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# Fall 2017

VOL. 18, NO. 3

**28 NEHGS Study Projects:  
Examining Ancestors in  
Context**  
Alicia Crane Williams, FASG,  
Scott Andrew Bartley,  
Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG

**On the cover:** Elizabeth (Clarke) Freake  
and Baby Mary, ca. 1671–1674, by the  
Freake Gibbs Painter, active about 1670–  
1678. Worcester Art Museum, Worcester,  
Massachusetts, USA/Bridgeman Images.  
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# View from the family tree



The advent of DNA testing has enabled family historians to augment, advance, and verify research in an unprecedented way. NEHGS was at the forefront of the genetic genealogy revolution through our long friendship and partnership with DNA pioneer Dr. Bryan Sykes, whose groundbreaking study, *DNA USA: A Genetic Portrait of America*, features our organization. The field of genetic genealogy is continually evolving, and keeping up with new developments and applications for its use in family history research can be daunting. In response to member feedback, our experts have developed resources for the effective use of DNA research in family history.



Brenton Simons

Our genetics resources include a frequent Genetics & Genealogy column in *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*, as well as a new Portable Genealogist guide for researchers. DNA expert Christopher C. Child's in-depth online course "Using DNA in Your Family History Research" is available for viewing on our website, as is his webinar on choosing a DNA test. We are particularly proud of our publication of *The Stranger in My Genes*, Bill Griffeth's best-selling memoir on his surprising genealogical discovery due to a DNA test.

In response to member feedback, we now offer "post-test" consultations with our experts, in person and via phone or online video conference. In these sessions, patrons receive assistance accessing and understanding their results, a review of their current tree and identification of individuals for potential further research based on DNA findings, and recommendations for next steps to advance their overall research project. If you would like to schedule a consultation, please contact Alice Kane at [consultations@nehgs.org](mailto:consultations@nehgs.org) or 617-226-1271.

Our new webpage "The DNA Download" at [AmericanAncestors.org/DNA](http://AmericanAncestors.org/DNA) collects all our genetics resources in one place for easy discovery.

Whether you have taken multiple DNA tests or are just starting to explore how DNA could inform your research, I invite you to explore our resources in this area. As is often the case in family history research, you never know what you may find.

*Brenton*

Brenton Simons  
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## The Weekly Genealogist newsletter

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



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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

When I began my genealogical research—at age 14—I happily immersed myself in the study of my ancestors, who were a source of endless fascination for me. I had some interest in my ancestors' siblings and their families, particularly ones discussed by my grandparents, but I focused almost exclusively on my ancestors themselves.

When I joined NEHGS as a staff member in 1995, I learned about a vast array of compelling projects, both published and unpublished, that cast wide genealogical nets. I was impressed with these endeavors but I wondered how people could devote so much time and energy to research that did not concentrate on their own ancestors.

Slowly, I began to gain a new perspective. Over the last two decades I've worked with Robert Charles Anderson on various aspects of the Great Migration Study Project, which documents all immigrants to New England from 1620 to 1640. I witnessed firsthand the enormous impact and reach of the project. Applying rigorous research methods to the study of these immigrants—as individuals and as members of a larger community—led to significant new insights and scholarship. And potential beneficiaries are the millions of descendants of these early New Englanders.

Following on the success of the Great Migration volumes, NEHGS undertook three additional study projects: Early New England Families from 1641 to 1700, Early Vermont Settlers to 1784, and Western Massachusetts Families to 1790. In this issue's cover feature, Lead Genealogists Alicia Crane Williams, Scott Andrew Bartley, and Helen Schatvet Ullmann reflect on their projects. These authors share with readers how they find and evaluate sources, construct family sketches, overcome research challenges, and make new discoveries.

All three authors have ancestors that fall within their project purviews. Helen Ullmann's forbear, Richard Morton of New Salem, Hampshire

County, is treated in the Western Massachusetts project. Currently two of Drew Bartley's ancestors are included in the Vermont Families study: Lusanna (Nichols) Bates of Springfield and William Upham of Springfield and Weathersfield, with more to come. Although Alicia Williams doesn't yet have an ancestor represented in Early New England Families, she will when she reaches the year 1643 and can add Joshua Fisher.

These ancestral ties no doubt add some additional interest for the authors. But of course the achievements of these projects derive from setting aside a focus on one's own ancestors and examining *everyone* in a particular time and place. In an email to me, Alicia Williams observed: "The project has broadened my horizons immensely as my ancestors are fairly bunched in local clusters, which is normal for most. I've had to learn about New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Essex County [Massachusetts], and all those places that I had not spent much time in before. The project is, indeed, an education."

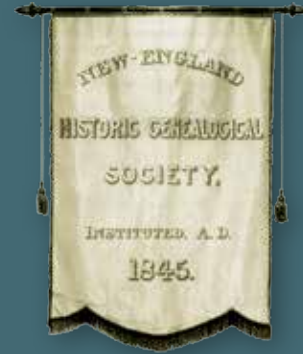
I've thought about how bringing a study project frame of reference to genealogical research can be useful. Anyone's work could benefit from applying rigorous standards of methodology. I've also acquired new perspectives on my ancestors by considering the many communities to which they belonged—and for what study projects they would be eligible if I had unlimited time and effort to create such studies.

Somewhere along the way, my thinking shifted. Not only am I much more aware of the gains that can be achieved by looking beyond one's own ancestors to a wider research topic, I can personally see the appeal. Maybe one of these days I'll have to see about a study project of my own . . .



Lynn Betlock  
Managing Editor  
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# American Ancestors



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

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

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# branches of our family

## Gerard A. Halpin, III: On a genealogical journey with NEHGS

Having lived in Boston for many years, I often walked by the NEHGS building on Newbury Street. I always had an interest in genealogy and dabbled with it, but about five years ago I decided to get serious about my research. I wanted to work through some of the papers and charts I had inherited from my family and investigate information from an old Bible from my wife's family. For Christmas one year my wife gave me a Life Membership to support my endeavors. After I attended a couple of NEHGS courses, a friend encouraged us to go with her to the 2014 Family History dinner featuring Doris Kearns Goodwin. At the dinner I met so many interesting people that I got more excited about NEHGS and wanted to become more involved.

Before he passed away, my uncle gave me copies of all his genealogical papers, including a birth certificate that identified my great-great grandparents in Ireland. As I undertook my research—finding family members in this country and then tracing them to Ireland—the names of the ancestors listed on the birth certificate began to seem wrong. With the help of technology not available to my uncle, I determined the names of my actual great-great-grandparents: James Halpin and Ellen Reilly. My only regret is that my uncle is not alive to share this discovery.

About a year ago, I decided to take a DNA test. If you had asked me about my ancestry before the test, I would have said was mostly Irish with some English through my maternal grandmother. My test indicated I was 88% Irish and very little English. I was very surprised that my Irish percentage was so high. A friend who is an Irish citizen joked that most Irish citizens were less Irish than I am. Due to the test results, I redirected my research and discovered that my Watson ancestors are actually from County Roscommon, Ireland, not England.

In the United States, my ancestors predominately lived in New England. My wife's ancestry includes *Mayflower* descendants, first families of Canada, and Revolutionary War veterans, who lived in a variety of locations. We would very much like to visit the places they lived, which include New England, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. We would also like to travel with NEHGS on two of the trips commemorating the 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower*: one to Scrooby Manor in England and one to Leiden in the Netherlands. In addition, we are very interested in going



Gerard and Anne (Feeley) Halpin (back row, center) with their family in Quincy, Massachusetts, in 1962. The author is located in the middle row, on the far right.

to England and Ireland for genealogical research, not just as tourists.

For me, the NEHGS library, the information available on [AmericanAncestors.com](http://AmericanAncestors.com), the courses and webinars, and the publications are all invaluable resources. I recently attended the French Canadian Genealogy webinar and an in-person seminar: *Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls: Strategies for Success*. I am very lucky to live in Boston, only a short walk from the Newbury Street headquarters, and can utilize many of the library and education resources in person. But what I think makes NEHGS unique is the people—from the incredibly helpful and knowledgeable staff and administration to my fellow members. I think NEHGS is an incredibly talented organization and I am proud to be associated with it.

I have not yet used Research Services, but I am looking forward to working with one of their staff members. I have saved the hours of expert assistance that came with my Life Membership since I know I will need help completing my wife's *Mayflower* ancestry. As my wife gave me my membership as a gift, I think using my benefits to further her family history is only fitting. ♦



Gerard A. Halpin, III, a Life Benefactor, joined NEHGS in 2013 and became a Councilor at the April 2017 annual meeting. Gerry has spent his career in finance and is currently the President and CEO of Siemens Capital Company LLC. Gerry and his wife live in downtown Boston and in Cotuit on Cape Cod. They have two grown children.





**American  
Ancestors**

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# 2018 *Heritage Tours*

## **Palladian Pathways in Italy's Veneto**

**Tour Leader: Curt DiCamillo**  
**May 6–12**

## **The New York You've Never Seen**

**Tour Leader: Don Friary**  
**June 20–23**

## **The Great Houses of Yorkshire**

**Tour Leader: Curt DiCamillo**  
**June 24–30**

## **Pilgrim Roots of the Great Migration**

**Tour Leader: Robert Charles Anderson**  
**August 7–15**

For more information, visit  
**[AmericanAncestors.org/heritage-tours](http://AmericanAncestors.org/heritage-tours)**



## ask our genealogists

**Ann Lawthers, NEHGS Genealogist,**  
*helps researchers of all experience levels  
identify resources and develop strategies  
to find elusive ancestors.*

I am trying to determine whether my ancestor, Charles Arnold, who married Elizabeth Hierlihy and died in Scott, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, in 1861, was the child of Salmon Arnold (1771–1822) and Selina Wilde (1774–1826). I haven't found a birth record for Charles Arnold in Pennsylvania, and I haven't found him named in a published genealogy. I located one reference that claimed Salmon Arnold had a child named Charles who was born February 8, 1801, in Rhode Island. In the 1860 census, the birthplace of Charles Arnold is given as Rhode Island. How can I determine the parents of Charles Arnold?

The U.S. federal censuses for 1850 and 1860 give the birthplace of Charles Arnold of Scott, Luzerne County, as Rhode Island. From his age at the time of those censuses, he was born about 1797 or 1800. As I'm sure you have discovered, Arnold was a common surname in Rhode Island at the turn of the nineteenth century. To identify the

parents of Charles Arnold, start with known facts and work backwards. The first goal is to identify an earlier residence in Rhode Island.

The 1840 census lists a Chas Arnold as a head of household in Abington, Luzerne County, with a woman who was likely his wife, as well as five boys and one girl under 14. No Charles Arnold is found in the 1830 census in Pennsylvania, so Charles probably

arrived in Luzerne County between 1830 and 1840. The only Charles Arnold enumerated in Rhode Island in 1830 lived in West Greenwich, Kent County in a household that included four boys under ten. (Although your Charles could have been enumerated as a household head in 1820, this scenario is unlikely as he would have been only about 20.) Because the circumstantial evidence is reasonably compelling and both the 1830 and 1840 households contained more than three boys, you should continue to research the Charles Arnold in Rhode Island in 1830.

The next step would be to identify a pool of possible parents. One option is to use the AmericanAncestors.org database to search for Arnold couples in Rhode Island with children born between 1790 and about 1805—while recognizing the possibility that Charles' birth may not have been recorded. You may also use the federal census to identify Rhode Island Arnold households with young male children (under 10 in 1800, and under 10 plus 10–15 in 1810). Finally, research the pool of candidate parents and eliminate couples as you locate information that supports or denies a connection to your Charles Arnold.



*Rhode Island* (Baltimore: Fielding Lucas, Jr., 1822). Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection. West Greenwich is marked.



I am a beginning genealogist and know nothing about probate records. I found one dated March 29, 1697, for my husband's ancestor, Thomas Ivory of Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts. Does a probate record usually provide a death date? Did a probate record need to be submitted within a given time frame? I have been unable to find a death record for Thomas Ivory and would like use an estimated date.

Welcome to the world of probate! First, some background. Per *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006), probate is the process of transferring “the legal responsibility for payment of taxes, care and custody of dependent family members, liquidation of debts, and transfer of property title to heirs from the deceased . . .” (p. 268). The two types of probate are: testate (the person leaves a will) or intestate (no will). Probate records can be valuable for proving kinship. Wills often mention spouses and children, including married names of daughters. During the settling of an estate, the probate process can generate important documents: a property inventory, petitions and assignment of guardianship for

minor children, administration bonds, and settlement papers. Grouped together—with a will, if one existed—these papers form a probate packet.

A probate packet does not always provide a death date. The American colonies, following English law, began the probate process at the first court session after a death. Simple and uncontested estates could be settled quickly, while others took years to finalize. The date you found—29 March 1697—appears on a petition to administer the estate as well as the face of the packet, so it is only the starting date of the probate process. Since the Essex County court met quarterly, Thomas Ivory likely died within the preceding 90 days.

I have been using Samuel G. Drake's *The Founders of New England*. [Published in the *Register* in 1860 and reprinted by NEHGS in 2012, this work contains passenger lists and other documents from the British Archives relevant to early migration to New England.] The book is fascinating, but some of the given names are shortened and hard to decipher. Could you help me with the following abbreviations? Ant<sup>o</sup>, ffra:, Jn<sup>o</sup>, Jo:, Joh:, Kat:, Nic<sup>o</sup>, Ric<sup>e</sup>, Sym:, and Tho:.

Drake was attempting to present exact transcriptions of handwritten originals. An article on the Board for Certification of Genealogists website ([bcgcertification.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Hill-W141.pdf](http://bcgcertification.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Hill-W141.pdf)) might be useful. The author, Ronald Hill, notes: “Probably the single most difficult aspect of reading old manuscripts is interpreting the many and various contractions and abbreviations that were used by scribes to save space and time.” Both a superscript letter and a colon can signal that a contraction is being used. Of course, interpreting the contraction is another matter. Two websites list common abbreviations for English given names:

[opcdorset.org/miscellaneous/Miscellaneous-Contractions.htm](http://opcdorset.org/miscellaneous/Miscellaneous-Contractions.htm) and [homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~oel/givennames.html](http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~oel/givennames.html). Using these two sources, I find that your abbreviations stand for the following names:

- Ant<sup>o</sup> Anthony
- ffra: Francis
- Jn<sup>o</sup> John
- Jo: John
- Joh: John
- Kat: Katherine
- Nic<sup>o</sup> Nicholas
- Ric<sup>e</sup> Richard
- Sym: Simon (Symon)
- Tho: Thomas. ♦

## Do you have a question for our genealogists?

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

## Do you need more in-depth help?

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

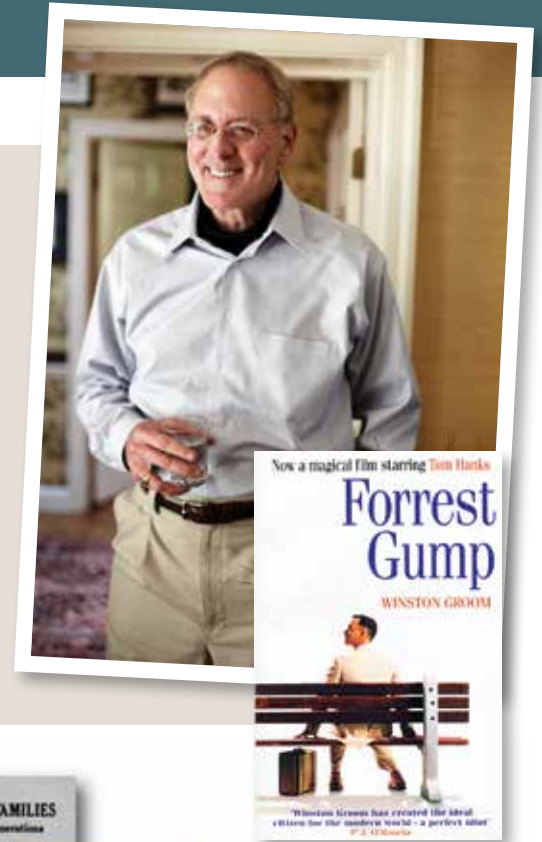
# News

## Winston Groom to be honored at Fall Family History Benefit Dinner

On Thursday, October 26, 2017, we will honor bestselling author Winston Groom with our Lifetime Achievement Award at our Fall Family History Benefit Dinner, the proceeds of which will support expanding family history resources at NEHGS.

Winston Groom is the author of more than twenty books, including *Forrest Gump*, *Conversations with the Enemy* (Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Shiloh 1862*, and *The Generals*. He served in Vietnam with the Fourth Infantry Division and lives in Point Clear, Alabama.

For information on this event, contact Jenna LaRiviere at [Jenna.LaRiviere@nehgs.org](mailto:Jenna.LaRiviere@nehgs.org) or 617-226-1215.



## NEHGS Partners with General Society of Mayflower Descendants

NEHGS has partnered with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) to bring invaluable genealogical resources to members. New searchable databases on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) will be created from authenticated *Mayflower* Pilgrim genealogies and 50 years of published *Mayflower* passenger scholarship from *Mayflower Quarterly*. GSMD members will enjoy generous discounts on new memberships with NEHGS.

Known as the "Silver Books" because of their distinctive covers, the *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* series from the GSMD meticulously documents the first five generations of descendants of *Mayflower* passengers who arrived in 1620. This essential resource for studying family relationships resulting from the 25 families of the *Mayflower* known to have American descendants has previously been accessible only in print publications produced by GSMD and available through the Bookstore at NEHGS. As a result of this new partnership, the fifth generation portion of these volumes will all be available on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) for members of both organizations.







## Making History on the Boston Common

On June 5 we traveled back in time to participate in the yearly “Making History” event on the Boston Common and engaged fourth and fifth graders from local schools in a spirited debate over the creation of America’s first subway system. NEHGS staff members Tricia Labbe and David Lambert acted the parts of Julia Ward Howe, an advocate for the preservation of the Common, and Henry Whitney, a proponent of the subway.



## Employees of the Year

Every year, NEHGS honors staff excellence in three categories at our annual meeting. This year’s recipients were, from left to right above, Stephanie Call (“beyond the call of duty”), Kyle Hurst (“best contribution to the field of genealogy”), and Ann Lawthers (“outstanding service to members”).



## NEHGS on the road

The annual NGS Conference was held in May 2017 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Along with records and repositories, historical context, and methodology, the conference program featured a DNA track and workshops on chromosome mapping. Other topics included North Carolina, Regional Movement, Native American, African American, and research beyond U.S. borders.

NEHGS exhibited and lectured, and was also a sponsor of the conference. Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert spoke on how to get the most out of AmericanAncestors.org. David and Christopher C. Child were busy throughout giving mini-consultations to booth visitors and members. We look forward to participating next year in this exciting and informative event, to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

# NEHGS welcomes new Trustees and Councilors

The following trustees and councilors were elected at the annual meeting of the Society on April 29, 2017. The support of these individuals is invaluable to NEHGS, and we are grateful for their leadership.

## New Board Members



**Nordahl L. Brue** of Delray Beach, Fla., is a lawyer and entrepreneur currently serving as Chairman of Northbridge Investments LLC. He is best known as a founder of Bruegger's Bagels, which today runs approximately 300 bakery-cafes in 24 states and the District of Columbia. He is a Life Member and

former Chair of Grinnell College's Board of Trustees, a former Chair of PKC Corporation and Franklin Foods, serves on the boards of Green Mountain Power Corporation and NNEEC, and is a former member of the Vermont State Governor's Council of Economic Advisors. A member of NEHGS since 2002, Nord is a past Councilor and Life Member.

Industry and the Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania. Tom is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including The Otto Haas Award for historic preservation from Preservation Pennsylvania, Preservationist of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the naming of the Thomas B. Hagen History Center by the Erie County (Penn.) Historical Society, and the Pennsylvania Governor's Patron of the Arts Award. A member of The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (Edward Fuller) and Sons of the American Revolution (Gen. Jacob Bayley), Tom is also the award-winning author of *The Historic Tibbals House, 1842*. An NEHGS member since 1993, he is a Life Benefactor and a past Councilor. He was a participant in our 2016 tour, "A Golden Land: The Country Houses and Gardens of Buckinghamshire."



**Thomas Bailey Hagen** of Erie, Penn., is Chairman of the Board of Erie Insurance Group, from which he retired following a 40-year career that included serving as CEO. He is also Chairman of Custom Group Industries, metal fabrication and machining companies in Erie. His past public

service roles include Pennsylvania Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Community & Economic Development. His board experience includes the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (Vice Chairman), The Pennsylvania Society (Emeritus, Past President), Team Pennsylvania Foundation (Emeritus, Co-Founder, Past Chairman), The Chautauqua Foundation, the Erie Community Foundation, the Jefferson Educational Society, and the Athenæum of Philadelphia (retired). He is also a past Chairman of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and



**M. David Sherrill** of New York, N.Y., is Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Management Director of The Vector Group, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in New York City. He is President of the William Ellis Robinson Foundation, a former Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars (N.Y.), a former Treasurer of the New

York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, and a former Board member and Treasurer of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. He authored *The American Ancestry of Edward Mason Knight*, *The American Ancestry of Julia Hutchinson*, and *From Hoy to Hoyt*. A member of NEHGS since 1999, David has served as a past Trustee, Councilor, Treasurer, and on numerous board committees, including as Chair of the Finance Committee. He is a Life Benefactor.



# New Councilors



**Mark Thomas Cox, IV** of Richmond, Va., has been President of the Chalk Bluffs Foundation for Historic Preservation and Conservation since 2001. He retired from Dominion Resources in 2000 after eight years in various senior executive positions. He was U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the World Bank 1981–1988, after a

16-year financial career with First Chicago Corporation in domestic and international locations. He currently serves as a Director of Seabee Bankcorp, on the Board and Executive Committee of the Richmond Symphony, and on the Virginia Opera Board. Mark is a member of numerous genealogical societies, including the Mayflower Society (currently as Deputy Governor General from Virginia), Alden Kindred of America, Pilgrim John Howland Society, Soule Kindred of America, the Society of Colonial Wars, and the Society of the War of 1812. An Associate Member of NEHGS, Mark joined the Society in 2000.



**Rose A. Doherty** of Needham, Mass., currently serves as President of the Partnership of Historic Bostons, as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Needham Free Public Library, and on the Needham Historical Commission. Former positions include President of the Library Foundation of Needham, Academic

Dean at Katharine Gibbs School, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Gibbs College-Boston, and Assistant Dean and Director of Liberal Arts and Criminal Justice Programs at Northeastern University's University College. Rose's teaching experience includes Boston College, Boston Conservatory of Music, and Katharine Gibbs School. She is the author of *Katharine Gibbs: Beyond White Gloves* and articles in *American Ancestors*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *Boston College Magazine*. She is an experienced public speaker, including for NEHGS, where she has been a member since 2005.



**Carron Leigh Haight** of Boston, Mass., is an attorney, independent contractor, and legal writer, with extensive previous legal experience as Of Counsel, Attorney, Associate Attorney, and Law Clerk with several Houston, Texas, law firms since 1988. She is a Member of the Bar in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,

State of Texas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Her prior experience included representing Roche Laboratories' pharmaceutical line to medical professionals and hospitals and teaching Adult Education and high school English in Houston, Texas. Carron's memberships and community activities include the Social Law Library, The Vincent Club, The Junior League of Boston, Trinity Church (Boston, Mass.), and Kappa Kappa Gamma Boston Area Alumnae Association. She has been a member of NEHGS since

2016, was a participant in the Society's 2016 tour "A Golden Land: The Country Houses and Gardens of Buckinghamshire," and is a Patron Member.



**Gerard A. Halpin, III** of Boston, Mass., has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Capital Company LLC (Iselin, N.J.) since October 2007, having served as Vice President and Treasurer of Siemens Corporation (New York, N.Y.) since January 2001. His responsibilities include implementing treasury strategy for all Siemens companies in the Americas, cash management, bank relations, debt issuance, risk management, foreign exchange and interest, pension/savings plan investments, as well as serving as liaison between the Central Finance teams at Siemens AG, Siemens Financial Services, and the Siemens' U.S. Operating Companies. He was previously Vice President and Treasurer, Stone & Webster, Inc., and in treasury positions at PepsiCo, Inc.; Macmillan, Inc.; and General Electric Company, after an external auditor role at Arthur Andersen & Co. An NEHGS member since 2013, Gerry is a Life Benefactor.

2016, was a participant in the Society's 2016 tour "A Golden Land: The Country Houses and Gardens of Buckinghamshire," and is a Patron Member.



