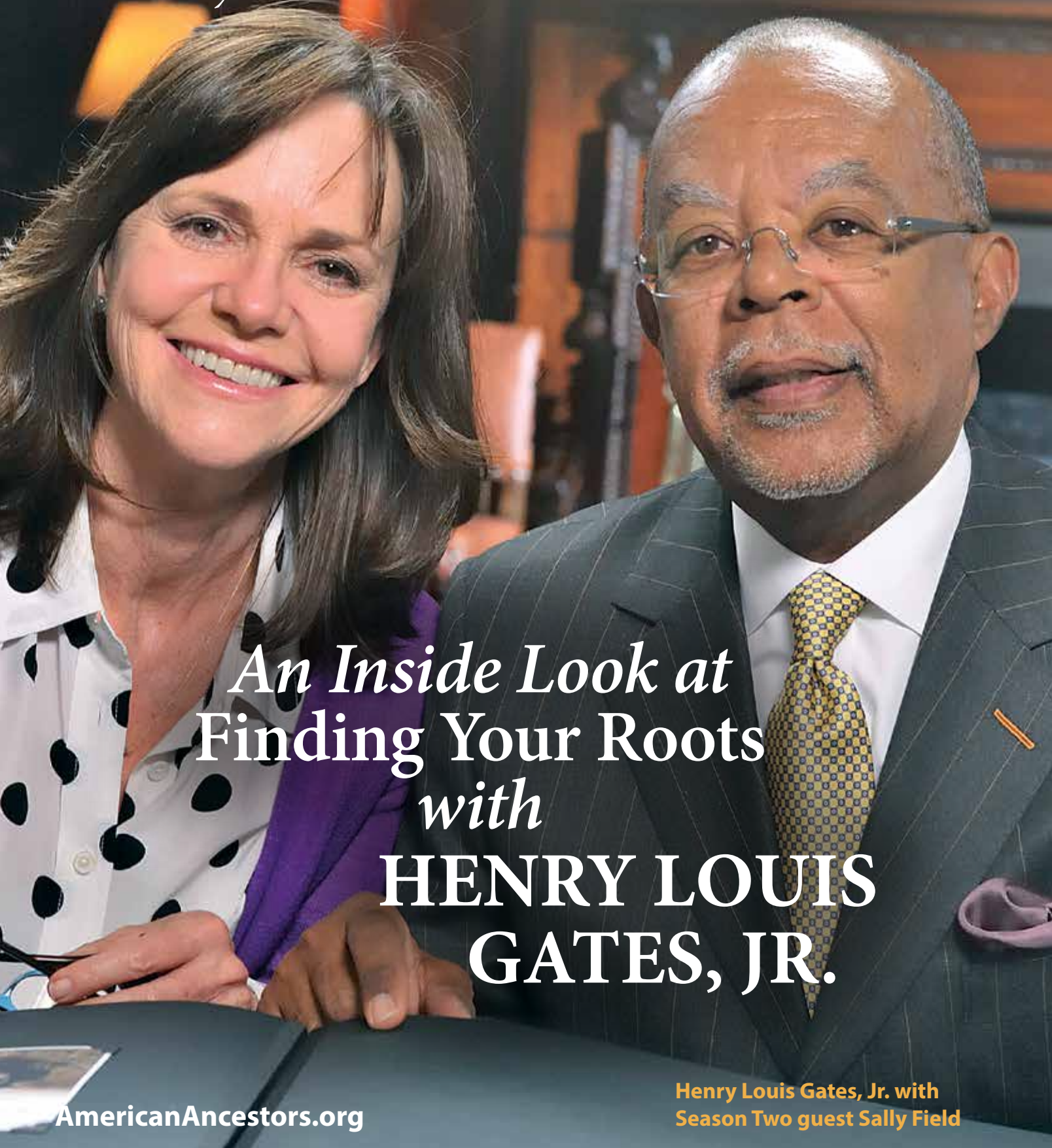




vol. 15, no. 4 \$6.95 Fall 2014

# American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



*An Inside Look at  
Finding Your Roots  
with*  
**HENRY LOUIS  
GATES, JR.**

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

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. with  
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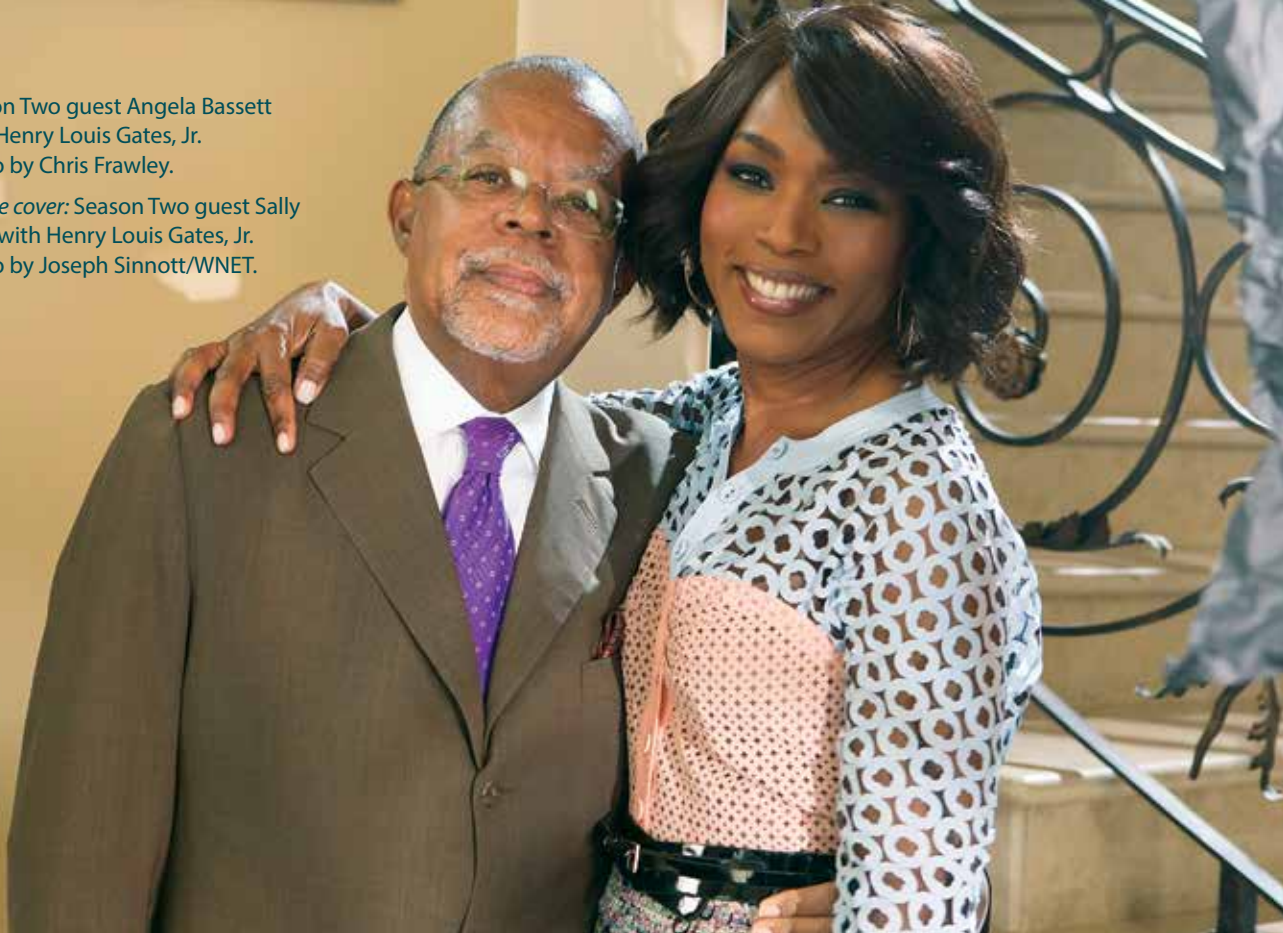
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**American Ancestors**  
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Season Two guest Angela Bassett with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
Photo by Chris Frawley.

On the cover: Season Two guest Sally Field with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
Photo by Joseph Sinnott/WNET.



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As the nation's founding genealogical organization, we have long been at the forefront of advancing the study of family history, as well as serving as a repository for records. We produce dozens of scholarly publications each year, many receiving awards for research excellence. Our expert staff of genealogists also lead groundbreaking multi-year research efforts such as The Great Migration Study Project and The Early New England Families Study Project. And our scholarly journal, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, is the flagship journal of American genealogy and the oldest in the field, published quarterly since 1847.

### Using your online library catalog, I see a number of books I am interested in. How do I access a book in the library if I cannot travel to Boston?

Some of our books and manuscripts have been digitized and members can view them online as a feature of our library catalog ([library.nehgs.org](http://library.nehgs.org)). We continue to grow our digital collection on a regular basis. If a book you would like to consult is not available digitally, you can engage our Research Services team to assist you in making scans or photocopies. Our Research Services team can be reached at 617-226-1233 or [research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org).

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# View from the family tree



In the summer issue of our magazine, we announced the significant undertaking of adding 2.2 billion records to AmericanAncestors.org. I am thrilled to share that we are preparing to launch a new version of our website late this fall that will include the first 100 million of these records. This addition will nearly double the number of searchable records we offer you to advance your family history research. In October, we also crossed the significant milestone of raising \$51 million of our ambitious \$55 million Capital Campaign goal. Your tremendous support in helping this important campaign is vital to our continued work to make more collections and services available to genealogists, to enhance our technological functionality to meet your needs, and to preserve the rich heritage of American families and communities for generations to come.



D. Brenton Simons

On our soon-to-be-launched new AmericanAncestors.org, we will offer a helpful new “Browse” feature to improve your search process and open up new opportunities in your research. We have also simplified navigation, with more user-friendly organization of our content, and added a new help section including tips to assist with questions. To accommodate the growing needs of researchers on the go, our new interface is designed to perform on mobile devices.

One of the first new databases available on the improved AmericanAncestors.org will be English birth, christening, marriage, and death record transcripts dating from the fifteenth century through the twentieth century. Combined with our signature resources, such as *The Great Migration Study Project* and *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, these transcripts will provide invaluable data to families tracing English origins. In time, our databases will also include U.S. federal census transcripts; civil registrations for Italy, Germany, Scotland, and the Netherlands; and a panoply of census, birth, marriage, and death records.

All these resources are made possible because of the generous support of our members and donors. With your help, we look forward to meeting the final \$4 million goal of our capital campaign, and continuing our 170-year tradition of advancing the study of family history in America and beyond.

D. Brenton Simons  
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Interested in thought-provoking explorations of genealogical topics? The *Vita Brevis* blog offers the opportunity to engage with scholars and professionals who share their unique perspectives and insights. Visit us at [vita-brevis.org](http://vita-brevis.org).

## The Weekly Genealogist e-newsletter

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

## Our Facebook page

Want to participate in our community and keep up-to-date on our latest news? Join our more than 20,000 friends and follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/nehgs](https://facebook.com/nehgs).

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

## In this issue

In some cases finding images to illustrate the pages of AMERICAN ANCESTORS is easy. We might feature pictures taken by a professional photographer at an NEHGS event or, as with this issue's cover story on *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, we might use images already created or collected for a featured show or book. In other instances, an author might own a collection of relevant images that perfectly complements the text.

If an article's subject matter is broad or well-documented—say, the state of Vermont or the Civil War—our task is simpler, and we can generally select from a range of image options. But other topics—for instance, those set in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—are more challenging and can require a great deal of thought and research.

To locate appropriate illustrations we search out-of-copyright books in our library and historic images on the Internet. To avoid copyright infringement, we are careful about what we use from the Internet. Either the owner of an image (say, the Library of Congress) states that no known restrictions on publication exist or that the image can be freely distributed, or we contact the image's owner for permission. Sometimes we pay museums or archives for the right to reproduce an image in an article. Other times the quoted cost is too high and we must regretfully look elsewhere.

When a contemporary image is required, we may take the pictures ourselves. Associate Editor Jean Powers is responsible for many of our staff photos, and very occasionally I assume the role of photographer. For Emerson Baker's "Salem End" article in this issue, I wanted to show Betty (Parris) Barron's Concord, Massachusetts, house. After unsuccessful searches of our library and the Internet, I followed a series of clues to a 1937 image of the house, available from a local institution for \$90. But because the distance from my house to the Barron house is only twelve miles—and because we wanted a color image—I drove over on a Sunday and took the photo myself.

Looking for present-day images for "Attack on the Rowlandson Garrison House" by Jennifer Eager Ehle, I found just what I was seeking at the Historical Marker Database ([hmdb.org](http://hmdb.org))—photographs of Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission markers. I didn't see an obvious way to contact the photographer, Roger W. Sinnott, but I noticed that he lived in Massachusetts. Although I had no reason to believe he was an NEHGS member, I checked our database. I was pleased to find that he has been a member since 1988, and he kindly granted permission to reproduce his images.

A few weeks later I searched for an image of the Medfield [Massachusetts] State Hospital, to accompany an Ask a Genealogist column by Marie Daly. I found an evocative series of images of the hospital on Flickr, but saw no easy way to contact Don Kelloway, the photographer. Because I'd had such good luck with Mr. Sinnott, I again checked the NEHGS membership database. Happily, Don Kelloway was also a member, and he graciously gave us permission to reproduce his photo.

So I'd like to extend special thanks to Roger Sinnott and Don Kelloway for their photographs, and let other members know that if you have public photos online, I might be contacting you one of these days. And I hope I've shown you that there is more to the images in *American Ancestors* than meets the eye.



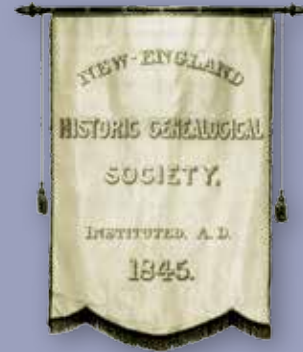
We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to AMERICAN ANCESTORS during the past year. We very much appreciate our staff and volunteer writers, columnists, editors, proofreaders, and photographers. We look forward to more member contributions and feedback in 2015.



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

# American Ancestors

New England, New York & beyond



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

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

# Connecting Families. Advancing History.

## Join our historic national campaign

Our national campaign is close to its \$55 million goal. Launched in 2008 at the height of our nation's economic challenges, and supported with the extraordinary generosity of more than 20,000 commitments from our loyal members and friends, the *Connecting Families. Advancing History.* campaign is headed to the finish with less than \$5 million remaining. With the end of the calendar year approaching, we hope you will take this opportunity to make a gift or pledge to help put us over the top!

The successful financial results of this historic campaign have enabled us to do many new things to provide you, our members and friends, with the best possible service. Here are just a few of our recent accomplishments:

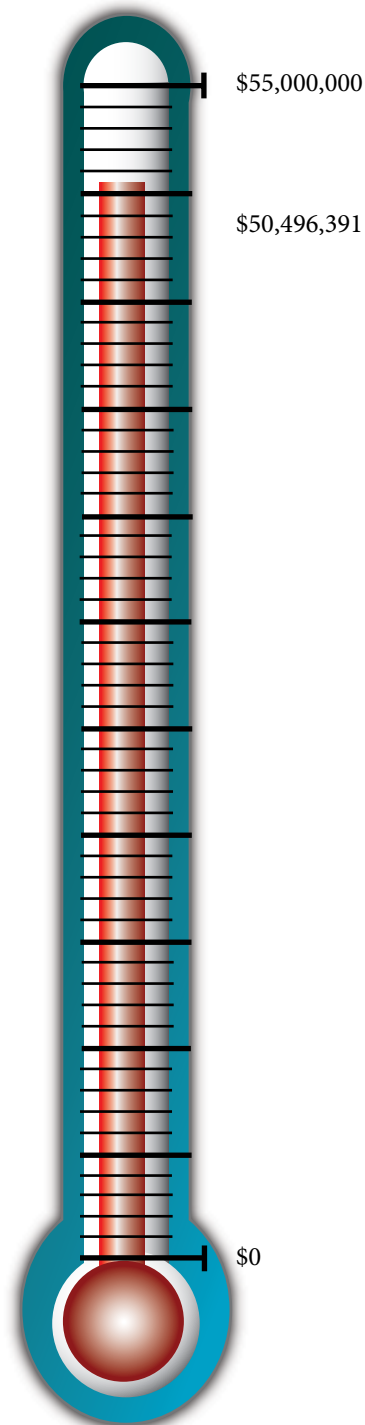
- Our award-winning website, [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org), has undergone a complete redesign that will launch in the late fall of 2014. You will notice a friendlier website with increased usability—along with an expanded capacity to acquire more than 2 billion new records!
- With campaign support for our Family History Fund, since 2008 Newbury Street Press has published eighteen books on the histories of families in America.
- Our award-winning garden and entryway on Newbury Street was redesigned in 2011 to welcome visitors more warmly and effectively. New ergonomically designed glass front doors will make our entrance to our lobby barrier-free and accessible to all visitors.
- A new state-of-the-art conservation laboratory has been created for the conservation and preservation of the millions of documents entrusted to our care.
- Since the start of the campaign, Annual Fund income has more

than doubled to more than \$2 million. This income, coupled with membership dues, accounts for more than 80 percent of our annual operating budget.

- The Cornerstone Society was established in 2013 to recognize donors of \$100,000 or more who contribute to the acquisition and renovation of 97 Newbury Street. This traditional brownstone, adjacent to our 99–101 headquarters, will provide much-needed space, potentially for new education facilities, a gallery, and a museum-style shop. There are currently fourteen Cornerstone Society members, contributing a generous \$2.5 million for this strategic endeavor.
- More than \$22.6 million in estate planning gifts have been committed towards the campaign's deferred-giving goal of \$25 million.

You can participate in the campaign in many ways: through outright gifts and pledges; deferred gifts such as charitable gift annuities that provide you with increased income for life along with significant charitable income tax deductions; and bequests included in your estate plans. Further information on each of these giving opportunities is available on the NEHGS website, [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) (click "Donate"), or by contacting Ted MacMahon, Vice President, at 617-226-1218 or [tmacmahon@nehgs.org](mailto:tmacmahon@nehgs.org), or Steven L. Solomon, Manager of Gift Planning, at 617-226-1238 or [ssolomon@nehgs.org](mailto:ssolomon@nehgs.org).

Thank you to all our donors, whose continued generosity enables us to provide the highest level of service and scholarship to our friends and members.



Capital Campaign commitments as of September 30, 2014





Bill Griffeth next to an ancestor's tombstone

## “Family History Found Me”

Twelve years ago, NEHGS Trustee and Treasurer Bill Griffeth was caught unaware: “I unexpectedly received a call from a cousin asking if I had any records of our family history. I had been given a few bits and pieces from my mother, but nothing as extensive as ultimately came in the mail from my cousin. From that point on, I was fascinated and obsessed!” This serendipitous call led Bill to contact many newly found relatives who were equally interested in their family history. “Once you find a friend or relative with whom you share an interest in family history,” says Bill, “there’s a special bond that develops and grows over time.”

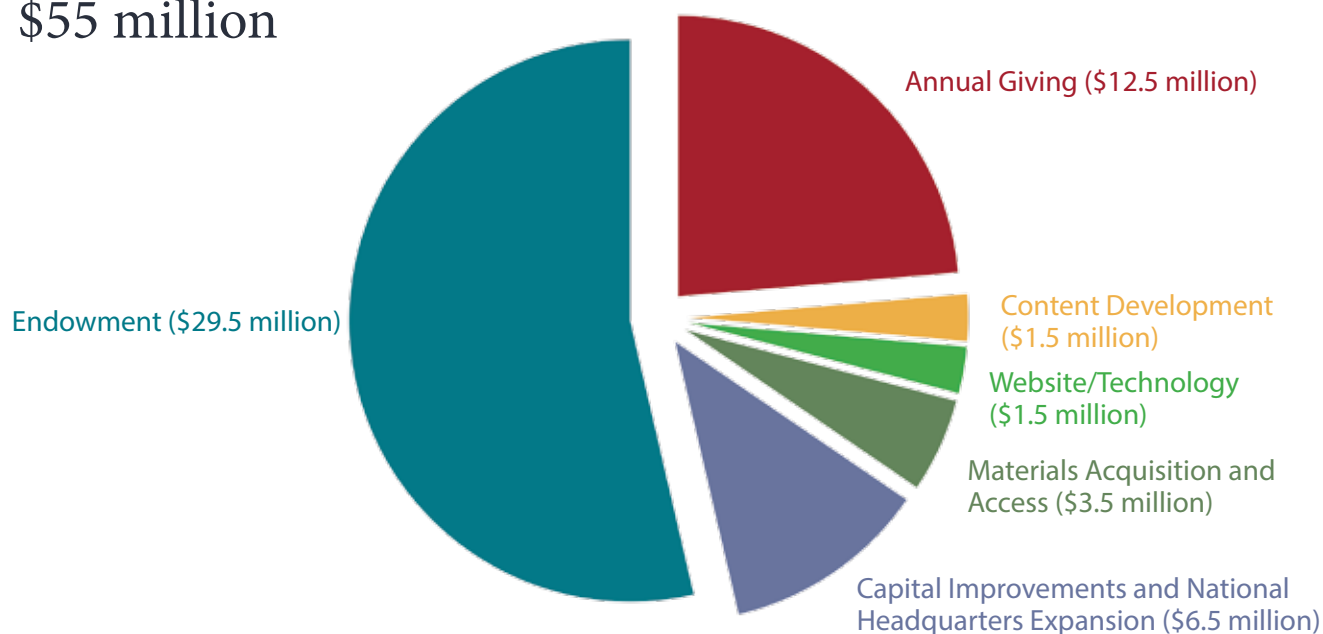
Bill’s earliest-known paternal ancestor, Joshua Griffith, emigrated from England in about 1630, during the Great Migration. Bill’s grandmother was a Woolsey whose ancestors George and Rebecca Woolsey came from Great Yarmouth in England and settled in New Amsterdam, now New York City. Their farm at 70 Pearl Street in Lower Manhattan was two blocks from the current site of the New York Stock Exchange, where Bill spends considerable time as co-anchor of CNBC’s *Closing Bell*.

Bill’s fascinating forebears include two standouts. His great-great-grandfather, Judah Griffith, became, in 1830, one of the earliest Elders of the Mormon Church under Joseph Smith, Jr. And William Griffith, an early Quaker living on Cape Cod, was cited in an early-nineteenth-century history as a rebel with a “roving disposition.”

“My genealogy mantra is a simple one,” Bill says. “The history of your family provides a context for the life in which you live today.”

— Steven L. Solomon, Manager of Gift Planning

Overall Campaign Goal:  
\$55 million





# ask our genealogists

---

**Marie Daly**, Senior Genealogist, 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, and Prince Edward Island research.

My Irish great-great-grandparents, Richard Carroll (b. about 1821 in County Louth) and Mary Clark (b. 1831 in County Armagh), arrived at the port of Ogdensburg, New York, about 1854 on a lumber ship. I can find no record of ships coming into Ogdensburg. I am hoping to find passenger lists to look for other Clarks and Carrolls on the same ship, to assist my search for the family in Ireland. Where can I find information on lumber ships that arrived with immigrants in upstate New York?

Given the location of your ancestors in upstate New York, the likely port of entry was Quebec, not Ogdensburg. Once your ancestors disembarked in Quebec, they would have made their way down the St. Lawrence River in a smaller river boat. However, Canadian passenger lists do not begin until 1865, too late to document the arrival of your ancestors.

But your idea of looking for relatives and friends from the old country is a good one. You can undertake this search in several ways. First, check census records close to the time of arrival—e.g., the 1860 census—for the town where your ancestor lived. Leave the name field blank, and give the birthplace as Ireland. The results will be a list of all the Irish immigrants in the town. Review this list, especially for evidence of surnames coming from

Louth or Armagh. Also, review local church records for your ancestors, and note the witnesses at family weddings and sponsors at family baptisms. These are often friends and relatives from back home. Once you have assembled a list of neighbors, friends, and relatives, trace each one back to Ireland, if you can. By widening the focus of your research, you can improve your chances of success.

You should also concentrate on determining the names of the parents in Ireland, especially the maiden names of the mothers. This information can come from North American sources, such as death and marriage records. Once you identify the names of the parents, you can look for baptisms and marriages in Irish databases, such as [rootsireland.ie](http://rootsireland.ie) and [irishgenealogy.ie](http://irishgenealogy.ie).

While researching my great-great-grandmother Mary Flaherty, born in South Boston in 1870, I discovered through census records that she was an inmate at the Medfield [Massachusetts] Insane Asylum/State Hospital from at least 1900 to 1940. I then requested her 1941 death certificate, which places her commitment in 1896, when she was 27 years old. It shows she died there at age 70. I believe the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health is prohibited by law from releasing any psychiatric records, regardless of how old they are. But is there any way I could find out why my great-great-grandmother was committed?

Access to medical records is regulated under the privacy rule of the HIPAA law, and information about this rule can be found at Health and Human Services website: [hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/privacyrule/](http://hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/privacyrule/).

Medfield State Hospital opened in May 1896, so Mary's residency there may have begun when it first opened. She might have been transferred from

another institution, such as the Boston, Danvers, or Worcester State Hospitals. The original commitment date might be earlier than 1896. If she had a psychotic break as a teenager or young adult, she could have been committed as early as 1886 or 1887.

One way to research the specifics of an adult psychiatric illness is to look for guardianships in probate records. Very

Medfield State Hospital.  
©2010 Don Kelloway.

often the guardianship cases for persons with developmental or psychiatric disabilities are noted in probate indexes as “guardianship, n.c.” The n.c. stands for non compos mentis, or not of sound mind (mentally incompetent). I found a guardianship, n.c. entry for your ancestor in the Suffolk County probate index for 1904. Suffolk County probate records through 1916 are available on microfilm at the NEHGS library and the Family History Library. You can request a copy of the probate record through our research services department or you can order the microfilm from the Family History Library (familysearch.org) and have it delivered to a Family History Library near you. You should also look for guardianships for Mary in Suffolk County, back to the mid-1880s.

Since Mary was 27 in 1896, she was born about 1869. The information on federal censuses might help determine when her illness began. The 1870 census includes a column that indicates whether a person was “deaf, dumb, blind, insane or idiotic.” The 1880 census had separate columns for each of those categories and, in addition, one for “maimed, crippled, bedridden or disabled.” The 1940 census noted the highest grade in school each person had completed, and Mary’s form indicated she had finished eighth grade.

I am trying to find the gravesites of several generations of ancestors who lived in Salem, Massachusetts, beginning in about 1700. I have located many of them in the Harmony Grove Cemetery, but the first burials there were not until 1840. How would I find information on earlier Salem cemeteries?

According to *A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries*, second edition, by David Allen Lambert (Boston: NEHGS, 2009), five Salem burying grounds predated the Harmony Grove Cemetery: Broad Street Cemetery, est. 1655 [G.R. 7]; Charter Street Cemetery, est. 1637 [G.R. 1]; Friends Cemetery, est. 1718 [G.R. 11]; Greenlawn Cemetery, est. 1807 [G.R. 10]; and Howard Street Cemetery, est. 1801 [G.R. 8]. The “G.R.” number following each cemetery name

(Leaving school after eighth grade was not unusual for Irish American females of that era.) This withdrawal from school may provide a hint about the date of onset of her illness—perhaps after age or 13 or 14, and after 1882 or 1883.

Schizophrenia often struck during a person’s late teens or early twenties, and was heartbreaking for the families affected. Untreated, the disease frequently resulted in lifetime commitments to mental institutions. A good account of how this disease affected a Boston Irish American family is *Stalking Irish Madness: Searching for the Roots of My Family’s Schizophrenia* by Patrick Tracey (2008).

refers to the gravestone record number assigned to that cemetery in the Salem vital records.

The inscriptions of all five cemeteries were included in *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts to the Year 1850* (Salem, Mass.: The Essex Institute, 1916). The vital records, including the gravestone inscriptions, are available on our website, AmericanAncestors.org. ♦



## Do you have a question for our genealogists?

Email your request for research guidance and suggestions to [askagenealogist@nehgs.org](mailto:askagenealogist@nehgs.org). (Please note that our genealogists cannot undertake research on your behalf. Please contact NEHGS Research Services for paid research assistance.) For more questions and answers, visit the Question of the Day archive at [AmericanAncestors.org/ask-a-genealogist](http://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](http://AmericanAncestors.org/research-services) to learn more.

