediately contacted HIAS in New York and Washington, D.C. Both Morris Cooper and Lore Harris actively assisted HIAS to assure immigration officials that Dorrith would not become a public charge. Letters were sent to HIAS offices, hearings were held on the viability of the Cohens' visas, and HIAS staff visited the Cohens, bringing them books and keeping them company.

The Cohens were detained for a month before Carl was released on parole on January 8, 1941. "I cannot stand this slow dying, the more so as the reason for our detention is exactly a reason that unables us to flee, even if we wanted to," Carl wrote to Helen on January 6. Other detainees had the flu

Below: A 1941 telegram from the Boston HIAS office to Morris Cooper, sponsor of Carl and Dorrith Cohen; and an undated photograph of Helen Alpert (seated), executive secretary of HIAS Boston, with unidentified colleagues.



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and he worried about Dorrith's health. He was not the only one. Immigration officials, concerned for Dorrith's well-being following Carl's parole in early January, contacted Helen for a status update on Dorrith's release. Finally, on January 16, both Cohens were admitted entry to the United States, and eventually settled in California.[4]

The Cohen's case was one of thousands that Helen Alpert (1902–1988) oversaw in her role as executive secretary (and later, executive director) of HIAS Boston. The daughter of one of its founders, Abraham Alpert, Helen made the never-ending work of HIAS her own life's mission. The Boston HIAS was chartered in 1904 in direct response to the Kishinev (Russia) pogrom of April 1903, during which 47 Jews were killed and over 500 injured as a result of well-coordinated riots.[5] The Boston office of HIAS offered a variety of services to Jewish immigrants, including the provision of kosher meals, religious services for Shabbat and the High Holy Days, and assistance with locating family members, housing, schools, and employment opportunities for new arrivals.

Not all Jewish immigrants who passed through the Port of Boston required the aid of HIAS, but many—like the Cohens—did. In the years following World War I, particularly in the 1930s, and 1940s, HIAS was contacted by European Jews, in particular, who were attempting to find family members or friends in the United States to sponsor their visas. Often the American family members identified were cousins with little connection to their European roots. Many times, no family members could be located. Persistent road blocks such as immigration quotas and lack of sponsorship led some people to try other methods of entering the United States. One of these people was Martin Hopfner.[6]

Martin Hopfner, a 24-year-old stowaway, claimed to be a German Jewish refugee. On December 17, 1940, he entered the Port of Boston on the steamship *Industria* and was taken into custody by immigration officials. On the day of Martin's arrival, the HIAS office received an anonymous tip from a man who informed HIAS that a Jewish stowaway had arrived on that ship. The concerned caller implored HIAS to take an interest in the case.

Then, the case took a dramatic turn. Immigration officials did not believe that Martin was Jewish—they suspected him of being a "true German."[7] Martin, who had been living in Buenos Aires for almost two years, told officials he hoped to contact an old family friend, James Moller. Moller, who had left Germany seventeen years earlier, supposedly owned a jewelry store in Chicago. HIAS's efforts to locate Moller were unsuccessful, but Helen Alpert maintained an interest in Martin's case. On December 23, the Washington, D.C. HIAS office sent a letter to HIAS Boston, bluntly stating that after looking at the facts of Martin's case, they were not entirely convinced of his status as a Jewish refugee. Further, they were concerned that he was a fifth-columnist.[8] Finally, if Martin was deported, he would be returned to Argentina, where, the D.C. office staff thought, he would suffer "no great hardship."



Top: Martin Hopfner's 1941 letter to Helen Alpert, sent from the penitentiary in Danbury, Connecticut. *Bottom*: A photo of unidentified HIAS staffers with case files. Today, those same case files are housed in archival folders and boxes.

Existing records don't reveal whether the Boston HIAS staff believed Martin to be a Jewish refugee or a person with nefarious intent, but in any case Helen Alpert was compassionate, and sent Martin clothing, shoes, and cigarettes. On February 19, 1941, after receiving the shoes while at the penitentiary in Danbury, Connecticut, Martin expressed his gratitude, writing to Helen that, "my treatment here is the best possible and my only anxiety is that I be permitted to remain in this country and become a citizen and help my folks back home. Again thanking you for your kindness and help."[9] In April 1941, the Chicago HIAS office wrote to HIAS

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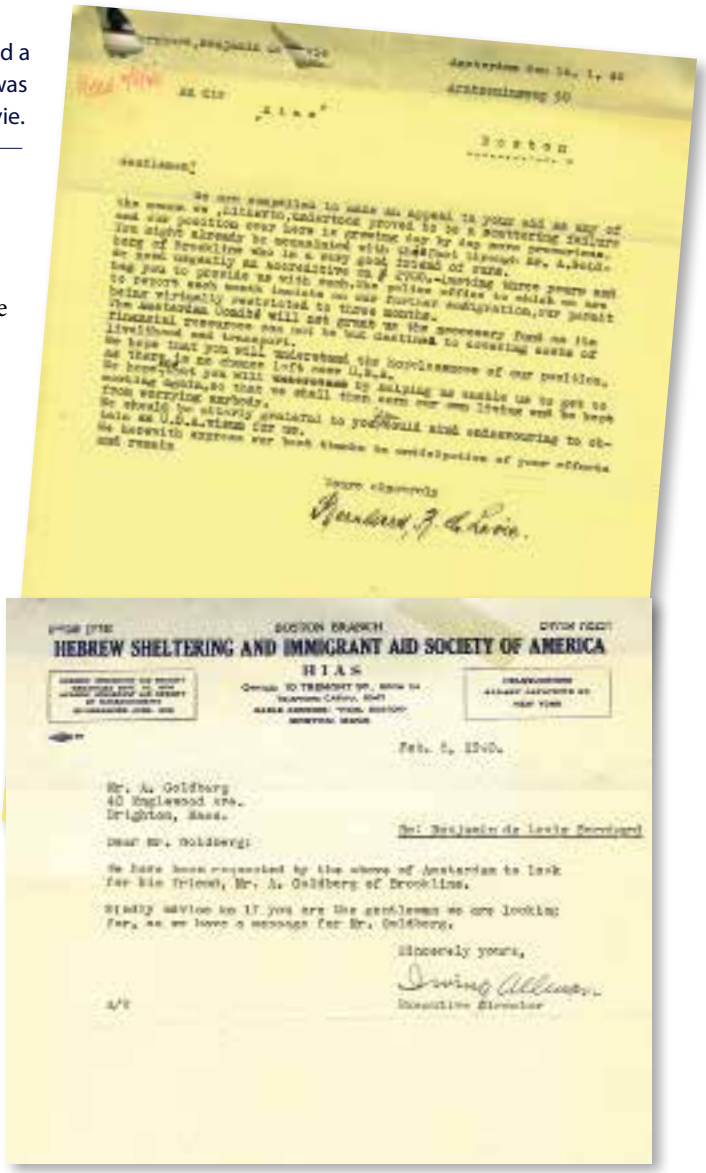
HEBREW SHELTERING AND IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY OF AMERICA
HIAS

Letter from Benjamin Bernhard de Levie to HIAS Boston, 1940; and a telegram sent by HIAS Boston to try to find the Mr. A. Goldberg who was a friend of Benjamin Bernhard de Levie.