**Margaret M. Hendrick** of Boston, Mass., is an author and volunteer. She has written an article offering a new historical perspective of the Civil War Battle of Fort Pillow, Tennessee, and her current writing projects include *Wisdom* family migration from Tidewater Virginia to Oklahoma, a biography of a

19th-century United States Indian agent, and a memoir on the life of an adoptee and the genealogical difficulties that come from adoption. Her volunteer experience includes serving on the Topsfield, Mass., School Committee, assisting Foster Care Reviews, fundraising for Representative Barbara Gray's battered women's shelter, and roles as Vice-president and President of the League of Women Voters, Dover, Mass. She is a member of the Preservation Society of Newport, R.I., the Redwood Library, Newport, R.I., the Boston Athenæum, the Oklahoma Historical and Genealogical Societies, the Virginia Historical Society, and the McNairy County Historical Society of Selmer, Tenn. Margaret joined NEHGS in 1994 and is a Life Member.



**Harold Hunter Leach, Jr.** of Hamilton, Mass., is a former Senior Vice President of Merrill Lextranet, a co-founder of Legal Computer Solutions, Inc., provider of web-based litigation support services to law firms and corporations, and a former Partner at Choate, Hall & Stewart, specializing in entrepreneurial businesses and intellectual property. He is a former Board member of Sapiens International Corporation and a former

member of Sapiens International Corporation and a former

Trustee of Mobius, Inc. Harold joined NEHGS in 2006 and has served the Society in numerous capacities, including as Trustee, Secretary of the Board, and past Councilor, as well as on several board committees. In 2016, he was a participant in the Society's "Quebec and Montreal: New England Captives Carried to Canada" tour. He is a Life Benefactor.



**Gregory G. O'Brien** of Boston, Mass., is Executive Vice President and Division Manager of the Middle Market Banking group, Wells Fargo & Company. He is responsible for all commercial banking activities in the New England Region. He previously held a variety of senior positions in commercial and corporate

banking at Bank of America, GE Energy Financial Services, and Merrill Lynch. He has broad experience successfully managing industry verticals including energy, transportation, environmental services, and leveraged finance. Greg's interests include genealogy and its impact on family-owned businesses, as well as travel and wildlife photography. He joined NEHGS in 2015 and has been an event sponsor.



**Tracy E. Smith** of Palm Beach, Fla., is the owner and CEO of The House of Lavande, a vintage, artisan-standard, collectible jewelry business with an expertly curated collection of over 10,000 pieces by such distinguished designers as Elsa Schiaparelli, Schreiner, Kenneth Jay Lane, Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Dior,

Givenchy, Lanvin, and Chanel. She launched a collection of her own designs in June 2012, inspired in part by elements from some of her most admired vintage pieces. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Jamestowne Society, and the Glam4Good advisory board. Having joined NEHGS in 2014, Tracy is currently working on a project with Newbury Street Press and is a Patron Member.



**Jason H. Stevens** of Hilton Head Island, S.C., is a retired ophthalmologist and former Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of California, Irvine Medical School. He is founder and former Chairman of the Orange County Eye Bank, former President of the Orange County Society of Ophthalmology, and

former Chief of Staff at Chapman General Hospital, Orange, Calif. He currently serves as an ophthalmologist with Volunteers in Medicine, Hilton Head, S.C. His memberships include the Society of Mayflower Descendants (Calif.), Order of the Founders and Patriots, Sons of the American Revolution, and several genealogical societies. Jason joined NEHGS in 1991 and is a Life Member and past Councilor.



**Jane Barrows Tatibouët** of Honolulu, Hawaii, is the President and Principal of Hawaii Hotel Consultants and was previously in senior management positions at ASTON Hotels & Resorts, Westin Hotels, and Hilton International Hotels. She serves in the State House of

Representatives for Waikiki/Honolulu, is a Lecturer in Business Administration at the University of Hawaii, and is Coordinator at the Institute for Technical Interchange, East-West Center. Her past volunteer leadership positions include service on the boards of trustees of Cornell University and the University of Hawaii, successful capital campaign leadership for the ASSETS School for Dyslexic & Gifted, K-12, President of the Cornell Society of Hotelmen, Hawaii Chapter, Chair of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Hawaii Chapter, and membership on the Board Executive Committee of the Historic Hawaii Foundation. She has been a Life Member of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants since 1976. An NEHGS member since 1982, Jane is a past Trustee, was a tour participant in "A Golden Land: The Country Houses and Gardens of Buckinghamshire" (2016), and is a Friend of the Society.



**Thomas Warren Thaler** of Boston, Mass., is a retired investment portfolio manager for US Trust Bank of America. He is a former Governor of the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars, a current member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and a current member of the French

Heritage Society. Tom joined NEHGS in 2003, was a tour participant in "A Golden Land: The Country Houses and Gardens of Buckinghamshire" (2016), and is a Friend of the Society.



**David Martin Trebing** of Washington, D.C., is General Manager of External Affairs for Daimler, having previously served in a variety of finance-related executive positions for Chrysler Corporation and DaimlerChrysler Corporation. He is currently serving as 37th Governor General of the General Society of Colonial Wars, for

which he previously served in multiple leadership positions. He holds memberships in their New York, Michigan, Maryland, South Carolina, and District of Columbia societies. His other memberships include Sons of the American Revolution (former President, Detroit Metropolitan and Chancellor John Lansing Chapters), Sons of the Revolution (N.Y. and D.C.), Society of the War of 1812 (Mich., Md., and D.C.), the Pilgrims of the United States, the Order of St. John, and the Church Club of New York. His nonprofit board service includes the Detroit Historical Society, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Cultural Development Corporation, Washington, D.C., and the Michigan State University Development Fund. He is a Shareholder of the Philadelphia Athenæum and a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. David joined NEHGS in 2016 and is an Associate Member.



## New Trustees Emeriti

**Judith Huber Halseth** of Paw Paw, Mich., is a Professor Emerita of Social Work and a board member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Western Michigan University. She is a member of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. Judy has authored and contributed to articles for *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and *American Ancestors*. Having joined NEHGS in 1998, Judy is a past Trustee and Councilor, a past Honorary Chair of the NEHGS Ambassador Program, a past member of the Executive and Development Committees, a current member of the Human Resources Committee, and a Life Member.

**Frank C. Ripley** of Middleburg, Va., is a retired President of the consulting firm Economic Analysis Associates, Inc., a former Senior Economist and Washington Regional Manager of Data Resources, Inc., and a former Senior Staff Economist for the Council of Economic Advisers, having also conducted research work at Citicorp and the RAND Corporation. He is a member of the American Economic Association and the Econometric Society and a widely published author in economics journals. Frank was an NEHGS member from 1969 to 1982 and rejoined in 1999. He has served on numerous board committees, including as Chair of the Nominating Committee, and is a Life Benefactor and frequent participant in the Society's tours.

## New Honorary Trustees Emeriti

**Ralph J. Crandall** of Massena, N.Y., retired in 2014 as Executive Director Emeritus of NEHGS after concentrating on special projects for nine years, including working on the Connecting Families, Advancing History Capital Campaign. He was Executive Director of NEHGS (1982–1987 and 1988–2005), and served as Associate Editor of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (1974–1978) and as its Editor (1979–1982). He is the author of *Shaking Your Family Tree*. Ralph joined NEHGS in 1974 and is a Life Member.

**Priscilla C. Greenlees** of Bainbridge Island, Wash., is a retired Physician's Assistant/Medical Office Manager. She is the Founding President of the Bainbridge Island Genealogical Society, a Fellow of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and a member of numerous other genealogical and historical societies. Priscilla received the Washington State Genealogical Society Achievement Award for Leadership in 2007. She has authored articles for *American Ancestors*, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, and *Norwegian Tracks (Norwegian American Genealogical Center Journal)*. A member of NEHGS since 1994, she is a past Councilor and a Life Member.

## 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. Non-members 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. For a detailed library guide, visit [AmericanAncestors.org/library-guide](http://AmericanAncestors.org/library-guide).

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

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

*Be sure to bring your research questions!*

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



# 2017 Annual Benefit Dinner

## with STACY SCHIFF

On April 28, more than 150 guests joined us at the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel for the Family History Benefit Dinner, honoring author and historian Stacy Schiff with our Lifetime Achievement Award in History & Biography. Brenton Simons opened the evening by announcing major gifts to NEHGS, noted the 40th anniversary of the landmark television miniseries *Roots*, and previewed the Society's plans to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*. Councilor Mary Tedesco, co-host of *Genealogy Roadshow*, presented Schiff's genealogy—our first Jewish genealogy produced for an honoree. Schiff is of Russian Jewish ancestry. Her father was President of the Schiff Clothing Company, which celebrated its ninetieth year in 1987 and was said to be the oldest store in northern Berkshire County owned by the same Jewish family. Her ancestor Charles Albert Levine flew to Germany with Clarence D. Chamberlin in June 1927, becoming the first passenger on a transatlantic flight. William Fowler, former director of the Massachusetts Historical Society and former president of NEHGS, led a fascinating conversation with Schiff covering a wide range of topics including her influences, research style, and upcoming projects.

Benefactors for the event were Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation, Thomas Bailey Hagen, Nancy S. Maulsby, Mark Kimball Nichols, Herbert D. Simons, Lionel and Vivian Spiro, Nancy and John Webster, and Welch & Forbes LLC. Silver Benefactors for the evening were Judy Avery, David H. Burnham, Robert Pemberton and Barbara Jordan, Sit Investment Associates, and Traust Sollus Wealth Management, Albert J. Zdenek, President and CEO. Co-chairs were Lionel and Vivian Spiro and Morrison DeS. Webb and Stacie J. Webb. The Webbs were also Silver Benefactors. Wells Fargo was the Platinum Benefactor.



*Top to bottom:* Bill Fowler interviews Stacy Schiff; Senior VP and COO Ryan Woods presents Stacy Schiff with the Lifetime Achievement Award; event co-chairs Trustee and Life Benefactor Toby Webb and Stacie Webb with Mary Tedesco.





## Transformative \$3 Million gift announced

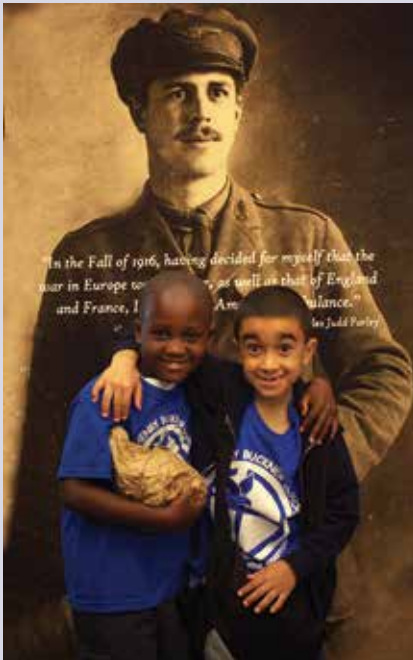


At the dinner, Brenton Simons announced that NEHGS Trustee Thomas Bailey Hagen made the lead gift of \$3 million to the Cornerstone Project at 97 Newbury Street. Thanks to his incredible generosity, NEHGS is now moving forward with planning for ways in which 97 Newbury can be renovated and expanded to serve individuals and families for generations to come.



*Left column:* Bill Fowler, NEHGS Chairman Emeritus David Burnham, and Kimberlea Jefferies; Cammie Bryant and Maryann Knight-Ekberg of Wells Fargo; British Consul Harriet Cross, Brenton Simons, and Phil Saltonstall. *Right column:* Councilor Margaret Hendrick with NEHGS Editor-in-Chief Scott Steward. *Photos by Roger Farrington.*





# Free Fun Friday 2017

On July 7, we hosted another very successful Free Fun Friday. Sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation, Free Fun Fridays enable 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. Free Fun Friday is a great way to introduce new friends to NEHGS.

*Clockwise from top:* Our staff greets visitors; young photo detectives examine documents; Meaghan Siekman explores whaling records in search of Ava's Cape Verdean ancestor; friends from the Henry Buckner School search for clues in our genealogical scavenger hunt; Kathy Kaldis helps Pamela and Andrew locate a Maine family who "dropped off the face of the earth."



# New Publications

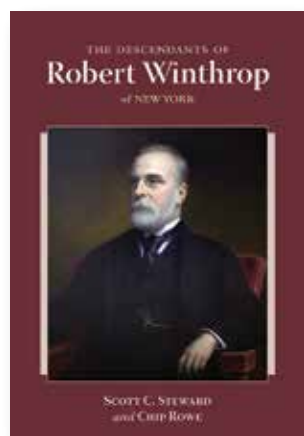
## The Descendants of Robert Winthrop of New York

Scott C. Steward and Chip Rowe

6 x 9 hcvr; 526 pp.; \$64.95, member \$58.46

During the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the Winthrop family of Massachusetts produced three colonial governors in three generations; if the third was less potent than the first two, this feat must still be considered remarkable. The family, having reached a kind of apogee by 1700, did not—as would so many early New England families—then fade away. One line drifted south, to Connecticut, and then settled in New York City in the late eighteenth century. It was

this branch of the Winthrop family to which Robert<sup>8</sup> belonged, and by the time he was born in 1833 the family was well-established in Manhattan. The book offers a full review of this line of the family in England and America from the beginning of the sixteenth century to the present day. More than one hundred heads of family descending from Robert<sup>8</sup> Winthrop are covered.



## Phippen Genealogy

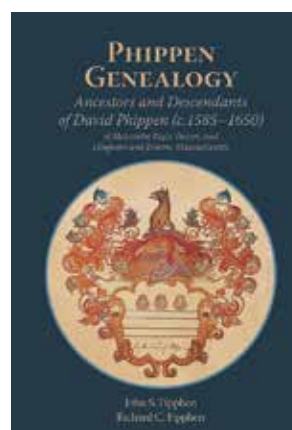
Ancestors and Descendants of David Phippen (c. 1585–1650) of Melcombe Regis, Dorset, and Hingham and Boston, Massachusetts

John S. Fipphen and Richard C. Fipphen

6 x 9 hcvr; 360 pp.; \$64.95, member \$58.46

This book covers the origins of the family in England, where, before 1600, the name was variously spelled Fippen, Phepen, Phephyn, Phepyn, Phippen, Phippin, and Phippinge. Today, the surname has two principal spelling variants in the United States: Phippen and Phippeney. From the late 1600s, Phippen has been used by the descendants

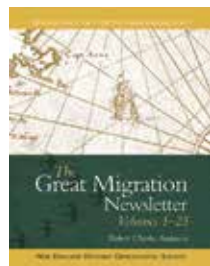
of Joseph<sup>2</sup> Phippen, while Phippeney (and its variants) has been used by the descendants of James<sup>3</sup> Phippeney. David Phippen and his family departed for New England in 1634 aboard the ship *Recovery*. In 1635 they were some of the original settlers of Hingham, Massachusetts, before finally settling in Boston in 1641.



## The Great Migration Newsletter

Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

The Great Migration Study Project arrived at its culmination with Robert Charles Anderson's final newsletter in December 2016. A compendium of all twenty-five volumes (100 issues) is now available, or add the last five volumes to your previously published compendia. *Note that each separate compilation has been indexed independently; for a complete index of all volumes, purchase the **Volumes 1–25** publication.*



### Volumes 1–25

920 pp., \$32.95, member \$29.66

The first twenty-five volumes of the *Newsletter*, spanning the years 1990 through the culmination of the Study Project in 2016 and comprising 100 issues. Includes index to subjects, place names, surnames, and first names.



### Volumes 21–25

208 pp., \$14.95, member \$13.46

For those who own previously published compendia, a separate compilation of the final five volumes.

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

# Abbott Lowell Cummings, 1923–2017

Abbott Lowell Cummings, NEHGS Trustee Emeritus, died on May 29 in Hadley, Massachusetts, aged 94. He was nationally acclaimed as a preservationist, architectural historian, and genealogist.

Born in St. Albans, Vermont, on March 14, 1923, Cummings was the son of the Reverend Stanley and Louise Lowell (Greene) Cummings. He attended Oberlin College, where he received a BA (1945) and an MA (1946). He earned a PhD in American architectural history at Ohio State University in 1950.

Cummings taught at Antioch College from 1948 to 1951, then became assistant curator for the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1955 he joined the staff of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England), serving first as editor of the journal *Old-Time New England* and as assistant director, and later as director. A leading authority on American vernacular architecture, Cummings was a Charles F. Montgomery Professor Emeritus of American Decorative Arts at Yale University.

Among the most distinguished genealogists in the nation, Cummings was a recipient of the Donald Lines Jacobus Award from the American Society of Genealogists. He was a member of NEHGS for 62 years; he joined in 1955 and later became a Life Member. He served on our Board of Trustees from 1970 to 1973, on our Council from 2004 to 2012, and was recognized as a trustee emeriti from 2012 to 2017. Cummings was an educator and guide on some of our lectures, seminars, and tours. We were honored to publish two of his books, *Descendants of John Comins (ca. 1669–1751)* and *his wife, Mary, of Woburn and Oxford* (2001), and

*The Fairbanks House: A History of the Oldest Timber-Frame Building in New England* (2002).

In 2009, NEHGS President and CEO Brenton Simons recognized Abbott with the Ralph J. Crandall Award, commemorating lifetime achievement in genealogy and service to NEHGS, at a dinner at the Somerset Club in Boston. In 2013, more than 100 people gathered at NEHGS for an event organized by Donald and Grace Friary to honor Cummings on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.

Cummings's work spanned more than seventy years, and he inspired, influenced, and enriched the lives of countless colleagues and students. His contributions to the interpretation of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century material culture, the built environment of early America, and New England genealogy are unparalleled. A gifted teacher, Cummings possessed warmth and wit that endeared him to many.

President and CEO Brenton Simons reflected on Cummings's long connection with NEHGS, noting that "Abbott was an inspiration to all who interacted with him. Knowing him and working with him was a great privilege."

Cummings is survived by his five nieces and nephews. He donated his genealogical collections to NEHGS and asked that any gifts in his memory be made to NEHGS.

*Below:* Abbott Cummings lecturing; *top right:* Abbott Cummings at Historic New England's Otis House in Boston. Both images courtesy of Historic New England. *Below right:* Brenton Simons, Carolyn Lynch, and Abbott Cummings at the 90th birthday celebration in April 2013.





## The Abbott Lowell Cummings Collection at NEHGS

In July 2017, the NEHGS Library was honored to receive the gift of Abbott Lowell Cummings's outstanding collection of genealogical research papers, family documents, and heirlooms. The contents fall into two general categories: notes and records supporting Abbott's genealogical research projects, including his book *Descendants of John Comins*, and additional papers and photographs passed down through generations of his mother's and father's families.

The materials arrived at NEHGS in four large file cabinets and many boxes, with all items meticulously organized and labeled by Abbott himself. Documents are grouped together by individual person's name or other topic. The collection contains many hundreds of files on members of the Cummings/Comins, Newell, and Walkley families, as well as the Beach, Clark, Greene, Lowell, Persons, and other families. The files contain an extensive variety of material, including original family documents such as wills and correspondence, Abbott's own handwritten genealogical notes, copies of records, photographs (both loose and in albums), account books (at least one of which dates to the 1790s), journals, and published genealogies. There are dozens of diaries belonging to Abbott's mother, Louise Lowell (Greene) Cummings (1896-1973), and paternal grandmother, Lucretia Amelia (Stow) Cummings (1851-1944), and a large box of Bibles containing family records. Abbott's collection of nearly 100 daguerreotypes and ambrotypes is extraordinary and includes portraits of individuals from the Beach, Clark, Cummings, Hobart, Lowell, Shepard, Walkley, and other families.

The Abbott Lowell Cummings Collection is a model of excellent record keeping. The files are organized to allow easy access to the information genealogists need; almost everything is fastidiously labeled; extraneous material was eliminated; folded documents were flattened for proper storage; and most of the subjects in photographs are identified.

We know that many researchers—present and future—will derive great benefit from access to the Abbott Lowell Cummings Collection. We are deeply grateful to Abbott for choosing NEHGS as its permanent home. Our library staff is just beginning to explore and process the collection's contents so the material can be made available to researchers. Much more information will be shared about the treasures it contains in future issues of this magazine.

—Jean Maguire, NEHGS Library Director

*Left:* Abbott Cummings's paternal grandparents: William H. Cummings (1849–1904) and Lucretia A. (Stow) Cummings (1851–1944). Abbott Lowell Cummings Collection, NEHGS.



John Brooks Threlfall,  
1920–2017

John “Jack” Brooks Threlfall, former Trustee and long-term member of NEHGS, died in Madison, Wisconsin, on June 1, 2017, aged 97. He was born in Newton, Massachusetts, on May 23, 1920, son of John Newton and Margaret (Brooks) Threlfall.

Jack graduated from Purdue University in 1942 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served through 1947, reaching the rank of lieutenant. After his discharge, Jack became a builder in Madison.

Jack joined NEHGS in 1963 and later served as a Trustee. He was an enthusiastic genealogist and a frequent contributor to the *Register*. He also wrote twelve books, on his ancestors and on Great Migration immigrants.

John Brooks Threlfall left his mark on the world through his genealogical legacy and through the buildings he developed in Madison. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Eila Maarit Hyyryläinen; four children; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



# NEW Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

## Compiled genealogies

### Early New England Families, 1641–1700—2 new and 2 revised sketches

In this study project, Alicia Crane Williams, FASG, uses Clarence Almon Torrey's bibliographic index of early New England marriages (and its recent successors) as a basis for researching seventeenth-century New England families. The focus is on immigrants who arrived between 1641 and 1700. The sketches are grouped by year of marriage.

### Western Massachusetts Families in 1790—fourteen new sketches

This database contains genealogical sketches of families listed 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 Shatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG.

### Early Vermont Settlers, 1700–1784—forty-six new sketches

This study project, managed by Scott Andrew Bartley, contains genealogical sketches for every identifiable head of household who resided within the present-day borders of Vermont by 1784. A list of children, spouses, and all known vital records accompanies each sketch. Most of the new sketches profile Windsor County residents.

### Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633, vols. I–III—update

The first phase of the Great Migration Study Project attempted to identify and describe all Europeans who settled in New England prior to the end of 1633. This update includes 15,000 new birth, baptism, marriage, death and burial records that include the subject's full

name and event date, as well as spouse and parent names, where available. Searchable migration and residence data has also been added.

## Census, Tax, and Voter Lists

### Kennebunkport, ME: Voters for Town Officers, March 1833—update

This database is now searchable by first name, last name, date, location, and keyword. It provides a list of all the residents who voted in the 1833 town officer elections. Only men were allowed to vote, and voters were required to pay a poll tax.

## Court, Land, and Probate Records

### Hampshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1660–1889—update

This update adds 6,538 additional case records and 175,000 individual file papers to this collection. The probate cases include wills, guardianships, administrations, and various other types of probate records, but not adoptions, which are not public records in Massachusetts. For a tutorial on how to search this collection, watch "How to Search Massachusetts Probate File Papers" (youtu.be/-Q28S1659-Y). This database is possible due to our collaboration with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives and the Hampshire County Probate & Family Court.

### Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1761–1900

Berkshire County separated from Hampshire County in 1761. This collection contains the records of 21,143 Berkshire County probate cases filed between 1761 and 1900. The cases consist of 416,600 individual file papers. For advice on how to search this collection,

watch "How to Search Massachusetts Probate File Papers" (youtu.be/-Q28S1659-Y). This database was created from digital images and an index contributed to NEHGS by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives.

### Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686–1880

We have recently made available the Bristol County probate file papers, thanks to the Massachusetts Supreme Court Judicial Archives. The collection contains the records of 29,531 Bristol County probate cases filed between 1686 and 1880. For information on how to search this collection, watch "How to Search Massachusetts Probate File Papers" (youtu.be/-Q28S1659-Y).

## Journals and periodicals

### American Ancestors magazine—vol. 17 (2016)

*American Ancestors* features a wide range of article topics, including case studies, descriptions of particular record sets, "how-to" articles, research strategies and methodology, and accounts of migration and immigrant groups.

## Vital records

### North American Cemetery Transcriptions from the NEHGS Manuscript Collections—ten new cemeteries

NEHGS has actively collected cemetery transcriptions from a wide geographic area since its founding in 1845. This database provides images of cemetery transcriptions and names of related individuals where available. This latest update adds cemeteries from Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire.



### Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900

NEHGS and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston are collaborating to create an online database of millions of sacramental records from over 100 parishes across Eastern Massachusetts. Five parishes are included in this update to the searchable database: Holy Cross (Boston), Immaculate Conception (Boston), St. Cecilia (Boston), Providence, R.I. (mission), and St. John, New Brunswick (mission). More will be added.

### Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900—two new parishes

This image-only browsable collection currently contains records of 18 parishes. Locating records varies slightly from volume to volume and parish to parish. The index page at the beginning of each volume can help researchers locate names in the volume. Additional parishes will be made available over time. This update consists of St. James the Greater (Boston) (13 vols.) and St. Mary (Charlestown) (10 vols.).

