



vol. 20, no. 2 \$6.95 Summer 2019

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VOL. 20, NO. 2

27 Preserving Your Family History in the Digital Age

Sally Benny

34 Secrets and Revelations: Discovering My Jewish Family History

Orlene Allen Weyland

39 Reclaiming Old Plot #45: Bringing Generations Together in a Cape Cod Cemetery

Sherill Baldwin

44 To lease, to dig and to min: The Yorkshire Historical Dictionary Project

Alexandra Medcalf

46 Prince Walker of Barre: Documenting the Life of a Man Born into Slavery in Massachusetts

Lucy Allen

Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight 50

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Boston Case Files and the “Voyage of the Damned”

Lindsay Sprechman

Research Services: Case Files 54

“Some hell to be cooped up”: Sketches of Allied Internment Camps in the Philippines

Chloe Jones

Focus on New York 56

Seen Elsewhere: New York-Related Articles in 2017–2018 Issues of Some Non-New York Journals.

Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG

From our Collections 58

Philadelphia in Boston: The Art of the Curtis Publishing Company
Curt DiCamillo

Genetics & Genealogy 60

Y-DNA Studies of an Early New England Family Indicate Possible Jewish Ancestry
Carolyn A. Converse

Visitors plot their ancestral origins on a map in front of our building at a 2018 “Open Newbury” event.

View from the Family Tree 3

In this Issue 5

Branches of Our Family 6

Ask Our Genealogists 7

News 8

Programs & Tours 24

Online Learning Center 25

Staff Profile 26

Staff List 63

Family Focus 64

Books and family associations



How to . . .

Contact NEHGS . . page 2

Visit NEHGS . . . page 20

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Does NEHGS offer consultations with staff genealogists?

Yes, both members and non-members can consult with our professional genealogists to receive advice and suggestions for advancing their research. Consultations are held in person, over the telephone, or through online conferences using ZOOM software. Consultations can be scheduled by filling out a form at AmericanAncestors.org/services/consultations. We match people with genealogists who best fit the research needs and goals for the session. Please schedule consultations at least four weeks in advance so that the genealogist can prepare. Member rates are \$85 per hour and non-member rates are \$105 per hour. To learn more, click the FAQ link provided on the web page noted above, or contact Consultations Coordinator Cheryl Gilmore-Thys at Cheryl.gilmore-thys@nehgs.org with your questions about the service.

I'm having trouble logging into AmericanAncestors.org. What should I do?

On the AmericanAncestors.org homepage, click the "Log In" button in the top right corner. When logging in, make sure to use the email address you have associated with your American Ancestors account. (If you need to change the email address for your account, please contact the Member Services team at membership@nehgs.org or 1-888-296-3447.) If you do not remember your password, click "Reset your password," then enter the email address associated with your account and click the "Email My Information" button. You will receive an email with a prompt to reset your password. After following the instructions you can log in with your new password, which for security purposes must contain at least eight characters. If you require assistance with this process, please contact our Member Services team.

When will I receive reminders to renew my membership?

Thank you for your interest in renewing! We send email reminders two months prior to your expiration date, and mail paper notices one month beforehand. Sending email notices first allows us to save money on paper and postage. If you want to renew before you receive your paper notice, you can mail us a check with an explanatory note, renew online at AmericanAncestors.org/Renew, or call our Member Services team at 888-296-3447 (choose option 1).

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View from the family tree

Since we launched American AnceSTREES, our online family tree platform, on January 4, 2019, 6,000 unique users have created one or more family trees. Family historians of all backgrounds and levels of expertise have praised TREES for being feature-rich and easy to use. We are pleased to be able to offer the Standard Plan for free to any American Ancestors member, with higher-level plans including more features and options available at a low annual fee.



Brenton Simons

Many members are using TREES to store and share genealogical data with friends and family. Some people have asked whether they can use TREES as their family's "official" or authoritative tree. Most of these questions come from family historians who want to share the trees they've created—often the culmination of many years of research—with family members, but want to be selective about which relatives can make changes.

Anyone with an account on American AnceSTREES can use the platform for this purpose. Simply log into AmericanAncestors.org, look for "Create a Tree" at the top of the site, and follow the steps to create your tree. From the TREE interface, you'll see an option on the left called "Invitations." This feature allows you to invite as many people as you like to view or edit your tree.

Each person you invite will receive an email from you stating that you have invited them to your tree. If they don't already have an account on AmericanAncestors.org, they'll need to create a free guest account to see your tree. Once they do, they'll have access to view or edit your tree according to the permissions you've granted them.

Some members have asked about whether their tree data can be made private. The Premium Plan—for \$34.95 a year—allows you to make any family tree completely private. With this plan no one will be able to see your family tree except the people you invite to view or edit the tree.

Our hope is that American AnceSTREES will help you advance your family history research! If you have questions about TREES, please email us at americanancestrees@nehgs.org.

Brenton

Brenton Simons
President and CEO



From our readers

We want to hear from you! Email 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.

What a wonderfully informative issue of AMERICAN ANCESTORS! The article on your new AnceTrees program [“All About American AnceTrees” AMERICAN ANCESTORS 20 (2019) 1:25–28] encouraged me to attempt to make an online tree, in addition to the family trees on my home computer. Then I was scanning through the pages when I saw the article on Joseph Bradish [“The Wrong Time to be a Pirate: Joseph Bradish’s Exploits on the High Seas”; pp. 32–36], and I yelped in surprise. Joseph is a relative of my husband and I have found very few records on him, so the article will be a great addition to my records.

Barbara Bettes
Sparta, Michigan

Thank you so much for Donna Bingham Munger’s article on “Who Did Nicholas Munger Marry?” [AMERICAN ANCESTORS 20 (2019)1: 43–47]. Nicholas and Sarah are my eighth great-grandparents, through their oldest son John. I knew about the Sarah Hall versus Sarah Hull controversy, but admit I hadn’t really tried to resolve it (yet). I am so happy for the clear analysis and presentation of available sources which lead to the preponderance of evidence showing that Sarah Hull is the correct name of Nicholas Munger’s wife. I also appreciated the additional evidence pointing to her father, Andrew Hull.

Dana Munger Kessler
Lebanon, Connecticut

I am a long-time member of NEHGS and a one-time contributor to your magazine. I would like to congratulate you on your AMERICAN ANCESTORS Spring 2019 issue, which I consider to be the most outstanding one yet. I was especially excited to read the “Behind the Scenes with NEHGS Research Services” article [1: 48–51]. I hope you will make this a regular feature now as it is so germane for members like me who are always striving to keep abreast of all the options for genealogical inquiry.

Deborah M. Child
Dover, New Hampshire



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

The Vita Brevis blog

Interested in thought-provoking explorations of genealogical topics? The Vita Brevis blog offers the opportunity to engage with scholars and professionals who share their unique perspectives and insights. Visit us at vita-brevis.org.

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 for more information.

Our Facebook page

Want to participate in our community and keep up-to-date on our latest news? Join our more than 42,000 friends and follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/nehgs.

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

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Like connecting through visual updates that feature our Fine Art Collection treasures, NEHGS events and tours, library recommendations, and our staff and patrons? Follow us on Instagram at [american_ancestors](https://www.instagram.com/american_ancestors).

In this issue

This issue's cover feature—"Preserving Your Family History in the Digital Age"—addresses a critical topic: how to organize and preserve digital family files. Most of us have inherited treasured family photographs, letters, and documents from the pre-digital age.

But one hundred years from now, what family papers, research notes, or photographs will represent the first two decades of the twenty-first century? Although genealogists certainly want to preserve their digital-era images and files for future generations, specific action must be taken or those items will not survive. In her article, Sally Benny, our Curator of Digital Collections, offers concrete and practical steps to ensure that your family material will be accessible for many years to come.

Life can be messy, brutal, and profoundly unfair, and our ancestors were vulnerable to its vicissitudes and complications. We might wish that our forebears led charmed lives in cozy settings where hard work and virtue were always rewarded but, unfortunately, that sort of ancestral portrayal owes more to fiction than reality. Family histories can contain some grim tales.

This issue features two articles that recount the lives of people caught in tragic circumstances. In "Secrets and Revelations: Discovering My Jewish Family History," Orlene Allen Weyland relates how she learned the hidden origins of her parents and the terrible fate of other relatives. In "Prince Walker of Barre: Documenting the Life of a Man Born into Slavery in Massachusetts," Lucy Allen tells the story of a man who endured life in bondage for over twenty years.

Two columns by NEHGS authors also tackle difficult topics. In the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight, Lindsay Sprechman writes about Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Boston case files and the SS *St Louis*—the ship that carried Jews out of

Europe in May 1939 only to be refused entry by the United States. In the Research Services column, Chloe Jones describes the experiences of American expatriate Walter Lee Gihon Perry, whose sketches depict scenes from his captivity in two internment camps in the Philippines during World War II.

Each of these stories of suffering and hardship offers a compelling tale. What particularly struck me is how feature authors Orlene Weyland and Lucy Allen reacted to their discoveries. Orlene is writing a book on her family's experiences; Lucy has spoken about Prince Walker's life and led a public tour of his remote burial ground. Confronted with evidence of both injustice and humanity in the lives of their subjects, the two authors have chosen to raise awareness about these meaningful stories with timeless implications.

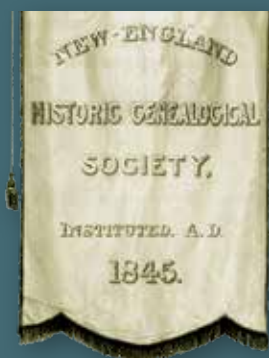
Another feature article reports on an author influenced by genealogical research to take action. In "Reclaiming Old Plot #45: Bringing Generations Together in a Cape Cod Cemetery," Sherill Baldwin describes how she decided to commemorate earlier ancestors and relatives along with her parents in a Harwich burial plot. Our other articles examine the Yorkshire Historical Dictionary Project, art from the Curtis Publishing Company, and a Y-DNA study of the Converse family that suggests an intriguing family origin.

We hope you find material in this issue that causes you to reflect and take action—by preserving digital files, writing an article, disseminating stories, or commemorating an ancestor.



Lynn Betlock
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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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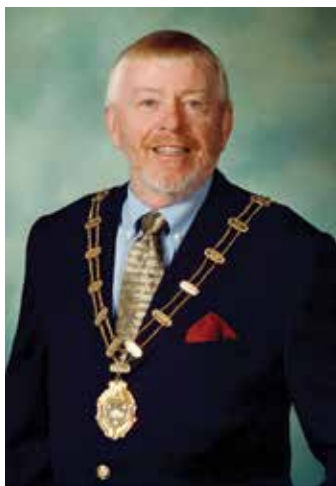


This publication is also funded in part by the Francis G. and Ruth (Wellington) Shaw Memorial Fund.

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THOMAS R. CROWLEY

“Consult original documents whenever possible”

About fifty years ago, my dad asked me to contact a cousin while I was on a business trip to Ireland. This cousin, whom I had never met, had extensive information on our Crowley family—back to my great-grandfather Denis Crowley.

I had been vaguely aware of my Irish roots, but now discovered that all eight of my great-grandparents were born in Ireland. The Crowleys were from County Cork, and my mother's people—the Mahars—were from Tipperary. My other great-grandparents were from Counties Sligo, Limerick, Clare, Wexford, Wicklow, and Westmeath. This discovery was the beginning of my fascination with genealogy. My subsequent frequent business trips to Ireland have allowed me to research in my ancestors' country. I also have traveled extensively in the U.S., visiting places connected to my family, and meeting relatives. Recently, with the advent of DNA research, I found cousins from several lines.

Irish genealogical research is challenging. Many records stored at Dublin's Four Courts building were destroyed in 1922. I have advised Irish Americans that they may conduct more useful preliminary research in America than in Ireland. Church, census, and civil records in the U.S. (as well as family lore and online records) should be consulted before a trip to Ireland. Without knowing the county and townland of family origin, researching in Ireland is almost impossible.

The critical lesson I have learned over the years is to consult original documents whenever possible. The cousin who introduced me to genealogy supplied me with the exact date and place of the 1874 marriage of my great-grandparents, Denis Crowley and Ellen Hannon. My cousin had written to the current parish priest for these details. Many subsequent years of research revealed that Denis was from Eyeries, Beara, County Cork, and that Ellen was from Killaloe,

County Clare. About twenty years ago I visited the church where they married and personally viewed the record. In the margin, next to Denis's name, was written “Eyeries, Beara,” and adjacent to Ellen's name was, “Killaloe, Co Clare.” The priest who had replied to my cousin's inquiry had not included this critical information.

I was introduced to NEHGS around 2003 by Ralph Crandall, then NEHGS Executive Director. Although I have no family connections to New England, I was interested in the Irish resources at NEHGS. Shortly after joining, I spent a day in Boston with Marie Daly (then Library Director). She guided me through the library's Irish resources, and introduced me to other area repositories.

My time in Boston has been limited, so I have made extensive use of the AmericanAncestors.org databases and other resources. The expansion and continued growth of these Irish resources at NEHGS is important to me. I supported the digitization of *The Search for Missing Friends*, now available on AmericanAncestors.org. I also arranged for fifty years' of research on the families of Beara, County Cork (compiled by Riobard O'Dwyer), to be placed in the NEHGS library. I am glad to know that this unique resource will be preserved and made available for future researchers.

As local genealogical societies shrink in the face of increasing challenges, the continued existence—and growth—of NEHGS becomes more important than ever. I'm proud to support the work of NEHGS to preserve and share family materials for generations to come. ♦

Thomas Crowley joined NEHGS in 2003 and became a life member soon afterwards. He was a Councilor from 2005 to 2008. He was president and owner of Gasko Products in Ohio and retired to Scottsdale, Arizona, in 2000. He is active in the worldwide Crowley Clan Society and was Taoiseach (Chieftain) of the Crowleys from 2001 to 2004. Mr. Crowley is also a longtime member of the Foundation Board at Akron Children's Hospital, as well as the Leadership Council of HonorHealth Hospital in Arizona.



ask our genealogists

Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist, NEHGS Library, is a nationally recognized genealogist and lecturer specializing in New England, Canadian, German, and Italian research; immigration and naturalization; and computerized genealogy. She is the author of ten books.

I am researching my great-grandmother, Mary Brown. She came from Waterford, Ireland, and her parents were Patrick Brown and Bridget Tobin. She had a brother who was a physician. In the 1860s Mary arrived in New York and moved to Staten Island with her sister. Mary later lived and died in Worcester, Massachusetts. I would like to find more information on her family in Ireland.

Civil registration did not begin in Ireland until 1864 for births and deaths and Catholic marriages. Registration of non-Catholic marriages began in 1845. So, to find birth records before 1864, researchers must identify the family's parish.

Use Griffiths Valuation to determine which County Waterford townlands and parishes listed men named Patrick Brown, and use that information to narrow your search. Griffiths Valuation is the closest approximation of a census for Ireland before 1901. Undertaken between 1848 and 1864, this property valuation identified where people lived and what land they owned. This source is particularly valuable for genealogists because it also includes renters and indicates the type of lands and housing for each person. Griffiths Valuation can be accessed through many websites, including Ancestry.com (\$), FindMyPast.com (\$), and Ask About Ireland (askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation) (free).

If your only source for the names of Mary's parents is her death record,

be aware that these names might not be correct. However, another method for identifying her parents is to locate a baptism for Mary through RootsIreland.ie—a subscription website containing searchable databases of many church parishes. When searching, you may want to include only the father's first name in addition to information about Mary.

If you haven't researched on Mary's brother, the physician, focus some effort on him. Men usually generated more of a paper trail than women; if Mary's brother immigrated to the United States, check for naturalization records.

Since Mary and her husband William Alexander were married and living in Worcester by 1870, Mary likely spent only a few years on Staten Island with her sister. The sister should also be researched. Look for commonalities and clues among the records of the three siblings (especially death records and obituaries) with regard to immigration, parents, etc.

In *The History of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts, 1650–1886* (1887), the author states that my relative, Benjamin Clark (1668–1688), “died at the eastward.” I’ve encountered this phrase before and I wonder what it means.

“The eastward” is a reference to Maine; from 1647 until 1820 it was a district of Massachusetts. In some Massachusetts

documents or collections you will also find Maine referred to as the “Eastern Parts” or the “Eastern Lands.” ♦

Do you have a question for our genealogists?

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

Do you need more in-depth help?

The NEHGS Research Services Team offers 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 to learn more.

News

Announcing the American Inspiration series

This fall, our historic rotunda in Boston's Back Bay also becomes a home for writers and readers! Join us for American Inspiration, a new thought-provoking series that presents best-selling authors and their latest books on personal identity, families and immigration, and social and cultural history. Upcoming events include:

- **Biographer Susan Ronald**, *Condé Nast: The Man and His Empire*, September 17.
- **Biographer Brian Jay Jones**, *Becoming Dr. Seuss: Theodor Geisel and the Making of an American Imagination*, September 26.
- **New York Times columnist Gail Collins**, *No Stopping Us Now: A History of Older Women in America*, October 18.
- **Historian Joseph J. Ellis**, *American Dialogue*, at the fall Family History Benefit Dinner, October 24.
- **Literary historian Stephen Greenblatt**, at the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center dinner, November 6.
- **Historian Donald L. Miller**, *Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign that Broke the Confederacy*, November 12.
- **Author George Howe Colt**, *The Game: Harvard, Yale, and America in 1968*, November 21.
- **NPR's Scott Simon**, *Sunnyside Plaza*, at the winter Family History Benefit dinner, January 30.

For more information, visit AmericanAncestors.org/AmericanInspiration or contact signatureevents@nehgs.org.

Our partners include 89.7 WGBH Boston and Porter Square Books in Cambridge. The series' producer is Margaret Talcott, Director of Signature and Literary Events.



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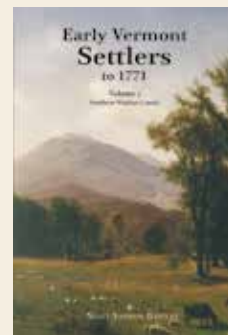
We are very proud to announce that two NEHGS books have received the National Genealogical Society's Award for Excellence.



Nancy Sands Maulsby,
NEHGS Board Chairman

Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, and Nancy Sands Maulsby, NEHGS Board Chairman, won in the Genealogy and Family History Book category. *Ancestors and Descendants of Robert Alfred Sands and Kate Van Volkenburgh: Enduring Relations* is published by Newbury Street Press and tells the story of Maulsby's ancestors who came to New York and achieved success in finance and medicine. Nancy Maulsby is an avid genealogist who has been a member of NEHGS since 2002 and a Life Member since 2009. Henry Hoff is editor of the *Register*.

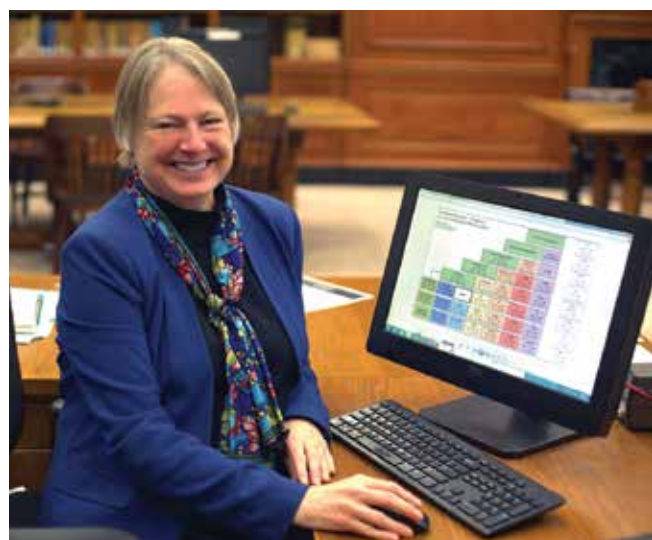
Scott Andrew Bartley won in the Genealogical Methods and Sources category. His *Early Vermont Settlers to 1771: Vol. 1—Southern Windsor County* is the first volume in an ongoing series that documents heads of household in early Vermont. A native Vermonter, Bartley leads NEHGS's Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 Study Project and edits Silver Books for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.



Join us for these exciting Fall events!

On October 24 our Family History Benefit Dinner will feature historian Joseph J. Ellis in conversation with Stacy Schiff at the Four Seasons Hotel. At our Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Annual Dinner on November 6, we will celebrate Jewish family and community history and feature Harvard literary historian Stephen Greenblatt in dialogue with Rabbi Wesley Gardenswartz. For more information, contact Courtney Reardon at signatureevents@nehgs.org or 617-226-1215.

Photo ©Pierce Harman Photography 2019.



New NEHGS Library Chat Service

Do you have a quick genealogy or history question that you'd like to run by a pro? Chat with our experts online! The genealogists on our library staff are now available for chat sessions on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. EDT. They can explain a particular website or resource, define an unfamiliar term or phrase, and make recommendations for where to find records. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/chat.

Mayflower 400th anniversary commemorations

On March 14, we joined with organizations from the U.S., United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the Wampanoag Nation to announce plans for the 400th commemoration program for *Mayflower* 2020.

Left to right: Charles Hackett, Chief Executive Officer, Mayflower 400 UK, Plymouth, England; Paula Peters, member of the Wampanoag Tribe, Mashpee, Mass.; Michele Pecoraro, Executive Director, Plymouth 400 Inc., Plymouth, Mass.; Michael Roumen, Executive Director, Mayflower 400 Leiden, the Netherlands.

Photo ©Pierce Harman Photography 2019.





Mayflower “launch” and Wampanoag Open House

On April 17, NEHGS held the first of a series of events in the U.S. commemorating the 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower*. More than 500 dignitaries, honored guests, members of the press, and the general public took part in open house activities, including family-friendly games and activities, traditional Wampanoag crafts, one-on-one consultations with genealogists, and dancing with the Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers. During this official Boston launch, we also unveiled four exhibits that explore 400 years of *Mayflower* and Wampanoag history: a scale replica of the *Mayflower*, created by Terry Geaghan; a sculpture of a Wampanoag mother and child recording their family history; an exhibit on the origins and legacy of the *Mayflower*; and an interactive display on the history of wampum belts. These exhibits will be on display at our headquarters in Boston through December 2020 and are free and open to the public.





Opposite page, top to bottom: Her Majesty's Consul General to New England Harriet Cross addresses invited guests and the press during the opening events. Members of the Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers perform at NEHGS. A mother and daughter learn how to make traditional Wampanoag corn husk dolls during the April 17 Open House.

This page, above: Wampanoag member and President of SmokeSignals Paula Peters cuts the ribbon to a sculpture of a Wampanoag mother and child recording their family history in wampum. *Below, right to left:* NEHGS Chairman Nancy S. Maulsby christens the Boston *Mayflower*, a 1:12 scale model created by artisan Terry Geaghan; NEHGS Communications Manager Jim Power with President of SmokeSignals Paula Peters and Creative Director Steven Peters. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2019.





Dan Rather reflects on history at Annual Dinner

On Friday, April 26, more than 225 guests enjoyed our Annual Benefit Dinner honoring the legendary anchor and award-winning broadcast journalist Dan Rather. The full scope of Rather's work was on display for the sparkling array of guests, benefactors, and honorees. The evening program included dramatic news clips from Dallas' Dealey Plaza, where Rather broke news to CBS anchor Walter Cronkite—and to the world—of JFK's assassination. The evening concluded with a thought-provoking discussion with CNBC *Nightly Business Report* co-anchor and NEHGS Trustee Bill Griffith about Rather's generation-defining career and the power and pitfalls of news coverage today.