Boston expressing their interest in assisting Martin, who was still serving his three-month sentence on the charge of illegal entry to the United States. Martin was due to be released, and possibly sent to Ellis Island for deportation, on April 20. Although that certainly was not the end of Martin's story, that letter was apparently his last connection with HIAS Boston. Other records show that Martin did manage to stay in the United States. He served in the U.S. Army, enlisting on December 15, 1942, and again on January 6, 1944, and became a naturalized citizen. Eventually he and his American wife, Edythe (Mover), settled in California.[10]

For all the HIAS case files with a rich variety of material—correspondence, forms, telegrams, and transcripts—just as many contain only a few documents that barely hint at an individual's story and hardships. Benjamin Bernhard de Levie, who wrote from Amsterdam, is represented in one of those case files. In a January 16, 1940, letter Benjamin contacted HIAS Boston in an effort to find a "Mr. A. Goldberg" of Brookline, who he hoped would become his sponsor. Benjamin wrote, "We are compelled to make an appeal to your aid as any of the means we, hitherto, undertook proved to be a scattering failure and our position over here is growing day by day more precarious." Benjamin was under the impression that the HIAS staff had already been appraised of his particular situation: "You might already be acquainted with this fact through Mr. A. Goldberg of Brookline who is a very good friend of ours." Benjamin described his situation, noting he had to report to the police department every month, that his three-month permit[11] would soon be expiring, and that there was no money or work to be found. Despite the scant information provided in the letter, the HIAS office wrote to the Mr. A. Goldbergs they could locate in the area. Apparently none of them knew Benjamin, and the file contains no return letters. His HIAS case file was closed.[12] Benjamin Bernhard de Levie died August 17, 1942, in Auschwitz.

After helping to handle the influx of displaced persons following World War II, the HIAS Boston office began to diversify, assisting Jewish and non-Jewish immigrants from Iraq, China, and Europe. The staff and board of HIAS Boston remained vigilant advocates for immigrants arriving in Boston, or for those who required additional assistance to obtain U.S. citizenship. The Boston HIAS office closed in 1977.

Carl and Dorrith Cohen, Martin Hopfner, and Benjamin Bernhard de Levie are only a few of the individuals whose stories are contained within the collection of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society-Boston. Over 15,000 case files, accumulated between 1903 and 1977, document an important period in this country's history and its relationship with immigrants through the lens of complicated immigration laws, war, and xenophobia. To many, HIAS-Boston became their only bastion of hope, a fact recognized by Helen Alpert, who wrote in 1954, "HIAS always took the humanistic and humanitarian approach to all its work and to all the problems and tragedies which HIAS came to share through its petitioners."[13]

The Boston HIAS records, which include the case files, thousands of arrival cards, ship manifests, Displaced Persons tracers, scrapbooks, photographs and other administrative paperwork, were donated to the American Jewish Historical Society. Today, the collection is one of our most widely used, accessed by both family historians and scholarly researchers. Most records are very fragile. To view the finding aid, visit digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=365459.

We are currently exploring how to digitize the collection and make case files available online. If you are interested in learning more about this project, please email reference@ajhsboston.org. ◆

Notes

1 In his testimony, Carl refers to this date as "Pogrom Day." *Kristallnacht* was a two-day riot planned by Joseph Goebbels and German Nazi officials. Over 30,000 German Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

2 From Dorrith Cohen's testimony, Records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; I-96; Box 9, Folder 3; Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

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Frances Kastrovitzky's HIAS case file is more detailed than most. A Romanian Jewish woman who posed as a dead German woman to immigrate under the more lenient German quota, Kastrovitzky contacted HIAS Boston when she wanted to reclaim her own identity. Her story is at ajhsboston.org/2011/12/16/the-tale-of-frances-kastrovitzky/. A year after her story was posted on our website, Frances's family found it; they reported that Frances had three daughters, eight grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren.





[3] In a letter to Morris Cooper, HIAS Executive Secretary Helen Alpert wrote, "Just before writing this letter, we spoke to the Immigration Officials and they are very much impressed with Dorrith Cohen. They feel very sympathetic towards her case, as she is a person of great intelligence with a very sweet disposition. They also urged our office to do everything possible to see that she is admitted into the country . . . you will also be impressed with her, as well as with her husband, who seems to be a splendid young man." Letter dated December 6, 1940. Records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; I-96; Box 9, Folder 3; Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

[4] Carl Cohen was naturalized on May 6, 1946, and Dorrith Cohen was naturalized on December 29, 1947. (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.; *Index to Naturalization Petitions and Records of the U.S. District Court, 1906–1966, and the U.S. Circuit Court, 1906–1911, for the District of Massachusetts*; microfilm serial M1545; microfilm roll 40.)

[5] More information on the founding of Boston HIAS can be found in Helen Alpert, "HIAS in Boston: 50 Years of Aid to Immigrants," *The Jewish Advocate*, April 29, 1954, p. 1. Viewed on ProQuest Historical Newspapers.

[6] Benjamin Owen, former intern at the Jewish Heritage Center, wrote about Hopfner during the HIAS reprocessing project in 2011: see ajhsboston.org/2011/10/31/martin-hopfners-story.

[7] From a December 18, 1940, letter from Helen Alpert to Mr. Hershfield: "They believe he is posing as a German refugee but that he is a true German." Records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; I-96; Box 53, Folder 48; Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

[8] During World War II, the American government was concerned that fifth-columnists sympathetic to Germany could be in the U.S. to lead sabotage efforts from within.

[9] Letter from Martin Hopfner to Helen Alpert, February 19, 1941. Records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; I-96; Box 53, Folder 48; Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

[10] Martin Hopfner's service record: viewed on Ancestry.com; U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850–2010 database; naturalization record: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.; *Soundex Index to Naturalization Petitions for the United States District and Circuit Courts, Northern District of Illinois and Immigration and Naturalization Service District 9, 1840–1950 (M1285)*; microfilm serial M1285; microfilm roll 74; and wife's name viewed on Ancestry.com, U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007 database.

[11] It is unclear what "permit" Benjamin Bernhard de Levie, a Dutch citizen, was referring to. The Nazis did not invade the Netherlands until May 1940; afterwards, all Dutch Jews were required to register.

[12] Further research on Benjamin Bernhard de Levie led to a listing on Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names: yvng.yadvashem.org/nameDetails.html?language=en&s_lastName=&s_firstName=&s_place=&itemId=4265959&ind=11&winId=-230809603787282088.

[13] From "HIAS in Boston" [note 5].