### Salisbury, MA: Marriages by Elder Jabez True, 1812–1835—update

Elder Jabez True, a minister in Salisbury for forty years, kept a record of the marriages he performed. His manuscript is held in the R. Stanton Avery Special Collection at NEHGS. The database now has images, first names, last names, dates, spouses' names, parents' names, and locations.



## Brick Walls *submitted by our members*

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

Records show that my ancestor **Robert Hastings** married Elizabeth Davis in Haverhill, Massachusetts, in 1676. He died there before 1721. His origins are unclear but I have seen a birth year of 1653 in several genealogies. According to Boston tax records, Richard Smith employed a Robert Hastings in 1674. This Robert Hastings might be the man who arrived in Haverhill that year with a shipload of bricks to build Joseph Peaselee's garrison house. Some genealogists believe Robert Hastings was the son of Walter and Sarah Hastings, who married in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1655, but others disagree. Who were the parents of Robert Hastings?

Alec Hastings, Randolph Center, Vermont

My ancestor, **Cornelius Briggs** (1788–1848), a noted cabinet-maker, held a patent for his design of an extension table (one of which is on display at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston), and was mentioned in books about fine woodworking in 19th-century Boston. He married Mary Homer Howe in 1813, settled in Roxbury, and died in 1848. His sons and a grandson formed the Briggs Piano Company from his cabinetmaking business. But his origins remain unclear. Multiple references claim he was born about 1788 in Weymouth, Massachusetts, son of Joshua Briggs. One source lists his mother as Caroline,

with no maiden name. I located one Joshua Briggs of the right age to be Cornelius's father, but he was married to a Mary Savil/Lovel from Braintree. Information on Cornelius Briggs's origins would be appreciated.

Liz Kalloch, San Rafael, California

My ancestor, **Erastus Kitman Brainerd** (1806–1892), and his brother, Joseph (1803–1884), were born in New York State. Erastus took the name of his mother's second husband, Benjamin Brainerd, while Joseph kept the Kitman name. Joseph married Nancy Dearing of Massachusetts, and settled in Minnesota, where he is buried. Erastus married Elizabeth Ann Hart in 1827 in Gustavus, Trumbull County, Ohio, and died there in 1892. I cannot find a marriage record for the brothers' mother, Mary Slocum (c. 1783–1848), daughter of Benjamin Slocum and Rebecca Wilcox, and a Kitman, nor birth records for the brothers. Who is the father of Erastus and Joseph, and what happened to him?

Michele Horila, Ashford, Connecticut

## From our readers

In the latest issue, I read with particular interest the article on New England ironworks [Alicia Tyler and Marie Tyler-McGraw, "Founder, Forge, and Feuds: Roger Tyler and Early New England Iron Works," *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 18 (2017) 2:32–37]. I have no connection to the Tyler family or the places mentioned, so I was surprised to find insights into my Swedish ancestors. They were among the Walloons who migrated from Wallonia to Sweden in the 1600s to expand the Swedish iron industry. My Hane (later Hahney) family continued in this occupation after immigrating to the steel mill towns near Chicago in the 1880s. Iron, steel, and glass run through my Swedish and Irish ancestries, and genealogical connections to industrial history have become my special interest. Thanks for a terrific article.

Sue Hahney Kratsch  
St. Paul, Minnesota

I own an animal hospital where my husband and sister are practicing veterinarians. I grew up on a farm so animals and pets have been part of my life since birth. And both sets of my grandparents owned their ancestral homesteads so I have always had an interest in history—I am a history professor—as well as a love of pets. So I particularly appreciated the articles on family pets ["Pets in the Family" by Maureen Taylor and "A Menagerie of Pets," *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 18 (2017) 2:24–31]. Then I saw the editorial by Lynn Betlock and I had to look again because, like the family she described, my family is from La Moille, Bureau County, Illinois, and my ancestors (Nehemiah Welch and Dolly Page Welch) also came to La Moille from Caledonia County, Vermont, prior to 1850. I was in La Moille for Memorial Day and decorated all my ancestral graves there.

Maryellen Harshbarger McVicker  
Boonville, Missouri

I would like to add my thanks and appreciation for the Gallows Hill article [Marilynne K. Roach, "Gallows Hill Project: [Re-]Discovering Proctor's Ledge," *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 18 (2017) 1:38–42]. Last year my wife and I attended a Road Scholar program in Salem: Witches, Hawthorns, and Maritime Salem. We found the subject fascinating, especially because my wife is a descendant of Rebecca Towne Nurse and distantly related to the Hawthorn judge and to Nathaniel, and I am distantly related to one of the accusing women, Bathsheba Folger Pope. One of the main speakers at the program was

Emerson Baker, who is a part of the Gallows Hill Project. We got to see the Nurse farm and the nearby cemetery, which has a memorial stone for Rebecca. We also saw the memorial park in Salem, adjacent to the old cemetery, which has a dated stone for each of the nineteen victims.

Douglas A. Wenny  
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Major kudos to everyone connected with the summer issue of *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*. It was a totally gleeful journey—each story more compelling than the one before. Usually I finish in about an hour. This issue keeps bringing me back, again and again, to re-read all the adventures. Obviously, I loved the Tucson story [J. Homer Thiel, "Using Archaeology to Illuminate a Mexican-American Family History," *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 18 (2017) 2:38–42], since it is in my backyard, and this one I will be passing onto other Arizona history lovers. There was lots of work and lots of love you all put in to this creation. Thank you.

Diana Smith  
Scottsdale, Arizona

**We want to hear from you!** Email [magazine@nehgs.org](mailto:magazine@nehgs.org) or address letters to *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. Letters will be edited for clarity and length. We regret that we cannot reply to every letter.

## The NEHGS cartoon



"Which family reunion are you headed to?"

Submitted by Facebook friend Jennifer M. Sawyer Harvey.

Drawing by Jean Powers, NEHGS.



# programs & tours



## Salt Lake City Research Tour

November 5–12, 2017 *Only a few spots remaining!*

"This was a really great introduction to the Family History Library for me. I had been afraid to tackle it on my own, but with the help of NEHGS I had a very productive week." —Salt Lake City Research Tour participant

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

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

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

## Announcing 2018 Research Tours & Programs



### Winter Research Getaway, Boston, MA

February 22–February 24, 2018

"The extended weekend format helped me to become comfortable working in

one of the best repositories in the country. It is an experience that is both deeply humbling and deeply inspiring. Thank you!" —Research Getaway participant

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

**Member registration:** \$375

**Nonmember registration:** \$525

### Genealogical Skills Boot Camp, Boston, MA

March 22–March 24, 2018

Take your research skills to the next level! With the sheer number of online resources at your fingertips, it's easy to dive in to your family history research without any formal training as a genealogist. This intensive three-day program will set you on the right path to getting the most out of your family history research and teach you how to tackle genealogical problems like a pro. Topics include: strategies for analyzing records, online research, breaking down genealogical brick walls, and more.

**Member registration:** \$550

**Nonmember registration:** \$700

### Hartford, Connecticut

April 9–14, 2018

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:** \$1,785 single; \$1,575 double; \$1,850 with non-researching guest; \$850 commuter

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

### Albany, New York

May 16–20, 2018

Explore the New York State Library and the New York State Archives. Now in its fifth year, this popular tour includes individual consultations, lectures from experts, and group meals.

**Member registration:** \$1,200 single; \$950 double; \$1,425 with non-researching guest; \$650 commuter

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



### Spring Research Getaway, Boston, MA

June 7–9, 2018

See description of the Winter Research Getaway above.

**Member registration:** \$375

**Nonmember registration:** \$525

## Register for NEHGS events

Registration for most programs is available at [AmericanAncestors.org/Education](http://AmericanAncestors.org/Education).

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

To register for Online Learning Center webinars and courses, visit [AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Online-Classes](http://AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Online-Classes).

For more information, email [education@nehgs.org](mailto:education@nehgs.org) or call **617-226-1226**.



## Belfast, Northern Ireland, Research Tour

June 24–July 1, 2018

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

**Member registration:** \$2,950 single; \$2,500 double; \$3,250 double with non-researching guest.

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



## NEHGS Summer Institute for Advanced Researchers: Developing a Genealogical Study Project

July 18–July 21, 2018

You've been researching your family history for years and are most likely the foremost expert on certain families, communities, or surnames. Make a lasting contribution to genealogical scholarship and turn your compiled notes into a study project that will assist researchers for generations to come! During this immersive four-day program, members of the NEHGS research staff, the team behind [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org), and NEHGS study project directors will help you develop a study project—whether a surname study, area study, or a record study—from scope to published scholarship.

To learn more about prerequisites and for application guidelines, please visit [AmericanAncestors.org/education](http://AmericanAncestors.org/education).

**Member registration:** \$1,275



## Come Home to New England, Boston, MA

July 1–August 4, 2018

NEHGS has been collecting information about families in America for 170 years. Our collections are international in scope and contain significant materials that cover the United States, especially New England and New York, as well

as Canada and Europe. This research program provides the opportunity for you to “come home” to Boston and work closely with NEHGS staff to advance your research.

**Member registration:** \$725 (before May 1, 2018); \$850 (after May 1, 2018)

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

## Fall Research Getaway, Boston, MA

October 11–October 13, 2018

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

**Member registration:** \$375

**Nonmember registration:** \$525

## Salt Lake City Research Tour

November 4–11, 2018

See description at the top of page 25.

**Member registration:** \$1,785 single; \$1,575 double; \$1,950 with non-researching guest; \$850 commuter

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

# This Fall at NEHGS

## NEHGS is coming to Minnesota! Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls: Strategies for Success

*Presented by Senior Researchers from NEHGS*

Bunker Hills Activities Center, North Andover, MN

Saturday, November 18, 9:30 a.m.–6 p.m.

**Cost: \$125**, Includes lunch and reception

Research your ancestry long enough and you're bound to hit a brick wall—the paper trail vanishes, the family seemingly disappears, and you're unable to go back to earlier generations. Whether you are struggling to find an immigrant's exact origins, uncover a maiden name, determine parentage, or discover where a family moved, cluster research can help. Spend the day with senior members of the Research Services team at New England Historic Genealogical Society and learn valuable organizational tips and practical strategies to circumnavigate common genealogical brick walls and enrich your understanding of an ancestor's life.

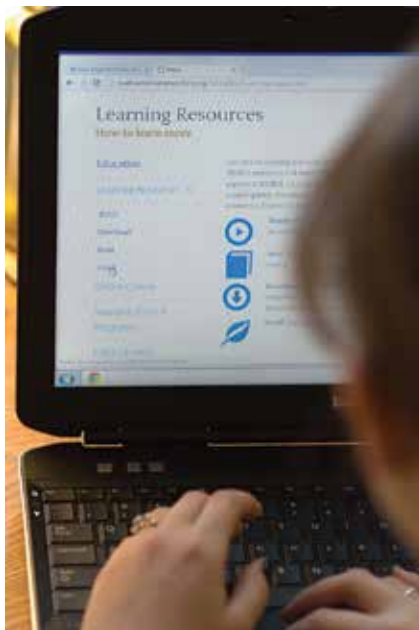


# online learning center

## Online courses

### Exclusively for our members!

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



### Webinars

Our free, monthly webinars cover a wide variety of topics, from Irish research and resources to using AmericanAncestors.org to applying to lineage societies to writing your genealogy. Our online presentations not only provide research assistance, but expose you to new resources and help you make the most of your NEHGS membership. Register for our webinars at [AmericanAncestors.org/education/online-classes/](http://AmericanAncestors.org/education/online-classes/).

Upcoming topics include:

**October . . .** City and Rural Directories: More than Just Names,  
*presented by Rhonda R. McClure*

**November . .** French-Canadian Notarial Records, *presented by Sheilagh Doerfler*

**December . .** Searching on AmericanAncestors.org, *presented by Don LeClair*

You can review past webinars at [AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Watch](http://AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Watch).

### Have you seen?

Below are just some of the resources we've recently added to our online learning center. Access archived webinars, how-to videos, subject guides, and more at [AmericanAncestors.org/Education](http://AmericanAncestors.org/Education). Expand your genealogical expertise without leaving home!

**Subject guide . . . . .** Catholic Records in New England

**Archived webinar . . .** Choosing a DNA Test for Family History Research

**Download . . . . .** Research Log


## Tracing New England Ancestors on the Move

**Live broadcasts: November 1, 8, 15, and 29, 6–7:30 pm**

Since the first permanent settlement in New England in 1620, our pioneering ancestors have pushed the boundaries of the frontier—from the wilds of northern New England to New York, from the mid-west to the west coast. Tracing ancestors on the move is not without its challenges: people seem to appear out of nowhere, reappear somewhere else many years later, or simply disappear. In this online course, you will learn about three-centuries of the spread of New England settlement, understand the motivations behind migrations, and learn important strategies for tracing elusive ancestors.

# NEHGS Study Projects

## Examining Ancestors in Context



In the nearly three decades since its inception in 1988, the Great Migration Study Project has documented all immigrants to New England from 1620 through 1640.<sup>1</sup> In twelve volumes of biographical sketches and twenty-five volumes of the *Great Migration Newsletter*, Project Director Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, made significant and enduring contributions to New England genealogy—and proved the tremendous value of study projects!

Although individual sketches are no longer being produced under the auspices of the Great Migration Study Project, the Project's collected work—essential for researching early New Englanders—is available in print and on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org). Robert Anderson will continue to augment Great Migration scholarship over the next few years by working on several books and tours. His next volume, *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England*, will be published in 2018.

Over the last decade, NEHGS undertook three ambitious new study projects that focus on New England families from 1640 to 1700; Vermont families to 1784; and Western Massachusetts families in 1790. New sketches from each project are regularly posted online and published in print volumes. In the following accounts, Alicia Crane Williams, Scott Andrew Bartley, and Helen Schatvet Ullmann provide a behind-the-scenes view of their study projects.





Facing page:  
Elizabeth (Clarke)  
Freake and Baby  
Mary, ca. 1671–  
1674, by the Freake  
Gibbs Painter,  
active about 1670–  
1678. Worcester  
Art Museum,  
Worcester,  
Massachusetts,  
USA/Bridgeman  
Images. Left: Detail  
of *A Mapp of New  
England* by John  
Seller, 1675. Map  
reproduction  
courtesy of  
the Norman B.  
Leventhal Map  
Center at the  
Boston Public  
Library.

## Early New England Families



Alicia Crane Williams, FASG, is Lead Genealogist of the Early New England Families Study Project. In forty years of work as a professional genealogist, she has compiled and edited a number of multifamily genealogies and surname works and was editor for fourteen years of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants' periodical, *The Mayflower Descendant*. She is the past genealogist of the Alden Kindred of America and one of the editors of the John Alden family for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' series, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*. She may be contacted at [acwcrane@aol.com](mailto:acwcrane@aol.com).

The Early New England Families Study Project provides documented genealogical summaries of seventeenth-century New England families. Using Clarence Almon Torrey's bibliographic index of early New England marriages and its recent successors as a guide, the project focuses on individuals who immigrated between 1641 and 1700, and arranges them by year of marriage.

My role with the Early New England Families Study Project is to gather together everything I can find about seventeenth-century New England family groups, beginning with published genealogies, histories, and journal articles. I then perform an "autopsy" on the collected information by fact-checking everything against as many primary sources as possible. I find that my autopsy "patients" suffer from maladies ranging from a deprivation of primary sources to well-intentioned but untrained authors, muddled family stories, and even deliria and flights of fancy.

It is probably true that more genealogical material has been published about early New England families than any other group, and because the NEHGS library is full of thousands of books and magazines on this subject, it would seem to be a no-brainer that "everything has been done." It might have been done, but it has not been finished. The best analogy I have is that "old" works in the library—which may even include publications of the 21st century if they have copied uncritically from their predecessors—are "horse and buggy" books in a "lunar module" world. Such books were probably published before modern

genealogical practices and standards were established (say the last 25 years), or compiled by people who, although sincerely doing their best work for their own families, had no experience with current methodology.

An example of the sources that might be on my autopsy table include:

1. A genealogy published in 1850 that heavily relies on family tradition and states that the family came to America from Iceland in 1533.
2. An "improved" genealogy published in 1890 for which the author has abstracted and

Detroit Publishing Company postcard titled "John Alden House, 1653, Duxbury, Mass." Issued between 1898 and 1931. From The New York Public Library.

- transcribed *some* original records such as wills and deeds.
3. A 1910 article in the *Register* stating that *everything* in the 1850 and 1890 genealogies is a bunch of hooey.
  4. A town history that marries the progenitor to his daughter-in-law.
  5. A collection of published vital and church records that gives at least three different birth dates for all the children.

When I first began working on *Early New England Families*, I naturally assumed that somewhere, even in such a jumble of information, there would be kernels of a correct story that just needed to be coaxed out. If that was the case, the best approach was to combine all the various pieces of flotsam and jetsam and fact check everything against primary sources. Unfortunately, I have found that this approach just produces a nice, neat list of muddled information and a headache.

My more recent approaches to compiling a family sketch often start from ground zero, unless a reputable published account (i.e., with source citations) already exists for me to build upon. I have the luxury in this modern age of accessing digital documents through the Internet and instantaneously retrieving images of original probate, land, vital, church, town, and court records, as well as gravestones, diaries, and much more. Viewing this material previously would have required trips to courthouses or libraries, and likely would have entailed winding miles of microfilm.

From the records I assemble, I construct a skeleton to compare with all the earlier accounts, which helps me better judge their reliability (or lack thereof). Despite some shortcomings, these older accounts may still include information that cannot be fact

checked, such as family records, and if the comparison to original sources shows that the author was reasonably capable, then the secondary information may be admissible.

One of the prime ailments that I find in my autopsies concerns discrepancies in transcriptions and abstracts. Even if an author claims to have transcribed verbatim a will or deed, I *always* verify the transcription against an original if possible. Even two well-qualified transcribers will often create vastly different interpretations of the same handwritten material. In addition, abstracts are notorious for what they omit. My favorite example is the book that claimed the oldest son, John, was "no longer living" when his father died. This information supposedly came from a probate record. A trip to the courthouse (in pre-digital days) revealed that the full sentence was: "Oldest son, John, who is no longer living *in Massachusetts*!"

Another problem is that, as with the game of telephone, something always seems to get distorted with each retelling of a story, and even with the most careful diligence new errors appear. (Thank you to all the readers of the *Early New England Families* Study sketches who have been *most* helpful pointing out *my* mistakes.) Fortunately, with online publication these mistakes can be remedied instead of lingering forever in print.

Then there is the game of genealogical "pick up sticks." While determining

the dates of birth for a set of children, you might identify a problem with their parents' marriage date (or vice versa), or in the process of researching deeds or town records for a John Jones, you may discover that the records of *four* men of that name are attributed to just one man in the town history. Or while verifying the parentage of a spouse, you discover the subject married a completely different person than the one identified in all previous publications.

With only 87 sketches (of an estimated 30,000 for the project) published to date, making any conclusions about what this project might eventually reveal about the history of early New England families is premature. But even at this stage, the process is giving me insight into the extent of family movement in and around New England—even in the early 17th century—and the high number of multiple marriages. (More than half of the subjects treated had at least two marriages; a woman without her own means of support simply did not remain unmarried or widowed for long.)

The *Early New England Families* Study Project is just in its infancy, but I hope to nurture it at least into its toddler days.





# Early Vermont Settlers to 1784



Samuel Holland, Thomas Jefferys, and Robert Sayer.  
*The Provinces of New York, and New Jersey*. London,  
ca. 1768. Retrieved from the Library of Congress,  
[loc.gov/resource/g3800.ar103900](http://loc.gov/resource/g3800.ar103900).



Scott Andrew Bartley is Lead Genealogist of Early Vermont Settlers project. He is a native Vermonter who resides in Boston. Readers may recall him as a former NEHGS employee—he held several positions, including Manuscripts Curator and Reference Desk Librarian from 1984 to 1999. He is currently a Consulting Editor for the

*Register*. Drew is a professional genealogical researcher, editor, librarian, and archivist. He specializes in Vermont research, *Mayflower* lineages, and colonial New England ancestry.

The Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 study project aims to compile genealogical sketches for every identifiable head of household who resided within the present-day borders of Vermont by 1784. A list of children, children's spouse(s), plus all their known vital records accompanies each sketch.

Like its predecessor, the Great Migration Study Project, Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 is a scholarly prosopography study.<sup>2</sup> In addition to genealogically mapping the state, our goal is to better understand the settlement of Vermont.

Evidence suggests, for example, that many communities in Vermont were established when disaffected individuals and their families banded together and relocated as a group from specific towns usually in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Residents of Pomfret and Woodstock, Connecticut, left those towns to settle Pomfret and Woodstock, Vermont. We also see indications that schisms in church doctrine in southern New England towns prompted some groups to resettle in Vermont. This situation occurred when members of the Newent Church of Norwich, Connecticut, relocated to Bennington, Vermont.

Like the Great Migration Study Project, this project is split into time periods. The first period includes settlers who arrived through 1771.

Selecting this end date may seem odd, but in 1771 New York, which then had legal authority over the area, conducted a census—the first that included the area that is now Vermont. At the time Vermont consisted of three counties: Cumberland (now Windham and Windsor Counties), Gloucester (the area north and east of Cumberland), and Albany (the area north and east of the city of Albany, including much of New York and half of Vermont.)

The surviving 1771 returns are an invaluable source for this project: the census provides names and, in some cases, age ranges of household members. Cumberland County returns are the most complete. An imperfect copy of the Cumberland returns was published in a Brattleboro newspaper in 1850<sup>3</sup>; more recently, the original returns were rediscovered and published verbatim.<sup>4</sup> Cumberland returns vary widely from town to town, but contain enough information to provide early community snapshots. Gloucester County returns, published in 1851,<sup>5</sup> name heads of households for each town (several towns were grouped as one) and gives a population total for the county, but not for each town like Cumberland. The Albany County census was published only as county-wide statistics.<sup>6</sup> The original returns for Gloucester and Albany have not been located, so the search for them continues.



The Old Constitution House in Windsor, Vermont.

## You can help with the Early Vermont Settlers project!

After being researched, reviewed, and edited, sketches are uploaded to [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org). But the sketches are not fixed and immutable. We encourage readers to review the material and contact us at [VermontSettlers1784@nehgs.org](mailto:VermontSettlers1784@nehgs.org) if you have additional or different information. The most challenging part of writing a sketch is determining where the children of primary subjects settled. Often members of the “children generation” relocated to areas outside Vermont. NEHGS members have already added valuable data to the sketches, and we hope to continue this partnership with readers for the entire project.

Each sketch begins with vital records—birth, marriage(s), and death—for the subject of the sketch, that person’s spouses, and all the spouses’ other spouses. Presenting this information allows us to see how the early settlers were interconnected. In some cases widowed settlers married each other, thereby joining families; other links are through wives or parents. Patrilineal lines to the immigrant ancestor are given when the information can be obtained from secondary sources.

The biographical section, generally presented chronologically, draws from military service records (French and Indian War and the American Revolution), histories (town, county, and state), historical references in published New York records, early town deeds, probate records, religious certificates, and the *State Papers of Vermont*.<sup>7</sup> For the references to primary records that have been digitized and are available online, a stable URL will follow the citation in the footnotes. Vital records for all children are listed and, occasionally, some additional material. Information on spouses of children and children of spouses’ other marriages are shown when possible.

This project is focused geographically, and sketches are proceeding town by town, rather than randomly or alphabetically by surname. With this approach, migration patterns and groups are emerging that give us a

better and deeper understanding of a town’s residents and history. This method also helps identify settlers whose lives were not well documented, and possibly discover their origins.

I chose to begin the project with Springfield, my hometown. Springfield is located in the southeast corner of Windsor County, so this county will be completed first, as we move north, town by town, to the Quebec border. Next will be Windham County, since it also was part of Cumberland County and has better data from the 1771 census.

Already, migration patterns are being uncovered—some unique to a particular town or group of towns. And lesser known records are coming to light. We have used sources ranging from 1775 oaths of allegiance to New York land court records detailing compensation cases for those who lost New Hampshire grants when New York received jurisdiction over the region.

We expect that the first book from this project, *Early Vermont Settlers, Volume 1*, will be published at the end of the year. The volume will include sketches of settlers from the southern half of Windsor County—the towns of Andover, Chester, Springfield, Weathersfield, and Windsor—to 1771. In addition, the book will include several additional features we think will be useful: essays by others on migration to Vermont; an early history of each town,

with mention of each one’s earliest churches and a discussion of church records; an analysis of data compiled on the first settlers of each town; and early lotting maps, if found, so readers can discover exactly where ancestors settled within these towns.

