

# American Stories. American Lives.



**American  
Ancestors**  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## 2022 Annual Stakeholder Report

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021–AUGUST 31, 2022



# American Ancestors®

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Mission

To advance the study of family history in America and beyond, we educate, inspire, and connect people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

## Values

- Joy
- Service
- Leadership
- Accuracy
- Community
- Innovation
- Education
- Scholarship
- Stewardship

American Ancestors, also known as New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), is a national center for family history, heritage, and culture and the oldest and largest genealogical society in America, founded in 1845. It serves 433,000 members and subscribers, and reaches millions more through its award-winning website AmericanAncestors.org, which features 1.4 billion searchable family names. Located in Boston's Back Bay, NEHGS is home to a world-class Research Center, an expert staff, a publishing division, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center.

## A Look at Fiscal Year 2022

**Total revenue**  
**\$12,089,050**

**Total membership  
and subscribers**  
**433,000**

**Members and subscribers  
across the world**  
**All 50 states and  
139 countries**

**American Ancestors  
Research Center**  
**28 million** items in our world-  
renowned library and archive  
Ask-A-Genealogist  
Live Chat Sessions: **1,314**

**Brue Family  
Learning Center**  
**225**  
programs  
**43,709**  
attendees

**Vita Brevis blog**  
**3,000,000** views since 2014

**Social media**  
Almost **2.2 million** Facebook  
impressions  
Over **145,000**  
YouTube video views

**Wyner Family  
Jewish Heritage  
Center**

More than **2 million**  
records and nearly  
**700,000** searchable  
documents

**Published scholarship**  
**6** new NEHGS and  
Newbury Street Press books  
**4** *American Ancestors* magazines,  
**4** issues of the *Register*, and  
**2** issues of *Mayflower Descendant*  
**52** issues of *The Weekly Genealogist*

**AmericanAncestors.org  
databases**  
**494** unique searchable  
databases  
**1.4 billion** searchable names  
Over **4 million** new  
searchable names



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## American Stories. American Lives.

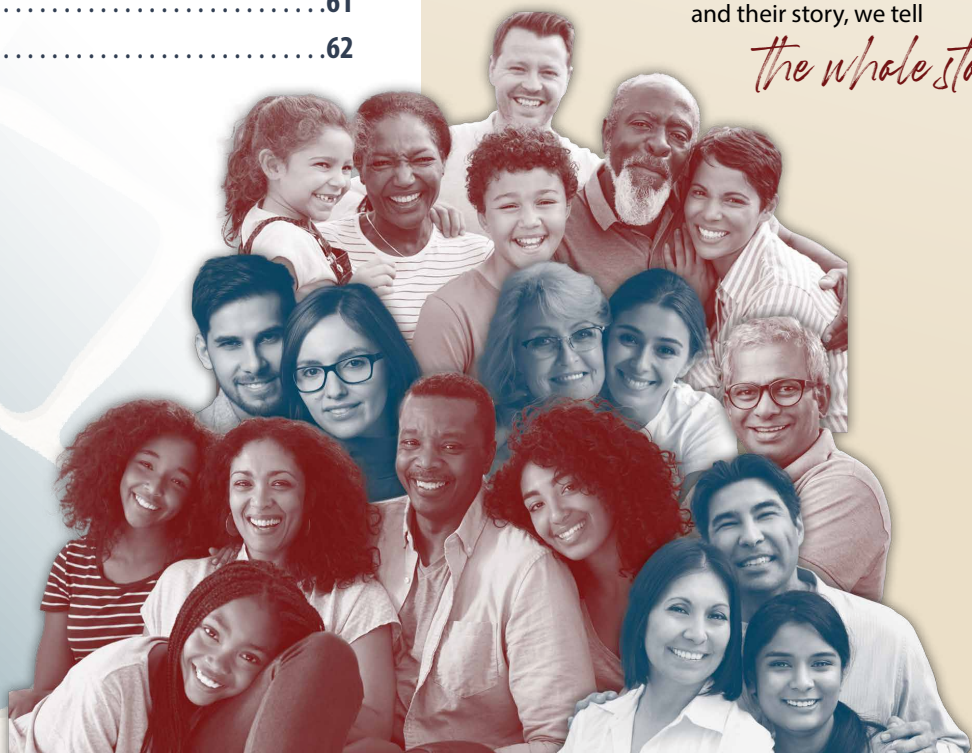
At American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society, we are dedicated to telling the stories of the individuals who built our nation, and to helping future generations understand how our past shapes our present. America's story is the story of its proud and diverse people: the outsiders, the adventurers, the persecuted, and the dreamers. Their unique experiences make up our nation's collective memory.

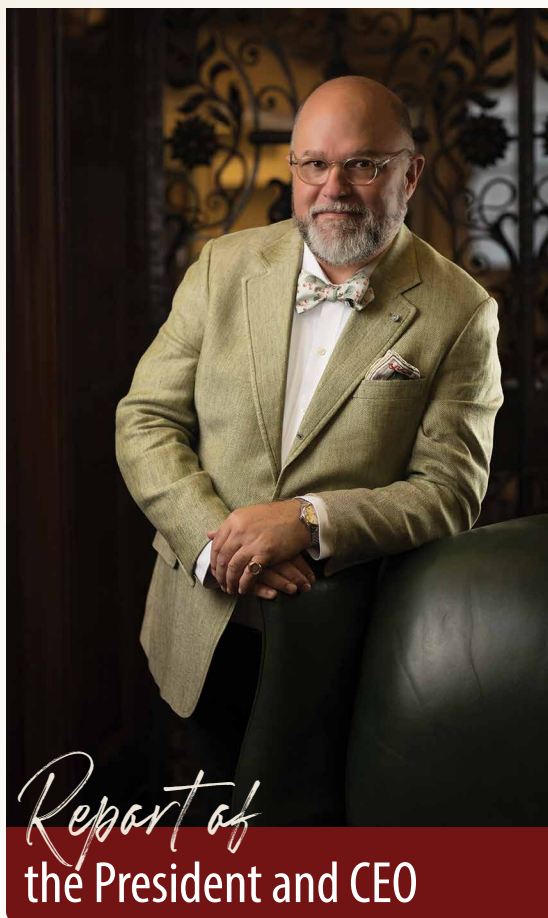
The desire to understand and connect to our family history is universal. This understanding represents who we are and how we came to live the lives we each have. The journeys our ancestors took and the choices they made have a profound effect on who we are today. Good fortune and bad, triumph and tragedy, prosperity and opportunity, all comprise the incredible, winding path that leads from our ancestors to each of us.

We understand that as we uncover our families, we learn about history too. The records we use, the sources we uncover, the information we gather, all need to be maintained and preserved. With more than 178 years of experience in original research into the lives of the people who built our nation, American Ancestors is uniquely positioned to explore the many fascinating intersections between history and genealogy, personal heritage, and culture.

When we tell his story, her story,  
and their story, we tell

*the whole story.*





It is a pleasure to report to our many members on an excellent year of achievements in the fiscal year that ended on August 31, 2022. It was a year that brought us out of pandemic-related management operations. We remained nimble and resumed in-person programming, increased action in our capital campaign, and made important and overdue investments in our advancement team infrastructure just as we formulated groundbreaking new research initiatives and member service models.

In sum, we dramatically strengthened our position as the nation's premier center for family history, heritage, and culture. We met or exceeded our goals across all our major financial and programmatic benchmarks. We grew our constituency to a new high, interacted with more people than ever before, and offered the highest quality family history services and experiences. Charitable giving in fiscal year 2022 was a strong \$6,132,545 in an impressive total annual budget of \$12,089,050. Our financial growth over the last ten years has been a clear signal of our ever-increasing national and international stature and influence.

In this period, we accelerated constituent engagement through more online programs. More than 43,000 people participated in our genealogical, historical, and cultural programming, and on-demand education videos attracted an additional 146,000 post-event viewers. Our expanded offerings included family history research training seminars, illustrated lectures, and book talks from distinguished scholars and prize-winning authors.

Our ongoing efforts to provide incomparable online research materials continued. During the year, we added more than four million new searchable names to AmericanAncestors.org and completed the first phase of our pioneering Historic Catholic Records project.

Through our exclusive partnership with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and FamilySearch, we continued adding records to the GSMD membership application database. In another hereditary society initiative, we made significant progress on a searchable database for all applications and supplemental applications to the General Society of the War of 1812 (founded in 1854). We added to our suite of online journals with a high-value scholarly database, *The Genealogist*, one of the leading American journals in the field of genealogy. Through an exclusive agreement with the American Society of Genealogists, we now host Volumes 1–30 of *The Genealogist*.

Throughout the year, we thrived as the scholarly leader in family history by publishing the field's foremost periodicals and books. *The Register*, the flagship journal of American genealogy, included groundbreaking articles and resumed publication of the *Roll of Arms* from our Committee on Heraldry. *American Ancestors* magazine excelled, as did *The Mayflower Descendant*. We were especially proud to publish what may be the finest African American genealogy ever produced—*Four Families of St. Mary's County*, by David Watson Kruger with a foreword by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Other compiled genealogies included *The Ancestry of Thomas Martin Lynch Jr. and Esther Agnes Griffin*, by Jerald Dupree with Scott C. Steward and Lindsay Fulton and a foreword by Cardinal Sean O'Malley; *Ancestors of Albert James Zdenek, Sr. and Rose Marie Mildred Prince*, by Kyle Hurst and Albert J. Zdenek, Jr. A new edition of our classic *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, edited by Rhonda R. McClure, was also published.



In the area of research support service and customer service, we increased our online chat feature available through AmericanAncestors.org to accommodate growing popular demand. While staff continued to offer reference assistance by telephone and through email, our most popular offering continued to be our Ask-A-Genealogist Live Chat service which accommodated 1,348 sessions. This live chat service is a powerful recruitment tool as well. It has converted more than 25% of its non-member participants into new members.



The following categories of activity follow our core values and represent only a portion of the many ways we advance a sustainable future, build relationships to ensure our constituents identify as members of the American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society family, affirm our position as a center of scholarly excellence, and maximize the use of technology to connect with constituents:

## Expansion and Sustainability

**GOAL** Expand headquarters and grow operations with scalable business and philanthropic models to ensure financial sustainability

We made significant strides towards our goal of expanding our headquarters. In this project, we were greatly aided by Ryan J. Woods, our multi-talented Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

This Cornerstone Project represents a momentous occasion in the history of our institution and in the

fields of genealogy and local history in America. When completed, it will incorporate a five-story building into our existing complex—and through it, we will engage members and the public in unparalleled learning experiences. It will serve both American and international audiences by making available the finest work of our expert genealogists, historians, educators, curators, and other professionals. We will serve both in-person audiences and those who connect with us virtually by offering, portable, web-based extensions to millions of online users. We will also create new content for geographically and ethnically diverse people in order to provide the best in-person or online experiences.

We undertake this campus expansion with the following belief:

**Everyone has a story worth telling and worth hearing; when inspired and supported to explore and share their stories, people gain a better understanding of themselves, of others, and of the shared human experience.**

The timeline for our building project anticipates that we will be ready to proceed with demolition and construction in spring 2023. After many meetings, application processes, and local networking, we won zoning and design approvals from the City of Boston. We gained the enthusiastic support of the Back Bay Architectural Commission, local public officials, neighbors, and nearby business owners.

During the renovations, our library will be temporarily closed to visitors and our staff will substantially increase its service to members online, by phone, and by mail, as well as through research and heritage tours and conferences in the United States and abroad. We will provide enhanced services including online access to chat, databases, programs, archived webinars, and personalized services—all providing highly meaningful and substantive experiences. We gained considerable experience in delivering remote services during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown phase when our facility was closed for an extended period of time. This preparation, coupled with our long history of serving remote members, will serve us well during the renovation period.

Fundraising activity in this area has been strong: in our overall goal of raising \$40 million, we have, as of March 1, 2023, secured gifts and pledges of \$18,497,413. In May 2021, Meghan Hallock, a veteran advancement officer joined our staff and began the process of expanding our philanthropy



team and bringing new fundraising techniques and practices to our organization, including training for members of our Board and Council. Relatedly, we engaged the professional services of BrightDot to advise us in our Capital Campaign and all Advancement activities so that we are adequately positioned to meet or exceed fundraising goals that have dramatically increased in recent years.

Among the areas of success for us in this sphere is our work in planned giving. We intend to solicit our members to include us in estate planning in order to secure our future well-being. Accordingly, our planned giving program has increased its activity and documented \$15.6 million in future gifts to our institution. As our members think about their legacies and how our organization has impacted their lives, many wish to ensure that future generations have access to our authoritative information and expert guidance. Accordingly, a new partnership with FreeWill.com has also enabled dozens of members to create wills for free and many have designated our organization as a beneficiary. This offering swiftly secured future additional funding for the organization in a seven-figure amount.

Our expanded headquarters will feature dynamic interactive learning spaces; activity areas for visitors, families, and children; collaborative workspaces; and a lively and attractive retail shop with a wide range of genealogical and historical books and other new products. Our two buildings will be linked, creating an expanded campus with a new elevator and a staircase connecting all floors of both buildings. In

addition, essential and long overdue fire suppression and critical safety technologies will be implemented. Inspiration is at the core of our personal interactions with members and the public, and it will be a hallmark of our new Discovery Center. There, we will engage audiences with enriching experiences and create a conceptual framework for those experiences.

In sum, through this expansion of our physical space and online offerings, we are uniquely positioned to help people of all backgrounds explore and discover their family history. Whether one's family was native to this land or arrived at any time from the 17th century to today, we strive to be the best resource available in genealogy and adjacent disciplines.

## Engagement

**GOAL** Develop and implement enriching opportunities for members and the public to engage in inspirational experiences

Our *American Inspiration* author series has expanded awareness of our organization through highly visible collaborations with partners such as the GBH Forum Network. Featured authors and guest moderators have provided insight on a variety of topics related to our country's history and its diverse people. Each of these hour-long broadcast presentations was enjoyed by an average of 450 attendees.



We also engaged our constituents through the best heritage travel experiences. Our first domestic and international Heritage Tours since the Covid lockdowns were lifted occurred in this fiscal year. From Italy and England to close-to-home destinations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania, members and friends of American Ancestors had an opportunity to discover great treasures of history, genealogy, and adjacent disciplines. Tour participants experienced the magnificent collections and historic villas of Rome, along with an exclusive visit to private areas of the Vatican; experienced an intimate tour in 21st-century Philadelphia; enjoyed lively and informative tours in Boston, Worcester, and Providence; explored the towns and cities in England and New England that nurtured and challenged the Pilgrims; discovered the breathtaking landscapes of Norfolk; celebrated the holiday season in Shropshire with settings that inspired Charles Dickens; and much more.