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genetics & genealogy



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The Hanks DNA Study: I Was Wrong!

In 2003 I published my first article for this magazine's predecessor, *New England Ancestors*, entitled "The Maternal Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln: The Origins of Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln, A Study in Appalachian Genealogy." My interest in Nancy Hanks's origins began in the early 1990s and I corresponded frequently with the late Raymond Martin Bell (1907–1999), then the oldest living Lincoln genealogical scholar. The two of us co-authored a pamphlet on Nancy's origins in 1997, and I elaborated on those ideas in my 2003 article.[1]

In that article, I concluded that only two theories about Nancy's origins were possible: 1) she was the illegitimate daughter of Lucy Hanks, daughter of Joseph and Ann (Lee) Hanks; or 2) she was the legitimate daughter of Lucy (Shipley) Hanks by her husband James Hanks, son of the same Joseph and Ann (Lee) Hanks. Both theories had problems, one of which was that Joseph Hanks's 1793 will did not mention children named either James or Lucy. I considered the James and Lucy (Shipley) Hanks scenario the more likely, since it accounted for Nancy's and Lucy's interactions with several Shipley family members.[2] But the illegitimacy theory was also a possibility. I managed a Hanks website and genealogist Michael Lacopo, who favored the illegitimacy theory, suggested mitochondrial DNA analysis.

Although I was not involved in the subsequent Nancy Hanks Lincoln mtDNA study, this research resolved the question—and I found I was wrong! From mtDNA, we now know that Nancy Hanks's mother Lucy was a Hanks at birth, not a Shipley, making Nancy the illegitimate child of Lucy Hanks and an unknown father.

This Hanks resolution is a brilliant example of the use of an mtDNA study to resolve a classic eighteenth-century problem. The crux of the conclusion is as follows:

Lucy (Hanks) Sparrow, mother of Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln, had another daughter, Sarah Hanks, plus eight children by her later husband Henry Sparrow.[3] Matrilineal descendants of Sarah and three of Lucy's four Sparrow daughters (Margaret, Lucinda, and Elizabeth) were identified, tested, and all found to have the less common haplogroup X1c. If, as I had argued in 2003, Lucy was a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Dorsey?) Shipley, then matrilineal descendants of Robert and Sarah's daughters (Rachel, Ann, Naomi, or Margaret), should also have haplogroup X1c. If, however, as William Barton[4] and, more recently, Paul Verduin[5] have argued, Lucy was a daughter of Joseph and Ann (Lee) Hanks, then matrilineal descendants of Joseph and Ann's known daughters (Mary and Nancy; daughter Elizabeth died childless) would have haplogroup X1c. Descendants of Mary (Hanks) Friend and Nancy (Hanks) Hall were identified and tested, and also found to have haplogroup X1c! Descendants of Rachel (Shipley) Berry and Naomi (Shipley) Mitchell were also identified and tested, but they had the more common haplogroup H. Thus, Nancy's mother Lucy (Hanks) Sparrow was a daughter of Joseph and Ann (Lee) Hanks.

President Abraham Lincoln, photographed by Anthony Berger on February 9, 1864. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.



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In summary, the following clues had led to Barton's theory.

1. Lincoln allegedly told his law partner, William Herndon, that Nancy, was a "bastard, the daughter of a nobleman so called of Virginia. . . ."

2. Dennis Hanks, Lincoln's cousin and the husband of his step-sister (Sarah Elizabeth Johnston), knew Lincoln well, and said Lincoln's mother was not Nancy Hanks, but Nancy Sparrow, the legitimate daughter of Henry and Lucy (Hanks) Sparrow. Dennis was possibly concealing an illegitimacy (he was illegitimate himself), but I had thought the possibility of Dennis deliberately lying to be unlikely. Dennis correctly identified Nancy's mother as Lucy Hanks (and the sister of Dennis's mother), but claimed, incorrectly, that Nancy was a legitimate daughter by Lucy's later husband. This deception may have been intended to remove any stain from having a "bastard" mother for the deceased president.

As noted earlier, Lucy was not mentioned in Joseph Hanks's will, and Lucy and her daughter Nancy interacted with Shipleys. Perhaps Joseph Hanks did not mention his daughter Lucy because in 1793, when he wrote his will, she had two illegitimate daughters, or perhaps as she was then Joseph's only married daughter (and only married child), she had already received her inheritance;[6] involvement with the Shipley family, however, cannot now be explained. Paul Verduin's careful dating, with locations, of Joseph Hanks in the 1780s becomes relevant and pinpoints Nancy's birthplace and date as Richmond County, Virginia, in 1783 (not 1784), before the family moved further west. Verduin's research therefore separates the Hanks and Shipley families geographically before 1783. The father of Lucy's second illegitimate daughter Sarah (born in Kentucky ca. 1787) has not been identified; nothing suggests he was a Shipley, and the Shipley associations were probably not based on any actual kinship.

As the Hanks section of Abraham Lincoln's ancestor table compiled by Gary Boyd Roberts in *Ancestors of American Presidents, 2009 edition*, 2012 reprint, largely followed my conclusion in the *New England Ancestors* article, a corrected table, beginning with Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln, #3, is presented here. (As Abraham Lincoln is #1 in his own *ahnentafel*, his mother is #3, and all numbers follow the normal *ahnentafel* numbering system.)

3. Nancy Hanks, Campbell Co., Va. 5 Feb. 1783–near Gentryville, Indiana 5 Oct. 1818

6. (unknown illegitimate father of 3); candidates, among others, suggested by Paul Verduin were Elisha Lingan Hall (1763–c. 1819), Griffin Murdock Fauntleroy (1747–1794), and Richard Beale (1759–1819)

7. Lucy Hanks, prob. Richmond Co., Va. ca. 1766–Mercer Co., Ky. ca. 1826, who m. (first and only time) Mercer Co., Ky. 30 April 1790, Henry Sparrow

12-13. Parents of Nancy's unknown father

14. Joseph Hanks, Richmond Co., Va. 20 Dec. 1725–Nelson Co., Ky. bet. 8 Jan. and 4 May 1793, c. 1758

15. Ann "Nanny" Lee, c. 1742–post 1793, whose father, William Lee, was the son of William and Dorothy (Taylor) Lee, this last a daughter of Elizabeth (_____) Taylor. These Lees were apparently not related to the Lees of Stratford Hall, forebears of Declaration of Independence signers Richard Henry and Francis Lightfoot Lee, of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, and of Elisha Lingan Hall, mentioned above.[7]

In Verduin's original article he proposed several candidates, "noblemen so called of Virginia," as potential fathers of Nancy Hanks, based on chronology and geography, including Elisha Lingan Hall, Griffin Murdock Fauntleroy, Richard Beale, Col. William Peachey, Major Leroy Peachey, William T. McCarty, and Thomas Plummer. Of these, Verduin found evidence that Hall associated with local Baptists of lower economic means, like the Hanks family, and that Fauntleroy and Beale were the employers of Joseph Hanks. Both Hall[8] and Beale[9] had ancestral connections to other Presidents.