Sketches are being produced roughly at the rate of ten per month. We estimate that all the heads of families who settled in Vermont by 1771 will eventually be covered in ten published volumes.

In future articles in this magazine, we will report on project discoveries. We hope to address some lesser-known subjects, including the various legal jurisdictions that governed Vermont, the chartering/proprietorship process, how towns were settled and churches established, and unique record sources. Our goal is that the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 Project will significantly extend our understanding of why and how New England’s last frontier was settled.





## Western Massachusetts Families in 1790



Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG, is associate editor of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and editor of NEHGS's Western Massachusetts in 1790 project. She is the award-winning author of a number of compiled genealogies and many genealogical articles. She is a past Councilor and Trustee Emeritus of NEHGS, which she joined in 1968.

The Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 study project focuses on compiling sketches for families listed in the 1790 census for Berkshire and Hampshire Counties (an area that now includes Franklin and Hampden Counties).

We have now completed more than 225 sketches of families who were living in Berkshire and Hampshire Counties in 1790. Two hundred are in the three *Western Massachusetts Families in 1790* volumes published to date; those sketches, plus about 28 more, are available on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org). Considering that over 14,000 families were counted in the 1790 census in Berkshire and Hampshire Counties, our coverage may seem like a drop in the bucket. But if an average of, say, four children or their spouses treated in a family were also counted in the census as heads of household, perhaps we've accounted for about 1,000.

In 1790 this part of Massachusetts was a crossroads for New England families heading west into New York or beyond, or north into Vermont or Canada. When this project was conceived, we thought it would identify families in transit. And indeed it has. Sometimes determining the origins of 1790 families has been difficult. Gradually we've learned that the majority of families came from southeastern Massachusetts and Connecticut. Very few were from Rhode Island or from Middlesex, Suffolk, or Essex Counties in Massachusetts.

Origins were sometimes identified in published genealogies, but often a

search of other records was required. For example, we learned from deeds that John Safford was of Norwich, Connecticut, when he purchased land in what was then Gageborough (now Windsor, Berkshire County), and Zachariah Mayhew was "of Chilmark" in Dukes County [Martha's Vineyard] when he acquired acreage in Williamsburg, Hampshire County. But we needed Quaker records for Edmund Sherman to convince us that his son Daniel, of Adams, Berkshire

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Detail of plate 33, John Palairre, *Bowles's Universal Atlas* (London: Bowles and Carver, c. 1795). NEHGS Library Collection.

"Quaker Meeting  
House, Adams,  
Mass."



County, in 1790, had been born in Rochester, Plymouth County.

Even more difficulties can arise when tracing families from Western Massachusetts westward and northward. For example, Simeon Martin of Hancock, Berkshire County was born in Swansea, Bristol County, and died in St. Armand, Quebec. And the family of Samuel Kendall Jr. of New Salem, then in Hampshire County, moved to one of the northeasternmost towns in

the country, Houlton, Maine! In many cases, manuscripts in local historical societies or family records belonging to authors of sketches provided essential clues about where individuals ultimately settled. Sometimes an adult child or the child's spouse off in a New York town sold inherited land back in Massachusetts, thus providing the name of a new location in a deed. Revolutionary War pensions often provide the birthplace and various residences of soldiers. The FindaGrave.com website sometimes helped us find descendants in the Midwest and even California.

The subjects of some of the sketches were born in the 1720s, and often their children are featured in their own 1790 sketches. The project includes several clusters of families, such as the Bowens of Adams, the Moodys in South Hadley, and the Pixleys in Great Barrington. Other children were born late enough to serve in the Revolution and generate pension files. And *their* sons may appear in War of 1812 pensions that are gradually coming online at Fold3.com.

Since the first Western Massachusetts volume was published in 2012, much more source material has become available online. Ancestry added the

Holbrook microfiche of vital records under the title *Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988*. And FamilySearch added land records from all counties, which is perhaps the greatest boon. FamilySearch has placed some town records (as opposed to vital records) online, but their availability is limited. And very few proprietors' records, which could reveal when a family acquired land in a western town, can be found even on microfilm. We are excited, however, that AmericanAncestors.org, the NEHGS website, now includes probate files for Hampshire and Berkshire Counties. The files often include papers that were never copied into the record books available via Family History Library microfilm.

One of our goals has been to fully identify the spouses of each subject's children. For example, we needed to identify which Moses Bardwell married Sarah Ransom and which married Sarah Merriam, so that we could determine that Melinda E. Bardwell was the daughter of Moses and Sarah (Merriam) Bardwell.

Spouses of children have often been identified by searching probate records, but determining whose probate to

### Submissions welcome!

We welcome sketch submissions for the Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 study project. Please review the format on our website or in our published books. Note the kind of research we undertake and source citations we use; the goal is for submitted sketches to require minimal editing. Sketches accepted for inclusion will be posted online and included in a future print volume. Direct questions to [WesternMass1790@nehgs.org](mailto:WesternMass1790@nehgs.org).





Detail from postcard depicting *Return of the Mayflower* (1871) by G.H. Boughton.

review can be difficult. For example, an unsourced annotation on FindaGrave.com identified parents of spouse Dexter Hawkins. Then two publications, also unsourced—a *Boston Transcript* column and a microfilm publication on Vallette families—noted that Uriah Hawkins had ten children. Uriah's will in Herkimer County, New York, identified the two brothers who married daughters of our 1790 subject Eseck Brown.

Another project goal has been to connect the family to genealogical literature, sometimes to nineteenth-century genealogies and town histories but often to more recent sources. While early publications are apt to be searchable online, later books and articles, often thoroughly documented by modern genealogical standards, are usually under copyright and can be hard to locate. The ability to search multiple journals online at AmericanAncestors.org has been a great help. And at times manuscripts in Special Collections at NEHGS have provided essential links.

One frustration has been that we often see dates and places in online “trees” without documentation. Although we sometimes mention these

sources, we always do so with great caution. Compilers of these trees may have used family records of one kind or another. Or they may have made faulty connections or simply introduced typographical errors. FindaGrave.com is a wonderful source, but entirely too often submitters provide vital data without indicating the source of the information. On the other hand, these unsourced sites sometimes offer clues that give us new places to look. One of my axioms is, “The exact date is not as important as the exact place.” We can approximate dates, but without a place, where would we look?

Not many famous people are mentioned in these sketches. Johnny Appleseed [John Chapman] and Jacob “Jack” Burghardt, great-grandfather of W.E.B. DuBois, are treated in volume one. One online sketch treats the family of Mother Lucy Wright, successor to Mother Ann Lee of the Shakers, and another covers the birth family of Mary Lyon, founder of Mt. Holyoke College. Otherwise we meet the common man and woman, who are, of course, Very Important People for our readers. ♦



## Connect with our Study Projects

Our study projects have both online and print components. Visit [AmericanAncestors.org/browse/publications/ongoing-study-projects](http://AmericanAncestors.org/browse/publications/ongoing-study-projects) for further information, and to access databases and view volumes available for purchase.

You can also view “Searching Study Projects on AmericanAncestors.org,” a helpful webinar by NEHGS staff members Lindsay Fulton and Sam Sturgis on how best to search the project data on the NEHGS website. Log in to [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org) and then navigate to [AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Watch](http://AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Learning-Resources/Watch) to view the recording.

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> For a history of the Great Migration Study Project, see Robert Charles Anderson, “Past, Present, and Future,” *The Great Migration Newsletter* 25:4 [October–December 2016]: 25–32.
- <sup>2</sup> See Robert Charles Anderson, “The Joys of Prosopography: Collective Biography for Genealogists,” *American Ancestors* 11:1 [Winter 2010]: 25–29. The three previous such modern scholarly (i.e. well documented) works are Henry Z Jones, *The Palatine Families of New York: A Study of the German Immigrants who Arrived in Colonial New York in 1710* (Universal City, Calif., 1985), and its two subsequent series; Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633* (NEHGS, 1995) and *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635* (NEHGS, 1999–2011); and Marsha Hoffman Rising, *Opening the Ozarks: First Families of Southwest Missouri, 1835–1839* (Derry, N.H., 2005).
- <sup>3</sup> The Cumberland County enumeration was published in the *Semi-Weekly Eagle* (Brattleboro, Vt.) from January 7 to March 7, 1850.
- <sup>4</sup> Scott Andrew Bartley, “Cumberland Co., N.Y., Census for 1771,” *Vermont Genealogy* 17 [2012]: 60–96.
- <sup>5</sup> E. B. O’Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New-York* (Albany, 1849–51), 4: 709.
- <sup>6</sup> Franklin B. Hough, *Census of the State of New-York for 1855* (Albany, 1857), vii.
- <sup>7</sup> *State Papers of Vermont* (Rutland, Vt., 1918–85).



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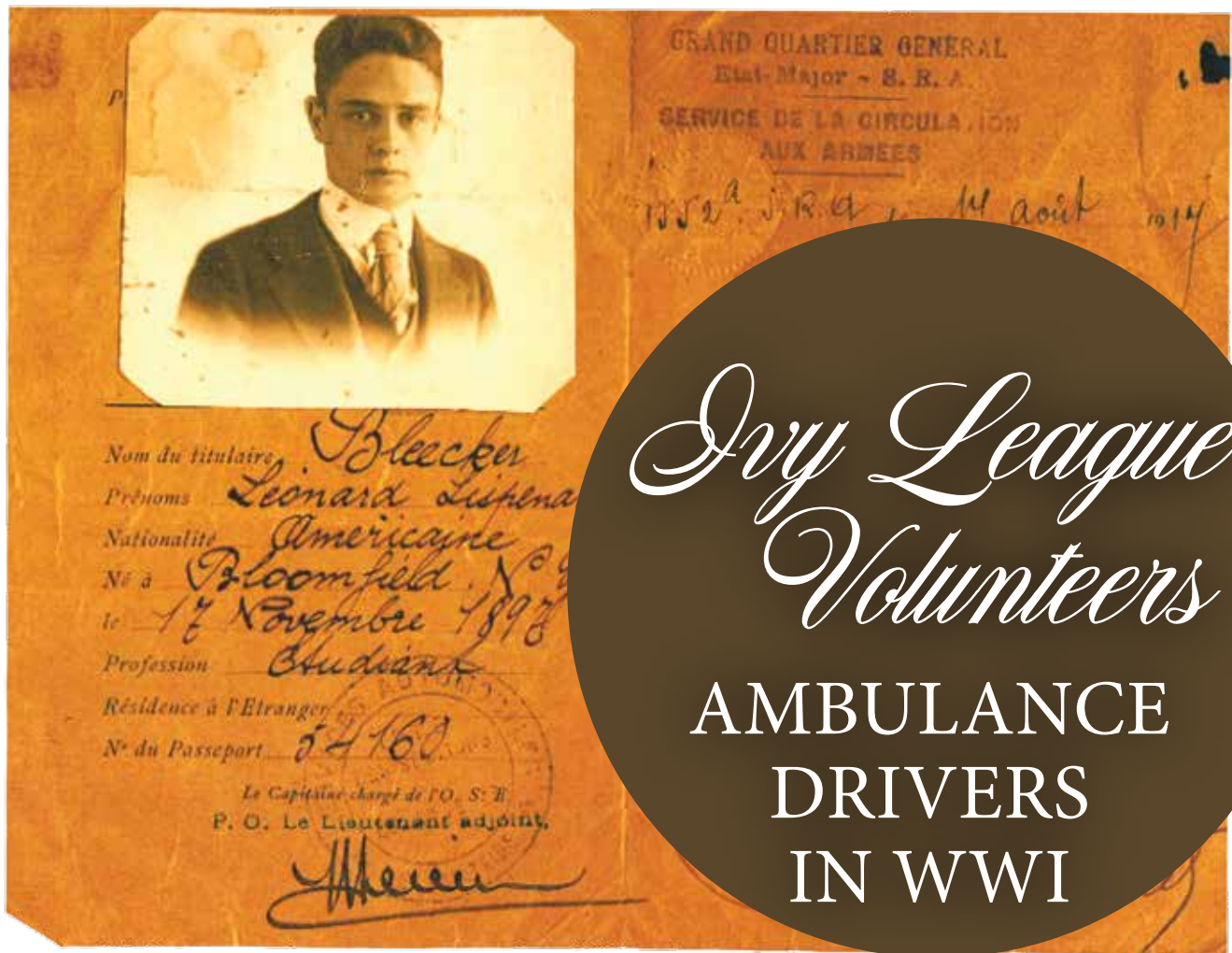


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Leonard Bleecker's identity card, issued by French military authorities in 1917, allowed him to enter battle zones as an ambulance driver.

On June 2, 1917, my grandfather, Leonard Lispenard Bleecker, then a 19-year-old sophomore at Princeton, set sail from New York City for France on the *SS La Touraine*, along with dozens of other young men and women who wanted to take part in the war effort.<sup>1</sup>

Leonard left his parents, a brother, and six sisters behind in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Leonard brought onboard a letter from his sister Emily "to be delivered on the ninth day" of the voyage. She wrote "I suppose you are naturally beginning to think more of what you'll find on the other side." If Leonard's family was worried for his safety, no indication of their concerns can be found in this missive.

Leonard did not leave all of his Princeton chums behind. Some of his classmates accompanied him on the ship, along with other Ivy League students who volunteered for the American Field Service (AFS).<sup>2</sup> AFS was created in April 1915 by A. Piatt Andrew—also a Princetonian—to provide volunteer ambulance drivers for the French Army. Between 1915 and 1917 more than 2,500 men were estimated to have served through AFS. By December 1917 AFS reported 348 volunteers from Harvard, 202 from Yale, 187 from Princeton, and 122 from Cornell, with a smattering from other colleges.<sup>3</sup> Some volunteers came directly from prep



**Jim Boulden** is a copy editor for CNN in London. He has been researching his family for more than 35 years and is a former member of the NEHGS Council.

schools such as St. Paul's in Concord, New Hampshire, and Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.<sup>4</sup>

Why did they go? One of Leonard's compatriots wrote, "We who served in it together had been unable to get into the armed forces of our own country because of our youth or some minor physical defect. The requirements for admission into the U.S. Army in the spring of 1917 were very strict."<sup>5</sup> (Thousands of women also volunteered as part of the YMCA nursing service.<sup>6</sup>)

Leonard was placed in the AFS ambulance unit designated Section Sixty-Seven (SSU 67), which gathered in Paris in mid-June. On June 19, two units of twenty men each from Princeton and Yale left Paris and headed northeast to May-en-Multien to train. (Some of the volunteers had yet to learn to drive.)<sup>7</sup> By early July the section joined the French 154th Division in Armentières. The group served in Glennes, Beaurieux, Aisne, Soissons, Perrier and Clamecy.<sup>8</sup>

Like many American volunteers headed for France, Leonard kept a diary to record the details of what still appeared to be a big adventure. He wrote on June 25: "Saturday the 23 was the first real big day we've had . . . [John Frank] Tufel and I had been wanting for a time now to go to see the abandoned trenches about half a mile beyond May. He [Benjamin Hyde] Cory and I got [permission]. When the other fellows discovered that we were going they wanted to go too."<sup>9</sup>

Leonard's subsequent entries are filled with tales of tobacco swapping, clothes cleaning, and cherry eating in trees. Few details relating to the war were noted until Leonard stumbled upon some Belgian refugees at a shoemaker's shop. A young lady "brought out a picture of her little brother, a fat little youngster whom, she said, the Boche [German soldiers] had run thru with a bayonet when they were forced

to flee. They can talk about those atrocities being stories but this is an actual instance."

On July 1, in Cramaille, the accents of the AFS group excited the French soldiers who "wanted to know when the American troops were coming." Two days later Leonard and his compatriots were taking driving lessons in Armentières. "Of course, I did perfectly rotten. The accelerator on the Fiat is the worse any of us have ever encountered. Twice I failed to get her into fourth and twice I stalled her." On the Fourth of July they were treated to an extra hour of sleep, "champagne and fromage" and a trip to town.

The war became more real for the volunteers a few days later when their convoy drove through Glennes, "headed right for the front" and they saw military trains full of soldiers and observation balloons in the distant skies. Leonard saw his first dog fight "where the French were shooting mercilessly at a couple of German planes."

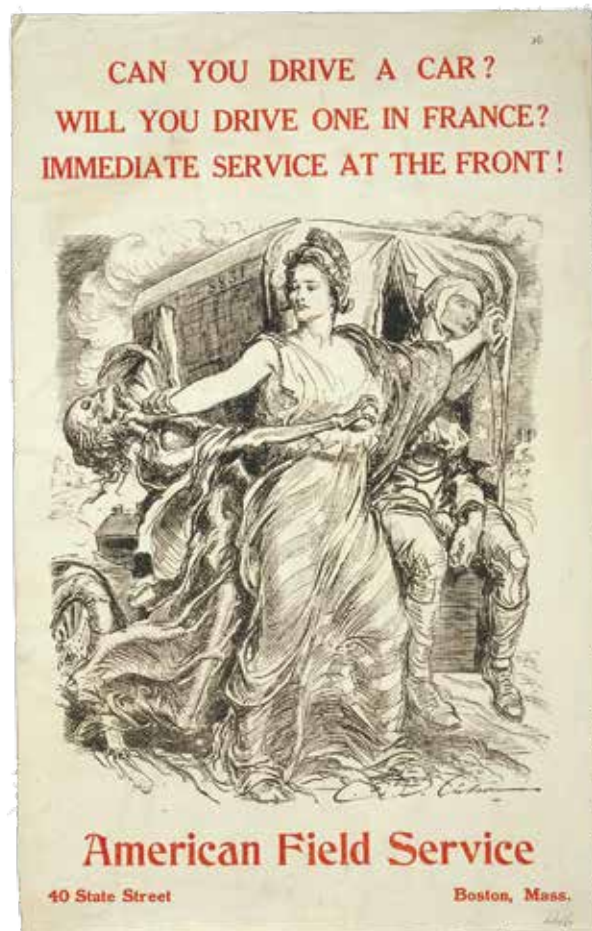
When a shell landed nearby "it raised quite a bit of excitement among the Americans tho the French hardly looked up." By July 8, Leonard and his compatriots were in field hospitals, transporting the injured (in driving rain, he often wrote) and even chatting to German prisoners of war. These university boys were fluent in European languages.

In his journal Leonard often complained about broken down ambulances, getting lost, and days with nothing to do followed by long stretches of driving the wounded. Every day, the volunteers were tasked with working

on their engines or cleaning the ever-present mud from vehicles.

On August 2, Leonard's group learned that two drivers from SSU 66 had been killed.<sup>10</sup> A week later his diary entry noted that Jack Newlin, Princeton Class of '19, had also been killed. "They say that every section that goes out on repos for any length of time gets pretty hot work. There is more than a probability that at least one or two of us will not last out the six months."

While 127 AFS ambulance drivers were reported to have been killed during their service,<sup>11</sup> Leonard and the other 43 men in SSU 67 did live through the end of their time with AFS.<sup>12</sup> To the surprise of the volunteers, their units were quickly absorbed into the U.S. Army by summer's end.<sup>13</sup> Leonard wrote on August 30, "All is in an uproar. The United States Army has taken over our service and giving us the alternative of returning to the states at once, or signing up to serve



1917 AFS poster by Charles Dana Gibson showing Liberty fending off Death as she protects a wounded soldier. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, [loc.gov/pictures/item/2001698259](http://loc.gov/pictures/item/2001698259).



## For more information

To learn more about AFS history, visit [afs.org/archives/](http://afs.org/archives/). To search for individual AFS volunteer ambulance drivers, visit [the-afs-archive.org](http://the-afs-archive.org).

An NEHGS exhibit, “Voices of War: Americans in World War I: 1917–1918,” uses letters, diaries, photographs, and other items from the collections of NEHGS, the Jewish Heritage Center, and Historic Newton, to bring to life the stories of two American soldiers: Charles Judd Farley and Bernard Louis Gorfinkle. Farley, an ambulance driver with the American Expeditionary Forces and the United States Motor Transport Corps, volunteered to serve with France in 1916. Gorfinkle, who arrived in France in 1917, was a Judge Advocate with the American Expeditionary Forces, 26th Yankee Division. Richly illustrated panels also tell of other servicemen and explore topics such as the American Red Cross and the Jewish American experience in the U.S. military. The exhibit will be on view at NEHGS through October 31, 2017, and will remain online at [AmericanAncestors.org/wwi](http://AmericanAncestors.org/wwi).

as a private until the end of the war.” He added, “Some are only happy to be paid. Others are for heading for home . . . I know what I ought to do, but I can’t say I am anxious to do it. At least I hope we do not return in time for me to get to college this year for I did want to work and [learn] typewriting.”<sup>14</sup>

Leonard stayed. He took his army physical on September 5, 1917, officially entering the U.S. Army. He wrote “I haven’t had the least desire to repent my decision but I certainly hope Bill [his brother] can stay out of the struggle. If not? Every soldier is a fatalist but believes that he personally will surely be spared.” No doubt Leonard had reason to consider his own mortality. That day he also observed that “The posts are getting more lively. Several of the cars have had to run up roads being shelled and about all of them [ambulance drivers] have had to stay in the abris [shelter] for hours at a time to be safe. The French are preparing for an attack and the ammunition is going out all night to the front.”<sup>15</sup>

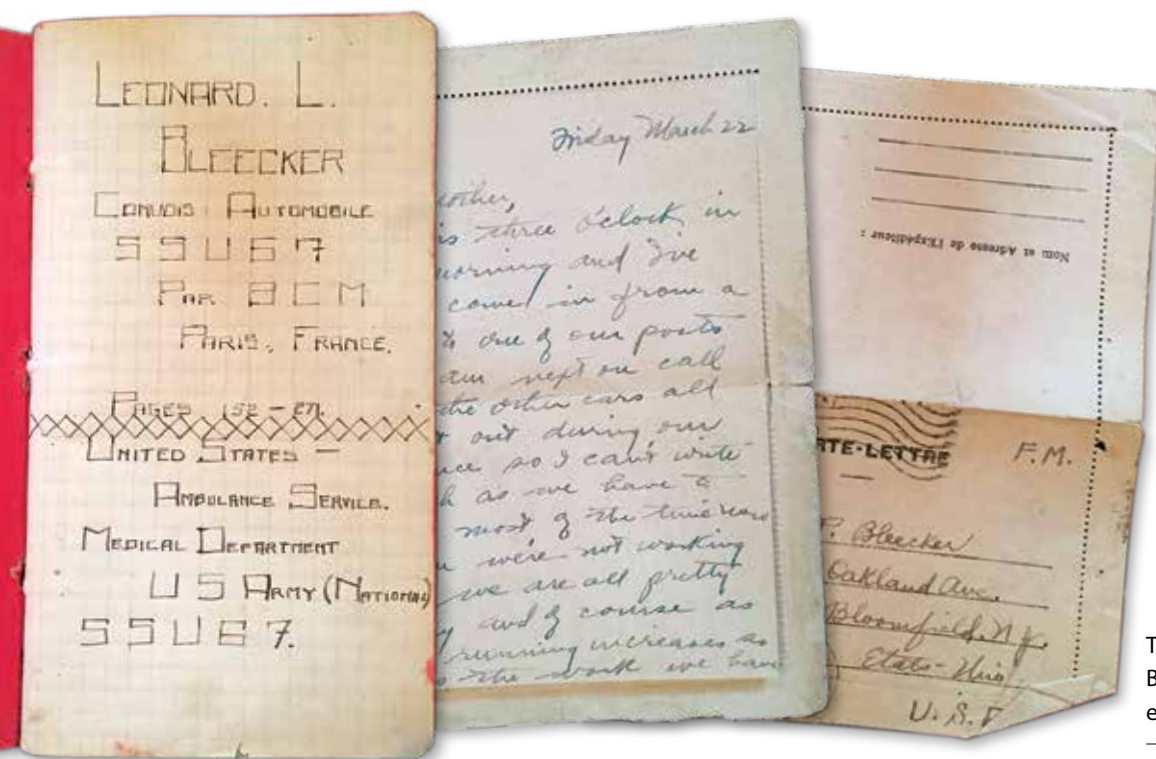
Leonard faithfully cataloged his days through March 1, 1918. Unfortunately, he lost the journal he kept later in 1918, and noted in his next surviving entry on March 31, 1919, that “All the experiences of the year missed would fill this and other books.” Looking back over the year, he wrote about being awarded a Croix de Guerre, although the date and reason for his “Cross of War” medal was not recorded. He described being “driven from our quarters in Haudainville [near Verdun] by the Austrian whizz boys”—undoubtedly during the German Spring Offensive in March 1918, which Leonard called “The Boche advance.” He was involved in the Allied counter-offensive in August 1918 and wrote about “the advance across the Hindenburg Line.” Leonard ended his summary of the missing year with the words, “Thus in brief we have the romance and the tragedy of a year in France.”<sup>16</sup>



Leonard Bleecker in Rennes, France, 1919.