Brenton Simons presented Rather's genealogy. Compiled by NEHGS Senior Genealogist Rhonda R. McClure, the genealogy revealed Rather's relationships to former presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and to notable political figures John Kerry, Mitt Romney, William Henry Seward, and Thomas Dewey. Fredrick Law Olmsted, Jr., is a distant cousin, as is the infamous Benedict Arnold. Other distant relations include Patrick Swayze and Hollywood legends Lilian and Dorothy Gish.

Ryan Woods presented Rather with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcast Journalism. The evening also celebrated Margo Georgiadis, the CEO of Ancestry, for her Outstanding Leadership in Family History, and Jonathan Tufts Woods, the President General of the Society of the Cincinnati, for his Outstanding Leadership in Historic Preservation and Genealogy.





Honorees

Dan Rather
Margo Georgiadis
Jonathan Tufts Woods

Platinum Benefactors

Ancestry
Wells Fargo

Gold Benefactors

Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.
Cisco Brewers
SIT Investment Associates

Silver Benefactors

Judith Avery
Nancy S. Maulsby
Barbara Jordan and Robert Pemberton
3EDGE Asset Management
Welch & Forbes LLC

Benefactors

Janis and Arthur Carty
Stephen H. Case
Kenneth E. Haughton
David Watson Kruger
Mark Kimball Nichols
Nancy and John Webster
Eastern Bank
Fiduciary Trust Company
Wellesley Bank

Opposite page, top to bottom:
Lifetime Achievement Award
Honoree Dan Rather with
Moderator and NEHGS Trustee
Bill Griffith; President and CEO
Brenton Simons, Dan Rather,
Senior Vice President and Chief
Operating Officer Ryan Woods,
and Bill Griffith; Dan Rather.

This page, top, left to right: Dan
Rather, Chairman of the Board
Nancy S. Maulsby, and Brenton
Simons; Louis Freeman, NEHGS
Trustee Judith Avery, NEHGS
Honorary Trustee Judith Waite
Freeman, and Dan Rather. *Middle:*

Robert Spofford, NEHGS Councilor Thomas Warren Thaler, NEHGS Trustee
Morrison DeS. Webb, Randall Hammond, Ryan Woods, Brenton Simons, Edward
F. Woods, and Honoree Jonathan Tufts Woods. *Bottom:* Honoree and CEO of
Ancestry Margo Georgiadis. Photos ©Pierce Harman Photography, 2019.





Left: The Baron presents to guests “The Secret History of Tablescapes—Reviving the French Art de Recevoir.” Below, top to bottom: A tablescape created by Baron Hubert de Vinols; Hubert de Vinols, the Honorable Alexandra Foley, who works with Vinols on Tables d’Exception, President and CEO Brenton Simons, and NEHGS Councilor Thomas Warren Thaler.

Baron Hubert de Vinols talks of tablescapes and European style

The renowned French decorator, interior architect, and restorer of chateaux and castles across Europe, Baron Hubert de Vinols joined us on Thursday, April 25, for a special dinner hosted in partnership with the French Heritage Society (FHS) at the Somerset Club in Boston. Brenton Simons was the evening’s host, along with FHS Boston chapter co-chairs François Bardonnnet and Francis de Marneffe, NEHGS Councilor; and Tom Thaler, FHS membership chair and NEHGS Councilor.

Following a French-style champagne reception, the Baron spoke to the gathering of more than sixty people on the topic of the French Art de Recevoir—the art of receiving or hosting. His presentation was rich with history, addressing the subtle differences in style among European countries, and included images of “tablescapes” through time as well as of modern-day dinner party tables elegantly and fancifully created from his remarkable collection of more than 7,000 pieces of European fine antique china, silver, and glassware.

Vinols’ collection, reportedly the largest privately owned in the world, has been built over three decades and through inheritances of magnificent eighteenth- and nineteenth-century tableware from his family domiciled in Paris, Auvergne, and the Loire Valley. It includes pieces by such venerable marques as Sevres, Meissen, Locré, Daum, and Saint Louis. The Baron’s most recent creation is Tables



d’Exception, an international event business drawn from his passion for reviving the French Art de Recevoir.

In response to the devastating fire in Paris the week before the event, Brenton Simons called for a portion of the event’s proceeds to be donated to the FHS’s Notre-Dame Fire Restoration Fund.



Ambassador John Loeb, Jr., speaks about memoir

On May 8, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS welcomed Ambassador John Loeb, Jr., a former Councilor of the Society, who spoke about his recently published memoir, a candid, moving account of the blessings and burdens of growing up in his family's circle of expectations as members of New York's German-Jewish establishment. Following the Ambassador's talk, NEHGS CEO Brenton Simons presented him with a Jefferson Cup in recognition of his contributions to Jewish culture, history, and biography.

Above: Ambassador John Loeb, Jr., signing copies of his memoir at the May 8 event.

Employees of the year

Every year, NEHGS honors staff excellence in three categories at our annual meeting. This year's recipients were (left to right): Molly Rogers (outstanding service to members), Claire Vail (beyond the call of duty), and Lynn Betlock (best contribution to the field of genealogy).



Making history on the Boston Common

On June 4 we participated in Making History on the Boston Common. Now in its tenth year, this annual "Making History" event engages more than 1,000 fourth and fifth graders from local schools. NEHGS staff members Tricia Labbe (Julia Ward Howe), David Lambert (Henry Whitney), and Ginevra Morse (narrator) reenacted the debates surrounding the advent of America's first subway in the 1890s.

NEHGS welcomes new Trustees and Councilors

The following trustees and councilors were elected at the annual meeting of the Society on April 27, 2019. The support of these individuals is invaluable to NEHGS, and we are grateful for their leadership.

New Trustees



John E. Corcoran of Essex, Massachusetts, is the founder and president of life sciences advisory firm Trinity Partners. He was the founder of Shyft Analytics and currently serves on the board. He was co-founder and chairman of Riffle Books, and founder and chairman of Akuta Corp. He serves on the boards of Brookwood School, Catholic

Leadership Institute, Massachusetts High Tech Council, and Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. He has an AB from Harvard College and Masters' degrees from Northeastern University and the Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard. He joined NEHGS in 1995.



Mark Thomas Cox IV of Richmond, Virginia, is president of the Chalk Bluffs Foundation for Historic Preservation and Conservation. He retired from Dominion Resources in 2000 after eight years in senior executive positions. He served as director of Seabee Bankcorp and was U.S. alternate executive director of the World Bank, and he had a

sixteen-year career with First Chicago Corporation. He serves on the board of the Richmond Symphony and previously served on the board of the Virginia Opera. Mark's lineage society memberships include the Mayflower Society, Society of Colonial Wars, and Society of the War of 1812. He joined NEHGS in 2000 and is an Associate Member.



Sarah E. Gunderson of Dallas, Texas, is the former director of operations for RealPage Inc., a multifamily industry software company. Previously she served as vice president of operational systems, vice president of regional support, vice president of financial services, and regional controller for Equity Residential. She serves on the board

of trustees for Austin College, and on the registrar committees for Daughters of the Revolution and Daughters of the Republic

of Texas. Sarah has a BA from Austin College and an MBA from Southern Methodist University. She earned her Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. An NEHGS member since 2006, she is a Life Benefactor.



Gerard A. Halpin III of New York, New York, is president and chief executive officer of Siemens Capital Company LLC, having served as vice president and treasurer of Siemens Corporation since January 2001. He was previously vice president and treasurer at Stone & Webster, Inc., and, following an external auditor role at Arthur Andersen

& Co., he held treasury positions at PepsiCo, Inc., Macmillan, Inc., and General Electric Company. He has a BA from College of the Holy Cross and an MBA from University of Virginia. An NEHGS member since 2013, he is a Life Benefactor.



David Martin Trebing of Washington, DC, is general manager of external affairs for Daimler. He was previously in executive positions for Chrysler and DaimlerChrysler. David serves as 37th governor general of the General Society of Colonial Wars. His lineage society memberships include Sons of the American Revolution, Society

of the War of 1812, and Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. His nonprofit board experience includes Detroit Historical Society, Historical Society of Michigan, and Cultural Development Corporation, Washington, DC. David was honored at our fall 2018 Benefit Dinner for his leadership in historic preservation and genealogy. An NEHGS member since 2016, he is a Benefactor.

New Councilors



Robb Alely Allan of Palm Beach, Florida, and New York, New York, is president of Gulfstream Group, Inc. He is a former employee of the LandSat satellite program at NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies, and was a science, business, and technology reporter for *Newsweek*. He is a former executive vice president for a private

real estate holding and development company with commercial and residential properties throughout the New York metropolitan area, and the founder of a technology consulting firm specializing in database systems. He joined NEHGS in 2015.



Margaret Aycinena of San Mateo, California, is co-founder of The Mess Mobile. A former journalist and a founding editor of *EDA Confidential*, she was managing editor and editor-in-chief at *ISD Magazine*, and held positions at *Chip Design Magazine*, *Visual Studio Magazine*, and *Eloquent*. She is a member of the American Decorative Arts

Forum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and PEO, and a life member of IEEE. She has a BA in biophysics from UC Berkeley, a BS in electrical engineering from San Francisco State University, and an Associate's degree in Art History from the College of San Mateo. She joined NEHGS in 2008 and is an Associate Member.



Richard D. Batchelder, Jr. of Boston, Massachusetts, is a partner and commercial litigator at Ropes & Gray LLP, where he was also formerly hiring partner. He previously served as special assistant district attorney for Middlesex County, and as law clerk for Judge Tauro, U.S. District Court. He has been recognized by Massachusetts Super

Lawyers, *Best Lawyers in America*, and *Who's Who in America*. His board and executive committee experience includes Greater Boston Legal Services, USS Constitution Museum, Somerset Club, and the Boston Athenaeum. An NEHGS member since 2016, he is a Supporter.



Richard J. Cellini of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is CEO of Briefcase Analytics and secretary and treasurer of the Georgetown Memory Project. He was admitted to the practice of law in New York and the District of Columbia. He was previously CFO and general counsel of Salary.com, senior vice president and

chief marketing officer of Integrity Interactive Corp., and M&A associate at Milbank Tweed. Richard has AB and JD degrees from Georgetown University, and an LL.M. from the University of Cambridge. He joined NEHGS in 2018.



Cheryl Lynn Edwards of McLean, Virginia, was senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and senior associate director for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's Division of Monetary Affairs. She is national chair of the Daughters of the American Revolution Finance Committee, and served on their

Long-range Planning Commission and Investment Committee. She is a life member of the National Society of New England Women. She has an AB from Wellesley College and a PhD in Economics from University of Michigan. An NEHGS member since 1991, she is a Life Benefactor.



Richard Churchill Fipphen of New York, New York, is an attorney at Verizon Communications. He is a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. He co-authored *Phippen Genealogy: Ancestors and Descendants of David Phippen (c.1585–1650) of Melcombe Regis, Dorset, and Hingham and Boston, Massachusetts*

(Newbury Street Press, 2017) and has contributed to *American Ancestors* magazine. Richard has a BA from Bates College and JD from Cornell University. He earned his Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University. An NEHGS member since 1976, he is a Friend.



Thomas F. Gede of Davis, California, is principal of Morgan Lewis Consulting LLC and of counsel at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. He was formerly U.S. commissioner of the Indian Law and Order Commission; California deputy and special assistant attorney general in criminal and government law divisions; and U.S. Supreme Court counsel. He is vice chair

of University of California's Hastings College of the Law, a trustee of UC Hastings Foundation, and board secretary and director of Open California. Thomas has a BA from Stanford University and a JD from University of California. An NEHGS member since 1988, he is a Life Benefactor.



James R. Goetschius of New York, New York, and Palm Beach, Florida, is managing director at Abbot Downing. He was formerly principal and senior wealth advisor for Bessemer Trust, co-founding partner and head of client relationship management at HPM Partners LLC, and managing director and head of business development for New

York City at BNY Mellon Wealth Management. James held senior roles at Bank of New York's Charitable Gift Services and Private

Banking divisions and was regional fiduciary officer on BNY's Trust Investment Committee. He joined NEHGS in 2017.



William R. Hausman of Rockport, Massachusetts, held administrative roles at higher education institutions in the Chicago area and was senior partner at Campbell & Company. As a consultant for educational, health, and cultural organizations, Bill provided counsel on organizational management, strategic planning, board development, training, and fundraising. He is presently filling part-time fundraising roles at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Plimoth Plantation. Hausman earned an AB in philosophy from Wheaton College and holds graduate degrees in history from Trinity International University and in administration and planning from Harvard University. He joined NEHGS in 1988 and is an Associate Member.

member of Daughters of the American Revolution and California Genealogical Society. She received a BA from University of Utah, MA from University of California at Berkeley, and JD from Nova University School of Law. An NEHGS member since 1993, she is a Supporter.



Robert Russell Perry of Madison, Wisconsin, is a Certified Public Accountant with Bank of America Business Capital and under previous ownership, including Fleet Capital, Shawmut Capital, Barclays Business Credit, Barclays American Business Credit, and Aetna Business Credit. His positions have included systems business analyst; division controller; credit manager; manager, Loan Administration; and manager, Loan Analysis. He received a BA from University of Wisconsin-Madison. He joined NEHGS in 1998 and is a member of the Henry Bond Society.



Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles of Richmond, Virginia, and Palm Beach, Florida, is president general of the Colonial Dames of America and regent of One Hundred Living Descendants of Blood Royal. Her current board service includes American Friends of St. George's Chapel at Windsor, Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem,

College of Arms, and National Trust for Scotland USA. Her past board leadership includes National Society of the Colonial Dames, Virginia, and National Society of Americans of Royal Descent. Brantley was honored at our fall 2018 Benefit Dinner for her leadership in historic preservation and genealogy. An NEHGS member since 2017, she is a Benefactor.



Pamela Jane Pescosolido of Sheffield, Massachusetts, is partner at Sequoia Orange Company and owner of The Bookloft in Great Barrington, Mass., and River Oaks Ranch in Austin, Texas. She is former owner of the Art Barn. She serves on the board of Vermont Law School and is a member of Great Barrington Rotary.

Pamela has a BA in Art History from Scripps College and a JD from Vermont Law School. An NEHGS member since 2014, she is a Life Benefactor.



David Watson Kruger of Exeter, New Hampshire, is a former group executive of BankBoston. He serves on the board of Wentworth Institute of Technology. His *Jonathan Watson (1650?-1714) of Dover, New Hampshire: who settled there by 1672*, won both the Donald Lines Jacobus Award and the NGS Award for Excellence. An NEHGS

member since 1990, David has served as a councilor, trustee, and chairman of the Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Henry Bond Society, John Quincy Adams Society for Lifetime Giving, Cornerstone Society for Giving, and a Patron.



Helen E. R. Sayles of Concord, Massachusetts, is chairman of the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, director of Entrepreneurial Scotland, and president of the Saltire Foundation, USA. She serves on Scotland's national economic development agency's International Advisory Board and is a member and Hall of Fame inductee

of GlobalScot. Her past board experience includes Cambridge Family and Children's Services, Bay Cove Human Services, and InRoads of New England. She was senior vice president at Liberty Mutual Group. Helen received the 2011 Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass. Leading Women Award. She joined NEHGS in 2014 and is a Life Member.



Marilyn A. Moffitt of Alameda, California, is an attorney at law and member of the California Bar Association. She was previously senior council at Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, Inc., senior attorney at Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, and managed Moffitt Medical Building and Medical Practice. She is a



Peter C. Steingraber of Boston, Massachusetts, is former partner and director of leasing for Commonwealth Development Group and The Pyramid Companies. His board service includes National Trust for Historic Preservation, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and the Flagler Museum. He has a BA from SUNY Albany and JD from Western New England

College. He joined NEHGS in 1991, and has served as councilor; as co-chair of the Future Expansion Committee; and as a member of the Audit, Finance, Nominating, Executive, and Real Estate Committees. He is a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and a Benefactor.



Alexandra Esty Sanderson Stocker of Hanover, Massachusetts, is co-founder and former CEO of Sanderson & Stocker, Inc., and a guest lecturer at Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management. She is a retired professional genealogist and past member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is a member

of the National Society of Colonial Dames, Boston Athenaeum, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Mayflower Society, St. George's Society of New York, and the English Speaking Union. She joined NEHGS in 1997, and is a Benefactor and a member of the Henry Bond Society.



Jonathan Buck "Dutch" Treat of Belmont, Massachusetts, is vice president of Eaton Vance Investment Counsel. He was vice president of Scudder Private Investment Counsel and senior vice president at David L. Babson & Co. He is president of Trustees of Donations to the Protestant Episcopal Church, and treasurer and chair of the

Finance Committee for the Middlesex School Board of Trustees. He received a BA from Yale University and MBA from Harvard Business School. He joined NEHGS in 2008 and has served on the Investment, Finance, Future Expansion, Executive, and Real Estate Committees, and as chair of the Nominating Committee. He is a Life Benefactor.



Lynn Bryan Trowbridge of Orinda, California, is a trustee of the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Foundation. She is a member of the California Genealogical Society and the Order of the Crown of Charlemagne. She is volunteer Chair of Development and past board president of the Foundation for

Osteoporosis Research and Education. She received a BA from Wellesley College and served on the President's Circle Committee for Major Gifts, Wellesley College Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Lynn joined NEHGS in 1987, and has served as a councilor and on the Development and Human Resources Committees. She is a Life Member, and a member of the Benjamin Franklin Society, Henry Bond Society, and Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving.



Elizabeth B. Vitton of Greenwich, Connecticut, and Newport, Rhode Island, is former director of the International Conference Division, Dow Jones & Company. Her lineage society affiliations include National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, General Society

of Mayflower Descendants, Winthrop Society, and Daughters of the American Revolution. Her board service includes the Greenwich Garden Club, Christ Church Greenwich, Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. An NEHGS member since 1997, she is a Patron.



Gwill York of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is co-founder of Lighthouse Capital Partners, where her portfolio included Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Cascade Communications, Sirocco Systems, Speechworks, Storage Networks, and Netflix. She is chair of the Board, Boston Museum of Science; treasurer, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; chair-elect, Harvard

Medical School Board of Fellows; and trustee, Brigham and Women's Hospital. She serves on the Partners HealthCare Board of Directors; as Chair of the Information Systems Committee; on the Harvard University Board of Overseers; and on the Dean's Advisory Board for Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Science. She joined NEHGS in 2018.

New Honorary Trustee



Judith Waite Freeman of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Cashiers, North Carolina, serves on the Board of the Highlands-Cashiers Chamber Music Festival and The Village Green. She has served as president of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America of Louisiana; president of the Louisiana Nature and Science Center;

vice president of the Garden Club of America; and on the boards of the New Orleans Opera and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Judy joined NEHGS in 1990 and has served as trustee, assistant secretary, and councilor. She is a Life Member, and a member of the John Quincy Adams Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving.

New scanner for American Ancestors databases

Extensive scanning is required to create and grow our AmericanAncestors.org databases. Until recently, this work was performed on flatbed scanners. However, the scale of the Historic Catholic Records Online Project clarified our need for advanced scanning equipment that would provide sophisticated image processing and ease of use. Thanks to a generous donation from NEHGS Trustee John Corcoran, we were able to acquire an i2s CopiBook OS scanner. Old and fragile books can now be imaged without excessive handling or manipulation. The productivity of our volunteers has grown by 250%—from about 400 to more than 1,400 images scanned in a single session.

We are grateful to John Corcoran for his generous support. We also thank our members who contributed funds for the Historic Catholic Records Online Project, and our volunteers who donate their time every week to provide new online content for our users.



Database Coordinator Molly Rogers demonstrates the new scanner for a volunteer.

Visit us in Boston!

Our library is open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Thursdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are located at 99–101 Newbury Street in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood and can easily be reached by subway or commuter rail. For information on directions, parking, and accommodations, visit 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. On Tuesdays we offer discounted admission for \$10.

Our genealogical and historical materials number more than 200,000 titles and 28 million items. To check for a particular item, search our catalog at library.nehgs.org. Our general library stacks are open, and visitors can pull books from the shelves and make photocopies. For a detailed library guide, visit AmericanAncestors.org/library-guide.

The R. Stanton Avery Special Collections contain more than 6,000 linear feet of material, including unpublished genealogies, diaries, letters, cemetery transcriptions, 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.)



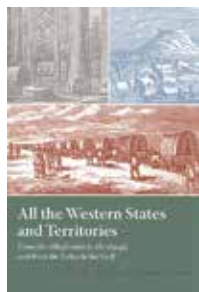
© Pierce Harman Photography, 2019.

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.

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

New Publications

AmericanAncestors.org/store



All the Western States and Territories from the Alleghanies to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf

By John Warner Barber and Henry Howe,
Foreword by Lynn Betlock
6 x 9 pbk, 734 pp., illus.; \$39.95

This 1868 collaboration from historians John Warner Barber (1798–1885) and Henry Howe (1816–1893) covers “history from the earliest times,” including descriptions of “incidents from pioneer life.” Nearly 250 illustrations add to the charm of this vast collection of history from twenty-one states (Alabama, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia, and Wisconsin) and nine territories (Arizona, Colorado, Dacotah [*sic*], Idaho, Indian [Territory], Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington). This first-rate gazetteer will afford many hours of enjoyment, especially if your ancestors were part of the 19th-century movement of settlers into the American West.

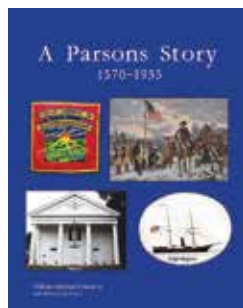


Judy Freeman and her NSP team celebrate her book

Recently we announced the publication of Honorary Trustee Judy Freeman’s family history, *Ancestors and Descendants of Lawrence Albert Waite and Hilda Marie Slaiger of North Attleborough, Massachusetts*. Judy arrived for the next board meeting with a bottle of champagne to thank us for our work.

Left to right: Nancy Bernard, Judy Freeman, Sharon Inglis, Chris Child, Cécile Engeln, Ellen Maxwell.

from Newbury Street Press



A Parsons Story: 1570–1935

By William Marshall Crozier Jr.
with Eileen Curley Pironti
8.5 x 10.5 hcvr, 168 pp.,
illus.; \$54.95

Beginning with William Parsons, born in Dorset, England ca. 1570 and encompassing the

English Civil Wars, the story follows immigrant Benjamin Parsons, whose family settled in what is now Enfield, Connecticut. His great-grandson Hezekiah served in the French and Indian War and the early years of the American Revolution. Hezekiah’s son Jabez Parsons served for a full six years during the Revolutionary War, responding to the Lexington Alarm, participating in the Battle of Brooklyn, and serving as a quartermaster at the Valley Forge encampment and beside General Washington at the Battle of Monmouth. Arthur H. Parsons, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and great-grandson of First Lieutenant Jabez Parsons, was serving on the USS *Saginaw* when it ran aground on the reef surrounding Ocean Island in the Pacific in 1870. The family spread out across the U.S., settling in Ohio and Iowa, with episodes in Colorado, Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The book also includes coverage of the related Sampson and Crozier families.



By Faith Alone: My Family’s Epic History, Second Edition

By Bill Griffeth
6 x 9 pbk, 304 pp., illus.; \$29.95

Bill Griffeth, author of the best-selling memoir *The Stranger in My Genes*, has revised his 2008 family history,

By Faith Alone. He presents new research on his “former ancestors,” who were guided by their faith over the course of American history. To Pilgrims, puritans, Congregationalists, Anglicans, Presbyterians, and Methodists, he adds members of the first congregation of Quakers in America, Catholics, and early members of the Latter-day Saints church.