As useful as mtDNA has proved to be, autosomal DNA might be the best tool to narrow the possibilities for Nancy's father significantly. If autosomal DNA were extracted from surviving hair or blood samples of Lincoln himself, a comparison could be made with an identical sample for one of the potential fathers suggested by Verduin.[10] Elisha Lingan Hall was a nephew of the signers named above, so surviving DNA from one of the Lee signers and Lincoln, showing them as great-great-uncle and nephew, would indicate Hall was almost certainly Nancy's father. The same procedure could be followed for the other proposed candidates, if DNA could be found for any of their descendants or descendants of their near relatives.

While many of our genetics articles deal with Y-DNA studies, it's great to have one that dealt with mtDNA along all female lines. This is a promising example of what mtDNA can be capable of when of our female ancestors may have competing theories as to their origins. ◆

I am very grateful to Suzanne Hallstrom for allowing me to report her Hanks DNA findings in this magazine. Assisting her in the Nancy Hanks Lincoln mtDNA project were Nancy C. Royce, Stephan A. Whitlock, Richard G. Hileman, MA, JD, and Gerald M. Haslam, PhD, AG, FUGA. More information on the project is available at FamilyTreeDNA.com/public/HanksDNAProject.

Notes

1. R. M. Bell & C. C. Child, *Mother of the President: Nancy Hanks Lincoln, 1784–1818* (Coralville, Iowa: Bell, 1997); C. C. Child, "The Maternal Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln: The Origins of Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln: A Study in Appalachian Genealogy," *New England Ancestors*, vol. 4, no. 1 (Holiday 2003).
2. Nancy Hanks's guardian, listed on her 1806 marriage record, was Richard Berry, son of

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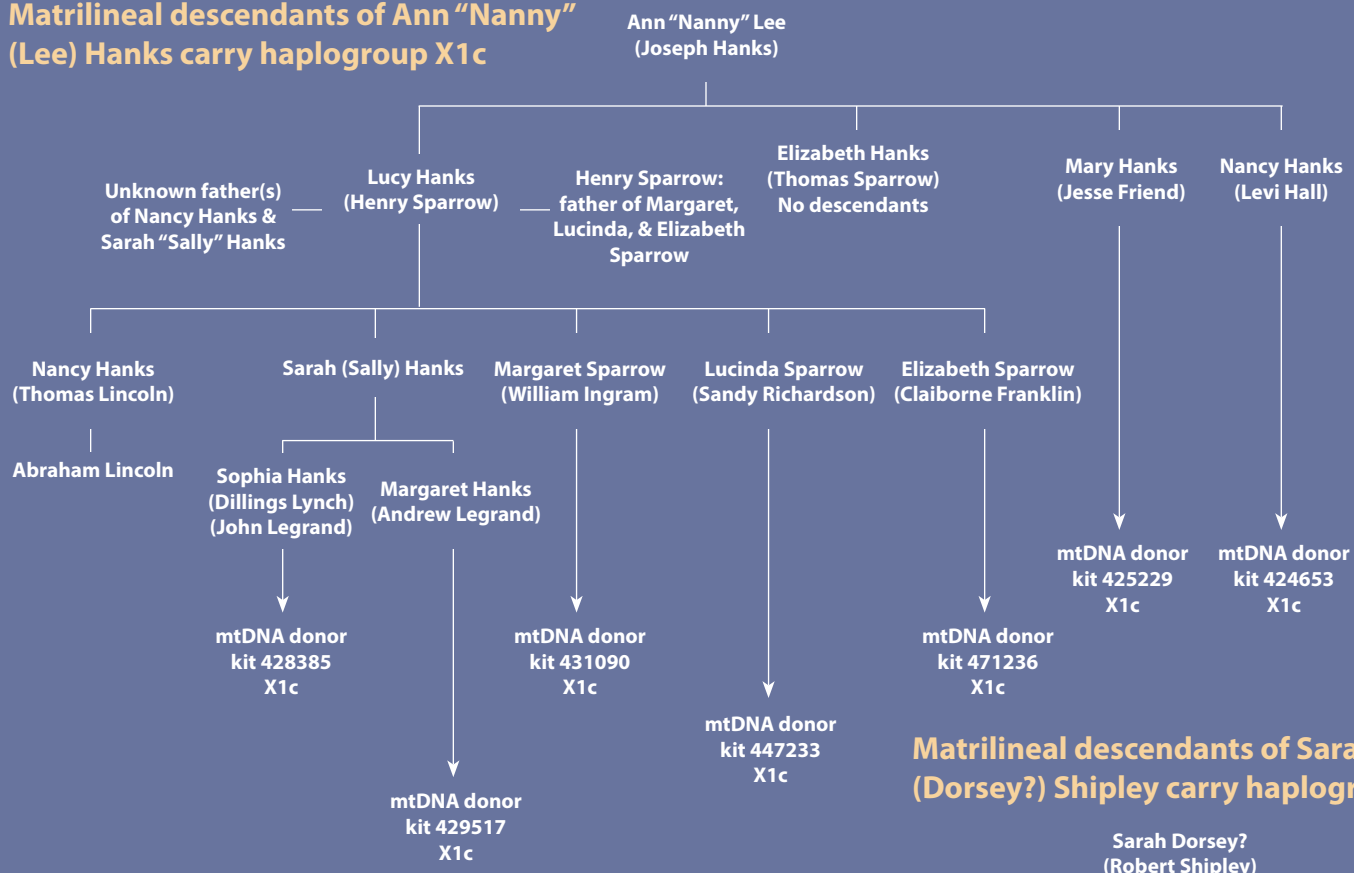
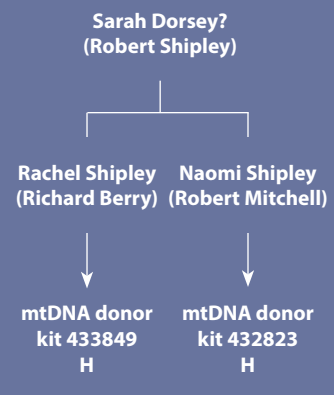
Matrilineal descendants of Ann "Nanny" (Lee) Hanks carry haplogroup X1c



Matrilineal descendants of Sarah (Dorsey?) Shipley carry haplogroup H



Rachel (Shipley) Berry. Other Shipleys were witnesses at Lucy Hanks's fornication trial.

[3] Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, *Herndon's Informants: Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln* (Urbana, Chicago, and Springfield, Ill.: Univ. of Illinois Press, 1998), esp. 779–83.

[4] William E. Barton, *The Lineage of Lincoln* (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1929).

[5] Paul H. Verduin, "New Evidence Suggests Lincoln's Mother Born in Richmond County, Virginia, Giving Credibility to Planter-Grandfather Legend," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, 38 (1988):4354–89.