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) was highly active during this period. We co-sponsored a book talk with Lucy Adlington, author of *The Dressmakers of Auschwitz*, discussing the little-known story of a group of seamstresses imprisoned at Auschwitz. Father Charles Gallagher, Professor of History at Boston College, discussed his book *Nazis of Copley Square*. Another program was "An American Meeting: The Irish and Jews in the Nation's Urban Cauldron," in which Dr. Hasia Diner of New York University examined the surprising, entwined history of two of America's most influential immigrant groups. As the co-founder of the New England Jewish History Collaborative, our JHC presented a lively online program, "Lakes, Lanyards, and Learning: The Story of Jewish Summer Camps

in New England," which featured a talk by Brandeis professor Jonathan Krasner and a discussion panel about the unique history and impact of Jewish summer camps. We hosted a benefit event, "Imagining the Jewish Past: Three Authors Discuss Jewish History and Literary Inspiration," featuring prominent novelists Anita Diamant, Allegra Goodman, and Rachel Kadish discussing the influence of Jewish history on their fiction.

## Relationships

**GOAL** Ensure that our members and the public identify with and connect to the American Ancestors/NEHGS community

We connect with our members and the public in personally meaningful ways and care deeply about helping people of all ages and backgrounds. Through our activities, we grew our overall constituency by over 10% to more than 433,000 individuals, and welcomed 4,865 new research members and 31,405 guest members. A very strong overall renewal rate of 75% across all memberships was achieved, and members who have been active for three or more years renewed at the remarkable rate of 88%.

Our digital service offerings and increased use of social media platforms, including Twitter chat, resulted in substantial new engagement with family historians across the country and around the world. An analysis of our expanded constituency shows that our members span the nation and globe; they reside in all 50 states and 139 countries. The far-flung geographic distribution of our members is a testament to our institution's broad reach and the importance of our mission; it also emphasizes the ever-increasing importance of prioritizing technology to serve our members wherever in the world they may live.

External collaborations thrived during the fiscal year. We completed a project with Ancestry.com to digitize 10,000 compiled family histories from our library, totaling approximately three million pages. We used Ancestry.com's artificial intelligence technology to capture names, locations, and life events so that the information gathered from these books will be configured both as searchable data and formulated into family trees. This unique effort substantially enhances the usability of digital books



and brings an important collection of genealogical scholarship to users everywhere.

Our relationship-based priorities led to a number of high-profile events. The Winter Family History Benefit, hosted online from Washington, DC, featured philanthropist, author, and Carlyle Group co-founder David M. Rubenstein as speaker and recipient of our Preservation and History Award. Mr. Rubenstein discussed his new book, *The American Experiment: Dialogues on a Dream* with Pulitzer Prize-winning author and NEHGS Honorary Trustee Stacy Schiff. In April 2022, we honored His Excellency, the Hon. Charles D. Baker, 72nd Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This was our first in-person gala in two years. Governor Baker spoke movingly on the importance of family and family history, and he received a detailed genealogy prepared by our staff.

At our Summer Family History Benefit in Newport, Rhode Island, approximately 200 guests attended an outdoor tented dinner honoring *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes. Fellowes was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award and Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States of America, brought greetings from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I presented the Ambassador with a vellum scroll signed by David M. Trebing, Thomas Bailey Hagen, Ryan J. Woods, and me with a proclamation of congratulations to The Queen on her Platinum Jubilee. The scroll was later transmitted by diplomatic pouch to Her Majesty at Windsor Castle.

In October, we welcomed more than 110 guests to Boston's Chilton Club for our Fall Family History Benefit featuring Rick Atkinson. He was presented with our Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the field of American history. He discussed his latest work with Colonial Society of Massachusetts President Professor Bob Allison about Atkinson's latest work, *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775–1777*. David E. Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer of FamilySearch and a highly admired genealogical leader and influencer, was honored at the event with our Preservation and History Award.



## Science and Technology

**GOAL** Maximize advancement in DNA and technology to connect with our members and the public

Our website, AmericanAncestors.org, continues to be our most-used resource, by both volume and frequency, and it experienced substantial growth in this period. It is the primary channel through which members conduct research, purchase memberships, buy books, and partake in other services and activities. Web traffic continued to climb throughout the year—encouraged by new webinars, education resources, and our emphasis on personal online research support, and new visitation also increased. Promoting content on the website, social media, through emails, and in our newsletter, *The Weekly Genealogist*, helped to drive new memberships, marketing leads, and increased donor engagement.

A major new feature within the technology area was the launch of our Family History Curriculum after nearly three years of research and rigorous development. It is a first-of-its-kind curriculum, with ambitious goals to make genealogy accessible to all students and to inspire the next generation of family historians. In the first six months, the curriculum materials were downloaded and accessed nearly 450 times by more than 140 schools around the nation, numerous libraries, genealogical societies, home school educators, and our members. Our curriculum has been accessed by teachers (public schools, private schools, and home-based educators), curriculum specialists, and teacher development providers.

Our Digital Library & Archives, now containing almost a million items, expanded during this year. It features an updated layout and additional options for browsing, searching, and saving digitized material from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, the Research Library, and the JHC. It includes materials with browsable images as well as some resources with searchable full-text transcriptions.



## Scholarship

**GOAL** Advance our position as the leader in scholarly excellence in family history

In this period, we announced our *American Stories, American Lives* initiative. Through it, we will develop and perpetuate genealogical scholarship of permanent value for African American audiences and others. It will be multifaceted and broadly inclusive. We expanded our commitment to African American genealogy in America that models the work we did for the GU272/Georgetown Memory Project. In 2022, we began several pilot research programs for the 10 Million Names Project, which is dedicated to recovering the names of the ten million enslaved men, women, and children born on American soil between 1596 and Emancipation. After we find the names of the people who were enslaved, we will trace those individuals forward to their living descendants, which will allow us to restore information to families and create a free, searchable, permanent repository of African American family histories with unprecedented scope.

Dr. Kendra Field, Associate Professor of History at Tufts University, was named the Executive Director of 10 Million Names and an Advisory Board was

established to help fulfill our commitment. It is chaired by Gwill York, a member of our Council and an esteemed nonprofit board chair, and its founding members include Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., of Harvard University, and Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. The 10 Million Names project will be formally launched on April 27, 2023, at the *Celebrating American Stories, American Lives* benefit dinner in Boston when we will honor Secretary Lonnie Bunch III of the Smithsonian Institution.

Our JHC was honored to be selected for a Mass Humanities Foundation Expanding Massachusetts Stories grant for “Jewish Neighborhood Voices,” a pilot oral history project collecting personal narratives of four formerly Jewish immigrant communities in the Greater Boston area before the living links to them are gone. We received a second grant from Combined Jewish Philanthropies for this project. Over the course of the year, we convened a community advisory group, trained interviewers, and conducted oral history interviews with 20 individuals who grew up in the neighborhoods under study. The oral histories will be preserved and made accessible in the Digital Library & Archives. We will launch an online exhibit featuring these narratives alongside archival materials from the JHC’s collections, with the aim of educating audiences about former Jewish life in these neighborhoods and the vital contributions the Jewish community has made to Massachusetts.

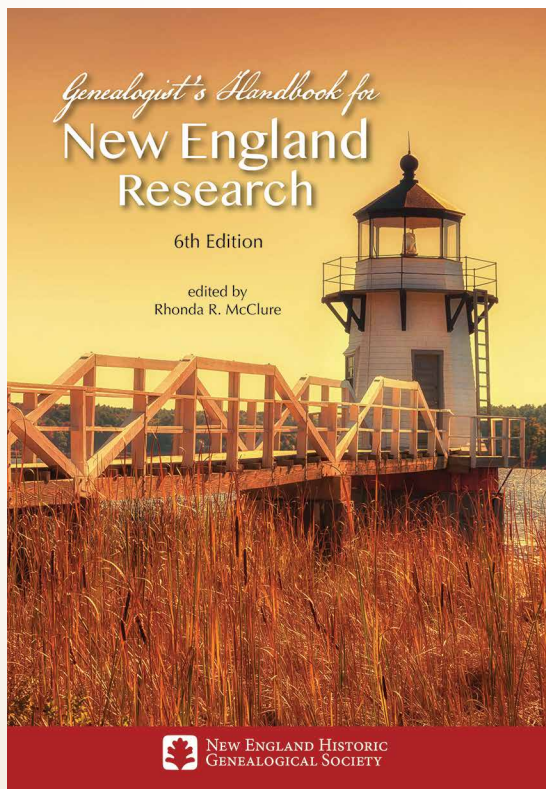
## Conclusion

These achievements represent just a fraction of the work we completed in fiscal year 2022. All told, the culmination of our collective efforts, and the ongoing support of our members and donors, allowed us to emerge from the pandemic as a thriving and vibrant institution.

With the support of our loyal Board and Council, esteemed partners and collaborators, hundreds of thousands of friends and volunteers, and the continued exemplary work of our staff and affiliated experts, we have a truly bright future.

More than ever, thank you for your support, wise counsel, and friendship.

Respectfully submitted,  
D. Brenton Simons  
President and CEO



# American Stories. American Lives.

## Chronicling Our Nation Through Family History

### Inclusive

Every person, every family has a story worth telling.

### Inspiring

We inspire people to explore family history.

### Supportive

We support the discovery and stewardship of family history.

### Identity-Building

Learning about our family and community history helps us understand that our identities are formed from a complex web of truth, lore, history, and culture.

### Connected

Understanding family history connects everyone to a shared human experience.



## Cornerstone Project

As the country's founding organization for family history, heritage, and culture, we are dedicated to the belief that every person and every family has a story worth telling and worth hearing. We are uniquely positioned to help people of all backgrounds explore and discover their family history.

By collecting, preserving, and interpreting historical and genealogical materials that reflect the varied stories of America, we enrich lives, preserve legacies, and more fully communicate the power and importance of the past and its influence on the future—understanding family history connects everyone to shared human experiences.

Whether one's family was native to this land or arrived between the 17th century and today, as an institution, we perpetuate genealogical scholarship of permanent value that is multifaceted and broadly inclusive.

By studying the many family histories in America with historical narrative and cultural context, we advance our work to educate, inspire, and connect people through history and genealogy.

### Expanding a national treasure

Our historic headquarters expansion—the Cornerstone Project—is a momentous occasion in the history of our institution.

Through the Cornerstone Project, we will engage members and the public with unparalleled learning experiences, serving both American and international audiences by making available the finest work of our expert genealogists, historians, educators, curators, and museum professionals. We will serve both in-person audiences and those who connect with us virtually by offering portable, web-based extensions to millions of online users.

Our Cornerstone Project design features a large, open, and welcoming entrance for thousands of visitors, dynamic interactive learning spaces, new



collaborative workspaces for operations, and state-of-the-art safety technologies to protect people, collections, and facilities.

The Cornerstone Project will elevate our organization and substantiate the position we have earned across two centuries as a world-recognized destination for all people inspired by the power and importance of genealogy and history.

## Expanding our reach

Visitors will be drawn to a new, modern facility on Newbury Street, featuring a stunning glass façade. Members and guests will be warmly greeted in an expanded **Welcome Center**, home to a technology-rich, multi-generational, friendly experience that will provoke thought and conversation about origins and identity. Next, the **Discovery Center** will feature computer kiosks for further exploration, **Story Booths**, multi-media presentations, exhibitions, and museum installations that facilitate the investigation of family, history, heritage, and culture. The Discovery Center will connect to several other spaces that support innovative family history experiences, including a **Learning Center** and **Lecture Hall** offering programming aimed at new and existing audiences. Visitors will also enjoy a **Museum Store** with an array of family and local history-themed merchandise.

New spaces on other floors will include new homes for our **Scholarly Publishing Center**, expanding the footprint for the team that produces the world's leading genealogical publications; the **Jewish Heritage Center's** staff, collections, and archives (including new exhibition space); and a **Business Management Center** supporting our internal operations.

Our facilities at 97 Newbury Street and 99-101 Newbury Street will be linked, creating an expanded campus network. A new elevator and staircase will connect all floors of both buildings.



## The Cornerstone Society

### FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

(\$1 million or more)

Nordahl and Suzanne Brue  
Thomas Bailey Hagen  
Brenda L. Johnson  
Tabitha King  
Anonymous (2)

### ASSOCIATES' CIRCLE

(\$100,000 or more)

Robb Aley Allan  
Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund  
Judith Avery  
Helen H. Berkeley  
John G. L. Cabot  
Stephen H. Case  
Kenneth Chenault  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Mark Thomas Cox IV  
John M. Fleming  
Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman  
Leigh Maxwell Gelser\*  
General Society of Colonial Wars  
James and Susan Hunnewell  
John F. Keane\*  
David W. Kruger  
Andrew P. Langlois  
Jo Anne Makely  
William R. Marsh, M.D.\*  
Nancy S. Maulsby  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Carol R. McGee  
Peck Stacpoole Foundation  
Helen C. Powell  
Bonnie A. Reilly  
Helen E. R. Sayles CBE  
Kristin and Roger Servison  
L. Ted Sloane\*  
Diana and David Smith  
Jonathan Buck Treat  
The Arnold Garrison Foundation  
Nancy Clay Webster  
Wallace S. and Isabel B.\* Wilson  
Justin and Genevieve\* Wyner  
Gwill York  
Anonymous (4)

\*Deceased

Advanced **fire protection**, updated **mechanical systems**, and **accessibility upgrades** will enhance the integrated buildings. Large energy-efficient windows will be added on Newbury Street, and glass paneling will direct light to offices on the rear side of the building. An outdoor elevated garden terrace will also enhance the visitor experience.

Our new and renovated facilities will attract thousands of members, families, and tourists visiting Boston. By supporting this initiative, donors will help preserve the great American story for present and future generations—as told through the lives and legacies of countless millions of people who came before us.

## Design approvals

During fiscal year 2022, we achieved several major milestones in the design and regulatory review process required by the City of Boston. In July 2022, we won approval for several zoning variances integral to the functions of the new spaces, and our building design was approved by the city

architectural commission. Both approval processes were required in order to obtain building permits.

The zoning variances and design approvals we won allow us to make full use of the lot by adding a rear addition to the complex. We were also granted approval to add an additional level to the 97 Newbury Street structure, as well as a new staircase and elevator to service both buildings.

In a subsequent architectural commission review, we also won approval for a new exterior plan to integrate the hardscaping and landscaping of the 97 and 99-101 Newbury Street buildings and create a new ADA-compliant accessible entrance.

## Visitor experience planning

Our work continued with museum professionals, staff, members, and community stakeholders designing exhibitions and experiences based on our “interpretive plan” framework for how we will engage audiences with enriching experiences through the Cornerstone Project.