Brick Walls *submitted by our members*

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

I am seeking the parents of my ancestor **Caroline Pixley** (or Pittsley or Pigsley). According to Find A Grave ([findagrave.com/memorial/146219934](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146219934)), she was born in Massachusetts in 1804. She married Samuel Manwaring (later Manwarren) before 1819, probably in Chenango County, New York. Samuel died in 1828, and Caroline married my ancestor, John Cumber, around 1835 in Oxford, Chenango Co. Their son, Lucius M. Cumber, my great-grandfather, was born in 1846. I know my ancestor was not the Caroline Pixley from South Hero, Vermont. Perhaps she is connected to the Pigsley/Pixsley family of Dighton and Freetown in Bristol County, Mass.

Linda Cumber Gifkins, Wardsboro, Vermont

I am seeking evidence that **Martha Beedle Bush** (b. 1791, probably in Bath, N.H.) was the daughter of John Bedel (b. 12 Mar 1752, Salem, N.H.) and Abigail Cleveland (b. 1756, place unknown). John and Abigail were married in November 1755. Fires destroyed the early Bath town and church records. An unsourced compiled genealogy from the 1930s by a Bath historian and a New York DAR Genealogical Records Committee (GRC) report from 1933 both state that Martha was the couple's child. The family moved to New York by 1808. Martha married Aaron Bush in Vernon, Oneida Co., N.Y., in 1808. Martha died in Syracuse, Onondaga Co., N.Y., in 1838. Her reported parents, John and Abigail Bedel, died in 1821 and 1825, respectively, in Sweden, Monroe Co., N.Y. No probate records have been found for John or Abigail. A 1929 DAR GRC report noted that an 1830 Beedle family Bible was in the possession of Miss Florence A. Beadle of Battle Creek, Michigan.

Kathryn Bush, Madison, Wisconsin

I am looking for a primary source to prove that my ancestor **Ephraim Perkins** was the son of Samuel Perkins. An Ephraim Perkins was born on February 14, 1793, in Tolland Co., Conn., son of Samuel Perkins (1751–1835) and Abigail (___). Ephraim married Deborah Gould in Windsor, N.Y., on February 15, 1820. He died in Albany, Ill., on April 21, 1866.

DeEtta Perkins Sowers, Aurora, Illinois

I am looking for information about my wife's ancestor, **Joseph Moore/Moor**, born September 8, 1764, in Southwick, Mass. At age 17 Joseph went to West Point and enlisted in the Army for three years. He was assigned to Captain Amos Cogswell's Company in the Third Regiment of the Massachusetts line. He served for almost the full term of his enlistment, and was discharged at West Point on December 17, 1783. In 1784 or 1785 Joseph Moor married Hannah Miller; they probably began their married life in Hampshire Co., Mass. He died in 1846 in Avon Lake, Ohio. According to *The Official Roster of the Soldiers of the American Revolution Buried in the State of Ohio* (1929), he “was a body-guard to Gen. Washington.” Joseph's will, probated in Lorain Co., Ohio, in 1846, referenced his “Book entitled ‘Memory of Washington.’” I am interested in information about this book and its location.

Ken Ondash, Youngstown, Ohio

I cannot locate a birth or death record for my ancestor **Daniel Martin**, a blacksmith. His Lancaster, Mass., marriage record states he was born in Ogdensburg, N.Y. His father, John Martin, was born in Maine or New York, and his mother, Catherine Carney in Ireland. (The Drouin Collection includes the marriage of a John Martin and a Catherine Carney at Ormstown, Quebec, on November 17, 1832. The 1860 U.S. census shows a Martin family with similar names [John, Catherine, Daniel], ages, and birthplaces in Manchester, Hillsborough Co., N.H. However, I cannot find any link between Daniel and these Quebec or Manchester Martins.) The 1880 census shows Daniel, his wife Ella (Cinderella) Nickerson Martin, and their children Lillie and Bertie in Milford, N.H. Daniel's gravestone, in South Yard Cemetery, Wilton, N.H., shows that he died on January 13, 1887, age 36 years, 11 months. Since Daniel died so young, I would like to know the cause. Presumably he died in New Hampshire or Massachusetts but I have not found a death record.

Joan C. Harvey, Winter Park, Florida

NEW Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

Journals and periodicals

American Ancestors magazine— 1 new volume

This database now includes Volume 19 (2018). This update provides over 280 new pages and 3,400 searchable names.

Mayflower Descendant— 1 new volume

This rich source of information on early New England families is not limited to those with a *Mayflower* lineage. We have added Volume 62 (2013) to our database.

Study projects

Early New England Families, 1641–1700—5 new sketches

This study project, managed by Alicia Crane Williams, FASG, focuses on families listed in Clarence Almon Torrey's manuscript, "New England Marriages Prior to 1700." The latest sketches feature John Browne, Jr. (m. 1650, 1660), Thomas Dunk (m. 1668, 1677, 1678), William Lord (m. 1642, 1664), Lydia (Buckland) (Brown) (Lord) (Dunk) Post (m. 1660–1683) and John Bigelow (m. 1642, 1694).

Early Vermont Settlers, 1700– 1784—11 new sketches

This study project, managed by Scott Andrew Bartley, contains genealogical sketches for heads of households who lived in Vermont by 1784. The most recent sketches are from the towns of Hartford, Sharon, and Strafford.

Early Vermont Settlers Index Cards, 1750–1784

This companion database to *Early Vermont Settlers, 1700–1784* contains index cards prepared by Donald Alan Smith for his thesis, "Legacy of Dissent: Religion and Politics in Revolutionary Vermont, 1749 to 1784" (Clark Univ., PhD., 1980). These cards provide useful personal data on

individuals who lived within the borders of present-day Vermont.

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790—18 new sketches

This study project, managed by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG, profiles heads of families enumerated in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire Counties, an area which includes modern Franklin and Hampden Counties. The newest sketches profile heads of families from Adams, Belchertown, Dalton, Deerfield, Granby, Pelham, Springfield, Whately, and Windsor.

Vital records

Boston, MA: St. Augustine Cemetery Records, 1819–1859

St. Augustine Chapel and Cemetery in South Boston celebrates its bicentennial from September 2018 to July 2019. In recognition, we offer this new database, which contains a mix of lot sales, burials, deaths, and gravestone inscriptions. This resource offers more than 15,000 records and 62,000 searchable names.

Chelsea, MA: Marriages by Rabbi Icik Benkovitz, 1922–1956

This database is presented thanks to the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS. Rabbi Icik Benkovitz (1853–1963) lived to be 110, and served as a spiritual leader in Chelsea until shortly before his death. This database contains 306 marriages and 4,076 searchable names.

Descendants of the GU272, 1785–2000

This database contains indexed genealogies of the descendants of the 272 slaves sold by Georgetown University in 1838—known as the GU272. Coverage for each family includes a *Register*-style report and supporting source documents. This database, which provides more than

10,000 records and 32,000 searchable names, was produced in partnership with the Georgetown Memory Project.

Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900—35 new parishes

Guest members can view the Archdiocese of Boston sacramental records for free in our browsable collection. The 161 new volumes include records from Amesbury, Arlington, the Boston Harbor Islands, Brockton, Brookline, Cambridge, Concord, Dedham, Dorchester, Foxborough, Georgetown, Gloucester, Holbrook, Hopkinton, Hudson, Ipswich, Lawrence, Lowell, Maynard, Newton, Norwood, Revere, Somerville, South Boston, and Watertown.

Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900—12 new parishes

NEHGS and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston are collaborating to create an database of millions of sacramental records from over 100 parishes across eastern Massachusetts. The 72 new volumes include records from Andover, Beverly, Bridgewater, Cambridge, East Boston, Hyde Park, Lawrence, Medford, Pepperell, Salem, and Woburn.

Vital Records from the NEHGS Register—2 new volumes

This new project provides an in-depth re-indexing of all genealogical records in the "Vital Records from the NEHGS Register" database. We are reviewing every published article and extracting a broad set of genealogical records. This database will provide a much more detailed index of the records in the *Register* than is currently available. Volumes 2 and 3 have been completed.

programs & tours

Salt Lake City Research Tour

November 3–10, 2019

"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 our more than 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: \$1,875 single; \$1,650 double; \$2,050 with non-researching guest; \$900 commuter
Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to the above prices

2020 Program and Tour Registration Opening Soon!

Join NEHGS experts on genealogical adventures in Boston, London, and beyond in 2020. Watch for all upcoming programs and research tours in the annual education brochure hitting mailboxes soon. Register online starting November 2019 at AmericanAncestors.org/education/research-tours-and-programs.



**Members
receive special
discounts!**

Register for NEHGS Tours & Programs

Registration for most programs is available at 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.

For more information, email education@nehgs.org or call **617-226-1226**.

New Discoveries in Mayflower Genealogical Research

Presented by Sue Allan; Robert Charles Anderson, FASG; Christopher C. Child; Caleb Johnson; and Simon Neal

**Saturday, September 14,
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Courtyard by Marriott, 275 Tremont St.,
Boston, MA 02116**

Cost: \$125; includes five lectures, lunch, and special offers

Join preeminent *Mayflower* scholars as they discuss new discoveries regarding the connections, origins, and identities of the Pilgrims. Topics include:

- Puritan Pedigrees: Uncovering the Interconnections of the Great Migration
- Finding *Mayflower* Connections Through DNA
- New Discoveries in *Mayflower* Origins
- Finding the Women: Identifying Maiden Names
- Avenues for Future Research

In addition to five lectures, the day will include book sales and signing, informal conversation with speakers and staff, and special offers.



online learning center

Online courses & conferences

Expand your genealogical education without leaving home! Our free webinars discuss a wide range of topics and reach thousands of people around the world. Register for upcoming webinars at AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Online-Classes.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming webinars!

- 8/15/2019 . . . Webinar: Top 10 Published Resources for Early New England Research, Cost: Free
- 9/19/2019 . . . Webinar: Using Canada's Federal and Provincial Censuses, Cost: Free
- 10/17/2019 . . Webinar: Searching for Family History in Library Catalogs, Cost: Free
- 11/21/2019 . . Webinar: How We Can Help: NEHGS Research and Consultation Services, Cost: Free
- 12/19/2019 . . Webinar: Using DNA Tools in American AnceSTREES, cost: Free

Missed a past webinar? Explore more than 60 hours of free genealogical instruction at our online video archive at AmericanAncestors.org/education/learning-resources/watch. **NOTE:** You will need to log on to AmericanAncestors.org with your member or guest account.

Past webinars include:

- Getting Started in Polish Research
- Using Occupations to Trace Ancestors
- Researching Women in Archives
- Using and Evaluating Published Genealogies
- Preserving Your Family Treasures
- Creating a Research Plan: Tips from NEHGS Research Services
- Ten Steps to Writing & Publishing Your Family History





staff profile

Meet JAMES HEFFERNAN

Senior Researcher

I first started researching my family history when I was 13. I can still remember being nervous that my high school friends would judge me for my hobby—looking up long-dead ancestors and visiting graveyards on weekends. Naturally, I studied history when I attended Boston College, as well as during my semester abroad at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. I worked for a summer in the research library at Plimoth Plantation, and for two years in the conservation lab of the Boston College special collections library.

The summer after I graduated, I waited tables at an Italian restaurant, and contemplated what to do with my newly acquired history degree. I had a membership to NEHGS, and throughout college I periodically checked AmericanAncestors.org for new databases relevant to my family research. The fall after graduation, I saw a visitor services representative position on the careers page. I applied and joined the staff in December 2015.

In 2017 I moved into the Research Services department to work on research-for-hire cases, often chipping away at longstanding brickwalls. This year I was promoted to Senior Researcher. In this role, I communicate with my clients directly and create educational content through online courses and webinars. I value the way that the position has allowed me to foster relationships with my clients—putting faces to names, and personalizing their family histories.

My role as a professional researcher has pushed me outside of my

genealogical comfort zone into previously unfamiliar subject areas. I've also honed my specialized interests, with the encouragement and support of the Research team. The job favors the intellectually curious because we are constantly educating ourselves on the history of the areas we research.

My favorite projects involve nineteenth and twentieth-century immigration from Central and Eastern Europe. I like the challenges: language barriers, shifting borders, and record loss. I also find myself drawn to the exoticism of the region; the languages and history make these countries seem remote and mysterious. My great-grandmother, Helen Akus, the daughter of Polish immigrants, is my genealogical connection to the area. Although my grandfather was raised with Polish-American influences, very little of that culture was transmitted to me. Genealogy has allowed me to reclaim some of that heritage and provided the opportunity for me to help others uncover the origins of their recent immigrant ancestors.

At age 13, I could never have imagined that I would one day have a career in genealogy. I am no longer nervous about discussing my love of family history: my hobby-turned-career is now an asset. When I mention that I work as a genealogical researcher, strangers turn into friends. They tell me about a father's DNA test, a grandmother's adoption, or a desire to learn more about an ancestor. I hope I can inspire them to embark on their own genealogical journeys. ♦



Preserving Your Family History in the Digital Age

Genealogists collect family history information in a variety of formats. These collections traditionally consisted of research notes along with an archive of letters, photographs, and documents, stored in paper folders and sturdy binders. Today's genealogists also utilize digital technology to locate, save, and create digital "family papers."

The proliferation of online content has enabled researchers to download documents and other material from a wide range of sources. Many genealogists now utilize a family tree program (such as our free AnceSTRICES service, available at AmericanAncestors.org/ancestrees) to collect and organize their research.

The nature of "family papers" has likewise evolved. Most family photographs and home videos are now taken with cell phones and digital cameras. Correspondence has moved largely from letters and cards to email, social media, and texts and messages. Like the physical media of past generations, these digital "family papers" can provide insight into the personalities and lives of family members.

As odd as it might seem, this abundance of digital files creates challenges to access. Digital storage is now so cheap that researchers are inclined to keep every digital file they download, create, receive, or purchase. As the quantity of digital files increases,

organizing the collection becomes more difficult. When faced with thousands of files, how do we locate the correct one—or determine after time has passed which documents are relevant or significant? As any researcher knows, if you can't find an important file, it may as well not exist.

Digital media poses other challenges to long-term use. A computer or other device is required to access files stored online or on a hard drive. A drive or device may be needed to access storage media. Compatible software is necessary to view the documents.

As technology evolves, even the most popular digital storage media are superseded by new options. Few new computers today come with equipped with internal floppy disk, CD, or DVD drives (although external drives are still available). Obsolescence of both



Sally Benny is Curator of Digital Collections.

hardware and software is a significant barrier to the long-term use and preservation of digital files. By contrast, paper records can be viewed without any special devices hundreds of years after their creation.

Like physical records, digital files are vulnerable to environmental damage. CDs, flash drives, hard drives, and other physical storage media can be damaged through natural disasters, accidents, and improper storage and handling. Physical documents and photos protected from environmental damage may survive for hundreds of years. With the proper storage and handling, digital files can likewise remain stable for decades. (However, even with appropriate preservation, most digital storage media has a short lifespan and will need to be periodically evaluated.) Digital storage media should be stored upright, in cases or envelopes, and protected from dust, dirt, and light in an environment with consistent temperature and humidity.

Digital files require regular and active management to ensure that they remain accessible. Four major steps are part of the digital preservation management process:

- Identify
- Select
- Organize
- Store

Identify

Identify where your digital files are located and review their contents. You may want to create a list (either digitally or on paper) of the locations of your digital files, along with a brief description of their contents.

Begin looking for your files on the hard drive of any computer you currently use. Then check computers you have used in the past for files you neglected to transfer. In addition, search any removable media—such as CDs, flash drives, floppy disks, and external hard drives. Labels on the storage media may help you identify the contents. Don't delay opening

and reviewing any removable storage media now—as technology becomes obsolete it will be difficult to read older disks and files.

If you have a digital camera, your photos, audio, and video files might be on a storage card. Search your cell phone or tablet for photographs and videos, as well as communications with family and friends through texts and other messaging systems. Social media accounts, email, and online cloud storage (such as Dropbox, Google Drive, and OneDrive), might store digital files. Identify the places where you store digital copies of your genealogical research—either online or on your computer.

Select

Once you have identified the locations of your digital files, you need to select the most important files for long-term preservation. No hard-and-fast rules exist for selection; choose the files

that have value for you. Photographs, videos, letters, emails, and genealogical research material may be important enough to preserve. Discard multiple versions of the same file. For example, if you have many photographs of the same event, choose your favorites and keep the original images. If you have multiple versions of a written document, keep the most complete copy.

If you have trouble choosing which files to keep, ask yourself:

- Does the file have personal meaning for you?
- Is the file unique?
- Do you want to pass this file on to your descendants?
- Does the file contain important legal, financial, or medical information?
- Do you refer to this file often?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, the file is a good candidate for preservation.

Digital files can become corrupted during storage and copying, changing the files and sometimes making them unreadable. This phenomenon, known as bit rot, can cause significant changes to files, as shown in this JPEG image. Boston Normal Cooking School class, 1892. Louise Bartlett Carruth Baxter family papers, Mss 1115, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, NEHGS.



Organize

Your digital archive will be most useful if you (and your descendants) can easily locate important files. Your files should have brief but descriptive names, and be saved in organized folders. Creating descriptions of your files is also very helpful, especially for photographs, video, and audio.

Good file names make specific files much easier to find. The default file names created by software programs, cameras, and other digital devices are not informative. A file name should provide information about when or where the photograph was taken and what it depicts. A file name isn't the place for a caption or description of the document! Save those details for the metadata, or description. For greatest interoperability between systems, file names should be short, and use only alpha-numeric characters, hyphens, and underscores. No spaces, punctuation, or special characters should be included. File names should always end with a period and a file extension.

The file-naming scheme you choose should make sense to you, and help you remember the file contents. For example, your file names might include first and last names, a word or two describing the document, and the date. The exact information that you include does not matter, as long as you are consistent in the order and formatting of elements. If you choose to include dates, select one of these formats: YYYYMMDD or YYYY_MM_DD. Using these formats will allow chronological sorting of files.

Here are some examples of good file names:

- Smith_letter_20050513.docx
- 201507-BostonTrip-img05.jpg
- John_Tisdale_descendants.pdf

Consider how to organize your digital files so you can find them later. The folders in which you save your files should be organized consistently and in a way that makes sense to you. For example, files could be organized by

year, subject, or general type. Within these broad categories, create sub-folders for additional organization.

An optional (but recommended) step is to add metadata, or descriptive information, to the files you want to preserve. Metadata helps ensure that your files are discoverable—especially by searching—either within your operating system or in a software program. Metadata also helps preserve the context of a digital file by recording why a file was created, when, and by whom. Some basic metadata is automatically recorded by operating systems or software—such as date of creation, file size, and sometimes creator. Digital cameras and cell phones automatically record the camera settings used to take each image, and the location where the photograph was taken, if available. Images, audio, and video particularly benefit from descriptive metadata, since these files don't typically include searchable text.

Metadata can be saved in separate files, recorded in an image or file manager, or embedded within the file itself. Regardless of the method used, all descriptive metadata should include the same kind of information. Some recommended elements include a *Title*, *Creator* (if known), the *Date* that the file was originally created, the *Source* of the file (if relevant), and *Keywords*. Keywords can include any people, places, or subjects mentioned or portrayed in the document. If the title, date, and keywords don't adequately describe a file, you may want to add a description. The description field should include any additional information about a file that will help you find

Folder examples

- My Archive
 - 2006
 - 2007
 - 2008
 - 2009
 - Family
 - Friends
 - School events
 - 2010
 - Blog
 - Digital Photos
 - Digital Video
 - Documents and Important Papers
 - Music
 - 2011
 - Family Events
 - Uncle Bobs 70th party
 - Holiday parties
 - Misc
 - Vacations

In this example, a digital archive has been organized into folders by year. Within each year, additional folders organize the folders by document type or subject.

it later, or explain why you chose to preserve it.

Metadata can be recorded in a separate file, such as a spreadsheet or text file. Information about the whole folder should be written at the beginning of the file, followed by details (if any) about individual files within the folder. Save your metadata file in the same folder as the files it describes. You can also create a separate metadata file to describe the folder structure and provide a general summary of the files.

Your metadata can also be recorded with an image or file organizer. If you choose this option, make sure that your metadata can be exported for use in another program so that you can switch software programs if necessary. Another option is to embed the metadata within the file itself. Embedded metadata can be added directly by using built-in tools in your operating system, or with a separate software program. Examples of programs

Metadata text file example

Collection: William Lowe Papers

Make/Model of scanner: Epson Scan 1000XL

Scanning software used: Epson Scan Professional

File format used/compression level: TIFF, compression unknown

Date of digitization: 2011-05

Folder: Lowe\Photographs\France_October_1919

photo.1.tif Captain William Lowe, June 4, 1919 in camp at Brest, France written on back.

photo2.tif William Lowe in uniform at barracks, 1919,
identified by son Amos Lowe.

Basic descriptions of your files can be written in a text file or spreadsheet. This example describes some digitized family photographs, and includes the folder and file names, along with a description of each file.

that are designed for use with images include Photoshop Elements Organizer, XnView MP, and Adobe Bridge. These applications can also be used as image browsers, and most have editing tools as well.

Most image editors also include tools for adding embedded metadata; many other programs, such as Microsoft Office, OpenOffice, and Adobe Acrobat, also include tools for adding and editing a file's metadata or properties.

Depending on the software, embedded metadata may be hard to create, but it will stay with the file, even if the file is moved to another location. Some image managers automatically index embedded metadata, so you can use it to search for images or other files and filter them for more relevant results. Embedded metadata in any kind of file can also be accessed by the search tools in your operating system, making it easier to find photographs and other files featuring specific people, places, and subjects.

The Properties tool in Microsoft Word allows users to add and edit metadata to describe their documents. Many other programs have similar features.

Store

Storage involves both the file format used to save your files, and the place where you save them. For the best long-term preservation, save your files in popular, widely used standard file formats that can be opened by many software programs.

Some recommended file formats for preservation are listed in the table on page 31. These file formats should be used to save the version of a file that you want to preserve for future family members and researchers. Use these formats also for files you share with others, as these formats can be opened by many software programs, regardless

BenneyJohn-desc-draft.docx Properties

General	Summary	Statistics	Content	Custom
Title:	The Descendants of John Benney of St. Columb Minor, Cornwall			
Subject:	Benny family; Cornwall (England: County)			
Author:	Benny, Sally			
Manager:				
Company:				
Category:				
Keywords:	John Benney; John Benny; William Benny; Albert Edward Benny; Cornwall; St. Columb Minor; St Newlyn East; St. Enoder; England			
Comments:	Three generations of the descendants of John Benney (d. ca. 1828) of St. Columb Minor, Cornwall, England.			
Hyperlink base:	Normal.dotm			
Template:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Save preview picture with this document				

of operating system. When you create and edit a file, however, use whatever software program you prefer and save the file in a format compatible with the software. For example, if you use a family tree program, you should save your data in the program's native file format and edit that file. For long-term preservation, or to send your family tree to other family members, export a copy and save it as a GEDCOM, which can be opened by any family tree program.

Advanced users may wish to save files in open file formats, rather than proprietary ones. The specifications of open file formats have been published and are freely available, so multiple software programs can more easily read, save, and support those formats. In contrast, proprietary file formats are generally created and used by commercial companies for their own software programs. If the software is discontinued or the company goes out of business, opening those files—much less converting them to a format that other software programs can use—can be challenging.

Encrypted and password-protected files can be difficult to open without the appropriate password or software. Therefore, for best results, files in your digital archive should be saved without any encryption or other form of access control.

For long-term preservation, saving multiple copies of your files is essential. The “3–2–1 Rule,” recommended by the American Society of Media Photographers, is a good rule of thumb to follow:

- Make **3** copies
- On at least **2** types of storage media
- And save **1** copy in another location

The variety of storage media options includes the hard drive of your computer, external hard drives, USB flash drives, CDs, and DVDs.