[6] Joseph Hanks's will was dated January 8, 1793. His third son William married September 12, 1793; his oldest son Thomas likely did not marry until around 1796; fourth son Charles in 1798; fifth son Joseph in 1810; and second son Joshua not until the 1820s. Joseph's (second) daughter Elizabeth married in 1796; (third) daughter Mary in 1795; and youngest child Nancy around 1802. Lucy Hanks married Henry Sparrow in 1790.

[7] For the remainder of the ancestor table, #s 24–27 (currently unknown) are now #s 28–31; #s 48–55 (currently unknown) are now #s 56–63; #s 96–111 (currently unknown) are now #s 112–127; #s 192–223 (currently unknown) are now #s 224–256.

[8] A partial ancestor table for Elisha Lingan Hall is given here, with lines going back to ancestors of other presidents or immigrants of royal descent. 1. Elisha Lingan Hall (1763–ca. 1819); Richard Lingan Hall & Hannah Ludwell Lee; Thomas Lee & Hannah Harrison Ludwell; Richard Lee, Jr. & Laetitia Corbin; Philip Ludwell & Hannah Harrison; Richard Lee & Anne Constable (immigrant forebears of Lees of Stratford Hall and ancestors of President Zachary Taylor; Anne's sister Sarah (Constable) Savage, was an ancestor of both Taylor and President James Madison); Henry Corbin (RD) & Mrs. Alice Eltonhead Burnham (RD, her sister Martha (Eltonhead) Conway is ancestor of Presidents James Madison and Barack Obama); Philip Ludwell (RD) & Lucy Higginson (Lucy, by her marriage to Lewis Burwell, was an ancestor of Presidents William Henry and Benjamin Harrison), Benjamin Harrison, Jr. & Hannah _____ (ancestors of Presidents William Henry and Benjamin Harrison); Benjamin Harrison (RD) & Mary _____. For ancestors of Elisha Lingan Hall, see Verduin [note 4], plus William M. McCarthy and Kathleen Much, *The McCartys of the Northern Neck* (2005), esp. 188–90, 303–04; and Gary Boyd Roberts, *The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants* (2004, 2006, 2008, 2010).

[9] A partial ancestor table for Richard Beale is given here, with lines going back to ancestors of other presidents, *Mayflower* passengers, or immigrants of royal descent. 1. Richard Beale (1759–1819); William Beale & (Ann) Harwar Harwar; Thomas Harwar & Elizabeth Travers; Samuel Travers & Frances Allerton; Isaac Allerton, Jr. & Elizabeth Willoughby; Isaac Allerton (MP) & Fear Brewster; Thomas Willoughby (of claimed royal descent) & Alice _____; William Brewster (MP) & Mary _____ (MP). For ancestors of Richard Beale, see Verduin [note 4], plus Robert S. Wakefield and Margaret Harris Stover, *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*, v. 17, Isaac Allerton (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1998); Barbara Lambert Merrick, *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*, v. 24, William Brewster (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2014); and John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607–1624/25*, 4th ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007), 3:649–54, 657, 661–63.

[10] Mitochondrial DNA could also theoretically be extracted from Lincoln as well, which should provide the same haplogroup X1c.

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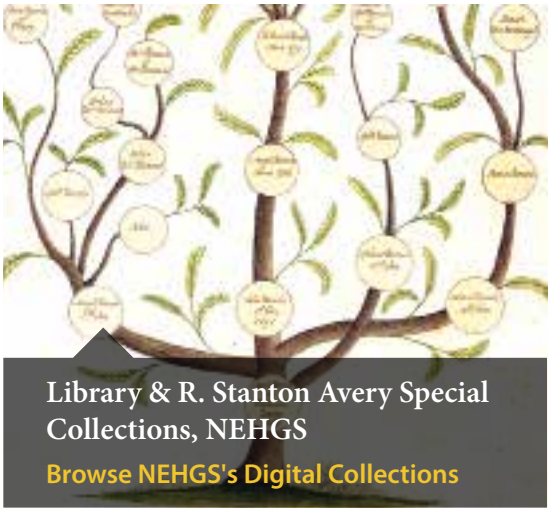
Charles A. Howard, a private in Company G, 27th Regiment Massachusetts Infantry, penned a letter to his sister on July 8, 1862. He was stationed at Carver Hospital in Washington, D.C., when wounded men from Richmond began to arrive there. He wrote:

> I hope that you will never have to witness men shot through the body and limbs and covered with lice so that there cloths have to be barnt to get rid of them. Some of them had laid under the pertection of gun boats for two days before their wounds could be dressed we worked hard till 12 oclock that night before we got them in a comfortable place for the night and the next morning the doctors went to work and cut off the fingers and arms of a good many and took out a good many rifle balls.[1]

This passage is excerpted from one of many letters that four Howard brothers serving in the Civil War sent home to their family in Leeds, Massachusetts. Charles A. and Stanley Howard were both in Company G, 27th Regiment, while their brother Henry W. Howard served with Company D, 10th Regiment Massachusetts Infantry.[2] Another brother, Edward Howard, joined the Navy, and spent part of the war on the U.S.S. *Vermont*.[3] The Howard letters provide extensive details about the daily lives of ordinary soldiers and sailors in the Civil War, and flesh out the meager outlines found in the brothers' service records. For over ten years, these letters, part of the Howard Family Papers in the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, could only be read by members who traveled to the NEHGS library in Boston. Thanks to a generous grant from the Cabot Family Charitable Trust, these papers—and many others—are now available online at a new website, American Ancestors Digital Collections (digitalcollections.americanancestors.org).

Digital Collections, launched in March 2016, brings together unique digitized manuscripts from both the Jewish Heritage Center, and the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections.





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NEHGS members and other researchers can now use one website to search and view many of the manuscripts from both archives at once, from any device with Internet access.

The staff of both archives worked together for almost two years to make this collaborative website a reality. Jewish Heritage Center staff began using this platform, then known as AJHS–NEA Digital Archives, to provide access to their extensive digitized manuscript collections in 2012. In the meantime, my colleagues in Special Collections and I provided digital access to unique manuscripts in two ways. One entry point was the databases on AmericanAncestors.org, but these databases work best for documents with lots of names and dates. Many of the items in our manuscript collections (such as letters, diaries, and photographs) do not include a high percentage of names, so databases are not the best choice for accessing these materials. For items like letters and diaries, we used the Digital Library and Archive to provide access through the library catalog. This solution worked well for relatively small manuscript collections, but technical limitations didn't allow for the best treatment of large collections. We clearly needed a different platform for digitizing larger manuscript collections, and the AJHS–NEA Digital Archives had many of the features we sought. We worked closely with Stephanie Call and other members of the Jewish Heritage Center staff to develop new approaches to make it possible for our respective archives to share a single website.

Digital Collections currently features five NEHGS manuscript collections of both historic and genealogical interest.