# News



Mary Matalin and James Carville

## NEHGS to honor Mary Matalin and James Carville at April 2015 Benefit Gala

On Friday, April 24, 2015, NEHGS will present its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions in political studies, expertise, and commentary to renowned political consultants Mary Matalin and James Carville.

Authors of the bestselling *Love & War: Twenty Years, Three Presidents, Two Daughters and One Louisiana Home* (2014), the keynote speakers will present a talk on “Our American Heritage.”

Matalin, a leading Republican political consultant, author, pundit, and public speaker, served in various roles under President Ronald Reagan, as campaign director for President George H. W. Bush, and as assistant to President George W. Bush. Carville, a prominent figure in the Democratic party and lead strategist for Bill Clinton’s first presidential campaign, is a frequent commentator on CNN’s *The Situation Room*, as well as a former cohost of *Crossfire*.

Save the date for a lively evening in celebration of family history and American heritage with two of the country’s most celebrated political strategists and media personalities.

Event Chairs of the 2015 Benefit Gala will be NEHGS Trustees Judith Waite Freeman and Susan P. Sloan. Proceeds of the dinner will benefit the Society’s capital campaign, *Connecting Families. Advancing History*.

Benefactors and patrons of the dinner are invited to a private champagne reception with our keynote speakers before the event. Space is limited. For more information, or to register, please visit [AmericanAncestors.org/dinner](http://AmericanAncestors.org/dinner).

## At the 2014 NEHGS Summer Dinner

On July 18, more than fifty NEHGS members and guests gathered to enjoy our Summer Dinner, hosted by Vice Chairman of the Board Nancy S. Maulsby in the Treat Rotunda. The guest of honor and keynote speaker was Allegra di Bonaventura, a Yale-trained historian and author who gave a captivating talk and slideshow on her book *For Adam’s Sake, A Family Saga in Colonial New England*. Drawing on the forty-seven-year diary of Connecticut planter Joshua Hempstead, di Bonaventura made a number of discoveries about colonial New England family life and slavery in the North while researching Hempstead and his black slave of almost three decades, Adam Jackson.

Allegra di Bonaventura,  
Brenton Simons, and  
Nancy Maulsby.





Claire Vail



Human Resources  
Coordinator Michelle Major, Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert, and Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press Christopher C. Child at the NGS Conference in San Antonio.

## New NEHGS staff member

Claire Vail joined us on July 22 as our new Director of Digital Strategy. She has more than thirteen years of experience as a digital strategist for high-profile institutions in higher education, publishing, and media. She comes to us from Tufts University, where she founded and managed a web services bureau that offers application training, website creation, and marketing consultation to faculty, staff, and students. Before Tufts, she directed digital communications strategy for a Boston-based public relations firm, managed online newsletters for Doubleday Book Club members, and served as an online editor for the *Washington Post's* website, washingtonpost.com. Claire has master's degrees in journalism and English literature, with a concentration in eighteenth-century British and American studies. She is an avid amateur photographer and life-long cinephile. She can be reached at [claire.vail@nehgs.org](mailto:claire.vail@nehgs.org) or 617-226-1278.

## NEHGS on the road

NEHGS exhibited at the Federation of Genealogical Studies (FGS) Conference in San Antonio, Texas, over Labor Day weekend. One-on-one consultations were provided at our booth by NEHGS experts David Allen Lambert, Christopher C. Child, and Gary Boyd Roberts. Christopher Child delivered a luncheon talk on NEHGS publications.

On August 15 and 16, NEHGS made the short trip to Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts, for the sold-out Celtic Connections Conference. Several staff members were on hand to provide detailed information about our publications and Research Services.



## Subscribe now to the 2015 Great Migration Newsletter

The *Great Migration Newsletter* complements the individual Great Migration sketches and addresses the broad issues key to understanding the lives and times of New England's first immigrants (1620–1640). The *Newsletter* examines the settlement of early New England towns, migration patterns, seventeenth-century passenger lists, church and land records, and much more.

Print subscribers to volume 24 (2015) receive a new issue of the *Newsletter* through the mail each quarter (\$20 per year or \$36 for two years).

Online subscribers can access new issues each quarter as well as view past volumes at [GreatMigration.org](http://GreatMigration.org) (\$10 per year or \$18 for two years).

To subscribe, please visit [GreatMigration.org](http://GreatMigration.org) or call Member Services at 1-888-296-3447.



## Free Fun Friday 2014

On July 11, we hosted another very successful Free Fun Friday. Sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation, Free Fun Fridays enable sixty Massachusetts cultural venues to offer free admission to the general public. This year, our program included genealogy-related projects for kids, introductory lectures by our expert genealogists, research assistance, database access, library tours, and membership discounts. With more than 300 participants, it was a wonderful way to introduce NEHGS to new friends.

# DR. BOND WANTS YOU!



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*"I think of the thousands of ancestors I've discovered through NEHGS—many I've never met and didn't know I had! I wanted to make a gift to NEHGS to provide me with increased income, to honor my ancestors, and to thank the genealogists who brought my family history to life."*

*Emily Nichols Wharton, New London, Connecticut  
Former Trustee, member since 1995*

Founded in 1845, NEHGS is the country's leading resource for family history research. Our financial foundation has been built on the generosity of thousands of friends who have chosen to invest in the Society. Many of these gifts come in the form of bequests or life income opportunities—the first of which was given in 1859 by Dr. Henry Bond, a preeminent genealogist known best for his research on the history and families of Watertown, Massachusetts. Today, the Dr. Henry Bond Heritage Society is comprised of more than 150 individuals who have invested in our future while at the same time enjoying increased lifetime income and significant charitable income tax deductions.

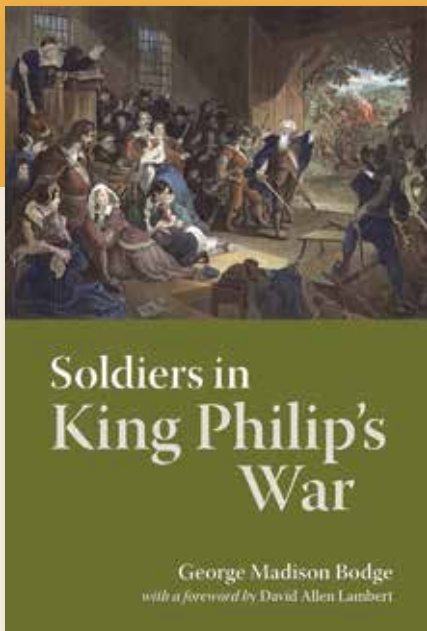
For example, a donor, age 79, establishes a charitable gift annuity with NEHGS for \$25,000. The interest rate to be paid to her for her annuity is 6.6 percent and provides her with a guaranteed and fixed annual income of \$1,650 for life, of which \$1,300 will be tax free each year. In addition, she will benefit from an immediate one-time federal charitable income tax deduction of \$12,133 when her gift is made, and avoid any capital gains taxes on appreciated securities. At the conclusion of the annuity, the remainder supports NEHGS.

Your gift will also help NEHGS meet its \$55 million capital campaign goal, of which \$51 million has been raised.

**Your gift is a treasure that keeps on giving to you—and to NEHGS!**

For further information, please contact Steven L. Solomon, Manager of Gift Planning, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116; 617-226-1238; [ssolomon@nehgs.org](mailto:ssolomon@nehgs.org).

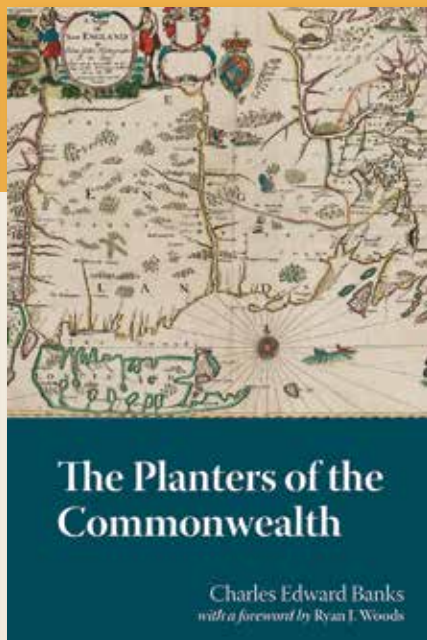
# Our latest reprints of *genealogical classics* help you build a **Well-Stocked Genealogical Library!**



## Soldiers in King Philip's War

George M. Bodge,  
Foreword by David Allen Lambert  
538 pp. 6 x 9 pbk \$29.95

Thanks to the efforts of the Civil War veteran, genealogist, historian, and Unitarian clergyman George Madison Bodge (1841–1914), historians and genealogists have a better understanding of the conflict known as King Philip's War (1675–1676). Based on his detailed analysis and transcriptions of countless pages of seventeenth-century records, Bodge's *Soldiers in King Philip's War* includes the official listing of Massachusetts soldiers and officers, sketches of the principal officers, and official lists of land granted to veterans and their heirs. This reprint of the 1906 (third) edition also includes a history of Indian conflicts in New England prior to King Philip's War, an element that Bodge added to the second edition.

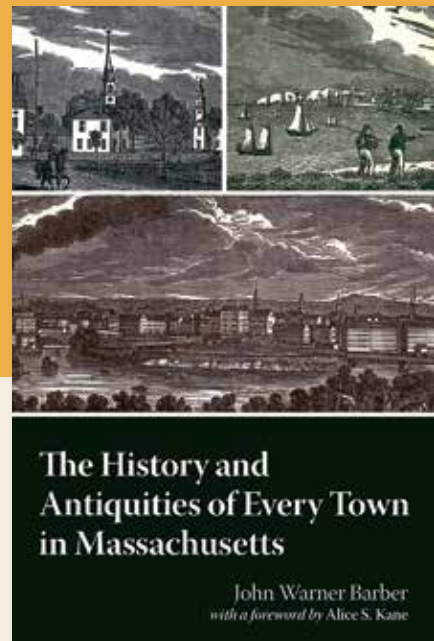


## The Planters of the Commonwealth

A Study of the Emigrants and Emigration in Colonial Times

Charles Edward Banks,  
Foreword by Ryan J. Woods  
260 pp. 6 x 9 pbk \$24.95

This important classic work, first published in 1930, lists the names of immigrants to New England during the Great Migration, 1620–1640: more than 3,500 names of passengers on 96 ships. Going year by year, for each person, Banks lists full name, the name of the ship, believed place of origin, and residence in America. A key source for NEHGS's Great Migration Study Project, the book also includes comprehensive indexes.



## History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts

John Warner Barber,  
Foreword by Alice S. Kane  
642 pp. 6 x 9 pbk \$29.95

American historian and engraver John Warner Barber (1798–1885) was well known for his books on local, state, and national history. This work, organized by county, gives historical background on all the Massachusetts towns that existed at the time of publication in 1839. Barber supplies facts and details of each town's early settlement, including original Native American place names, and he presents statistics on local industries and agriculture, descriptions of landmark architecture and cultural organizations, and brief biographical sketches of historic residents. Barber's numerous engravings, mostly "taken on the spot" when he visited towns to gather information, attractively supplement the descriptions.

Readers with family history in Massachusetts can view nineteenth-century life through the eyes of their ancestors and find context for family stories.





4 pp. 8.5 x 11 \$6.95

The newest titles in our **Portable Genealogist** series help you in all stages of your genealogical work!

### Using DNA in Genealogy

Christopher C. Child

Advances in DNA research over the last decades have had huge implications for the field of genealogy. By testing your DNA and comparing the results to a database of other individuals, you can better understand your origins, confirm lines of descent, test hypotheses, and connect with distant relatives. When it comes to studying your own DNA, understanding your options and test results are crucial. This Portable Genealogist will guide you through the process of selecting a DNA testing service, understanding the results, and making connections to the genealogical research you've already completed. Two case studies demonstrate DNA's impact on genealogical research.

### Editorial Stylesheet

Penelope L. Stratton

When presenting your genealogical information, it's important to be consistent in how you present your research, refer to certain places and people, and implement your overall style. This Portable Genealogist will help guide your writing and aid in decisions relating to capitalization, spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, and the like. Key elements for *Register* and *ahnentafel* style are summarized, and a list of common abbreviations is provided.

### Applying to Lineage Societies

Lindsay Fulton

Want to join a lineage or hereditary society but don't know where to begin? This Portable Genealogist provides background on popular hereditary societies, including the Daughters of the American Revolution and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and guides you through the application process. Learn how to locate vital records and other sources for proving your ancestry, and consult the helpful list of dos and don'ts for preparing your application.

## 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](http://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](http://library.nehgs.org). Our general library stacks are open, and visitors can pull books from the shelves and make photocopies of pages themselves. For a detailed library guide, visit [AmericanAncestors.org/library-guide](http://AmericanAncestors.org/library-guide).

The R. Stanton Avery Special Collections contain over 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 walls!*

Do you have questions about visiting?  
Call 1-888-296-3447.



# NEW Searchable Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

## Books, journals, periodicals

### **The Maine Genealogist, Volumes 20–23**

Published by the Maine Genealogical Society since 1977, *The Maine Genealogist* is a quarterly journal that preserves the genealogical record of Maine towns and families. Beginning as the society's newsletter, the publication has evolved into a notable source of surname queries, transcriptions from original records and manuscripts, scholarly articles, and book reviews. The database currently holds volumes 20–31, containing more than 65,000 records.

## Compiled genealogies

### **Early New England Families—four new sketches**

This study project uses Clarence Almon Torrey's bibliographic index of early New England marriages (and its recent supplements) 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. The database now contains 49 sketches and more than 7,200 records.

### **Western Massachusetts Families in 1790—eight new sketches**

This database contains genealogical sketches of families enumerated in the 1790 census for Berkshire and Hampshire Counties (an area that now includes Franklin and Hampden Counties). These sketches, submitted by NEHGS members and staff, were edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG. The database now contains 77 sketches and 7,400 records.

## Probate records

### **Middlesex County, Massachusetts: Probate file papers, 1649–1870**

This database was created from digital images and an index contributed to NEHGS by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives. The collection contains the records of 45,383 Middlesex County probate cases filed between 1648 and 1871. The probate cases include wills, guardianships, administrations, and various other types of probate records. The cases range in length from one page to more than 1,500 pages, with a total of more than 668,000 individual file papers. This database is freely accessible to the general public.

## Vital records

### **Connecticut Vital Records (The Barbour Collection): Andover, Eastford, Salem, South Windsor, Brookfield, Plymouth, Roxbury, and Sterling**

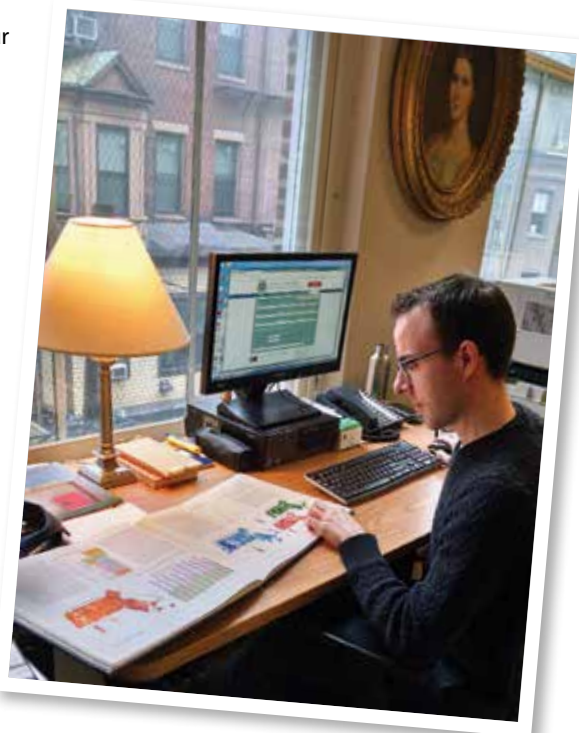
The entire *Barbour Collection*, which is now complete on our website, contains records of births, marriages, and deaths in 136 Connecticut towns from the 1640s to about 1850 (some towns include records up to 1870). These records were collected, transcribed, and abstracted by Lucius Barnes Barbour and his team of researchers between 1918 and 1928. The database, compiled from an original typescript in the NEHGS special collections, contains more than 634,000 records.

### **Rhode Island Vital Records (James Arnold collection), Volumes 7–12, Town Records, 1636–1850**

This database is a reissue of the first twelve volumes of James N. Arnold's *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1636–1850* (1891–1912), which was first released on NewEnglandAncestors.org (the predecessor to AmericanAncestors.org) in 2002. These first twelve volumes of the collection (town and church records) have been completely re-indexed and page images are now included. This revised collection contains more than 336,000 records.

### **Vital Records from the NEHGS Register, Volumes 82–165**

Created through a joint venture with Ancestry.com, this database indexes references to births, marriages, and deaths originally published in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. This collection currently includes material from volumes 82 through 165 and holds more than 180,000 records.



Digital Collections Coordinator Christopher Carter

# From our friends

## From AMERICAN ANCESTORS readers:

Thank you so much for the articles on warning out [“Robert Love Walks the Streets of Boston and Warns Strangers,” by Cornelia H. Dayton and Sharon V. Salinger, 26–33, and “Warnings Out and Notifications,” by Ann S. Lainhart, 34–36, in AMERICAN ANCESTORS 15 (2014) 3]. I had found some of my ancestors listed as having been warned out in a Goshen, Massachusetts, history. I am happy to understand now what it meant and that the original records might be genealogically valuable. Now to find those records!

**Luanne Frey**  
Racine, Wisconsin

I read with interest the two articles in the latest AMERICAN ANCESTORS about warnings out. We in Gloucester have a list of people warned out from 1703 to 1834. So I was intrigued when you wrote that the system was discontinued in 1817. Although I have not found the statutes governing the practice, it seems clear from entries to and from other towns in the Overseers of the Poor accounts that Gloucester and other Massachusetts towns were still sending reimbursement payments to each other to cover the maintenance of their wandering poor until at least 1939.

**Sarah V. Dunlap**  
Co-chair, Gloucester Archives Committee  
Gloucester, Massachusetts

I would like to thank Oriene Springstroh for writing her article [“We should like to sit down by your fire side and chat: The Letters of Asa and Sophronia (Spencer) Smith of Massachusetts and Ohio,” AMERICAN ANCESTORS 15 (2014) 3:49–53]. I thoroughly enjoyed reading her story, and it was wonderful (and heartbreaking) to learn about the Smiths and Brewers, the couples profiled in the article. The author and I share Captain John Brewer (1698–1756) of Tyringham, Massachusetts, as a common ancestor. And although our ancestral stories vary in detail, they also resemble each other. My Brewer line left Massachusetts and went first to Geauga County, Ohio, in 1816, and then to Columbia County, Wisconsin, between 1840 and 1850. My family communicated with their relations back east by letter, too. The letters were referenced in a series of articles in a Massena, New York, newspaper in 1939. The Smith family letters so much reminded me of what I read in those articles—news of illness and deaths, and the longings to see loved ones again before time ran out. I have made efforts to locate the originals of my family letters, but so far have not succeeded. I’m glad Oriene Springstroh shared hers. It was the next best thing!

**Kathy Ripke**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Thank you for the inspiring article, “Writing Your Family History: Taking the First Step,” by Penny Stratton [AMERICAN ANCESTORS 15 (2014)]. Ms. Stratton really knows how to get procrastinating writers to finally start their family histories. She gently knocked down all the “buts,” “I can’t,” and “it’s too overwhelming,” that were keeping me from clicking on those keys. I did start writing, and I ordered Ms. Stratton’s book, *Guide to Genealogical Writing*, for even more inspiration!

**Stephanie Mulliken**  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## From NEHGS friends:

### About the NEHGS Research Library

I was extremely impressed by the library and the amount of books, microfilm, manuscripts, periodicals, and resources that were available [at NEHGS.] I only spent about three hours there, but will certainly be going back since . . . I felt like I only skimmed the slimmest of surfaces as to what they had to offer. [This quote is excerpted from the author’s blog, *An Amateur Genealogist’s Musings*, at researchingfamilytree.com.]



**Donald Reagan**  
Brookline, Massachusetts

### About an NEHGS publication

I just finished reading, in practically one sitting, Robert Charles Anderson’s *Elements of Genealogical Analysis*. It really ought to be on every genealogist’s desk for reference. The method he presents is explained thoroughly using detailed examples, unlike other guide books which only list a series of steps. This book is a “Must Have.” I have been doing what I thought was careful genealogy for many years, but this book has me going back to some of the difficult problems I have been working on and re-thinking the process—even to the point of re-defining the problem. By using linkage analysis and bundles as he describes in the book, I believe I can re-evaluate the records I already have with a new viewpoint. I may not solve my toughest problems, but I will know that I have not potentially missed something important.

**Carole Gardner**  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

**We want to hear from you!** Respond at [Facebook.com/nehgs](https://www.facebook.com/nehgs), email [magazine@nehgs.org](mailto: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.*



# Is genealogy your **LIFELONG** passion?



## Discover the benefits of **NEHGS Life Membership**

Not only does it make the perfect holiday gift (for you or someone you love), but if you become a Life Member by December 31, you are eligible to deduct \$1,625 on your 2014 tax return.

Life Membership (\$3,000) includes:

- Research Membership benefits for life
- 3.5-hour consultation with a genealogist in person or by phone
- Personalized Life Member Certificate reproduced from NEHGS archives
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(perfect timing for the holiday season!)

To be eligible for Life Membership you must be at least 62 years of age. Those under 62 can become Life Benefactors (\$6,000) and enjoy all the benefits of Life Membership with no age restriction. \$4,625 is tax deductible.

To take advantage of the benefits of Life Membership, including tax-deductibility for 2014, contact the Member Services team at **888-296-3447 x1**, **membership@nehgs.org**, or **AmericanAncestors.org /join**.

"A few years ago for Christmas, my husband gave me an NEHGS Life Membership. I can attest that it is a fabulous gift!"

—Denise Picard Lindgren

## Brick Walls *submitted by our members*

**We want to hear from you!** Describe your brick wall in 200 words or fewer, and send it to [magazine@nehgs.org](mailto:magazine@nehgs.org) or 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 ancestor, **Rachel Murray**, was born in Vermont in 1794 (no birth record) and married Abner Brown, Jr. in 1812 in Leeds, Maine. Amos Murray (Rachel's brother?) also married in Leeds in 1812. Was their mother Rachel Bixby (1764–1828), daughter of Benjamin Bixby and Anne Bradstreet Bixby of Topsfield, Mass.? *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Joseph Bixby, 1621–1701*, states that Rachel Bixby “first married William Huse Stevens, and next married \_\_\_\_\_ Murray.” *Centennial History of Norway, Oxford County, Maine*, treats Rev. Benjamin Bixby Murray (1801–1886), born in Hartland, Vermont, who came to Leeds with his parents, Rachel Bixby and John Murray. A Samuel Bradstreet Murray also lived in Leeds at that time. Were Amos, Benjamin, and Samuel all brothers of Rachel Murray? Dana T. Murray, grandson of Amos Murray (above), wrote in 1918 that his great-grandfather, John Murray, born in Scotland, had been pressed into British ranks during the Revolutionary War, defected from Canada to join the colonists, and later married Rachel Bixby. I would like to find positive proof of this Murray-Bixby-Bradstreet descent for Rachel Murray Brown.

Sharon Jerabek, Lutsen, Minnesota

My ancestor, **Hiram H. Hammond**, married Margaret P. Benyon on 22 December 1830, at New York City's Seventh Presbyterian Church. The couple had three children: Cornelia (b. 1837), De Witt (b. 1838), and George (b. 1847). I find the family in the census in 1850 (New York City Ward 9, District 3) and 1860 (Ward 9, District 4), which give Hiram's birthplace as New York and calculated birth years of 1804 and 1810. Hiram died 15 April 1877, age 72, which implies an 1804 or 1805 birth. He is buried at Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn. I have not found his birthplace or parents.

Gerald N. Fosdick, Bettendorf, Iowa

My brick wall is my ancestor **Thomas S. Gifford**. According to his marriage intention, he was “of Dedham” when he married Sally Ravel (b. 1786 in Salem) on 8 April 1813 in Salem, Massachusetts. Their son, Thomas J. Gifford, was born 4 July 1820 in Salem and later married Martha S. Buffum. Thomas S. Gifford died in 1865. I am unable to locate his parents or anything further information about Thomas S.

Joan Gifford Nutting, Temple, New Hampshire

My greatest brick wall is **Samuel Fenn**, who was likely born in 1789 or 1796 in Connecticut. He married Olivia Smith (b. 1801 in Milton, Saratoga County, New York) on 2 February 1819 in Sharon, Litchfield County, Connecticut. His grandson, Henry Eugene Fenn, submitted some information about his paternal line to *American Ancestry: Giving the Name and Descent, in the Male Line, of Americans Whose Ancestors Settled in the United States Previous to the Declaration of Independence*, Vol. II, Columbia County, New York (1887–99), p. 38: “Fenn, Henry Eugene of Chatham, b. 1843 (m. Ella Fish); son of George Fenn of Salisbury, Conn., b. 1825 (m. Harriet Pierce); son of Samuel of Sharon, Conn., b. 1789, d. 1879 (m. Olivia Smith); son of James of Stratford, Connecticut, who was a Tory in the Rev. Army.” Samuel Fenn's gravestone in the Sharon Burying Grounds gives his birth year as 1796 and his death year as 1883. To date I've not been able to locate this James Fenn. The earliest record I've found for Samuel Fenn is his marriage. Where was Samuel born, and who were his parents and siblings?

Kathie McCutcheon-Gawne, Lockport, Manitoba, Canada

## The NEHGS cartoon



“There's no way to document that any of your ancestors owned Cleopatra. That's just a family legend.”

Submitted on Facebook by Gerald Aurand.

Drawing by Jean Powers, NEHGS.

# programs & tours

## RESEARCH TOUR

### Washington, D.C., Research Tour

February 22–March 1, 2015

Discover family history resources in the nation's capital with NEHGS. Visit the National Archives and Records Administration, the Daughters of the American Revolution Library, and the Library of Congress during this intensive week of guided research, individual consultations, lectures, and group events.

**Member registration:** \$2,850 single; \$2,450 double (each); \$2,950 double with non-researching guest (total); \$1,050 commuter

**Nonmember registration:** Add \$150 to the above prices

## RESEARCH TOUR

### Hartford, Connecticut, Research Tour

April 7–12, 2015

Explore the repositories of Hartford at the Connecticut State Library and Connecticut Historical Society. NEHGS staff and local experts will provide consultations, lectures, and the information you need to get the most out of Hartford's genealogical resources.

**Member registration:** \$1,690 single; \$1,490 double (each); \$1,740 double with non-researching guest (total)

**Nonmember registration:** Add \$150 to the above prices



## RESEARCH TOUR

### Belfast, Northern Ireland, Research Tour

June 21–28, 2015

Join NEHGS for our second trip to Belfast, Northern Ireland, and delve into the resources at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and other repositories. Track down your ancestors in Northern Ireland through individual consultations, educational opportunities, and expert assistance.

**Member registration:** \$2,800 single; \$2,400 double (each); \$3,100 double with non-researching guest (total)

**Nonmember registration:** Add \$150 to the above prices



Above: NEHGS tour participants at the Linen Hall Library in Belfast.