The war ended in November 1918 and around that time Leonard received orders to report to Rennes University, where soldiers were allowed to stay and take classes. On June 30, 1919, after a special dinner, he wrote “Last night in Rennes!” The next day he moved to Brest, where on July 6 he reported that he had boarded the troop transport ship *USS Prinz Frederick Wilhelm*. He noted his arrival in Hoboken, New Jersey on the 14th, just over two years after he left. Leonard was discharged at Camp Mills in Garden City, New York, on July 18. He returned to Princeton and graduated in 1920.<sup>17</sup>

As a 12-year-old fledgling genealogist, I “interviewed” my grandfather about his time in France. Like so many men of his generation, he said very little about his wartime experiences. I



The first page of one of Leonard Bleecker's diaries, and a letter and envelope he sent to his mother.

don't remember mention of his diaries, in which he said so much. I wish he had shared them with me before he died in 1981. Armed with his diaries, I plan to spend at least one night in a French village on the same day that he was there, exactly 100 years later. Through the words he wrote a century ago, I will be able to evoke much more of Leonard Bleecker's World War I service than he chose to reveal to my younger self. ♦

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Shipping departure announcements seem to have disappeared from New York newspapers by early April 1917, likely because war had been declared on Germany on April 6. Ship details are from Leonard's passport application, dated 28 May 1917 (Ancestry.com, *U.S. Passport Applications, 1795–1925* database, with original data from *Selected Passports*, National Archives, Washington, D.C.). Some of the volunteers apparently booked first class accommodation. One (Beckwith Cook) wrote on the second day out, "Sang in a Quartette last night with Monsieur Bastioni—Metropolitan star." On the ninth day they sang college songs on deck. "I must admit that Yale can sing best." (Robert L. Nourse, ed., *With a Rooster on the Shoulder* [New York, 1966], vol. 1, 1–3.)

- <sup>2</sup> Writer E. E. Cummings, then at Harvard, made the same journey on the *SS Touraine*, leaving on April 28, 1917. Jirí Flajšar and Zénó VERNYK, eds., *Words into Pictures: E. E. Cummings' Art across Borders* (Newcastle, U.K.: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2009), xx.
- <sup>3</sup> Arlen J. Hansen, *Gentlemen Volunteers* (New York: Arcade Publishing, 1996), xii, xiv, 183.
- <sup>4</sup> "Roster of Volunteers of the American Field Service in France, 1915–16–17," ourstory.info/library/5-AFSIS/prep/roster.html.
- <sup>5</sup> Nourse, *With a Rooster on the Shoulder* [note 1].
- <sup>6</sup> One such volunteer was Marian Baldwin, who kept a diary on the *SS Touraine's* voyage to Bordeaux, which landed on July 17, 1917. She wrote that a newspaper was printed onboard each day, based on news sent over the telegraph, to keep them up-to-date on the war. Marian Baldwin, *Canteening Overseas, 1917–1919* (New York: MacMillan and Sons, 1920), 10.
- <sup>7</sup> The "novelty" of driving an ambulance made this adventure "acceptable to young members of the better educated class" and attracted "gentlemen from the better schools." "Prose & Poetry—Literary Ambulance Drivers," firstworldwar.com/poetsandprose/ambulance.htm.
- <sup>8</sup> "Section Sixty-Seven," *History of the American Field Service in France*, vol. II (Boston and New York: Houghton and Mifflin Company, 1920), 349–59, archive.org/details/historyofamerica02seym.
- <sup>9</sup> Diary Four of Leonard L. Bleecker, June 25, 1917–August 7, 1917, and Diary Five, August

8, 1917–October 25, 1917, both in author's possession. Bleecker's companions were Benjamin Hyde Cory of Spring Lake, New Jersey, and John Frank Tufel of Brooklyn, New York, both Princeton students.

- <sup>10</sup> SSU 66 mostly consisted of men from Harvard, Dartmouth, MIT, and Princeton. The two men killed on July 29, 1917, were James W. Gailey of Princeton and Perley R. Hamilton from Clinton, Mass., who attended the Fenway School of Art. S.S.U. 66 roster: ourstory.info/library/drivers/WW1/rosters/SSU66.htm.
- <sup>11</sup> Hansen, *Gentlemen Volunteers* [note 3], 183. Twelve were killed serving with AFS and 115 were former AFS drivers who lost their lives in other branches of service during WWI.
- <sup>12</sup> "History of the American Field Service, Section Sixty-Seven" [note 8].
- <sup>13</sup> The decision to absorb the volunteer ambulance corps into the U.S. Army was made in May 1917, but kept secret. Hansen, *Gentlemen Volunteers*, 161–62. The American Field Service became a charitable organization which today offers international exchange programs in more than 40 countries; see afs.org.
- <sup>14</sup> Diary Five [note 9], 197–98.
- <sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 204–206.
- <sup>16</sup> Diary Six (October 26, 1917–June 17, 1919, no page numbers), in author's possession.
- <sup>17</sup> Diary Seven (1919 calendar book), in the author's possession; and Leonard L. Bleecker papers, 1915–1920, Princeton University Library (pulsesearch.princeton.edu/catalog/4826402).



# MY GRANDFATHER'S WORLD WAR I SERVICE ... with the Post Office

My grandfather, Thomas Emery, saved many documents from his U.S. Post Office career, from his earliest examination results in 1902 to his final assignment in 1922. Most intriguing is a cache of material from his service as a postal employee during the First World War. In a footlocker stenciled with his name and "Postal Express Service, AEF," he saved appointment letters, other correspondence, and a two-inch stack of postcards sent to his family over eighteen months. Unfortunately for me, he did not save the letters to his wife, Anabel, and children, Frank and Helen, whom he mentioned in his postcards. While these letters would have enhanced my understanding of his experience, what he did save allowed me to explore his unusual military service.

On August 30, 1917, Thomas Emery, then a 42-year-old Assistant Superintendent of Mails in Lynn, Massachusetts, responded to a call for postal workers to accompany the Expeditionary Forces to France. Thomas then received a form letter dated September 4 that noted "the selections are being made from lists submitted by the Division Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service, and that these lists will be ample to meet the needs of the service for many months." Thomas Emery

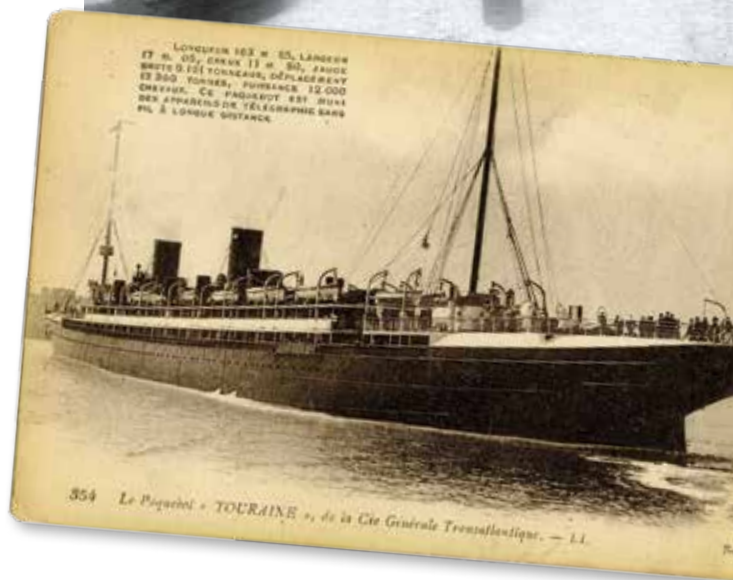
underlined that last phrase in red.

Undaunted, Thomas sent a letter to the Postmaster in Lynn on September 11 requesting that he "ask the First Assistant P.M.G. [Postmaster General] to allow my transfer to the Overseas Branch for the duration of the war with Germany." On September 18, the form letter reply indicated his application would receive consideration, "when additional appointments are needed to meet the needs of the army postal service abroad."

The need arose quickly. On September 21, a letter to the Lynn Postmaster directed him "to request Mr. Thomas Emery, Assist. Superintendent of Mails to leave for Washington on October 15 unless sooner called by telegram." Local newspapers announced his appointment that week: "Lynn Man Will Handle Mail of 'Sammies' on the

Above: Thomas Emery in uniform, October 1917.

Below: Thomas sent this postcard of his ship, *La Touraine*, to his young son in November 1917.



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"American Soldiers marching down the Rue Royale, July 14th, 1918 in the parade celebrating the Independence Day of France."

French Firing Line" and "Lynn Man to Handle Soldiers' Mail in France: Thomas Emery will be Postmaster for All American Forces."

That a man in his forties with a wife and two small children was anxious to volunteer for duty in France during wartime for an extended open-ended period might seem odd. But this position was a calculated step on his path to prosperity in America. Born in 1875 in Stone, Staffordshire, England, Thomas was apprenticed at a young age to a plasterer, then to a shoemaker. When he had an altercation with his master, he ran away to London—according to family tradition. In 1893, at age 18, he immigrated to the United States, settled in Lynn, and obtained a job as a leatherworker.

In 1901, seeking secure employment, Thomas applied for a position with the post office. He was appointed a clerk in 1902, and by 1913 had risen to Assistant Superintendent of Mails in Lynn. His daughter recalled that he believed his chances for advancement would be enhanced if he served in the war. At his age and with his experience, volunteering for service in France was for his career. The assignment also brought an increase in pay: \$1,200 per annum and \$2 per day subsistence allowance—about \$1,930—compared with his \$1,400 salary at the Lynn Post Office.

Thomas obtained the required uniform in New York and a special passport in Washington, D.C. on October 17, before departing from New York.

On November 9, while en route for France aboard the *La Touraine*, Thomas sent the first of more than 200 postcards to his family. That card, which featured a photograph of the ship, contained a message to Thomas's almost five-year-old son: "Mon cher petit garçon. This is the ship on which I am travelling. We are now over the water and expect to land to-morrow. . . . Can you see the little round windows. There is one in my room, but it is on the other side of the boat." He ended by noting one impact of war, that "There have been 3 big cannons put on the ship." Thomas's arrival in Bordeaux the next day generated a card to his wife Anabel. "Arrived O.K. to day. There was a howling gale last night. A beautiful ride up the river, a lot of fellows, a whole col[umn], who could speak our language gave us a great cheer as the ship passed. Leave for here to the large city [Paris] on Monday."

Thomas assumed his duties at Army Post Office no. 702 in Paris. His job, organizing mail service for the forces and training clerks, likely kept him extremely busy—35,455,986 letters and 15,122,110 parcels were delivered to AEF soldiers, who, in turn, sent 15,940,310 letters home in the year from July 1917 to June 1918.<sup>1</sup>

Although Thomas sent his family postcards of Paris scenes, he likely had little time for sightseeing. He reported in an interview after his return that he worked for months with only a few free Sundays. He stayed late on the Fourth of July, and sent a postcard of the parade that day on the Place de la Concorde, noting "the Champs Élysées commences between the two box-like arrangements, which are statues covered up, so bombs will not break them." This comment was one of only a few that mentioned the war.

In May 1918, the Postal Service was reorganized. The Post Office Department relinquished responsibility for the mails to the War Department. The Military Postal Express Service became the first all-military mail service in U.S. history.<sup>2</sup> Many postal workers were sent home but several postal agents were recruited to stay on, including Thomas. In June 1918, he agreed to "serve as a Military Postal Express Service employee, in the Quartermaster Corps, United States Army . . . at a compensation of \$2,300 per annum, for such length of time as my services may be temporarily required."

By August 1918, Thomas was exhibiting signs of homesickness. He asked his son about the family's summer trip to New Hampshire: "Did you go fishing? If you did not I expect that you will be big enough to go when I get back, and we will go together. Does it seem a long time since I left to come here, it does to me." In September he wrote, "I wish you had been with me on Sunday, we would have gone rowing in a boat. But we will go when I get back home, which I hope will not be long now." Although Thomas never mentioned the Armistice on November 11, in a postcard to his children on the 13th, he wrote hopefully, "I expect to be coming home soon."



But by the end of December, the postcards came from the south of France. On the 21st, Thomas wrote to Anabel from Marseille, indicating that he had just arrived after a 15-hour trip. Two days later he was in Nice. While in the south, Thomas sent cards from Cannes, Monaco, and Menton, on the Italian border. Although these exotic destinations may suggest sightseeing, Thomas was not on vacation.

A January 11, 1919, letter in the collection written by the Superintendent of the 7th District of the Postal Express Service to the Chief of the P. E. S. in Paris explained the circumstances. "On my journey south, I stopped at Nice and interviewed Civilian clerk Thomas Emery. I found that he was not at all well, and it would take some time, before he would be able to return to actual work. I suggested to Colonel Smith, the Commanding Officer of the Nice Leave Area, that Emery be transferred to Hyères, where he could get medical treatment, and at the same time act as the advisor for the postal clerk who will be on duty at Hyères. This postal clerk is not familiar enough with the work to go it alone, so if Emery cannot be left at Hyères, it will be necessary to detail a man who has had experience." Thomas had been moved south from the Paris office due to a serious injury or infection for which he had been hospitalized. He was left with a noticeable limp for the remainder of his life.

On January 17 Thomas received his new orders for Hyères. His superior recognized Thomas's abilities, writing, "With your knowledge of the postal game, I do not think it necessary for me to give you specific instructions regarding the handling of incoming and outgoing mail." The work must not have been as taxing as in Paris as Thomas managed to send postcards from various places in the area. Hotels had been taken over by the military and Thomas wrote to his mother-in-law, identifying "one of the hotels we are using down here. This one is for

convalescent officers." Another card identified the hotel "where I eat, sleep and work."

On March 13, 1919, Thomas signed another contract for service in the Quartermaster Corps, receiving a raise that brought his salary to \$2,400. But on May 20, Thomas finally received the news he wanted. He wrote to his son announcing his plans. "Dear Frank. Am leaving here this afternoon, then shall go on vacation for two weeks. Will send you some different cards then." The next day he traveled to Marseille and then on to Paris, making stops along the way.

On May 31, he arrived in England, his native country, after an absence of 26 years. He traveled to Winchester, Windsor Castle, Stratford-on-Avon, and York—the closest he came to his home town. By June 20, he had returned to Paris to await discharge. He wrote his mother-in-law on July 7, one hopes in jest, "I'm going to desert if I don't get leave to return soon." At the bottom of another card written the same day, he added, "Just got my travel orders leave for Brest tomorrow or the next day."

On July 16, Thomas wrote to his daughter, noting "This is the last card you will get from France." Back in the United States, he was discharged on July 31, 1919. His mother-in-law noted in her diary on July 25, "Anabel has gone to NY [to meet his ship]" and on August 1, "Tom & Anabel came this forenoon."

We can't know if his work with the postal service in France was a deciding factor, but in July 1922 Thomas Emery was appointed Superintendent of Mails in Lynn, a position he held until his retirement in 1945.



My grandfather lived with our family until I was six. In subsequent years, my mother talked about him and I knew about his war service. I had heard about his determination to succeed but studying his cache of World War I documents makes that quality more concrete for me. Perhaps more importantly, the postcards showed my grandfather as a loving father, rather than as the rather stern old man I knew. That portrayal was a gift I had not expected. ♦

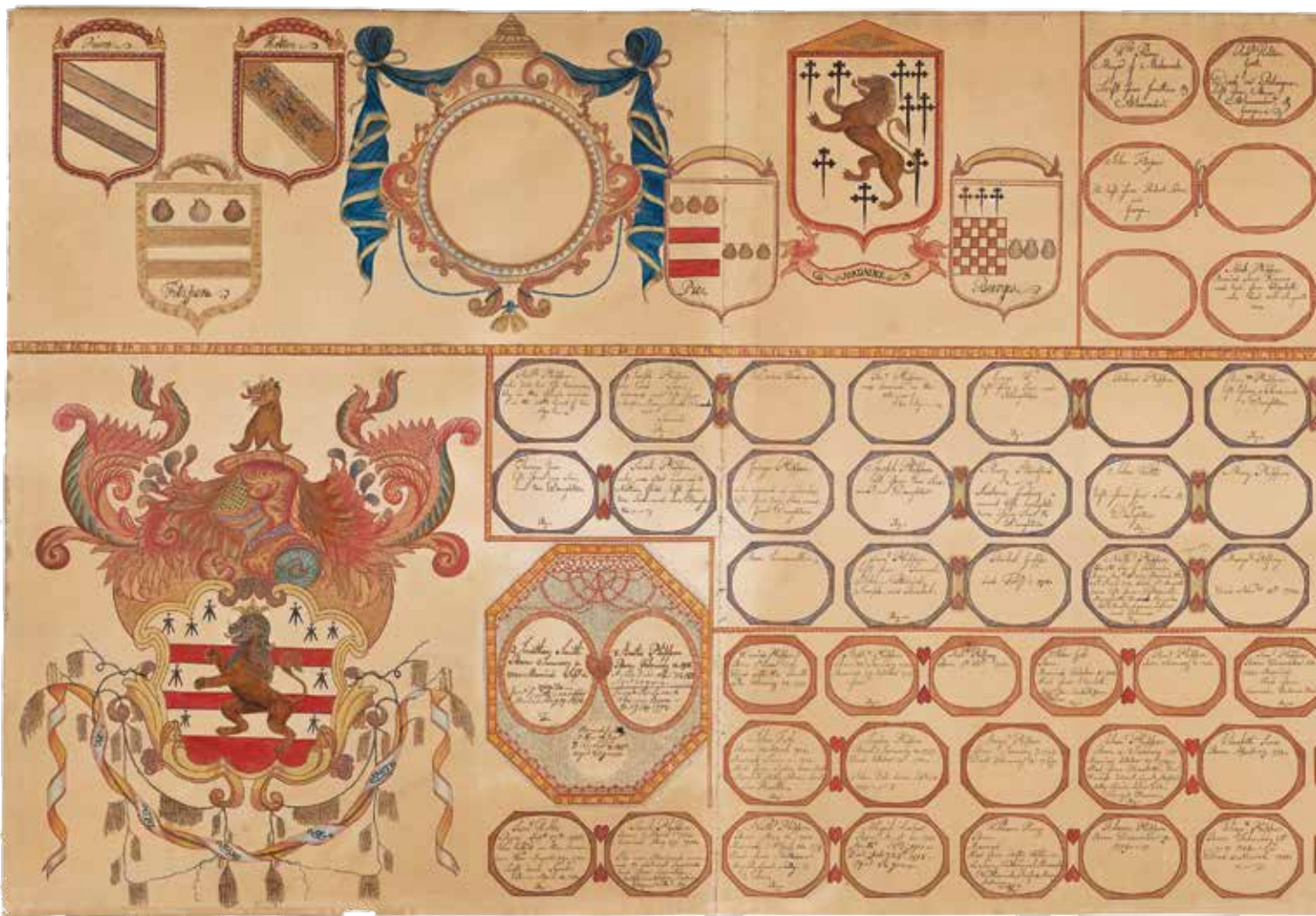
## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> "Special Passport for a Postal Employee," [postalmuseum.si.edu/collections/object-spotlight/special-passport.html](http://postalmuseum.si.edu/collections/object-spotlight/special-passport.html), accessed 6/28/2017. National Postal Museum.

<sup>2</sup> "Expanded Service 1898–1920s," [postalmuseum.si.edu/mailcall/2b.html](http://postalmuseum.si.edu/mailcall/2b.html). National Postal Museum.

# The Phippen Heraldic Pedigree

With more than two hundred names, eight painted coats of arms, and painstaking decorative work using the unusual technique of “pricking,” the Phippen heraldic pedigree, owned by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston is one of the great treasures of early New England genealogical and heraldic art and record-keeping.<sup>1</sup>





When David<sup>1</sup> Phippen arrived in Boston with his family in 1634, he was a middle-aged master carpenter with many years of experience building wharves and bridges in his hometown, the port of Melcombe Regis in the county of Dorset, England. With his valuable skills he prospered in Boston, where he died in 1650.<sup>2</sup> His descendants in Massachusetts and Connecticut included successful and wealthy merchants.

David Phippen's younger brother, George, was an Oxford-educated minister and rector of the church of Saint Mary, Truro, Cornwall. The Reverend George Phippen recorded a pedigree and coat of arms in the heralds' Visitation of Cornwall of 1620.<sup>3</sup> By virtue of his inclusion in his brother's visitation pedigree, David<sup>1</sup> Phippen was among the first immigrants to be listed in the NEHGS Committee on Heraldry's *Roll of Arms*—a register

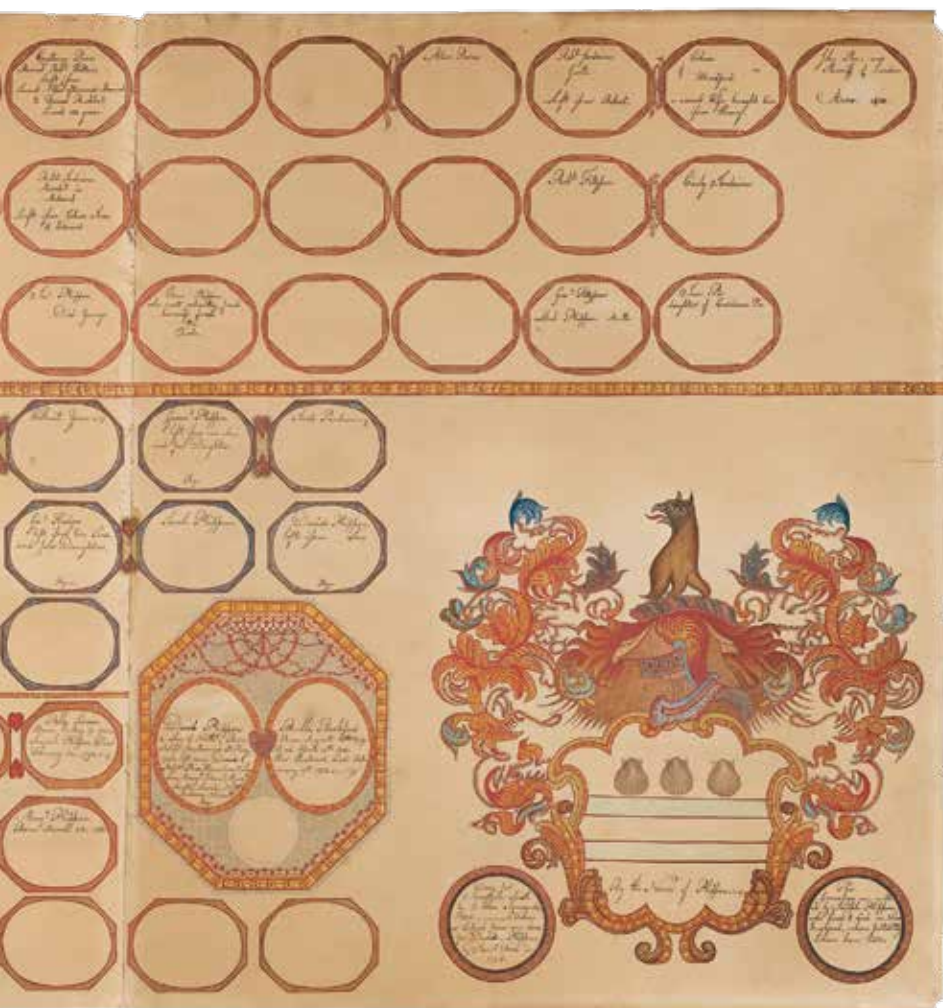
of colonists or early American immigrants with proved coats of arms from their mother countries (see sidebar).

*Phippen* is an old surname with local roots in the West Country (Dorset and Somerset), but Rev. George Phippen liked to use a variant, *Fitzpen*. Rev. Phippen may have invented "Fitzpen," as it appears nowhere else and combines the Norman-French prefix *Fitz* with the Cornish name element *Pen*.

Rev. George Phippen was proud of his heraldic status and used his and his wife's coats of arms on a brass memorial plaque that still survives in the church at Truro. (When this parish church was rebuilt in the 19th century as the Anglican cathedral of the modern diocese of Truro, Rev. Phippen's brass plaque was preserved in the new church.) Rev. George Phippen probably also drew up some form of heraldic pedigree chart and shared it with his brother's family in New England.