The **Family and Personal Papers** collection contains documents—letters, diaries, photographs, poetry, and other material—created by families and individuals in New England and elsewhere in the United States. Highlights of this collection include the diary of Josiah Freeman Bumstead (1797–1868), superintendent of the Belknap Street Sunday School at the African Baptist Church in Boston; letters to and from Jane Mecom, a sister of Benjamin Franklin; and letters by several American soldiers who served in World War I.

The **French and Indian Wars Manuscripts** collection contains material on four related wars that occurred from 1689 to 1763: King William's War, Queen Anne's War, King George's War, and the French and Indian War. The manuscripts document the experiences of New England men who served in these wars. One example is the diary of Jesse Tilson, a soldier in the Quebec Campaign in the French and Indian War, who recorded his cexperiences daily.

The **Local History Manuscripts** collection contains materials with a focus on a particular location, such as court records, military records, photographs, and histories of an area or institution. One of the most popular items in this collection is a scrapbook on the work of Captain George Lane and his family to establish a school for the mixed-race community on Malaga Island, Maine, in the early twentieth century.[4]

The **William Bollan Papers** contains material associated with the colonial agent for the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1746 to 1762. The entire collection has been digitized and is available online.

The **Civil War Manuscripts** collection includes letters, military records, and other material documenting the experiences of Union and Confederate soldiers in the Civil War. In addition to the Howard family papers, the collection includes the Chapman family correspondence and the papers of Captain

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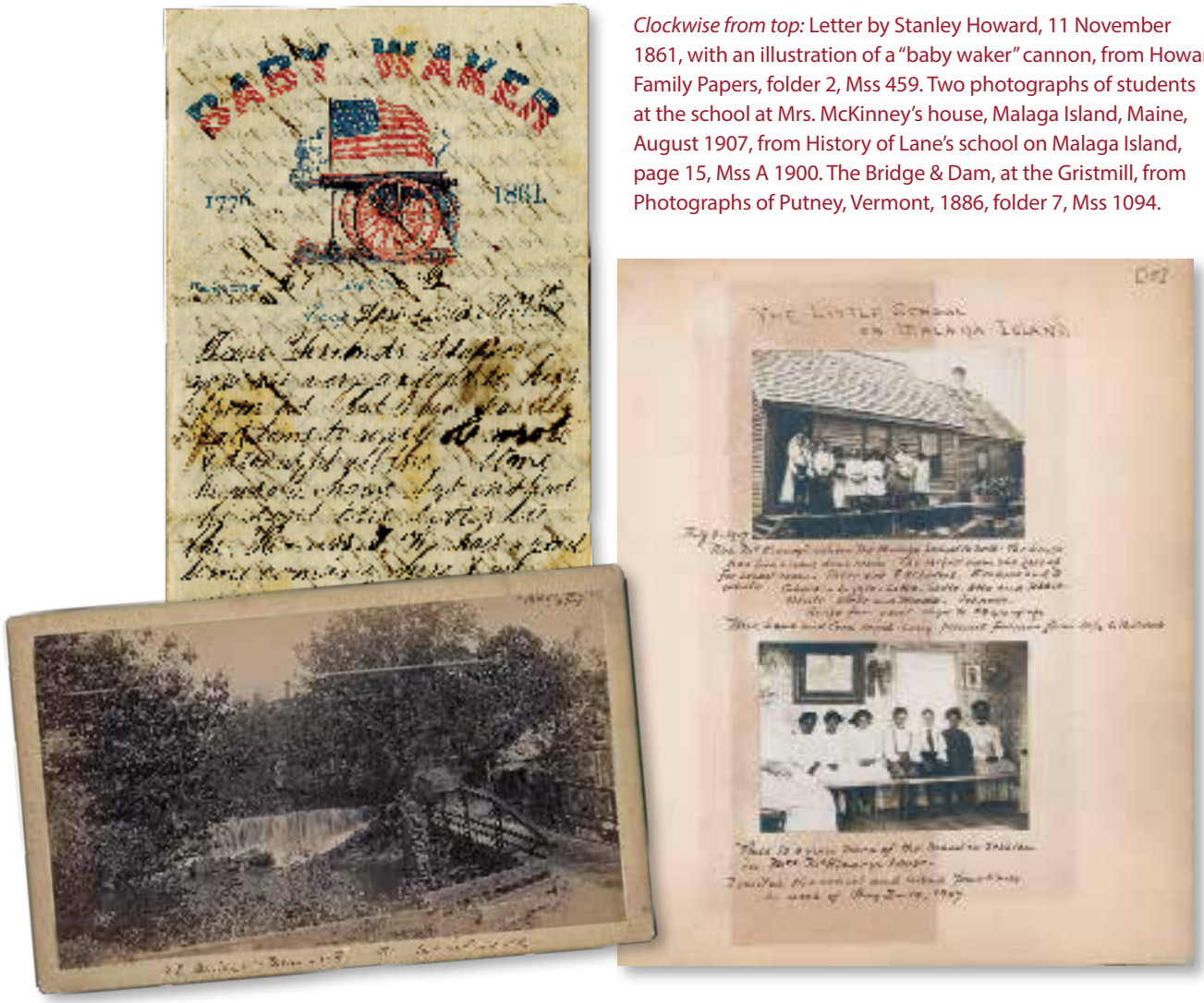

Clockwise from top: Letter by Stanley Howard, 11 November 1861, with an illustration of a "baby waker" cannon, from Howard Family Papers, folder 2, Mss 459. Two photographs of students at the school at Mrs. McKinney's house, Malaga Island, Maine, August 1907, from History of Lane's school on Malaga Island, page 15, Mss A 1900. The Bridge & Dam, at the Gristmill, from Photographs of Putney, Vermont, 1886, folder 7, Mss 1094.

Leander Gage King, Captain John T. Burgess, and Charles Carleton Coffin, a reporter for the *Boston Journal* who wrote many articles from the front. The collection also contains the original account book of Ethan Earle, captain of the First Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment, Company F.

With the exception of the William Bollan Papers, all these collections will continue to grow over time. Future additions will prioritize manuscripts that are fragile, rare, frequently used, and have high research value for genealogists and historians. In particular, we are planning to make family Bible records, church records, unpublished genealogies, early NEHGS membership records, and fine art available on Digital Collections.