## Outcomes

An expansion of our physical space will allow us to create a lively and popular destination for anyone interested in pursuing family history. Project goals include:

- Establishing our headquarters as a national visitor destination
- Increasing visitor attendance and cultivating interest in family history among new audiences
- Engaging and mentoring future generations of genealogists and historians
- Doubling capacity for educational programs through expanded, more welcoming onsite spaces
- Leveraging state-of-the-art digital technology throughout the facility, in keeping with a modern learning experience
- Enlarging space for internal staff use, including meeting rooms and workspaces
- Growing the family history marketplace by serving new and existing audiences, including visiting populations
- Implementing urgently needed safety systems







The foundational concept for our experiences is that everyone *has a story worth telling and worth hearing; when inspired and supported to explore and share their family history, people gain a better understanding of themselves, of others, and of the shared human experience.*

## Ways to give

By supporting the Cornerstone Campaign now, you will allow us to continue to provide comprehensive expert family history services with historical narrative and cultural context for generations to come.

Your participation will help ensure the success of this campaign.

Gifts of any amount will help to complete this important project and will be acknowledged in the Annual Report following the successful conclusion of the Cornerstone Campaign.

Campaign gifts can be made in a single payment or pledged and paid over a three-to-five-year period with:

- Cash
- Gifts of appreciated securities
- Planned gifts, including IRA distributions and life income arrangements

Please contact our Advancement team for more information at 617-226-1217 or [Advancement@nehgs.org](mailto:Advancement@nehgs.org).

## Orientation and Inspiration: Discovery Center

Inspiration is at the core of our personal interactions with members and the public, and it will be a hallmark of our new Discovery Center. Through a state-of-the-art museum space using technology platforms and interactive design, we will provide exciting and powerful personal experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds.

We will feature several multi-generational activity areas, with touch screens where families and children can learn more about themselves, family history, and how to deepen their understanding of family origins. From these same screens, more seasoned family historians can search for original records and groundbreaking scholarship. Visitors will also be invited to interact with family memories in a Story Lab, featuring new and important material from personal family history archives.

The Discovery Center will feature immersive exhibits and online extensions that tell stories of the American experience. School groups, families, and scholars alike will benefit from the experiences and content we are uniquely qualified to provide.

Each of our interactive exhibits will transport visitors, deepen their sense of identity and belonging, and provide a greater understanding of each visitor's place in human history.

# Get Connected. Be Inspired.

To advance the study of family history in America and beyond, we educate, inspire, and connect people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

We strive to connect with our members and the public in personally meaningful ways, serving as respected expert genealogists and historians who care deeply about helping people.

We embrace an innovative spirit and vibrant energy to be helpful, engaging, and inspiring to people everywhere who seek to connect with their past.

For 178 years, we have been guided by a passion and a purpose that places people at the center of our work to advance family history and connect people. We continue to cultivate relationships to reflect excellence and diversity in family history, while helping, engaging, and inspiring people everywhere who want to advance the understanding of these precious components of life: family and community.

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



Danielle Rose, Researcher



Lindsay Fulton, Vice President of Research and Library Services

## Expert staff

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

## Award-winning website

Bringing accuracy and integrity to your family history research endeavors wherever in the world you might be, we offer family history researchers the most-used genealogical society website in the world—AmericanAncestors.org. Providing access to more than 1.4 billion records spanning twenty-two countries—covering the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond—our award-winning website includes one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the largest collection of U.S. Catholic records online, amongst many other unique resources.





Christopher C. Child, Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press and Editor of *Mayflower Descendant*

## Original scholarship

To support the research of family historians around the world, we produce the most significant original research and important publications in genealogy, including, since 1847, the longest continually published academic journal in the field, the *Register*. In addition to this quarterly journal, we publish a quarterly magazine, the biannual *Mayflower Descendant* journal, 10–20 books per year, our *Vita Brevis* blog, and an electronic newsletter, *The Weekly Genealogist*. As the leader in genealogical scholarship, we also produce important study projects such as The Great Migration Study Project, an endeavor to create genealogical and biographical sketches of the some 20,000 individuals who arrived in New England between 1620 and 1640; the Early New England Families Study Project, 1641–1700, a successor study project to the Great Migration period; the Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 Study Project, which captures families heading west at the time of the 1790 census; and the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 Study Project, which covers families that settled Vermont, the last frontier of New England.



Danielle Cournoyer, Researcher



Rachel King, Executive Director, Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

## World-class research center

Twice named by *USA Today* as a top 10 world destination for family history, we invite everyone to visit our Research Center where we offer the largest collection of original family history research materials in the country. Our collection, which continues to grow through acquisition and preservation activities, dates from the 14th century to the present and spans North America, Europe, and beyond. It includes more than 28 million diaries, letters, photographs, and other manuscripts, and more than 200,000 books and microforms.

## Education opportunities

Family history research is, at its core, a pursuit of endless learning—encountering unfamiliar places, languages, and times; uncovering long forgotten family stories; and meeting the thousands of ancestors who came before you. Through guided research tours to repositories around the world, and more than 200 annual lectures, seminars, intensive research programs, Heritage Tours, online courses, webinars, and special events, we help you maximize your results and take your family tree to new heights.



# *Our Vision and Values*

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## Our Purpose

Bring joy to people through the exploration of family history, heritage, and culture

## *Our Values*

### Joy

Exploring family history, heritage, and culture brings joy, inspiration, and understanding. We are here to connect people to those life-enhancing experiences.



### Service

We believe all members and users should receive the finest customer-centric service. We value our personal relationships with our members and users; we constantly communicate about their needs and satisfaction in order to bring joy, inspiration, and understanding through the exploration of family history, heritage, and culture.

### Leadership

We are committed to being a leading force of positive influence in the fields of genealogy and history through our values, expertise, experiences, resources, and partnerships.





## Accuracy

We believe that our products and experiences must exhibit the highest factual accuracy. Our reputation for trustworthiness is dependent on providing expert analysis and thoroughly vetted products and materials.

## Community

We value building a diverse national and international community of people with a shared commitment to exploring family history, heritage, and culture. Our work expands family networks and helps people form stronger bonds with each other, their relatives, and the broader communities they live in.

## Innovation

We prize innovation and adaptability to keep our organization relevant and prosperous. We believe in advancing the understanding of family history, heritage, and culture through groundbreaking research projects that create new knowledge.

## Education

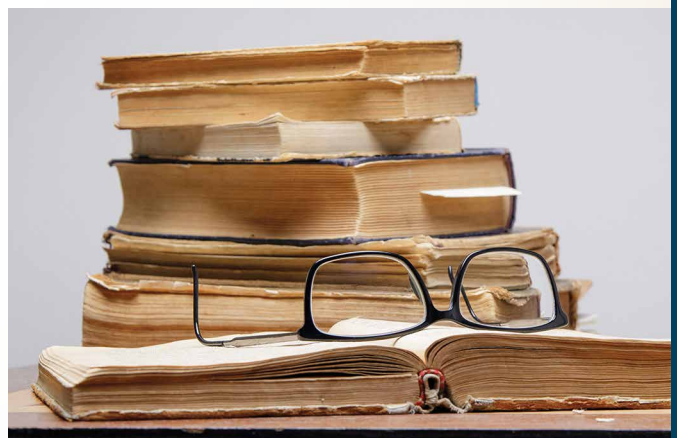
Our members and the public deserve the best opportunities to increase the quality and value of their exploration. We are deeply committed to expanding learning opportunities for varying age groups, ethnicities, cultures, and intergenerational audiences.

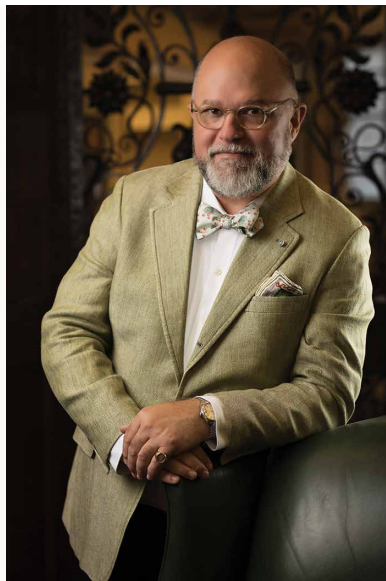
## Scholarship

The production of scholarship is critical to advance understanding and ensure that authoritative knowledge is available now and for future generations.

## Stewardship

We are responsible caretakers of our collections, human capital and expertise, scholarly knowledge, and financial resources. We ensure that our collections and other resources are available and accessible to present generations in trust for future ones, and we wisely manage our financial resources so that they can sustainably support the institution in the future.





**D. Brenton Simons**  
President and CEO

As President and CEO since 2005, **D. Brenton Simons** has overseen a period of extraordinary growth for American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society. It now serves more than 433,000 members in 139 countries and millions of online users. It provides more than 1.4 billion records at AmericanAncestors.org, is the anchor location of the popular PBS series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, and will expand its campus into a newly renovated building in Boston's historic Back Bay in 2023.

For his work in nonprofit leadership and as an author, Simons has been recognized with several honors, including the Award of Merit (American Association for State and Local History), the Bradford Award (Pilgrim Hall Museum), the John Adams Medal (Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the Revolution), and the History Award Medal (Daughters of the American Revolution).

Simons serves as an officer of several heritage organizations in the United States, the UK, and beyond, including: President of the International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences (a biennial international conference to be hosted by NEHGS in Boston in 2024 with the theme of "Origins, Journeys, Destinations"); President of the American Friends of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, UK; and Immediate Past Secretary of the Board of *The New England Quarterly*, the premier journal of New England's cultural, literary, political, and social history.

In addition, he served as Vice Chair of the Plymouth 400th Anniversary State Commission and as a member of the Commission to Investigate the Seal and Motto of Massachusetts, both by special appointment of Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker.

An award-winning author, Simons's most recent book, *Boston Beheld: Antique Town and Country Views*, was hailed as "the book Jane Austen might have written had she run into Charles Dickens after his return from his Boston visit of 1842." He is also the author of *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues* and various genealogical and historical monographs and articles.

A graduate of Boston University, he is a member of the American Antiquarian Society; the Society of the Cincinnati (CT); the Society of Colonial Wars (MA and FL); an Honorary Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society; and a Proprietor of The Boston Athenæum.

### Chairs of the Board, 1845–present\*

2021–	David Martin Trebing	1971–1974	Robert Churchill Vose, Jr.	1887–1892	Abner Cheney Goodell
2017–2021	Nancy Sands Maulsby	1963–1971	Walter Muir Whitehill	1868–1886	Marshall Pinckney Wilder
2012–2017	David Henderson Burnham	1961–1963	Charles Moorfield Storey	1866–1867	John Albion Andrew
2008–2012	Eric Baker Schultz	1954–1961	Thomas Temple Pond	1861–1866	Winslow Lewis
2002–2008	David Watson Kruger	1948–1954	Walter Merriam Pratt	1859–1861	Almon Danforth Hodges
1996–2002	John Godfrey Lowell Cabot	1942–1948	Frederic Alonzo Turner	1858–1859	Samuel Gardner Drake
1991–1996	William Morgan Fowler, Jr.	1936–1941	Frederick Silsbee Whitwell	1853–1858	William Whiting
1987–1991	Theodore Chase	1922–1936	John Carroll Chase	1850–1853	Joseph Barlow Felt
1982–1987	Arthur A. Dunn	1901–1921	James Phinney Baxter	1845–1850	Charles Ewer
1977–1982	Rodney Armstrong	1899–1900	Edward Griffin Porter		
1974–1977	Richard Brigham Johnson	1892–1898	William Claflin		

\*Prior to 2006, the Chair of the Board was titled "President."



An educator and historian, **Ryan Woods** is Executive Vice President and COO of American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society. Since 2006, he has led the development of award-winning experiences for exploring family history, heritage, and culture.

Ryan was the lead creator of AmericanAncestors.org. He fosters and manages important collaborations with commercial and nonprofit partners, including recruiting more than 1 billion searchable records to AmericanAncestors.org, and he led the collaborative effort to establish our Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. Currently, Ryan is focused on partnerships, business planning for our headquarter expansion, and the creation of a national visitor destination experience.

Ryan serves in leadership roles for several nonprofit organizations including as chairman of the Committee on Heraldry; appointed commissioner of the Special Commission for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; advisory board member for the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party; Secretary-General of the 36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences; member of the Committee on Pretensions of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut; Lieutenant Governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; partner representative on the Mayor of Boston's Green Ribbon Commission; and past-President of the Boston University School of Education Alumni Association.

He is an active member of the Order of Saint John, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Mayflower Society, the Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the Revolution, and the Saint Nicholas Society of New York City.

In 2022, Ryan was elected an Honorary Life Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He also was honored by the New England Society in the City of New York (founded 1805), with the Townsend Award "in recognition of outstanding achievement representing the finest attributes of the New England character."

A dedicated researcher, Ryan has authored pedagogical articles about the use of historical biographies to teach character and ethics and contributed genealogical articles and several book forewords for historical and genealogical publications. Ryan holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in history and education from Boston University.



**Ryan J. Woods**  
Executive Vice President and COO

## Senior Staff Management Team

### ADVANCEMENT

**Meghan Hallock**  
Vice President for Advancement

### BOOKS AND JOURNALS

**Sharon Buzzell Inglis**  
Vice President of Publishing

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

**Donald C. Reagan**  
Vice President for Business Development and Revenue Growth

### DIGITAL STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

**Claire Vail**  
Vice President for Digital Strategy and Communications

### EDUCATION AND PROGRAMMING

**Ginevra Morse**  
Vice President for Education and Programming

### FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

**Bruce Bernier**  
Vice President and CFO

### HUMAN RESOURCES

**Michelle Major**  
Director of Human Resources

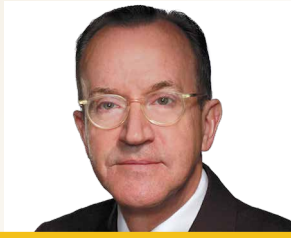
### RESEARCH AND LIBRARY SERVICES

**Lindsay Fulton**  
Vice President for Research and Library Services

### WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER

**Rachel C. King**  
Executive Director of the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

# Officers 2023–2024



## David Martin Trebing **Chair**

Director of External Affairs for the global commercial vehicle maker Daimler Truck, having previously served in a variety of executive positions at Chrysler Corporation, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, and Daimler AG for more than 35 years. Mr. Trebing was the 37th Governor General of the General Society of Colonial Wars, serving from 2016 to 2019. He is also a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, the St. Nicholas Society in the City of New York, La Société des Filles du roi et soldats du Carignan, and other organizations. In addition, he is a member of the Church Club of New York, and the Pilgrims of the United States, and is a Commander in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Michigan and serves on the advisory board of Enslaved.org. Previous nonprofit board positions include the Michigan State University Development Fund, the Detroit Historical Society, the Cultural Development Corporation, and the Meadow Brook Theater and Festival. He is a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. Education: Wake Forest and Michigan State Universities. NEHGS: member since 2016; member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving; Benefactor Member.