Above right: Titanic Belfast

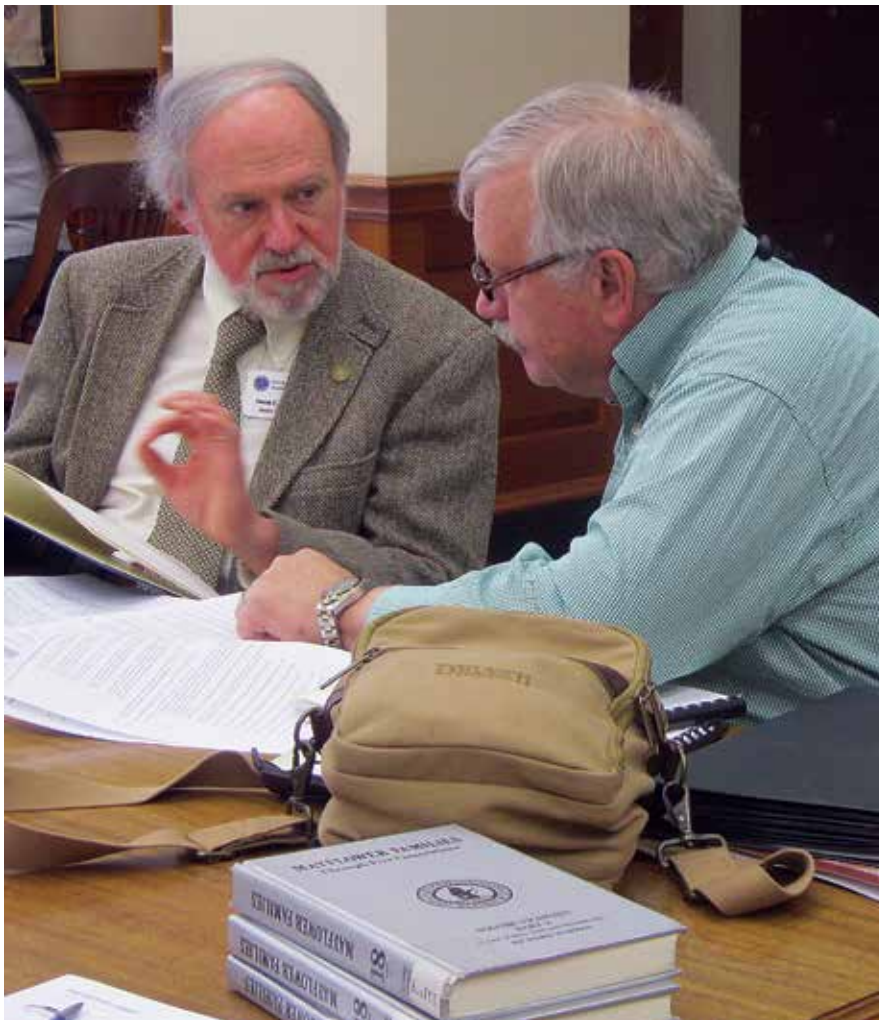
## Register for NEHGS events

**Online** Register for most programs at [AmericanAncestors.org/Events](http://AmericanAncestors.org/Events).

**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/online-programs](http://AmericanAncestors.org/online-programs).

For more information, email [education@nehgs.org](mailto: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](http://thecharlesmark.com). Identify yourself as an NEHGS member and expect to show your membership card upon arrival.

## RESEARCH TOUR

### Salt Lake City Research Tour

October 25–November 1, 2015

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

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



*Above left:* David C. Dearborn assisting a patron at the NEHGS library. *Above:* NEHGS tour participants at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

## BOSTON

### Come Home to New England

August 4–8, 2015

For nearly thirty years, researchers have learned with NEHGS during *Come Home to New England*, an intensive workshop offering lectures, guided research, extended library hours, and one-on-one consultations. NEHGS has been collecting information about families in America for 170 years. Our collections are international in scope and contain significant materials that cover the United States, especially New England and New York, as well as Canada and Europe. This rigorous research program provides the opportunity for you to “come home” to Boston and work closely with NEHGS staff to find your family.

**Member registration:** \$675 (early); \$750

**Nonmember registration:** Add \$150 to the above prices

**Guest registration:** \$100

## BOSTON

### Research Getaway

October 15–17, 2015

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

**Member registration:** \$300

**Nonmember registration:** \$450

**Guest registration:** \$50

## BOSTON PROGRAMS

### New Visitor Welcome Tour

Wednesday, November 12, 10 a.m.

### Uncovering African American Stories

Tuesday, November 18, 6 p.m.\*

Otis House Museum, Boston, Mass.

### New Visitor Welcome Tour

Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.

\*Reservations required and/or fees apply.

# New from the Online Learning Center

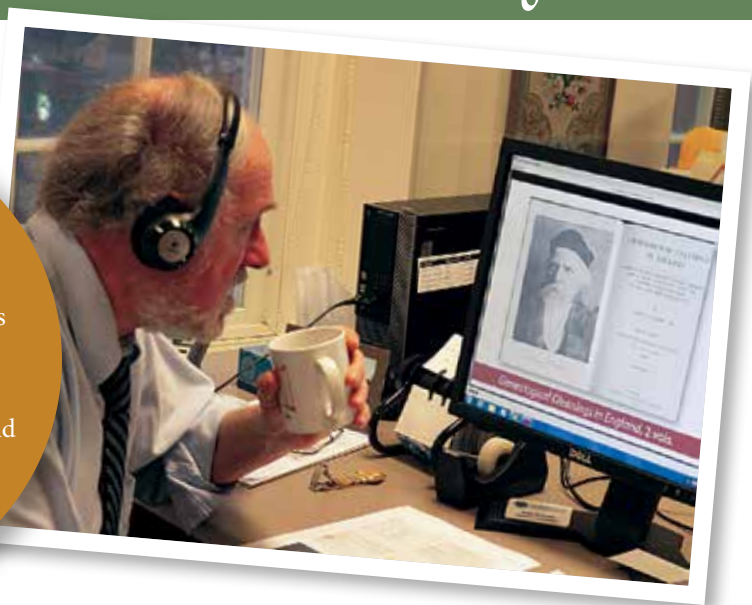
## What people are saying

“Thanks for [offering] this service for those of us who are many miles away from NEHGS.”

—Mary Williams

“Keep offering these educational and motivational webinars!”

—Fred Richard



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 now access the expertise at NEHGS without having to travel to Boston. Visit [AmericanAncestors.org/learning-center](http://AmericanAncestors.org/learning-center) and start learning today!

## WEBINARS

Visit [AmericanAncestors.org/online-programs](http://AmericanAncestors.org/online-programs) to register for our FREE monthly webinars. Upcoming topics include:

- Sharing Your Family History
- How Manuscripts Support Genealogical Research
- Using AmericanAncestors.org

You can also watch a number of previously broadcast presentations at [AmericanAncestors.org/watch](http://AmericanAncestors.org/watch).

## SUBJECT GUIDES

Developed by the experts at NEHGS, our subject guides provide how-to tips, best practices, key resources (in print and online), and more. View a full list at [AmericanAncestors.org/read](http://AmericanAncestors.org/read). Topics include:

- New York Research
- Massachusetts Research
- German Genealogy
- World War Veteran Research
- Quaker Genealogy

## VIDEOS

Gain valuable skills by watching how-to videos, archived webinars, and lectures. Visit [AmericanAncestors.org/watch](http://AmericanAncestors.org/watch) for a full list. Topics include:

- Find Your Union Civil War Ancestor at NEHGS (1:04:49)
- Ten Steps to Writing & Publishing Your Family History (1:02:20)
- Getting Started: Irish Genealogy (15:09)
- How to Use Torrey's *New England Marriages Prior to 1700* (2:52)

## DOWNLOADS

Download commonly used templates to help organize your research, save you time, and present your information in a consistent and accurate way. Download at [AmericanAncestors.org/downloads](http://AmericanAncestors.org/downloads). Templates include:

- Five-generation family chart
- Family group sheet
- Research log
- Register-style template

## 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! 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/online-programs](http://AmericanAncestors.org/online-programs).





# staff profile

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## Meet

## EMILY BALDONI

### Technical Services/Metadata Librarian

People are often confused at first when I tell them my title, Technical Services/Metadata Librarian: the term *metadata* may sound like obscure—or worse yet, sinister—jargon, and outside of the library world, people often assume that “technical services” means something along the lines of “tech support.” In the library context, *technical services* means the “behind-the-scenes” part of librarianship: the acquisition, preservation, and organization of library collections that occurs in order for those materials to be made available to the public.

In my role, I am particularly involved in the organization side of that equation: I am responsible for creating, maintaining, and enriching metadata for our library collections—in other words, the information (such as title, author, or subject headings) that allows users to find books and other resources in our library catalog.

Whenever we get a new item for the library collection, whether it is purchased or received as a gift, it comes to me first and I catalog it and assign it a call number. As a result, I get to have a close look at everything before it goes on the shelves, and to think about how to make it as visible as possible in the catalog. We take particular care with compiled genealogies to provide the best access that we can, especially when it comes to subject headings for families and locations.

I also coordinate the addition of new e-books to the NEHGS Digital Library and Archive. I select books from our Research Library for digitization and prepare the resulting files for posting

online. We are currently digitizing a number of rare city directories from our collection. These books have great research value, and for many cities, we find that our holdings are much earlier than anything that has been posted online by Ancestry.com or other sites.



I moved to the Boston area from Normal, Illinois, in 2005 to pursue graduate studies in comparative literature at Harvard, where I focused on Spanish and Italian literature. Foreign languages drew me into technical services: cataloging departments are often in need of librarians with foreign-language skills. (It helps to understand the language of the materials you are cataloging!) After finishing my MA, I earned an MS in library science at Simmons College. I joined NEHGS in the fall of 2013. When not at my “day job,” I am also an occasional adjunct instructor at the Simmons School of Library and Information Science, where I teach courses in information organization.

I am very much at the beginning of my own genealogical research. I’m starting with my Baldoni ancestors, who came to the United States from Italy in the early twentieth century. I have heard some rather intimidating tales about Italian genealogy, but I hope that my Italian language skills will make things a little easier. And, of course, I’m lucky to have so many knowledgeable colleagues at NEHGS to help me as I start investigating my family’s past! ♦



## *An Inside Look at Finding Your Roots with HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.*

*The second season of Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. premiered on PBS on 23 September 2014. All ten episodes of the new season are once again anchored from the Treat Rotunda at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. Filming occurred at NEHGS over many weeks earlier this year, and our staff genealogists actively participated in researching the genealogies of Season Two guests. The series creator and host, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is a professor at Harvard University, a trustee of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the 2010 recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award. Gates spoke with Brenton Simons, President and CEO of NEHGS, about his popular series and much more.*

**Simons:** *What first sparked your interest in genealogy?*

**Gates:** My interest in genealogy was sparked before I knew what the word *genealogy* meant, had ever heard the word, or could spell it. I happen to know the exact date, which was July 3, 1960. I know the date because that's the day we buried my grandfather, Edward St. Lawrence Gates. His funeral service was held at the Kight Funeral Home in Cumberland, Maryland, and I was standing in front of his open casket, holding my father's hand. I was nine years old, and I was looking at his corpse, and he was a very white-looking man. He could have passed for white easily. So if he was that white alive, you could imagine how white he was dead. I was astonished at that. It looked like he had been coated with alabaster. When we came back to the house, which is the traditional Gates family house, my father took my brother and me upstairs and showed us his father's scrapbooks. He was looking for something, and finally he found it after looking through six or seven volumes. He was on the floor, surrounded by those books, and my brother and I were looking over his shoulder. He said, "You boys look at this." It was an obituary dated January 6, 1888, from *The Cumberland Evening Times*, and it said, "Died this day in Cumberland, Maryland, Jane Gates, an estimable colored woman."

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*Above: Henry Louis Gates, Jr. anchoring Finding Your Roots in the Treat Rotunda at NEHGS.*



**Simons:** *What happened next?*

**Gates:** He showed us her picture, and he said that she was a slave and a midwife, and she was the oldest Gates, and he never wanted us to forget her name or her identity. My brother and I were dumbfounded, and we stared at this picture, and the obituary, and then my father put the picture back, shut it, and filed all the books away, and we went downstairs to the repast. We then drove twenty-five miles back to Piedmont, West Virginia, where I was raised. Cumberland, where all the Gateses are from, is right on the Maryland–West Virginia border, on the Potomac.

The next day, I asked my father to buy me a composition book and, that night, I interviewed my mother and father. I wanted to know how you got from me, born in 1950, to this woman who was a slave, Jane Gates. And I wanted to know how far back my mother could go. I went back to a great-great-grandmother on the Gates side and great-great-grandparents on the Coleman side. I remained interested in finding out about my ancestors. As I grew older, I would lose the composition book, misplace it, buy another one, and interview my parents all over again. And since 1977, I have had a serious case of *Roots* envy.

**Simons:** *Did you interact with Alex Haley?*

**Gates:** I did, indeed, and we had a very warm relationship. When I was nineteen, I made my first trip to Africa. I lived there for much of a year on a special program that Yale University had when I was an undergraduate. I was very interested in Africa, and I wanted to find out what my African origins were, but I thought only Alex Haley could do that. Then in 2000, I got a letter from a young geneticist at Howard University named Dr. Rick Kittles. He said that by using sophisticated new DNA technology, they could do for an African American what Alex Haley had done. And so I called him right away and had him test me.

A short time after that, I woke up in the middle of the night, and I got an

idea that turned out to have been a gift from God. That idea—just the best, probably, I ever had in my whole life—was that I could combine these twin passions that I have had: the passion to trace my family tree with this new passion for ancestry-tracing through DNA. I could get eight prominent African Americans and trace their ancestry back to slavery using the paper trail, and then when the paper trail disappeared—as it inevitably does for everybody—I could trace their DNA and announce what ethnic group they were from in Africa. I was so excited, and we got sponsors—other people were just as excited about this idea. Quincy Jones agreed the next day to be in the series, and two weeks later Oprah Winfrey agreed, and we were off and running. And that became *African American Lives*, which 8.6 million people watched [in 2006]. And that led to *African American Lives 2*.

Then I received a letter from a lady of Russian Jewish descent who asked me if I was a racist because I only researched the genealogies of black people. Why didn't I research white people, why didn't I research Jewish people like her? I was shocked. So I called one of my sponsors, Ingrid Saunders Jones at Coca-Cola, and asked, "Could I analyze white people? Could I trace their ancestries?" And there was a long pause, and she said, "Well, Skip, there are a lot more white people drinking Coca-Cola than black people." I took that as a yes, and then we did *Faces of America*, which had even bigger ratings than *African American Lives*. Then PBS asked me to do the weekly ten-week series that became *Finding Your Roots*.



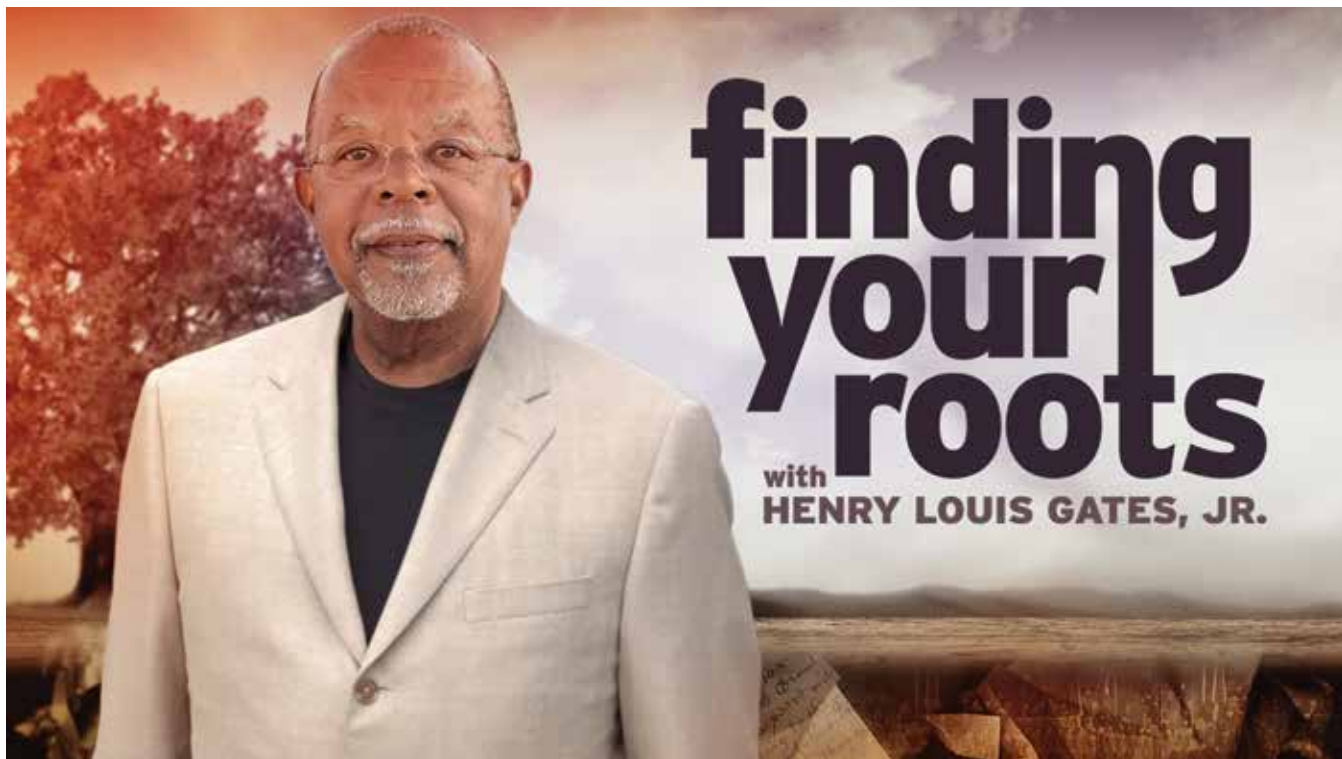
**Simons:** *I want to talk with you about Finding Your Roots, but first, why is researching family history important to people across the country?*

**Gates:** I know how popular this series is, one, because of the ratings—*Finding*

*Your Roots* has had 25 million views cumulatively. And, two, I call it the "airport test." When I walk through airports, which I frequently do, people stop me and thank me for doing the series. Our audience is composed of everybody—representative sections of America. I think the reason is that tracing your genealogy is a way of finding out about yourself. What's your favorite subject? Your favorite subject is yourself. And finding your ancestors is a way of shedding light on who you are as a human being. How did I get here? Who am I?

As any scientist will tell you, you inherit your DNA from all your recent ancestors. Autosomal DNA carries signals about your ancestors over the last five hundred years, and where they trace their roots to.

And the subject of any family tree that you see at your lovely building in Boston—or anyone's family tree—has inherited DNA from each of the ancestors on that tree. So it's literally true that you are the sum total of your ancestors. But metaphorically it's true, also, because in ways that you can't even imagine, you've inherited traits,



Season two of *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* airs weekly on PBS.

characteristics, habits, customs, and traditions from people whose names you don't even know. The temple at Delphi in Ancient Greece had the inscription "Know thyself," and our motto is "Know thy ancestors, know thyself."

Also, the world just seems to get more and more chaotic. And violence seems so arbitrary that people look for ways to ground themselves. One way is religion. Another way is through ancestry. The more people know about their own family past, the more grounded and self-assured they can be, and I think that is a prime motivator today.

**Simons:** *What were some of your first research experiences?*

**Gates:** I think the first time I realized—that this is going to sound naïve—that this interest in genealogy wasn't something peculiar to me, was in the late 1980s when I happened to be lecturing in Salt Lake City on a Friday night. My flight home was Saturday afternoon. Being jet-lagged, I woke up about five o'clock, and I wondered, "Well, what in the world can I do in Salt Lake City on Saturday morning?" And I thought, "Oh my God, the Family History Library," which I'd never

visited before. I got there about ten minutes after it opened, and it was packed. It was packed with white people, black people, Asian people, Native American people—and I just stood there dumbfounded, watching all these people. And one woman stood up as if she got the Holy Ghost in a black church. She had found her great-grandmother, and she was crying and whooping and hollering! And I went, "Wow, man, this is great!"

I can now—thanks to the work of Johni Cerny, Jane Ailes, and your associates at the New England Historic Genealogical Society—trace my family back to three sets of my fourth great-grandparents, two sets of whom were born in the eighteenth century, and one of whom, John Redman, fought in the American Revolution. I could never imagine how full an African American's family tree could be. And now, because of digitization and great companies like Ancestry.com—which is my lead sponsor—it's so easy that you can do work that used to take months, sometimes years, in seconds.

**Simons:** *What did DNA specifically reveal for you?*

**Gates:** DNA was full of surprises for me. First of all, it revealed that I am whiter than I am black. Of all my ancestors that you can trace back five hundred years, 50.1 percent would be European—white—and 48.6 percent would be Sub-Saharan African—black. And I'm about 0.9 percent East Asian and Native American.

**Simons:** *How did that feel?*

**Gates:** I was completely shocked. My father, as I said, looked like a white man, my grandfather looked like a ghost. So if one were only tracing my male line, which you can do through Y-DNA, not surprisingly it would go to Europe. In fact, it goes to Ireland. And about 10 percent of the men in Ireland and I have the U Niall haplotype. But I had no idea that of all my ancestors on my family tree going back five hundred years, over half would be of European descent. And under half—just under half—would be of African descent. So that was quite surprising. And I'm also in that very unusual category of African Americans whose Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA are traced to Europe. You inherit Y-DNA from your father. You inherit mitochondrial DNA from your mother,

who got it from her mother, who got it from her mother, and so on—unchanged for thousands of years. In fact, my mitochondrial haplogroup is T2.

It is a classic European DNA. So that means that I'm not only descended from a white man who impregnated Jane Gates (we still don't know his identity, but we knew that he was white, which RNA testing has confirmed), but I'm also descended from a white woman, who was, sometime in the colonial period, impregnated by a black man. And she most probably was an indentured servant from England or Ireland. And that just shows the complexity of sexual relations in America.

**Simons:** *Now to Finding Your Roots. Before we talk about the new season, can you share a few stories about the first season?*

**Gates:** One of the most amazing stories for me was the story of Cory Booker, then mayor of Newark, New Jersey, now a U.S. Senator. Cory Booker's grandfather on his mother's side was Limuary Jordan, who was born in 1916. At the time Limuary was born, his mother, Alzenia Jordan, was married to a black man named John Jordan but, in an unfinished autobiography found after Limuary died, Limuary described himself as a fourteen-pound baby boy, white, with red hair and freckles. So his paternity was always in question, but it wasn't openly discussed because he had older siblings he did not resemble. When Limuary was thirteen, his mother took him to a doctor, and after the examination, they went outside, and she bent over and said, "Limuary, I'm gonna tell you a secret, but you can't tell anybody. You can't tell your daddy, you can't tell anybody." He said, "Okay." She said, "You promise?" He said, "I promise." She said, "That man was your father. Your father is not your real father."

Limuary had written a fifty-eight-page memoir when he was an old man because he obviously wanted people to know. So you know what we did? We went back to look at the census for that town. It's Columbia, Louisiana. There were only three doctors, and one was

a veterinarian. It couldn't have been him. One was a man too old to be doing the boogaloo with anybody in that time frame. The only one left was Dr. Stephen H. Brown. So we tracked down his descendants. We explained the situation confidentially, and two generations of that family—Stephen H. Brown's descendants—took a DNA test. It proved conclusively that Cory Booker was descended from Dr. Stephen H. Brown, and that Dr. Brown was Cory's great-grandfather. This is amazing—just an amazing story. What we are able to do on the show is combine the best of genealogy research—including great work done by your fantastic genealogists—and DNA analysis to triangulate, as it were.

Another great story is that of Linda Chavez, the well-known commentator on Fox News. We found that she actually was Jewish, both through her DNA and through her family tree. Most people don't realize that the Jews were expelled from the Iberian Peninsula by Ferdinand and Isabella the same year Columbus discovered America. Some converted to Christianity, seemingly, while really practicing their Judaism privately—they were "Crypto-Jews." Linda's family came to the New World and settled in New Mexico. Fast forward, Linda married a Jewish man and converted. She had been drawn to this Jewish identity invisibly, and she had never understood why.

One of my other favorites is the story of John Lewis, the great congressman from Georgia. John's reaction was one of the most profound I've ever experienced. It turned out that his great-grandparents were slaves in Pike County, Alabama; his maternal great-great-grandparents were Tobias and Elizabeth Carter. We actually found the document dated 1867 listing the day Tobias registered to vote in Alabama, as soon as he was legally able. I showed it to John Maggio, who looked at me and said, "John is one of the fathers of the Voting Rights Act." When we showed it to John Lewis, he said, "This is part of my DNA," and he just cried and grabbed my hands and said, "This is just too much, too much."

**Simons:** *How do you come up with ideas for who your guests will be?*

**Gates:** Well, I'm the creator of the series, and so, in the end, it's my decision, but I'll think of names, and my producers have a great team. My co-executive producer is Dyllan McGee—a brilliant woman—and she and I have final say, but John Maggio is our senior series producer, and then we have Leslie Asako Gladsjo and Sabin Streeter, who've been with me from the very beginning. And we have other producers as well. They propose people, and then we do pairings, and I have a pegboard in my study and in an apartment in New York, where we match different combinations of people. And now we've adopted a format of having three guests a week.

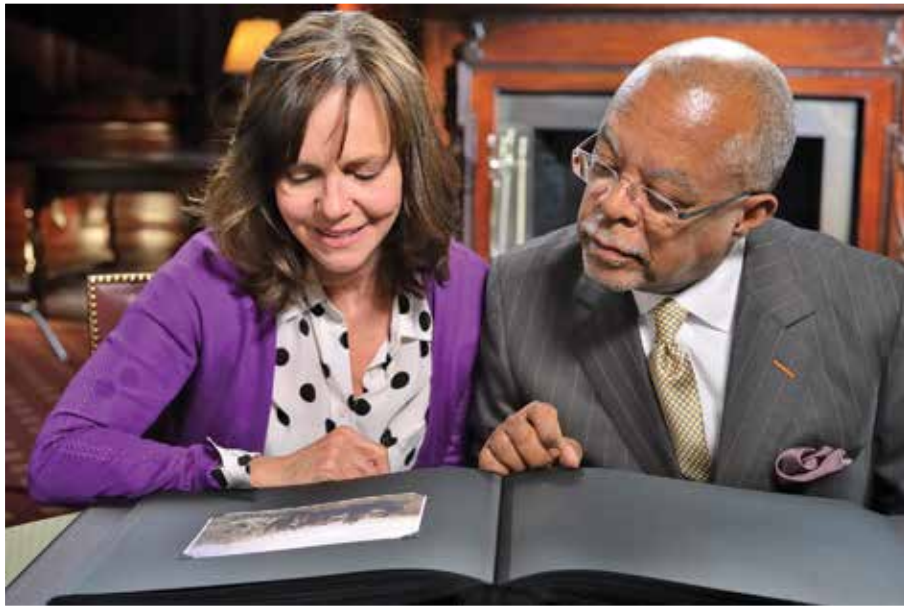
**Simons:** *You must hear from some of your guests afterwards because this experience has had an impact on their lives.*

**Gates:** Yes, and I've never had anyone who was disappointed with the result or sorry that they were in the series. So it's been very rewarding. It makes me feel like Santa Claus, like I'm making it Christmas every day for the people lucky enough to be chosen as guests and have their family tree done by the best genealogists in the world.

**Simons:** *So tell us about this second season. Who are your guests, and what are some of your favorite discoveries?*

**Gates:** For my friend Ken Burns, we showed him that an ancestor fought for the Confederacy and a distant cousin fought for the Union, and he had ancestors on both sides of the American Revolution. Ken had always believed, hoped, and heard that he was related somehow to Robert Burns, the great poet. They look alike if you look at portraits of both of them. We were able, through DNA, to confirm that fact, which no genealogist had ever been able to confirm.

Anderson Cooper already knew about the family of his mother, Gloria Vanderbilt, but not about the family of his father, who was from the South. Anderson learned not only that he had an ancestor named Burwell Boykin who



Season Two guest Sally Field with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Photo by Joseph Sinnott/WNET.

owned slaves, but that in an act of vengeance, that same relative was killed by one of the twelve slaves that he owned. It was the first time we found a murder by a slave. Of course, they hanged the brother. Also, Anderson was shocked to learn he had several ancestors who served in the Confederacy.

I've been in love with Sally Field since she appeared in *The Flying Nun* and *Gidget*. She won the sweepstakes of American genealogy. She had no idea she was a descendant of William Bradford, who was, of course, a *Mayflower* passenger and governor of Plymouth Colony for more than thirty years. This was our first guest with an ancestor who sailed on the *Mayflower*. And then we learned that Sally's fifth great-grandfather, Ralph Morden, remained loyal to the British during the American Revolution and was hanged as a traitor in 1780. His wife, Ann (Durham) Morden, and their several children moved to Canada with the Loyalists, and they were given two hundred acres of land by the British government.