Another option is online cloud storage, such as Dropbox, Google Drive, iCloud, or OneDrive, which can

Recommended file formats for preservation

TYPE	RECOMMENDED FILE FORMATS
Documents	.PDF (preferably PDF/A) .ODT (OpenDocument Text) .TXT (Plain text) .DOC, .DOCX (Microsoft® Word Document) .RTF (Rich Text Format)
Images	.TIF, .TIFF (Uncompressed) .JP2 (JPEG2000) .JPG, .JPEG .PNG .PDF (PDF/A) .GIF .DNG (Digital Negative)
Video	.MPEG-2 .MP4 (MPEG-4, with H.264 encoding) .MPEG-1 .AVI (AVI, full frame, uncompressed) .MOV (QuickTime Movie, uncompressed) .WMV .OGG
Audio	.WAV (WAVE Format LPCM) .AIF, .AIFF (Uncompressed) .MID, .MIDI .WMA (Windows® Media Audio) .MP3 (MPEG3) .M4A (MP4 AAC)
Spreadsheets	.ODS (OpenDocument Spreadsheet) .CSV (Comma-separated values) .TXT (Tab-delimited text file) .PDF (preferably PDF/A) .XLS, .XLSX (Microsoft® Excel Spreadsheet)
Presentations	.ODP (OpenDocument Presentation) .PDF (preferably PDF/A) .PPT, .PPTX (Microsoft® PowerPoint Presentation)
Genealogical research and family trees	.GED (GEDCOM) .PDF (for family group sheets and other reports, and graphical family trees)
Web sites and web pages	.HTM, .HTML (HTML or XHTML, with associated files) .PDF (for a small number of individual web pages)
Email	.MBOX .PDF (for individual emails)

be accessed from any location. Before choosing an online storage option, review its features and make sure that it meets your needs.

Free cloud storage accounts offer a limited amount of storage; a paid account may be necessary for your entire digital archive. Select a service that will not compress, resize, or otherwise alter your files. In addition, choose an option that provides tools for exporting a complete copy of your files, in case you need to move your archive.

Since digital storage media (such as hard drives, CDs, etc.) have limited lifespans, check the files in your digital archive on a yearly basis. Review the files for anything unexpected, such as a file with an unusually small size. In addition, open a selection of the



Resources for more information

- Personal Archiving (Library of Congress), digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving
Includes advice on preserving digital photographs, audio, video, email, personal digital records, websites, and scanning personal documents and photographs.
- “Adding Descriptions to Digital Photos.” Library of Congress Digital Preservation: The Signal. blogs.loc.gov/thesignal/2011/10/mission-possible-an-easy-way-to-add-descriptions-to-digital-photos
- Personal Digital Archiving Strategies (Kari Smith and Jessica Venlet, MIT Libraries Institute Archives & Special Collections), libraries.mit.edu/digital-archives/files/2015/10/2015_pda_handoutdissemination-v3.pdf
- Digital Preservation Best Practices and Guidelines (State Archives of North Carolina and State Library of North Carolina), digitalpreservation.ncdcr.gov
- “Preserving Your Family’s Digital Legacy: A Talk at the Winchester Historical Society” (Life Cycles of the Bits and Pages, by Helen Bailey), bitsandpages.wordpress.com/2014/04/24/preserving-your-familys-digital-legacy-a-talk-at-the-winchester-historical-society
- Personal Digital Archiving Guide series (Bits and Pieces blog, University of Michigan Libraries):
 - ♦ Personal Digital Archiving Guide Part 1: Preservation Planning, lib.umich.edu/blogs/bits-and-pieces/personal-digital-archiving-guide-part-1-preservation-planning
 - ♦ Personal Digital Archiving Guide Part 2: Media Types and File Formats, lib.umich.edu/blogs/bits-and-pieces/personal-digital-archiving-guide-part-2-media-types-and-file-formats
 - ♦ Personal Digital Archiving Guide Part 3: Storage, lib.umich.edu/blogs/bits-and-pieces/personal-digital-archiving-guide-part-3-storage
- Digital Photography Best Practices and Workflow, dpbestflow.org
- IPI Guide to Preservation of Digitally-Printed Photographs (PDF), dp3project.org/webfm_send/739
- Creating Long-Lasting Inkjet Prints (NEDCC Preservation Leaflets), nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/5.-photographs/5.4-creating-long-lasting-inkjet-prints
- Wilhelm Imaging Research, wilhelm-research.com/
Includes reports on the longevity of many commercial and home photograph printers.
- The Digital Beyond. thedigitalbeyond.com/about
- “5 Steps to Creating Your Digital Estate Plan” (Next Avenue), nextavenue.org/5-steps-creating-your-digital-estate-plan

Glossary

Archives: Materials—created in any format by a person, family, or organization—that are deemed worthy of preservation due to their permanent or long-term value.

Bit rot: Corruption of digital files due to errors in copying and deterioration of storage media. Depending on where the change occurs in the digital file, it can cause changes in the appearance of the file, or can even make a file inaccessible.

Born-digital: Digital files that were originally created in a digital format, such as a digital photograph or word processing document.

Digital obsolescence: Occurs when digital materials are no longer readable, due to archaic, obsolete storage media, file formats, or operating systems, and caused by the rapid development of technology.

Digitization: The conversion of analog materials into a digital format, through scanning, digital photography, or some other process. Your digital archives may contain both born-digital and digitized files.

Cloud storage: Storage of digital data on remote servers, sometimes in multiple locations. Cloud storage can be accessed online.

Digital preservation: Ongoing activities that are required to provide long-term access to digital material, regardless of the challenges of media failure and technological change.

Metadata: “Data about data” that documents important aspects of a resource, and helps users to find, interpret, and access resources in any format. Includes descriptive metadata, which describes the content of a resource.

Migration: The transfer of digital data from one storage medium or file format to another, to allow ongoing access to the information.

files to make sure that your computer can still access and display them properly. If you find any problems, replace the damaged file with an undamaged one from a duplicate copy of your digital archive. Migrate the files to new storage media every five years, and more often if necessary.

For particularly important digital files, print copies so that you have physical backups as well. Use archival paper to ensure that these copies last as

long as possible. (Documents should be printed on archival bond paper.) Consider creating photo books and prints to safeguard your photographs and allow for easy sharing. Digital photographic prints are not yet truly archival, but professional prints on archival photographic paper are likely to last the longest. Some inkjet photo printers can produce long-lasting photographic prints, depending on the combination of inks and papers used. In any case,

printed versions of digital files should be stored like all other important documents: in archival enclosures in a stable environment, protected from light, dust, and moisture.

After expending considerable effort to preserve your digital archive, make sure that at least one person knows where your digital files are located and how to access them. You may want to give a copy of your digital archive to someone else for additional safekeeping or formalize plans for your digital estate in your will. Your files could still be lost if no one else knows about their existence or how important they are to you.



Digital preservation is a cycle. As you continue to create digital files, do not neglect the other critical steps in the process: select files you want to preserve, give them meaningful file names, save them in organized folders, and create multiple copies.

The entire digital preservation cycle can seem overwhelming—but don't be discouraged. Focus on completing attainable steps, and you can make your files significantly more accessible in the future. Following even some of the recommendations in this article will make a difference. Organizing and backing up your files is especially important.

Although preserving digital files requires regular effort, this diligence will pay off in the long run. Your personal and family archives are precious, regardless of their creation date, and deserve to be preserved and passed down to future generations of your family. ♦



Eleonore Brahm and Larry Allen, 1949.
From the author's collection.

Secrets *and* Revelations

Discovering My Jewish Family History

My sister Susan (“Susie”) and I had few relatives beyond our tight-knit family of four. During our early childhood, we knew one of our aunts, our dad’s sister Blanche who lived in the Bronx. Dad had another sister living in Czechoslovakia, whom we met once when she visited the U.S. But Susie and I had no grandparents, cousins, or uncles.

My mother, Eleonore Brahm, who was born in 1929, revealed very little of her own European background, other than to say that her father disappeared when she was 13 and she never saw him again. His wife, Irma, was her step-mother; we learned much later that Mom didn’t know that Irma was not her birth mother until she was a young mother herself. Mom shared this information with Susie and me when we were young adults but revealed nothing else.

The youngest of four children, my dad, Larry Allen—originally Ladislav Adler—was born in 1914 and raised in the hamlet of Malé Dvorný in Topolčany, Czechoslovakia (now Slovakia). He spoke in happy terms about his parents and siblings; he had two sisters, Blanche and Kamila, and a brother who had “died in the war.”

He told us that following his graduation from medical school in Bratislava in 1939, he escaped Czechoslovakia. We don’t know how he managed to leave,¹ and he did not discuss the fate of his family members. Dad enlisted in the British Army, Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps. He didn’t speak much about his war experience, other than to relate a few stories about his officer’s aide, known as a batboy, who suffered from what we used to call “shell shock,” known today as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In 1946 Dad relinquished his commission and was granted the honorary rank of Captain. He left Southampton, England, in February 1948, and immigrated to New York



Orlene Allen Weyland and her sister, Susan Julia Pitcher, shared the experience of discovering their parents’ true histories. Orlene is writing a detailed account of her research process, the discoveries, and her personal journey for an upcoming book, which she hopes to publish later this year. Her email address is orlene1@comcast.net.

City. My parents married about a year later. After about five years in private practice, Dad joined the Veterans Administration as a Chief Radiologist, and spent the rest of his medical career there. Our family moved about every two years, mostly as a result of Dad's work. We lived in New York, Maryland, California, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

When my sister and I were in our teens, we began to question Mom and Dad about our family history. Every query received an evasive answer. We asked about our family surname, Allen. How could this be our name if dad was born in Czechoslovakia? Czechs don't have names like that. He never answered the question. My dad used to say we should look forward, not backward. I now understand what that advice really meant to him.

The truth begins to emerge

After our dad's death in 1989, my sister and I discovered documents in his safe: medical school records from the University of Bratislava that listed him as Jewish, records from the British Army documenting that in 1944 he changed his name from Ladislav Adler to Larry Allen. None of these discoveries could be discussed with Mom at the time; she was grief-stricken after losing him, and in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Her care and well-being were center-stage.

In 1994, when Mom was dying, we needed a record of her birthdate but couldn't locate one. I sent a letter to the New York City Department of Vital Statistics and requested her marriage certificate, which would provide proof of her date of birth.

The certificate was signed by Rabbi Zeidel Epstein, who had performed the ceremony on July 5, 1949, on Henry Street in Manhattan.² Mom and Dad had told us they were married by a Justice of the Peace—they never mentioned a Rabbi or that they were Jewish. And although we'd been told that our mother was born and raised in France, her birthplace was listed as Germany.

Despite Dad's school records stating he was Jewish, I still found the information on the marriage certificate hard to accept. Mom and Dad raised us as Christians; my sister and I were baptized in the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., in our early childhoods and we were both married by that same minister.

Several years after Mom's death in 1994, I began to think about the marriage certificate again. I met with a Rabbi at Temple Beth-El in West Hartford, Connecticut, who stated with conviction that in 1949 a Rabbi would not have married two people who were not both Jewish. I can't count how many times I repeated those words to myself, but I still felt a level of disbelief. To question the information I had been told all my life felt disloyal to Mom and Dad.

Revelations: My mother's family

Years later, after I retired, I felt called to research my family history. I had too many unanswered questions. Early in 2015 I logged on to Ancestry.com, not knowing that this initial query would begin a complicated and lengthy research process. My search would become a significant focus in my life for the next four years, with each new discovery leading to a labyrinth of questions, inquiries, and new findings.

I entered my mom's name: Eleonore Brahm. The first result was the record of her arrival in U.S. in 1948 on the S.S. *America* from Cherbourg, France. She was listed as Eleonore Abraham-Brahm. Next to her name was a small handwritten note that looked like it said "D of line 30." Having no idea what this meant, I called Ancestry; the representative said that the note might indicate that Eleonore was the daughter ("D") of the individual named on line #30, Irma Millerova. I realized this Irma was Mom's stepmother—Irma Servos, whose second husband was named George Miller.

I wanted to know more about my maternal grandfather, Oskar Brahm,

but could find no information on him online. I called the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum and spoke to a researcher who determined that Oskar Brahm was murdered by the Nazis in 1943 after being deported from France to the Majdanek concentration camp in southeast Poland. This news, revealed some seventy years later, felt to me like it had just happened. I experienced disbelief, grief, and anger all at the same time. I hadn't truly considered that my grandfather had been exterminated by the Nazis. Although my sister had suspected that he died in a concentration camp, without documented proof I would have found my grandfather's horrific fate almost impossible to believe.

My mother and her stepmother settled in Forest Hills, Queens, New York, with Irma's husband, George Miller, a native of Czechoslovakia. Information about Irma was limited. I found Irma's name on FindAGrave.com and confirmed she was buried in the Mount Hebron Cemetery in Queens. I also discovered that Irma's parents, Albert and Laura Servos, were deported from Luxembourg in 1942 and murdered in Theresienstadt.³ I researched George Miller, hoping to find people who might have known Irma or even my mother. Unfortunately, I found no additional information about George.

Next I decided to search for Mom's birth mother. I sent an email to the city of Cologne, since my research had revealed that Mom was born there. I received an amended birth certificate stating that on April 15, 1929, Ellen Schwarz, who was unmarried and had no profession, had given birth to a girl named Eleonore at the Municipal Women's Hospital in Cologne-Lindenthal. No biological father was listed.

The record also showed that in 1932 merchant Oskar Brahm and his wife, Irma, née Servos, adopted Eleonore Schwarz as their own child. The record stipulated that she had to bear the surname Brahm exclusively, and not add Brahm to her previous surname. The document was apparently further

Right: Topolčany town hall, visited by the author in 2016. Photo by Dr. János Korom, on commons.wikimedia.org. Below: The author's paternal grandmother, Julia Schlesinger Adler, date unknown.

amended in 1940, and stated that “in accordance with the order of the Reich Minister of the Interior of October 7, 1939, the adoptive parents will bear the surname “Abraham” in place of the previous surname, “Brahm,” for reasons of sec. 7 of the law on the Change of Surnames and First Names of January 5, 1938.”⁴

The word “adoption” caught my attention. I had never considered the possibility that Mom was adopted. When Mom learned as an adult that Irma was her stepmother, not her birth mother, she had been told that she was the result of her father’s relationship with his mistress. Based on what my mother told me, I still think Oscar Brahm was possibly her biological father. We may never know the truth.

The record showed a considerable gap between my mother’s birth in 1929 and her adoption in 1932. I wonder with whom she lived during those first three years of her life. Unfortunately, I have found nothing further about Ellen Schwartz.

I know very little about my mom’s life between the adoption date and her emigration to the U.S. in 1948. She spoke of being in Paris, and living with nuns and a family in Switzerland during the war, but revealed very little. She told us that she met Dad on Bastille Day in Paris around 1946 and reconnected with him when she came to the U.S.

Revelations: My father’s family

Finding information about my paternal grandparents presented many challenges. Once again, I had little information. I had known that my grandmother’s name was Julia, as it was my

sister’s middle name and Dad had told her it was his mother’s name. But until I saw my parents’ marriage certificate, I hadn’t known my grandfather’s name was Jakub or that my grandmother’s maiden surname was Schlesinger.

I tried JewishGen.org, Yad Vashem (the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem), and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. I searched the Yizkor books—Holocaust memorial books⁵—of Topolčany, Czechoslovakia. Adler and Schlesinger surnames were listed in these books, but I couldn’t identify my grandparents since I did not know their birthdates.

At the suggestion of the Holocaust Museum, I submitted a request to the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York City. Within six weeks I received a copy of my father’s birth certificate, which listed my

grandparents’ ages in 1914. Although I still didn’t have exact birth dates, I could now estimate years. The Yizkor books listed a female—no first name—with the Adler surname and a husband named Jakub, but this information was not conclusive enough to identify this woman as my grandmother.

Through the Holocaust Museum, I worked with a researcher at the



University of Bratislava Holocaust Documentation Center. He found that Žilina, Slovakia, was the last known location for Jakub and Julia Adler, in the spring of 1944. In an email he suggested two possible fates:

- That Jakub and Julia Adler were deported from Slovakia between fall 1944 and spring 1945 (the so-called “second wave of deportations”).
- That Jakub and Julia Adler were victims of a mass murder committed by members of an *Einsatzkommando* and/or Hlinka Guard unit between fall 1944 and spring 1945 in Slovakia.

In spring 2016, my husband and I decided to visit Topoľčany so that I could see where my dad and his family lived. Through an introduction from the Holocaust Museum, the Magni Tour Company in Prague provided a translator and a driver for the trip. We drove past miles of yellow rape-seed, contrasting beautifully against the bright blue sky. As we approached the little town, however, we saw that its streets were deserted. The buildings looked dilapidated, and the area seemed stuck in a time warp. It was an eerie feeling.

We stopped at the administrative offices in the town center. Our translator Michaela spoke with two women staff members and they stopped their work to assist us, although we had no appointment. The women went to the archives—housed in another part of the building—and returned

with books of land records. We pored over them but could not find records of Julia and Jakub.

I asked about the address I had in Žilina, thinking my grandparents might have moved there after my dad left the country in 1939. I was still naively hoping to learn that my grandparents had died of natural causes. The women’s faces softened and they looked reluctant to speak. They explained that the location in Žilina was a holding station for Jews being transported to concentration camps. This devastating news was hard to hear aloud. Although I didn’t understand Slovak, shared grief had no language barrier that day.

We then visited the only Jewish cemetery in Topoľčany. After observing the caretaker’s name and phone number on a gate, Michaela called him. He arrived within minutes and guided us through the cemetery, noting that it was rarely used or visited anymore. He brought us to a small building to view an exhibit, created by the local high school, of pre-World War II photographs of Topoľčany. The former synagogue was a beautiful house of worship. Post-Nazi

era images offered a glimpse of the destruction; the synagogue was burned beyond recognition. On display were many pictures of families who had been deported and murdered. Some bore my grandparents’ surnames.

Aunt Blanche

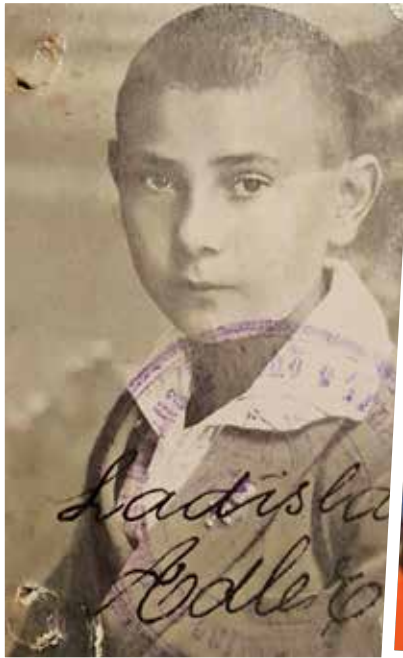
My parents had a “falling out” with my father’s sister, Blanche, in the mid-1960s. After that time, my sister and I heard nothing more about Aunt Blanche. One rumor indicated that, during the McCarthy era, Blanche had reported or threatened to report my dad to the U.S. Government for links to the Communist Party. I don’t know if this story is true.

Blanche was a widow without children. We knew little about her life in Europe before she came to the U.S. in 1951, or about her deceased husband, whose last name was Donath. She used to talk about her boyfriend, Tony, but we never met him.

In searching Ancestry.com, I discovered Blanche’s 1956 application for



Left: Blanche in later years, date unknown. Right: Blanche and Zoltan Donath, date unknown.



Left: The author's father, Ladislav Adler (Larry Allen), circa 1920 (left), and grandson, Weyland Smith, age four, in 2016 (right). Below: Susie and Orlene (the author) Allen, in Washington D.C., circa 1960. This photo and the ones of Ladislav and Julia Adler were found in Blanche's box of documents and pictures.

U.S. naturalization, and that she died in 2005 in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida, at age 99.

Through the Holocaust Museum, I determined that Blanche's husband, Zoltan Donath, was murdered during a transport to Auschwitz in 1942. Blanche survived four concentration camps before being liberated in 1945. Discovering the atrocities Blanche endured and learning about her husband's murder was gut-wrenching.

This feeling of grief and devastation became familiar. That so many family members were murdered at the hands of the Nazis is a reality difficult to describe or even comprehend—and yet this is my family's story.

I wondered who was with Aunt Blanche at the end of her life. As far as I knew, she never remarried or had children. I was troubled by the idea that she might have died alone. I requested her Florida death certificate; it showed the informant, Judith Gurfinkel of Vancouver, British Columbia, listed as Blanche's daughter. I was stunned.

I wanted desperately to call Judith, but decided that a letter would be a better way to introduce myself. At the end of March 2016, about two weeks after I'd written, my phone rang. The

warm, welcoming voice on the other end was Judith. I was surprised by my own relief.

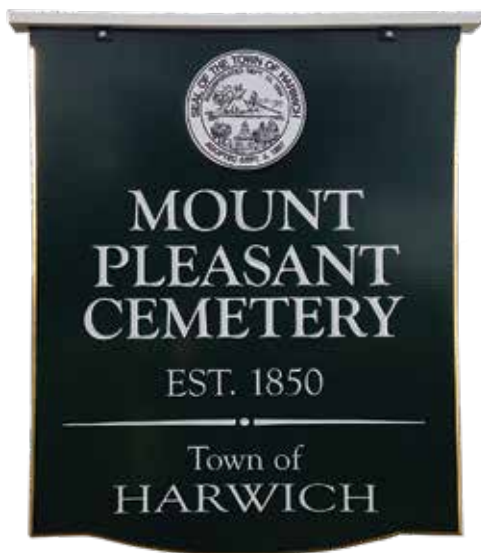
I learned that Blanche and Judith had a stepmother/stepdaughter relationship. Judith's father was Tony, Blanche's boyfriend. Judith and I talked for quite some time and discussed our respective relationships with Blanche. Judith said that Blanche never spoke about her war experiences. She knew that Blanche had a brother who was a doctor—but had no idea that my sister and I existed.

In October 2016 my sister and I flew to Vancouver and spent the day at Judith's home. She showed us pictures and documents she had recovered from Blanche's apartment. There were photos of Julia and Jakub Adler, our

paternal grandparents, who perished at the hands of the Nazis. For the first time we saw Zoltan, Blanche's husband, who also died in the Holocaust. Aunt Kamila appeared with her husband and her only son, Peter, in Czechoslovakia. In an image that will probably haunt me forever, Kamila and her husband stand at young Peter's grave; he died

(continued on page 43)





RECLAIMING OLD PLOT #45

Bringing Generations Together in a Cape Cod Cemetery

As children in Harwich Port, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, my four siblings and I were often reminded that our house was built and occupied by our ancestors. Lewis Phillips Ellis and Anna Kelly Burgess were born in Harwich: Lewis on July 29, 1819¹ and Anna on July 26, 1826.² My mother speculated that the house was built about 1842, the year of Lewis and Anna's marriage.³ My mother believed the property had been "Burgess Land," perhaps given as part of a dowry.⁴

A photo of Lewis and Anna Ellis hung on a wall in our living room and we pointed to it when we told friends and visitors how our family had lived in the house since it was built. One of my brothers was named after Lewis Ellis, a sea captain; another one was named for Stephen Ellis, the sea captain's son who was our ancestor. Living in my ancestral home, hearing the stories of Lewis, Anna, and their children, and seeing and touching the handwritten family records in the Bible instilled in me a strong sense of connection to my house, Harwich, and Cape Cod.