## M. David Sherrill **Vice Chair**

Managing Director, Senior Portfolio Management Director, Private Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley; President, William Ellis Robinson Foundation; former Governor, Society of Colonial Wars (NY); former Treasurer, New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; member, Society of the Cincinnati; former Board member and Treasurer of the NYGB. Author, *The American Ancestry of Edward Mason Knight*, *The American Ancestry of Julia Hutchinson*, *The American Ancestry of Helen Christina Smith*, *The Ancestry of Mary Alice Hoyt*, *From Hoyt to Hoyt*, and *Dice, Cubes & Gentlemen: The History of Backgammon at the Union Club and Elsewhere*. Education: B.S. in Mathematics, University of California, Berkeley; CFA, CMT. Spouse: Mary Alice Sherrill. NEHGS: member since 1999; current Vice Chair, past Trustee, Councilor, Treasurer, and Chair, Finance Committee; past member, Executive, Investment, Audit, and Nominating Committees; member, Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving; Life Benefactor.



## Bonnie A. Reilly **Second Vice Chair**

Current board member and member of Collections Council and Governance Committee, Eiteljorg Museum; current board member, Jordan YMCA; past President and currently an interviewer for Harvard Club of Indiana; past President and honorary board member, Indianapolis Opera; past Trustee, Indianapolis Museum of Art and Indiana Historical Society; past President and Registrar, the National Society of Colonial Dames of Indiana; past board member, Dumbarton House; past Regent, Gunston Hall; past Regent, Cornelia Cole Fairbanks DAR; member of several other lineage societies. Education: A.B., Radcliffe College. Spouse: Thomas Reilly. NEHGS: member since 1977; past Trustee and Councilor; past Chair and member, Development Committee; past member, Nominating Committee; member, Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving; Life Member.





### John E. Corcoran Treasurer

Founder and past CEO of Trinity Life Sciences, a global life sciences advisory firm. Previously, founder and board member of Shyft Analytics, a provider of cloud-based analytics solutions for the pharmaceutical industry. John is the founder and chairman of Odyl, LLC, a technology platform developing AI-based solutions for the publishing industry focused on book discovery. John's board memberships include Catholic Leadership Institute, Concussion Legacy Foundation, iCatholic Media (chair), Lumen Verum Academy (chair), Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, and Saint John's Seminary. John received an AB from Harvard College, an MA from Northeastern University, and a master's degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. John is married to Julie (Schneider) Corcoran. NEHGS: member since 1995; Individual Member; and member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving.



### Nancy S. Maulsby Secretary

Development Unlimited, Inc., a provider of management services for not for profits. Member of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which supports the international humanitarian efforts of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. Has served on several boards of not for profits and educational organizations, including the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, The Buckley School, Grosvenor Neighborhood House, Metropolitan Opera Guild, and Hartwick College. Served as Co-Chair, Leadership Gifts Committee, and on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, vestry, and as Junior and Senior Warden, Christ Church Greenwich. Presently working on a genealogy of the Fish and Hollister families. Education: Greens Farms Academy; Miss Porter's School; Briarcliff College; Dickinson College. NEHGS: member since 2002; Chairman 2017–2021; Vice Chairman 2013–2017; past Trustee and Councilor; Chair, Executive and Development Committees; Co-Chair, Future Expansion Committee; member, Human Resources and Garden Advisory Committees; past member, Strategic Planning Committee; past Co-Chair, Capital Campaign; participant in numerous NEHGS heritage tours; member, Founders' Society for Lifetime Giving and Cornerstone Society for Giving; Life Member.



### Mark Kimball Nichols Corresponding Secretary

Managing Director and Principal of Global Capital Advisors, LLC. He was previously Managing Director, Debt Capital Markets, at Bank of America Securities. Mark is a Proprietor and Life Member of the Boston Athenæum and sits on their budget committee. He also serves on the Governing Board of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable; is Chair of its Investment Committee, Co-Chair of its Capital Campaign, and serves on its Finance Committee. Mark is a life member of the Bostonian Society and has served as a Council Member of Mount Auburn Cemetery. He served for over 25 years as a Member of the Board of Advisors of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and is currently Emeritus Member of its Board. Mark has a BA from Dickinson College and an MA and MALD degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Mark is a member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. NEHGS: member since 2008; past Councilor; member of the Investment Committee; member, Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving; Life Member.

# Council of the Corporation 2023–2024

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Mark Kimball Nichols  
**Corresponding Secretary**

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Kathryn Hicks Porter  
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Alvy Ray Smith  
Lynn Trowbridge  
Justin L. Wyner





## In the News

### Seen on TV: A Visit with Samantha Brown

Our Vice President of Research and Library Services Lindsay Fulton was featured on an episode of the PBS travel show *Samantha Brown's Places to Love*. Lindsay talked with the show's host about her family history and demonstrated why the American Ancestors Research Center is a great place to visit. The show aired on local PBS stations across the country.



## In Popular Media

### Extreme Genes Radio

Hosted by Scott Fisher, *Extreme Genes Radio* is the most popular podcast about family history research across the nation. Our own Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert is a regular guest on the podcast. Other experts featured this year included: Senior Genealogist Christopher Child, discussing royal ancestry research in the wake of the death of Queen Elizabeth II; Manager of Research and Library Services Sarah Dery, who discussed her research into the background of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson; author and retired broadcaster Bill Griffith, discussing his new memoir, *Strangers No More*, which was published by NEHGS in 2022; and Researcher Jonathan Hill, who was interviewed about his Civil War documentary film *The Compact*.

### In the News:

#### The Ancestry of Ketanji Brown Jackson

On April 7, 2022, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed as the 116th justice of the Supreme Court and became the first Black woman to serve on the court. In honor of this historic event, our experts researched Ketanji Brown Jackson and Patrick Graves Jackson's family origins. The research was featured in the *Boston Globe*, and Justice Jackson paid a personal visit to the American Ancestors Research Center to meet with the researchers whose work extended her family history back several generations.

### The Today Show:

#### 55 Best Thanksgiving Trivia Questions

American Ancestors/NEHGS was featured on the *Today* show website in a list of trivia questions about Thanksgiving and the passengers of the *Mayflower*. The list cited research by NEHGS experts about famous descendants of *Mayflower* passengers.

Top: Lindsay Fulton and Samantha Brown. Photo by Tom Bloxham. Bottom, left to right: Senior Genealogist Christopher Child, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, Manager of Research and Library Services Sarah Dery, and Vice President for Research and Library Services Lindsay Fulton, at the American Ancestors/NEHGS Research Center, August 11, 2022.

# Research Projects

Research Services had its best fiscal year performance, both in revenue and securing large projects in fiscal year 2022. These substantial research projects produce revenue, and they allow space to create, maintain, and nurture relationships with influential organizations in the historical and genealogical sphere. This year we were honored to make short- and long-term agreements with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution, Colonial Dames of America, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, and many, *many* more!

## Boston Tea Party Descendants Program

Our expert staff, relying on their years of experience managing, advising, and applying to lineage societies, created the framework for the Boston Tea Party Descendants Program. We successfully developed and designed an application and an application manual, which includes instructions and approved sources, along with categories of approved ancestors:

Descendants with a documented lineage to an individual in one or more of the following groups may qualify:

- Boston Tea Party participants
- The Loyal Nine
- Boston Sons of Liberty
- North End Caucus
- The Lodge of Saint Andrew
- Volunteers to “watch” the ships
- Signers of November 1773 petitions to town selectman
- Inhabitants of Boston in 1773
- Eyewitnesses to history (this will cover the “family lore” element)

The creation and development process of this Lineage Society will be finished in 2023.

Additionally, our staff is conducting genealogical and historical research on the 178+ men identified by the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum who actively participated in the events of December 16, 1773. The research includes vital information, as well as the identity of each spouse and child, when applicable.

Our goal is to help to corroborate the person’s participation in the Boston Tea Party or their affiliation with associated groups. The finished genealogical information will be available on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org), as well as the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum website. The 178+ genealogical and biographical sketches will be complete by the 250<sup>th</sup> commemoration in December 2023.





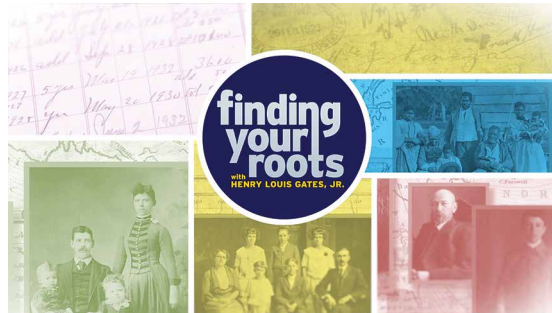
## Richard Nichols *Register* Article

For years, genealogists have been researching the English origins of Richard Nichols of Ipswich and Reading, Massachusetts to no avail. However, the Nichols family has never given up hope, especially since we have good evidence Richard Nichols may have been from the parish or the parishes surrounding Highworth in Wiltshire, England, as his “cousin” Robert Kinsman was baptized there on 13 April 1589. With generous funding, NEHGS and UK genealogists now have the ability to perform a comprehensive search of all extant records in the Highworth area. This anticipated research will be completed in August 2023 and consist of a *Register*-style report with genealogical material, narrative biographies, and maps pertinent to the English origins of Richard Nichols. We will also include a detailed bibliography with all necessary citations and references. Little scholarship exists about Richard Nichols prior to his landing in the colonies; therefore, research to determine his origins will be groundbreaking scholarship and useful to historians and genealogists around the world.

## Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution

Our Research and Library Services team is collaborating with the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution to properly organize, scan, and create a simple, searchable database for their 6,500+ historic member applications. The finished database will be available to their current staff and members, and not to the public. We have been busily scanning applications since September 2022 and anticipate the database will be completed in the summer of 2023.

This work will streamline the organization’s administrative work and provide quick and meaningful access to historic and current member applications.



## Continuing our Work with *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

In 2022, Research Services continued its work with the popular PBS program *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. for its eighth season. Our building provided filming locations for the show, including our historic rotunda where the show’s introduction is filmed. All research on the show is vetted by our expert researchers, a process that can take hundreds of hours per season. The season featured exciting new guests with family histories that illustrated the power and diversity of the human experience. Among them were actors Mario Lopez, Regina King, John Leguizamo, Tony Danza, and Rebecca Hall; actor and comedian Terry Crews; acclaimed musician Leslie Odom, Jr.; fashion editor and icon André Leon Talley; Broadway legend Nathan Lane; renowned journalist Erin Burnett; activist Brittany Packnett Cunningham; and lawyer and activist Anita Hill.

Opposite: “Americans Throwing the Cargoes of the Teaships into the River, at Boston,” in W. D. Cooper, *The History of North America*, 1789. Library of Congress, [loc.gov/item/2002718863](https://loc.gov/item/2002718863).

# Website and New Databases

This year, the database team added nearly four million new searchable names to AmericanAncestors.org. We added six new databases, completed three ongoing database projects, and updated or re-did six databases and nine journals.

We were especially thrilled to complete Phase 2 (sacramental records 1901–1920) of the Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Records database, which now includes 4,323,950 records. Begun in 2017, this project is a collaboration with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston to digitize millions of sacramental records from over 100 parishes across Eastern Massachusetts.

## New Databases

**General Society of the War of 1812 Membership Applications, 1840-1979** This database was created through a partnership between the General Society of the War of 1812 and American Ancestors. It includes all applications and supplemental applications to the General Society of the War of 1812 starting from their founding in 1854.

**The Genealogist** The American Society of Genealogists, founded in 1940, is an independent honorary society of published scholars in the field of American genealogy, and publisher of *The Genealogist*, one of the leading American journals of scholarly genealogy. In agreement with the American Society of Genealogists, AmericanAncestors.org now hosts Volumes 1-30 of *The Genealogist* backlog issues.

**Cambridge, MA: Wyeth Funeral Service Records, 1904-1964** This database contains all account records from the Wyeth Funeral Service between 1904 and 1964. The complete database contains more than 17,400 records and 45,000 names.

**Canadian Headstones: Cemetery Heritage Records of Canada** Canadian Headstones is a volunteer-operated Canadian non-profit dedicated to the digital preservation of Canada's cemetery heritage. We are working together to create an index-only database that links back to the Canadian Headstones website for each record, which includes headstone images, transcriptions, and full citations.

**McRaes to America!!** This database presents Cornelia Wendell Bush's ebook *MacRaes to America!! A Brief History of the Clan MacRae, With Records of MacRae, Ray, MacRath, McGrath & Related Families*, which traces this surname through the United States censuses. This database contains over 9,500 entries pertaining to MacRae families across the United States.

**Descendants of Nathaniel Woodward, 1630-1900** This database includes vital and residence records from *Some Descendants of Nathaniel Woodward who came from England to Boston about 1630* by Harold Edward Woodward. The records range from 1614 to 1984, with the bulk of the records being between 1630 and 1900.

## Top 10 Databases of 2022

1. New England Historic and Genealogical Register
2. Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920
3. General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920
4. Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700-1880
5. The Mayflower Descendant
6. Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850
7. Early New England Families, 1641-1700
8. The American Genealogist
9. Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910
10. The Virginia Genealogist



## Database additions and updates

The following databases were updated in fiscal year 2022, with a total of more than four million names added.

### New Databases

Cambridge, MA: Wyeth Funeral Service  
Records, 1904-1964  
Canadian Headstones: Cemetery Heritage  
Records of Canada  
Descendants of Nathaniel Woodward,  
1630-1900  
Genealogist, The  
General Society of the War of 1812  
Membership Applications, 1840-1979  
McRaes to America!!

### New Volumes

American Ancestors Magazine  
American Genealogist, The

Connecticut Nutmegger  
Essex Genealogist, The  
Maine Genealogist, The  
Mayflower Descendant  
New England Historical and Genealogical  
Register  
Rhode Island Roots  
Vermont Genealogy

### Updated Databases

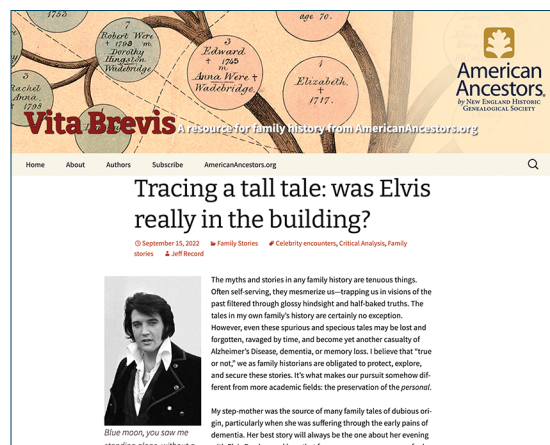
Christian Intelligencer: Marriages (Reformed  
Dutch Church), 1830-1971  
Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784  
Early New England Families, 1641-1700

Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese  
of Boston Records, 1789-1920  
Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920  
Massachusetts: Catholic Cemetery Association  
Records, 1833-1940  
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850  
Norfolk, MA: Probate File Papers, 1793-1900  
Suffolk County, MA: Probate File Papers  
Westfield, Massachusetts: Baptisms  
Performed at the Church of Christ,  
1679-1836

## Vita Brevis

*Vita Brevis* turned nine years old in 2022 and hit a milestone of over three million page views since its inception in January 2014. In addition, the blog hit another milestone of most individual page views in a single month, grossing over 48,000 views during September.