In the coming months, items that used to be available through the Digital Library and Archive will be moved to Digital Collections. Genealogies, local histories, and city directories from the NEHGS Research Library will also be added to Digital Collections. Our goal is to assist our members and other scholars with their research by improving access to rare and unique items from Special Collections, the Jewish Heritage Center, and the NEHGS Research Library. If there are specific items you would like us to consider adding to Digital Collections, please contact library@nehgs.org. ◆

Notes

[1] *Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Massachusetts*, online database at Fold3.com, citing Charles Howard, Private, Co. G, 27th Infantry Regiment, Carded Records Showing Military Service of Soldiers Who Fought in Volunteer Organizations During the American Civil War, compiled 1890–1912, documenting 1861–1866, Record Group 94, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Letter by C.A. Howard to his sister, July 8, 1862, Howard Family Papers, Mss 459, folder 4, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, NEHGS; available at American Ancestors Digital Collections, digitalcollections.americanancestors.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15869coll23/id/565

[2] *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War,* 8 vols. (Norwood, Mass.: Norwood Press, 1931–35), 1:702 (Henry N. Howard), 3: 164 (Charles A. and Stanley Howard).

[3] Letters by Edward Howard and Stanley Howard, 1865, Howard Family Papers, Mss 459, folder 7, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, NEHGS; available at American Ancestors Digital Collections, digital collections.americanancestors.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15869coll23/id/677. 4 History of Lane's school on Malaga Island, Mss A 1900, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, NEHGS; available at American Ancestors Digital Collections, digital collections.americanancestors.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15869coll14/id/128.

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

focus on New York



Seen Elsewhere: New York-Related Articles in 2014–2015 Issues of Some Non-New York Journals

This annual feature began in the first issue of *The NYG&B Newsletter* (spring 1990) to highlight New York genealogical and historical articles possibly unknown to readers. Each installment covers two years, so late-published journals may be included; the list below covers 2014–2015, and is continued from American Ancestors 16 (2015) 3:61. The next "Seen Elsewhere" will cover 2015–2016. Photocopies of articles for personal research can be obtained (for a fee) from NEHGS Research Services.

Notes: If no city or county is mentioned in the title of the article or afterwards, the article relates to various counties, usually upstate. For long articles, only the pages concerned with New York are cited. Serialized articles are not normally mentioned in the following year, even when subsequent installments are New York-related.

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. 169

- Jane Belcher, "Elisha, Stephen, Thomas, Isaac, and Samuel: The Five Probable Sons of Elisha[4] Morehouse," pp. 16–32 (Winter 2015); 172–88 (Spring 2015); 346 (Fall 2015)
- Gale Ion Harris, "John[5] Eggleston of Watertown, Connecticut, and Broome County, New York, pp. 57–70 (Winter 2015); 156–71 (Spring 2015)
- Steven T. Beckwith and Celia Gammel,"Joseph DeSilva of the Island of Madeira, Colony of New Jersey, and State of New York, and His Wife Hannah Compton," pp. 101–13 (Spring 2015)
- Patricia Law Hatcher, "Mary[1] (Browne) (Oakley) Bouchier Alias Garret of Saffron Walden, Essex, and Massachusetts, and Her Family," pp. 216–25 (Summer 2015) [Oakley]
- Patricia Sezna Haggerty, "Francis Lewis Fairbank of Oneida County, New York, Son of Ebenezer and Abigail (Cobb) Fairbank," pp. 237–44 (Summer 2015); 336–45 (Fall 2015)
- Ronald E. Benson, Jr., "Who Married Ann/Anne/Anna, Daughter of Joseph[2] and Dorothy (Parke) Morgan?" pp. 282–84 (Fall 2015)
- Bill Principe, "Williams–Kellogg Bible Records, 1722–1895," p. 322 (Fall 2015)

American Ancestors, vol. 16

- Henry B. Hoff, "Unusual First Names as Markers in New York Genealogy," pp. 59–61 (Winter 2015)
- Lawrence R. McGrath, "George Dopf and the Old Lutheran Migration of 1839," pp. 37–40, 59 (Spring 2015)
- Timothy G. X. Salls, "The Edward Wheeler Family Collection," pp. 57–59 (Spring 2015)
- Judy Lucey, "Preserving One Family's Story: The Button–Treadwell Family Reunion Collection," pp. 57–59 (Fall 2015)
- Meldon J. Wolfgang III, "Clues from the Coroner," pp. 60–61 (Fall 2015) [New York]

The American Genealogist, vol. 87

- Leslie Mahler and Nathan W. Murphy, "The George Ancestry of Early Modern Author and Educator Bathshua (Reynolds) Makin (ca. 1599–after 1680): An Addition to the Ancestry of John[1] Pell of Pelham Manor, New York," pp. 109–16 (July–Oct. 2014)
- Leslie Mahler, "The English Ancestry of Mary Goatley, Wife of Thomas Osborne of New Haven, Connecticut," pp. 179–88 (Jan.–April 2015) [East Hampton, L.I.]

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- Patricia Law Hatcher," Enigmas #29: Placing Mary (Pardun) Gilliland of Ohio in the Family of Thomas and Ariaantje (Sebring) Verdon of Brooklyn," pp. 193–203 (Jan.–April 2015); 257–62 (July–Oct. 2015)

***The Genealogist*, vol. 29**

- William J. Untermohlen, "The Rue Family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania," pp. 131–34, 141–42 (Fall 2015) [Staten Island]
- Jane Fletcher Fiske, "Governor Henry[1] Bull of Rhode Island and His Descendants," pp. 205–20 (Fall 2015)

***The American Society of Genealogists: 75th Anniversary Volume (1940–2015): Selected and Original Articles by Fellows of the Society, Past and Present* [distributed to subscribers to *The Genealogist*]**

- Marsha Hoffman Rising, "Trousers for Elijah: The Probable Identity of Elijah Robinson of Conewango Township, Cattaraugus County, New York," pp. 31–40 (reprinted from *The American Genealogist*)
- Gale Ion Harris, "William[5] and Wealthy (Dean) Towsley of Kalamazoo, Michigan," pp. 45–55
- David Kendall Martin, "The Parentage of Eliza, Wife of Samuel White of New York City," pp. 87–90
- Patricia Law Hatcher, "Ancestry of Abigail[4] Farrington, Wife of Thomas[3] Oakley of Westchester County, New York," pp. 158–69
- Henry Z Jones, Jr., "Some Newly-Discovered German Origins for the Palatine Families of New York–1710," pp. 176–94 (reprinted from *The American Genealogist*)
- Harry Macy, Jr., "Hendrick Onderdonk's Executors: Clues to the Family of Thomas Oakley of Long Island," pp. 214–33
- Jane Fletcher Fiske, "Kimmey (Kimmich) and Soop (Schupp), Two German Palatine Families Who Settled in Albany County, New York," pp. 245–62
- John Blythe Dobson, "Some Heraldry Associated with the Nevius Family," pp. 284–99



Elbridge S. Brooks, *The Story of New York* (1888), 33.