This is the first time we've had a hip hop artist, the brilliant Nas. We tracked him back for generations to a small town in rural North Carolina, where his ancestors were once held as slaves by a family named Little. The Littles kept very meticulous records, including the amounts of cotton his ancestors picked

in a day, and we found the actual bill of sale for Nas's third great-grandmother, Pocahontas Little, who was purchased for \$830. Can you imagine?

Probably the most surprising story we found connected Anna Deavere Smith, the actress and playwright, to her great-great-grandfather, a free Negro named Basil Biggs, who moved from Maryland to Gettysburg in 1858, thinking Maryland was a slave state and Pennsylvania was a free state where he could educate his children. It was a good move except that in the summer of 1863, Gettysburg was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War. Basil Biggs and his family had to flee, and their farm was turned into a Confederate hospital. After the battle, a man named F. W. Biesecker was awarded the contract to disinter all the Union soldiers' corpses from what were shallow graves and rebury them properly. But he did the practical thing and subcontracted to a black man. The black man he subcontracted to, who hired a team of black men to bury all those bodies—some 3,500 bodies—was Basil Biggs. Now we will never think of the Gettysburg Address or Gettysburg in the same way again. And on top of all that, we learned from his obituary that before the war, Basil Biggs had been a conductor on the Underground Railroad, the first one we've actually been able to prove.

**Simons:** *What does the viewer draw from these discoveries?*

**Gates:** The point of these stories is that your family tree personalizes American history in a way that textbooks never could. There's no way any of these individuals could look at any aspect of the history that I've just explained their ancestors were involved in, in the same way again.

**Simons:** *It sounds like an amazing season.*

**Gates:** Oh yeah, as the brothers would say, "bigger, badder, and better."

**Simons:** *Our readers will be interested to know about your relationship with the New England Historic Genealogical Society and AmericanAncestors.org.*

**Gates:** Well, it's the greatest genealogical society in the world! I mean, the Family History Library is in its own unique zone, because of the history of the Mormon Church, but the greatest genealogical society in the world is the New England Historic Genealogical Society. And the warm welcome that you gave me from my first approach, the level of sophistication among your researchers, your professional genealogists, the lovely building! The building is a work of art. It's just the perfect combination. I film the beginnings and ends of all my series in your lovely space, and it is very much part of our brand, our identity. One of the greatest days of my life was in 2010 at your Annual Dinner, when I was chosen to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. I have the silver cup right here, and you gave me a beautiful book of my ancestry, which I actually am holding in my hands and keep on my desk every day—*Ancestors of Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* It was so beautiful that I had three dozen copies made and deposited them in many of the greatest libraries in the United States and England—at Cambridge, Oxford, the Library of Congress, Harvard, Yale, and so on.

Top: Henry Louis Gates, Jr. with Brenton Simons at NEHGS. Bottom: Henry Louis Gates, Jr. in 2010 when he received the NEHGS Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Simons:** *How wonderful! Tell us something about your column, on TheRoot.com.*

**Gates:** I do that with your genealogists [at NEHGS]. I was getting thousands of letters from people asking me to help them find their ancestors, and I couldn't do all that work. It would have been full time, and I would have had to have a genealogical team. So I thought, "Well, who has a genealogical team? The New England Historic Genealogical Society does." I went to the editors at *The Root* and said "Why don't we pick a letter once a week?" Then I co-write the answer with your team. They use all their professional skills to give the nuts and bolts of ancestry, tracing to a specific person, and looking to solve a specific problem—and then I take what your person has done and add some historical context. More particularly, I can contribute with my knowledge of DNA or my knowledge about the history of slavery. The bulk of the work, of course, is being done by the genealogists on your fabulous team. It is an honor for me to be even a small part of this process every week. It's a lot of fun, and it's a very well-read column.

**Simons:** *That's great. Our readers would also love to know about other things or other series you're working on.*

**Gates:** A year ago last fall, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* aired, and we won the Peabody Award, the NAACP Image Award, and the Emmy for Outstanding Historical Programming—Long Form. We're planning two more history series: the last fifty years of black history, called *Black Power to the White House*, a four-hour series, and then—*ta-da!*—a six-hour series called *The Great Civilizations of Africa*. I'm very excited about that. And Ancestry.com has agreed to be the lead sponsor for three additional seasons of *Finding Your Roots*, so I'm very, very happy about that. We've identified more

than fifty people who've already said "yes," and every day we think of new people.

**Simons:** *So there will definitely be a season three?*

**Gates:** Three, four, and five, baby!

**Simons:** *Terrific! Let me leave you with our final question, Skip. Where do you see genealogy in five or ten years? What do you think is going to happen?*

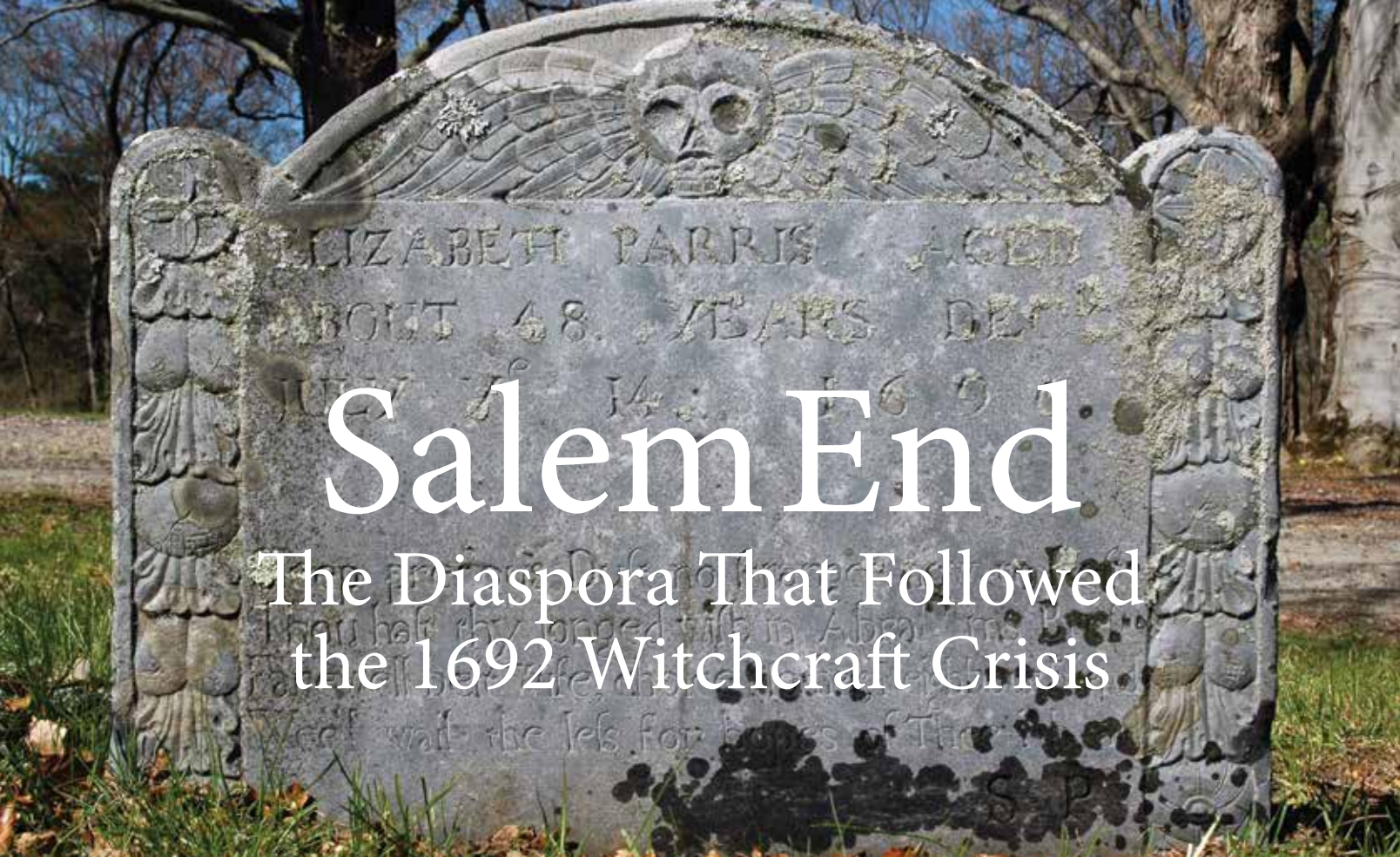
**Gates:** I'm working with a team of geneticists and historians to create a curriculum for middle school and high school kids, to revolutionize how we teach American history and how we teach science using ancestry tracing. Every child in school would do a family tree. We think that's the best way—to have their DNA analyzed and learn how that process works in science class. In American history class, we think that's the best way to personalize American history and the nature of scholarly research. For a lot of kids, going to the archives, looking at the census is boring. But if we say, "You're going to learn about yourself, where you come from," what child wouldn't be interested in that? That would personalize the way we teach American history, and also European and world history.

We all are descended from immigrants, and sooner or later you have to cross the ocean to find out where your



ancestors came from. We received a grant from Ancestry.com, we've applied for a major foundation grant, and we've picked three schools and tried out the curriculum, which has been developed under the direction of Dr. Nina Jablonski, a professor at Penn State. We hope that this curriculum will be adopted throughout the American school system. Given the exponential advances in technology, I have no doubt that more and more records will be digitized and that it will be easier and easier to trace one's family tree. Getting genealogy into the school system is what my goal is.

**Simons:** *Wonderful. Thank you, Skip.♦*



# Salem End

## The Diaspora That Followed the 1692 Witchcraft Crisis

*Despite repeated scrutiny from generations of talented historians, the Salem witch trials persist as one of the most puzzling events in American history. Scholars have put forward a rich catalogue of explanations to try to solve the mystery of what happened in 1692 but the trials cannot be blamed on a single factor. Rather, Salem was “a perfect storm”: a unique convergence of conditions. The elements included a new charter and government, a grim and bloody frontier war in Maine, and sectarian and political power struggles. Together these influences produced something extraordinary in Salem in 1692 and the accusations, trials, and executions that tore the community apart have haunted us ever since. Focusing on the key players—the accused witches and the people they allegedly bewitched, as well as the judges and government*

*officials who prosecuted them—and the connections between them helps to illuminate why the tragedy unfolded as it did. The Puritan government’s attempts to suppress what had taken place only fueled the popular imagination, and established the trials as a turning point from Puritan communalism to Yankee independence. It is important to set the trials in this broader context of American history from the 1620s up through the present. As this excerpt from the author’s new book shows, the migration of people away from Salem Village (present-day Danvers, Massachusetts) that began in 1693 spread the participants of the trials and their descendants across the region. They took their stories with them, helping to ensure that the legacy of this great tragedy remains with us today.*



**Emerson W. Baker** is a Professor of History at Salem State University. He wrote “The Spread of Lithobolia” for the spring 2008 issue of *New England Ancestors*, an article that was adapted from his book *The Devil of Great Island: Witchcraft and Conflict in Early New England* (2007). He has also co-developed iPhone apps on the Salem witch trials, the Battle of Lexington and Concord, and the Battle of Gettysburg. You can follow his tweets on the Salem witch trials and early American history @EmersonWBaker.



In the wake of the witchcraft crisis, many chose to escape Salem Village, leading to a diaspora of victims who decided to start anew elsewhere. A sizable number began again at the appropriately named Salem End.

The accused witch Sarah (Towne) (Bridges) Cloyce and her husband Peter were the first to seek refuge there, in 1693, on part of the sprawling tract owned by Thomas Danforth known as Danforth's Farm in present-day Framingham, Massachusetts. Danforth, former deputy governor of Massachusetts Bay, had been given thousands of acres of frontier land from the general court in the early 1660s as payment for his many services to the colony. In 1684 he also purchased the rights from the Natick Indians, to bolster his title. Danforth began to encourage settlers to occupy the land in the late 1680s, granting them long-term leases but making the first few years rent-free.

In January 1693 the grand jury for the Superior Court of Judicature

failed to produce a true bill of indictment against Sarah Cloyce. She was released after almost nine months in prison. Danforth must have had a direct

hand in Sarah and Peter's migration. Not only did he own Danforth's Farm, this staunch opponent of the trials was one of the judges of the Superior Court

*Opposite page:* Gravestone of Elizabeth Parris, with inscription written by her husband "S.P."—Samuel Parris, in Wadsworth Cemetery, Danvers. She died 14 July 1696, shortly before Samuel left Salem Village. Photograph by the author. *Below, top:* Sarah and Peter Cloyce House, Salem End, Framingham, Massachusetts. The Cloyce house is now abandoned and vine covered, and there is a local effort to save it. Photograph by the author. *Bottom:* Detail of John Thornton, *A new map of New England, New York, New Iarsey, Pensilvania, Maryland, and Virginia*, London [1685]. Courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University.





Elizabeth “Betty” Parris, Jr. (1682–1760), daughter of Salem Village minister Samuel and Elizabeth (Eldridge) Parris, was one of “afflicted girls” who accused townspeople of witchcraft. After leaving Salem, the Parris family lived in several towns west of Boston. Betty married Benjamin Barron, had five children, and lived in this house on Lexington Road in Concord. (For more, see Marilynne K. Roach, “That child, Betty Parris: Elizabeth [Parris] Barron and the People in Her Life,” *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 124 [1988]: 1–27). Photograph by Lynn Betlock.

of Judicature that released Sarah. If you were trying to escape Salem Village and its painful memories in 1693, Framingham would have been one of the best places to go. The northern frontier was too dangerous for settlement, given the war still raging with the Wabanaki and the French. Danforth’s Farm was in the southern interior of Middlesex County. While there had been some native unrest in the area, it was still relatively safe compared to settlements like Haverhill or York.

Little is known about the Cloyces’ life at Danforth’s Farm. What is certain is that they were soon joined by other members of this family that had been the hardest hit by the witch trials. For not only had Sarah languished in prison, but her two sisters, Rebecca (Towne) Nurse and Mary (Towne) Easty, had been executed for witchcraft. Peter’s daughter, Hannah Cloyce, and her husband, Daniel Elliott, also moved from Salem Village to Salem End. During the witch trials, Daniel had testified on behalf of his step-mother-in-law, Sarah Cloyce, as well as Elizabeth Proctor. Two of Sarah’s sons from her first marriage, Benjamin and Caleb Bridges, settled in Salem End as well. Sarah’s daughter Hannah Bridges moved to Danforth’s Farm with her husband, Samuel Barton. (In 1716, after more than twenty years in Salem End,

the Bartons moved to another frontier community, becoming original proprietors of nearby Oxford. A little more than a century later, their great-great-granddaughter, Clara Barton, would be born in Oxford. The “Angel of the Battlefield” and founder of the American Red Cross, Barton would win renown for her pioneering nursing service. It is possible Clara was inspired by stories of her great-aunt, Martha (Moore) Ballard, a remarkable Maine woman made famous in Laurel Thatcher Ulrich’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Midwife’s Tale*.)

Sarah’s nieces, nephews, and extended kin joined the migration. Nephew Benjamin Nurse arrived in Framingham soon after the Cloyces, settling on Salem Plain. Another nephew, John Towne, moved from Topsfield to Danforth’s Farm in 1698. By the time Framingham was incorporated as a town in 1700, roughly fifty Salem Village émigrés were living in the community. The families made the most of their fresh start. At the first town meeting, on 5 August 1700, Peter Cloyce and John Bridges were elected as two of the selectmen. Benjamin Bridges was named an assessor, and Peter Cloyce, Jr., was appointed as a surveyor of the highways. The next year, Peter and three relatives were among the eighteen men who signed the covenant

to form Framingham’s church. Sarah Cloyce died two years later, in 1703, surrounded by her family. Five of the homes built by these Salem Village refugees still stand in the Salem End section of Framingham, including the home of Peter and Sarah Cloyce.

Other families made their escape elsewhere. Edward and Sarah (Wildes) Bishop and her stepmother, Sarah (Averill) Wildes, were arrested for witchcraft and imprisoned in April 1692. Three months later Wildes would be convicted and executed, and in September Sarah Bishop’s sister, Phoebe (Wildes) Day, was also arrested. The Bishops escaped Boston prison after thirty-seven weeks in jail and went into hiding. Sheriff George Corwin responded by seizing their personal property. The Bishops’ son Samuel paid £10 to recover some of his parents’ possessions, but much of their estate was never returned, including six cows, forty-six sheep, and numerous swine. Edward Bishop later estimated their losses (including prison fees) at £100, enough to ruin the couple and leave them with little means to support their large family.

Given their considerable suffering, it is understandable that the Bishops no longer felt comfortable in Salem Village, though it is a little surprising that they waited until 1703 to move to Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Rehoboth, an old Plymouth Colony town on the Rhode Island border, was a far more liberal community than Salem Village, and the

location of one of the earliest Baptist churches in New England.

Members of the Raymond family also trekked to Plymouth County, settling in Middleborough by 1697. Thomas Haynes and his wife, Sarah, lived in the middle of Salem Village but in 1703 sold their home and moved to Salem County, New Jersey. On 11 October 1696, Samuel Parris, the controversial minister who was deeply involved in the witchcraft crisis, made his last entry in the Salem Village church book, noting the dismissal of William and Aaron Way, along with their wives and children, from the church. William and his wife, Persis, had been among the initial signers of the Salem Village Covenant. The Ways were moving to South Carolina with a group led by Reverend John Lord of Dorchester.

People frequently moved away from older established towns in colonial New England, so it is not surprising to see some migration out of Salem Village. Still, the fact that so many victims

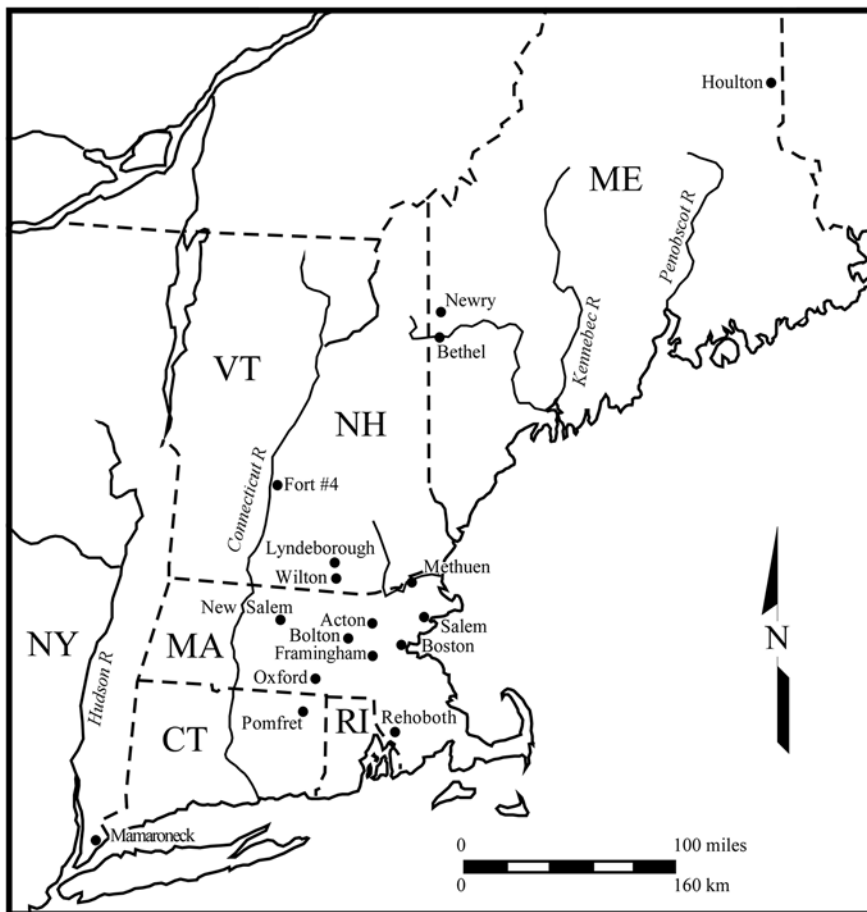
and their families left in the years immediately following the trials, with many headed to Salem End, suggests something special about this exodus. Furthermore, this migration took place during King William's War and the subsequent Queen Anne's War, times when fewer people moved because frontier lands were not available. The limited nearby options explain why some, including the Ways and the Haynes families, sought new homes outside of New England.

In 1713 treaties would end the fighting between the English and French and their native allies. The peace finally allowed residents of Salem Village and other towns to move into new settlements in the interior. This opportunity was particularly important for the children of Thomas and Ann Putnam, the couple who were the leading accusers in 1692. There was very little land to divide among their nine children who reached adulthood. Only the eldest son, Thomas, would marry and raise a

family in Salem Village. One son would take to the sea and the other two would move inland—one to Tewksbury and the other to Fort #4 on the extreme edge of settlement in western New Hampshire (present-day Charlestown). Three of the five Putnam daughters would never marry and the other two would marry and move away.

The families of Salem Village, and Essex County generally, produced more children than the land would support. Essex County's largest export crop may have been its youth, who headed off to new settlements in the interior and to the north. This pattern was true even among the better-off families. Thomas Putnam, Sr.'s younger half-brother, Joseph, was one of the winners. A firm opponent of the witch trials, he had inherited most of his father's estate and married into the wealthy Porter family. Yet even some of Joseph's children would move away, notably his son Israel. Soon after his marriage to Hannah Pope—a granddaughter of

Map of New England, showing the Salem diaspora, with modern political boundaries. Drawing by the author.



Joseph and Bathsheba (Folger) Pope and hence Ben Franklin's cousin—Israel and his wife would move to Pomfret, Connecticut, where he would embark on a successful military career. In later life he was known as “Old Put,” the beloved Patriot general famous for issuing the command at Bunker Hill, “Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes.” Putnam is depicted in John Trumbull's epic painting of the Battle of Bunker Hill, *The Death of General Warren*. In one of the most famous paintings in American history, the son of a key participant in the witch trials looks on as General Joseph Warren, the great-grandson of witchcraft critic Robert Calef, breathes his last. The year after the battle, the patriot spy Nathan Hale, a great-grandson of Beverly's Reverend John and Sarah Hale, was executed by the British. The legacy of the witch trials shows up in surprising places.

In the eighteenth century the Putnams and their Salem Village neighbors would spread out to towns

throughout New England, including several communities that sprang directly from Salem. In the 1730s the Massachusetts General Court granted “Salem Canada,” what would become the towns of Lyndeborough and Wilton, New Hampshire, to the Salem veterans of Sir William Phips's 1690 ill-fated expedition against Quebec. In the 1740s, when this territory was claimed by New Hampshire, the Mason Proprietors (the group of men who then owned the Mason family's claim to New Hampshire) granted part of the tract to petitioners from Andover, Massachusetts. Thus did the sons and daughters of Andover and Salem again find themselves neighbors. The first Wilton settler was Jacob Putnam, the patriarch of several Putnam families who moved there. In 1773 a tragedy struck the community. During the raising of the new meetinghouse, a support beam snapped, collapsing the frame, killing five men and severely injuring more than fifty. The casualty

list looks almost like a page of names from the Salem witch trials: Putnams, Parkers, Holts, Blanchards, a Barker, a Hutchinson, a Frye, a Chandler, and a Foster.

The township of New Salem in western Massachusetts was first granted

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General Israel Putnam (the white-haired man with dark coat at the left edge of the painting) looks on as General Warren (on the ground in white) dies from a mortal wound. The black man whose head appears at the far right edge of the picture is believed to be the freed slave Peter Salem. He apparently received his last name from a former owner, Captain Jeremiah Belknap, who had resided in Salem. John Trumbull, American, 1756–1843, *The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, 17 June, 1775*, after 1815—before 1831. Oil on canvas, 50.16 x 75.56 cm (19 3/4 x 29 3/4 in.). Gift of Howland S. Warren, 1977.853. Photograph © 2014 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



by the General Court to a group of men from Salem in 1729, with settlement beginning in 1736. Here, too, Putnams were among the first settlers, along with Flints, Feltons, Holtens (who now spelled their name Houlton), Southwicks, and Trasks. Soon the towns that had sprung from Salem were launching towns of their own. In 1807, New Salem's Aaron Putnam and Joseph Houlton went north in search of a new place to settle. They got about as far from home as they could and still be in New England, founding the town of Houlton, Maine, on the Canadian border. Aaron's wife was Lydia Trask, from yet another old Salem Village family.

Salemites would spread themselves across the country. Twenty-eight states have cities or towns named Salem, many in honor of the Massachusetts community. There is even a television Salem—the setting for the long-running soap opera *The Days of Our Lives*. In many ways, however, there is only one Salem.

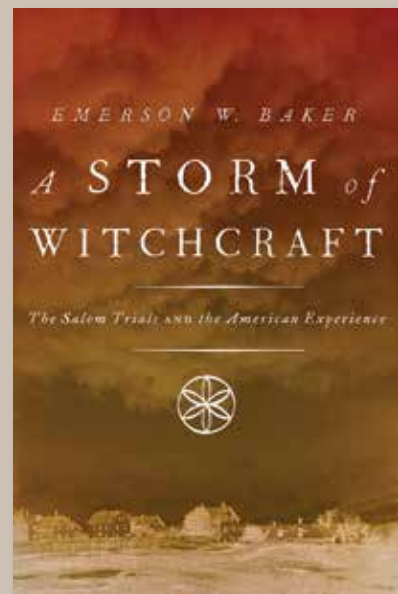
Some of the witchcraft judges' descendants also left the community. Judge Bartholomew Gedney's nephew Eleazar migrated to Mamaroneck, in Westchester County, New York, becoming a very successful merchant. Bartholomew's granddaughter Deborah Clarke would marry William Fairfax Esq., first cousin to Lord Fairfax of Virginia, and live near his estate. Deborah's stepdaughter Anne married Lawrence Washington, and her son, Bryan, was a boyhood friend of Lawrence's half-brother, George Washington. Bryan Fairfax—great-grandson of a Salem witch judge—would later rise to become the 8th Lord Fairfax, after the death of his cousin.

People who did not leave Salem could always change their names. In the eighteenth century many of the Corwins changed the spelling of their name to Curwen, the Nurses became Nourses, and Hathornes became Hawthornes, as in the case of writer Nathaniel Hawthorne, a great-great-grandson of witch trial judge John Hathorne. First names could be significant, too. Naming a newborn is always an important act, with much thought given to the proper choice. Puritans relied overwhelmingly

on Biblical names, and their choices were often symbolic. In Salem Village, Samuel Parris recorded a total of 182 births from June 1688 until April 1696. During this time, a total of nine boys were named Ebenezer. Five received that name between June 1692 and February 1694—amid or in the immediate wake of the witch trials. Indeed, Ebenezer was the most popular boy's name in Salem Village in these years. The significance of this name would have been known to villagers. Following a particularly difficult battle with the Philistines, won by the Israelites with the help of a loud thunderclap from God, Samuel ordered a monument built: "Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'" Naming a child "Ebenezer" signaled thanks to God for his help after a difficult struggle.

On 7 June 1692, a son was born to Ezekiel and Abigail Cheever. At the time, the family was in the thick of the trials. Ezekiel, a tailor who lived in Salem Village, served the court by recording two examinations and several depositions. He did not record the 4 June testimony of Ann Putnam, Sr., against John Willard, for she said Willard's apparition told her that he had killed many people, including two of the Cheevers' young children. Three days after they learned that their children might have been victims of witchcraft, Abigail gave birth to a son, whom they named Ebenezer. He would be a monument to the trials and a statement of their faith in God, as well as their desire to start over. Samuel Nurse (son of the executed Rebecca Nurse) must have felt similarly in August 1693 when he and his wife, Mary, named their son Ebenezer. ♦

This excerpt from Emerson W. Baker, *A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), highlights topics more fully explored and documented in the book. This material is reprinted with kind permission of the publisher.



## How to order

*A Storm of Witchcraft: The Salem Trials and the American Experience* by Emerson W. Baker was published in September 2014 by Oxford University Press. The hardcover book, 416 pp., is available from many booksellers.

# Where was Giles Corey Pressed to Death?

“About noon, at Salem, Giles Corey was pressed to death for standing mute,” wrote Samuel Sewall on 19 September 1692. Corey had pleaded not guilty to the charge of witchcraft, but he refused to agree that the court (which had found all the defendants tried to date guilty) had a right to try him. The threat of pressing was supposed to frighten the defendant into cooperation, but Corey was more stubborn than expected. He may have thought that if he could not be found guilty his land could not be confiscated from his family. (However, despite many cases of goods taken to pay fines and jail fees, no land, including Corey’s, was, in fact, confiscated.)<sup>1</sup> This gruesome one-time event has inspired (among other responses) indignation, gallows humor, walking tours, and even a rock persona.<sup>2</sup>

However, the spot where Giles Corey’s execution occurred is not found in any contemporary record. Judge Samuel Sewall’s diary entry, written in Boston, names only the town and date—not the specific location.