This year we said goodbye to founding editor Scott C. Steward, whose perspective and leadership were essential in building the *Vita Brevis* archives into a treasure trove of stories, research tips, and insights into the practice of family history research. Scott was Editor in Chief at American Ancestors/NEHGS from 2013 to 2022, and he is the author of several published genealogies, scholarly articles, and many, many *Vita Brevis* blog posts.



## Top 10 Most Popular Posts of 2022

**Tracing a tall tale: was Elvis really in the building?**  
by Jeff Record

**A Genealogical surprise in "store" in Newburyport, Massachusetts** by David Allen Lambert

**The Public Universal Friend** by David Fredette

**Saving Grace** by Jeff Record

**Mr. John Griffin and the Boston Common Treasure**  
by Jonathan Hill

**Things that scream DNA!** by Christopher C. Child

**Searching the 1950 census** by Danielle Cournoyer

**Bewitched** by David Allen Lambert

**The True Story of Young Willie McBride**  
by Rhonda McClure

**Jeffrey Dahmer and Other Infamous Mayflower Descendants** by Christopher C. Child

# New Publications



In addition to four issues of *American Ancestors* magazine, four issues of the *Register*, and two issues of *Mayflower Descendant*, NEHGS published six new titles during fiscal year 2022.

## 2022 NEHGS Books

### **Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 6th Edition**

edited by Rhonda R. McClure

### **Strangers No More: A Memoir** sequel to **The Stranger in My Genes** by Bill Griffeth

**Ancestry of Mary Beth Norton** by Susan Donnelly

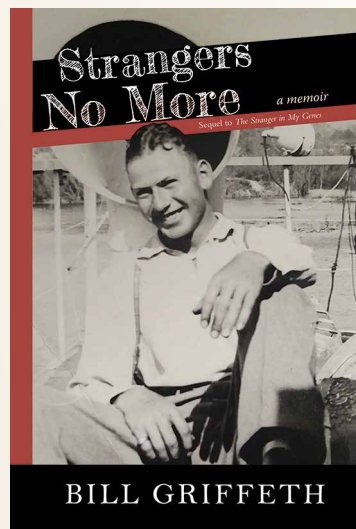
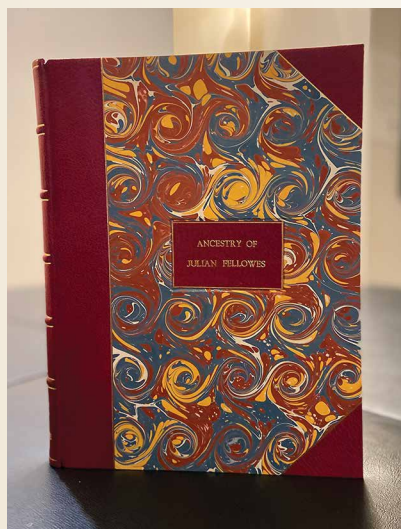
(NEHGS Lifetime Achievement honoree)

**Ancestry of Charles Baker** by Christopher Challender Child

(NEHGS Lifetime Achievement honoree)

**Ancestry of Julian Fellowes** by Scott C. Steward with James A. Heffernan

(NEHGS Lifetime Achievement honoree)



## 2022 Newbury Street Press Publication

### **Four Families of St. Mary's County: Butler, Gough, Shubrooks, Lee**

by David Watson Kruger

**From the foreword:** "Astonishingly superb . . . A triumph! . . . I wish to thank [Mr. Kruger] for his significant contribution to . . . chang[ing] the expectations imposed on Frederick Douglass and many millions more that they would never be able to know their origin stories. In defying these expectations, David has given us a great gift: hope."

—Henry Louis Gates, Jr.,

Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University

## Newbury Street Press Projects Undertaken in 2022

### **Ancestry of**

**Jane Douglas Kivlin**

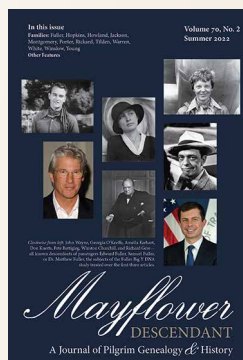
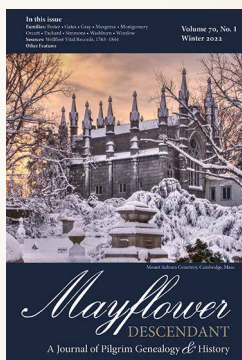
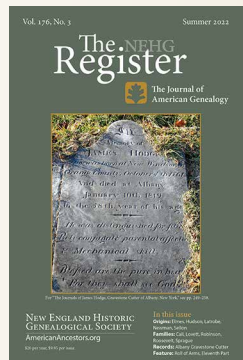
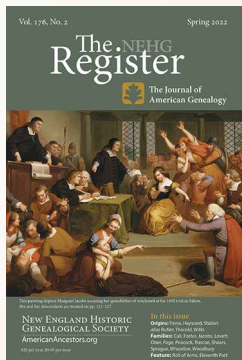
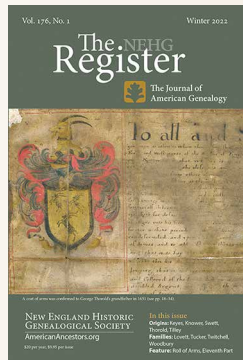
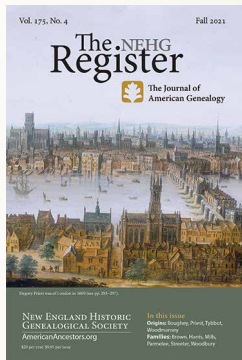
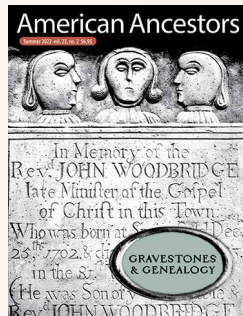
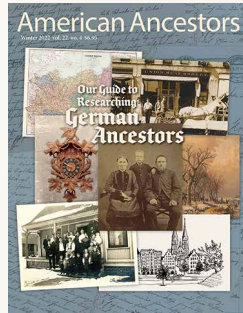
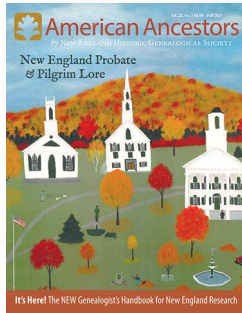
### **The Ancestry of**

**Irene (Hixon) Whitney**

### **The Ancestry of**

**Wheelock Whitney Jr.**





# Periodicals

## American Ancestors Magazine

The four issues of *American Ancestors* magazine (fall 2021 through summer 2022) published in this fiscal year presented a number of noteworthy features, including a look at the Pilgrim story in popular culture; an interview with Matt Paxton of PBS's *Legacy List with Matt Paxton*; a focus on German immigration and research; an exploration of an exhibit on mental health histories at the Connecticut Historical Society; an article on the meanings behind gravestone epitaphs; and new findings about the lives of African-born poet Phillis Wheatley Peters and her husband, John Peters. Columns on New York, genetics, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, and our manuscripts and collections highlighted new research, case studies, and art and artifacts.

## The Register

In Vol. 176, Nos. 1-3, we published *A Roll of Arms Registered by The Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society: Eleventh Part*, which included an introduction by Nathaniel Lane Taylor, seventy-two entries (nos. 742-813) that were registered between 1983 and 1998, and Additions and Corrections for the Eleventh Part and earlier.

## Mayflower Descendant

Our seventh year of publishing *Mayflower Descendant* included an examination of the wives of one Thomas Foster of Plymouth, whose first wife was an Edward Fuller and John Howland descendant, and whose second wife was a Stephen Hopkins and Francis Cooke descendant; an intriguing Big Y DNA study on the *Mayflower* Fuller family and the origin of Dr. Matthew Fuller; a multi-generational treatment of Howland-Tilley descendants in North Carolina, including William Sydney Porter (known as the writer O. Henry); and the several Howland-Tilley descents of the ancestry of Dr. Patrick Graves Jackson, husband of Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

# THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

This past fiscal year represents a resounding success for the Education and Programming Team—one that was accomplished primarily through online programming, with little overhead, and by a small but dedicated team. We produced **225 programs**—many programs representing multiple days, multiple presentations, and multiple hours' worth of content, and engaged **43,709 LIVE attendees**. Below is a listing of our online education programs.

For a full picture of our offerings, review the sections on Heritage Tours, Youth Education, and Special Events in this report.

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar with *Still Mad: American Women Writers and Feminist Imagination*, September 2, 2021

## WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE

**CENTER VIRTUAL EVENT** Lucy Adlington with *The Dressmakers of Auschwitz*, September 14, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Building Your Genealogical Skills, three weeks starting September 14, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Using Probate Records in Family History Research, three weeks starting September 15, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** Researching New England Planters, September 16, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Choosing a Genealogical Software Program, September 18, 2021

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Nathaniel Philbrick with *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy*, September 23, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Raising the Dead, September 30, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Researching Upstate New York, Four weeks starting October 6, 2021

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Armando Lucas Correa with *In Search of Emma: How We Created Our Family*, October 12, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Finding the Living, October 13, 2021

**CONFERENCE** Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Conference, October 13–16, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org, October 14, 2021

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Mae Ngai with *The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics*, October 19, 2021

**RESEARCH TOUR** Fall Research Getaway, October 21–23, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** At Home in the World: American Jewish Women Abroad, 1865–1940, October 26, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Raising the Dead, October 26, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** Basics of New England Research, October 28, 2021

**FAMILY HISTORY BENEFIT** Honoring Mary Beth Norton, October 28, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** The Yiddish of Yankeeland: The Jews of Boston and America, 1840–1924, Four weeks starting November 2, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Heraldry for Genealogists, three weeks starting November 3, 2021

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Anne Willan with *Women in the Kitchen*, November 4, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Tips for Interviewing Relatives, November 6, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Using Occupations to Trace Ancestors, November 6, 2021

**RESEARCH TOUR** Salt Lake City, UT, November 7–13, 2021

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Robert A. Gross with *The Transcendentalists and Their World*, November 9, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Discussing Adoption: Driving Positive Outcomes in the Search for Knowledge, Past and Present, November 15, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Writing and Publishing Your Family History, November 16, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** Understanding Place, November 18, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** Navigating the New AmericanAncestors.org, November 19, 2021

**SEMINAR** Using Land Records in Your Family History Research, November 20, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Getting Started in Genealogy, December 1, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Researching Civil War Ancestors, Three weeks starting December 1, 2021

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Julie Flavell with *The Howe Dynasty: The Untold Story of a Military Family and the Women Behind Britain's Wars for America*, December 2, 2021

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Writing History with H. W. Brands, December 7, 2021

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Stories from the Archives: Civil War Manuscripts, December 9, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** Finding Royal Connections in Your Family Tree, December 16, 2021

**ONLINE LECTURE** Behind the Scenes at the American Ancestors Conservation Lab, December 17, 2021

**CONFERENCE** Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 19–21, 2021

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Connecticut Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy, four weeks starting January 5, 2022

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Brian Matthew Jordan with *A Thousand May Fall: An Immigrant Regiment's Civil War*, January 11, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Building Your Genealogical Skills, three weeks starting January 11, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** How to Progress from Inherited Research, January 13, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Using Microsoft Word to Write Your Family History, January 15, 2022

## AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL

**AUTHOR EVENT** Debby Applegate with *Madam: The Biography of Polly Adler, Icon of the Jazz Age*, January 19, 2022



**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Getting Started in Genealogy, January 20, 2022

**WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER VIRTUAL EVENT** Charles Gallagher with *Nazis of Copley Square: The Forgotten Story of the Christian Front*, January 20, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Virtual Preservation Roadshow, January 22, 2022

**FAMILY HISTORY BENEFIT** Honoring David M. Rubenstein, January 27, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Getting Started in Genealogy, February 1, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Researching Female Ancestors, four weeks starting February 2, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Raising the Dead, February 7, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Wanted! Researching Criminal Ancestors, February 10, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Nick Davis with *Competing with Idiots: Herman and Joe Mankiewicz, a Dual Portrait*, February 10, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Using DNA in *Mayflower* Research, February 10, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Generations with Helina Metaferia, February 11, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Researching African American Ancestry in New England, February 17, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Winter Research Stay at Home, February 24–26, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Linda Hirshman with *The Color of Abolition: How a Printer, a Prophet, and a Contessa Moved a Nation*, February 28, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy, Four weeks starting March 2, 2022

**CONFERENCE** RootsTech Connect, March 3–5, 2022

**SEMINAR** Boston's Revolutionary Martyrs, March 5, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Matt Paxton with *Keep the Memories, Lost the Stuff*, March 8, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Understanding Irish Land Divisions, March 10, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Getting Started in Irish Genealogy, March 10, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Resources at AmericanAncestors.org, March 11, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Read All About it! Using Newspapers in Family History Research, March 15, 2022

**WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER EVENT** An American Meeting: The Irish and Jews in the Nation's Urban Caldron, March 17, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Finding Irish Origins, March 19, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Top Published Resources for Virginia Research, March 24, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Jack E. Davis with *The Bald Eagle: The Improbable Journey of America's Bird*, March 24, 2022

**SEMINAR** Using Estate Records in Irish Family History Research, March 25, 2022

**SEMINAR** Denver Roadshow, March 26, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Notorious Relatives, Researching People and Family Stories Outside the Law, March 28, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Researching Scottish Ancestors, five weeks starting March 30, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** The Great Migration to New England, April 2, 2022

**CONFERENCE** Massachusetts Genealogical Council Seminar, April 2–30, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Maud Newton with *Ancestor Trouble: A Reckoning and a Reconciliation*, April 4, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Building Your Genealogical Skills, three weeks starting April 5, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org, April 7, 2022

**SEMINAR** The Love of Scotland: Artistic Fascination with Scotland's Landscape, April 10, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Carole Emberton with *To Walk About in Freedom: The Long Emancipation of Priscilla Joyner*, April 11, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Discover the 1950 US Federal Census, April 14, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Using External Databases on AmericanAncestors.org, April 15, 2022