The Phippen heraldic pedigree at the Museum of Fine Arts was drawn and painted in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1808 by heraldic artist John Symonds for a sixth-generation Phippen, Anstis<sup>6</sup> Phippen (*David*<sup>5</sup>, *Nathaniel*<sup>4</sup>, *Samuel*<sup>3</sup>, *Joseph*<sup>2</sup>, *David*<sup>1</sup>) and her husband, Jonathan Smith. Four feet wide and two feet high, the chart contains a reference to an earlier version. Symonds's colophon (near the bottom right hand corner) notes that the 1808 pedigree was "Done for Jonathan Smith by John Symonds, 1808. Taken or Copied from one done for David Phippen by James Ford in 1768." (James Ford was another Salem heraldic artist.)<sup>4</sup>

The 1768 chart was probably a copy of an earlier chart or similar material handed down in the family since the time of David Phippen and his brother Rev. George. As an example of *either* heraldic *or* genealogical art it is more ambitious than any other surviving



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Phippen Chart. Drawn and painted by John Symonds, Salem, Massachusetts, 1808; copied (with additions) from a lost earlier version by James Ford, Salem 1768. Photograph © 2017 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

specimen from colonial or early national New England. As a *combination* of both heraldry and genealogy, it is nearly unique.<sup>5</sup>

Over two hundred names appear on the chart, arranged in eighty carefully decorated elliptical box shapes arranged in rows across the wide page. As a genealogical or family register it is quite confusing. The boxes with names are not connected by any obvious visual pedigree scheme. Spouses are joined together by decorated heart-shaped links between their boxes, but parents are not attached to children. The 1808 chart appears to be an imperfect copy of the 1768 chart. Perhaps the 1768 version had been damaged or become illegible, since the 1808 chart contains many blank boxes, and some expected names are missing—for example, the immigrant David Phippen himself is missing, although his parents, brothers, children, and six

generations of his later descendants are all included.

As a general organizing principle, the chart is divided in two parts, separated by a thick decorated red and gold horizontal line. The portion above the line is dedicated to English ancestors and collateral kin of immigrant David<sup>1</sup> Phippen and his brother Rev. George “Fitzpen called Phippen,” following a pedigree likely assembled by Rev. George Phippen himself. For several names, the exact connection to David and Rev. George Phippen remains unknown; these names are separated from other entries by blank boxes, and may represent portions of a chart that had become damaged or illegible, or were confusing to the copyist.

The earliest dated name is “John Pen, was Sherriff of London, anno 1410,” probably intended to be claimed as the progenitor of the “Fitzpen” family: *Fitzpen* might have been presumed

by Rev. George Phippen to mean “son of Pen,” although that form of the name was never used anywhere in medieval England. The six coats of arms in the top portion of the chart are drawn in a plain style suggestive of the 1600s, and all represent English connections of the Phippens predating David Phippen’s migration to New England. There is a simple Phippen shield labeled “Fitzpen”; two shields (Pierce and Horton)

representing marriages of collateral Phippens to other local families in the English West County; a slightly larger shield belonging to the immigrant’s mother’s family (“Jordaine”), and two shields (“Pie” and “Burgess”) pertaining to Rev. George Phippen’s first wife, Jane (Pye) Burgess, whom he married in 1621. Rev. George Phippen married again in 1648, to Mary Penrose, from an even more prominent local family with its own coat of arms, but neither she nor her Penrose coat of arms appear, so the original of this chart was likely made before 1648, and brought or sent to New England within the lifetime of David<sup>1</sup> Phippen.<sup>6</sup>

Everything below the main horizontal dividing line represents the Phippen family in New England. The larger and more elaborate coats of arms at the bottom left and right corners were added to the design for the 1808 copy. Phippen is represented on the right and “Smith” on the left—apparently for Anstis<sup>6</sup> Phippen’s husband, Jonathan Smith of Salem. In contrast to the coats of arms in the top portion, these two coats of arms reflect an elaborate rococo style of the late 1700s, still in vogue in 1808.

As frequently occurred, the Smith coat of arms was likely chosen by the artist out of illustrations in a heraldry book—in this case, apparently page 403 of the popular 1724 edition of John Guillim’s *Display of Heraldry*—merely on the basis of the surname, without regard to whether Jonathan Smith of Salem actually descended from the particular family to which the coat of arms pertained.<sup>7</sup> This Smith coat of arms is likely *misappropriated* (see sidebar, p. 49) and therefore illegitimate. By contrast, the Phippen coat of arms is authentic, because Anstis Phippen’s ancestor David Phippen was a member of the specific Phippen family to which the arms rightfully belonged, as documented at the 1620 heraldic visitation of Cornwall.



Mid-17th-century brass plaque in St. Mary’s Aisle, Truro Cathedral, Cornwall, given by the Rev. George Phippen to mark his intended tomb. Photo credit: Paul Richards.





Elaborate octagonal cartouche depicting Anstis Phippen and her husband, Jonathan Smith, of Salem—the patrons of the 1808 Phippen Chart. Detail from the Phippen Chart, drawn and painted by John Symonds, Salem, Massachusetts, 1808. Photograph © 2017 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

While the chart is defective or unfinished in a genealogical sense and includes some apparently inauthentic heraldry, the painstaking decorative techniques show that this representation of her family was of great importance to Anstis Phippen Smith—as the 1768 chart had probably been to her father, David Phippen.

In the coats of arms and throughout the chart, painted colors are enhanced by the rare technique of ‘pricking’—embellishing the image on paper with

countless tiny pinpricks, pricked both from the front and the back, which give the image a textured, embossed look like quilted fabric. For example, each scallop shell in the various Phippen coats of arms was pricked from the back over the whole shell, then pricked from the front to create radial lines mimicking the natural contours of a scallop shell and (probably unintentionally) the effect of tiny barnacles scattered over the shell’s surface. Pricking also appears in decorated elements of the genealogical chart.

The most elaborate pricking is in the two octagonal cartouches surrounding the names of the patrons and owners of the 1808 chart and its 1768 predecessor. The left-hand cartouche shows Anstis Phippen and her husband Jonathan Smith. The right-hand cartouche shows Anstis’s parents, David<sup>5</sup> and Priscilla (Beckford) Phippen, for

## For more information

*Phippen Genealogy—Ancestors and Descendants of David Phippen (c. 1585–1650)*, by John S. Phippen and Richard C. Phippen. \$64.95. Newbury Street Press. 2017. 360 pp. 6 x 9 hardcover.

*A Roll of Arms Registered by the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*: A one-volume reprint of ten published parts of the Roll of Arms. Published intermittently in the *Register* between 1928 and 1980, the Committee’s Roll of Arms includes illustrated shields presented for review by the Committee along with a description, associated family name, and name of submitter. \$34.95. NEHGS. 2013. 308 pp.

To order either book, visit [shop.AmericanAncestors.org](http://shop.AmericanAncestors.org).

The NEHGS Committee on Heraldry website: [CommitteeonHeraldry.org](http://CommitteeonHeraldry.org).

A new heraldry subject guide, written by Nathaniel Lane Taylor, is available at [AmericanAncestors.org/education/learning-resources/read](http://AmericanAncestors.org/education/learning-resources/read).

whom the 1768 chart was made. In both cartouches, the octagonal box around the text is carefully pricked to give the frame a quilted texture. All this laborious pricking was not necessarily done by professional painter John Symonds, but likely by young women of the Phippen family, just as heraldic or genealogical family memorials were often embroidered by the girls in a family, based on an under-layer of painting by a paid professional.<sup>8</sup>

But no eligible Phippen or Smith girls were then in the immediate family of Anstis (Phippen) Smith. When the chart was made in 1808, she was 51 and had been in a childless marriage for seventeen years. Anstis died seven years later, in 1815. As the final



Phippen coat of arms with painter's colophons. Detail from the Phippen Chart, drawn and painted by John Symonds, Salem, Massachusetts, 1808. Photograph © 2017 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

additions to the 1808 chart show, her husband remarried the next year and his new wife, Sarah H. Leach—not a Phippen—was added to the chart below Anstis Phippen. Jonathan and Sarah's marriage date, May 19, 1816, is the last date added to the chart. The subsequent history of the chart is not known, but Phippen descendants—and everyone with an interest in early New England heraldic and genealogical artifacts—should be grateful that such a magnificent treasure has been preserved. ♦

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Drawing Collection, accession no. 1976.613. The MFA purchased the chart from John Walton of Jewett City, Conn., in September 1976. A replica version is on display in the Jaffrey Parlor period room. The original can be viewed online at [mfa.org/collections/object/genealogical-register-with-coat-of-arms-of-the-hippen-and-the-smith-families-of-salem-massachusetts-173617](http://mfa.org/collections/object/genealogical-register-with-coat-of-arms-of-the-hippen-and-the-smith-families-of-salem-massachusetts-173617).

<sup>2</sup> The starting point on this family has been George D. Phippen, "Fitzpen or Phippen,

and Allied Families," *The Heraldic Journal* 4 (1868):1–20. That article included a partial reproduction and discussion of the Phippen Chart of 1808, as well as a basic genealogy of the early family. Donald Lines Jacobus published a brief Phippen genealogy, partly based on the 1868 article and the chart, in *The American Genealogist* 17 (1940–41):3–17. Both articles are now superseded by the *Phippen Genealogy—Ancestors and Descendants of David Phippen (c. 1585–1650)*, by John S. Phippen and Richard C. Phippen, published this year by the Newbury Street Press imprint of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

<sup>3</sup> J. L. Vivian and Henry H. Drake, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Cornwall in the Year 1620*, Harleian Soc. Pubs., 9 (London, 1874), 71.

<sup>4</sup> On James Ford, see Theodore Chase and Laurel K. Gabel, "James Ford, Salem Writing Master and Stonecarver," in *Gravestone Chronicles II: More Eighteenth-Century New England Carvers and an Exploration of Gravestone Heraldica* (Boston, 1997), 373–400; this chart is mentioned briefly at pp. 380 and 397–98. See also Chase and Gabel's longer general article, "Headstones, Hatchments and Heraldry, 1650–1850," also in *Gravestone Chronicles II: More Eighteenth-century New England Carvers*, pp. 497–604,

especially Appendix 2, "Some Heraldic Painters and Engravers Who Worked in and Around Boston," at p. 577.

<sup>5</sup> On genealogical charts in New England from this period, see Peter Benes, "Family Representations and Remembrances: Decorated New England Family Registers, 1770 to 1850," in *The Art of Family*, ed. D. Brenton Simons (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), pp. 13–59, including his "Selected Checklist of Manuscript, Watercolor, and Needlework Family Registers and Family Trees in New England, 1780–1846," pp. 275–82. On heraldic art and artifacts, the most comprehensive overview is Theodore Chase and Laurel K. Gabel, "Headstones, Hatchments and Heraldry, 1650–1850" [note 4], and also Dr. Harold Bowditch, "Early Water-Color Paintings of New England Coats of Arms," *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts: Transactions 1942–1946* (Boston: The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1951), pp. 172–209.

<sup>6</sup> The chart's caption attributes the information to Joseph<sup>2</sup> Phippen; perhaps Joseph had received this information from his uncle in England (the colophon reads: "This Genealogy was recorded by Joseph Phippen, who lived and died in New England, whose posterity were born there").

<sup>7</sup> These Smith arms are found in John Guillim, *Display of Heraldry*, 6th ed., (London, 1724), p. 403, and said there to have been confirmed to John Smith of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, in 1561. By the eighteenth century no government enforcement of heraldry existed in either in England or her colonies, and herald painters or gravestone carvers on both sides of the Atlantic routinely stole "same-surname" arms from such reference books, with no concern over the client's blood kinship to the original bearers of the arms.

<sup>8</sup> Betty Ring, *Girlhood Embroidery: American Samplers & Pictorial Needlework, 1650–1850* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993), Appendix One, "Checklist of New England's Embroidered Arms of the Eighteenth Century with Arms Identification by Henry L. P. Beckwith," 262–78.



# What is an Authentic Coat of Arms?

Heraldry—coats of arms identifying individuals, families, governments, or corporations—was a thriving social and artistic convention in England and the rest of Europe when colonists brought heraldry to the New World. In the colonies, heraldry was found on seals, gravestones, buildings, and decorative arts of many kinds, as well as on genealogical charts like the Phippen one. Heraldic artifacts are wonderful as works of art, and can also provide important clues to the genealogy of their owners and makers—but they are not always honest or straightforward clues.

Different European countries have had different customs or laws regulating heraldry, but (with certain exceptions) the basic common principle is heredity: as a rule, only male-line descendants of the original bearer of a coat of arms are entitled to use it. When heraldry first appeared, in twelfth-century Europe, coats of arms were *assumed* (created and adopted) by the people who used them, without any official approval or control. In the later Middle Ages, kings and great barons began to grant coats of arms to their followers as a gesture of favor. By the sixteenth century, rulers in some European countries began to regulate and control the use of coats of arms and other heraldic symbols. In England, officers known as heralds conducted *visitations*—systematic circuits throughout England to record the names, pedigrees, and coats of arms of locally prominent families. The heralds were empowered to grant new arms to eligible individuals who did not already have them—for a fee—and eventually asserted that only coats of arms granted or

confirmed by them could legitimately be used. (Since the early 20th century, the English royal heralds, known collectively as the College of Arms, have also provided honorary grants of new coats of arms to Americans of English descent.)

The English heralds' powers of enforcement, always limited, declined considerably after the English Revolution of 1688–1689, when heralds' visitations came to an end. Even before that, and with increasing frequency since then, new arms were once again *assumed* by individuals without regard to a grant by the College of Arms. Moreover, as collections of existing English—and other European—coats of arms were published in books on heraldry beginning in the seventeenth century, those coats were often wrongfully misappropriated by people of the same surname but with no known relation to the original bearers. The use of misappropriated arms remains a problem today. American genealogical publications frequently display a misappropriated coat of arms for people with the same surname but with no known genealogical connection to the original bearers of that coat of arms. The problem for genealogists is that use of misappropriated arms asserts a genealogical link to the original family, when no such link may be known to exist.

The United States has never had any governmental office or laws regulating the use of coats of arms by individuals. Therefore, the use of properly *assumed* (newly created) arms remains as valid now as it was in medieval times, as long as those arms do not infringe on the rights of another family, or promote genealogical confusion, by duplicating an existing coat of arms. The Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society was created in 1864 to further the study of heraldry in genealogical research. In the early 20th century, in order to better distinguish authentic arms from misappropriated arms, the Committee began publishing a *Roll of Arms* of early American immigrants with a proved right to a coat of arms under the custom of their mother countries. David Phippen of Boston was included in the first group published in the *Roll of Arms*, as number 12. Nearly 900 coats of arms have since been registered for colonists or immigrants from over one dozen different mother countries, and the *Roll of Arms* continues to be researched and compiled. See the sidebar on page 47 for more details on the *Roll of Arms*.



Coat of arms from the Gore Roll (begun probably in the 1730s) representing Gov. Gurdon Saltonstall of Connecticut and his wife, Mary Whittingham. The Saltonstall arms on the left are authentic by descent, but the Whittingham arms on the right have not been proved to belong by right to Mary's Whittingham family, which came to New England from Boston, Lincolnshire. They may therefore have been misappropriated from a reference book. The Gore Roll of Arms, Harold Bowditch Collection, Mss 1180, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, NEHGS.

# For All the World to See...

## Two New Jersey Samplers Commemorate an Illegitimate Birth

When we were gathering material to include in our 2013 book on Hunterdon County, New Jersey, needlework, local resident Lisa Zambito showed us a sampler stitched by her great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Popelsdorf, in about 1811. The piece contained the names and birth information for Mary, her parents, and her siblings, with initials and dates squeezed around decorative elements.

On the back of the sampler was a transcription written by Esther R. (Green) Wallace, Lisa's grandmother and Mary's great-granddaughter. Mrs. Wallace wrote that the initials "MERIM" represented a child named Meriam, but the date "DE 22 1817" stitched on the linen near these initials puzzled us. All the other children had been born between 1785 and 1799, so a child born in 1817 seemed odd. In addition, we could not find any supporting documentation for Meriam. But Mrs. Wallace noted that "these dates correspond with & are

confirmed by the family bible."<sup>1</sup> When we included the sampler in our book, we offered our opinion that perhaps the child's birth year was supposed to be 1807 rather than 1817.<sup>2</sup> (Mrs. Wallace made no attempt to identify the remaining letters "AH TR.")

A year later, while perusing samplers to be sold through an online auction, the name "Ester Pupelsdorf" stitched on a small alphabet and motif embroidery leaped out at us.<sup>3</sup> Although the spelling of the surname was different, we knew right away it was made by Mary Popelsdorf's sister

Esther. Most importantly, the name and date—"Aaron H Trimmer December 22 1817"—made it clear to us that the cryptic initials on Mary's sampler did not stand for "Meriam," but were instead part of Aaron H. Trimmer's name. Why would the 1817 birth of this boy be stitched on these two samplers that had been created years earlier?

### Esther and Mary's ancestry

The Popelsdorf name may have its origins in Poppelsdorf, a district of Bonn in western Germany. In America



**Dan (1949–2017) and Marty Campanelli**, a husband-and-wife team of needlework collectors and researchers, wrote three other articles for *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* on family tree embroideries in their collection, as well as the book *A Sampling of Hunterdon County Needlework: the motifs, the makers & their stories* (Hunterdon County [N.J.] Historical Society, 2013).



*Opposite page:* Mary Popelsdorf's 1811 sampler, in its original applewood frame.  
 From the collection of Lisa Zambito.  
 Photo by Marty Campanelli. *Right:* Esther Popelsdorf's 1809 sampler. From the collection of Dan & Marty Campanelli.  
 Photo by Marty Campanelli.

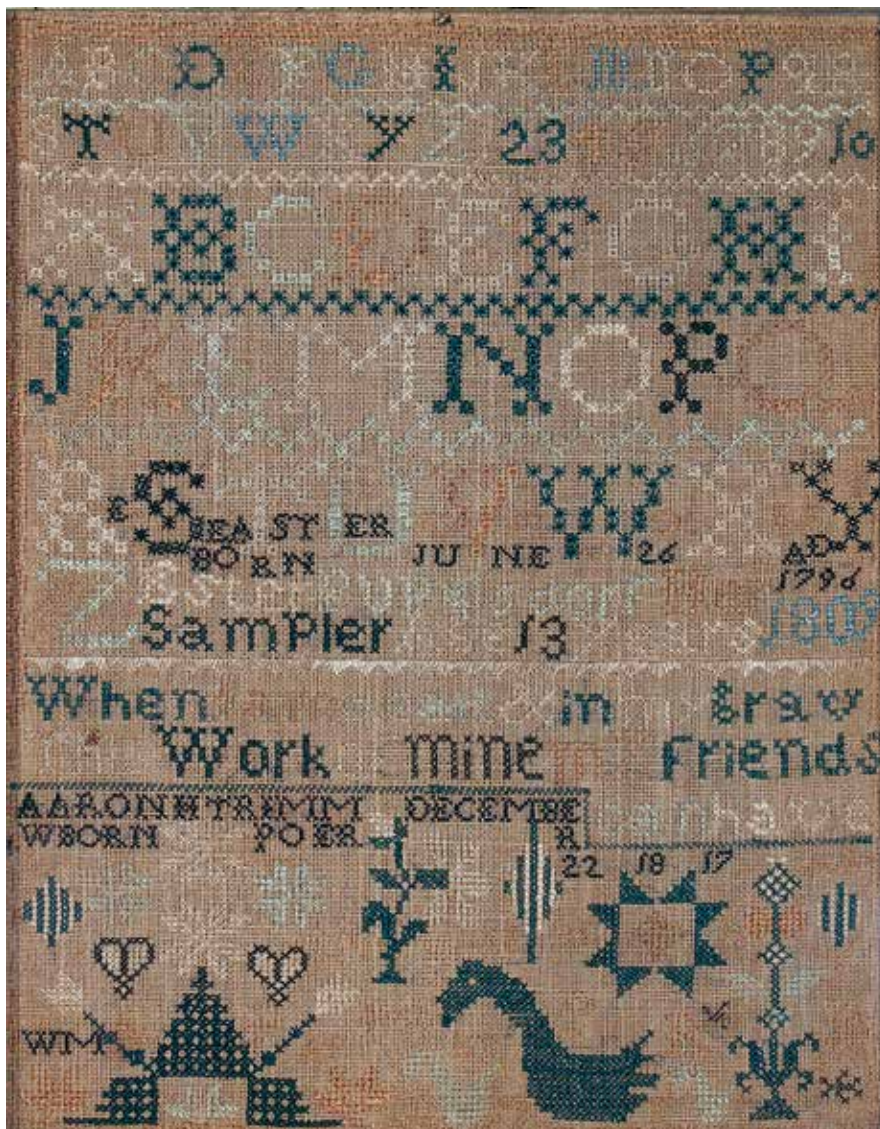
creative variations of the name included Popelsdorph, Popplestorff, Peplesteef, Peoplesdorf, and even Popplesdwarf. Despite spelling inconsistencies even within this one family—on court documents, newspaper notices, death records, and cemetery stones—we will use Popelsdorf except when transcribing sources. Mary's 1811 sampler provided us with the names and birth dates of their parents: Mathias Popelsdorf (b. September 1758) and Rebecca (b. 1760). Our genealogical research did not reveal parents for Mathias but Rebecca was the daughter of Daniel Moore (1729–1807) and his first wife, Catharine Stout (d. ca. 1773), who married in 1753.<sup>4</sup> The Popelsdorf family resided in Kingwood (later Franklin) Township in Hunterdon County.

## Stitching the samplers

In 1809, Esther, age 13, created her sampler, and two years later, 12-year-old Mary stitched a more elongated version. Mary added a family register which detailed the children as: William (b. Nov. 4, 1785); Catharine (b. Feb. 7, 1790); Daniel (born July 7, 1794); Esther (born June 26, 1796); and Mary (b. Oct. 26, 1799). Both samplers were most likely stitched under the tutelage of the same instructress since they both feature distinctive hearts with diamond drops, eight-pointed stars filled with spot motifs, an iris on a stem, and the same large alphabet.

## An addition to the samplers

In 1816 and early 1817, 20-year-old Esther had a relationship with a young man named Aaron Trimmer (b. ca. 1794),<sup>5</sup> and on December 22, 1817,



she gave birth to a son out of wedlock. Esther named the child Aaron Trimmer for the baby's father, with the middle initial "H" for the middle name of the child's paternal grandfather, Herbert.<sup>6</sup> We speculate that during her recuperation from the birth, Esther picked up her 1809 sampler and added her son's name and birth date in black silk thread. Using the same thread, she then stitched her first name again as "Easter," this time smaller and with pairs of letters squeezed around the larger letters of the original alphabet. Her surname was repeated with pale gold thread, also crowded around the alphabet; the name is barely noticeable today. Meanwhile, Mary loyally added baby Aaron's name and birth date to her own sampler, embroidering the

name in pairs of letters around decorative elements, just as she had done with her own siblings' names about 1811.

Mathias Popelsdorf did not take kindly to his daughter's situation and on December 25, 1817, the case came before the county court. Aaron Trimmer, a mason, and his father John H. Trimmer "acknowledge themselves to be indebted to the State of New Jersey" each for the sum of \$200 . . . if default be made in the following condition whereas Easter Popelsdorf . . . single woman. . . Declared that she is with child and that the said child is likely to be born a bastard and to be chargeable to the said township of Kingwood. And that the above bound Aaron Trimmer is the father of the said child."

*Right: Mary (Popelsdorf) Green, taken late in her life.  
From the collection of descendant Laura Connelly.*

On January 24, 1818, Mathias filed an affidavit stating that Aaron “being a single man, courted or paid attention to Esther . . . for the space of eighteen months, or thereabouts—for the purpose . . . of making her his lawful wife— that the said Aaron afterwards deceived and debauched the said Esther and put her with child, whereof she is now delivered . . . And that, he the said Mathias, hath been put to great trouble . . . and expense by reason of the lying in of the said Esther. . . .”

Esther was summoned to appear before the court in May 1818 to make a statement. The court document referred to Aaron as “late of Kingwood.”<sup>8</sup> Apparently, Aaron moved just across the Delaware River into Northampton County, Pennsylvania, where, in 1822, he was described as a “fugitive from Justice and was charged with the crime of fornication and bastardy” by another woman. At the time, an agent was sent to Aaron’s new residence in Knowlton Township, Sussex (now Warren) County, New Jersey.<sup>9</sup> No evidence has been found to indicate whether or not he was apprehended for his crimes against Esther or the other woman. Aaron was enumerated on the 1840 census for Knowlton, living with a female about the same age as himself.<sup>10</sup> According to a history of Hunterdon, Aaron Trimmer “died at the age of about fifty” in about 1844.<sup>11</sup>

## Financial troubles

In the 1820s Mathias Popelsdorf experienced financial difficulties. By 1826, he was in jail for debt, and under orders to deliver up his estate so his creditors could be paid. Court records show that Mathias had no property to speak of, and that he owed money to twenty-three men.<sup>12</sup> An insolvency petition recorded that he was only allowed to keep one bed, one cow, and his family’s wearing apparel.<sup>13</sup> But, at some unknown point in time, he conveniently turned the property over

to his daughter Mary and saved the family homestead. On June 4, 1829, Mary gave the property in Kingwood Township back to her parents.<sup>14</sup> Two days later she married James C. Green, a hatter originally from Connecticut, in a ceremony performed by the Reverend Israel Poulson of the Dunkard Church in Amwell.<sup>15</sup> Mary and James’s first child, Andrew J. Green, was born three months after their marriage.<sup>16</sup> At least James behaved honorably and married Mary when she became pregnant.