In 2004, while going through family papers, my aunt Beverly Baldwin Nightingale found a receipt for the 1861 purchase of a cemetery plot at the

Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Harwich Port. My aunt and I visited the plot, which had no stones or markers and appeared unused. My aunt asked me to see if I could figure out who was buried in the plot. After conducting some research, I shared my ideas and theories with her. But many years passed before I was able to conduct a more thorough investigation that followed the genealogical standards of proof.

In April 2018, eager to acquire stronger research skills, I enrolled in the Boston University Genealogy Certificate Program. I decided to revisit my research into old plot #45. Shortly before I enrolled, however, my father had become very ill, and over that winter and spring was repeatedly hospitalized. I continued my research between multiple trips to Cape Cod—and during these visits I

also visited Mount Pleasant Cemetery and spoke with the cemetery commissioner about my research. Despite many obstacles, I was able to establish the likely occupants of old plot #45.



The cemetery receipt, dated December 17, 1861, stated Anna Kelly Ellis of Harwich Port paid \$10 for plot #45⁵ at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.⁶ According to *The Harwich Independent*, Anna was buried in



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Harwich Port.⁷ Mount Pleasant Cemetery, established in 1850, is the only town cemetery in Harwich Port. I thought it likely that Anna was buried there, since she purchased the plot. However, since Anna died more than thirty years after acquiring the plot—on January 18, 1892, in Brockton, Massachusetts—she presumably purchased it for someone else. In the course of my research, I discovered that between February 1861 and December 1862, Anna suffered terrible losses: the deaths of her husband, three young daughters, and oldest son.

Lewis and Anna married in Harwich on May 1, 1842, and had eight children. Captain Lewis died February 16, 1861, in Cienfuegos, Cuba.⁸ (He was likely buried in Cuba, and I hope to some day find his grave.)

I researched each of their children to determine when and where they were born, died, and buried. I consulted the Ellis Bible; the *Vital Records, Town of Harwich Massachusetts, 1694–1850*; newspaper articles found via the

Sturgis Library online database; and CapeCodGravestones.com.

First-born son **Joshua B. Ellis**, born March 5, 1843, in Harwich Port, drowned at sea on December 19, 1862.⁹ He was not buried in plot #45 because, according to a newspaper account, Joshua “was washed overboard off Cape Hatteras on the night of October 16 and was lost.”¹⁰

Second son **Lewis P. Ellis, Jr.** was born on December 29, 1846, and died on September 11, 1847,¹¹ three years before the establishment of Mount Pleasant Cemetery. He was buried in the Baptist Church Cemetery in West Harwich, next to his maternal grandparents, Captain Joshua and Hope D. (Chase) Burgess.¹²

Hope D. Ellis, the third child and oldest daughter, married Jephtha B. Sears. Jephtha and Hope Sears’s son, Jephtha B. Sears III, born April 17, 1869, in Harwich, died on January 8, 1892.¹³ According to *The Harwich Independent*, young Jephtha died ten days before his grandmother, Anna K. Ellis. Anna’s obituary noted that her death was “particularly sad following so closely that of her grandson, Jephtha B. Sears, whose remains were brought here last week.”¹⁴ Jephtha B. Sears III

was buried across the “street” from old plot #45, at #9 Main Avenue at Mount Pleasant, with his parents, who died in Harwich: Jephtha B. Sears Jr., on December 23, 1870, and Hope D. (Ellis) Sears, on March 28, 1925.¹⁵

Fourth child **Lewis P. Ellis, III**, was born January 15, 1851, in Harwich Port.¹⁶ According to the Ellis Family Bible, he died of pneumonia on April 12, 1894, at age 43, and was buried in Harwich Port.¹⁷ No records state the number of his burial plot. He died two years after his mother’s death without a spouse or children, so he was very likely buried in plot #45 by his sister Hope (Ellis) Sears and his brother Stephen Ellis, who both lived in Harwich Port at that time.

Fifth child **Stephen D. Ellis** (October 27, 1855¹⁸–June 28, 1943¹⁹) and his wife Julia Etta (Phillips) Ellis (1869–1926) were buried in plot #40 Pine Street in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery with their daughter Minnie (Ellis) Dunbar and their granddaughter (my grandmother), Priscilla (Dunbar) Baldwin.²⁰

The sixth, seventh, and eighth children of Lewis and Anna Ellis, **Anna V.**, **Elizabeth W.** and **Eva L.**, died as young children within seven months of each

Previous page: Lewis and Anna (Burgess) Ellis, circa 1840. *Below:* Pages from the Ellis Family Bible.

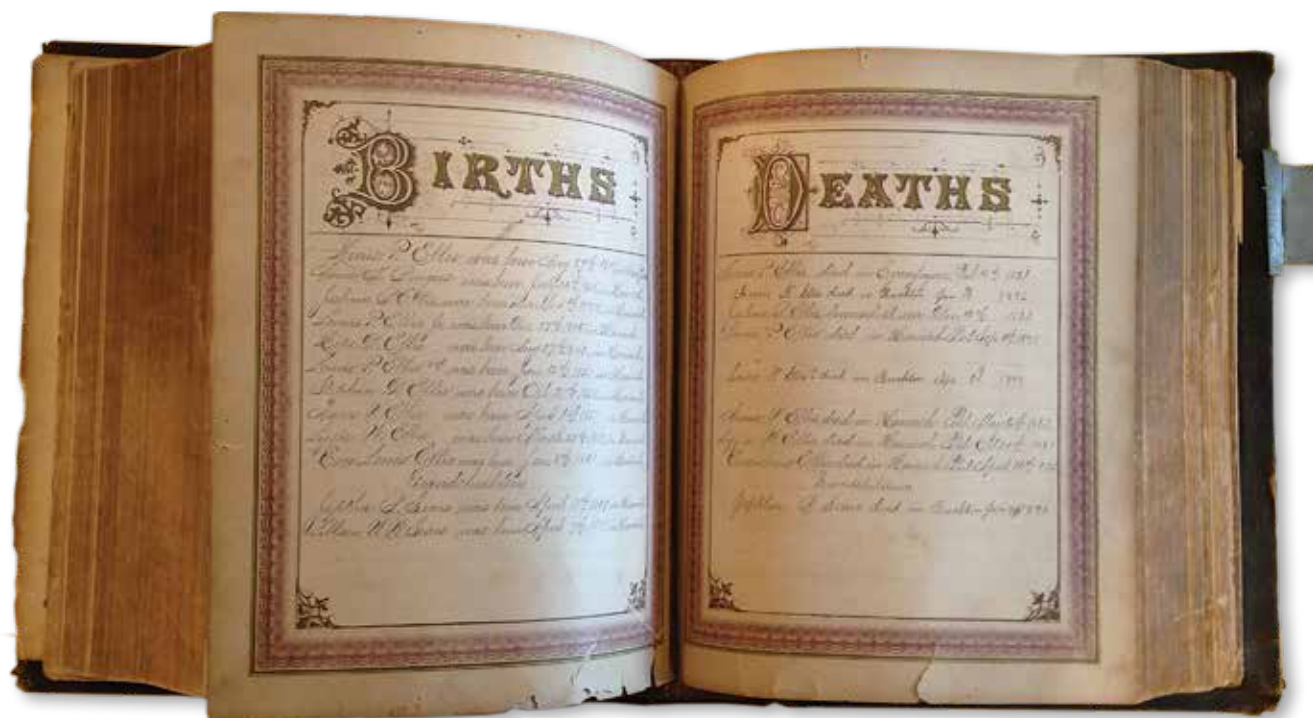


Table 1: Deaths & Burial Locations of Anna K. (Burgess) Ellis Family Members

Person	Relationship to Anna (Burgess) Ellis	Date of Death	Buried In Old Plot #45 (Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Harwich Port, Mass.)?
Capt. Joshua Burgess	Father	1837 (35y)	No. Lost at sea. A stone marking his death is in the Baptist Church Cemetery, West Harwich.
Lewis P. Ellis, Jr.	Son	11 September 1847 (8m 13d)	No. He is buried in the Baptist Church Cemetery, West Harwich.
Hope D. (Chase) Burgess	Mother	4 December 1847 (45y 6m 15d)	No. She is buried at Baptist Church Cemetery, West Harwich.
Capt. Lewis P. Ellis	Husband; father of her children	16 February 1861 (41y 6m 18d)	Died in Cienfuegos, Cuba. He is likely buried in Cuba.
Elizabeth "Lizzie" W. Ellis	Daughter	20 October 1861 (2y 7m)	Very likely.
Eva L. Ellis	Daughter	16 April 1862 (1y 3m 11d)	Very likely.
Anna V. Ellis	Daughter	6 May 1862 (5y 1m 5d)	Very likely.
Joshua B. Ellis	Son	16 December 1862 (19y 9m 11d)	No. He died at sea.
Jeptha B. Sears, Jr.	Son-in-law	23 Dec 1870 (34y 2m 8d)	No. He is buried in a different plot with his wife and son, #9 Main, Mt. Pleasant.
Jeptha B. Sears, III	Grandson	8 January 1892 (22y 8m 23d)	No. He is in a different plot with his parents, #9 Main, Mt. Pleasant.
Anna K. Ellis	Self	18 January 1892 (65y 5m 27d)	Very likely.
Lewis P. Ellis, III	Son	12 April 1894 (43y 2m 28d)	Very likely.
Hope (Ellis) Sears	Daughter	28 March 1925 (76y 7m 1d)	No. She is buried with her husband and son, #9 Main, Mt. Pleasant.
Julia Etta (Phillips) Ellis	Daughter-in-law	23 June 1926 (57y 4m 19d)	No. She is buried in a different plot with her husband, #40 Pine, Mt. Pleasant.
Stephen D. Ellis	Son	28 June 1943 (87y 8m 1d)	No. He is buried in a different plot with his wife, #40 Pine, Mt. Pleasant.
Lillian Winsor Whitney (Sears) Hewitt	Granddaughter	1950	Very unlikely. She died in Brockton and is presumably buried there.

other. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ellis (b. March 20, 1859, died October 20, 1861, from croup. Eva L. Ellis (b. January 5, 1861) died April 16, 1862, from scarlet fever. Anna V. Ellis (b. April 1, 1857) died on May 6, 1862, from scarlet fever.²¹

I believe that Lizzie, the first daughter to die, is likely buried in plot #45—despite Anna Ellis's official plot payment receipt dated December 17, 1861, two months after Lizzie's death. Eva and Anna V., who died four

months later, were almost certainly buried in plot #45.



Although my father was ill for much of that winter and spring of 2018, I believed he would recover. But George C. Baldwin, Jr. died unexpectedly on May 28, 2018—ten days before my B.U. graduation. My siblings and I coordinated our father's cremation based on

his wishes, then discussed where his remains should be buried and whether the burial location should be marked with a stone. I suddenly recalled a conversation with the cemetery commissioner: if we could prove we were descendants of Anna K. Ellis, old plot #45 was ours to use. My just-completed research provided that proof.

My siblings and I worked with Henry T. Crosby Monuments, which has made gravestones for my family

since it opened its doors in Harwich in 1872. Since my mother hadn't been memorialized with a stone in Harwich after she died and was cremated, we created stones for both parents, side by side at old plot #45. We decided to put a "Baldwin" bench in the plot as well.

While discussing our plans for a bench and stones with the proprietor of Henry T. Crosby Monuments, I shared the sad story of Anna K. Ellis's losses in 1861 and 1862, and how we came to use this old family plot. He asked about my research into the plot, and if it contained any stones. I said that there were no stones, and that in 2004 I had determined the cost of a commemorative stone to be prohibitive. I hadn't considered the issue since. But as my sister and I walked with the proprietor among the monuments in that historic cemetery, we decided to commission a large stone in memory of the Ellis family. Those earlier generations provided the blessing of the family home in which we spent our childhoods; now we could give them something in return.

While finalizing the paperwork, I told the proprietor that Anna Ellis's husband and oldest son were not buried in the plot because they died elsewhere. He suggested adding the names of Capt. Lewis P. Ellis and Joshua B. Ellis to the commemorative stone. He noted that this stone was not simply a marker of those buried in the plot, but a tribute and a remembrance. My

siblings and I agreed wholeheartedly. Commemorating my parents was an emotional event, and creating this stone memorial to the Ellis family filled me with great pride and love.



So who is buried in old plot #45? Anna Ellis, who purchased the plot, is very likely buried there. Her daughters Elizabeth "Lizzie," Eva L., and Anna V. Ellis are probably buried there as well, along with Anna's son, Lewis P. Ellis, III, who died two years after his mother. Of Lewis P. and Anna K. Ellis's eight children, only Hope D. (Ellis) Sears and Stephen D. Ellis had children themselves; both have separate family plots at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

So Lewis P. is likely the last Ellis to be buried in old plot #45.

In June 2018, my family held a private gathering at Mount Pleasant Cemetery to honor my father and unveil the memorials. Formerly an empty square of grass, old plot #45 now commemorates Anna Ellis and her five children, who are buried there; Capt. Lewis P. Ellis, who died in Cuba; and Joshua B. Ellis, who died at sea; along with my parents, George C. Baldwin Jr. (1938–2018) and Lee W. H. Baldwin (1938–2001). The Baldwin bench in this quiet, breezy cemetery provides a place for us to sit and remember my parents, and to reflect on our connection to Harwich, our house, our Ellis ancestors, and all the places and people of my family's past. ♦



The Baldwin bench, the gravestones of the author's parents, and the Ellis memorial stone, in old plot #45, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Harwich Port.

NOTES

- ¹ Louise H. Kelley and Dorothy Straw, comps., *Vital Records, Town of Harwich, 1694–1850* (Harwich, Mass.: Harwich Historical Society, 1982), 438.
- ² Anna K. Ellis Family Bible Records, 1819–1894, *Pictorial Bible*, “Births”; privately held by Beverly D. Nightingale, Harwich Port, Massachusetts.
- ³ Kelley and Straw, *Vital Records of Harwich* [note 2], 266.
- ⁴ However, proving ownership of the land on which house stood is difficult because Barnstable County Court House, which held all such records, burned in 1827.
- ⁵ At some point between 1861 and 1926, the cemetery was reorganized. Old plot #45 is now known as #10 Main Street.
- ⁶ Mount Pleasant Cemetery Association (Harwich Port, Mass.), receipt, 17 December 1861; privately held by Beverly D. Nightingale, Harwich Port.
- ⁷ “Deaths,” *Harwich [Massachusetts] Independent*, January 26, 1892, 3.
- ⁸ Ellis Bible Records [note 3], “Deaths.”
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, “Births” and “Deaths.”
- ¹⁰ “Another Harwich Boy Lost—Joshua B. Ellis,” *Barnstable Patriot*, January 6, 1863, in Barnstable Patriot Digital Archive (online database at SturgisLibrary.org), citing print edition, p. 3.
- ¹¹ Ellis Bible Records [note 3], “Births” and “Deaths.”
- ¹² “Gravestones Dated 1683–1880 or Later in Barnstable County, Massachusetts,” database at CapeCodGravestones.com.
- ¹³ Ellis Bible Records [note 3], “Births” and “Deaths.”
- ¹⁴ “Mrs. Lewis P. Ellis,” *Harwich Independent*, January 26, 1892.
- ¹⁵ Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Jephtha B. Sears marker, #9 Main Avenue; personally read, 2004. (Hope and Jephtha’s daughter, Lillian Winsor Whitney Sears [b. April 7, 1871] died in 1950 in Brockton, where she was likely buried with her husband Herman S. Hewett. Sources: Ellis Bible Records [note 3], “Births”; and “Massachusetts Death Index, 1901–1980.” (From original records held by Department of Public Health, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. Massachusetts Vital Records Index to Deaths [1916–1970]. Online database: Ancestry.com.) Death recorded in Brockton, vol. 32, p. 2488.
- ¹⁶ Ellis Bible Records [note 3], “Births.”
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, [note 3], “Deaths.”
- ¹⁸ Ellis Bible Records [note 3], “Births.”
- ¹⁹ Priscilla D. Baldwin Loose Papers, privately held by Beverly Nightingale, Harwich Port; death record for Stephen D. Ellis, Brockton, Mass.
- ²⁰ Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Stephen D. Ellis marker, Pine Street; personally read, 2004.
- ²¹ Ellis Bible Records [note 3], “Births” and “Deaths.”

(Secrets and Revelations, continued from page 38)

of a brain tumor in 1958, when he was just twelve years old.

The collection included documents describing the state of Blanche’s health after her immigration to the U.S.; a medical evaluation was conducted as part of her application for restitution from the German government. When I received translations weeks later, I was appalled to read about the horrors that Blanche experienced prior to her liberation.

We also found a picture of me and my sister as little girls, and another of our dad when he was a small boy. My sister and I were struck by the resemblance between our dad and my youngest grandson, now six years old.

Reflections

This story and the research behind it are the culmination of four years of intense and painful discoveries about my family. Secrets guarded closely by my parents for a long time are now out in the open. Their catastrophic losses, and fear of discovery and persecution, surely motivated them to keep silent about the past. I marvel at their ability

to love and nurture me and my sister as they did.

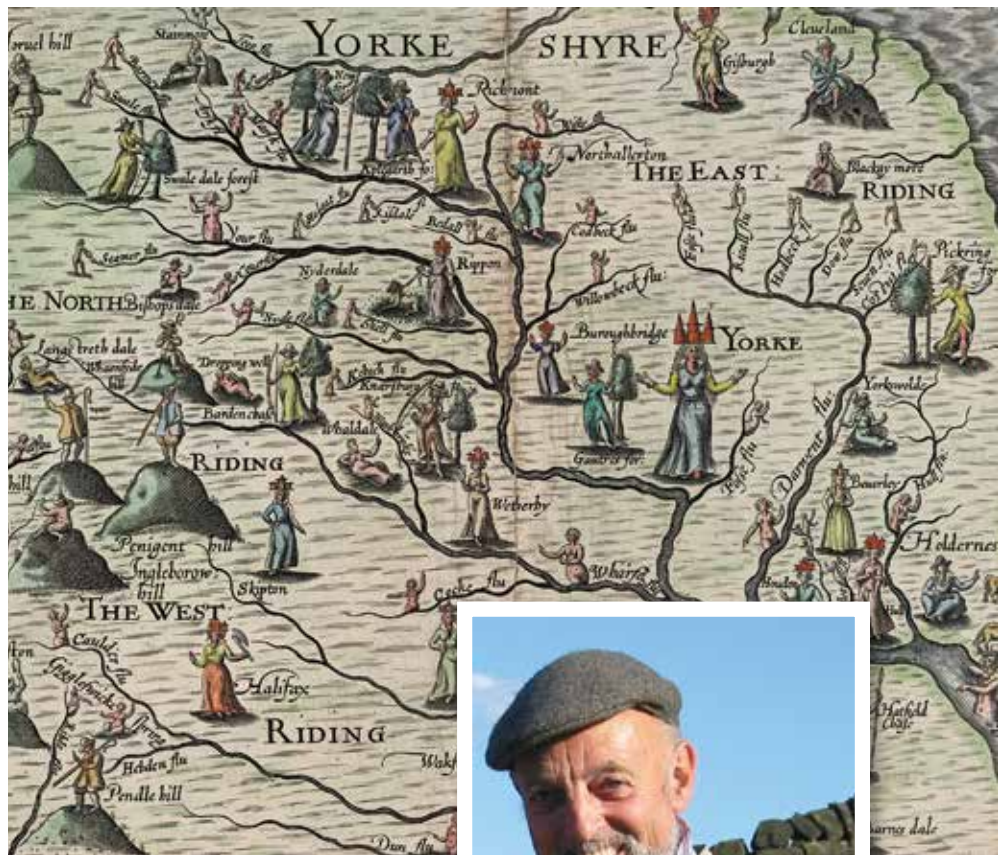
Throughout this process I have been constantly reminded of the kindness and empathy of the people I have encountered, especially in a world where witnessing good has become a daily challenge. Many people I have met on this journey shine like beacons of light and have graced me countless times. And for that, I am forever grateful. ♦

NOTES

- ¹ We still don’t know how our father left Czechoslovakia in 1939. My requests to the Army Personnel Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, and a visit to the National Archives in London in 2017 did not answer this question.
- ² When I started investigating our family history in 2015, I looked for information about Rabbi Epstein. A web search led me to the Rabbi Joseph Jacob School in Manhattan and an article that referenced Rabbi Epstein. Through a series of emails with the school, I learned that “Rabbi Epstein was not a Rabbi of a congregation nor was he known to have performed a marriage ceremony.” Yet, the marriage certificate bore his name and the same address as the school.
- ³ The Central Database of Shoah Victims’ Names, at yvng.yadvashem.org.
- ⁴ Nazi Germany’s January 5, 1938 “Law on Alteration of Family and Personal Names,” stated that name changes prior to January 30, 1933 were invalidated. See entry at lbi.org/1938projekt/on-this-day for January 5. Presumably the Brahms’ original surname was Abraham, and the new law forced them to resume using it.
- ⁵ Yizkor books are memorial books that commemorate Jewish communities destroyed during the Holocaust. The books are published by former residents or societies as remembrances of homes, people, and ways of life lost during World War II. Yizkor books usually focus on a town but may include smaller neighboring communities. Most of these books are written in Yiddish or Hebrew, but some also include sections in English or other languages, depending on the place of publication. Since the 1990s, many of these books, or portions of them, have been translated into English.

*To lease,
to light
and to min**

**To glean, to put in order,
and to remember.*



The Yorkshire Historical Dictionary Project

On January 11, 2019, we launched the online version of the Yorkshire Historical Dictionary at yorkshiredictionary.york.ac.uk. This database was the first product of an eighteen-month project, funded by the Marc Fitch Fund in memory of Professor David Hey and in collaboration with Dr. George Redmonds and the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society. A hard-copy version of the dictionary will be published by the YAHS Record Series towards the end of 2019.

The dictionary was written by Dr. Redmonds, an eminent historian of Yorkshire with long-standing ties to the New England Historic Genealogical

Society.¹ Dr. Redmonds compiled this material as a private research aid during his sixty-year career as a specialist in the study of place names and surnames. He created innovative methods for tracing family names to their points of origin, and disproved long-held beliefs about the meanings of Yorkshire's place-names. To do so, he trawled through the archives of the county (and further afield), amassing a collection of notes which he scribbled in short-hand onto postcards and stored in shoeboxes in his office. Eventually this "word horde" grew into more than 4,000 words, an unrivaled resource for the study of Yorkshire's historical language.

Above: "Yorke Shyre," from Michael Drayton, *A Chorographical Description... of this Renowned Isle of Great Britain* (1622). Courtesy of David Rumsey Historical Map Collection. Inset: George Redmonds.

But this collection remained a private resource, informing Dr. Redmonds's many published works, until the Marc Fitch Fund issued a call for project proposals to commemorate Professor David Hey, a friend and collaborator of Dr. Redmonds, who had died in February 2016. Those involved decided that bringing the work of Dr. Redmonds to public attention would be the best possible tribute to Professor Hey. Dr. Redmonds spent a year typing his handwritten notes before I joined the project as editor,



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The dictionary ranges widely, covering a time period from c. 1100 to c. 1750, and geographically encompassing the historic county as well as neighboring parts of Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire—even as far afield as London and Scotland. Entries include dialect terms, which often have a poetic beauty: *day-gate* for the going of the day, or sunset; *gods-love child* for one born out of wedlock; *cramble* for hobble or move awkwardly. But the dictionary also contains standard English words that were used in a particular context in Yorkshire (such as *overwork*, which seems to have been used in a similar way to the modern *overtime* in a colliery in Tong), or which illustrate a particular part of Yorkshire's past (*cobler* is still a recognized word for a shoemaker, but the entry refers to a distinct guild in York in the fifteenth century). The subjects covered include domestic objects and activities; occupational terms and tools; landscape management (drystone walling; hedging; woodlands); industry (coal-mining, cloth-making); wildlife; and sea-faring, along with many others.