**FAMILY HISTORY BENEFIT** honoring Governor Charlie Baker, April 21, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Anne Hyde with *Born of Lakes and Plains: Mixed-Descent People and the Making of the American West*, April 26, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** Getting Started in Genealogy, April 27, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Gilded Tables: The Art of Food and Dining in Edith Wharton's New York, April 29, 2022

**CONFERENCE** Salem Ancestry Days, April 29–May 5, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** About American Ancestors, May 3, 2022

**PRIVATE SEMINAR** What Time is it on Your Genealogical Clock?, May 3, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Researching Loyalist Ancestors, three weeks starting May 4, 2022

**RESEARCH TOUR** Genealogical Skills Bootcamp, May 5–7, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Dennis Duncan with *Index, A History of the: A Bookish Adventure from Medieval Manuscripts to the Digital Age*, May 10, 2022

**PRIVATE SEMINAR** Using the HIAS Boston Collection, May 12, 2022

**RESEARCH TOUR** Day Trip to the Phillips Library, May 13, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** William R. Cross with *Winslow Homer: American Passage*, May 16, 2022

**WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HISTORY CENTER EVENT** Imagining the Jewish Past: Three Authors Discuss Jewish History and Literary Inspiration, May 19, 2022

**CONFERENCE** National Genealogical Society Conference, May 25–28, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** New England Town Records, May 26, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Getting the Most from the US Federal Census, five weeks starting June 1, 2022

**RESEARCH TOUR** Day Trip to the Massachusetts Archives, June 3, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Ann Leary with *The Foundling: A Novel*, June 7, 2022

**RESEARCH TOUR** Spring Research Getaway, June 9–11, 2022

**WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER EVENT** Lakes, Lanyards, and Learning: The Story of New England Jewish Summer Camps, June 12, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Honoring Elizabeth Shown Mills with the Coddington Award of Merit, June 13, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Researching Enslaved Ancestors, June 16, 2022





## AMERICAN INSPIRATION

A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR SERIES  
BY AMERICAN ANCESTORS®

In our anchor literary series produced by Margaret M. Talcott, we hosted 28 events in 2022. Featured authors and guest moderators provided insight on a variety of topics related to our country's history and its diverse people. Their hour-long broadcast presentations were enjoyed by an average of 450 people. In addition to free book talks, we offered for-fee sessions spotlighting authors.

"This was an excellent program: enticing topic, erudite speaker, insightful interviewer, interesting sponsors—very impressive!"

Two "Writing History" programs, geared to those interested in writing, featured authors Nathaniel Philbrick (*Travels with George*) and H. W. Brands (*Our First Civil War*). We presented Matt Paxton (*Keep the Memories, Lose the Stuff*), Bill Griffith (*Strangers No More*); and Camper English (*Doctors and Distillers*) in similar bundled-book events.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the depth and breadth of the conversation. ..."

Two educational "Conversation Series" courses featured American Inspiration authors alongside experts in genealogy, research, and advocacy: "Discussing Adoption" spotlighted author Gabrielle Glaser; and "Notorious Relatives," Russell Shorto.

### Production, partners, and popularity

Since the launch of the American Inspiration series in 2019, the series has attracted more than 30,000 "live" participants and 65,000 post-event viewers. In this year of emergence from the pandemic, some events were held in a hybrid format, shared with audiences both in-person and online. Many more were produced by our Education and Programming team; others were hosted by our partners at GBH Forum Network. The Boston Public Library and State Library of Massachusetts partnered consistently on events related to regional and civil rights history and Porter Square Books (Cambridge, MA) provided books for all.

"It is such a treat to be able to learn so many diverse areas of our history from such knowledgeable people. ... Fascinating."

**ONLINE LECTURE** New Hampshire Resources at AmericanAncestors.org, June 17, 2022

**WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER EVENT** Deli/ghtful Bites: The Jewish Deli Experience, June 17, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Annette Gordon-Reed with *On Juneteenth*, June 20, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** The Anniversary of the Four Courts Fire, Dublin, June 23, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** French Canadian Research, Four weeks starting July 6, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Women in the Gilded Age: Two Authors' Insights, July 7, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Researching War of 1812 Veterans, July 7, 2022

**SEMINAR** Chicago Roadshow, July 9, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Bill Griffith with *Strangers No More: A Sequel to The Stranger in My Genes*, July 14, 2022

**RESEARCH TOUR** Day Trip to the New Hampshire Historical Society, July 22, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Digitizing Your Family History, July 23, 2022

**FAMILY HISTORY BENEFIT** Honoring Julian Fellowes, July 28, 2022

**PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE** GSNOC Virtual Seminar, July 30, 2022

**ONLINE SEMINAR** Tracing American Ancestors on the Move, four weeks starting August 3, 2022

**RESEARCH TOUR** Come Home to New England, August 9–13, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Stories from the Archives: Family Registers, August 11, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Camper English with *Doctors and Distillers: The Remarkable Medicinal History of Beer, Wine, Spirits, and Cocktails*, August 22, 2022

**ONLINE LECTURE** Reading the Gravestones of Early New England, August 25, 2022

**PRIVATE SEMINAR** Getting Started in Genealogy, August 25, 2022

**AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT** Dan Bouk with *Democracy's Data: The Hidden Stories in the U.S. Census and How to Read Them*, August 30, 2022

## THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

### Youth Education

#### Family History Curriculum Now Available on [AmericanAncestors.org](https://AmericanAncestors.org)

Our national Family History Curriculum was successfully launched in time for the 2022/2023 school year after nearly three years of research and rigorous development. It is a first-of-its-kind curriculum, with ambitious goals to make genealogy accessible to all students and to inspire the next generation of family historians.

In the first six months, the curriculum materials have been downloaded and accessed nearly 450 times by 106 public schools and 38 private schools around the nation, and numerous libraries, genealogy societies, home school educators, and NEHGS members. According to a survey on our website, the curriculum has been accessed by 122 informal educators, 114 home school educators, 78 classroom teachers, 32 curriculum specialists, and 27 professional development providers.

The entire curriculum—each lesson plan, student worksheet, and case study—is available for free on our website. Implementation requires minimal supplies and technology, and educators of all kinds can present the content in ways that work best for their students. The program fosters the development of critical research and thinking skills and addresses common misconceptions that students have about genealogy.

In addition to the curriculum, we are offering free professional development for K-12 educators. Educators can register for a one-on-one or department teacher training with our Youth Genealogy Curriculum Coordinator to brainstorm a personalized plan to incorporate the curriculum in their unique learning environment. Ten educators from Canada, Massachusetts, Maine, Iowa, Utah, and North Carolina have received training, as have educators from the Rufus Porter Museum in Bridgton, Maine.



We also launched our new American Ancestors Young Family Historians Essay Contest. In the past, we hosted an essay contest that was open only to Massachusetts students—now our essay contest is open to students across the nation. Students in grades 4-12 enrolled in public, private, parochial, and home schools are invited to participate. We plan to have an essay contest each year and to encourage teachers to use it as a class project with our new Family History Curriculum. The submission deadline for the contest is in April, with winners announced in June.

We are working hard to promote the curriculum and essay contest to optimize their national scope, impact, and visibility, and in the coming months, we plan to measure the impact of the curriculum on student learning and gather testimonials from educators who have adopted it.

Please visit [AmericanAncestors.org/youth-education](https://AmericanAncestors.org/youth-education) to access the Family History Curriculum.



## Heritage Tours

American Ancestors Heritage Tours provide our constituents and their friends and families exclusive opportunities to explore areas of the world rich in history and culture. Led by our experts as well as other specialists along the way, each tour explores the art, architecture, history, and landscape of our forebearers.

### In-Person American Ancestors Heritage Tours

In 2022, NEHGS operated its first international and domestic Heritage Tours since COVID and continued to expand the day trip and walking tour offerings introduced in 2021. From Italy and England to close-to-home destinations of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania, members and friends of American Ancestors had an opportunity to discover great treasures of art and architecture and important cultural and historical destinations.

Led by American Ancestors Curator of Fine Art Curt DiCamillo, Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, and other renowned experts, tour participants experienced the magnificent collections and sumptuous villas and gardens of Rome; traveled on an odyssey to 21st-century Philadelphia (the Athens of America and birthplace of American independence); enjoyed lively and informative tours in Boston, Worcester, and Providence; explored the towns and cities in England and New England that nurtured and challenged some of our nation's most notable Pilgrims; discovered the breathtaking landscapes of Norfolk; celebrated the Christmas holiday season in Shropshire with settings that inspired Charles Dickens; and much more.

**September 9, 2021** Walking Tour of Boston: Boston's Oldest Buildings and Where to Find Them with Curt DiCamillo and Joeseeph Bagley

**September 25, 2021** Day trip to Eustis Estate with Nancy Carlisle and Curt DiCamillo

**October 29, 2021** Walking Tour to Granary Burial Ground with David Allen Lambert

**March 13, 2022** Day Trip to Worcester Art Museum with Curt DiCamillo

**March 22–27, 2022** Heritage Tour: Villas and Gardens of Rome with Curt DiCamillo

**April 10, 2022** Lecture: The Love of Scotland: Artistic Fascination with Scotland's Landscape with Phil Long

**April 23, 2022** Walking Tour of Boston's Back Bay with Curt DiCamillo

**April 12–17, 2022** Heritage Tour: Hidden Philadelphia with Curt DiCamillo

**June 15–19, 2022** Heritage Tour: New England Sojourn with Robert Charles Anderson

**September 11–17, 2022** Heritage Tour: A Slice of Heaven: Country Houses of Norfolk with Curt DiCamillo

**September 24, 2022** Walking Tour of Boston's Back Bay with Curt DiCamillo

**October 2–8, 2022** Heritage Tour: A Slice of Heaven: Country Houses of Norfolk with Curt DiCamillo

**October 29, 2022** Walking Tour of Providence with Curt DiCamillo

**November 29–December 4, 2022** Heritage Tour: An English Country Christmas with Curt DiCamillo

**December 7–12, 2022** Heritage Tour: An English Country Christmas with Curt DiCamillo



## Online American Ancestors Heritage Tours: Expanding horizons without leaving home

Online offerings including monthly webinars, online courses, and other special virtual events continued to reach enthusiastic audiences worldwide in 2022.

Curt DiCamillo transported members and friends to Scotland with an illustration-rich webinar on Brodick Castle in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, and to the luscious Borders in a part travelogue, part virtual tour—with highlights of some of the places visited by an American Ancestors group in 2015. He also presented two image-rich three-week courses with the first on classical architecture in Europe and America and the second on the art, architecture, and collections of British country houses.

Guest lecturers and prominent scholars continued to bring fascinating anecdotes, inspiring stories, and unusual tales into the homes of members on such varied topics as private and institutional collecting of rare books; pioneering Italian art collectors and their prized possessions in the Renaissance; Julia Morgan, the first renowned female architect in history; the works in the remarkable 5,000-year collection at the Worcester Art Museum; and more.

These live broadcasts—many free and available to the general public—attract more than 5,500 registrants and, once recorded, add to our expanding library of enriching educational videos.



"I can no longer travel due to a disability — these talks are the closest thing to travel for me, and much appreciated."

**September 17, 2021** Great Houses and Gardens of Ireland with Curt DiCamillo

**October 7, 2021** This Must Be the Place: Preservation and Resilient Communities in New England with Vin Cipolla

**November 5, 2021** The Impact of the China Trade on New England Architecture with Thomas Michie

**November 11, 2021** Facing Our Past: Addressing the Legacies of Slavery and Empire at National Trust for Scotland Properties with Jennifer Melville and Hannah Lee

**December 10, 2021** Virtual Tour of Lobkowitz Palace with William Lobkowitz

**January 7, 2022** The Thrill of the Hunt: Collecting and Appraising Rare Books with Kenneth Gloss

**January 20, 2022** Virtual DiCamillo Rendezvous

**February 8, 15, and 22, 2022** Classical Architecture in Europe and America with Curt DiCamillo

**March 18, 2022** The Building of Castle Howard with Christopher Ridgway

**April 1, 2022** Scotland Sublime: Great Houses and Gardens of the Scottish Borders with Curt DiCamillo

**April 29, 2022** Gilded Tables: The Art of Food and Dining in Edith Wharton's New York with Carl Raymond

**May 24 and 31, 2022** Gardens and Landscapes of Castle Howard: Past, Present, and Future with Christopher Ridgway

**June 3, 2022** Julia Morgan: Trailblazing Architect with Victoria Kastner

**July 8, 2022** Early Art Collecting in Renaissance Venice with Frederick Ilchman

**August 19, 2022** Around the World in a Handful of Objects with Matthias Waschek

**October 21, 2022** Magnificence, Marriage, and Murder: The Story of Scotland's Brodick Castle with Curt DiCamillo

**November 8, 15, and 22** An Explosion of Beauty, Part I with Curt DiCamillo

# 2023 American Ancestors Heritage Tours



*March 26-31* **SOLD OUT**  
The Art & Architecture of Bermuda



*May 18-24 and June 1-6*  
Country Houses of the Scottish Borders



*September 6-13*  
Vienna & Salzburg: Palaces, Villas & Gardens



*December 4-10*  
Christmas in Berlin

For more information on Heritage Tours, please contact us at [heritagetours@nehgs.org](mailto:heritagetours@nehgs.org) or 617-226-1267.



# The Committee on Heraldry

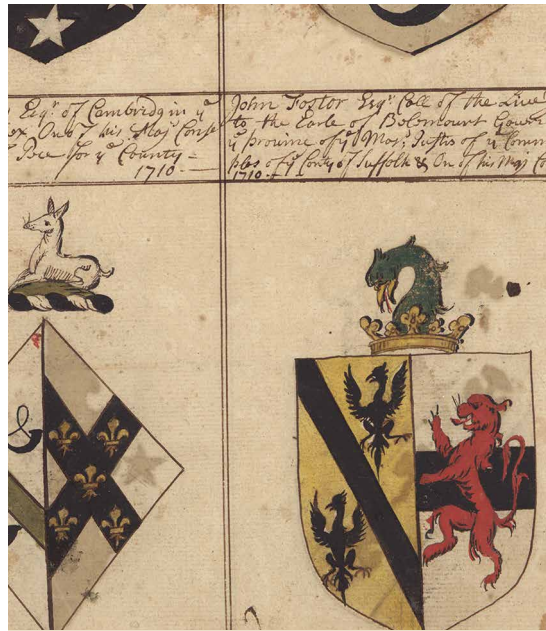
The Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society is the oldest non-governmental heraldic body in the world. The Committee was established in 1864, within the New England Historic Genealogical Society, to “collect and preserve information in regard to heraldry.” Its members consist of heraldic and genealogical specialists and scholars. The Committee’s interests are national in scope, embracing the use and understanding of heraldry throughout the current United States and all its colonial predecessors.