***National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 103**

- Thomas W. Jones, "Too Few Sources to Solve a Family Mystery? Some Greenfields in Central and Western New York," pp. 85–103 (June 2015)
- Sue Hahney Kratsch, "James Wesley Mooney of Will County, Illinois: Business Records Reveal His New York Family," pp. 179–200 (Sept. 2015)

***NGS Magazine*, vol. 41**

- Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, "Compiled Military Service Records, Part V: The Book Mark," pp. 41–44 (Jan.–March 2015)
- Kathy Petlewski, "Researching Family History in a Vacuum," pp. 46–49, 51 (April–June 2015)

***Connecticut Ancestry*, vols. 57–58**

- Kathryn Downs Wolff, "Abel Bennett of Newtown, Connecticut, in 1790," 57:86–88 (Feb. 2015) [Orleans Co.]
- Kathryn Downs Wolff, "Bennett Perry of Newtown, Connecticut, in 1790," 57:89–90 (Feb. 2015) [Kings Co.]
- Harlan R. Jessup, "Finding Parents for Daniel Bennett (d. 1877) of Ridgefield," 57:92–95 (Feb. 2015)
- Harlan R. Jessup, "Elizabeth (Perement) Clason of Stamford, Connecticut, Who Was Tried for Witchcraft, and Her Clason Descendants," 58:62 (Nov. 2015)
- Frederick C. Hart, Jr., "Immigrants to Fairfield County: Frederick Henry Hart of Oberhof, Germany, Eastchester, New York, and Darien, Connecticut," 58:64–69 (Nov. 2015)

***The Connecticut Nutmegger*, vols. 47–48**

- Ian Watson, "The Parentage of Abel Pasko, Sarah Ferguson, and Ichabod Smith of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York," 47:194–206 (March 2015); 48:74 (July 2015)
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family focus

Genealogies

Brimicombe *Two Brothers from Devon—Joseph and Henry Brimicombe to Nova Scotia*, Al Short (Lakeville, Mass.: The Country Press, Inc., 2015). Softcover, 311 pp., name and marriage indices, illustrations. Early records of Brimicombes in the village of Stoke Gabriel, Devon, England, beginning with marriage of John and Susanna in 1785. Special emphasis on two brothers who immigrated to Nova Scotia in the 1870s. $40. Available from Al Short, 133 Cherry St., Middleboro, MA 02346; short52aljoan@verizon.net.

Dunton *Joel Dunton of Franklin, Massachusetts and Four Generations of His Descendants*, Sandy Dahlfred (Merrimack, N.H.: the author, 2016). Softcover, x+120 pp., footnotes, photographs, index. This genealogy documents the Dunton family beginning with the mysterious Joel (1807–1849), who was killed by a kick from his plow horse at age 42. Available from Lulu.com; sdahlfred@gmail.com.

Holton *The Life and Times of Charles Leonard Holton*, Joan A. Hunter (the author, 2016). Softcover, 422 pp., name, place, and map indexes; bibliography; illustrations. This family history covers four generations of Holtons and Moodys from the early 1800s to the early 1900s using letters, diaries, photos, and memorabilia. $25. Available from Amazon.com.

Logee *Philip Logee of Salem, Massachusetts and His Descendants*, Don Taylor (California: the author, 2015). Softcover, 434 pp., full name index, illustrations. This genealogy traces eight generations of Philip Logee (1600s) of Salem, Mass. $55. Available through Amazon.com or Createspace.com.

Multiple surnames *Such Lives as These: A Chronicle of the Armstrong, Hart, Howard, McLean, and Trimmer Families in Pennsylvania, New York and Westward ca 1751–ca 1855,* Gregory Alan Vaut (Burlington, Vt.: the author, 2016). PDF, 237 pp., illustrations, appendices, source citations, bibliography. The Armstrong, Hart, Howard, McLean and Trimmer families intermarried and settled close to each other in Fermanagh Twp. and Cumberland Co., Pennsylvania during the mid-1700s; moved together to what was then Ontario Co., N.Y., and lived there for several decades; and finally migrated to Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Missouri. Free PDF. Available from academia.edu/25888123/SUCH_LIVES_AS_THESE.

Walderne, Waldron *Ancestors and Descendants of Major Richard Walderne of Dover, New Hampshire*, Douglass G. Adams (Baltimore, Md.: the author, 2015). Hardcover, 489 pp., index, footnotes. This exploration of early colonization and the Waldron family's rise to power in opposition to the Wentworth oligarchy includes heroism, deceit, and betrayal. $49.95+cshipping. Available from Douglass G. Adams, dgadams@pacific.net.

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Painting of Ninigret II (1610–1677)

One of the newest treasures to enter our collections is a late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century oil painting of a Native American sachem. NEHGS purchased this painting in early 2016 from an art dealer. The portrait is traditionally believed to depict Ninigret II (ca. 1610–1677), a sachem of the eastern Niantics, a Narragansett tribe that held extensive lands in what is today Rhode Island.

Ninigret appears to have been a skillful player on the stage of seventeenth-century New England politics. He allied the Niantics with the English against the Pequots in 1637, and kept his tribe out of King Philip's War in the 1670s. Many historians consider King Philip's War to be the deadliest war in the history of European settlement in North America in proportion to percentage of the population.

In spite of their best efforts, the Puritans had little success in converting the Niantics to Christianity. Governor Thomas Mayhew of Martha's Vineyard, who established the first English settlements on that island and Nantucket, asked Ninigret to allow him to preach to the Niantics, to which Ninigret replied, "Go and make the English good first."

At Ninigret's death, his daughter became sachem; she was succeeded by her half-brother, another Ninigret, who granted a large portion of his people's lands to the colony of Rhode Island in 1709. In the late eighteenth- and early nineteenth centuries, Europeans increased their colonization of former Niantic land; by 1812, only a small number of Niantics were still living in Rhode Island.

A number of place names in Rhode Island honor Ninigret II, most in or around Charlestown. The most prominent sites are Ninigret Pond and Fort Ninigret, the latter an historic fort possibly built in the seventeenth century by Native Americans or early Europeans. Ninigret himself is believed to be buried at a place near Charlestown called Burying Hill.

Two other known versions of this painting exist: one in the collection of the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) Museum in Providence, and the other at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) in Boston. RISD's version, circa 1700, is almost certainly the oldest of the three, and very likely the earliest portrayal of a Native American by a European-trained artist. Curators at the RISD Museum have recently re-identified the artist of their painting as Robin Cassacinamon, an influential Pequot leader whose tribe occupied the basin of Connecticut's Pequot River, known today as the Thames River. The NEHGS and MHS paintings are very probably later copies of the RISD portrait.

This depiction of Ninigret can also be seen elsewhere. During the nineteenth century engraved copies of the RISD painting were widely distributed throughout the United States. And the public library in Westerly, Rhode Island, contains a beautiful stained glass window of Ninigret. Based on the RISD portrait, the window was designed and installed in 1894, the year the library opened to the public. Anyone can see this lovely window today, rain or shine, as the library has recently re-displayed it with back lighting to simulate perpetual sunshine. And everyone is invited to the Treat Rotunda at NEHGS, where our oil portrait of Ninigret is proudly on view, resplendent in its new, custom-made frame.

—Curt DiCamillo,
Curator of Special Collections



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