Nevertheless, a closer reading of the sources and a comparison of various maps suggest two possible sites for the event, one that had been staring me in the face from the beginning. Sometimes it takes years to notice the obvious.

It is possible that the torture occurred inside the fenced prison yard. In 1692 the jail was on the west side of Prison Lane, now St. Peter’s Street, just north of where the present Federal Street was built about 1783.<sup>3</sup> But a strong tradition that the public, including children, watched the process, suggests a larger, more public space to carry a stronger warning to potential evil-doers.<sup>4</sup>

The earliest reference I have found is a local tradition recorded in 1867 by historian and politician Charles W. Upham. Corey’s terrible death occurred “in



**Marilynne K. Roach**, an associate editor of *Records of the Salem Witch-Hunt* (Cambridge University Press), author of *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege* (Taylor Trade Publishing), and *Six Women of Salem: The Untold Story of the Accused and Their Accusers in the Salem Witch Trials* (DiCapo Press). She wrote “A Genealogical Perspective on the Salem Witchcraft Trials,” *New England Ancestors* 9 (2008) 2:22–28, and “Where Did Accused ‘Witch’ Bridget Bishop Live?” *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 14 (2013) 4:45–47.

# GILES COREY PRESSED TO DEATH SEPT. 19, 1692



an open field near the jail, somewhere between Howard-street Burial Ground and Brown Street.” Because of this association, Upham added, “Some persons now living remember a popular superstition, lingering in the minds of some of the more ignorant class, that Corey’s ghost haunted the grounds where this barbarous deed was done; and that boys, as they sported in the vicinity, were in the habit of singing a ditty beginning thus:—

‘More weight! more weight!’  
Giles Corey he cried.’<sup>5</sup>

In 1868, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published his play *Giles Corey of the Salem Farms*, one of his *New-England Tragedies* where the pressing scene is set in “A field near the graveyard,” referred to by the character of Judge Hathorne as “Potter’s Field.” However, in 1692 the town’s two burying grounds were each a distance from the jail and the Howard Street Cemetery did not yet exist.<sup>6</sup>

But little boys “of the more ignorant class” were not the last to preserve the tradition. Corey’s ghost was said to appear before impending disasters, and late twentieth-century variants of the story have the dying Corey, despite a lack of oxygen under the circumstances, utter

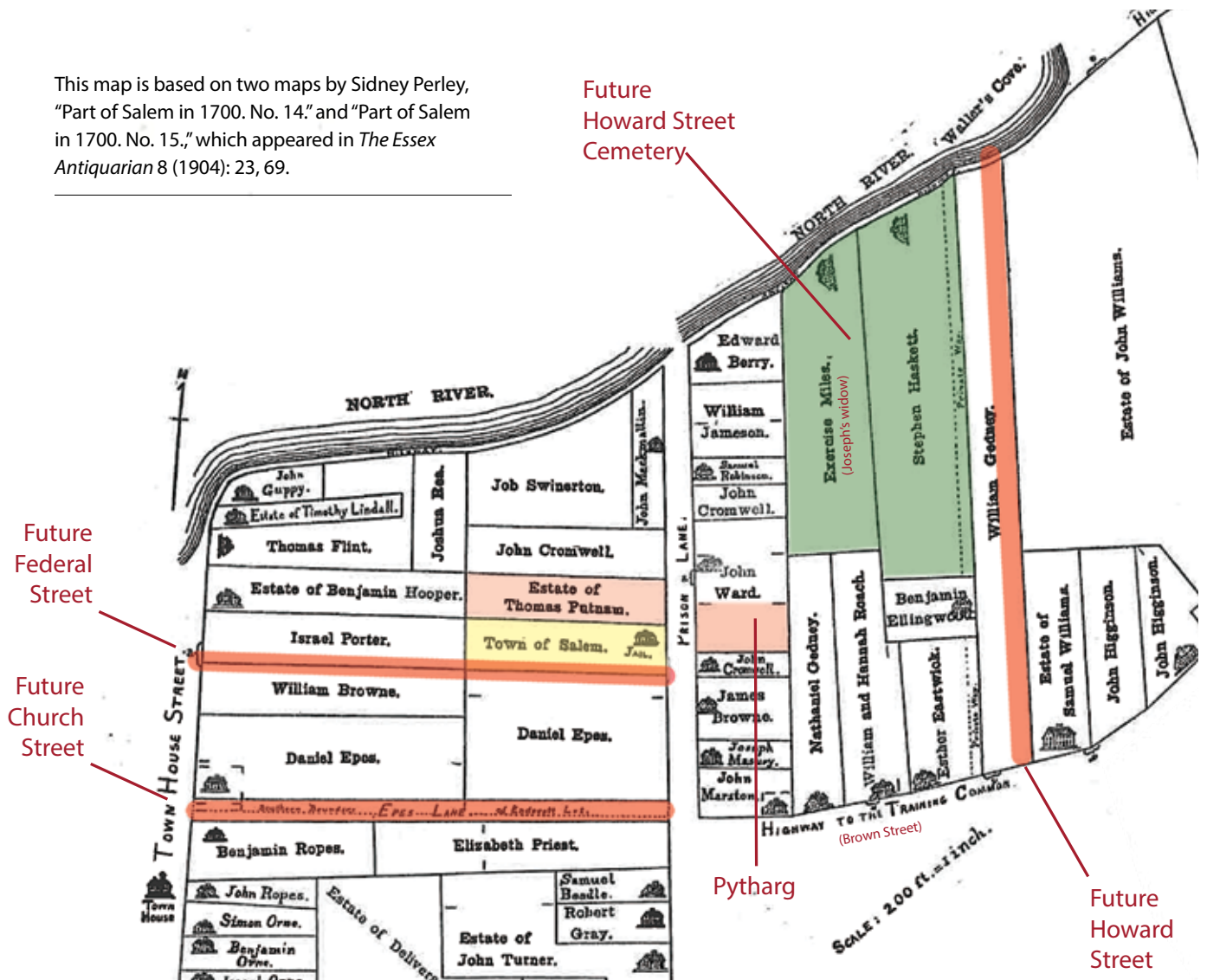
a curse upon Salem and on all Essex County sheriffs. Tales of the ghost have enlarged and become a staple of present-day tour guide commentaries and paranormal websites that often identify the Howard Street Cemetery itself as the site of Corey’s death.<sup>7</sup> Besides the fact that the ground there is more or less open and relatively flat, this cemetery borders the property of the former Middlesex County Jail, a turreted granite structure now converted to housing and a restaurant. That jail was begun in 1811 and enlarged by 1885, but occupies a different spot than the 1692 jail.<sup>8</sup>

The Howard Street Cemetery did not exist until 1801, but any cemetery is assumed to be more conducive to ghosts than an empty lot or, worse yet, a lot with something built on it. Some people have reported strange lights among the graves, and at least one empathetic tour guide professed to becoming short of breath in the vicinity. “I always stand here and my chest feels tight,” said the guide in a YouTube video as he addressed a group standing in Howard Street.<sup>9</sup>

*Top:* Giles Corey stone at the Salem Witch Trial Memorial. Photograph by Marilynne Roach. *Right:* “Giles Corey being accused in court by one of the ‘afflicted girls.’” Illustration by C. S. Reinhardt, in William Cullen Bryant, *A Popular History of the United States*, vol. II (1878), 459. Courtesy North Wind Picture Archives.

What Upham actually wrote in 1867 was that the site was “somewhere between Howard-street Burial Ground and Brown Street.”<sup>10</sup> An 1851 map of Salem shows an open area between the south border of the cemetery and the back yards along Brown Street—roughly behind the Second Baptist Church

This map is based on two maps by Sidney Perley, "Part of Salem in 1700. No. 14." and "Part of Salem in 1700. No. 15," which appeared in *The Essex Antiquarian* 8 (1904): 23, 69.



(now the Roman Catholic Saint John the Baptist Church).<sup>11</sup>

Fortunately, antiquarian and lawyer Sidney Perley mapped this area and the rest of Salem at the turn of the twentieth century for a series of articles in his *Essex Antiquarian* to show land ownership from the founding to 1700. Perley indicated a line of small lots across the street from the jail, some with houses on them and some open land, possibly pastures. Merchant John Ward's gabled home, built in 1684, was closest to the jail. With its end to the street, it occupied a good-sized plot made up of smaller lots Ward had purchased over the years. (The Ward House, rescued and restored, is now in the garden behind the Phillips Library, part of the Peabody Essex Museum's collection.)<sup>12</sup>

None of the land on the east side of Prison Lane was publicly owned. While the court may have requested or commandeered use of an open lot, it seems unlikely they would have conducted the pressing in someone's door yard. In 1692, there were three lots on that side of the lane without houses. John Cromwell owned a small strip just north of the Ward property,<sup>13</sup> while William Jameson of Charlestown owned a larger area further toward the North River.<sup>14</sup> The lot just south of Ward's property (one he would later purchase) belonged to Salem saddler Richard Pytharg, and this land lay across the street from the jail.<sup>15</sup>

East of these smaller parcels, and reached by a path (now Bridge Street) along the shore of the North River

before landfill narrowed the stream, two larger strips of acreage occupied the site of the present Howard Street Cemetery. One belonged to Joseph Miles and the other to soap-boiler Stephen Hackett.<sup>16</sup> In 1692 each contained a house with ample land behind it, but to get to either of these from the jail would mean conveying both prisoner and pressing equipment around by the shore or cutting across various lots and fences. Howard Street did not exist in 1692.

From these observations I deduce that the Pytharg lot (just north of the church of Saint John the Baptist) is the most likely spot east of the prison, being both convenient to the jail and close to the area that Upham's ignorant boys assumed was the spot. The area is now largely a parking lot.



But the answer was not necessarily across the street from the jail. The fact that Perley depicted the two sides of the lane on two different maps in two different articles prolonged my confusion. Finally, while looking yet again at the map showing the west side of Prison Lane I saw an obvious answer. Two open lots bordered the jail property in 1692. The larger space to the south (the present municipal parking lot) belonged to merchant William Browne.<sup>17</sup> The other—north of the jail on the side toward the river—belonged to Lt. Thomas Putnam.<sup>18</sup> Putnam's name was right there on Perley's map, as big as life—but I had overlooked it, fixated on the lands across the street.

Would Thomas Putnam have *mind*ed the court using his land for such a purpose? Given that his wife, Ann (Carr), and his daughter, Ann, Jr., were both vigorous accusers of so many suspects that summer, and he himself so involved recording testimony against the suspects for the court, one can imagine him volunteering the use of the field as part of his civic duty. Thomas wrote a letter to Judge Samuel Sewall shortly before the pressing to describe Corey's latest spectral attacks on the Putnam family.

"The Last Night my Daughter *Ann*, was grievously Tormented by Witches, Threatning that she should be *Pressed* to Death, before *Giles Cory*." During a lull "there appeared unto her (she said) a man in a Winding Sheet; who told her that *Giles Cory* had Murdered him, by *Pressing* him to Death with his Feet; but that the Devil there appeared unto him [i.e. Corey], and Covenanted with him, and promised him, *He should not be Hanged*."

"*It must be done to him as he has done to me*," the ghost declared. Therefore Corey would be pressed to death since, being so hard-hearted, he refused to enter a plea and so "Dy an easy Death"—meaning hanging, which is easy only as compared to pressing. By relating his daughter's "vision," Putnam introduced an old case into the proceedings and acted surprised that no one had previously mentioned the death of Jacob Goodale, Corey's hired hand, which had occurred seventeen years prior. Corey had savagely beaten the victim, considered to be "almost a Natural Fool," shortly before the man died. However, other impatient neighbors and even relatives had thrashed the man also, so Corey's actions could not be proven

to be murder. To Putnam, it was "as if some Enchantment had hindred the Prosecution of the Matter," and Corey's heavy fine seemed more like a bribe.<sup>19</sup>

Thomas Putnam's lot was conveniently open and bordered the jail yard.

By comparing Perley's maps, Sanborn Insurance maps, Salem street atlases, current Salem assessor's maps, and aerial views of the neighborhood, I found that both Putnam's lot and the prison yard appear to have occupied the area now underneath the former telephone company office building, now housing condos at 1 to 11 Federal Street.

So the scene of Giles Corey's tragic death may be across St. Peter's Street from the condos, or (my choice) it may lie underneath that building—a heavy burden indeed. In either case it is highly unlikely to involve the Howard Street Cemetery.

Although this conclusion is still speculative, the moral of my search reminds me not to trust received "facts" blindly, not to trust spectral evidence (from tradition or tour guide alike), and not to gloss over the obvious when it is (embarrassingly) right under my nose. ♦

## Notes

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[com/behind-urban-legends/a-warlocks-curse-the-ghosts-of-salems-howard-street-burying-ground](http://gothicrorrorstories.com/behind-urban-legends/a-warlocks-curse-the-ghosts-of-salems-howard-street-burying-ground) (which rates the location at four crypts).

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- Patricia Reed, "Ghost of Giles Corey," [youtube.com/watch?v=YRFVraFwJ3Q](http://youtube.com/watch?v=YRFVraFwJ3Q).
- Upham, 546. (Italics added.)
- H[enry] McIntyre, "Map of the City of Salem, Mass.: from an actual survey," 1851. Harvard Map Collection, at: [ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/37863197?buttons=y](http://ids.lib.harvard.edu/ids/view/37863197?buttons=y); Tolles, 114.
- Sidney Perley, "Part of Salem in 1700. NO. 15," *Essex Antiquarian* 8 (1904): 67–73; Barbara M. and Gerald W. R. Ward, *The John Ward House* (Salem: Essex Institute, 1976), 6–7.
- Perley, "Part of Salem, NO. 15," 70.
- Ibid.*, 68.
- Ibid.*, 71.
- Ibid.*, 73–74.
- Perley, "Part of Salem, NO. 14," 29–30.

- Ibid.*, 30; also the map by William W. K. Freeman, "Part of Salem in 1700," based on the maps of Sidney Perley, originally part of James Duncan Phillips, *Salem in the Seventeenth Century* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1933). Seeing the whole area together and in proportion clarified the locations.
- Thomas Putnam in Cotton Mather, *The Wonders of the Invisible World* (Boston: Sam. Phillips, 1693 [actually 1692]), excerpted in George Lincoln Burr, *Narratives of the Witchcraft Cases, 1648–1706* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914), 250; Essex County, *Records of the Quarterly Court of Essex County, Massachusetts*, George Francis Dow, ed., 9 vols. (Salem: The Essex Institute, 1911–1975), vol. 6:190–191.

# Giles Corey's Genealogy

## GILES COREY<sup>1</sup>

Salem, farmer, c. 1619–19 September 1692 in Salem, pressed to death. Perhaps the Giles, son of Giles and Elizabeth Corey, baptized at St. Sepulchre's, Northampton, Northamptonshire, England, 19 August 1621.<sup>2</sup>

MARRIAGES: (1) MARGARET \_\_\_\_.  
(2) MARY BRITE, b. ca. 1621; m. 11 April 1664; d. 27 August 1684.<sup>3</sup>  
(3) MARTHA (\_\_\_\_) RICH, d. 22 September 1692, Salem, hanged for witchcraft.<sup>4</sup>

## CHILDREN (birth order uncertain):

- i. MARY COREY, m. 29 May 1673 JOHN PARKER.<sup>5</sup>
- ii. MARGARET COREY, m. (1) at Marblehead 18 May 1683 WILLIAM CLEAVES of Beverly<sup>6</sup> (CLEAVES's first wife was Martha Edwards, not a Martha Corey); m. (2) 3 May 1716 JONATHAN BILES/BYLES.<sup>7</sup>
- iii. DELIVERANCE COREY, b. at Salem 5 August 1658<sup>8</sup>; m. HENRY CROSBY at Salem 5 June 1683.<sup>9</sup>
- iv. ELIZABETH COREY, m. at Marblehead 16 September 1684 JOHN MOULTON.<sup>10</sup>

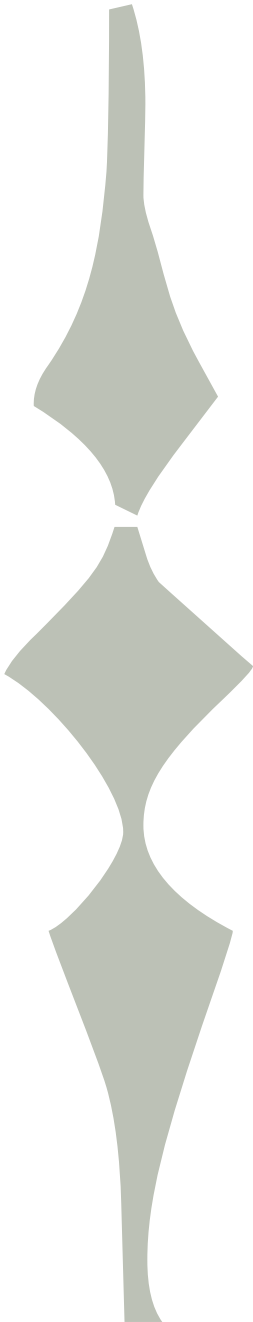
And possibly THOMAS, i.e., "Sister Kory's son, Thomas" baptized 4 May 1690 in Salem Village, as listed in Rev. Samuel Parris's list of baptisms, unless this was Martha (\_\_\_\_) (Rich) Corey's son Thomas Rich, who seems to have been old enough to request baptism for himself. In either case, Martha, as a member of the Salem Village church, would have been the person to present him. Giles was a member of the church in Salem town. If this Thomas were a Corey, he apparently died young.<sup>11</sup>



## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Sidney Perley, *The History of Salem, Massachusetts*, 3 vols. (Haverhill: Record Publishing Company, 1928), with corrections as below.
- <sup>2</sup> This clue about Giles Corey's possible English origin was noted in Vernon Cory and Michael R. Cory, *The American Corys: Their Settlement and Dispersion in the United States* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1991), 24, and discussed by David L. Greene in a review of the book in *The American Genealogist* 66 (1991):255.
- <sup>3</sup> *Vital Records of Salem Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849*, 8 vols. (Salem: The Essex Institute, 1916–1925): birth, 5:177, calculated from age at death; marriage, 3:245, as Corey; and death, 5:177.
- <sup>4</sup> Perley, *History of Salem* [note 1], 291–292.
- <sup>5</sup> *Salem VRs* [note 3], 4:156, as Corey.
- <sup>6</sup> *Vital Records of Marblehead, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 3 vols. (Salem: The Essex Institute, 1904–1908), 2:99, as Margreat Cory and William Clements "both of Beverly." Donald S. Kenney, "Martha Edwards, First Wife of William Cleaves of Beverly, Massachusetts: A Correction to Torrey's *New England Marriages*," *Register* 155 (2001): 225–226 explains both the Cleaves/Clements confusion and the fact that Cleaves's first wife was Martha Edwards, not a Martha Corey as sometimes stated.
- <sup>7</sup> Kenney [note 6], 226.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:208, as Coree.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 3:245, as Coree and Crosbee.
- <sup>10</sup> *Marblehead VRs* [note 6], 2:298.
- <sup>11</sup> "Baptisms at Church in Salem Village, Now North Parish, Danvers," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 15 (1878):225.

Henrietta D. Kimball, *Witchcraft Illustrated . . . with a Glance at Old and New Salem and Its Historical Resources* (1892), facing page 6.



# The Attack on the ROWLANDSON GARRISON *Lancaster, Massachusetts*

As a descendant of Henry Kerley (1632–1713), my research led me back to the infamous attack on the Rowlandson garrison house in Lancaster, Massachusetts, in 1675–1676, where Henry’s first wife and four of his children died. I was overwhelmed to discover that, through the intermarriages of the Kerley, King, White, Rowlandson, Joslin, and Divoll families, Henry Kerley was related to nine of the twelve people killed there. I wanted to know more about the families who sheltered at the garrison and the connections between them.

*The Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, by Henry’s sister-in-law, provided a first-hand account of the attack and captivity. I also consulted books on Lancaster, including published and unpublished vital records; Middlesex County probate records; Indian captivity narratives; histories of King Philip’s War; and genealogies. My article developed from my efforts to determine who was present at the attack, what happened, and why.

King Philip’s War, which shook New England to its foundations, erupted in 1675 and lasted about two years. The conflict was also called Metacom’s Rebellion, after Metacom, alias Philip, son of Massasoit, the Pokanoket sachem who gave valuable help to the

Plymouth colonists after their arrival in 1621. Metacom, a Wampanoag Indian sachem (head of a confederation of Algonquian tribes), became embittered by the humiliations to which he and his people were continually subjected by English settlers. After fifty years of



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and has served as a national officer and state president of National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century and president of the Friends of the Wisconsin Historical Society. She is willing to correspond about others present during the Rowlandson garrison attack, and may be contacted at [Jenniferehle1@gmail.com](mailto:Jenniferehle1@gmail.com).

Above: This mid-nineteenth-century depiction of the attack on the Rowlandson garrison offered a Victorian perspective of the scene. “Defence of Mr. Rowlandson’s House,” engraved by W. Croome, as published in Daniel Strock, Jr., *Pictorial History of King Philip’s War* (1851), 142. Courtesy of the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University.

coexistence, the relationship between colonists and Native Americans deteriorated rapidly—particularly over the control of land—and simmering hostilities flared into open conflict.

Scott Weidensaul, author of *The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery, and Endurance in Early America* (2012), wrote that King Philip's War was the bloodiest conflict ever waged on American soil in proportion to the population killed and that modern scholars estimate that 5 percent of the English population in the region, and an astounding 40 percent of the Indians, died.<sup>1</sup> King Philip's War is significant both for its devastation and as the first widespread uprising of many Indian groups against a common enemy. The war also marked the first time large numbers of English captives were taken by raiding parties to be held for ransom.<sup>2</sup>

During the winter of 1675/76, Henry Kerley, chief military officer in Lancaster,<sup>3</sup> knew his town was at risk for an Indian attack. One had already occurred on 22 August 1675, when Mordecai McLeod, his family, and four other men were scalped, their bodies “terribly mangled,” buildings burned, and livestock plundered during a raid led by “One-Eyed

John” Monoco of the Nashaway Indians.<sup>4</sup> Six centrally located Lancaster homes served as garrison houses.<sup>5</sup> The Rowlandson garrison house, where Henry Kerley's family was assigned, was the least protected.

Many reports circulated that the tribes of southern New England were hungry, cold, and angry after their losses at the Great Swamp Fight in Rhode Island the previous December. Christian-praying Indians, who had infiltrated some of the tribes, brought back reports that the Indians planned to attack the Massachusetts frontier towns of Lancaster, Groton, Marlborough, Sudbury, and Medfield within the coming weeks.<sup>6</sup> But no action was taken. The army had been disbanded from all the frontier towns, by an order of the Council, except for Captain Samuel Wadsworth's company in Marlborough. Henry Kerley and his brother-in-law, Rev. Joseph Rowlandson, decided to travel to Boston to plead with the governor for help. On February 9, as Kerley and Rowlandson arrived in Cambridge, the colony's chief military officer, Captain Daniel Gookin, received word from an Indian spy that an attack was about to occur in Lancaster, Groton, Marlborough, Sudbury, and Medfield. Dispatches were sent immediately to Marlborough and Concord ordering any soldiers there to surround Lancaster.<sup>7</sup> Captain Wadsworth mustered a company of about forty men and left Marlborough for Lancaster—but they would be too late.

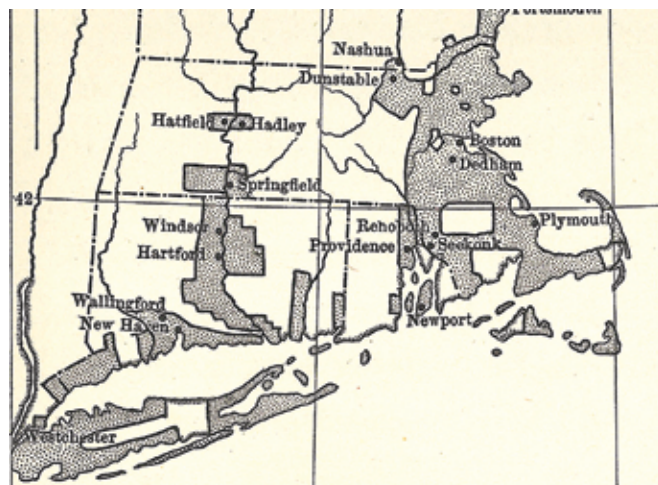
## The attack

A combined force of roughly four hundred Indians from several tribes (Nipmucs, Narragansetts, and Wampanoags)<sup>8</sup> under Monoco attacked Lancaster at sunrise on 10 February 1675/76. In her *Narrative*, Mary Rowlandson recalled the number of people in the Rowlandson garrison house as thirty-seven. Analysis of the data, based on the victim lists in the Lancaster town records and the *Story of Colonial Lancaster*, allows identification of thirty-four people:

- Elizabeth Kerley<sup>9</sup> with seven children: Henry, William, Joseph, Hannah, Martha, Mary, and Elizabeth
- Mary Rowlandson with three children: Joseph, Mary, and Sarah
- Ensign John Divoll with wife Hannah and four children: John, Jr., Hannah, Josiah, and William
- Thomas Rowlandson [Joseph Rowlandson's 19-year-old nephew]
- Abraham Joslin with wife Ann and daughter Beatrice
- Joseph Joslin [Abraham's brother]
- Daniel Gains
- John McLeod [brother of Mordecai McLeod, killed the previous August]
- John Kettle with wife Elizabeth and four children: John, Joseph, Jonathan, and Sarah
- Ephraim Roper with his wife Priscilla and daughter Priscilla.

The attackers soon focused on the Rowlandson garrison house, where they set fire to the wood pile at the rear of the house. Eventually, the garrison

A comparison of these two maps of New England settlement (1675, *Just before King Philip's War* and 1677, *Just after King Philip's War*) shows the dramatic population shifts that resulted from the war. From Lois Kimball Mathews, *The Expansion of New England* (1909), 56–57.



was captured—the only one taken in Lancaster. Everyone in the Rowlandson garrison was killed or taken captive except Ephraim Roper, who escaped and sped towards Marlborough to seek help.<sup>10</sup>

Mary Rowlandson later wrote an account of the attack in *A True History of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (1682):

At length they [the Indians] came and beset our own house, and quickly it was the dolefullest day that ever mine eyes saw. . . . Some in our house were fighting for their lives, others wallowing in their blood, the house on fire over our heads, and the bloody heathen ready to knock us on the head if we stirred out. . . . Of thirty-seven persons who were in this one house, none escaped either present death, or a bitter captivity, save only one. . . . There were twelve killed—some shot, some stabbed with their spears, some knocked down with their hatchets . . . all of them stripped naked by a company of hell hounds, roaring, singing, ranting and insulting, as if they would have torn our very hearts out. Yet the Lord by his almighty power preserved a number of us from death, for there were twenty four of us taken alive and carried captive.<sup>11</sup>

## The immediate aftermath

The initial priority for the men who had arrived after the attack was to bury the dead, probably near where they fell. When the troops from Marlborough left, Henry Kerley accompanied them. In Marlborough, Henry joined his brother William Kerley, Jr., who had settled there many years earlier. Henry had political and military connections, which would be helpful when Marlborough became the main supply base for the spring's military campaigns.<sup>12</sup> Over the next months, as other towns across Massachusetts were attacked, Henry and other former residents of Lancaster wrote petitions for the release of their family members and other missing town residents. By spring, a massive migration was underway from Springfield, Deerfield, Northfield, Brookfield, Lancaster, Groton, Mendon, Wrentham, Swansea, Rehoboth, and Dartmouth to safer communities.<sup>13</sup> Historian Marion Safford noted that

many early Lancaster settlers had lost over twenty-five years of hard work in a single night;<sup>14</sup> those losses were repeated across Massachusetts.