The Committee on Heraldry ([AmericanAncestors.org/committee-heraldry](http://AmericanAncestors.org/committee-heraldry)) actively supports programs in heraldic education, sponsors symposia and online programming, assists in collecting and conserving original manuscripts, seeks donations of heraldic publications, and, in conjunction with other NEHGS activities, engages with constituents throughout the United States and abroad who wish to learn more about heraldry in their family histories.

## The Roll of Arms

Among the Committee on Heraldry’s most significant ongoing publications has been the *Roll of Arms*, a register of coats of arms of settlers in the colonies now comprising the United States, or immigrants to the United States, whose arms are more than one hundred years old, and were borne by proved hereditary right or lawful grant in the settler’s country of origin. Compilation of the *Roll of Arms* began in 1914, though it was based on earlier work of Committee members first published in the 1890s. Since 1972, only arms borne prior to 1900 are eligible for the *Roll of Arms*.

The *Roll of Arms* has been published periodically since 1928, in pamphlet form and in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. The parts of the *Roll of Arms* published in the *Register* are available online at [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org). A searchable index to the *Roll of Arms* includes all approved registrations including the subject’s name, year of immigration, nationality, colony or state of residence in America, and entry number in the *Roll of Arms*.



## The first International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences on U.S. soil

In 2024, the International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences (ICGHS) will take place on U.S. soil for the first time in its 93-year history. American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society and FamilySearch, the world’s largest genealogy organization, have partnered to host the 36th Congress in Boston, Massachusetts. Our patron and sponsor of the 36th Congress is Brady Brim-DeForest, Baron of Balvaird, and NEHGS Councilor.

This year’s theme is Origins, Journeys, Destinations. Heritage and identity have long been shaped by the journeys people take. From the movement of various ethnic groups across Europe, to massive overseas migration to the Americas, to the formation of our modern cities and suburbs, the study of genealogy and heraldry allows us to trace the preservation, destruction, and creation of all kinds of cultural identities.



**36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences**

**Boston | 2024**

[BostonCongress2024.org](http://BostonCongress2024.org)





## The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center™ at NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In fiscal year 2022, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) upheld American Ancestors' institutional commitment to chronicling "American Stories, American Lives" through an array of events, projects, and scholarship. Alongside the JHC's ongoing work of archival preservation, educational programming, and research access, we added new initiatives and capacity, including an oral-history project and a resident scholar position, to increase our impact and engage new audiences in American Jewish history and heritage.

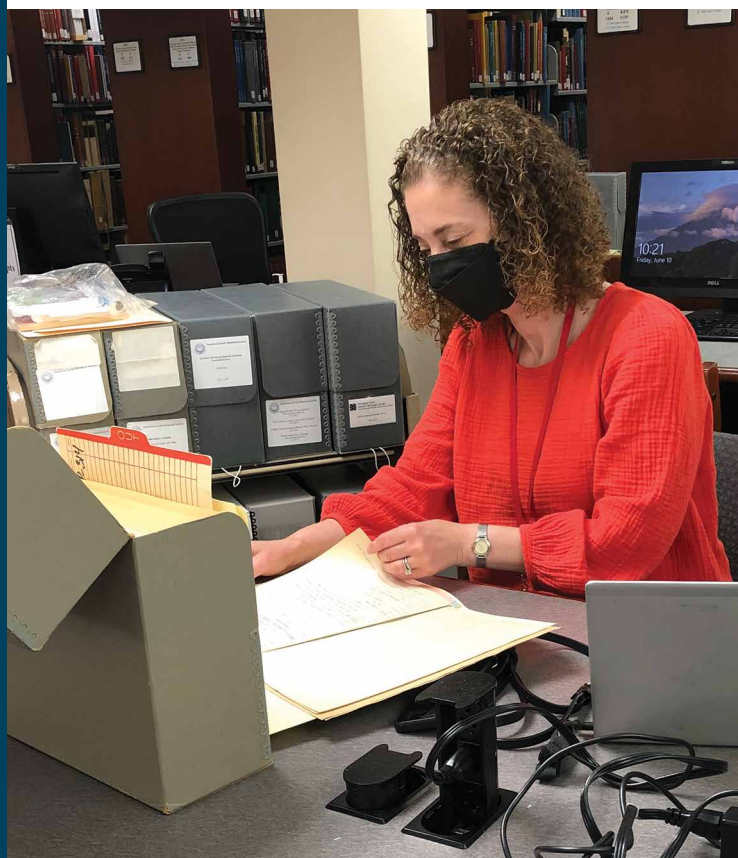
### Supporting research and scholarship

With more than two million documents in its archives and a digital archive of nearly 700,000 documents, the JHC is committed to preserving the Jewish history of Boston, New England, and beyond—and making these records accessible to researchers of all kinds. The JHC accessioned an important new collection, the Records of Action for (Post) Soviet Jewry (APSJ). This collection chronicles

the influential 20th-century work of a Boston-based organization to help Jews escape antisemitism and oppression in the former Soviet Union and emigrate to the United States and Israel. Since bringing the collection to the JHC, we have been working with APSJ to plan educational programming and resources about this important story.

After the JHC's inaugural Genevieve Geller Wyner Research Fellow, Dr. Melissa Klapper, culminated her 2021 Fellowship with an online lecture about her research into Jewish women's travel in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a Fellowship committee selected our 2022 Research Fellow, Dr. Jessica Cooperman, Associate Professor of Religion Studies and Director of Jewish Studies at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. Dr. Cooperman visited the JHC in Summer 2022 to research her topic, American observation of Passover in the 20th century. The selection committee also gave an honorable mention to Dr. Dahlia Wassner, Director of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute's Project on Latin American Jewish and Gender Studies, for her research on "American Zionists in Cuba: Understanding Transnational Diaspora Identities."

Dr. Jessica Cooperman working with JHC collections



With multiyear funding from supporter Richard Schilder, we selected the JHC's first Historian in Residence: Dr. Miriam Eve Mora, a scholar of American Jewish history and ethnicity, immigration, and gender. Dr. Mora began her post in September 2022 and is using the JHC's collections to create original scholarship about a range of historical topics, from antisemitism and Jewish immigration and acculturation in the 20th century, to Jewish military service in the first and second world wars.

### Programs and partnerships

The JHC was honored to be selected for an "Expanding Massachusetts Stories" grant from the Mass Humanities Foundation. The grant supported "Jewish Neighborhood Voices," a pilot oral history project collecting personal narratives of four formerly Jewish immigrant communities in the Greater Boston area, before the living links to them are gone. We also received a second grant for the



Ellen Rovner, PhD, speaks about Jewish delis at the JHC's "Deli/ghtful Bites" event

project from Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Over the course of the year, we convened a community advisory group, trained interviewers, and conducted oral history interviews with 20 individuals who grew up in the neighborhoods under study. The oral histories will be preserved and made accessible in the Digital Library and Archives. We will also launch an online exhibit featuring these narratives alongside archival materials from the JHC's collections, with the aim of educating audiences about former Jewish life in these neighborhoods and the vital contributions the Jewish community has made to Massachusetts.

The JHC offered several well-received webinars about Jewish history and heritage. We co-sponsored a book talk with Lucy Adlington, author of *The Dressmakers of Auschwitz*, discussing the little-known story of a group of seamstresses imprisoned at Auschwitz who sewed to survive. We hosted Father Charles Gallagher, Professor of History at Boston College, discussing his book *Nazis of Copley Square*, which chronicled the disturbing rise of the Christian Front in Boston in the late 1930s. Father Gallagher had used the Jewish Community Relations Council Records in the JHC archives extensively for the book, and several times commented how helpful our Digital Library and Archives was to his research. In a program that appropriately fell on St. Patrick's Day and Purim, the JHC hosted "An American Meeting: The Irish and Jews in the Nation's Urban Cauldron," in which Dr. Hasia Diner of New York University examined the surprising, entwined history of two of America's most influential immigrant groups.

As the co-founder of the New England Jewish History Collaborative, the JHC presented a lively

online program, "Lakes, Lanyards, and Learning: The Story of Jewish Summer Camps in New England," which featured a talk by Brandeis professor Jonathan Krasner and a discussion panel about the unique history and impact of Jewish summer camps. The Collaborative worked together over the course of the year to research and compile a database of nearly 150 New England summer camps since 1900.

Alongside these webinars, the JHC was delighted to hold two in-person events in the American Ancestors rotunda. We hosted a benefit event, "Imagining the Jewish Past: Three Authors Discuss Jewish History and Literary Inspiration," featuring prominent novelists Anita Diamant, Allegra Goodman, and Rachel Kadish discussing the influence of Jewish history on their fiction. At "Deli/ghtful Bites: The History of Jewish Delis," speaker Ellen Rovner discussed the historical and cultural significance of American Jewish delis, and the audience was treated to a deli dinner and an exhibit of items from the JHC's collections related to Jewish delis and markets.

In addition to these programs, the JHC and the Brue Family Learning Center continued our study of Jewish immigration to the United States with a four-week course, "The Yiddish of Yankeeland: The Jews of Boston and America, 1840-1924," taught by Dr. Aaron Welt. We also participated in Jewish genealogical programming, including presenting on New England Jewish genealogical resources in a national JewishGen program.

## Expanding our reach

With the partnership of the NEHGS web team and web design firm Hookson, the JHC launched a new website alongside the new American Ancestors site. Featuring improved design, functionality, and navigation, the new JHC site has resulted in increased use: we saw a 41 percent increase in the number of users and a 47 percent increase in page views in the year after the launch vs. the same period prior.

During FY2022, we grew our audience by 35 percent over the year before, expanded collaborations with other organizations, made new resources available online, and generated new scholarship—all of which extended our reach and impact. The JHC is pleased to be a model of an ethnic history center at American Ancestors that helps connect, educate, and inspire wide audiences.

# Winter Family History Benefit

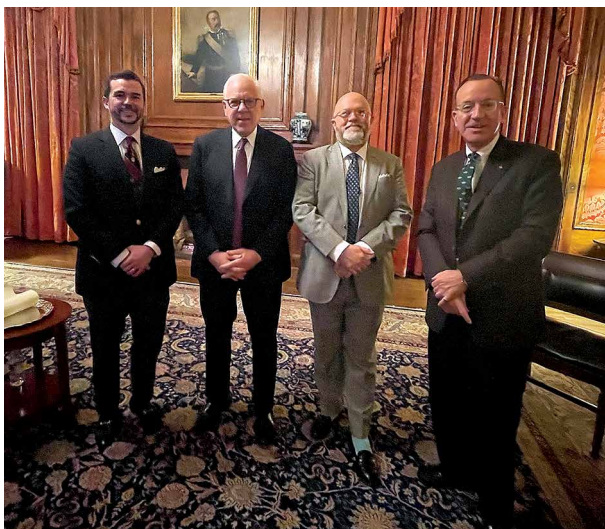
## Dialogues on the American Dream:

### David M. Rubenstein in conversation with Stacy Schiff

On January 27, 2022, American Ancestors hosted philanthropist, author, and Carlyle Group cofounder David M. Rubenstein as special guest and recipient of our Preservation and History Award at our virtual Winter Family History Benefit. The event was made possible by generous donors, including Silver Benefactor Welch & Forbes and Board Chair David M. Trebing. Rubenstein discussed his new book, *The American Experiment: Dialogues on a Dream*. Following his presentation, Rubenstein was interviewed by award-winning author Stacy Schiff on Rubenstein's list of "essential genes," the importance of philanthropy and preservation, and the uniqueness of the United States.

The program included a greeting from President and CEO D. Brenton Simons and the award presentation by Executive Vice President and COO Ryan Woods.

Rubenstein is host of Bloomberg TV's *The David Rubenstein Show* and *Bloomberg Wealth*. A leader in "patriotic philanthropy," he has made transformative gifts for restoration or repair of significant sites, including the Washington Monument, Monticello, the National Archives, Library of Congress, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Smithsonian Institution. Schiff is the author of numerous works, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Véra* (Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov). She received the NEHGS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017.



## Thank you to our event's sponsors

### SILVER BENEFACTOR

Welch & Forbes LLC

Left: Ryan Woods, David M. Rubenstein,  
Brenton Simons, and David M. Trebing.

## Recent Keynote Speakers and Honorees

**2023** Nina Totenberg

**2022** David M. Rubenstein

Governor Charlie Baker

Julian Fellowes

Rick Atkinson

**2021** Evelyn Brooks  
Higginbotham

The Rt Hon Sir John Major  
KG CH

Anthony Amore

Mary Beth Norton

**2020** Jill Lepore

Scott Simon

**2019** Joseph J. Ellis

Douglas Brinkley

Dan Rather

**2018** David Hackett Fischer

David McCullough

William M. Fowler, Jr.

**2017** Winston Groom

Stacy Schiff

**2016** Cokie Roberts

Bob Schieffer

David Hartman

**2015** Nathaniel Philbrick

James Carville and

Mary Matalin

HRH Princess

Michael of Kent

**2014** Dame Angela Lansbury

Doris Kearns Goodwin

**2013** David Gergen





Left: Board Chair David M. Trebing, President and CEO D. Brenton Simons, Governor Charles D. Baker, and Board Vice Chair Thomas Bailey Hagen. Below: Paula Peters, Michele Pecoraro, and Linda Coombs. © 2022 Gulnara Niaz Photographer & Visual Artist.

## Annual Family History Benefit Gala

### "A Boston Homecoming" honoring Governor Charles D. Baker

On April 21, 2022, more than 100 guests attended our Annual Family History Benefit Gala at the Four Seasons hotel in Boston. The event, honoring Charles D. Baker, 72nd Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was our first in-person Annual Gala in two years.

Governor Baker was presented with the NEHGS Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Public Service by American Ancestors/NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons. "We are delighted to honor Governor Baker with this award for his lifetime achievements and his dedication to the people of Massachusetts," said Simons. "He has accomplished much during his term, and we are proud to present to him the history of his ancestors, which is a uniquely American story of perseverance, hard work, and civic duty." Governor Baker received a hand-bound genealogy compiled by Christopher C. Child, Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press and editor of *Mayflower Descendant*, and Sharon Buzzell Inglis, Vice President of Publishing. The genealogy revealed an ancestral tradition of interest in family history, including a paternal grandmother, Eleanor Johnson Little, who was elected a member of New England Historic Genealogical Society on February 5, 1957, and ancestor Mary (Morey) Turell, born 1739, whose 1821 family recollections were published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* in 1860.



Four notable contributors to the fields of history and genealogy were honored at the gala with the prestigious NEHGS Preservation and History Award: Linda Coombs, author and historian of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) and former program director of the Aquinnah Cultural Center; Thomas Bailey Hagen, Chairman and former CEO of Erie Insurance Group and current Vice Chair of our Board of Trustees; Peter Lynch, American investor, mutual fund manager, and philanthropist; and Paula Peters, journalist, educator, and activist for the Wampanoag tribe.