## Following the family

The 1830 census shows the Popelsdorfs and Greens residing in one household in Kingwood Township. A male aged ten to fifteen was most likely Esther’s son, Aaron H. Trimmer, who was then almost 13.<sup>17</sup>

We found an intriguing marriage record that showed “Esther Peplesteef” married John Mowry on May 27, 1843. Both the bride and groom were from Clinton, Hunterdon County.<sup>18</sup> John Mowry could not be identified, and we found no record of an Esther Mowry. No other Esther Popelsdorfs lived in Hunterdon County, so we believe the woman who married John Mowry may have been the sampler maker. What became of the marriage, or the man, is unknown.

By 1850, Esther, shown as “Hetty,” was living with James and Mary (Popelsdorf) Green. Esther was noted to be a pauper. Perhaps John Mowry abandoned Esther and she resumed

using her maiden name.<sup>19</sup> By 1860, Esther, age 62, still residing with the Greens, was listed as “insane.”<sup>20</sup>

Mary’s husband, James Green, died in 1865<sup>21</sup> and the following year their son, Andrew J. Green, purchased the corner store in Quakertown, a few miles north of his parents’ property.<sup>22</sup> By 1880, Andrew, then a 50-year-old druggist, had moved to Flemington, Raritan Township. His household included his wife and children, as well as his mother and aunt, the two sampler makers: Mary (Popelsdorf) Green, age 80, and Hester (Esther) Popelsdorf, age 84. Esther, shown as a widow on that year’s census, was still listed as insane.<sup>23</sup>

We wondered about the hard life Esther endured. Did having her son out of wedlock and enduring a brief failed marriage in middle age send her into her own private world of insanity? Or had she always been a bit “slow” and was listed as insane later in life, at a







Mary (Popelsdorf) Green [left] and Esther Popelsdorf [right] are buried at the Lower Amwell Old Yard in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Esther's stone bears the inscription: "Trusting that she is clothed and in her right mind." Photos by Marty Campanelli.

time when people were at a loss about how to classify people with mental challenges? Esther's nimbly-stitched sampler certainly shows no sign of deficiencies. Esther Popelsdorf died on April 25, 1884; the death record gave the cause as "senile debility." Alluding to her mental status, the inscription on Esther's headstone reads: "Trusting that she is clothed and in her right mind."<sup>24</sup> Mary died on November 21, 1891. Both sisters were interred with their parents at the Lower Amwell Old Yard.<sup>25</sup>

By 1850 Esther's son, Aaron H. Trimmer, a farmer, resided in Readington Township, Hunterdon County, with his wife Rachel. A decade later the couple was living in Branchburg, Somerset County, with their 16-year-old daughter, Margaret (who hadn't been in the household in 1850). In 1870 and 1880, Aaron and Rachel were in Raritan Township, in Hunterdon County.<sup>26</sup> Aaron Trimmer died on February 16, 1882, and was buried at Three Bridges Reformed Church Cemetery in Hunterdon County.<sup>27</sup> We found no birth

records for Aaron, and online genealogies list no parents for him. We do not know whether he and his mother were in contact later in life.



Of the thousands of embroideries we have studied over the years, Esther and Mary's samplers are distinctive in that the two sisters both returned to them years after completion to commemorate the birth of an illegitimate child. We have seen other sampler makers or other family members revisit their work to add birth, marriage, and death dates of the immediate family, but not to acknowledge an out of wedlock birth—an event that at the time usually remained a dark family secret. ♦

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The transcription was written by Esther (Green) Wallace (1908–2001) in 1978. Mary's sampler was passed from Esther (Green) Wallace to her daughter, Cynthia (Wallace) Galligani, and then to her daughter, Lisa (Galligani) Zambito.

<sup>2</sup> Dan & Marty Campanelli, *A Sampling of Hunterdon County Needlework: the Motifs, the Makers & their Stories* (Flemington, N.J.: Hunterdon County Historical Society, 2013), 8, 88.

<sup>3</sup> The sampler was listed as lot 12918 at the Bunch Auctions December 9, 2014, sale in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, and cataloged as "Needlework sampler of Ester Pupelsdorf." Since this was a Hunterdon County sampler, we bid on—and won—the sampler.

<sup>4</sup> Will of Daniel Moore, Sr. dated July 6, 1805, Amwell Twp., Hunterdon Co., names daughter "Rebeckah Puffedorf." Transcription of will found on "The Leeds Family of New Jersey: Information about Daniel Moore," viewed at Familytreemaker.genealogy.com. FindAGrave.com Memorial for Daniel Moore (18633894) notes his death date as December 30, 1807.

<sup>5</sup> James P. Snell, comp., *The History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey* (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1881), 434. Various online genealogies show Aaron with life dates of ca. 1794–ca.1844. No birth, marriage, or death records were found for Aaron, but local historian Edgar T. Bush, who wrote the chapter on Franklin Twp. for this volume and included biographical

(continued on page 56)



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# research services: case files

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## **Was Polly Fitch a *Mayflower* Descendant?: Connecting Family Members to Verify a Lineage**

Many Research Services clients ask for help documenting ancestry that would qualify them for lineage societies such as the Daughters of the American Revolution or the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. In many cases, we find that links between several generations in the client's ancestry lack proof but are implied by strong circumstantial evidence. When this situation occurs, Research Services staff will write an analysis, or "proof argument," explaining the connections and evidence.

This situation occurred when a Polly (Fitch) Chase descendant approached Research Services hoping to become a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. One immigrant progenitor of the Fitch family in America was the Reverend James Fitch (1622–1702) of Connecticut. One of his sons, Samuel Fitch, married Mary Brewster, a fourth-generation descendant of *Mayflower* passenger William Brewster; thus many James Fitch descendants are also descendants of William Brewster. Our client had traced his ancestry through Polly Fitch, wife of Daniel Chase of Cornish, New Hampshire, to William Brewster and wanted this line verified.

The client identified Polly's parents as Nathan Fitch and Amy Avery. However, upon checking the *Mayflower Families through Five Generations* volume for William Brewster, published by the Mayflower Society, as well as *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622–1702*, we discovered that Polly Fitch, daughter of Nathan and Amy, married John D. Segar, rather than Daniel Chase.<sup>1</sup>

We needed to identify Polly's actual parents, and determine whether she was, in fact, a descendant of William Brewster. We had only one record for Polly—her marriage on February 28, 1796 in Cornish, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, to Daniel Chase.<sup>2</sup> We knew Polly died before 1804, when her husband remarried. The names of her parents were not listed on her marriage record, and we could not find a birth record for her in New Hampshire Vital Records or Cornish town records. The town records stated that both Daniel and Polly were of Cornish, indicating that Polly's family probably lived there.

Since Polly Fitch and Daniel Chase married between the 1790 and 1800 censuses, we examined census records to look for potential family members. In the 1790 census, three Fitch households were enumerated in Cornish, those of Hezekiah, Samuel, and Zebediah. In the 1800 census, Hezekiah, Samuel, and Zebediah still resided in Cornish, as well as a Rufus Fitch. Polly Fitch likely belonged to one of these four households.

We could not find any probate records for Hezekiah, Samuel, Zebediah, or Rufus in either Cheshire or Sullivan Counties,<sup>3</sup> and we also found no deeds between Daniel Chase and any member of the Fitch family in Cheshire County.

With no success in New Hampshire land, probate, town, or vital records, we turned to secondary sources. We consulted *The History of Cornish, New Hampshire* (1911), which contains a genealogical section covering many early local families. The Fitch entry contained helpful information, indicating





Joseph Blanchard, Samuel Langdon, and Thomas Jefferys. *An accurate map of His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire in New England*. Portsmouth, N.H., 1761. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, [loc.gov/item/gm71005420](https://www.loc.gov/item/gm71005420). The star marks the location of Cornish.

for him in Cornish.<sup>7</sup> Fortunately, Zebediah Fitch did leave a will, probated in Thetford that named several children and grandchildren, including Polly Corbin and Daniel Chase, children of his deceased daughter Polly Chase.<sup>8</sup> This will, then, proved that Zebediah Fitch was the father of Polly (Fitch) Chase.

Having identified Polly's father as Zebediah Fitch, we now had to link Zebediah to his siblings and parents. We found James Fitch—named as the father of Hezekiah, Samuel, and Zebediah in the Fitch genealogy—listed in the

In 1765 James Fitch sold his land in Norwich, Connecticut. We could find no records concerning the family for the next twelve years. Then, in 1777, Zebediah's wife, Sarah Fitch, was admitted into the Cornish church, suggesting that the couple settled in Cornish about that time.<sup>13</sup>

The family record of Zebediah Fitch, found in Cornish town records, does not list all of his children. However, the births of the three oldest children of Zebediah and Betsey (Miner) Fitch—Billa, Zebediah, Jr., and Hezekiah—were recorded. Billa Fitch, the couple's oldest child, was born at Norwich on September 20, 1772. The next child, Zebediah Fitch, Jr., was born in Cornish in 1774.<sup>14</sup> Thus, James and Zebediah, Sr. lived at Norwich before both removed to Cornish around the same time.

In addition, Zebediah, Sr. and Betsey (Miner) named two children Billa and Hezekiah. Both names are strongly associated with descendants of James Fitch and offer further evidence that Zebediah, Sr. is a son of James<sup>6</sup> Fitch.

We compiled a report of our findings, documenting the records that we searched and explaining what we found and how and why we reached our conclusions. We sent this analysis with the client's application to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The Mayflower Society accepted our evidence, which supported the Fitch genealogy and earlier applications, so our client was able to join the Mayflower Society.

If you have a similar brick wall and would like to apply to a lineage society, you, too, can submit a persuasive analysis based on circumstantial evidence. Be aware that not all lineage societies have the same standards of proof. Ask individual societies about their proof standards, and what they do and do not accept as evidence. However, pulling together circumstantial evidence from a variety of records and making

that the family came from Connecticut. Hezekiah and Samuel were brothers but neither had a daughter named Mary or Polly. (Polly is a nickname for Mary.) Zebediah, shown as an unknown Fitch with no connection to the brothers, also did not have a daughter named Mary or Polly. Rufus is not found in the sketch.<sup>4</sup>

As previously mentioned, the Rev. James Fitch of Connecticut was the immigrant progenitor of a major section of the family in the U.S., so we checked *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622–1702*. The Fitch genealogy named Hezekiah, Samuel, and Zebediah as siblings, sons of James Fitch (ca. 1712–1805) and Sarah (\_\_\_\_), while Rufus was listed as a distant cousin.<sup>5</sup> The genealogy also did not show a daughter Polly for any of the four Fitch men.<sup>6</sup>

We did learn from the genealogy that Zebediah Fitch did not remain in Cornish, but died in Thetford, Vermont, in 1831—which explained why we were unable to locate a probate record

Brewster *Mayflower Families* volume in the sixth generation, son of Hezekiah<sup>5</sup> and Anna Fitch.<sup>9</sup> The Mayflower Society had previously accepted the father-son connection between James and Zebediah, but the proof was weak, so additional evidence was needed.

With our additional knowledge, we returned to Cornish land records and found a series of deeds involving Hezekiah, Samuel, and Zebediah Fitch. On June 1, 1771, Hezekiah Fitch purchased 100 acres of land in Lot 14 in Cornish from Jonathan Chase, a cousin of Daniel Chase.<sup>10</sup> Hezekiah sold the western 50 acres of Lot 14 to Zebediah in 1773,<sup>11</sup> and sold the eastern 50 acres to Samuel Fitch in 1799.<sup>12</sup> These land sales offered further proof that the three Fitches were related.

Both the Fitch genealogy and the *History of Cornish, New Hampshire* reported that James Fitch, father of Hezekiah, Samuel, and Zebediah, had moved to Cornish with his sons.

a case can be beneficial to your lineage society application. ♦

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> John T. Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch, 1622–1702*, 3 vols. (Rockport, Me.: Picton Press, 1997–2003), 1:335.
- <sup>2</sup> Marriage record of Daniel Chase and Polly Fitch, 28 February 1796, Cornish, N.H. *New Hampshire: Births to 1901, Deaths and Marriages to 1937*. (From microfilmed records. [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org), NEHGS, 2014.)
- <sup>3</sup> Sullivan County was formed from Cheshire County in 1827.
- <sup>4</sup> William H. Child, *History of Cornish, New Hampshire with Genealogical Record*,

1763–1910, 2 vols. (Concord, N.H.: The Rumford Press, 1911), 2:154–58.

- <sup>5</sup> Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch* [note 1], 283–84.
- <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:283–84, 313–17.
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:314–15.
- <sup>8</sup> Will of Zebediah Fitch (filed 28 February 1832), *Orange County, Vermont Probate Records*, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1952), Bradford District, vol. 5, 252–53 [FHL Film 28607].
- <sup>9</sup> Barbara Lambert Merrick, *William Brewster of the Mayflower, and the Fifth Generation Descendants of his Son Jonathan*<sup>1</sup> (Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1999), 146–47.
- <sup>10</sup> Joseph Chase-Hezekiah Fitch deed, 1 June 1771 (filed 2 April 1799), *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds*, (Filmed by the

Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1951), 31:242. [FHL film 15637].

- <sup>11</sup> Hezekiah Fitch-Zebediah Fitch deed, 2 January 1773 (filed 2 April 1799), *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds* [note 10], 31:243.
- <sup>12</sup> Hezekiah Fitch-Samuel Fitch deed, 1 March 1799 (filed 2 April 1799), *Cheshire County, New Hampshire Deeds* [note 10], 31:242–43.
- <sup>13</sup> Fitch, *Descendants of the Reverend James Fitch* [note 1], 1:120–21.
- <sup>14</sup> Cornish Town Records 1769–1809, vol. 1, 131. *New Hampshire, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1636–1947*, (Filmed by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1950) [FHL film 15108].

## (New Jersey Samplers, continued from page 53)

information on the Trimmer family, lived near the Trimmer and Popelsdorf families and had Trimmer ancestry himself. Note also Raymond Martin Bell and Ira A. Brown, *The Trimmer Family* (Washington, Pa.: R.M. Bell, 1962), 1st and 3rd of four charts. John H[erbert] Trimmer (d. 1840), father of Aaron Trimmer, was the son of Hebert Trimmer (ca. 1700–1750), likely of Germany, and Mary \_\_\_\_\_. John and Mary Trimmer were ancestors of President Richard Milhous Nixon.

- <sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>7</sup> “The State vs. Aaron Trimmer & John H. Trimmer,” December 25, 1817. Hunterdon County Records Management Services, Recognizance 1366, Box A2-5-2.
- <sup>8</sup> “The State v. Esther Poplesdorph—Summons May 1818.” Hunterdon County Records Management Services, Misc. 26206, Box A1-3-6.
- <sup>9</sup> “Executive Minutes of Governor Joseph Hiester,” September 26, 1822. *Pennsylvania Archives*, Series 9, Vol. VIII, 5770–1, viewed on Fold3.com.
- <sup>10</sup> Aaron Trimmer household, 1840 U.S. census, Knowlton Twp., Warren Co.; roll 262; p. 358. Viewed on Ancestry.com.
- <sup>11</sup> Snell, *History of Hunterdon* [note 6], 434.
- <sup>12</sup> *Hunterdon Gazette and Farmer’s Advertiser*, no. 48, February 16, 1826. “The Petition of Mathias Poplesdorph for the Benefit of the Insolvent Laws, February 9, 1826.” Hunterdon County Records Management Services, Insolv. 374, Box A2-6-2.
- <sup>13</sup> “Hunterdon pleas—Petition of Mathias Popelsdorf an Insolvent Debtor, May 1, 1827.” Hunterdon County Records Management Services, Insolv. 576, Box A2-7-5.
- <sup>14</sup> “Mary Popelsdorf to Mathias Popelsdorf & Rebecca Popelsdorf,” June 4, 1829, *Book 2 of Special Deeds*. Hunterdon County Hall of

Records. Mathias died on October 4, 1848, age 90. Rebecca died on January 9, 1852. Mary’s sampler gives Rebecca a birth year of 1760 while Find A Grave has a birth date of March 14, 1761. A visit to the cemetery by the authors showed that the gravestone listed only Rebecca’s death date and her age (92). Mathias and Rebecca are buried at Lower Amwell Old Yard in Sergeantsville, Hunterdon Co. FindAGrave.com Memorials for Mathias Peoplesdorph (25810244) and Rebecca Moore Peoplesdorph (27474898).

- <sup>15</sup> Hiram E. Deats, comp., *Marriage Records of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, 1795–1875* (1915; Lambertville, N.J.: Hunterdon House, 1986), 348: “Green, James and Mary Popelsdorf (not Papels), June 6, 1829, 2-355 (Poulson).” James was listed as a hatter on the 1850 census [note 22].
- <sup>16</sup> Andrew’s birth was given as September 1829 in Andrew J. Green household, 1900 U.S. census for East Raritan, Hunterdon Co.; roll T623\_981; p. 17B. Viewed on Ancestry.com.
- <sup>17</sup> Mathias Peoplesdorph household, 1830 U.S. census, Kingwood Twp., Hunterdon Co.; roll 83; p. 374. Viewed on Ancestry.com.
- <sup>18</sup> Deats, *Marriage Records* [note 17], 212: “Peplesteef, Esther and John Mowry, May 27, 1843, 3-188 (Williams).”
- <sup>19</sup> James Green household, 1850 U.S. census for Franklin Twp., Hunterdon Co.; roll M432\_453; p. 101A. Viewed on Ancestry.com. None of the four Green children were enumerated in the household but daughter Susan, age 11, lived across the road with the Philhower family.
- <sup>20</sup> James Green household, 1860 U.S. census for Franklin Twp., Hunterdon Co.; roll M653\_695; p. 409. Viewed on Ancestry.com. (James, then 60, was incorrectly listed as 38.)

- <sup>21</sup> FindAGrave.com Memorial for James C. Green (27317255). The gravestone shows his death date as “October 23rd, 1865” while it is November 28, 1865 in *New Jersey Death & Burials Index, 1798–1971*. Viewed on Ancestry.com.
- <sup>22</sup> J. E. Stout, *Facts and Fantasies of Franklin* (Hunterdon County, N.J.: the Franklin Township Committee, 1995), 129.
- <sup>23</sup> Andrew J. Green household, 1880 U.S. census for East Raritan, Hunterdon Co.; roll 787; p. 119A. Viewed on Ancestry.com. Mary (Poplesdorph) Green was incorrectly enumerated as “Anna R. Green, age 80,” Andrew’s sister Susan was incorrectly identified as his wife, and Esther Popelsdorf was listed as age 39, not 84.
- <sup>24</sup> Death record for Hettie Peoplesdorph in *New Jersey Death & Burials Index 1798–1971*; an image of the record is at Bennett/Lawson/Jones Family Tree at Ancestry.com. Also, FindAGrave.com Memorial for Esther (Hetty) Peoplesdorph (25819916). The verse on Esther’s grave is a variation of Proverbs 31.
- <sup>25</sup> Find A Grave Memorial for Mary Peoplesdorph Green (25820834) at FindAGrave.com.
- <sup>26</sup> Aaron H. Trimmer household, 1850 U.S. census for Readington Twp., Hunterdon Co.; roll M432\_453; p. 311A; Aaron H. Trummer household, 1860 U.S. census for Branchburg, Somerset Co.; roll M653\_708; p. 917; A.H. Trimmer household, 1870 U.S. census for Raritan Twp., Hunterdon Co.; roll M593\_870; p. 299B; and Aaron Trimmer household, 1880 U.S. census for Raritan Twp., Hunterdon Co.; roll 787; p. 124D. All viewed on Ancestry.com.
- <sup>27</sup> FindAGrave.com Memorial for Aaron H. Trimmer (20802086).





**Lindsay Sprechman** is *Collections Archivist at the Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.*

# Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight

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## The Early History of Peabody's Jewish Community

The Jewish community of Peabody, Massachusetts, dates from 1896, when the town's first Jewish residents—immigrants Louis Karelitz of Kosava, Belarus, and Charles Halpert of Minsk, Belarus—settled in the town. By the turn of the twentieth century, fifteen Jewish families lived in Peabody; by 1909, 100 families resided there. Most of these individuals were Ashkenazi Jews from Russia, Poland, Lithuania, and Germany. A group of Sephardic Jews from Turkey also settled in Peabody, with the first five families arriving in 1906 and fifteen more established by 1909.<sup>1</sup>

The Jewish population continually increased, boosted in the early years by the Russian Revolution and an influx of European Jews fleeing World War I. About 200 Jewish families lived in Peabody in 1920, a number rising to

350 in 1940. Following World War II, the number rose to 400, and by the end of the 1960s, 1,200 families lived in the city. In 2002, Peabody's Jewish population was estimated to be 4,500, consisting of 2,000 families.

For decades, Peabody, known as “The Leather City,” could boast of being the leading leather manufacturing city in the United States. Many Jewish immigrants settled in Peabody to work in the industry. Max Korn, an 1899 immigrant from Austria, opened Peabody's first Jewish-owned tannery—Korn Leather Company—in 1901.<sup>2</sup> Korn ran the operation for sixty years and witnessed its expansion into England and France before he sold the company in 1961. Aaron Strauss, a 1908 arrival from Slanica, Slovakia, established Tanners Specialty Company at 143 Lowell Street.<sup>3</sup> Polish-born David Kirstein founded Kirstein Leather Company at 71 Walnut Street. Dozens of other tanneries, leather processing plants, and leather shops were established by Jewish individuals in Peabody.

Other early Jewish residents opened retail businesses, including furniture, dry goods, clothing, and shoe stores. Louis Karelitz founded Karelitz Furniture Company, Isadore Alpers established Alpers Men's Clothing, and Max and Harry Herman opened Herman's Boot Shop. Other Jews were represented in the professional fields. Elihu Hershenson from Vilnius, Lithuania, began practicing law in 1912 and became Peabody's first attorney to achieve fifty years of membership in the Massachusetts Bar Association.<sup>4</sup> Harry Halpern of

Purim celebration at the Peabody Hebrew Community Center, February 26, 1956.



Top: Officers of the Peabody Hebrew Ladies Aid Society in 1927, on their 21st anniversary. Bottom: Actors from the Peabody Hebrew School's play Bar Kochba, which premiered at Peabody City Hall on March 31, 1918.

Ukraine worked in a shoe factory in Lynn while attending night school and, in 1914, became the first Jewish doctor to practice in Peabody. Henry S. Leavitt, born in England, was the town's first Jewish dentist.

Early religious services were held on Main Street at the corner of Mill Street, at Red Man's Hall on Foster Street, and in private homes. As the Jewish population grew, the need for the formal establishment of a congregation became apparent. On November 19, 1909, eighteen residents met at the home of Louis Glichouse on Buxton Street and formed Congregation Sons of Israel. With dues set at 25 cents per month, the congregation—mostly Russian immigrants—eventually raised enough funds to purchase land at the corner of Park and Spring Streets to construct a synagogue, which was dedicated in 1913. In 1919, the congregation engaged its first rabbi, Maurice Ordman, who also acted as a cantor, teacher, and *shochet*,<sup>5</sup> and served until his death in 1937.

Another congregation, Congregation Anshe Sfard, consisting mostly of Lithuanian immigrants, was established in 1913. The group first met in a rented building at 57 Main Street, then relocated to a permanent building at 7 Little's Lane (which became known as "the Little Shul.") The congregation established a Hebrew school in the 1920s, which operated for more than thirty years. In 1975, the congregation closed and merged with Congregation Sons of Israel.

The smaller but still vibrant Sephardic Jewish population formed its own congregation, Tifereth Israel, on February 15, 1922. In 1958, the Conservative Temple Ner Tamid and the Reform Temple Beth Shalom were organized.