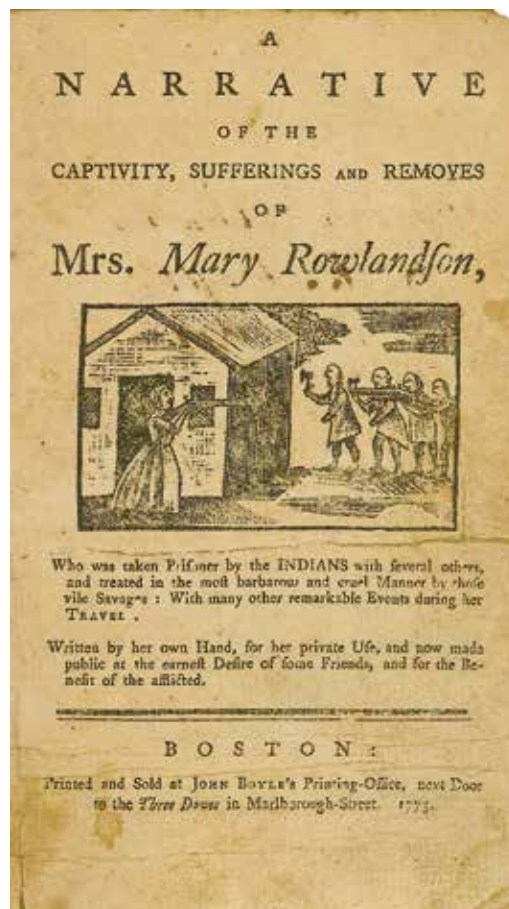
## Captivity

Meanwhile, Mary Rowlandson, her fellow captives, and their captors were constantly on the move to avoid detection by New England settlers. The captives suffered from cold winter weather and a shortage of food, clothing, and shelter. Mary Rowlandson's daughter Sarah died nine days after the massacre, on 18 February 1675/76, from an infection in her wound. Mary felt her isolation acutely, as she was kept from her two surviving children, Joseph and Mary, and her sister Hannah, who were with other Indian bands; Mary saw her daughter Mary only once during their eleven-week captivity.<sup>15</sup> Mary later reflected:

All was gone: my husband gone (at least separated from me, he being in the Bay—and to add to my grief, the Indians told me they would kill him as he came homeward), my children gone, my relations and friends gone, our house and home and all our comforts within door and without—all was gone except my life and I knew not but the next moment that might go too.<sup>16</sup>

Mary took some comfort from a Bible, which an Indian gave her after the attack on Medfield, and from learning through fellow captives that her husband was in Marlborough trying to secure her release. Mary knitted clothing to barter for food from her captors, including a shirt for King Philip's son.

After walking an estimated 150 miles in 83 days,<sup>17</sup> Mary was ransomed for 20 pounds and released at Princeton, 12 miles from Lancaster, on 2 May 1676. Henry Kerley and Mary's brother Josiah White were the first family members to meet her. Henry Kerley quickly asked about his wife, and Mary had to tell him that Elizabeth died in the attack.



Mary Rowlandson's narrative. This edition was published in Lancaster, Massachusetts, in 1773. NEHGS Library Collection.

Poor heart! He had helped to bury her and knew it not; she, being shot down by the house, was partly burnt, so that those who were at Boston at the desolation of the town, and came back afterward and buried the dead, did not know her.<sup>18</sup>

In the spring, more captives were released in an unorganized fashion. A week after Mary Rowlandson's release, her sister Hannah Divoll and Goodwife Kettle were released, but without their children. Shortly thereafter, the two surviving Rowlandson children, Mary and Joseph, Jr., and their cousin William Divoll were released individually by two separate Indian groups in different towns.

## The Rowlandson and Kerley families in later years

Many Lancaster families continued to lose family members over the next thirty years to further Indian attacks,<sup>19</sup> as Lancaster, still on the frontier, remained vulnerable.



The Rowlandson garrison site, Lancaster, Massachusetts. Photograph by the author.

Mary Rowlandson and her reunited family eventually settled in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Shortly after their arrival, in November 1678, Joseph Rowlandson died. On 6 August 1679, Mary married Samuel Talcott. Samuel predeceased her in 1691. Mary (White) (Rowlandson) Talcott lived until 5 January 1710/11, when she died in Wethersfield, aged about 73.<sup>20</sup>

After his relocation to Marlborough, Henry Kerley married the widow Elizabeth (Ward) Howe in Charlestown, Massachusetts, likely on 18 April 1676 or 1677.<sup>21</sup> (Her first husband John Howe, with whom she had at least three children, was killed by Indians in the Sudbury fight shortly after the massacre at Lancaster.<sup>22</sup>) Henry and Elizabeth Kerley had two daughters: Hannah (b. 20 March 1677/78) and Marcy (b. 2 May 1681), both born in Marlborough.<sup>23</sup>

Henry Kerley's will, written 17 May 1708, identified his wife, Elizabeth; his two surviving daughters with first wife, Elizabeth (White): Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Howe, and Mary, wife of Jonathan Johnson, Jr.; as well as two daughters of Elizabeth (Ward) Howe: Hannah, wife of Zerubbabel Eager and Marcy, who would marry Joseph

Rice later that year.<sup>24</sup> Elizabeth (Ward) (Howe) Kerley died in Marlborough 26 April 1710. Captain Henry Kerley died three years later on 18 December 1713.<sup>25</sup>

## Conclusion

Having followed my ancestor Henry Kerley to the end of his life—and accumulated much more data than can be included here—I was satisfied with the information I had gathered. I visited four repositories during my quest to obtain the answers to my questions about the attack. NEHGS, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and the Wisconsin Historical Society offered comprehensive information about events before and during the attack, and the unpublished records at Thayer Memorial Library in Lancaster provided some information I lacked—that Henry's daughters Mary and Elizabeth Kerley survived the captivity experience—and supplied biographical histories of other early proprietors and pioneers of Lancaster. After my research ended, I explored the places associated with the attack. The view of the Rowlandson garrison site at sunset was unexpectedly moving, and I left Lancaster with a feeling of peace. ♦

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Scott Weidensaul, *The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery, and Endurance in Early America* (New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012), 166–67.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 171.

<sup>3</sup> Marion Fuller Safford, *The Story of Colonial Lancaster (Massachusetts)* (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle Publishing Co., Inc., 1937), 32, 34.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 30; Henry S. Nourse, ed., *The Birth, Marriage and Death Register, Church Records and Epitaphs of Lancaster, Massachusetts 1643–1850* (Lancaster, 1890), 15–16.

<sup>5</sup> Eric B. Schultz and Michael J. Tougas, *King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict* (Woodstock, Vt.: The Countryman Press, 1999), 188.

<sup>6</sup> Safford, *Colonial Lancaster* [note 3], 31–32.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 32–33, 37.

<sup>8</sup> Weidensaul [note 1], 169.

<sup>9</sup> Elizabeth Kerley, Mary Rowlandson, and Hannah Divoll were daughters of John and Joanna (West) White: see Almira Larkin White, *Genealogy of the Descendants of John White*

*of Wenham and Lancaster, Massachusetts, 1638–1900* (1900), 1:16, 18, 20–21, 24.

<sup>10</sup> Roper would die in a later massacre in Lancaster, on 11 September 1697, with his wife, Hannah, and daughter Elizabeth: Nourse [note 4], 16.

<sup>11</sup> Mary Rowlandson, *The Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (1682; reprint ed. by Robert Diebold, Lancaster, 1975), 4, 6.

<sup>12</sup> Schultz and Tougas, *King Philip's War* [note 5], 55.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 59.

<sup>14</sup> Safford [note 3], 39.

<sup>15</sup> Kathryn Zabelle Derounian-Stodola, ed., *Women's Indian Captivity Narratives* (New York: Penguin, 1998), 20.

<sup>16</sup> Rowlandson [note 11], 7.

<sup>17</sup> Frances Roe Kestler, comp., *The Indian Captivity Narrative: A Woman's View* (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc.: 1990), 13.

<sup>18</sup> Rowlandson [note 11], 55.

<sup>19</sup> Nourse [note 4], 16, for names of victims, relationships and dates of other "massacres": 18 July 1692, 11 September 1697, and 31 July 1704.

<sup>20</sup> *Connecticut Vital Records to 1870* (online database, AmericanAncestors.org, NEHGS, 2011), from original typescripts, Lucius Barnes Barbour Collection, 1928.

<sup>21</sup> Roger D. Joslyn, comp. and ed., *Vital Records of Charlestown, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1984), 1:95: 18 April 1677. A notation states that the Middlesex County Records, 3:271, show the marriage occurring in 1676.

<sup>22</sup> Franklin P. Rice comp., *Vital Records of Marlborough, Massachusetts to the End of the Year 1849* (1908), 268: marriage of John and Elizabeth Howe on 22 January 1662; 367: John Howe, Jr., "slain by the Indians at Sudbury," 20 April 1676; 101: birthdates of three Howe children, John (b. 9 Sept. 1671), David (b. 29 March 1674), and Elizabeth (b. 16 July 1675). Some sources claim that John and Elizabeth Howe had older children as well, particularly a daughter Sarah, but that claim could not be verified in vital records.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 120. Unpublished records also list a son, Joseph (b. 4 Jan. 1680), who did not survive, but no death date was recorded. Also Frederick Lewis Weis, comp., "Early Families of Lancaster Massachusetts," 1941, presented to the Town Library (now Thayer Memorial Library), Lancaster, Massachusetts, by the compiler in 1942. (Also labeled *Pioneers & Founders of Lancaster 1649–1700*.)

<sup>24</sup> Will of Henry Kerley of Marlborough, 17 May 1708, Middlesex County, Mass., Probate, file 13156. The marriage of Joseph Rice and Marcy "Kerly," on 10 November 1708, is cited in *Marlborough VRs* [note 22], 307.

<sup>25</sup> *Marlborough VRs* [note 22], 374.

# Traveling to Lancaster

When I describe my vacation plans, I often say, “I’m going to see where my ancestors lived and died.” Prior to my trips, I have usually completed my research and am interested in seeing associated sites.

My Kerley research began at the NEHGS Library, where I viewed a list of victims’ names from the 1675 Lancaster raid. At the time, I was researching my Eager patrilineal line. (My ancestor Hannah Kerley, daughter of Henry Kerley and his second wife, Elizabeth [Ward] [Howe]

Kerley, married Zerubbabel Eager in Marlborough, Massachusetts, in 1698.) Later, on the plane to Salt Lake City for the 2012 NEHGS tour, I decided to learn more about Henry Kerley, his first wife Elizabeth White, and their seven children. The topic consumed me for the week, and when the tour ended I thought all the members of Henry’s first family had died in Lancaster as a result of the raid.

Returning home to Madison, Wisconsin, I visited the Wisconsin Historical Society, a premier genealogical library

and the library for the University of Wisconsin History Department. There I found an abundance of books on King Philip’s War and Indian captivity narratives. Then, I received a response to a letter I’d written to Lancaster’s Thayer Memorial Library that took me completely by surprise: two of Henry’s children had survived. I began to plan a trip to Boston and Lancaster and, with my cousin Katherine Cipolla, I made the journey in November 2013.

## My tour

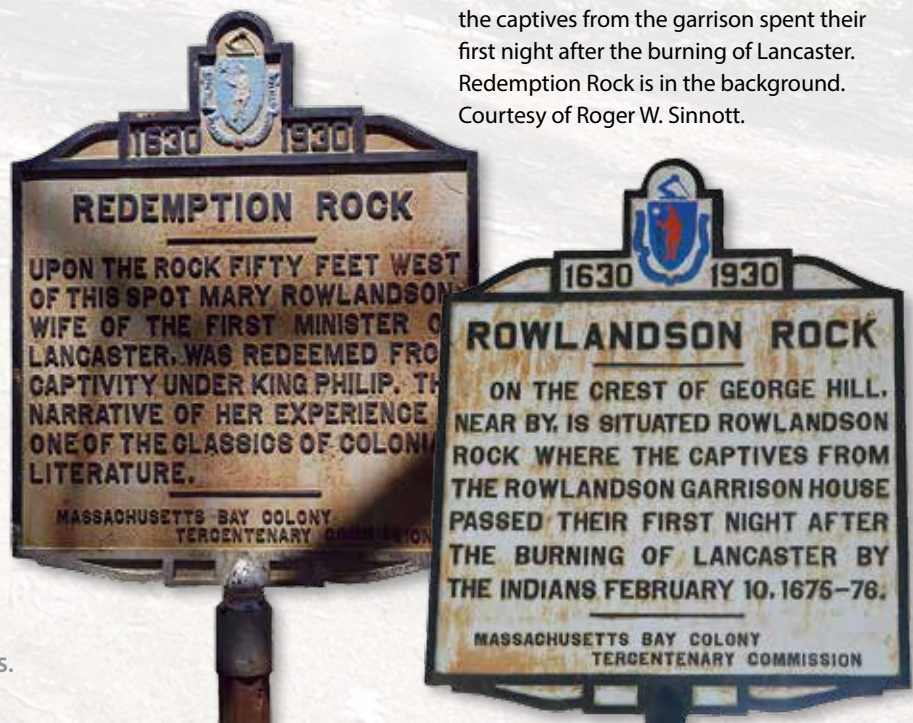
1. At the Rare Books Collection of the Boston Public Library we saw three editions of *A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, which described her experiences at the Rowlandson garrison.
2. We drove to Lancaster, about forty-five miles from Boston, where our first stop was the Thayer Memorial Library ([thayermemoriallibrary.org](http://thayermemoriallibrary.org)). There we viewed Special Collections materials, not available elsewhere, which provided us with valuable genealogical information:
  - Survey of Historical Records, Federal Project, No. 1, compilers, “Inscriptions from Gravestones in Lancaster to 1910,” Lancaster, Mass.; 1937.
  - Henry S. Nourse, “Brief Historical & Genealogical Sketches of the Earliest Proprietors & Pioneers of Lancaster, Mass.,” 1883 (two handwritten volumes).
  - Frederick Lewis Weis, comp., “Early Families of Lancaster, Massachusetts,” 1941 (four volumes of typed family histories).
3. Next we took a driving tour of historic sites related to the Indian attacks in the Lancaster area, as described in *King Philip’s War: The History and Legacy of America’s Forgotten Conflict* (1999) by Eric B. Schultz and Michael J. Tougas, pp. 185–194. We were particularly interested in the following two sites:

- A marker, Rowlandson Rock, at the junction of Main and Sterling Streets in Lancaster, states: “On the crest of George Hill, near by, is situated Rowlandson Rock where the captives from the Rowlandson garrison house passed their first night after the burning of Lancaster by the Indians February 10, 1675–76.” George Hill was about a mile from the Rowlandson garrison.
- At the end of the day we found the location of the Rowlandson garrison, where members of Henry’s first family were killed and captured. The site, on private property, is south of Lancaster, and to reach it we followed a barely visible dirt road from Main Street

through an opening in a stone wall into a field. A marker reads: “In the field nearby was situated the garrison house of the Rev. Joseph Rowlandson first ordained minister of Lancaster. During his absence on February 10, 1675–76 this garrison was attacked and destroyed by Indians.”

I felt my visit to Boston and Lancaster completed my quest. After the trip, I put my research and experiences together and focused on writing the account that became the accompanying article. ♦

Markers noting the locations of Redemption Rock, in Princeton, Massachusetts, about ten miles west of Lancaster, where Mary Rowlandson was released; and Rowlandson Rock, where the captives from the garrison spent their first night after the burning of Lancaster. Redemption Rock is in the background. Courtesy of Roger W. Sinnott.



# An Invented Life

## Lilla (Hawkins) Wunderlich of Massachusetts, New York, Shanghai, and Germany

This particular genealogical quest began with a picture of a dark-eyed boy in a Little Lord Fauntleroy suit.

A distant cousin had given me a Victorian photo album that had belonged to her great-grandmother, Jessie (Morgan) Hawkins (1822–1909) of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Only this one photo, taken in a Brooklyn studio, bore a caption. Written in an adult hand, the inscription reads, “For Grandmama, Merrie Christmas, from Percy.” Who was Percy? At that point, my knowledge of the Hawkins family was limited to the descendants of Jessie’s son John Hawkins (1851–1929), who married my great-grandmother’s aunt, Hattie Paine.<sup>1</sup> Their family contained no Percys. Assuming that *Grandmama* was Jessie Hawkins, I speculated that Percy’s mother must have been one of Jessie’s three daughters, Henrietta, Mary, or Lilla Hawkins—but which? My research into Percy’s identity was the initial foray into a complex quest that pulled me into the bewildering life of Percy’s peripatetic mother.

To reconstruct their lives, I began with a mid-nineteenth-century shipping manifest. Jessie Hawkins, her husband, James, and their four children

had sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Boston aboard the brig *Belle* in May 1851.<sup>2</sup> They settled in Fairhaven, where one more child was born on 22 May 1853<sup>3</sup>—Elizabeth M. Hawkins, known as Lilla Dale.<sup>4</sup>

During the next decade, the Hawkins family moved several times between Fairhaven and New Bedford. By the end of the Civil War, Jessie was a widow.<sup>5</sup> After a short stint in Boston, where they were enumerated in 1870,<sup>6</sup> Jessie and her children returned to New Bedford and, finally, to Fairhaven, where Jessie spent the last twenty years of her life. Two of her daughters married in New Bedford: Henrietta Hawkins, who had two husbands and died childless at 35,

and Mary Hawkins, who wed Virginia-born Union soldier John Chalkley. Since no Percy was found in Mary Chalkley’s family, Lilla was the only remaining candidate for Percy’s mother. After being listed as a dressmaker in New Bedford’s 1873 directory, Lilla seemed to vanish, leaving no further trace in Massachusetts records. Where did Lilla go?

The answer surfaced in the administration of Jessie Hawkins’s estate. She died intestate on 19 September 1909,<sup>7</sup> when her heirs-at-law included her son John Hawkins of Fairhaven and daughters Mary Chalkley of West Point, Virginia, and Lilla D. Wunderlich—of Shanghai. The Shanghai reference took my research in a new direction. Speculating about why Lilla was in Shanghai, I made an initial assumption inspired by my youthful reading of the novels of Pearl S. Buck. Knowing the



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Hawkins family had belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, I thought it worthwhile to investigate whether Lilla or her husband had been missionaries, like Pearl Buck's parents. Looking back now, that theory seems ludicrous.

## The Court Case

My search began prior to the advent of the Internet, and years passed without any worthwhile leads. When promising search capabilities were available, Percy's picture pointed me to Brooklyn, where he had been photographed. My first major digital hit was a September 1901 *New York Times* article headlined "Blames Hugh M'Laughlin" and subtitled "His Neighbor Indignant Because Her Servant Was Arrested." The story described a feud between *Leila* Wunderlich, wife of Dr. Frederick W. Wunderlich, 165 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, and her neighbor, Tammany boss Hugh McLaughlin. Mrs. Wunderlich had defied repeated orders to stop her servant from beating carpets outdoors. Infuriated by the influx of dust into his windows, McLaughlin pressed charges on the grounds that sanitary code ordinances were being violated. Mrs. Wunderlich evidently suspected ulterior motives: "Mr. McLaughlin is the person who is making all the trouble for me. . . . It's because I won't have anything to do with the McLaughlins. Everyone else on the block seems to worship them and bow down to them, but I am different."<sup>8</sup>

The ensuing fracas made the front page of *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. Readers were regaled with an elaborate description of the woman at center stage, who told reporters she was from Louisiana:

The appearance of Mrs. Wunderlich in court created a sensation. . . . She was really what enthusiasts would call a dream of the milliner's and dressmaker's art. Mrs. Wunderlich wore one of the stylish

pleated straw Gainsboroughs, with a huge ostrich plume, a waist of pink silk and costly lace insertion, a black satin skirt and patent leather Oxfords. She swept upstairs with her skirts held high from the contaminating influence of the soiled steps, and there was a swish about her progress that suggested yards and yards of rustling silk.<sup>9</sup>

The case dragged on for several months and came to a climax in December, when the judge ordered Leila and her servant to pay a nominal fine or go to jail.<sup>10</sup> Was this feisty and haughty doctor's wife indeed Lilla from New Bedford?

## Documenting the Husbands

In the 1900 Brooklyn census, listed next door to Hugh McLaughlin, was a family consisting of D. [actually, Dr. Frederick] Wunderlich, a 59-year-old physician born in Germany; his wife, "L. D.," 45, born in New York; and two children, Beatrice, 19, and P. B., 17, both born in New York, plus two foreign-born male servants. Dr. Wunderlich and L. D. had been married six years.<sup>11</sup> The 1905 New York State Census contributed the information that Percy Goehler [Koehler], 23, was Dr. Frederick's stepson.<sup>12</sup> Searching further, I also found

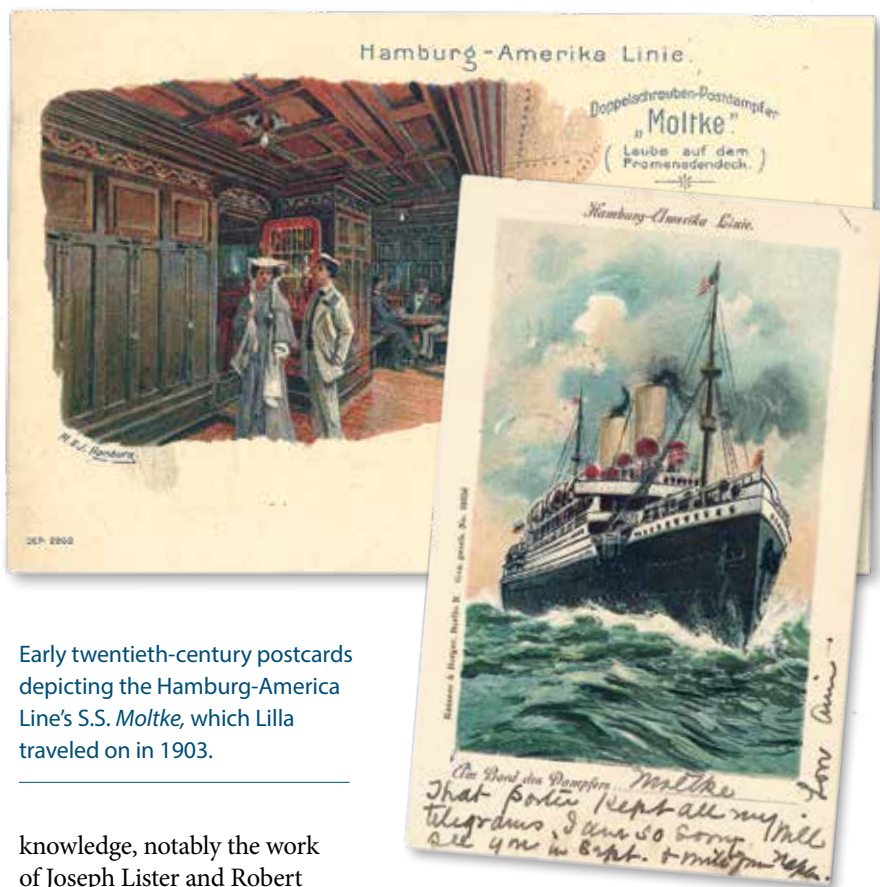
that Lilla probably moved directly from New Bedford to New York City: city directories from the late 1870s list Lilla D. Hawkins selling shoes on Broadway. In Manhattan, on 1 May 1879, she married a Bremen-born broker, Robert Koehler, who was seven years her senior.<sup>13</sup>

They had two children: Beatrice Elsa, born 4 July 1880, and Percy, born 15 April 1883.<sup>14</sup> As Mrs. Robert Koehler, Lilla led a comfortable existence in a Brooklyn brownstone on Tompkins Place until her 45-year-old husband died from pneumonia on 10 April 1891. Dr. Wunderlich signed his death certificate.<sup>15</sup> The *New York Tribune* described Robert Koehler as "a popular broker on the Consolidated Stock and Petroleum Exchange." His funeral was held from his home, with a private burial.<sup>16</sup>

When Lilla wed respected and wealthy 52-year-old Dr. Wunderlich on 17 June 1893, she apparently ascended several steps on the social ladder. Dr. Wunderlich had arrived from Germany at 14 and had served as a hospital steward during the Civil War. By 1883, he was a surgeon at St. Peter's Hospital in Brooklyn and maintained a private practice.<sup>17</sup> Contemporary accounts attest to his familiarity with the latest scientific



Opposite page: Percy Koehler, Brooklyn, New York, 1890. Author's collection. Right: Lilla Hawkins, 1878. Author's collection. Far right: Frederick W. Wunderlich, M.D. Courtesy of the Brooklyn Historical Society.



Early twentieth-century postcards depicting the Hamburg-America Line's S.S. *Moltke*, which Lilla traveled on in 1903.

knowledge, notably the work of Joseph Lister and Robert Koch.<sup>18</sup> If Dr. Wunderlich's will is any indication, he treated Lilla's children well.<sup>19</sup> Her daughter, Beatrice, married Sefton Trantor, a broker, in 1900, and they named their eldest child Frederika. Dr. Wunderlich paid for Percy's education at Cornell University, where the latter was recorded as Percy *Wunderlich* Koehler. But then, at a time when one might expect Lilla to continue with well-established routines, something happened to disrupt the pattern. The 1910 census shows Percy Koehler, now himself a broker, still living with Dr. Wunderlich but in a rented apartment—an indication of slipping finances.<sup>20</sup> Though the doctor gave his status as married, Lilla was absent. Was she in Shanghai, as her mother's 1909 estate papers implied?

### The Emergency Passports

Searching through online passport applications and ship manifests yielded several hits for a Lilla Wunderlich, born in 1880 in New Orleans.<sup>21</sup> I first assumed that this could not have been the Massachusetts woman born in 1853, but a closer inspection of the documents revealed the New Orleans

traveler was none other than the wife of Dr. Frederick Wunderlich! For vanity's sake, some people deduct a few years from their ages, but Lilla was playing with more than twenty-five!

Lilla's destinations and her statements on the documents raise many additional questions. Her first solo documented European trip was in 1903, when she returned aboard the S.S. *Moltke*. In 1907, 1910, and 1912, from the American embassies in Berlin and Tokyo, she applied for emergency passports "for travel through Russia," each time making the excuse that she did not have time to obtain a passport through regular channels. Her travel record is silent for the next five years, until May 1919, when she used an identity certificate issued by the Spanish consulate in Hamburg to apply at The Hague for an emergency passport to return to the United States. Claiming her American residence as New Orleans, she stated,

I went to the Far East in 1910 for pleasure, and in 1914 came to Germany with my brother. In that year I met with a serious accident through a bad fall, breaking my ankle and injuring my back. For that

reason I found it impracticable to return to the United States until the present date. . . . I have certain real estate interest in Louisiana and Tennessee.<sup>22</sup>

Had she ever been to Louisiana or Tennessee? Lilla's only living brother, John H. Hawkins, never traveled overseas; he worked as a house carpenter in Fairhaven. Did Lilla spend all of World War I residing in Germany and, if so, why? Once she received another emergency passport in 1919, Lilla did not return to Brooklyn, where Dr. Wunderlich now resided alone.<sup>23</sup>

### The Department of State File

Expanding the Internet search for Lilla resulted in a breakthrough source: Purport Lists for the Department of State, 1910–1944—declassified diplomatic correspondence released to the National Archives. Lilla's file, obtained from Washington, exceeded 250 pages.<sup>24</sup> Its contents revolved around Lilla's petitions for assets and stock dividends that had belonged to a German officer who served in World War I. These assets, originally held in Shanghai, were seized in Hong Kong. When the Hong Kong Office of Enemy Debts closed, its pending cases were transferred to the British Clearing Office in London.

The documents in the file disclosed the true reason Lilla journeyed so far from Brooklyn: she had been living with Captain Walter Treumann, twenty years her junior. Before the war, he worked as a captain for the Hamburg-America line and claimed residence in Shanghai. Perhaps the couple originally met in 1903 aboard the *Moltke*, a ship of that line. The relationship can be documented as early as 1909, when both were listed in the manifest of the Japanese steamer *Kaga Maru* en route from Shanghai to Seattle.

In Shanghai, Lilla and Captain Treumann were certainly not missionaries; undoubtedly they participated in the glamorous sophisticated lifestyle typical of the era's expatriates. At the start of World War I, when Treumann returned to Germany, Lilla followed. One surviving letter from 1915 in the State Department file confirms Dr.