In addition to searching for particular subjects and specific words, Dr. Redmond's meticulous references also make it possible to search by source and by place. The website offers a map interface, as well as a list of featured

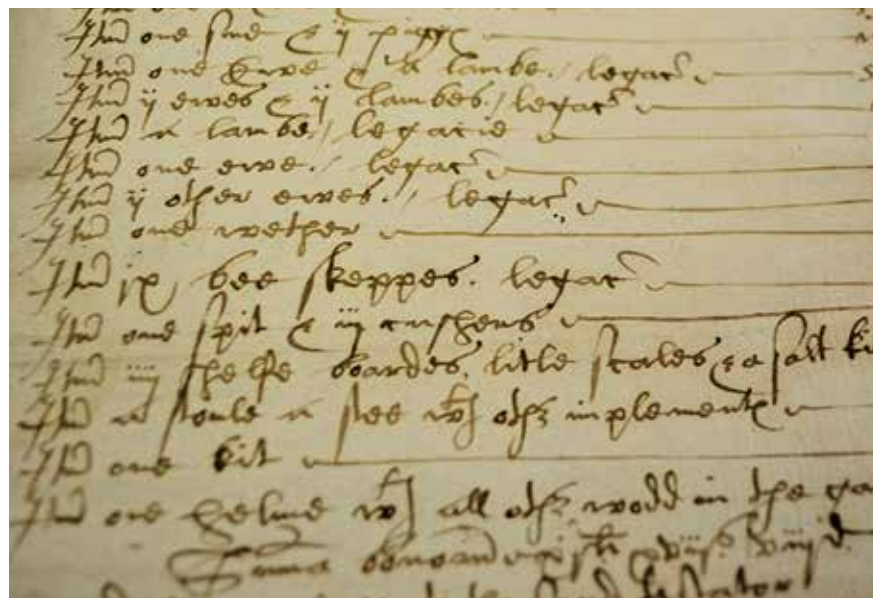
Part of my work for the project has been demonstrating the relevance of this collection of historical words to present-day audiences. I have given talks all over the county, taught workshops on slang and regional language to groups of high school students, and even organized a city-center treasure hunt for historical Yorkshire terms.

I believe strongly that the language Dr. Redmonds collected is an important part of our collective past—our intangible heritage—and a foundation stone for our community identity. These historic terms offer a window into past Yorkshires and a way to connect with people who lived before us. We get closer to their perspective when we use their words to describe objects they used, tasks they performed, or places they knew.

I have been fascinated to discover that some words in the dictionary have survived into modern Yorkshire. Words and phrases like *to give back-word* for going back on a promise; *to bray* for to beat (today usually for knocking heavily on a door); and to be *in a frapp* for a foul mood. Other

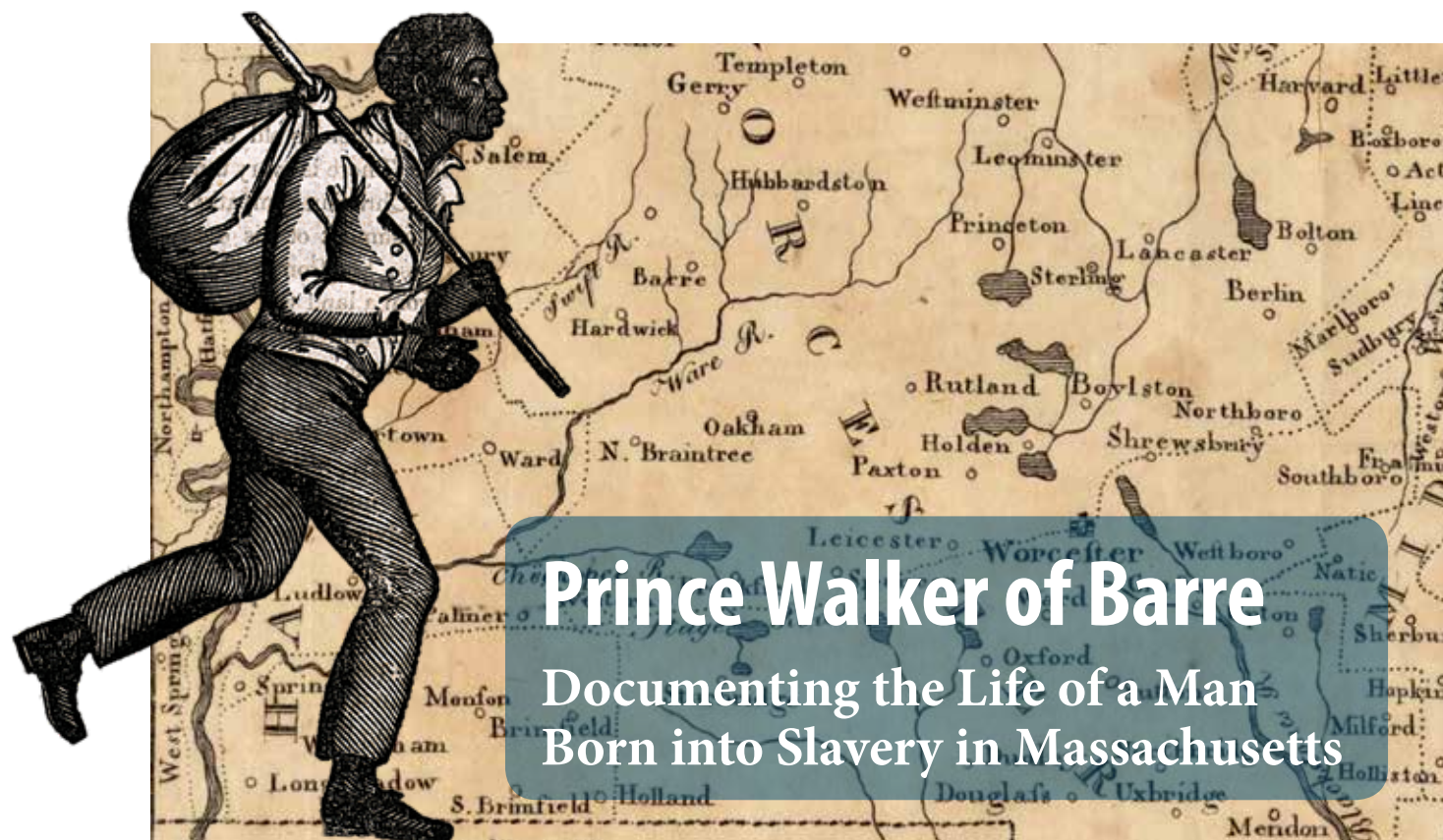
My favorite entries will always be the by-names which Dr. Redmonds collected so carefully, nicknames which provide a single glimpse of a long-dead individual—and not always the most flattering. Amongst them are *Matilda Bullyfrogg* and *William Fatlad*. *Robert Weltecarte* (from *welt*, to roll or turn something over) and *Ade Blunder* were certainly clumsy, while *Alan Potfulofale* was presumably either optimistic or regularly drunk.

While the scale and scope of Dr. Redmonds's dictionary are unrivaled by any other glossary of regional historical language, there are undoubtedly more words to add and more context to provide. With his death in August 2018, the hard-copy dictionary will stand as Dr. Redmonds's magnum opus, but the online dictionary will continue to grow. Anyone can contribute a new word or source, and help to develop the collection. So if you have an example of an historic Yorkshire term, with a document recording its use so that we can ascribe it to a place and date, please fill out the submission form on the website and help us map this important part of Yorkshire's heritage. ♦



¹ George Redmonds's *Surnames and Genealogy: a New Approach* was published by NEHGS in 1997. He contributed to AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine and led NEHGS English tours for many years, beginning in 1986. His obituary appeared in AMERICAN ANCESTORS 19 (2018) 3:20.

One of the documents used to create the dictionary, the 1586 probate inventory for Grace Marshall of South Cave, includes a “bee skeppes,” bee hives, probably made of straw. Courtesy of the Borthwick Institute for Archives, University of York.



Prince Walker of Barre

Documenting the Life of a Man Born into Slavery in Massachusetts

Prince Walker was born a slave in Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on June 24, 1774.

Prince's birth is included in the published Barre vital records, but no parents are listed.¹ The record of his baptism at Barre's First Church simply states "Prince, Servant of N[athaniel] Jeneson, 6 Nov. 1774."² Neither his death record nor his two marriage records name his parents. His obituary in the *Barre Gazette* on April 30, 1858, also carried by other newspapers due to Prince's unusual life, did not mention any relatives.

However, a wider search finds specific documents that trace Prince's life in Barre. Although his parents are never named, Prince belonged to

Barre's best-known African-American family. An important source of information for his life is evidence presented during 1781–83 court trials in which his probable older brother, Quock—who later adopted the surname Walker—fought for personal freedom after a clash with his owner, Nathaniel Jennison of Barre. A bill of sale dated 1754 showed that James Caldwell of Rutland District (which became Barre) purchased 20-year-old Mingo, 19-year-old Dinah, and her nine-month old son Quock.³

Other evidence included the inventory and will of James Caldwell, who died July 16, 1763. His widow, Isabel (Oliver) Caldwell, inherited his slaves. She married Nathaniel Jennison in 1769, and he claimed ownership of her slaves. James Caldwell had promised young Quock his freedom at age 25, but Jennison refused to honor that

promise. In the resulting the Cushing Decision of 1783, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice William Cushing ruled that under the new Massachusetts State Constitution, all men were free and equal. This decision abolished slavery in Massachusetts, making it the first state to fully emancipate all of its enslaved persons.

The 1783 decision was judicial, not legislative, and not widely reported. No order for the emancipation of slaves in Massachusetts was issued. As slave owners learned of the decision and realized that they would probably lose freedom suits filed against them by slaves, most emancipated their slaves, gradually and informally. No slaves were listed in the 1790 federal census for Massachusetts seven years later.⁴

Nathaniel Jennison was especially incensed by the Cushing Decision because he lost his bid to retain



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ownership of Quock Walker, with no financial reparation from either the courts or the legislature. According to local tradition, he sold some of his younger slaves, including nine-year-old Prince, in retaliation.⁵

An 1856 history reported that Prince was sold to a man in East Windsor, Connecticut. Prince apparently “kept the reckoning of his age until he was twenty-one,” and then escaped to Barre, to a home 58 miles away that he had not seen in twelve years.⁶

Prince’s owner, John Watson, placed an ad in the *Connecticut Courant* on May 4, 1795, offering a reward for a runaway, a “Negro Boy named PRINCE, about 5 ½ feet high, a scar in his right temple reaching into the hair a little higher than the eye, has broad shoulders, spindle shanks, a very long foot, and speaks broken English; had on when he went away a light coloured homespun coat new, with large metal buttons; carried away a blue coating surtout and a fiddle, stole sundry articles of cloathing—some money, and other things are missing. Whoever will take up said boy who is nearly 20 years of age, and return him to me in East-Windsor, shall receive Ten Dollars and all necessary charges paid, by John Watson.”⁷ A postscript added, “’Tis supposed he [Prince] has steared his course towards Boston, or into Rhode-Island state.” John Watson made repeated unsuccessful efforts to recover Prince.

Prince Walker is recorded in the 1800 U.S. census in Barre as the head of a household with four “other free persons.” In 1803, Prince purchased land in the eastern section of Barre from Submit Caldwell, the youngest child of James and Isabel (Oliver) Caldwell.⁸ This property was part of Submit’s share of James Caldwell’s

sprawling estate.⁹ Prince purchased more land from Submit in 1815, after she had married Samuel Bridgham Dana, and from neighbor Ethan Holden in 1834.¹⁰ Prince Walker spent the rest of his life on his hilltop farm, which eventually included almost seven acres.

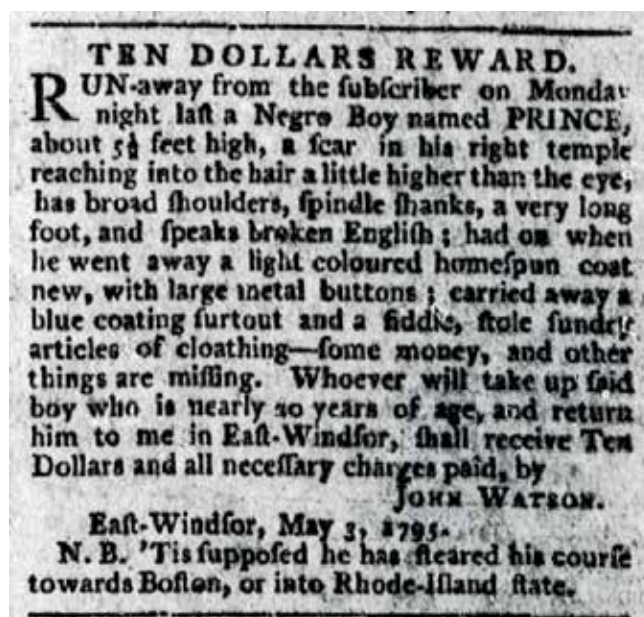
On December 25, 1805, Prince married Betsey Daws of Rutland, Massachusetts.¹¹ Whether they had children is unknown. Betsey Daws died in February 1809 at age 23, incorrectly described in *Barre Vital Records* as Prince’s daughter and listed as “of Prince Walker” in the Barre church records.

Prince married Anna Morse on November 28, 1816, in Barre.¹² The births of eight children of Prince—no mother named—were recorded in Barre vital records between 1821 and 1839. Two died in childhood, and two additional children without birth records died in 1818 and 1822.

Prince’s children would have walked from their hilltop home to the one-room District No. 11 schoolhouse about a mile away. District No. 11 records for 1840 to 1843 show spotty attendance by four of Prince’s children: Enoch, Sarah/Sally, John Levi, and [William] Prince, who in 1843 ranged in age from five to nineteen years.¹³ The common school offered them enough education to be able to clearly sign their names in their father’s probate record years later. Prince Walker was only able to make a mark for his signature.

Prince and Anna did not live happily ever after. On April 29, 1842, Prince ran an announcement in the *Barre Gazette*, forbidding “all persons to harbor or trust his wife Anna Morse Walker or any of his children on his account, as he shall pay no debts of their contracting after this date.” Four years later he published a notice with a “Caution!” headline in the *Barre Gazette* on October 16, 1846: “WHEREAS my wife ANNA has unblushingly left my bed and board, without any color or shadow of reason except her own dark thoughts, this is to notify all persons not to trust her or any of her children on my account, unless they present an order in black and white, as I shall refuse to pay any scores which they may chalk up against me after this date.”

On October 15, 1847, Prince posted a different type of notice in the *Gazette*: “The subscriber, being 73 years of age, wishes for a clever, honest Negro Woman to take charge of his household affairs (his wife having left him about a year since) and to care of him during the winter. He wishes one to smooth the pillow of his declining years, that he may rest his hoary head peacefully, and to enjoy the remainder of his days with that calm resignation to which he has so long aspired.” He stated a preference for those who brought certificates of



Opposite page: “The Runaway,” The Anti-Slavery Record (New York), III, no. VII (July 1837), 1. Courtesy of the Library Company of Philadelphia. Also, detail of A map of Massachusetts, from the best authorities by J. Dension (Boston: 1796). Courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library. Right: Notice from the Connecticut Courant, May 4, 1795, GenealogyBank.com.



A new sign marks the cemetery where Prince Walker and other family members are buried.

conduct from members of “the first circle of society.” Whether he found someone is unknown, but he was living alone at the time of the 1855 Massachusetts census.

Other details about Prince appeared in local histories written by Matthew Walker (no relation) in 1909 and Charles Harwood in 1958. Matthew Walker, who grew up in Barre, probably knew Prince Walker, and Harwood was raised on the farm that once belonged to James Caldwell, Quock Walker’s owner. Harwood’s relatives had been Prince’s neighbors and they offered their recollections. According to the histories, Prince was respected in Barre for his work ethic and was liked for his cheerful and engaging personality.¹⁴

Prince Walker died in Barre on April 21, 1858 at 84, of the “infirmities of age.”¹⁵ His extensive probate records provide a wealth of data. His will lists his six surviving children: Nancy, Prince, John, George, Enoch, and Sally. Prince’s modest personal estate included “1 violin” valued at 37 cents, perhaps the same “fiddle” that John Watson claimed Prince stole from him in 1795. His other personal belongings reflect a simple lifestyle. No bed or bedding was listed, only a pine table, four chairs, two chests and some drawers, a cast iron sink, two pails and a looking glass, an iron kettle, the contents of a cupboard, and some undefined articles in the chamber. A few farming tools, a ladder, and a lot of new hay rounded out Prince’s personal estate.¹⁶

Despite Prince’s desire “that said estate be kept in the family and not sold to a stranger,” the 46 pages of the probate record demonstrate the necessity of selling his real estate and personal belongings to pay off his obligations and the costs of probate. The highest-selling household good was the violin, purchased by L. Rice for \$1.75. Prince’s estranged wife, Anna Morse Walker—who was not mentioned in his will—filed a petition for her widow’s share from his personal estate and was paid \$22.23.¹⁷

According to the probate record, Prince had a barn and his nearly seven acres of land were under cultivation “with a number of various kinds of fruit trees.” In the intervening years, the fruit trees have disappeared; now a few large trees, thick brush, and saplings clog the parcel. The area has been logged at various times.

Prince was buried in the tiny family cemetery on his land, alongside his first wife and his four children who died young. Across a small ravine from the cemetery is a depression in the ground measuring about fourteen feet square. This indentation is all that remains of the dwelling of Prince Walker and his large family. The real estate was sold after Prince’s death by license of the court for \$100.

None of Prince’s six children settled in Barre. Vital records, newspaper articles, census records, and city directories tell their stories.

- Nancy M. Walker, born on April 4, 1821,¹⁸ never married. She died in Webster, Massachusetts, on December 15, 1916, at 95 years, 8 months, and 1 day. She was a cook.¹⁹
- Prince Walker—called William Prince Walker later in life—was born in 1823. In 1847, he was sentenced to four years in the state prison for breaking into the house of a Barre neighbor and stealing \$94.²⁰ After completing his sentence, he married twice, and worked as a farmer, shoemaker, and stone cutter in Worcester and Oxford, Massachusetts. He and his brother George were listed as persons subject to military duty in 1863.²¹ William Prince died in Oxford on January 9, 1874.
- Enoch Walker was born in Barre on September 8, 1831. A shoemaker for most of his long life, he registered for the draft in New York in 1863. He worked many years in Troy, New York, and appeared in its city directory as late as 1917. No evidence of a marriage or children was found.
- Sally (or Sarah) Walker was born in 1832. She married Thomas Lee Palmer of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, in Worcester on December 6, 1865, as noted in the *Worcester Palladium* of December 13, 1865. She died in Worcester of consumption on March 10, 1872.
- John Walker, born in 1837, often used the middle name Levi or the initial L. He signed his father’s probate records in 1858. No further record of him has been found.
- George E. Walker was born in 1838. In his father’s probate in 1858, a guardian was appointed for him as he was still a minor. He married and was the only child of Prince Walker known to have had children, a son and daughter. However, Luella (age 10) and John (age 9) both died in 1884. George, who farmed

in Dudley, Massachusetts, died in Worcester on February 19, 1912.

Although Prince Walker executed a deed in 1854 to transfer his four-square-rod (1,089 square feet) burial ground to the Town of Barre, the deed was not discovered and recorded until 1949.²² By that time, the land had been taken by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as part of the Ware River Watershed. With the discovery of the deed, ownership of the burial plot was transferred back to the Town of Barre. The Prince Walker burial ground is now overseen and maintained by Barre's Cemetery

Commission. In 2017, the Commission, with the assistance of students from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, made and installed a sign to identify the cemetery.²³

I first visited the remote Prince Walker burial ground in 2016, when a hunter friend led me to it. This trip provided further incentive for me to delve into Prince's fascinating life. As part of my ongoing efforts to interpret and bring Barre history to life, I led a walking tour, sponsored by the Barre Historical Society, to Prince Walker's grave and home site on June 23, 2019. Deep within the woods, I recounted

Prince's story to a group of attentive listeners, whose interests ranged from local history, to African-American history, and the role of slavery in Massachusetts. I have received requests to repeat the tour, and I hope to schedule periodic walks. The thoughtful questions and comments of my audience confirmed for me the importance of learning about the lives of enslaved people and their efforts to gain personal freedom. Prince Walker, with his long life and successful transition, epitomizes this struggle. ♦

NOTES

- ¹ *Vital Records of Barre, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester: Franklin P. Rice, 1903), 90, in *Massachusetts Vital Records, 1620–1850* (online database: AmericanAncestors.org).
- ² Record Book #1, First Church of Barre, Mass., 1767–1845; Barre Historical Society.
- ³ *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* 13 (1873–75), 297.
- ⁴ "Massachusetts Constitution and the Abolition of Slavery," mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-constitution-and-the-abolition-of-slavery.
- ⁵ Matthew Walker, "Barre: Historic and Otherwise," *Barre Gazette*, August 6, 1909.
- ⁶ Charles Emery Stevens, *Anthony Burns: A History* (Boston: 1856), 288.
- ⁷ *Connecticut Courant*, 4 May 1795, accessed at GenealogyBank.com. Prince was nearly 21 when he escaped.
- ⁸ Worcester District Registry of Deeds, 153:466. Accessed at Masslandrecords.com/Worcester.
- ⁹ The 1835 "Map of Barre, Mass.," based on an 1831 survey, shows the location of P. Walker's home on the hill, with no access road.
- ¹⁰ Worcester District Registry of Deeds [note 8], 198:568, 302:46.
- ¹¹ *Vital Records of Barre* [note 1], 213. The couple's marriage listing is followed by the word "Negroes."
- ¹² *Ibid.*
- ¹³ School District No. 11, Barre, register book. Barre Historical Society.

- ¹⁴ Walker [note 5]; and Charles Harwood, "Recollections of Barre's Famous Slave," *Barre Gazette*, January 16, 1958.
- ¹⁵ *Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841–1910*, from original records held by the Massachusetts Archives (online database: AmericanAncestors.org).
- ¹⁶ Worcester County, Mass.: Probate File Papers, 1731–1881, Case No. 61426, from records supplied by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (online database: AmericanAncestors.org).
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, no. 61426:42.
- ¹⁸ *Vital Records of Barre* [note 1], 90.
- ¹⁹ *Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1916–1920*, from original records held by the Massachusetts Archives (online database: AmericanAncestors.org).
- ²⁰ *Barre Gazette*, 11 June 1847.
- ²¹ Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863–1865, from original records held by the National Archives, Washington, D.C. (online database: Ancestry.com).
- ²² Worcester District Registry of Deeds [note 8], 3193:444.

- ²³ Unfortunately, the stone that Prince's children erected in his memory is broken and lies flat on the ground. The other cemetery markers are rough fieldstones that never had inscriptions. The Barre Cemetery Commission maintains the burial ground, which lies deep within 23,000 acres of woods owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as part of the Ware River Watershed. Because its primary purpose is protecting drinking water, DCR prohibits any type of maintenance or disturbance on its property. While informal discussions between the Barre Cemetery Commission and Barre Historical Commission indicate that work may eventually be undertaken to restore Prince Walker's stone, his burial ground is one of nineteen old burial grounds maintained by the Barre Cemetery Commission and such work does not appear to be on the current schedule. (Email from Barre Cemetery Commission to Lucy Allen, July 9, 2019.)



Author Lucy Allen leads a walking tour to Prince Walker's gravesite on June 23, 2019.



Lindsay Sprechman is Collections Archivist at NEHGS.

Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of Boston Case Files and the “Voyage of the Damned”

A wave of anti-Jewish violence swept Nazi Germany on November 9 and 10, 1938. Rioters burned and destroyed synagogues, looted and shattered the windows of Jewish-owned shops and businesses, and killed nearly 100 Jews in the pogrom that came to be known as *Kristallnacht*, or “Night of the Broken Glass.” In *Kristallnacht*’s immediate aftermath, nearly 30,000 German Jewish men were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Among those arrested were Moritz Epstein, Fritz Heidt, and Arthur Weinstock. The stories of their attempts to escape Europe are told, in part, through the resources of the Boston office of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS).

Picture postcard of the *St. Louis*. Circa 1939. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Julie Klein, photo by Max Reid.



On May 13, 1939, the Hamburg-America Line ocean liner *St. Louis* departed Hamburg for Havana, Cuba. On board were Moritz and his wife Bettina; Fritz and his wife Else; and Arthur with his wife Charlotte and son Ernst. Almost all the passengers were Jewish refugees who had applied for U.S. visas and held documents which allowed them to stay in Cuba until they could legally enter the U.S.

Just a week before the ship’s departure, however, the Cuban government had changed its immigration laws, voiding the passengers’ immigration papers. When the *St. Louis* arrived at Havana on May 27, the Cuban government admitted just 28 passengers—22 of whom were Jewish refugees who already held U.S. visas—and refused entry to the rest. After five days in the Havana harbor, the ship sailed toward Miami. The ship’s captain hoped the U.S. would agree to take the remaining 908 refugees, but the State Department and the White House did not allow their entry. Canada, too, decided not to admit the passengers. On June 6, the ship sailed back to Europe. With the help of negotiations by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and other organizations, passengers were assigned to the four countries who had agreed to offer temporary asylum: Great Britain, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.¹

Here the paths of the Epsteins, Weinstocks, and Heidts diverged. The

Passengers aboard the *St. Louis* in Havana harbor. From a photo album belonging to passenger Moritz Schoenberger. May 27–June 2, 1939. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Julie Klein.



Epsteins disembarked in France, the Heidts in Belgium, and the Weinstocks in the Netherlands. Two families eventually started new lives in the United States, and one family perished in the Holocaust.

Moritz and Bettina Epstein

Moritz Epstein was born on May 15, 1895, to Hermann and Ida (Weil) Epstein in Eichstetten, Germany. His wife Bettina was born on January 28, 1905, to Emil and Clara (Schwabacher) Kitzinger in Memmingen, Germany. The couple married on July 12, 1936, and settled in Pirmasens, where Moritz worked as a businessman in the shoe industry.²

On November 12, 1938, Moritz was arrested and, along with more than 10,000 Jewish men, sent to the Dachau concentration camp. He was released on December 5. A few months later, he and Bettina were aboard the *St. Louis*. When the ship was forced to return to Europe, the couple disembarked in France.

On January 22, 1940, HIAS contacted Simon Waters, presumably a potential donor, who lived at 222 Summer Street in Boston, and asked him to either send two steamship tickets on a neutral line or funds to buy tickets for the Epsteins. Waters responded by saying that he did not know the couple, and thus was not willing to provide assistance.³ HIAS's involvement ended there.

Despite this setback, the Epsteins sailed on the *DeGrasse* from Le Havre, France, and arrived in New York on February 26, 1940. According to the ship's manifest, their destination was the home of their friend Paul Wolff in Boston. Wolff, who himself had

immigrated to the United States in 1938 with his wife Ilse, was from Pirmasens, where the Epsteins had lived for several years.⁴

Moritz and Bettina held a variety of jobs. Moritz worked as a cleaner in a shoe factory, a salesman, and a manufacturer. Bettina worked as a tiller at a chemical company. The Epsteins later moved to South Florida, where Bettina died in August 1962. Moritz, now "Morris," remarried the following year. He died in Miami on July 15, 1977.⁵

Moritz's brother David was sent to Auschwitz on August 14, 1942, and died shortly thereafter. Little is known of the other family members' fates.

Fritz and Else Heidt

Fritz Heidt was born on November 4, 1908, in Schalke, Germany, to Max and Selma Heidt. His wife Else was born on September 15, 1908.⁶

Fritz was arrested in 1938 and interned at Sachsenhausen concentration camp. He was released on January 9, 1939. He and Else disembarked from the *St. Louis* in Belgium. After Germany invaded and occupied Belgium in May 1940, Fritz was one of more than 4,000 German Jewish refugees arrested by Belgian authorities. He was interned at St. Cyprien Camp in southern France and, when it was closed in late 1940 due to flooding,

he was marched about 280 miles west to Camp de Gurs. At some point Else moved from Belgium to France, presumably to be near her husband.

On April 10, 1941, HIAS contacted Walter Wulfsohn (perhaps a distant relative) at 14 Center Street in Cambridge, requesting that he sign three affidavits for the Heidts: a financial affidavit; a "so-called moral and political affidavit"; and a "Remote Relation Details," for persons in the United States who sponsored immigrants to whom they were not closely related.

Wulfsohn, who himself had emigrated from Germany three years earlier, wrote on April 26 that he was happy to sign the affidavits, but thought it wouldn't be helpful. He noted that he earned only \$30 a week and supported his wife and daughter. He also mentioned that he had already submitted an affidavit for his mother, who still lived in Germany. This response marked the end of HIAS's work with the Heidts.⁷

Nevertheless, the Heidts escaped France and somehow made their way to Trinidad, then part of the British West Indies. On June 19, 1941, they sailed on the *Acadia* to New York City, where they joined a cousin, Manfred Oppenheimer. The Heidts settled in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan. Else died on May 11,

1989, and Fritz, known as Fred, died on December 19, 1992.⁸

Arthur, Charlotte, and Ernst Weinstock

Arthur, or Avigdor, Weinstock was born on June 22, 1889, in Posen, Germany (now Poznań, Poland). His wife Charlotte was born on November 24, 1898, to Emma and David Marcus in Berlin. The couple's son, Ernst, was born on September 27, 1931, in Breslau, Germany (today Wrocław, Poland).⁹

Arthur was arrested on November 11, 1938, and sent to Buchenwald concentration camp. He was later released.

On May 2, 1939, HIAS wrote to Mark Linenthal at 16 Lincoln Street in Boston to acknowledge his signing of an affidavit on behalf of the Weinstock family and request additional documentation, including a copy of his 1938 tax return and a statement of his assets and liabilities, in order to move

the case forward. A May 5 HIAS case note states that affidavits on behalf of Charlotte and Ernst were given to a Mr. Windheim for signature, and that Mr. Windheim recommended that Samuel Ginsberg, of 6 Euclid Avenue in Winchester, Massachusetts, be an affidavit signee. Ginsberg signed these affidavits, but more documentation was needed. Nothing further is reported in the case file.¹⁰

The Weinstocks sailed on the *St. Louis* with extended family: Irma and Ison (Aron) Schild; Anna Daniel; and Alice Feilchenfeld, with her four young children, Wolf, Bertha, Heinz, and Raphael. Alice's husband, Bernhard, had sailed to Cuba previously and was there when the *St. Louis* arrived at Havana.

When the *St. Louis* left Havana for Europe, the group dispersed.

Bernard traveled to Miami and on to New York in 1940.

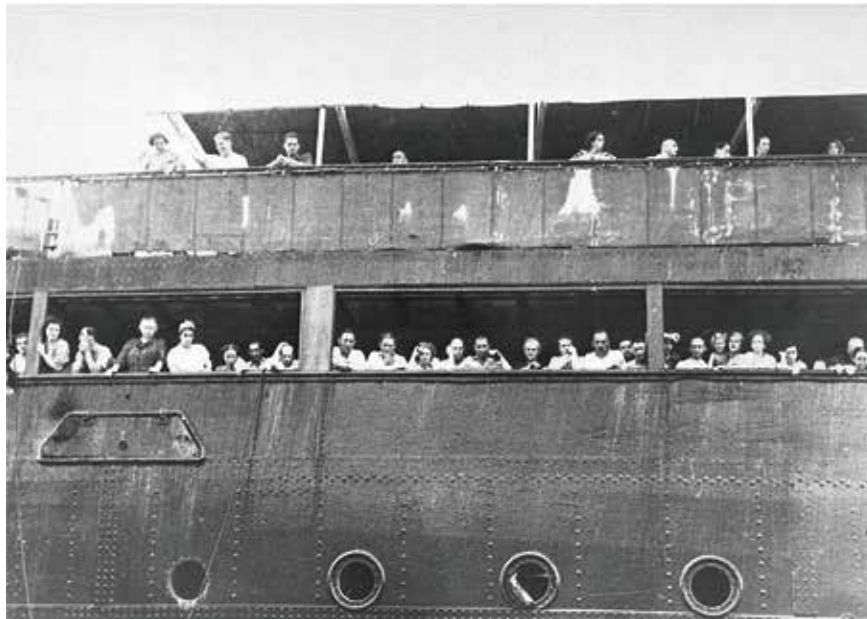
The Schilds disembarked in France. In September of 1942, they were both deported to Auschwitz, where they perished.

Alice Feilchenfeld and her children disembarked in Belgium, along with Anna Daniel. They settled for a time in Brussels; young Raphael died there. In 1946, the Feilchenfelds sailed on the *Uruguay* from Le Havre, arriving on May 8, 1946 in New York, where they reunited with Bernard.¹¹ Anna eventually joined them, reaching New York on September 7, 1946.

After disembarking in the Netherlands, the Weinstock family lived in Amsterdam for almost four years. On May 25, 1943, they were sent to Westerbork, a transit camp for

Passengers crowd the deck of the *St. Louis*. June 1939. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Herbert & Vera Karliner.





Jewish refugees aboard the *St. Louis* attempt to communicate with friends and relatives in Cuba, who were permitted to approach the docked vessel in small boats. June 3, 1939. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park.

NOTES

- ¹ "Voyage of the *St. Louis*," Holocaust Encyclopedia, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/voyage-of-the-st-louis.
- ² "Full Passenger List: Voyage of the *St. Louis*," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, ushmm.org/online/st-louis/list.php.
- ³ Case file of Moritz and Bettina Epstein, Boston Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Records; I-96; Box 15, Folder 2; Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.
- ⁴ "New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1909, 1925–1957." (From original records, "Immigration, New York, New York, United States, NARA microfilm publication T715," held by the National Archives and Records Administration.) Online database: FamilySearch; Bettina Epstein, 1940, familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:242B-F15).
- ⁵ "Florida Death Index, 1877–1998," (From original records, "Florida Death Index, 1877–1998," index, held by Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, Jacksonville.) Online database: FamilySearch; Bettina Epstein, August 1962 (familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VV34-RK6); and Morris Epstein, 15 July 1977 (familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VVQV-23X).
- ⁶ Full Passenger List: Voyage of the *St. Louis* [note 2].
- ⁷ Case file of Fritz Heidt, Boston Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Records; I-96; Box 49; Folder 21; Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.
- ⁸ "United States Social Security Death Index." (From original records, U.S. Social Security Administration, Death Master File, database, Alexandria, Virginia.) Online database: FamilySearch; Else Heidt, 11 May 1989 (familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JTB3-GQ9); and Fred Heidt, 19 Dec 1992 (familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JTB3-GM3).
- ⁹ Full Passenger List: Voyage of the *St. Louis* [note 2].
- ¹⁰ Case files of Arthur and Ernst Weinstock and Charlotte Ernst Weinstock, Boston Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Records, I-96; Box 167; Folders 52 and 54; Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.
- ¹¹ No cause of death is known for Raphael Feilchenfeld, who was a year old aboard the *St. Louis*.

Jews prior to deportation eastward to concentration camps. On July 23, 1943, the Weinstocks were sent to the Sobibor concentration camp, where they perished.



Of the 907 *St. Louis* passengers who returned to Europe, approximately 255 perished during the ensuing war and Holocaust. Where the passengers disembarked made a crucial difference in survivorship. Of the 288 passengers admitted to Great Britain, all survived the war except one, who was killed in an air raid in 1940. Those who disembarked in the three other nations had a significantly smaller chance of survival. Once Germany invaded Western Europe in May 1940, the *St. Louis* passengers in France, the Netherlands, and Belgium were trapped and unable to flee.

In 1940, the *St. Louis* returned to Germany, having evaded Allied patrols and a Royal Navy blockade. Captain Gustav Schröder took a desk job with the *St. Louis's* shipping company; he never returned to sea. In 1957 he was

awarded the Order of the Merit by the Federal German Republic. He was posthumously honored as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1993.

The *St. Louis* was bombed by the Royal Air Force in Hamburg harbor in 1944. Nearly destroyed, the vessel was sold for scrap. This year marks the eightieth anniversary of the *St. Louis's* fateful "Voyage of the Damned." ♦

The Boston HIAS records (I-96) include case files, thousands of arrival cards, ship manifests, displaced persons tracers, scrapbooks, photographs, and other administrative paperwork. The collection is one of our most widely used, accessed by both family historians and scholarly researchers. Thousands of documents have been digitized and made available online, and more are being added every day. If you are interested in accessing this collection, please contact jhreference@nehgs.org. We are grateful to the staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for their help in researching these passengers.



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research services: case files

“Some hell to be cooped up”: Sketches of Allied Internment Camps in the Philippines

The Family Archives Package is a newer offering from our Research Services team. Through this service, our experts organize family papers, assist with preservation and digitization, and create a finding aid for the collection. The Family Archives Package is a valuable tool for the family historian who wishes to pass a collection to future generations; it's also an enjoyable project for our researchers, as it allows us to delve deeply into all aspects of a single subject. On a recent collaboration with the Perry family, we learned the fascinating story of Walter Lee Gihon Perry and his unique contribution to an often-overlooked chapter in World War II history.

Walter was born in May 13, 1871, in Brooklyn, New York, to Samuel and Arabella Greene Perry, and lost his younger brother and only sibling, Clarence Perry, at a young age. As an adult, he moved to Boston and

put himself through dental school—where he may have met his future wife, fellow dentist Gerda von Betzen. On November 3, 1894, he married Gerda in Providence, Rhode Island. The couple had a son, Emmanuel von Betzen Perry, on August 8, 1895. From about 1910 to 1914, Walter worked in or near the Panama Canal Zone as a

draftsman. He served in the First World War from 1917 to 1919, in engineering companies. He and Gerda divorced, and Walter decided to explore the East.

Walter joined an expanding number of Americans who worked in the Philippines and put down roots in Manila. He married Anna Sorima Batad and in 1933 they had a son, Lee Boyd Perry.

Less than ten hours after the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Japan invaded the Philippines. Manila fell on December 10. Americans and other Allied citizens were herded into canvas-covered trucks and brought to Santo Tomas University, which would become the largest civilian prisoner of war camp in the Pacific Theater.

Separated from his Filipino wife and son in Manila, Walter, then aged 70, was among these prisoners. He moved into the crowded college buildings where internees lived in packed classrooms, with as many as fifteen people sharing a room. The Santo Tomas camp grew quickly; shanties were erected in the courtyard, and a barbed wire fence encircled the perimeter. Walter was eventually moved from a classroom into the courtyard.

By mid-1943, with Santo Tomas grown to nearly 5,000 internees, the Japanese established a new camp at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture in Los Baños. This new location was entirely rural, situated forty miles outside of Manila, between Laguna de Bay and Mount Makiling. The Japanese relocated an initial 800





Opposite page, bottom: Santo Tomas. U.S. Army photograph from Wikimedia Commons. Opposite page, top: "Some Hell to be cooped up" drawing by Walter Perry. Left: Drawings by Walter Perry of barracks at Los Baños (top) and Santo Tomas (bottom). The Santo Tomas drawing shows the names of fellow prisoners who lived in the shanties.

Through their depiction of daily life in the internment camps of Santo Tomas and Los Baños, these drawings and notes provide a unique perspective on an under-documented aspect of WWII history.

It was an honor to collaborate with Walter Perry's descendants (through his first son, Emmanuel Perry) on this extraordinary collection. By preserving these notes and sketches, the Perry family has ensured that future generations will benefit from Walter's unique insights and exceptional talent. ♦

Walter Perry's original sketches, reproduced with permission from the owner, were processed and digitized as part of our Research Services Family Archive Package. To learn more about the Family Archive Package, visit AmericanAncestors.org/services/research-for-hire.

NOTES

¹ Bruce Henderson, *Rescue at Los Baños: The Most Daring Raid of World War II* (New York: Harper-Collins, 2015), 30–35.

² *Ibid.*, 146–56.

³ Gordon L. Rottman, *The Los Baños Prison Camp Raid: The Philippines, 1945* (Osprey Publishing, 2010).

internees from Santo Tomas to build the new camp.¹ Walter Perry was moved there in 1944.

Life in rural Los Baños was hard. Cut off from the opportunities for barter that existed at the Manila camp, internees were forced to subsist on rations from the Japanese, and food they grew themselves. As pressure from Allied forces intensified in the Pacific, the Japanese decreased resources to the camp. This deprivation led to conflicts, and several prisoners were killed in struggles with their armed guards.²

On February 21, 1945, U.S. military and Filipino guerrilla forces launched a bold rescue operation at Los Baños. The two-day skirmish led to approximately seventy-five Japanese casualties, but only five deaths in the American and Filipino forces.³ Los Baños internees were freed and given the choice to return to the United States, or to stay in liberated Manila.

Walter Perry decided to remain in the Philippines with his son, Lee Boyd Perry. Wife Anna Sorima Batad Perry apparently did not survive the war years. Walter died on September 23, 1948, age 77. He is buried in Manila South Cemetery.

The Perry collection includes caricatures and limericks by Walter, as well as documents related to his life and his time in Manila. The most compelling items in the collection, however, are Walter's sketches and notes commemorating his internment. The approximately seventy sketches of shanties at Santo Tomas and the barracks at Los Baños are annotated with the names of each structure's occupants; a corresponding list provides additional comments on those individuals. Walter's notes share his reflections on the war, his fellow internees, and himself.



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

focus on New York



Seen Elsewhere: New York-Related Articles in 2017–2018 Issues of Some Non-New York Journals

This annual feature began in the first issue of *The NYG&B Newsletter* (Spring 1990) to highlight New York genealogical and historical articles possibly unknown to readers. Each installment covers two years, so late-published journals may be included; the list below covers 2017–2018, and is continued from *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 19 (2018) 2:59. The next “Seen Elsewhere” will cover 2018–2019. Photocopies of articles for personal research can be obtained (for a fee) from NEHGS Research Services.

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

***The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, vol. 172**

- Morna Lahnice Hollister, “Three Generations of South Carolina Freedwomen: Tradition and Records Reconstruct a Meaningful Heritage,” pp. 33–42 (Winter 2018); 160–69 (Spring 2018)
- Ellen J. O’Flaherty, “George Barlow, the Marshal of Sandwich, Massachusetts, and His Descendants for Three Generations,” pp. 64–80 (Winter 2018)
- Gale Ion Harris, “George¹ Harris of Salem, Massachusetts, With Sketch of Thomas Tuck,” pp. 301–16 (Fall 2018)
- Field Horne, “Family Record of John Bentley (1755–1830),” pp. 317–22 (Fall 2018)
- Patricia R. Reed, “William H. Johnson, A Free Man of Color of Tyringham, Massachusetts, and His Descendants, p. 361 (Fall 2018)

***American Ancestors*, vols. 18–19**

- Jeff Horton, “Recent Findings from the Horton Surname Project,” 18:4:60–61 (Winter 2018)

- Henry B. Hoff, “Outside the Borders of New York State,” 18:4:62–63 (Winter 2018)
- Henry B. Hoff, “*Mayflower* Descendants in Early New York,” 19:1:58–60 (Spring 2018)
- Bill McKeeman, “Osborn Hand Revisits His Past,” 19:2:36–39 (Summer 2018)
- Lindsay Kamm, “Mahlon Bickel’s Grand Bicycle Adventure,” 19:2:40–43 (Summer 2018)
- Timothy G. X. Salls, “The Susan Maria Leverich Family Collection,” 19:2:36–39 (Summer 2018)
- Peter H. Van Demark, “Shakers in My Family: The Bishops and Crossmans of New Lebanon, New York,” 19:3:35–38 (Fall 2018)
- Stephen Paterwic, “Resources for Researching Your Eastern Shaker Ancestors,” 19:3:39–42 (Fall 2018)
- Jim Boulden, “Won at Auction: James Alexander Hamilton’s Letters to His Daughter Eliza,” 19:3:43–46 (Fall 2018)

- Henry B. Hoff, "Divorce, Annulment, and Separation in Seventeenth-Century New York," 19:3:55–58 (Fall 2018)

***The American Genealogist*, vol. 90**

- Henry Z Jones, Jr., "Even More Newly-Discovered German Origins for Palatine Families of New York, 1710," pp. 110–18 (April 2018); 175–83 (July 2018)
- Eugene Cole Zubrinsky, "The English Origin and Parentage of William¹ and Magdalen (Crane) Smith of Massachusetts and New York," pp. 209–14 (July 2018); 314 (Oct. 2018)

***The Genealogist*, vol. 32**

- Gale Ion Harris and Janice Pranger, "George¹ Harris of Southampton, Long Island," p. 257 (Fall 2018)

***National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, vol. 106**

- Claire Ammon, "Which Amos Lockwood of Fairfield County, Connecticut, Was Gilbert's Son, and Where Did He Go?" pp. 5–17 (March 2018)
- Harold A. Henderson, "Fannie Fern Crandall and Her Three-Timing Darling Husband," pp. 35–48 (March 2018)
- Rebecca I. M. Walch, "The Westchester Petitioners of 1656," pp. 61–77 (March 2018)
- Frederick C. Hart, Jr., "Weed Ancestry of Pioneer American Photographer Charles Leander Weed (1824–1903)," pp. 103–10 (June 2018)
- Shirley Langdon Wilcox, "Information in Family Papers and a First Name: Keys to a California Pioneer's Simmons Ancestry," pp. 197–216 (Sept. 2018)
- Sharon L. Hoyt, "'Her Sixth Matrimonial Venture': The Many Marriages of Ida May Chamberlain," pp. 217–38 (Sept. 2018)
- Morna Lahnice Hollister, "The Kennedy-Burns Family of South Carolina and New York," pp. 245–62 (Dec. 2018)

***NGS Magazine*, vols. 43–44**

- Liz Stratton, "Docket: The Court's Index," 43:4:28–33 (Oct.–Dec. 2017)
- Kathy Petlewski, "The Records of Ethnic Benevolent Societies in Urban America," 44:4:45–50 (Oct.–Dec. 2018)

***Connecticut Ancestry*, vol. 61**

- Patricia L. Haslam, "Fairfield County in 1790: Widow Catherine Olmstead of Norwalk," pp. 9–11 (Aug. 2018)

***Rhode Island Roots*, vol. 44**

- George William Helwig, "Sabin Lewis, Esq., and His Album," pp. 170–85 (Dec. 2018)
- Letty Champion and Susan L. Taylor, "Foster Family Records from Two Bibles," pp. 207–10 (Dec. 2018)

***Vermont Genealogy*, vol. 23**

- Avis Conley Hayden, "The Family Who Named the Kelley Stand Road: William Kelley of Wardsboro, Vermont, His Ancestors and Descendants," pp. 3–25 (Spring 2018)
- Jane Belcher, "Vermont Families in 1791: Aaron Rowley of Shelburne, Vermont, and His Descendants," pp. 61–75 (Spring 2018)
- Jane Belcher, "Vermont Families in 1791: Peter Drew of Shelburne, Vermont, and His Descendants," pp. 76–82 (Spring 2018); 164 (Fall 2018)
- Roger D. Joslyn and John Bradley Arthaud, "Abraham and Hannah (Millington) Collins of Coventry, Connecticut, and Dorset, Vermont," pp. 99–134 (Fall 2018)

***Mayflower Descendant*, vol. 66**

- Michael Sean Dunn, "The Parents of Esther (Dyer) Flanders (1790–1876) of Braintree, Vermont, and Livingston County, New York," pp. 23–48 (Winter 2018); 178 (Summer 2018)
- John Bradley Arthaud, "Nathaniel Negus Davidson⁸ (1792–after 1860): A Billington Line," pp. 95–100 (Winter 2018)

- Peggy M. Baker and J. Chesnik, "Two John Davises, 6th and 7th Generation Descendants of Pilgrim Thomas Rogers," pp. 127–32 (Summer 2018)

***MASSOG: A Genealogical Journal for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, vol. 42**

- Helen Schatvet Ullmann, "The Family of Mark and Sally Clarke (Stocker) Balcom of Douglas and Lanesborough, Massachusetts, and Redfield, Oswego County, New York," pp. 4–12 (No. 1, 2017–2018)

***The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, vol. 93**

- Bette M. Epstein, "Joseph Shimer, the Oldest Resident of Montague Township, Sussex County (in 1908)," pp. 5–17 (Jan. 2018)
- Henry B. Hoff, "Too Many John Smiths: Judith (Outman) (Smith) Vincent (1688–ca. 1772) of New York City and Monmouth County, New Jersey, and Her Descendants," pp. 21–33 (Jan. 2018)

***De Nederlandsche Leeuw*, vol. 134**

- C. P. Briët, "Hendrik Willem Jacob van Tuyl van Serooskerken (1777–1824) en zijn tweede echtgenote Catherine Halsey geb. Will (1780–1841)," pp. 143–60 (Sept. 2017) [Catherine Will was born in New York.]