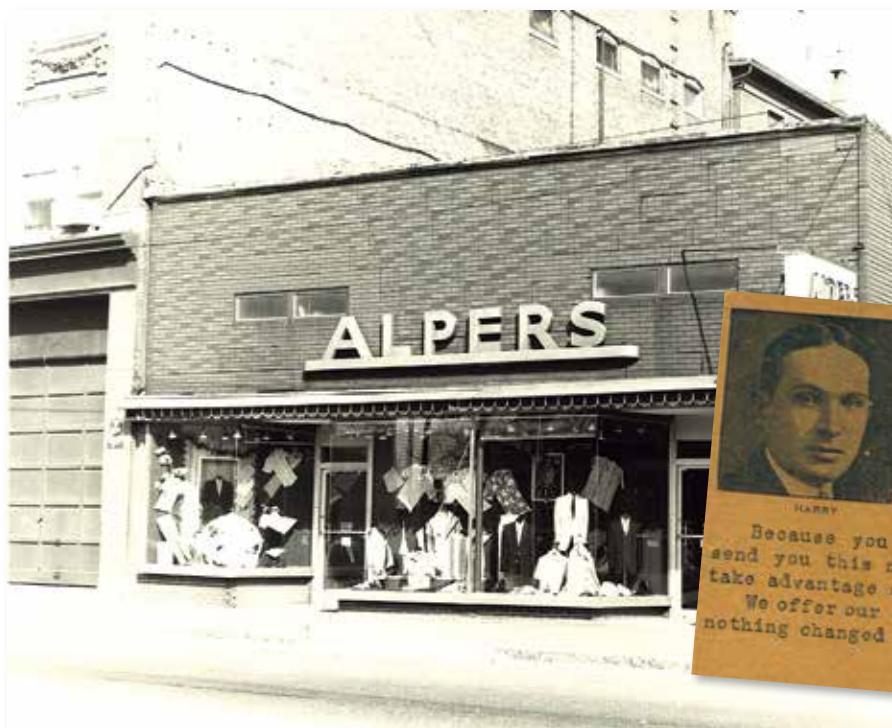


The Peabody Jewish community created a number of thriving Jewish communal organizations, including community centers, cemetery associations, charities, and fraternal clubs. In 1909, several individuals formed a local chapter of the Workmen's Circle (referred to as *Der Arbeter Ring* in Yiddish). Members of the local chapter, many of whom worked in Peabody's factories and tanneries, received benefits such as life insurance, retirement plans, funeral expense assistance, and access to low interest rates. The

chapter also offered Shula, an after-school program, that taught members' children Yiddish, as well as dance, art, and theater. Many early members were socialists and promoted social and economic justice for all.

A similar club, the George Peabody Lodge 667 of the Independent Order of Brith Abraham (IOBA), was formed on January 1, 1913. For dues of \$1 for individuals or \$1.25 for married couples, the organization provided members with free medical care by the Lodge doctor, sick benefits, and a death benefit. Other





Left: Alper's Men's Clothing on Foster Street, off Peabody Square. Right: A sale notice from Herman's Boot Shop, located on 5 Main Street.



organizations founded by and for early Jewish residents of Peabody include the Maple Hill Cemetery Association, the Popular Credit Union, Hebrew Ladies Aid Society, Jewish Pioneer Women, B'nai B'rith, and Hadassah.

Over time Peabody's leather industry declined due to various factors, including the Great Depression, a major leather worker strike in 1933, and devastating factory fires in the 1960s and

1970s. But Peabody adapted and grew. No longer represented primarily in the leather industry or in retail stores, the Peabody Jewish community also transformed over time.

The Jewish Community of Peabody (Mass.) Records (I-581) contain photographs, newspaper clippings, organizational records, programs, awards, and correspondence. The collection

documents Jewish individuals and families of Peabody, as well as many of the community's businesses, clubs, and religious organizations. These records were established by the Jewish Heritage Center of the North Shore through many separate donations of materials pertaining to the Peabody Jewish community. For more information or to request access to this collection, please email [jhreference@nehgs.org](mailto:jhreference@nehgs.org). ♦

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Ashkenazi Jews are from France, Germany, and Eastern Europe. Sephardic Jews are from Spain, Portugal, North Africa, and the Middle East. Within Sephardic Jewry there is a further division of Sephardim (Jews from Spain and Portugal) and Mizrahim (Jews from the Middle East and North Africa). Although these streams of Judaism share the same religious beliefs, their cultures, customs, and traditions often differ.
- <sup>2</sup> Max Korn household, 1930 U.S. census, Peabody, Essex County, Massachusetts; roll 902; enumeration district 238, sheet 9A (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002). Viewed on FamilySearch (FamilySearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XQL1-VVY; accessed 8 May 2017).

- <sup>3</sup> At the time, Slanica, in the province of Slovakia, was part of Austria-Hungary. The town later belonged to Czechoslovakia and is now in the country of Slovakia. Aaron Strauss, 1924; "United States Passport Applications, 1795–1925," citing Passport Application, Massachusetts, United States, source certificate #371161, Passport Applications, January 2, 1906–March 31, 1925, 2427, NARA microfilm publications M1490 and M1372 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration). Viewed on FamilySearch (FamilySearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVR2-V7G3; accessed 4 September 2015).
- <sup>4</sup> Elihu A. Hershenson, 1917–1918; "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918," citing Peabody City

no. 26, Massachusetts, United States, NARA microfilm publication M1509 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration). Viewed on FamilySearch (FamilySearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KZNF-YXR; 12 December 2014).

- <sup>5</sup> A *shochet* is a certified slaughter of animals who follows *kashrut*, or Jewish dietary law.



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

# focus on New York



## Naturalizations in New York State

During New York's forty years as New Netherland (1624–1664), people sailing from Amsterdam and those arriving in New Netherland from elsewhere were required to take an oath of allegiance to the States General (the Dutch parliament) and to the Dutch West India Company.<sup>1</sup> These oaths did not compare to the British process of naturalization, which began in 1664 with the British takeover of New Netherland (renamed New York), and continues to the present. The process of naturalization gave aliens the rights of British subjects and later on of American citizens.

Naturalizations in New York can be divided into three periods: 1664–1775, 1775–1790, and 1790–present. The amount of information in the records varies considerably. Nothing more than name and date naturalized may be given before 1906, when federal legislation standardized the naturalization process. However, some records may give previous allegiance, age, place of residence or intended residence, occupation, church affiliation, witness, family members also being naturalized, place of birth, place “whence emigrated,” and other data.

### 1664–1775

In 1664, at the beginning of the colonial period, the residents of New Netherland were required to take an oath of allegiance to the British king, and by this oath they became British subjects. After 1664 aliens might also be naturalized by an oath of allegiance, but not all oaths automatically resulted in naturalization.

Naturalization could be granted by legislative action, but this option was expensive. A less costly process was denization, which conferred some rights but not as many as naturalization. A good explanation of these processes can be found in the Introduction to Kenneth Scott and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, *Denizations, Naturalizations, and Oaths of Allegiance in Colonial New York* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975).<sup>2</sup>

### 1775–1790

Most, if not all, of the naturalizations granted from 1775 to 1790 are found in *Laws of the State of New York: Passed at the Sessions of the Legislature Held in the Years 1777–1801*, 5 vols. (Albany, N.Y.: Weed, Parsons, 1886–1887) under Naturalizations.<sup>3</sup> An act of naturalization apparently was required during this period. For example, the records of the New York City Court of General Sessions from May 1784 to the end of 1789 show only five people naturalized, all of whom had been named in acts of naturalization.<sup>4</sup>



*Top:* Swearing in a new citizen, New York, ca. 1910. From the Bain Collection. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, [loc.gov/item/ggb2004004470](http://loc.gov/item/ggb2004004470).

*Bottom:* Awaiting turn at naturalization office, New York City, 1916. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, [loc.gov/item/98502177](http://loc.gov/item/98502177).



## 1790–present

On March 26, 1790, Congress passed the first federal naturalization act, permitting any court of record (federal, state, county, city, and others) to grant naturalization. Aliens first made a declaration of intention and later petitioned to be naturalized, not necessarily in the same court or even in the same state. In a declaration of intention, aliens stated their intention to renounce allegiance to a foreign state or ruler and become U.S. citizens. In a petition for naturalization, aliens stated their country of origin and length of residence in the U.S., and requested to be admitted to citizenship. After 1906 additional information was required for both the declaration and the petition.

One of the reasons to be naturalized was to be permitted to own real property in New York. Nevertheless, aliens could petition to have this restriction waived. Three publications have abstracted these petitions for 1790–1848.<sup>5</sup> This process is reminiscent of denizations, described above. During the War of 1812, British subjects were required to register, and some of these records have also been abstracted.<sup>6</sup>

Many naturalization records have been collected and indexed, and are often available on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, or Fold3.com, or in book form. The collections are usually for federal, county, or city courts, particularly those in New York City. Other naturalization records not online may be found on microfilm at the Family History Library or as original records in the relevant repository or courthouse.

A good summary of the history of naturalization in New York and an up-to-date bibliography are given in *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2014), 43–53. A county-by-county guide is in *Naturalization Records of New York*, corrected ed. (Syracuse, N.Y.: New York State Council of Genealogical

Organizations, 2001). Abstracts of naturalizations in some upstate county courts may be found in *Tree Talks*,<sup>7</sup> and some naturalization records (including declarations) have been published for New York City.<sup>8</sup>

An excellent article on naturalizations, mostly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, is Leslie Corn, “The New York State Supreme Court Naturalization Records in the New York County Clerk’s Office/Division of Old Records,” *The NYG&B Newsletter* 10:4 (Fall 1999):59–62; 11:1 (Winter 2000):6–11.

Naturalizations may be a valuable source for New York research, even when only names and dates are given. All potentially relevant records and indexes should be reviewed for declarations of intention and naturalizations, especially those that took place in or after 1790. ♦

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Jaap Jacobs, *The Colony of New Netherland: A Dutch Settlement in Seventeenth-Century America* (Ithaca, N.Y., and London: Cornell University Press, 2009), 189–91.

<sup>2</sup> The names of those ended or naturalized are included in Lloyd deWitt Bockstruck, *Denizations and Naturalizations in the British Colonies in America, 1607–1775* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005).

<sup>3</sup> A published example of an act of naturalization during this period is in Maryly B. Penrose, “New York Naturalizations, 1789,” *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 112 (1981):16–17.

<sup>4</sup> Kenneth Scott, *New York City Court Records, 1760–1797 . . .*, National Genealogical Society Special Publication, No. 52 (Washington, D.C., 1983), 70–71, 72, 73.

<sup>5</sup> “Aliens Authorized to Purchase and Hold Real Estate in This State” [1789–1857] from Henry H. Havens, *General Index to the Laws of the State of New York*, in Carl Boyer 3rd, ed., *Ship Passenger Lists: New York and New Jersey (1600–1825)* (Newhall, Calif.: the editor, 1978), 175–208; Kenneth Scott, “Resident Aliens Enabled to Hold Land in New York State, 1790–1825,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 67 (1979):42–57; and



## Roosevelt connections

Two of Eleanor Roosevelt’s great-great-grandfathers were naturalized in New York City:<sup>1</sup>

- Mathew Hall, painter, subject [of the King of] Great Britain, [naturalized] 15 December 1796
- John Tonnele, subject [of the] Republic of France, [naturalized] 13 April 1799

## NOTE

<sup>1</sup> Kenneth Scott, “New York City Naturalizations, 1795–1799,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 71 (1983):281, 283; Henry B. Hoff, “(Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt . . . Ahnentafel,” *Executive Papers: A Publication of the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America* 7 (2010):17–18, 23–24.

Kenneth Scott and Rosanne Conway, *New York Alien Residents, 1825–1848* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978).

<sup>6</sup> See Kenneth Scott, *British Aliens in the United States during the War of 1812* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), and Henry B. Hoff, “Using *Tree Talks*,” *The NYG&B Newsletter* 12:1 (Winter 2001):9–10.

<sup>7</sup> See Jean D. Worden, *Tree Talks: A Publication of Central New York Genealogical Society: Subject Index to Volumes 1 to 28* (Syracuse, N.Y.: the Society, 1988), 15.

<sup>8</sup> See Henry B. Hoff, “Published New York City Naturalizations,” *The NYG&B Newsletter* 4:1 (Spring 1993):4.

## The Cooks of Salem

*"He was an upright man, but afflicted with the most awful curse God sends to man—a female devil."*

Massachusetts history is filled with adventurous, tragic, and even scandalous family stories, but few are as intriguing as those concerning the Cook brothers of Salem. Sea captain Caleb Cook, Sr. (circa 1771–1837) and his wife, Hannah Gray (1774–1859), were married in 1796 and had three children: Caleb Jr., William, and Lydia.

Mother Hannah (Gray) Cook is represented in the NEHGS Fine Art Collection with her late 18th- or early 19th-century linen and dyed wool needlepoint alphabet sampler. In the 18th and early 19th centuries young women were expected to learn the arts of sewing and needlework; samplers such as Hannah's demonstrated the girls' skill and character during a time when women were not able to produce many lasting objects.

Below a decorative frieze, Hannah stitched upper case letters and numerals, followed first by lower case and then upper case longhand letters; these border a message exhorting the reader to use his or her time wisely: "Youth is the Time for/Progress in all Arts:/Then use your Youth/To gain the noblest Par[t]/Zeal for Attainment of/Each Art will prove,/One Means of purchas[ing]/The general Love."

Like his father, eldest son Caleb Cook, Jr. (1797–1837) was a Salem ship captain. Caleb, Jr. pursued the East Indies spice trade with British possessions in the Straits of Malacca, in what is now Malaysia. Like the more famous (and unrelated) Captain James Cook, Caleb, Jr. died far from home. The seeds for his demise were planted in late 1836, the year before his death. Caleb, Jr. became involved in a dispute with the Rajah of Quella Lemong, a

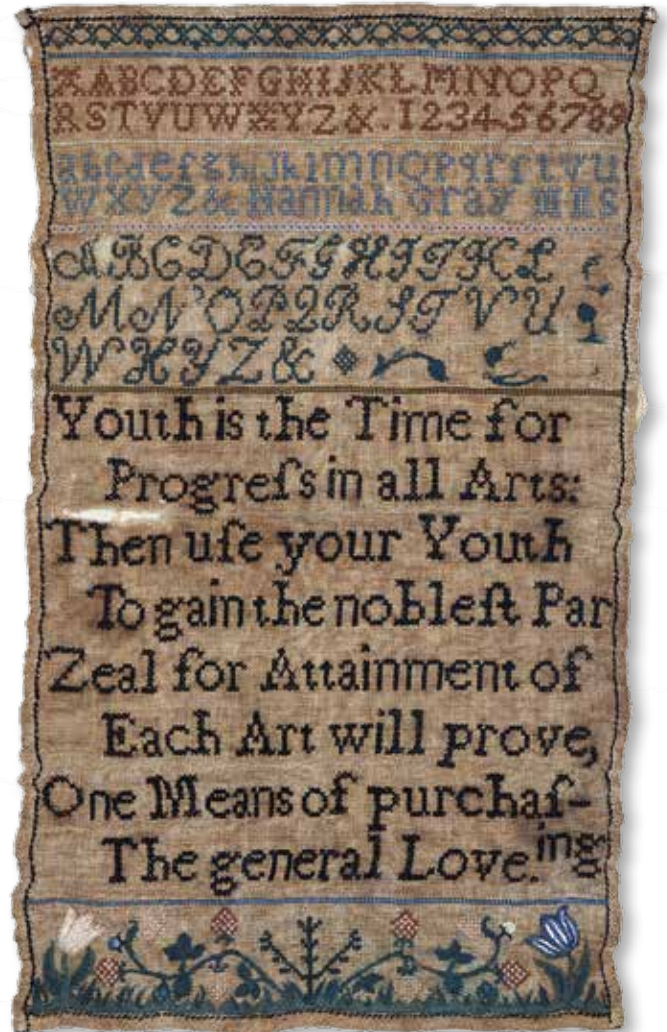
Malaysian state, over payment for a shipment of pepper purchased by a Captain Skerry the previous year. The Rajah, who had been cheated out of \$3,000, imprisoned Caleb, Jr., demanding full restitution; Caleb, Jr., in response, said "he should not pay it if they kept him 10 years."

Confined for six days, and sick and delirious upon release, Cook "kept beating about the coast after pepper." Two months later he arrived at Pulo Penang (also called Prince of Wales Island), the first British possession in Southeast Asia. The British East India Company used it as a staging post for the opium trade, selling licenses for gambling dens, brothels, and opium traders. By this time, Caleb, Jr. was sick with dropsy (pulmonary edema), brought on by fever. He died on March 19, 1837; in the words of the ship's cargo master "the disasters of the voyage are entirely charged to the fraudulent conduct of Capt. Skerry."

Caleb's brother, William Cook (b. 1804), also spent his life at sea and frequently served as first mate on his brother's ships. His story, which is just

as captivating, is summarized on the back of his portrait (now at NEHGS), on which a handwritten (and unsigned) narrative, dated 1913, tells us:

He was an upright man, but afflicted with the most awful curse God sends to man—a female devil. After years of misery, he gave it up, went away, and was never heard of again, leaving a wife and two children. After William



Late 18th- or early 19th-century alphabet sampler by Hannah Gray. Part of the Atkinson-Lancaster Collection in the NEHGS Fine Art Collection.





Left: First Mate William Cook, by an unknown artist. 19th century. Right: Caleb Cook, by an unknown artist. 19th century. Both paintings are part of the Atkinson-Lancaster Collection in the NEHGS Fine Art Collection.



This inscription on the back of William Cook's portrait, dated 1913, summarizes why he "went away, and was never heard of again."

Mary (Fogg) Cook, whom William had married in Salem on November 22, 1836. After William's disappearance, Mary never remarried—she claimed to be a widow—and lived to an old age, dying in Salem in 1889 at 82. Mary's brother, Sylvester Fogg, moved in with the family and was the brother-in-law who later told William's sister Lydia that he didn't blame William for leaving his sister. William's two children remained in Salem all their lives: Caleb Cook III died in 1880 at 42 from typhoid fever. Sarah Fogg Chapman Cook died in

She kept her own practice in Newton, Massachusetts, at a time when most women didn't work. She was born in Calcutta, India, in 1859, where her father had established a trading business in the 1850s. Lizzie, who joined NEHGS in 1917, was also a descendant of John Atkinson, a hatter and feltmaker who settled in Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1660.

Lizzie and her brother John (who predeceased her in 1931) were the last of the immediate family, and left their antiques and furniture to NEHGS. The siblings intended that their collection, formed by five generations of the Atkinson-Lancaster-Cook families, should be kept intact for later generations to research, study, and enjoy under the custodianship of the world's oldest genealogical society. ♦

I am very grateful to NEHGS Chief Genealogist David Lambert for his invaluable help in researching the Cook, Atkinson, and Lancaster families.

Curt DiCamillo  
Curator of Special Collections

left, his wife's own brother went to live with her, but, after a trial, he also left, and told William's sister that he didn't in the least blame William for leaving. Who would?

After he abandoned his wife and children, William disappeared into the mists of time, never to be seen or heard from again. The wife left behind was

1909 at Salem Hospital from pneumonia at 65. Neither sibling married.

Caleb and William's sister, Lydia (Cook) Gray, was the grandmother of Lizzie Daniel Rose Atkinson, who bequeathed the Atkinson-Lancaster Collection to NEHGS in 1933. Lizzie was a trailblazer—a female physician who graduated from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1891.

## Genealogies in progress

**Coombs** Seeking proven lines of descent from Anthony Coombs (ca. 1661–ca. 1746) and Dorcas Woodin (1671–before 1729) of Wells, Maine, and Rochester, Mass., for a book documenting their ancestors and descendants. Contact Whitney Coombs, P.O. Box 3395, Gettysburg, PA 17325-0395

**Pankey** Seeking documentation on the children of Stephen Pankey (1743, Va.–after May 1825, Tenn.) and Mary Ann Smith (1750, Va.–after May 1825, Tenn.). Pankey genealogies do not treat this line. Suspected children are: Elizabeth, Edward, Ozyeah, James, Lucy, Stephen, John, William Riley, Smith, and Royal. Also seeking documentation on the children of John Pankey (1781 Va.–1855 Tenn.) and Margaret Owens (1790 N.C.–after 1860 Tenn.). Contact Robin Hurwitz, travelmaven@gmail.com.

## Genealogies recently published

**Pelham-Avery-West** *Descendants for Nine Generations of Thomas West, 2nd Baron De La War: The Possible American Progeny of King Henry VIII*, Marston Watson (GPC, 2017). Softcover \$75. 901 pp., index, lineage charts to HM Elizabeth II, Queen of England and Diana, Princess of Wales. Includes *Mayflower* and Society of Cincinnati descendants, as well as notable kin by Gary Boyd Roberts. Contact mwatson@royalancestry.org.

**Yeomans** *The Descendants of Edmund Yeomans (1600–1644) & His Wife Susannah (1600–)*, Volume 1, Ellwood Count Curtis (Cedar Falls, Iowa: Galactic Press, 2017). Softcover, \$48.50. xii+416+cv, index of people, index of places, photos of tombstones. This eight-generation genealogy includes biographical information and follows female lines. Additional volumes will be available for later generations. Available from E. C. Curtis, 145 Summit Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

## Other books

**Cairo** *Cairo's Hometown Heroes—One Small New York Town's History of Patriotism and Sacrifice*, Sylvia Hasenkopf and Linda Cole Larsen (Coxsackie, N.Y.: Flint Mine Press, 2017). Hardcover, \$50 + \$4 sales tax for N.Y. residents, + \$5 shipping. ss+572 pp., color illustrations, index. Includes the stories of 249 men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the French & Indian War to the present. Cairo Historical Society, P.O. Box 803, Cairo, NY 12413; CairoHistSociety@yahoo.com.

**Ironworker migrations** *Adventure in Iron*, Brian G. Awty; editors: J. S. Hodgkinson and C. H. C. Whittick (Crawley, West Sussex, UK: Wealden Iron Research Group, 2018). Hardcover (2 volumes), expected cost £60 + shipping from UK. Approx. 900 pp., indexes, illustrations, appendices. The result of more than 20 years' research in British and continental archives, this book traces the spread of iron-making through families of skilled personnel who operated the furnaces and forges from late-medieval Belgium via northern France and Britain to colonial America. Expressions of interest are sought, without commitment to purchase: books@hodgers.com; wealdeniron.org.uk.

**Utopian community** *A Fire Of Straw In Bureau County: The Forgotten Utopian Dream of Lamoille's Rosemont Domain*, Robert J. Glaser, (Raleigh, N.C.: Lulu Press, 2016). Softcover, \$24. xviii+88 pp., illustrations, endnotes, bibliography. The story of a proposed utopian community in Illinois as

an alternative to industrial capitalism. Dr. John Kendall was a principal incorporator of this effort. Available from robertglaser36@gmail.com.

**Blacks in Maine** *Lives of Consequence: Blacks in Early Kittery and Berwick in the Massachusetts Province of Maine*, Patricia Q. Wall (Portsmouth, N.H.: Portsmouth Historical Society, 2017). Softcover \$20 + \$7 shipping. xiv +229 pp. Illustrations, appendices, glossary, bibliography, index. A detailed look at the lives of more than four hundred Black individuals who lived in Kittery and Berwick, Maine, from the seventeenth century until about 1820. Available from PortsmouthHistory.org/books.

**Shipwreck** *The Palatine Wreck: The Legend of the New England Ghost Ship*, Jill Farinelli (Lebanon, N.H.: Univ. Press of New England, 2017). Softcover \$19.95. Ebook \$14.99. xix+236 pp. Index, illustrations, notes, bibliography. The true story of the 1738 voyage and wreck of an immigrant ship on Block Island. Available from upne.com.

## Family associations

**Calkins** The Calkins Family Association triennial reunion is April 26–28, 2018, in Rosemont (Chicago), Illinois. Descendants and friends of Hugh Calkins (1603–1690) are welcome to attend. Meet distant Calkins cousins from across the country and conduct research in our library. Banquet, speakers, historical bus, boat tour. Contact Jean Kent: dkent50@gmail.com.

### Submit your book notice

Members may submit their relevant books published within the last year. Donation of one copy to NEHGS is required. Please provide: surname (genealogies) or subject (other books); title; author(s)/editor(s)/compiler(s); place of publication; publisher/self-published; year of publication; hardcover/softcover/other; price; page count; specify if index, illustrations, or appendixes are included; description in 25 words or less; contact/ordering information.

### Genealogies in Progress, Family Associations, and DNA Studies in Progress

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

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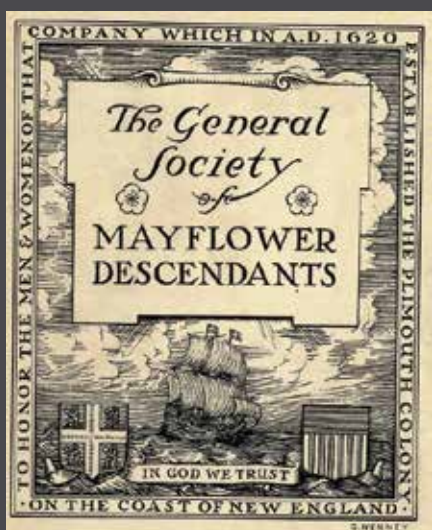
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