Then Mr. Stone became ill and wrote me he could no more help me. The Doc had lost his entire fortune and \$30,000 of mine. Stone 1914-16 but I was kept in ignorance until 1919. I thought I'd sell my self by going to him and I could get a big thing for \$12,000 or more. It and I could have some, but it was a loss of the fortune I had. I then returned and I found out I could live here for cheap. Then in the time since no one would help with a loan of money. I learned through him there are no such thing as true friendships. Dr. Wunderlich had helped for 40 years many people. When I wanted to file out the paper you sent I could not as I am a complete stranger and I will not send to any of the ones who knew us no more. My fortune went. I asked my brother in Fran. Pearson Mass. - 125 Main St. W. to send you and affidavit that I was only

Top: A postcard of the Bund, Shanghai. Located along the waterfront, the Bund was the city's center when Lilla lived there. Left: Lilla pleaded her case in this 1926 letter to the Bureau of Pensions. Right: Lilla's 1919 passport photo (from Ancestry.com's U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925, database).

Wunderlich not only kept in touch with Lilla but also sent care packages containing soap and lotion. Lilla apparently had asked for more money, a demand the doctor could not meet: "It is a great relief for me to learn you have been able to secure sufficient money to keep you going. In my present state of finances it is impossible for me to assist you." Wunderlich concluded, "I am particularly pleased with the defeat

of the Russians. I hope Austria has troops enough to give the Italiens [sic] a thorough beating."

Captain Treumann did not live to see Germany's defeat. He died near the war's end on 21 January 1918. His will, in German, drawn up only days before his death, disclosed his wishes with astonishing candor: "As my sole heiress, I declare Mrs. Lilla Dale Wunderlich, born nee Hawkins, formerly of Brooklyn, at present in Hamburg. This woman has sacrificed her whole life for me, always with love and devotion . . . I do not feel obligated to my sisters any bequest to make, they, during the time I was ill in Kiel in the University Nerve Clinic, were very nasty and loveless."<sup>25</sup>

Following Treumann's death, the value of his estate was set at 57,000 marks, or \$14,250. In addition to the issue of the seized stock assets, the estate was also subject to rampant postwar inflation and devaluation of the German mark. Much

to Lilla's chagrin, Treumann's estate was mired in endless litigation. In her correspondence about the estate, spanning a fifteen-year period, Lilla conveyed the impression of a frail woman in distress, living on a modest Civil War pension. She pleaded her case far and wide, and even wrote to the Prince of Wales to implore him for assistance because she believed the British government had impounded Treumann's funds. By 1934, when the claim was settled, the residual of Treumann's stock sales amounted to a paltry £31.

### The Civil War Pension File

Meanwhile, the once-prosperous Dr. Wunderlich had fallen on hard times. By 1920, nearing 80 and no longer practicing medicine, he applied for a Civil War pension. He died on 8 May 1921, before the process was completed.<sup>26</sup> His will, drawn up in 1906, left bequests to Lilla and her children. During the administration of the substantially reduced estate, since the addresses of the principal legatees were not known, a legal notice was placed in the *Brooklyn Eagle*.<sup>27</sup> The first to respond was Lilla's daughter, Beatrice, who did not know the whereabouts of her mother or brother.

Though Lilla was not in the United States for her husband's funeral, within months she applied for a Civil War widow's pension. Her file runs over 200 pages because Lilla had a difficult time proving that she was married to Dr. Wunderlich. His death certificate indicated he was divorced. In the estate file, Wunderlich's executor stated that Lilla had been absent for the last fifteen years. Even the Borough of Brooklyn had trouble locating the marriage record.<sup>28</sup>

Nonetheless, she prevailed. Using all the wiles of previous pleas, Lilla repeated that she was living in poverty and had no other source of income other than a pittance of savings. She rambled about wartime losses and why she lived abroad. Writing to the Bureau of Pensions from Seattle on 22 October 1926, Lilla lamented, "I am a cripple and unable to do anything for myself." She described how Dr. Wunderlich lost his fortune as well as \$30,000 of her money during World War I. Lilla then explained her return to

Shanghai, “I thought to better myself by going to China as I could get a [house] boy there for \$12 [a] month.” She returned to the United States because she “could live here 1/3 cheaper than she could in the East.” The same month she wrote to the Secretary of the Navy: “Now Your are a gentlemen with real power. Will you not use it and help me a lonely unhappy widow to get this help—I beg of you in Jesus name to help me . . . my months of anxiety was a night mare. I leave it now in Gods hands. I will never try again to receive my just due.”

On 31 May 1932, Washington attorney Daniel Partridge III wrote to the Director of Pensions: “Mrs. Wunderlich is deserving and needy, and the pension check will seem heaven-sent to her.” Shortly thereafter, ten years after Lilla began the pension process, Partridge succeeded in obtaining for her a back pension of \$2,900, with \$30 a month thereafter. However, when Partridge sent her a bill for \$750, Lilla vanished, prompting him to write to the Secretary of State seeking her whereabouts. Partridge reported that “A Government Agent was advised by the proprietor of the apartment house in which Mrs. Wunderlich lived that she had told the proprietor that she had inherited quite a bit of money and expected to do a lot of traveling.” Lilla returned to Hamburg during the first days of the Third Reich, and from there sent a note to Robert Skinner of the American Legation in Estonia on 20 February 1933: “I am writing this letter in bed having escaped death by Gods mercy.” When she sailed from Hamburg aboard the S.S. *Manhattan* on 4 April 1933, she returned to the United States permanently. Her remaining missives reveal

deteriorating penmanship, clouded reasoning, and dubious return addresses, such as, in 1934, Radio City Music Hall!<sup>29</sup>

## The Coda

Mortality caught up with Lilla on 22 December 1939, when she died in Bayside, Queens, at age 86—not 80 as her death notice claimed. Following a funeral home service, she was cremated on Christmas Day.<sup>30</sup> Ironically, there was still more money in the Wunderlich trust than what had resulted from the years of litigating Walter Treumann’s estate.

And what of Lilla’s children? About 1920, Percy had changed his name to Philip Koehler. Under that name, he completed Lilla’s funeral arrangements. His fortunes had fallen along with the stock market crash in 1929 and, in 1940, after months of unemployment, he was living in a Manhattan rooming house. During World War II, Philip worked for the WPA. He died in January 1963 at the age of 79. Beatrice (Koehler) Trantor also survived her mother. Her marriage to Sefton Trantor had ended in divorce; Beatrice had two children.

Researching Lilla’s life leaves me contemplating astonishing episodes of deception and intrigue. In the 1870s, when Lilla left New Bedford for New York City, she probably dreamed of romance, wealth, and adventure. She found all three but not in ways she might have anticipated. One last discovery deserves mention: after reading dozens of letters in Lilla’s own hand, I realized the distinctive handwriting on Percy’s photograph—the one that brought me on a genealogical journey to Shanghai and back—belonged to Lilla. ♦

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> John Hawkins’s only brother, Charles Hawkins (1848–1882), of New Bedford, died unmarried.
- <sup>2</sup> *Boston Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820–1943*; viewed at Ancestry.com.
- <sup>3</sup> *Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910*; viewed at AmericanAncestors.org.
- <sup>4</sup> No family precedent exists for this name. There are several contemporary women born in Nova Scotia or northern New England with the double name. A schooner named *Lilla Dale* was launched in 1859.

- <sup>5</sup> Jessie Hawkins household, Massachusetts, State Census, 1865, New Bedford, Ward 4; viewed at FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>6</sup> Jessie Hawkins household, U.S. 1870 Census, Boston Ward 12, Suffolk County, Massachusetts; roll M593\_647; page 329B; viewed at Ancestry.com.
- <sup>7</sup> Bristol County, Massachusetts, Probate, Jessie H. Hawkins, Adm. #28084.
- <sup>8</sup> “Blames Hugh M’Laughlin,” *The New York Times*, September 25, 1901, 8.

- <sup>9</sup> “Mrs. Wunderlich Says McLaughlin Threatened,” *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, September 24, 1901, p.1.
- <sup>10</sup> This fascinating episode was featured in spring 2013 in Montrose Morris’s Brooklyn-based blog, brownstoner.com. The three-part series was titled “The Boss, the Wife, and the Rug Patrol.”
- <sup>11</sup> D. Wunderlich household, U.S. 1900 Census, Brooklyn Ward 1, Kings County, New York; Roll 1043; page 6B; viewed at Ancestry.com.
- <sup>12</sup> Frederick Wunderlich household, 1905 New York State Census, Brooklyn, 6th E.D., 26; viewed at FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>13</sup> The marriage record gives his full name as Ernest Frederick Robert Koehler. *New York, Marriages, 1686-1980*; viewed at FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>14</sup> *New York, Births and Christenings, 1640–1962*; viewed at FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>15</sup> Copy of certificate of death with Civil War pension file, Frederick W. Wunderlich, WC 1225–910.
- <sup>16</sup> “Marriages and Deaths,” *New York Herald*, 12 April 1891, 19.
- <sup>17</sup> Peter Ross, *A History of Long Island: From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (Long Island, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Company, 1902), 523–524.
- <sup>18</sup> “Improvement Follows the Use of Koch’s Lymph,” *New York Herald*, 15 December 1890, 4.
- <sup>19</sup> New York, Kings County Estate Files, 1866–1923, Frederick W. Wunderlich; viewed at FamilySearch.org.
- <sup>20</sup> Frederick Wunderlich household, 1910 U.S. Census, Brooklyn Ward 1, Kings County, New York; roll T624\_958; page 4A, E.D. 11, viewed at Ancestry.com.
- <sup>21</sup> *U.S. Passport Applications, 1795–1925*, viewed at Ancestry.com; *Seattle, Washington, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882–1957*, viewed at Ancestry.com.
- <sup>22</sup> Each of Lilla’s emergency passport applications contains a wealth of detail.
- <sup>23</sup> Frederick W. Wunderlich, 1920 U.S. Census, Brooklyn Assembly District 1, Kings County, New York; roll T625\_1143, p. 5B, E.D. 16, viewed at Ancestry.com.
- <sup>24</sup> Lilla Dale Wunderlich, RG 59, CDF 1910-29, 341.1153, National Archives.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.* A translation of Walter Treumann’s will from the German is part of the file.
- <sup>26</sup> Civil War pension file, Frederick W. Wunderlich, WC 1225–910.
- <sup>27</sup> New York, Kings County Estate Files, 1866–1923 [note 19].
- <sup>28</sup> A Certificate of Marriage, Brooklyn #2647, reproduced from a microfilm negative on 12 February 1931, was submitted to the Civil War pension file.
- <sup>29</sup> Civil War pension [note 26].
- <sup>30</sup> “Mrs. Lila D. Wunderlich,” *Long Island Star-Journal*, 26 December 1939, 2.

Biography | Zebulon Buffett II, 30 Jul 1791 to 3 Jun 1877

The youngest of Nathaniel and Zerviah Buffett's eight children, Zebulon was born on a farm and made farming his life's work. He reported on his crops in an 1869 letter to grandson Sidney Homan Buffett:

We had a pretty good Season last year. Our wheat was good, oats was good and corn was pretty fair. We had a light crop of apples and plenty of cherries. Price of wheat -- 1.75, corn \$1.12, oats 75 & 80 cts.

Zebulon

FAMILY RECORD.

# Bringing an “Obscure Family” to Light

## Doris Buffett's Published Genealogy

Doris Buffett's interest in family history was sparked in 1983 when she was living in Washington, D.C. She took a genealogy course at the Smithsonian, attended a “Come Home to New England” program at NEHGS, and soon became a frequent visitor at the National Archives. Before long, she decided she wanted to compile a Buffett family history.

With no Internet available, she sought information about the family by writing letters to the 116 Buffetts she had located in phone books from across the country. In her letter, Doris noted that seventeen of those Buffetts were members of her own family and that six Buffetts (or Buffits) were listed in the 1790 census. Doris included a family tree chart and a questionnaire and even

a large manila envelope—in case the recipients wanted to send her copies of interesting material. She mailed her letters and waited, and waited some more. In the end, she received fourteen replies. Undaunted, Doris began calling Buffetts and then, she recalled, “I got in my car and started up the road.”

Over these decades of exhaustive research, Doris assembled a

well-documented family history that begins with the immigrant John Buffett (ca. 1665/70–ca. 1722), of unknown origin, who settled in Huntington, Long Island. John married Hannah Titus (b. 1669), granddaughter of Great Migration immigrants Robert and Hannah Titus, who arrived in Boston in 1635 on the *Hopewell*. In a dowry agreement with Samuel Titus, Hannah's father, John Buffett's occupation was listed as “serge weaver.” John and Hannah had two children, Joseph (b. 1700) and Nathaniel (b. 1703). Nathaniel was Doris's ancestor, and his descendants were her major focus.

After Buffetts lived for several generations on Long Island, Sidney Homan



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Above: A page from Doris Buffett's genealogy, *An Obscure Family: The Buffetts in America*, devoted to Zebulon Buffett (1791–1877).



“The Kitten Tea Party,” a taxidermy tableau arranged by Fanny (Homan) Buffett, likely in the 1880s. Courtesy of Doris Buffett.

Buffett (1848–1927) left New York for Omaha in 1867. He first worked for his maternal grandfather, George Homan, who had a livery business there. Two years later Sidney Buffett established a family grocery business that would last 100 years. Sidney’s grandson, Howard Homan Buffett (1903–1964), founded an investment company, Buffett and Company, and then became distinguished in a new arena: politics. Howard Buffett was elected to the House of Representatives in 1942 and represented Nebraska’s second district for four terms. Howard and Leila (Stahl) Buffett had three children: Doris, Warren, and Roberta.

In 2012, Doris published *An Obscure Family: The Buffetts in America*, a large-format genealogy that showcases all aspects of her research: genealogical connections, photographs and documents, and family stories. Each of the eight generations treated in the book features at least one biographical sketch that helps readers connect to a particular person, time, and place. This article contains excerpts that examine these intriguing characters and the mostly domestic primary sources that bring them to life.

**Zebulon Buffett** (1791–1877) of Huntington, Long Island, was a farmer

and served as a town trustee. Below are excerpts from letters he wrote to his grandson Sidney Buffett in Nebraska.

*December 21, 1869:  
And now you are to do  
business for yourself  
and it wants a great  
deal of prudence for  
one so young but I  
hope you will prosper.  
Try to be punctual in  
all your dealings. You  
will find it difficult  
to get along with some*

*men, deal as little as possible with such.  
You can't expect to make much but I  
hope your business will get better in the  
Spring. But if you can't make it, do leave  
off in time to pay your debts and save  
your credit, for that is better than money.*

*If you go on in business, be content with  
moderate gains. Don't be too hasty to get  
too rich. You have a clerk and he may be  
honest but you must watch him. And you  
have a bedfellow [business partner] too,  
but you must not let him lead you astray,  
this I am more afraid of than that you  
won't make money.*

*I shall send you strips of paper and I  
want you to read them and follow their  
advice.*

*On this day 38 years ago your Grand-  
mother died and I have been very lone-  
some ever since.*

*February 18, 1870: I received your letter  
and was glad to hear your business was  
getting better. You seem to be so pleased  
with the present I made you [\$800]. I  
think you will try to make the best of it.  
Your expenses must be large, you must  
try to live within your income. I hope you  
may prosper and get an honest living, but  
if you can't, give up in time and try some  
other business before it's too late.*

**Fanny Maria (Homan) Buffett** (1830–1891), wife of David Buffett and

daughter-in-law of Zebulon Buffett, lived in Huntington and Dix Hills, New York. Fanny seems to have embraced nineteenth-century leisure pursuits with great enthusiasm. “While raising five children and running a farm in the late nineteenth century, Fanny Maria Homan Buffett found the time to write poetry, research genealogy, and perfect her self-taught skills in taxidermy.” The local happenings column in *The Long-Islander* reported enthusiastically on Fanny’s accomplishments in taxidermy.

*February 27, 1880: The Ladies Sewing  
Society met with Mrs. John Smith, New  
Street, on Wednesday evening and then  
adjourned to the residence of Mrs. David  
Buffett, at Elwood, where a very sociable  
time was had. Mrs. Buffett had a very  
fine collection of stuffed birds from all  
over the world, and being a skilled taxi-  
dermist, has arranged them with great  
taste.*

*July 16, 1880: Mrs. Buffett, whose genius  
[as a taxidermist] is widely appreciated,  
continually adds handsome pieces to  
her already beautiful and rare collec-  
tion. Mrs. B. cultivated the art without  
assistance and her energy and talent can-  
not fail to win admiration from all who  
have ever viewed the work of her genius.  
The work is pursued by her principally  
as a recreative [sic] pastime and for the  
purpose of home adornment.*

*January 21, 1881: Mrs. David Buffett,  
of Elwood, with her usual skill as a taxi-  
dermist has stuffed the skin of Mr. W. E.  
Mulford's dog Hero, and it lacks only life,  
so perfect is her work.*

*March 10, 1888: A fine pair of great-  
horned owls were shot in Buffett's pines  
at Dix Hills this week. Both measured  
over 5 feet from tip to tip. They are now  
in the hands of Mrs. Buffett, the cele-  
brated taxidermist of that place.*

**Grace Evelyn Buffett** (1873–1926), daughter of Sidney Homan Buffett and Evelyn Ketcham (and granddaughter of Fanny Buffett), was born in Omaha.

Grace was twelve when her mother died, and she “took her mother’s place in managing the household and remained single.” Grace’s *Golden Floral Album*, an autograph book, contains inscriptions written to her between 1885 and 1890, from ages twelve to seventeen.

*Dear Gracie, Hope the best, be ready for the worst and take what the Lord sends. Your Sincere Aunt, Josie Ketcham, Omaha June 8 '85*

*Darling Gracie, You have come, To your Papa’s childhood home, Oh! How we wish; that you could stay, and never from us go away. But—when, you are, away so far, Think of us all, and, your Grandma. Fanny M. Buffett, Elwood, L.I. Feb 25th 1886*

A spread from *An Obscure Family* picturing Henrietta (Duval) and her husband, Ernest Buffett.

*Dear Gracie, When with the girls, and boys, you chat, Do not forget, your Uncle Nat. Nathaniel Buffett Feb. 5th 1886*

*Dear Gracie, I wish you a happy life, Free from care, and free from strife. May you never, have to rough it, is the wish of your grandpa, David Buffett. Elwood, L.I. Feb. 24th '86*

*Dear Gracie, May the sweetness of your young life, glide from girlhood, into womanhood, and matured, may you become truly beautiful, in mind, and heart, is the wish of your loving Aunt. Emma Buffett Smith Elwood Feb. 23rd 1886*

*Dear Gracie, Desire not to live long, but to live well; How long we live, not years, but actions tell. Your loving friend, Carey Butlin Omaha, Nebr. March 30 '86*

**Daisy Henrietta (Duval) Buffett** (1870–1921), daughter-in-law of Sidney Homan Buffett (and grandmother of Doris Buffett), was born in

West Virginia but came west to live on her brother’s farm in south central Nebraska. Henrietta met her future husband, Ernest Platt Buffett, when she began work at the Buffett grocery business in Omaha. In 1907, as the mother of four small boys (Clarence, George, Howard, and Frederick), Henrietta recorded some of her family activities in a diary. (Her last child, Alice Ruth, was born in 1909.)

*January 2, Wednesday: Nice day but awful muddy / We all went down town / had baby picture taken / Ernest brought the children home in the wagon / baby and I came on the car / Lots of people down town today*

*January 19, Saturday: “The children are snuggled all safely in bed.” / all had their baths. Very Windy and Cold / Finished a pair of pants for Clarence and a waist for George. George fell and hurt his face.*



Buffett & Sons Grocery Store in Omaha, Nebraska, 1931. Courtesy of Doris Buffett.

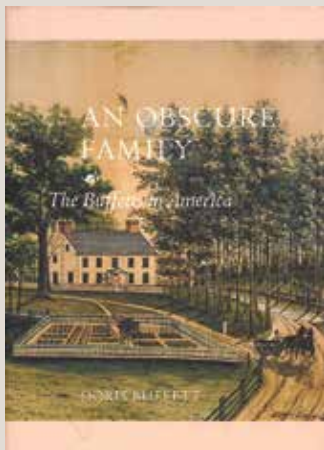


*February 16, Saturday: Nice day / had a busy day cleaning, baking and ironing. Made me [a] pair of pants this week. Baby is creeping now and that means lots of dirty clothes. Clarence was spinning tops. Rolering [sic] skating and busy as a bee all day. George got out the hand-car and they were both riding it. Moving the houses next door makes me rather blue as I am afraid our yard will not be so pleasant with so many houses jammed on those lots.*

*May 3, Friday: Snowed about all morning and every body feels blue / I wonder if we will have any fruit this year.*

*July 4, Thursday: Hot / Children all had fine time all morning and we all went to the Rod and Gun Club at Cutoff Lake in afternoon but it was too warm to be pleasant there or anywhere. Fire works in the evening and we are still all whole / thank Fortune.*

*November 10, Sunday: Quite cold last night and we had our first snow of the*



## For more information

Much of Doris Buffett's research material was deposited at the Huntington Historical Society, Huntington, New York. *An Obscure Family: The Buffetts in America* by Doris Buffett can be purchased through Amazon.com.

*season today / It made the boys happy but it will surely spoil the last little flowers.*

Henrietta Buffett died after an illness at age fifty. Her third child, Howard Homan Buffett (1903–1964), who was nineteen when she died, wrote about her to his uncle:

*As is so often the case, the rest of the children, and myself as well, did not fully appreciate the true greatness of our noble Mother while she was living, but the last two, now almost three years, have served to impress it upon my mind, and I believe the others as well, what a wonderful mother we had. As an example of what her training has done for us, all five are members of the Christian church, and furthermore, attend church regularly. None of us boys smoke, and our records as regards the use of liquor, etc. are perfect. I am telling you of these things not to throw bouquets at us, but as a tribute to our mother, who is responsible for everything worthwhile in us children.*

**Ernest Platt Buffett** (1877–1946), son of Sidney Homan and Evelyn (Ketcham) Buffett and husband of Henrietta (Duval), was a life-long resident of Omaha and spent his career in the grocery business. During the Great Depression, he wrote a letter to his oldest son, Clarence, providing perspective and counsel.

*January 30, 1934: I have seen two major depressions come and one of them go. In the [18]90's we had hard pickings and came out by the skin of our teeth. The 30's we went into well fortified, and I say*

*this without the least taint of egotism that I knew it was coming and I built my resources and guarded them in such a way that so far I have been able to withstand the ravages which have taken so many of my acquaintances and friends clear off their feet. . . .*

*So, watch your income, live within it, save something and invest. . . . Your children are entitled to a good education and the proper raising, and above all they are entitled to a good heritage, a parent with character. And, if you will always live that they can look to you with pride, they will probably live in such a way that you can be proud of them.*

*This letter can well be read in one, five, or twenty years from now and I believe the advice will still stand good as it is the result of forty years experience and observation.*

Vital records and other official documentation, such as land, court, and church records, provide the crucial framework and underpinning for any respected genealogical work. Doris Buffett's genealogy offers ample primary evidence of this type. But it also notably draws on varied and rich family sources that offer real insight into the thoughts, activities, and personalities of many generations of interesting individuals. Perhaps it is this unique and evocative material that lingers longest with the reader. ♦

Thanks to Steven L. Solomon for his assistance with this article.





# AJHS-NEA Spotlight

**American Jewish Historical Society-  
New England Archives at NEHGS**

Stephanie Call is Archivist and Manager of Digital Collections, AJHS-NEA.

## The Digital Archives of AJHS-NEA: Bringing New England's Jewish History to You

AJHS-NEA has been digitizing collections since 2007, not only as a way to preserve our vast array of photographs, documents, and ephemera, but also to provide an additional method of access for researchers. After using an in-house digital archive for several years, we recently transitioned to a more visible and functional online digital format. Now, with close to fifty collections and 300,000 images available for research, we invite NEHGS members to take a tour of our digital collections without

having to leave home. Our new digital archives allow researchers access to our collections from any place with an internet connection, and on computers, tablets, and smartphones.

The mission of AJHS-NEA is to preserve the historical record of the Jewish community of Greater Boston and New England, but even with that very specific focus we often have researchers from across the country and around the world. During the twentieth century especially, the Boston Jewish community was increasingly involved in local efforts with national and international ramifications.

Since we went “live” in 2013, researchers from as far away as London, Sidney, Tel Aviv, and Los Angeles—and those as close as New York and Massachusetts—have used our digital archives.

Graduate students, professors, biographers, and family historians alike have located documents and photographs with historical significance for their research through full-text searching, and through guided searching

using our online finding aids. One family historian in the southwestern United States was thrilled to find photographs of his grandparents in a collection of *landmanshaften* records,<sup>1</sup> when the most he hoped to find was a reference to his grandfather's name. Many of our collections are interconnected, either through obvious family relationships or records of shared community endeavors, but the digital archives can uncover previously unknown connections, as various functionalities allow researchers to search across multiple collections.

Upcoming projects also include digitization of *The Boston Jewish Times*; the records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; the addition of more complete descriptions for photographs; and typed transcriptions of handwritten documents and English translations of Yiddish, Hebrew, and German documents, making them full-text searchable.

As we continue to add to our digital archives, we will also be working with the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections at NEHGS to develop their digital collections, and eventually NEHGS members will be able to access both of our remarkable collections in one place. ♦

**Interested in using our digital archive?** Access requires a user name and password; for more information, please contact Stephanie Call, Archivist and Manager of Digital Collections, at [stephanie.call@ajhsboston.org](mailto:stephanie.call@ajhsboston.org) or 617-226-1241. You can also fill out a request on our website at [ajhsboston.org/digital-archive/](http://ajhsboston.org/digital-archive/).

### Note

<sup>1</sup> *Landmanshaftens* were benefit organizations comprised of Jewish immigrants from the same town or area in Europe.



Top: Homepage of the AJHS-NEA digital archives, [archives.ajhsboston.org](http://archives.ajhsboston.org). Below: Photographs from the Stanley and Mary Ann Kane Snider Papers in “page flip view” in the AJHS-NEA digital archives. Bottom left: Mary Ann Kane Snider on her wedding day. Bottom right: Morris Winer and an assistant in front of his dairy store on Salem Street, Boston. From Box 6, Folder 5, Collection Number P-964.

# Features of the AJHS–NEA Digital Archives, at [archives.ajhsboston.org](http://archives.ajhsboston.org)

## Search/Browse

- Perform full-text searching for names, keyword, or subjects, made possible by optical character-recognition software.
- Undertake a traditional search by finding aid (if looking for a particular box and folder in a collection) by using an advanced search feature function.
- Search multiple collections, or just one.
- Sort by relevancy, dates, or box or folder numbers.
- Access comprehensive search results with hyperlinked subjects and descriptions across all collections.

## View

- Experience the digital collections the same way researchers in the reading room experience the physical collections.
- Browse search results in the browse viewer.
- View an individual image complete with metadata and transcript, if available.
- “Flip” through a folder in page-flip view.
- Use side navigation in the document view screen to jump to pages within a digital folder.

## Web 2.0

- Comment on any image, text-based or photograph.
- Tag an image with a description.

## Other features

- Print an image.
- Mark your favorites to download or print later.
- Download images in various sizes.