***Avotanyu*, vol. 34**

- Steve Stein, "Cemetery Research in the New York Area Using JGS (NY)'s Burial Societies Database," pp. 7–8 (Summer 2018)

***The William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd series, vol. 75**

- Sarah L. H. Gronningsater, "'Expressly Recognized by Our Election Laws': Certificates of Freedom and the Multiple Fates of Black Citizenship in the Early Republic," pp. 465–506 (July 2018) ♦



Curt DiCamillo is Curator of Special Collections at NEHGS.

from our collections

Philadelphia in Boston: The Art of the Curtis Publishing Company

One of the most important American paintings in the NEHGS Fine Art Collection is the circa 1917 portrait of Cyrus H. K. Curtis (1850–1933) painted by Joseph DeCamp, a member of the Boston School and one of the founders of The Ten, a group of American Impressionists. This portrait is now the centerpiece of an exhibition on our second floor that celebrates Cyrus Curtis and his publishing empire, as told through his company's most lasting legacy: beautiful, iconic, and influential magazine covers.

Cyrus Hermann Kotschmar Curtis was a pioneer of modern magazine publishing. He was born on June 18, 1850, in Portland, Maine, and began his career at age 13, when he founded a weekly called the *Young America* (which he cranked out with a hand press he purchased for \$3). Curtis moved to Boston in 1872, where he published the *People's Ledger*. In 1876 he relocated to Philadelphia, where, in 1891, he founded the Curtis Publishing Company, which became a hugely influential publisher in the United States in the early twentieth century. Curtis published the *Saturday Evening Post*, the *Country Gentleman*, *Jack and Jill*, the *Ladies' Home Journal*, and *Holiday*. By 1929 the *Post* and the *Journal* accounted for an astonishing 40% of all magazine advertising in the United States. Curtis, who died in 1933, was one of the first ten inductees in the American Advertising Federation's Advertising Hall of Fame, and even today is number twenty on

the list of the richest Americans of all time.

It's likely that Curtis was drawn specifically to Philadelphia, then a major publishing center, because the city was home to *Godey's Lady's Book*, a pioneering women's magazine. Published from 1830 until 1878, *Godey's* was the most widely circulated magazine in America in the 1850s and 1860s. Each issue contained illustrations, poetry, and articles by prominent writers such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Washington Irving, and Frances Hodgson Burnett. Almost every issue included a sewing pattern and a sheet of piano music with the latest waltz or polka. The magazine was famous for the hand-tinted fashion plate that appeared at the beginning of each issue. *Godey's* almost certainly inspired Cyrus Curtis to found the *Ladies' Home Journal*.

In the early and mid-twentieth century, the *Ladies' Home Journal* was the most widely circulated women's magazine in the United States. The monthly publication was developed from "Women at Home," a popular supplement in the magazine *Tribune and Farmer*, published by Cyrus Curtis. The supplement was written by Cyrus Curtis's wife, Louisa Knapp Curtis. In 1883, the *Journal* became an independent publication, with Louisa as editor for the first six years. In 1903, the *Journal* became the first American magazine to reach one million subscribers. The October 1904 *Ladies' Home Journal* cover shown here was illustrated by Jessie Willcox Smith (1863–1935), one of

Below: Cyrus H. K. Curtis, by Joseph DeCamp, circa 1917. *Opposite page, top:* C. H. Curtis and Co., pub., the *Young America*, April 12, 1865. *Middle:* Louis A. Godey, pub., fashion plate from December 1872 *Godey's Lady's Book*. *Bottom (l. to r.):* the *Ladies' Home Journal*, October 1904; the *Country Gentleman*, December 18, 1920; and the *Saturday Evening Post*, January 1, 1910. All images from the NEHGS Fine Art Collection (except for the *Saturday Evening Post* cover, which is in the public domain).



the greatest American illustrators of the early twentieth century. In addition to designing countless magazine covers, Smith illustrated more than sixty books, including *Little Women*, *A Child's Garden of Verses*, and *'Twas The Night Before Christmas*.

The publication most identified with Cyrus Curtis, however, is the *Saturday Evening Post*. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1728, the *Post* was purchased by Curtis in 1897 for

\$1,000. Hiring top writers and illustrators, he developed the magazine into one of the nation's iconic periodicals. In an age when magazines were sold primarily at newsstands, cover images were essential in attracting buyers. The influence of the *Post*'s beautifully and expensively produced covers helped to usher in America's Golden Age of Illustration in the early twentieth century.

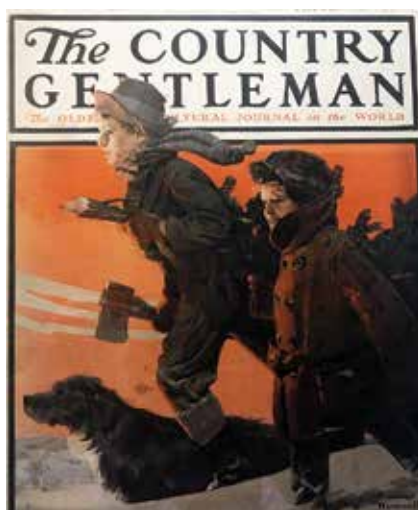
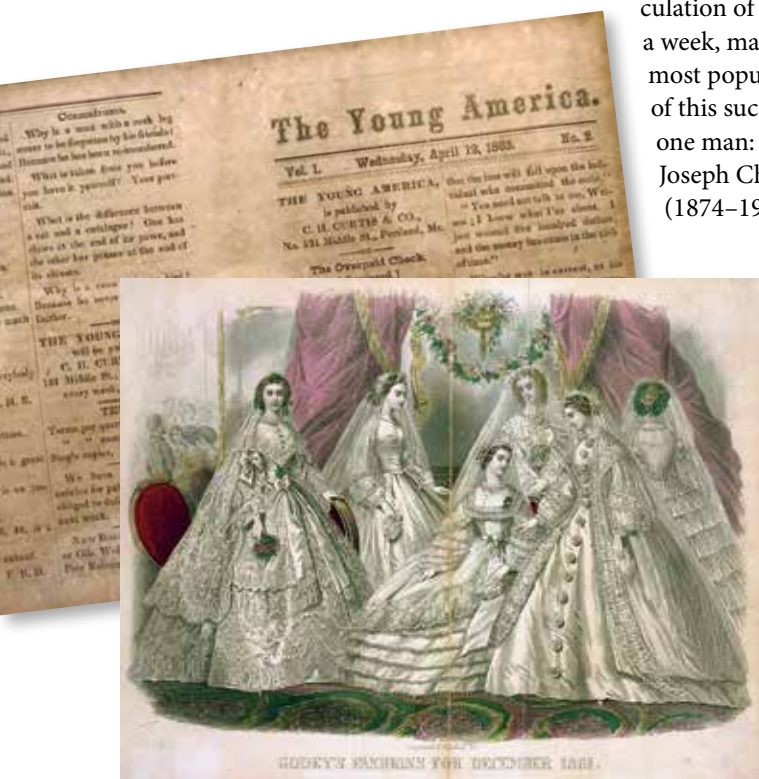
By 1913 the *Post* had a circulation of two million copies a week, making it the world's most popular magazine. Much of this success was traceable to one man: German immigrant Joseph Christian Leyendecker (1874–1951), who drew

more *Post* covers—322—than any other artist and served as a mentor to Norman Rockwell, the artist most identified with the magazine today. With his instantly recognizable style, Leyendecker created dozens of enduring icons,

and virtually invented the concept of branding in advertising. Leyendecker's greatest contribution to global iconography was the New Year's baby; he invented the image of a baby ringing in the New Year for the December 29, 1906, *Saturday Evening Post* cover. For almost forty years, the *Post* had a Leyendecker New Year's baby on the cover. His images also influenced other holidays: he popularized giving flowers on Mother's Day, enshrined firecrackers as a symbol of national independence, created the concept of homecoming, and standardized the American portrayal of Santa Claus.

After suffering severe financial troubles in the 1960s and 1970s, the Curtis Publishing Company moved in 1982 to Indianapolis, Indiana, where it still operates in a greatly reduced form. The lasting legacy of Cyrus Curtis and the Curtis Publishing Company lies in their many enduring innovations and illustrations, which continue to permeate our world today. ♦

Our portrait of Cyrus Curtis was donated to NEHGS by Margaret Bok, the second wife of Cary Curtis Bok, grandson of Cyrus Curtis. Mrs. Bok also donated Curtis and Bok family papers to NEHGS.





genetics & genealogy

Carolyn A. Converse, a New Englander by birth, has lived in the UK for almost 50 years. She is a retired Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) at Strathclyde University, has degrees from Brown (biology) and Harvard (biophysics), and has researched at Yale and Oxford Universities. Her email address is caconverse52@gmail.com. She is grateful to a number of people for their help, including, most importantly, the nine Converse men who contributed DNA and genealogical information. Philip E. Converse, Harold B. Whitmore Jr., and Alan Cooper assisted in the FTDNA study, and provided valuable advice.

Y-DNA Studies of an Early New England Family Indicate Possible Jewish Ancestry

Edward Convers (1588–1663), his wife Sarah (Parker) Convers, and three children—Josiah, James, and Mary—arrived in Boston in 1630 as part of the Winthrop Fleet.¹ This Converse family was thought to be descended from the noble Conyers family of Northamptonshire.² However, genealogists now generally agree that Edward was most likely a yeoman farmer from Essex, England, where his family had owned land in that county for at least three generations.³ Edward Convers's ancestry prior to the sixteenth century is unknown, although various people named Convers, Converse, and similar spellings appear in medieval English archives.⁴

As a biochemist, I was interested in using DNA analysis to study my family's genetic inheritance. In 2009, I asked my brother, Ross Converse, to be tested. A Y-DNA study with Family Tree DNA had been initiated by the late Philip E. Converse (1928–2014), but at that time no other Converses had participated. The results surprised us. The Y-chromosome DNA sequences of my brother and Philip Converse were haplogroup J2,⁵ a less frequent result in English populations.⁶

Examining maps of the incidence of haplogroup J2 and its presumed origin, I found that J2 is most common in the Middle East, the eastern Mediterranean, and in modern-day Jewish populations. The haplogroups J1 (the "Cohen Model Haplotype") and J2 are very common among Jews.⁷ Was it possible that our Puritan Converse ancestors were descended

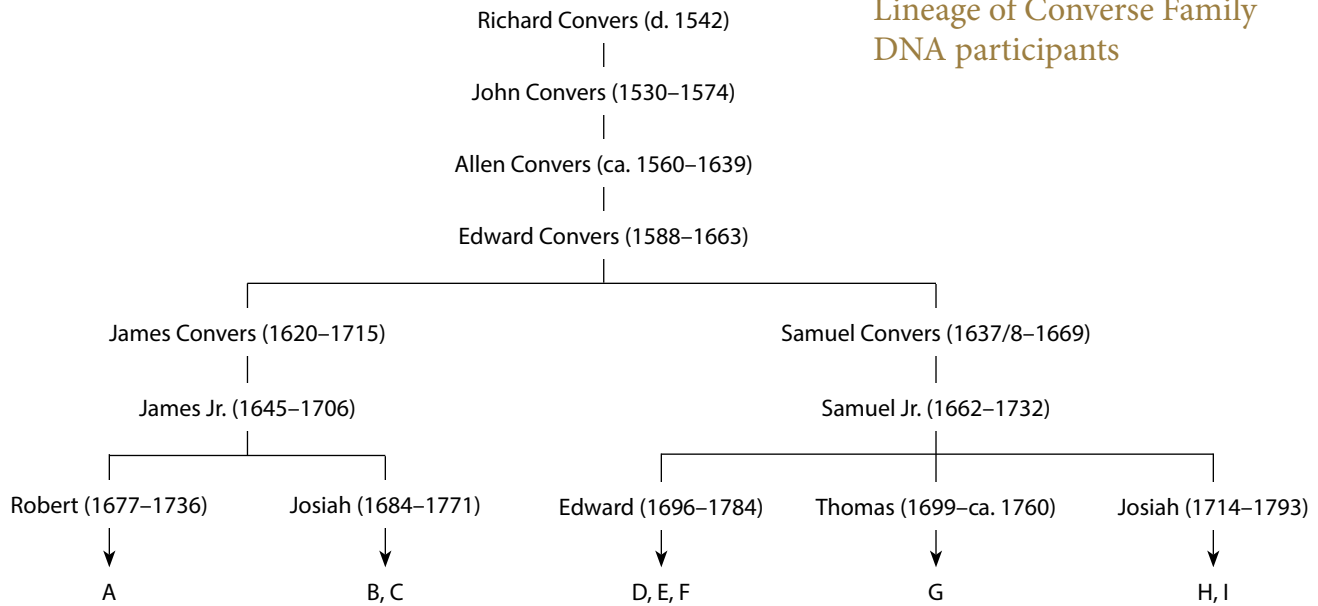
from a medieval Jew, whose family had migrated to England and later converted to Christianity? This scenario would be consistent with the DNA studies and known history.

One clue to this mystery may be buried in the origins of the name "Converse" in medieval England. An intriguing clue concerns the Domus Conversorum, a home established in London in about 1250 by King Henry III for converts from Judaism to Christianity. The ancestors of these converts seem to have arrived in England after the Norman Conquest in the eleventh century. The converts were known, in Norman French, as les Conversi, or in the singular, le or la Convers. The Domus Conversorum was, therefore, the Home of the Converts.⁸

These converts were Ashkenazi Jews, and should not be confused with the "conversos," the mostly fourteenth- and fifteenth-century Sephardic Jews in Spain and Portugal who were compelled to convert to Christianity and acquired Spanish or Portuguese surnames. Apparently, none of the Iberian converts adopted the name Convers(e).⁹

Edward Convers had three sons; two, James (1620–1715) and Samuel (1637/8–1669), have descendants living today. I contacted male descendants of James and Samuel, and nine men contributed their DNA to the study. Three are descended from James, and six from Samuel. These men are all from different lines of descent.¹⁰ However, all nine have the

Lineage of Converse Family DNA participants



Y-chromosome haplogroup J2, and very similar sequences; none self-identify as Jewish.

The figure illustrates the first few generations of the ancestry of the nine men (A to I) tested. Since two of Edward Convers's sons inherited the J2 haplogroup and passed it to their descendants, a reasonable conclusion is that Edward Convers himself also possessed the J2 haplogroup.

Can we be certain that Edward Convers's patrilineal ancestors in previous centuries in England also carried this haplogroup? Perhaps J2 was inherited from an unknown non-Converse ancestor, through a "non-paternity event." Considering that the predominant Y-DNA haplogroups in England did not include J2, this possibility seems unlikely. The coincidence of the surname Converse and the history of the converts is another factor in favor of a male-line descent from a Jewish convert. However, a disruption in the Converse line cannot be ruled out.

To investigate further, we would want to know whether any link between London, the Domus Conversorum, and

Essex might connect the medieval Jews to Edward Convers's ancestors in that county. Not all the converted Jews lived in the Domus Conversorum, which was reserved mostly for indigent converts who had to surrender any property and possessions before entering. Some converts lived independently, and a few seem to have had prominent public lives—although the detailed histories of most of these converts are not known.¹¹

After their conversion to Christianity, some converts were sent to religious establishments other than the Domus Conversorum. Four abbeys in Essex are known to have received converts.¹² Several centuries later, most of Edward's own family lived in northwest Essex, near Chipping Ongar and other towns

only ten to fifteen miles from central London.

Extensive research over the past century has delved into the history of Jews in medieval England. Some Jews were expressly invited to England by William the Conqueror to help with his takeover of the country, and in new building work—which required considerable funds. William was hampered by church laws forbidding Christians to charge interest on loans, but he could borrow money for his projects from the Jews, who had no such restrictions. Other Jews may have



"A house referring to the house for converted Jews in London." From Royal MS 14 C VII, f. 121r. Matthew Paris, *Historia Anglorum* (1250-1255). ©British Library Board.

come as refugees from Rouen, which had banished its Jewish population a few years previously, or from other places on the Continent.¹³

However, two centuries later the situation changed. Other money-lenders, such as Italians and French financiers, appeared. At the same time, English anti-Semitism and persecution of Jews increased significantly. As a result, many English Jews emigrated, and some converted to Christianity. Those Jews who remained in England and were faithful to their religion were officially expelled in 1290.¹⁴

In the two centuries prior to 1290, the work of English Jews was mostly limited to money-lending. Other occupations were mostly forbidden to them, but Jews had been allowed to work as

goldsmiths and some of these goldsmiths were named Converse.¹⁵ By the sixteenth century, Edward Convers's own family members—presumably Jewish converts to Christianity—could engage in a variety of occupations. They were described in wills and other documents mostly as land- and property-owning yeomen.¹⁶ However, without a well-documented genealogical line that extends further back in England than the sixteenth century, we do not know how or when they might have converted.

In the fourteenth century, Norman French was dropped as the official language in England, in favor of Anglo-Saxon English. People previously described as “le Convers” were now known simply as “Convers.” Eventually,

a final “e” was added to the surname, primarily after members of the family had immigrated to America. Other related names arose from medieval spelling variants of Convers (Cumbers, Combers, Confers, etc.), often in the same families. The name Cumbers still persists in England today, especially in Essex.¹⁷

Good historical and genetic evidence supports the proposition that the Converse family surname originally denoted conversion from Judaism, but without a documented line of descent from a particular convert to Great Migration immigrant Edward Convers, our theory cannot be absolutely proved. ♦

NOTES

¹ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Company Immigrants to New England, 1629–1630* (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 237–43. A fourth child, Sarah, may also have come to New England.

² *Ibid.*, 243; and William G. Hill, *Family Record of Deacons James W. Converse and Elisha S. Converse* (Malden, Mass.: privately printed, 1887), 72–73.

³ Charles Allen Converse, *The Converse Family and Allied Families* (Boston: Eben Putnam, 1905), 857–91.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ FamilyTreeDNA reported that the first two men tested in 2009 were J2 M67, but all the men tested later were J2 M172. We retested one of the first two men in 2019, and he is now reported by FamilyTreeDNA to be J2 M172. The term M67 refers to a previous test for a J2 subclade. For the phylogeny of J2 see wikipedia.org/wiki/Haplogroup_J-M172.

⁶ [Wikipedia.org/wiki/Y-DNA_haplogroups_in_populations_of_Europe](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Y-DNA_haplogroups_in_populations_of_Europe). See also wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_studies_on_Jews.

⁷ Michael J. Hammer, et al, “Extended Y chromosome haplotypes resolve multiple and unique lineages of the Jewish priesthood,” *Human Genetics* (2009) 126: 707–17. From Figure 1 in this paper, the distribution of J1

and J2 in Jews in Israel is: Cohanim, 46% J1 and 29% J2, and Israelites, 15% J1 and 21% J2.

⁸ Michael Adler, *Jews of Medieval England* (London: The Jewish Historical Society of England, 1939); Robin R. Mundill, *The King's Jews, Money, Massacre and Exodus in Medieval England* (London: Continuum, 2010); Lauren Fogle, *The King's Converts, Jewish Conversion in Medieval London* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2019).

⁹ See [Sephardim.co/c-sephardic-surnames](https://sephardim.co/c-sephardic-surnames).

¹⁰ Subjects E and F are third cousins once removed, and all the other subjects are sixth cousins or more distantly related. The family tree is shown on Ancestry.com in “Converse-Cooper 2018.”

¹¹ Adler, *Jews of Medieval England* [note 8]; Mundill, *The King's Jews* [note 8]; and Fogle, *The King's Converts* [note 8].

¹² Fogle, *The King's Converts* [note 8], 132–34.

¹³ Nicholas de Lange, *Atlas of the Jewish World*, (Oxford: Andromeda Oxford Ltd., 1991), 36.

¹⁴ Adler, *Jews of Medieval England* [note 8]; Mundill, *The King's Jews* [note 8]; and Fogle, *The King's Converts* [note 8].

¹⁵ Jews were permitted to be goldsmiths since gold and silver products were made from the same pure metals as circulating coins.

T. F. Reddaway and Lorna E. M. Walker, *The Early History of the Goldsmiths' Company 1327–1509 and The Book of Ordinances 1478–83* (London: Edward Arnold Ltd, 1975), xxi and 323; Ralph Convers was an officer of the Company. William Converse owned a “mansion” called Goolsmythes in Havering atte Bower, northwest Essex, according to his 1555 will, and Nicholas Convers of nearby Hadestock, Essex, was a goldsmith and refiner in London; see C.A. Converse, *Converse Family* [note 3], 862, 887.

¹⁶ Converse, *The Converse Family* [note 3], 857–91.

¹⁷ [Forebears.io/surnames?q=Converse](https://forebears.io/surnames?q=Converse).



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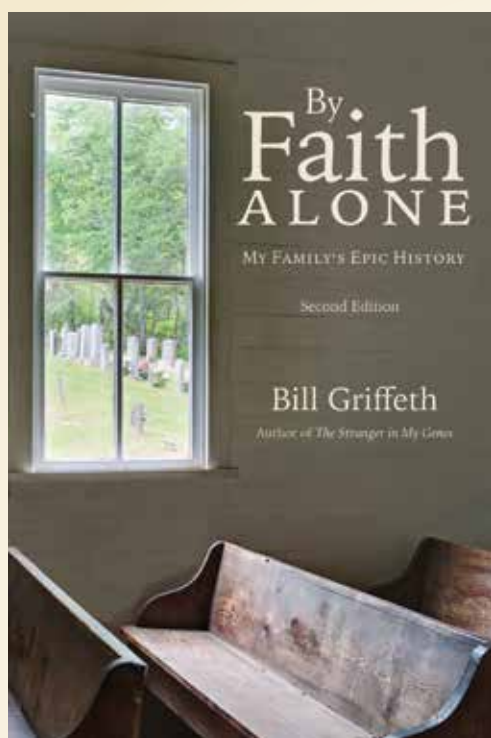
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