## Collections Currently Available Online

### Personal and Family Papers

- Benjamin Ulin Oral History
- Colonel Bernard L. Gorfinkle
- David and Isaacs Families
- Dewey D. Stone
- Dr. Robert Sperber
- Dr. Samuel Goodman
- Elihu D. Stone
- Eliot Snider
- George and Sadie Kramer
- Harold and Romaine Goldberg
- Harry Levine
- Herbert Brutus Ehrmann
- Herbert Gorfinkle
- Judge Jacob J. Kaplan
- Judge Jennie Loitman Barron
- Mark Bortman
- Morrison Family
- Percy Brand
- Philip W. Lown
- Samuel Gurvitz
- Stanley and Mary Ann Kane Snider
- Wyner Family

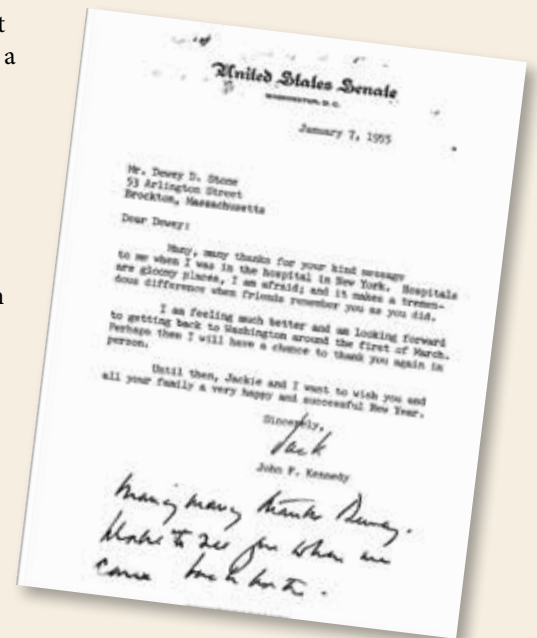
### Institutional Records

- Aleph Zadik Aleph (A.Z.A.) of the North Shore
- American Technion Society, Women's Division
- B'nai B'rith, Lynn, Massachusetts
- Bureau of Jewish Education, Boston, Massachusetts (partial)
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston, Massachusetts (partial)
- Concerned Jewish Students of Greater Boston
- Elm Farm Supermarkets

- Farband Labor Zionist Order, Brookline, Massachusetts
- Hebrew Free Loan Society of Boston
- Immigrants Mutual Aid Society
- Jewish Community Relations Council, Boston, Massachusetts (partial)
- Lynn Hebrew Young Men's Aid Association
- Meretz Relief Association
- New Century Club
- New England Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry
- Student Coalition for Soviet Jewry, Boston, Massachusetts
- Y.M.H.A. and Hecht House, Dorchester, Massachusetts

### Rabbinical Papers and Synagogue Records

- Beth Hamidrash Hagodol (Crawford Street Shul), Roxbury, Massachusetts
- Congregation Beth Israel, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- Kehillath Israel, Brookline, Massachusetts
- Massachusetts Board of Rabbis
- Morris Finkelstein, Temple Emanuel, Newton, Massachusetts
- Rabbi Albert Gordon
- Rabbi Joshua Loth Liebman
- Rabbi Maurice Zigmond
- Rabbi Meyer Azriel Rabinovitz
- Steven Kellerman Synagogue Photographs
- Touro Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island (Publications)



Digitized image of a letter from John F. Kennedy to Dewey D. Stone, January 7, 1955. Stone helped Kennedy gain a foothold with Jewish voters. Stone and Kennedy remained friends until Kennedy's death. From the Dewey D. Stone Papers, P-529, Box 1, Folder 14.



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

## The Joseph Anthony Wilkas Collection: Documenting the Lives of Twentieth-Century Lithuanian Immigrants to Boston

In August 2014, NEHGS received a donation of family papers relating to the Joseph Anthony Wilkas family of Dorchester, Massachusetts. (Dorchester is a neighborhood within Boston.) Joseph Anthony Wilkas was born 10 March 1888 in Skapiskis, Lithuania, and immigrated to the United States from Germany on the Hamburg-Amerika liner *Kaiserin Auguste Victoria* in February 1912. In 1914, in Dorchester, Joseph married Sophie Styro, also a native of Lithuania, born 15 December 1889. The collection was donated by Mary Wilkas, wife of the late Paul Wilkas and daughter-in-law of Joseph and Sophie (Styro) Wilkas, in August 2014.

Although luck and chance may have played a role in a particular document's survival, most of the documents within the collection were saved because they were meaningful to this couple and their family. Joseph Wilkas sent remittances of cash to family back in Lithuania through the Baltic States Finance Corporation and the Lithuanian Sales Corporation. The correspondence and receipts for these gifts date from 1912 to 1927. Included are a few samples of Joseph practicing writing in English, his certificate for completing Evening Elementary School (1925), and his certificate of naturalization (1927).

Sophie Wilkas saved her Russian passport (1910), her naturalization certificate (1938), a catalogue for the Trans-Atlantic Trading Company's gift parcel service, and a price list from the Globe Travel Service's parcel department. A handwritten note with the catalogue states that Sophie used the parcel service before and after World War II to send needed items to family in Lithuania. The collection also



Above: This photograph of a wedding party, taken 22 August 1959, in Varlaukis, Lithuania, was mailed to Sophie Wilkas.

Right: Images from the 1910 Russian passport belonging to Sophie (Styro) Wilkas.



Top: Sophie (Styro) Wilkas is pictured on the right. Center: An envelope mailed to Sophie from Lithuania, ca. 1958. Bottom: The Wilkas family, ca. 1928, left to right: Sophie, John, Paul, and Joseph.

contains approximately fifty letters sent to Sophie between 1920 and 1960 from family members in Lithuania.

During their years in Boston, Joseph and Sophie invested in real estate in various parts of the city. The collection contains documentation for several properties owned by the Wilkas family, including a three-family house at 239 L Street in South Boston; a three-story brick apartment building at 125 Glenville Avenue in Allston; a six-family brick house at 22–22A Crawford Street in Roxbury; and five brick stores (and land) at 815–823 Boylston Street in Brookline. The couple's most significant acquisition was a six-family tenement building at 487 Talbot Street in Dorchester, purchased on 26 September 1923. The family was living there when Joseph died on 7 August 1932, at the age of 44. Sophie died in 1970. The Talbot Street building remained in the family until 2007.

Folders for each location contain tax bills, mortgage deeds, insurance documents, and receipts. The receipts are primarily from contractors such as House Repairing & Painting Co.; Boston Plate & Window Glass Co.; Mt. Bowdoin Fuel Co.; J. J. McGowan Company, Hardware; and D. H. Lane, Plumber. The collection includes significant correspondence between Sophie Wilkas and the Central Trust Company, County Bank & Trust Company, and the RFC Mortgage Company between 1924 and 1946. Sophie struggled to retain the Talbot Avenue property during the Great Depression and its aftermath.

The collection also includes two letters written by Barbara Heath, a tenant at 487 Talbot Street. When she was a teenager, Barbara came to live in the building with her parents, and she remained there for the rest of her life. Her letters were written to her parents while she was attending a conference at Middlebury College in 1955. Barbara Heath was an English teacher for the Boston Public Schools.

Joseph and Sophie's two sons, John Joseph Philip Wilkas (1918–1986) and Paul Richard Wilkas (1926–2011), are also represented in the collection. Material concerning John Wilkas includes birth and baptism certificates; a newspaper called the *Ashmont Independent* for which John served as "Managing-Editor" in 1932 and 1933; programs relating to his education at the Boston Latin School, Holy Cross College, and Boston University; and his employment history. Paul Wilkas's participation in the Civil Defense Corps is represented, along with some biographical material.

The collection contains both loose photographs and two small photograph albums. The loose photographs include family portraits and group photos as well as photographs taken at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. One of the photograph albums contains group photos, individual photos of John or Paul Wilkas, and a few images of the house on Talbot Street. The second photograph album contains photographs of military drill practice at the Boston Latin School, an image of Paul Wilkas on Civil Defense lookout in Dorchester, and views of a quarry in Quincy, Massachusetts, and Boston's Franklin Park.

The documents within this collection provide insights into a twentieth-century immigrant family's experiences in the United States. The collection offers a good example of our continuing mission to acquire family documents to advance the study of family history in America. The R. Stanton Avery Special Collections is seeking to strengthen our holdings of family papers with original documents concerning late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century immigrant families such as the Wilkas Family.

If you hold a collection of family documents that you may wish to donate to NEHGS, please contact archivist Judy Lucey at 617-226-1232 or [jlucey@nehgs.org](mailto:jlucey@nehgs.org). Original correspondence, documents, and photographs play an



important role in assembling information about both a particular family and American family history in general. NEHGS members who view family papers held by our Society often voice their gratitude to the relative who donated the collection and ensured that this important material was preserved and made accessible—what a great legacy for future family members.♦



**Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG**, is the Editor of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. His interests include *New York and the West Indies*, and he is the author of many articles in genealogical journals.

# focus on New York



## Some Aspects of Colonial New York Ancestry

When putting together New England ancestry, the types of ancestors and connections you might hope to find are well known. But when putting together New York ancestry, the people and categories are somewhat different. A much greater chance exists for ethnic diversity, and the history of New York (New Netherland until 1664) resulted in certain people being “genealogically prominent.”

### Groups of Early Settlers (in chronological order)

Many children resulted from liaisons between Dutch men and **Native American** women. However, only a few of these children lived among the Dutch or English population and left descendants in that population. Two well-known examples are Cornelis Janse Van Texel, who married a Long Island Native American woman

named CATERONAS. Their son Jan married a Dutch woman about 1657 and left descendants in Westchester County called Van Tassel.<sup>1</sup> Cornelis Pieterse Van Slyck married a Mohawk woman by 1640, and at least two of their children married Dutch or English spouses and left descendants in the Albany area.<sup>2</sup>

New York has its own **first European settlers** who left descendants, namely, the four Walloon families who came in early 1624: Vigne, Rapalje, du Trieux, and Monfort.<sup>3</sup> However, only genealogists and some Rapalje descendants seem to be aware of these first settlers.<sup>4</sup> Their fame among these groups has not spread to the general public.

New York’s **first African American settlers** came as slaves of the Dutch West India Company soon after 1624. In 1644 many were freed, and others were freed later. The first few generations of several families have been traced, some into the nineteenth century.<sup>5</sup>

**Other “first settlers”** to leave descendants include Gerrit Jansen, from Oldenburg in Germany,<sup>6</sup> Pietro Caesare Alberti, from Italy, Augustine Herrman, from Bohemia, and Juriaen Probatski, probably of Polish ancestry.<sup>7</sup> The **first Jewish settlers** came in 1654; however, all but one, Asser Levy (who



A detail of the cover of *Albany's Tercentenary: America's Oldest City, 1624–1924* (1924).



Blanche McManus, *How the Dutch Came to Manhattan* (New York: E.R. Herrick, 1953), 9.

was childless), had left by 1665. Others settled in New York by 1676.<sup>8</sup>

## Notoriety

**Bad behavior** was rampant in New Netherland and early New York, as shown by the many published court records of the seventeenth century. How shocking to find that one's ancestor cheated customers and assaulted neighbors! A litigious and quarrelsome ancestral couple was Anthony Jansen Van Salee and his first wife, Grietje Reyniers, generally regarded as a prostitute. They eventually were banished from New Amsterdam.<sup>9</sup>

Three other women of New Amsterdam suspected of being prostitutes were warned in no uncertain language by the governing council in 1654 (the first one left descendants): "Marye du Truy, otherwise called *Einhoorn* [Unicorn], presently innkeeper and wife of Jan Peeck, innkeeper; Cristyntien Greveraecht, otherwise called Liestentien, wife of Hendrick Hendricksz, tailor; and Geertien Jacobsz, commonly known as the *Schoone Boerin* [Beautiful Farmer], wife of Geurt Coerten, drayman."<sup>10</sup>

**Pirates** lived in early New York, but none who left descendants there appear to have been notorious; these men were merely crew members on pirate ships. Most later became privateers or retired.<sup>11</sup>

Elizabeth (Fones) (Winthrop) (Feake) Hallett, otherwise known as the "**Winthrop Woman**," had notoriety thrust upon her after she was abandoned by her second husband. She tried to obtain a divorce so she could marry a younger man, but neither New Netherland nor the New Haven Colony would give her one — until her Winthrop relatives intervened.<sup>12</sup>

## Major Landholders

New Netherland and New York were underpopulated, especially as compared to New England. As a result, the Dutch and English governments introduced substantial land grants in the form of **patroonships** (under the Dutch) or **manors or patents** (under

the English).<sup>13</sup> Most of these land grants were made to major landholders who were important men in the colony of New York or at least "local notables" where they resided.<sup>14</sup>

A group of potential but unsuccessful landholders were the descendants of **Anneke Jans Bogardus** (1605–1663). Trinity Church (at the head of Wall Street in lower Manhattan) had been granted extensive real property by the colonial governor, and in the 1780s some of Anneke's descendants brought a lawsuit claiming that sixty-two acres of Trinity Church's land rightfully belonged to them. The lawsuit dragged on for more than a century, even though the descendants always lost.<sup>15</sup>

## Royal Descents

Valid **royal descents** have been traced for a few dozen colonial New Yorkers who left descendants. Most were English or Scottish, though two Dutch settlers had remote royal lines.<sup>16</sup> Not surprisingly, several New Englanders who settled in New York in the colonial period had royal descents.

## Mayflower

Similarly, **New Englanders with Mayflower ancestry** settled in New York. For example, by 1680 three *Mayflower* descendants had settled in Oyster Bay with their families.<sup>17</sup> By 1679 another had settled elsewhere in Queens County, probably in Newtown.<sup>18</sup> And by 1713 still another had settled in East Hampton.<sup>19</sup> All left descendants.

## Conclusion

A visitor to New Netherland in 1643 reported that eighteen languages were spoken,<sup>20</sup> and in 1692 one inhabitant observed that New York City was "too great a mixture of nations and English the least part."<sup>21</sup> With their variety and distinctiveness, the groups that comprised New York's colonial settlers conjure up thoughts of a "melting pot," long before the term was coined in the early twentieth century. ♦

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Field Horne, "A Pedigree Partly Indian and Partly Batavian: The Van Tassell Family and Their Native American Ancestry," in Gaynell Stone, ed., *The History & Archaeology of the Montauk*, Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory, Vol. III, 2nd ed. (Stony Brook, N.Y.: Suffolk County Archaeological Association and Nassau County Archaeological Committee, 1993), 311–313. "Batavian," the Latin name for a tribe that inhabited part of the present-day Netherlands, has often been used in lieu of "Dutch."
- <sup>2</sup> Thomas E. Burke, *Mohawk Frontier: The Dutch Community of Schenectady, New York, 1661–1710* (Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 1991), 119, 147–153, 183, 203.
- <sup>3</sup> Henry B. Hoff, "The First Settlers of New York in 1624," *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 11:1 (Winter 2010):28–29, 39.
- <sup>4</sup> The claim that Sarah Rapalje was the first white girl born in New Netherland was remembered by many of her descendants and even descendants of her siblings.
- <sup>5</sup> Henry B. Hoff, "Researching African-American Families in New Netherland and Colonial New York and New Jersey," in Margriet Lacy, ed., *A Beautiful and Fruitful Place: Selected Rensselaerswijk Papers*, Volume 3 (Albany, N.Y.: New Netherland Institute, 2013), 106–16; adapted from the author's article of the same title in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record (NYGBR)* 136 (2005):83–95.
- <sup>6</sup> Phyllis J. Miller, "The Garrison–Gerritsen Descendants of Gerrit Jansen van Oldenburg Alias Gerrit de Mof," *NYGBR* 124 (1993):1–9. The 847 Palatine families who came in 1710 are "genealogically prominent" because the European origins of so many of them have been identified by Henry Z Jones, Jr., and his researchers (for his works, see *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 14:1 [Winter 2013], 53–54).
- <sup>7</sup> For the last three, see the sources cited for them in David M. Riker, *Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland, from 1613 to 1674*, 4 vols., and Supplement (Salem, Mass.: Higginson Books, 1999, 2004), Vol. 1 (Alberti); Vol. 3 (Probatksi/Probasco); Supplement (Herrman). Note also *American National Biography*, 26 vols. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 10:671–172 for Herrman, and Harry Macy, Jr., "Juriaen Probasco's Place of Origin," *NYGBR* 125 (1994):204.
- <sup>8</sup> Joyce D. Goodfriend, *Before the Melting Pot: Society and Culture in Colonial New York City, 1664–1730* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1992), 46.
- <sup>9</sup> Much has been written about this couple. A basic work is Hazel Van Dyke Roberts, "Anthony Jansen Van Salee, 1607–1676," *NYGBR* 103 (1972):16–28; 118 (1987):210. Anthony was apparently from Salé in Morocco, making him another "first settler."
- <sup>10</sup> Charles T. Gehring, transl. and ed., *Council Minutes, 1652–1654*, New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch, Vol. V (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 137, 227.
- <sup>11</sup> See, for example, Otto and Aert Van Tuyl in Rory L. Van Tuyl and Jan N. A. Groenendijk, *A Van Tuyl Chronicle . . .* (Decorah, Iowa: Amundsen Publishing Co., 1996), 590–591.
- <sup>12</sup> Elizabeth's story has been told most recently by Missy Wolfe in *Insubordinate Spirit: A True Story of Life and Loss in Earliest America, 1610–1665* (Guilford, Conn.: Globe Pequot Press, 2012). Elizabeth was the niece of Gov. John Winthrop of Massachusetts and the first cousin (and sister-in-law) of his son, John Winthrop, Jr., of Connecticut.
- <sup>13</sup> Jaap Jacobs, *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2009), 69–76; Sung Bok Kim, *Landlord and Tenant in Colonial New York: Manorial Society, 1664–1775* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1978); Henry B. Hoff, "Manors in New York," *The NYGB&B Newsletter* 10:4 (Fall 1999), 55–59; 11:1 (Winter 2000):13–17.
- <sup>14</sup> Some of the major landholders were not even residents of New York.
- <sup>15</sup> Various books and articles cover this case. The most recent genealogy of Anneke's descendants is William Brower Bogardus, *Dear "Cousin": A Charted Genealogy of the Descendants of Anneke Jans Bogardus (1605–1663) . . .* (Wilmington, Ohio: Anneke Jans and Everardus Bogardus Descendants Association, 1996).
- <sup>16</sup> Most, if not all, of the lines are summarized in Gary Boyd Roberts, *The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies or the United States . . .* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2008); the two Dutch lines are summarized at 459–462.
- <sup>17</sup> Elizabeth Pearson White, *John Howland of the Mayflower, Volume 4, The First Five Generations: Documented Descendants Through His Fourth Child Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Howland, Wife of Ephraim Hicks and Captain John Dickinson* (Rockland, Maine: Picton Press, 2008), 29–35; Peter B. Hill, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Volume 11, Part 3: Descendants of Pilgrim Edward Doty Through Isaac<sup>2</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Mary<sup>2</sup>* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2000), 4–5; Robert S. Wakefield, *Mayflower*

*Families Through Five Generations, Volume 8: Family of Degory Priest* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1994), 6–7.

- <sup>18</sup> Robert M. Sherman, Verle D. Vincent, Robert S. Wakefield, and Lydia D. Finlay, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Volume Fifteen: Families of James Chilton and Richard More* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1997), 17–18, 50–51.
- <sup>19</sup> Robert S. Wakefield and Margaret Harris Stover, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Volume Seventeen: Family of Isaac Allerton* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1998), 53–54.
- <sup>20</sup> J. Franklin Jameson, ed., *Narratives of New Netherland, 1609–1664* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1909), 259–260.
- <sup>21</sup> Charles Lodowick, "New York in 1692," *Collections of The New-York Historical Society*, 2nd series, Vol. 2 (New York, 1849), 233.



Blanche McManus, *How the Dutch Came to Manhattan* (New York: E. R. Herrick, 1953), 29.



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**Multiple Surnames** *New Jersey Pioneers: Twenty-Four Families with New Jersey Immigrants 1676–1705, Their New England Immigrant Ancestors 1630–1662, and Ohio Descendants 1803–1822*, Donald G. Armstrong (Marco Island, Fla.: Penobscot Press, 2014). Hardcover, x+591 pp. Every-name index, photographs. Families include Allen, Barber, Bickley, Bowne, Bunting, Chase, Cooke, Curtis, Ely, Feake, Fones, Foulke, Holeman, Horseman, Howland, Orr, Regnier/Rinear, Stacy, Steward, Swift, Taylor, Thorn, Wheeler, and Wright. \$55 (\$49.50 for GSNJ members), plus \$3 shipping (New Jersey residents include 7% sales tax). Available from the Genealogical Society of New Jersey, P.O. Box 1476, Trenton, NJ 08607; gsnj.org.

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## OBITUARY

### Betty Abrego Ring, 1923–2014

Betty Ring, a needlework expert and longtime NEHGS member, died in Houston, Texas, 5 May 2014, aged 91. She was born in Beaumont, Texas, 18 March 1923, the daughter of Claude and Nellie (Fitzsimmons) Abrego.

Mrs. Ring attended the University of Texas and, after raising her children, pursued her interests in history, antiques, and the decorative arts. Her particular focus was eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century American schoolgirl needlework. She became an expert on the topic, and assembled one of the finest collections of schoolgirl embroideries in existence. Mrs. Ring wrote and edited numerous books and magazine articles, the most notable being *Girlhood Embroidery: American Samplers and Pictorial Needlework, 1650–1850* (Knopf: 2003), a much-acclaimed and authoritative two-volume work.

Mrs. Ring, a member of our organization for thirty-two years, researched at our library over many decades, spoke at our conferences, and designated us as the recipient of funds when she won the Antiques Dealers Association Award of Merit in 2005. She also contributed a chapter ("One Moment in Time: The Family Portrait Mourning Piece, a Unique American Form") to *The Art of Family: Genealogical Artifacts in New England*, edited by D. Brenton Simons and Peter Benes (NEHGS: 2002).

Mrs. Ring was predeceased by her husband of over sixty-five years, Gregg Ring, and a son, George Randolph Ring. She is survived by six children and five grandchildren.

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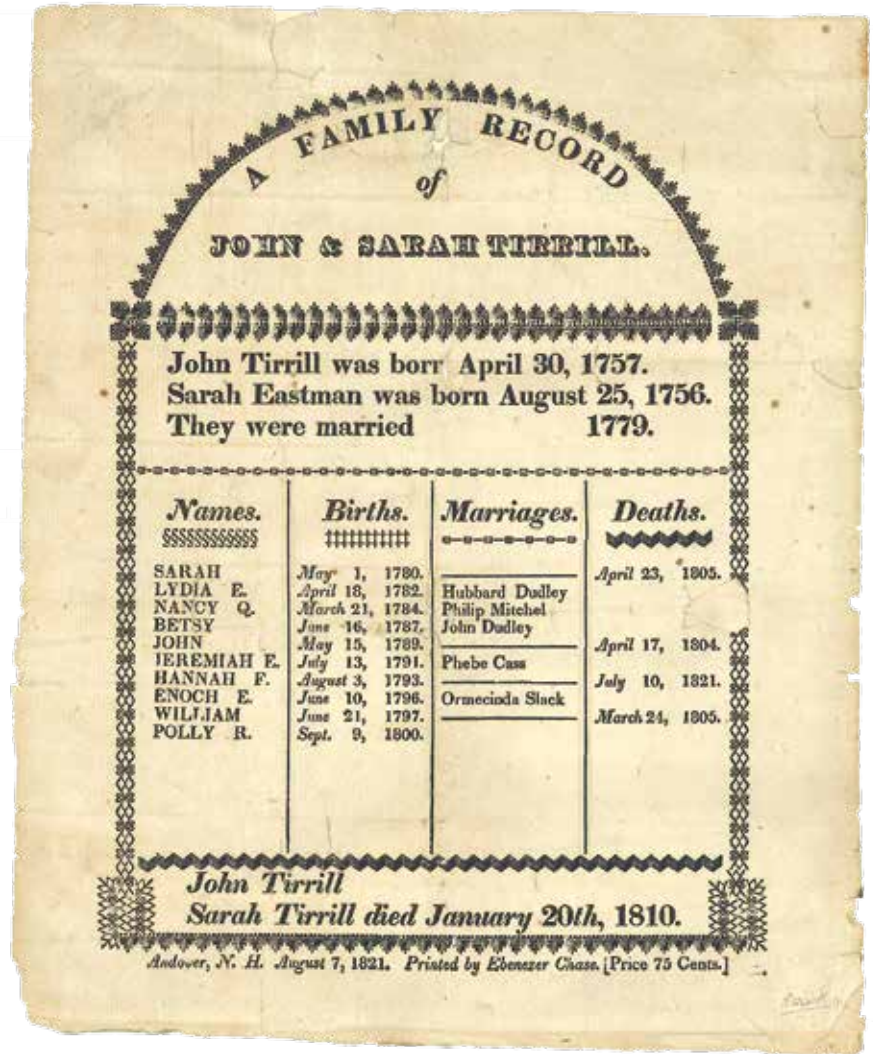
## The John and Sarah Tirrill Family Record

NEHGS recently acquired a rare letterpress family record, measuring 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches. Printed on laid paper, this unusual broadsheet-style family record shows a wide array of typographic examples—the printer likely relished an opportunity to utilize so many decorative elements. Although purchased from an antique dealer in Connecticut, the record was printed in Andover, Merrimack County, New Hampshire, by Ebenezer Chase. Born in 1785, Ebenezer Chase was a Free-Will Baptist pastor who began his press in 1819 with a history of the “Late WAR with GREAT-BRITAIN,” an English grammar, a collection of hymns, and his monthly magazine, *The Religious Informer*.

It is not known who commissioned the family record, which includes events from 1756 to 1821. Perhaps it was head of the family John Tirrill, who was 64 when it was created on 7 August 1821. Or maybe the impetus came from one of his six surviving children. A price of “75 Cents” is indicated at bottom right, a most unusual feature among known family records. Our searches have found no other existing copies.

John Tirrill was born 30 April 1757 in Deerfield, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, son of William and Sarah (Stevens) Tirrill. He served as a private in the Revolutionary War. John Tirrill married Sarah Eastman (b. 25 August 1756 in Deerfield), daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah (Quimby) Eastman, in Deerfield on 27 December 1779. Over a twenty-year span, from 1780 to 1800, the couple had ten children: Sarah, Lydia Eastman, Nancy Quimby, Betsy, John, Jeremiah Eastman, Hannah F., Enoch E., William, and Polly R.

The family relocated to Andover, about fifty miles northwest of Deerfield, in 1787–1788. John Tirrill was a farmer and carpenter. Pat Cutter of the Andover Historical Society informs us that an old square house likely built by John Tirrill between 1790 and 1800 on property the Tirrills occupied is now being beautifully restored by a new owner.



Sarah (Eastman) Tirrill died 20 January 1810. The family record does not indicate that John Tirrill remarried again, on 7 March 1811. John's second wife, Miriam Bassett, was living when he died in Andover on 4 October 1823, two years after his family record was printed.

**Sources:** George H. Sargent, “The Centenary of the Andover Press.” *The Granite Monthly* 51 (1919), 287–295; Robert Wilson Tirrell, *The Tirrell, Tirrill-Terrill, Tyrrell Book* (1969), 63, 98–100; and John R. Eastman, *History of the Town of Andover, New Hampshire, 1751–1906* (1910), 366.

—Lynn Betlock, Editor

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## Volume 15 — Index of Persons

Compiled by Steve Csipke

**Note:** The first number in each listing refers to the issue number (winter – 1, spring – 2, summer – 3, fall – 4) and the second number refers to the page on which the name appears.

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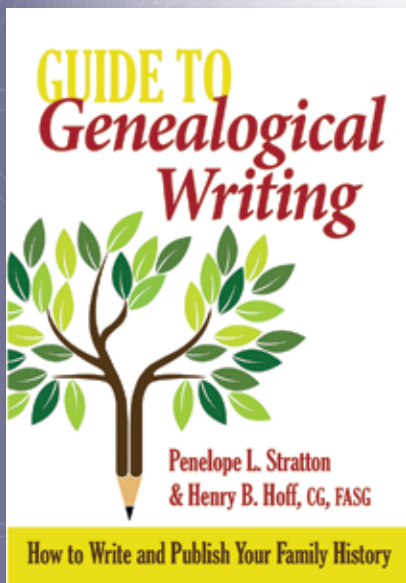
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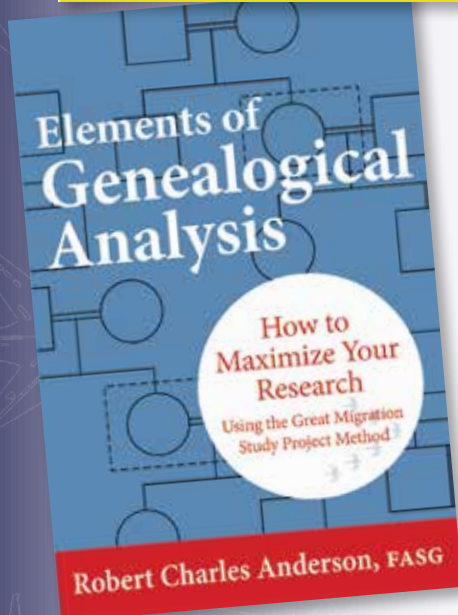
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