### Thank you to our event's sponsors

#### PLATINUM BENEFACTOR

Wells Fargo

#### GOLD BENEFACTORS

Mark Nichols and Lowell Massey

Betsy and Michael Vitton

SIT Investment Associates



Top to bottom: American Ancestors/NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons presents Julian Fellowes with his genealogy; Toby Field II, Katherine Field, Lili Neuhauser, and Charles Neuhauser; American Ancestors/NEHGS Trustee Robb Aley Allan, Gregg Hawes, American Ancestors/NEHGS Board Chair David M. Trebing, and Marie Carr. © Pierce Harman 2022.

## Summer Gala

### *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes honored at our summer gala

On July 29, 2022, approximately 200 guests attended our special event in Newport, Rhode Island, honoring Julian Fellowes. Fellowes is an award-winning screenwriter, director, producer, novelist, and actor with a long and distinguished career.

Hosts American Ancestors/NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons and Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods presented Julian Fellowes with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Dramatic Arts. "We are delighted to honor Julian Fellowes with this award for his outstanding contributions to the arts," said Simons. "His mastery of storytelling in productions such as *Downton Abbey* and *Gosford Park* have left a deep impression on millions of viewers around the globe, and his memorable characters and clever dialogue will live on screen forever. He has brought British history vividly to life again and again, for all to understand and appreciate." The gala festivities included a retrospective of Fellowes's many accomplishments and the presentation of a hand-bound book detailing his family history.

Also attending were Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States of America, and Dr. Peter Abbott OBE, Her Majesty's Consul General to New England. Simons presented a scroll honoring the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to Dame Pierce, who accepted it on behalf of Her Majesty.

Other weekend festivities included a luncheon at the Newport Yacht Club, featuring a presentation by Curator of Special Collections Curt DiCamillo, and a garden tour and dinner at private residences in the area.

### Thank you to our event's sponsors

#### PLATINUM BENEFACTOR

Betsy and Michael Vitton

#### GOLD BENEFACTORS

John E. and Julie Corcoran  
Elizabeth and George Passela  
Nancy Clay and John W. Webster



# Fall Family History Benefit Dinner

## Pulitzer Prize–winning author and historian Rick Atkinson honored

On October 27, 2022, American Ancestors welcomed more than 110 guests to Boston's Chilton Club for our Fall Family History Benefit featuring Rick Atkinson. Atkinson was presented with our Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the field of American history.

Following a reception and dinner, Atkinson was in conversation with Colonial Society of Massachusetts President Professor Bob Allison of Suffolk University about Atkinson's latest work, *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775–1777*. This *New York Times* best-selling work has received such honors as the George Washington Prize and the Daughters of the American Revolution Excellence in American History Book Award. *The British Are Coming* is the first volume of Atkinson's intended *Revolution Trilogy*, a history of the American rebellion through 1783.

A former reporter, foreign correspondent, senior editor of the *Washington Post*, and General Omar N. Bradley Chair of Strategic Leadership at the U.S. Army War College, Atkinson has received numerous awards, including the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting, the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for public service, and the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for history. His *Liberation Trilogy*, a narrative history of the liberation of Europe in World War II, has been called "a triumph of narrative history, elegantly written ... and rooted in the sight and sounds of battle" by the *New York Times*.

David E. Rencher, NEHGS Councilor and Chief Genealogical Officer of FamilySearch, was honored at the event with the prestigious NEHGS Preservation and History Award. In presenting the award, American Ancestors/NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons spoke about Rencher's "widespread positive influence in the field of genealogy: enabling scholarship, building meaningful associations, creating fruitful collaborative opportunities, and steering various societies, interest groups, and key practitioners in important ways. ... It is a great privilege to honor him with this award."



Top to bottom: American Ancestors/NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons, David E. Rencher, and Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods. Rick Atkinson with Colonial Society of Massachusetts President Professor Bob Allison. Trustee Gerard A. Halpin III and MaryLee Halpin. © Pierce Harman 2022.

## Thank you to our event's sponsors

### SILVER BENEFACTORS

Susan and Gary Carlson  
Thomas Bailey Hagen  
Gerry and MaryLee Halpin  
Welch & Forbes LLC



# Financial Report

## Summary Balance Sheet and Consolidated Income Statement as of fiscal year end August 31, 2022

BALANCE SHEET	FY22	FY21	Increase (decrease)	% Increase (decrease)
Total Assets	\$58,526,477	\$68,046,034	(\$9,519,557)	-14%
Liabilities	\$5,622,383	\$4,512,828	\$1,109,555	25%
Net Assets	\$52,904,094	\$63,533,206	(\$10,629,112)	-17%
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$58,526,477	\$68,046,034	(\$9,519,557)	-14%

### Consolidated Income Statement, September 1, 2021–August 31, 2022

REVENUE	FY22	FY21	% Increase (decrease)	% of total
Earned Revenue	\$4,860,529	\$4,387,382	11%	40%
Contributed Revenue	\$6,132,545	\$8,719,340	-30%	51%
Investment Return Designated for Current Operations (a)	\$1,095,976	\$1,080,516	1%	9%
Total Revenue	\$12,089,050	\$14,187,238	-15%	100%

EXPENSES	FY22	FY21	% Increase (decrease)	% of total
Member Services	\$494,494	\$907,634	-46%	4%
Research Library	\$2,605,961	\$2,452,611	6%	20%
Tours and Seminars	\$1,698,544	\$761,389	123%	13%
Retail Store	\$113,920	\$163,488	-30%	1%
Publications	\$2,119,742	\$2,317,431	-9%	16%
Website	\$1,866,406	\$1,902,900	-2%	14%
General and Administrative	\$1,920,172	\$1,821,140	5%	15%
Fundraising	\$2,151,960	\$1,614,935	33%	17%
Total Expenses	\$12,971,199	\$11,941,528	9%	100%

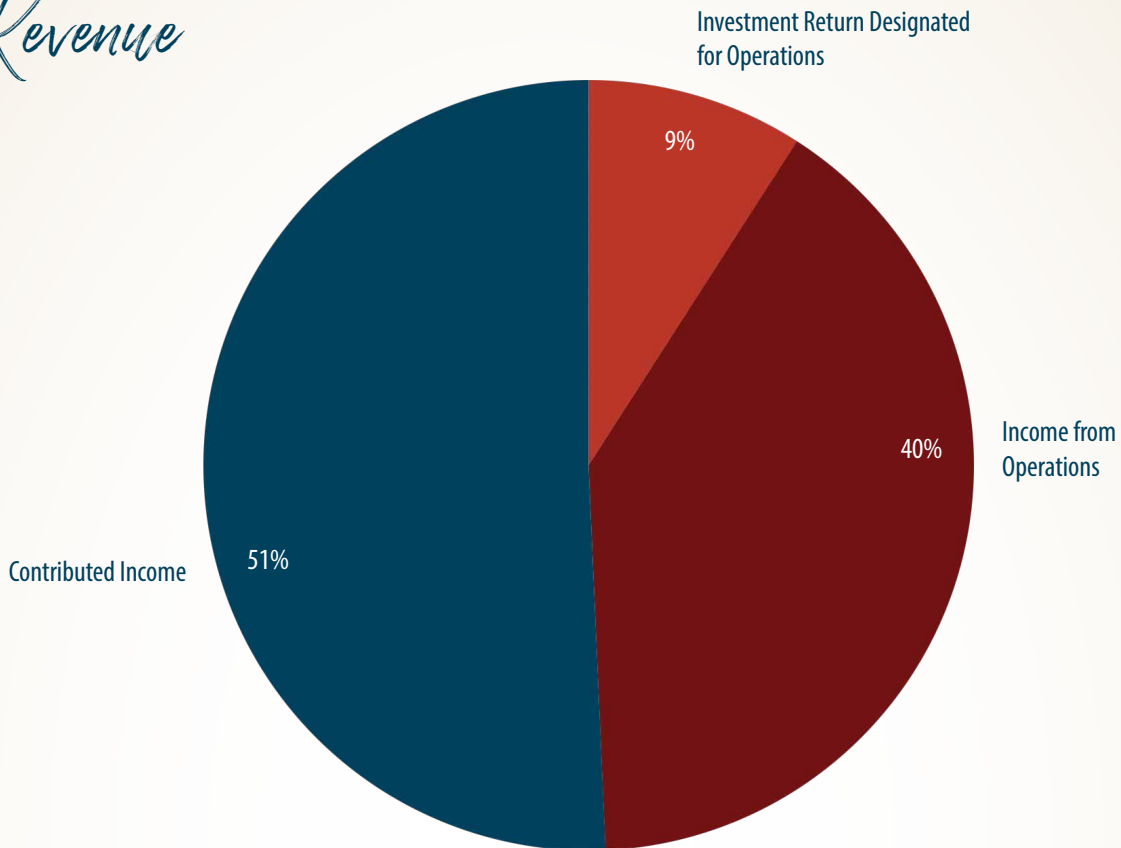
Consolidated Net Income from Operations	(\$882,149)	\$2,245,710
Non-Operating revenue, including investment return (b)	(\$9,746,963)	\$6,670,413
Consolidated Net Income	(\$10,629,112)	\$8,916,123
Endowment Net Assets (c)	\$23,606,302	\$29,778,954

(a) Investment Return Designated for Current Operations represents the release of the annual draw, which is based on appropriating 4% of the average of the prior twelve quarters of fair market value of the investments.

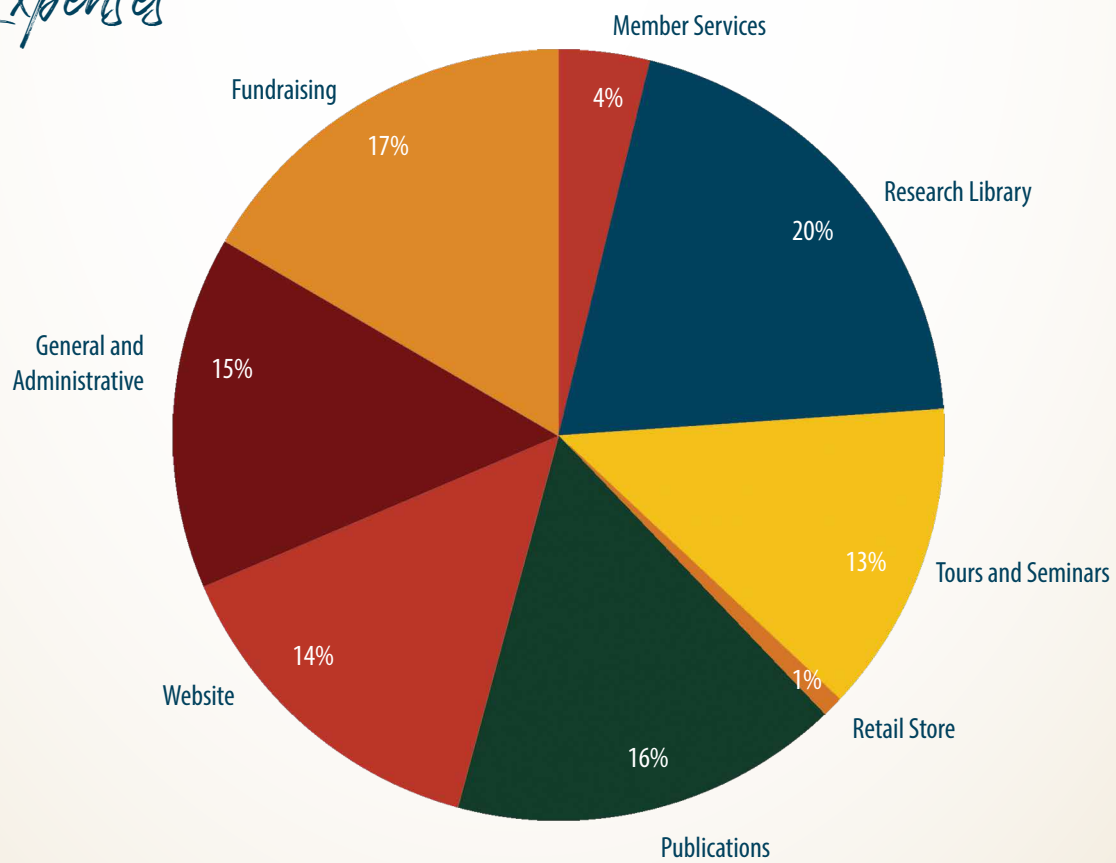
(b) Includes: (1) Interest and Dividends, Realized and Unrealized Gains, net of Investment Management Fees; and (2) Appropriation of Investment Return Designated for Operations.

(c) Includes: (1) Board Designated Endowment, (2) Appreciation on Endowment and (3) Permanently Restricted Endowment.

## Revenue



## Expenses



## Paying it Forward with Legacy Philanthropy

For the better part of two centuries, American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society has been helping its members discover their family history and heritage. For just as long, our members have planned their own legacies, especially with philanthropy. Generations of people who have included NEHGS in their estate plans since our founding have enabled NEHGS to be the stable institution it is today.

In the past couple of years, NEHGS members have taken this “legacy philanthropy” to new levels so that future generations can have access to the records, research, and scholarship that we are advancing today. We have been able to achieve our mission to preserve and advance family history through the forward-thinking support of these planned gifts.

There have never been more tax-advantageous forms to philanthropy than there are today. In recent years, tax laws have allowed donors to transfer funds from IRAs to NEHGS and count toward Required Minimum Distributions, resulting in incredible income tax savings for the donors. Beginning in 2023, a new tax provision allows donors to use IRA funds to create income-producing gifts. Since IRA assets can be so heavily taxed if left to heirs, these new tax laws benefit the donor as well as NEHGS.

Technology is also making it easier to create wills—something more than half of Americans fails to do before their deaths. In 2022, NEHGS offered its members a free online resource that can create a draft will in about a half an hour (Freewill.com/AmericanAncestors). In less than a year, nearly 300 NEHGS members created wills using this service—many of whom generously included NEHGS as a beneficiary. Today, there are documented estate

plans that include NEHGS for over \$18 million in future gifts. This amazing pipeline of philanthropy will benefit many generations of future family historians.

**Because legacy giving can seem complicated, people may avoid or procrastinate on it. At NEHGS, we strive to provide support and resources for all those who want to make sure their intentions are in place before it is too late. For strictly confidential inquiries to long-term philanthropy, please contact Ted MacMahon, Assistant Vice President, at [tmacmahon@nehgs.org](mailto:tmacmahon@nehgs.org) or 617-549-0300.**



### Have your cake and eat it, too!

If you are looking for ways to support American Ancestors/NEHGS and receive a steady income stream, a charitable gift annuity may be your answer. It is a simple contract between you and NEHGS. In exchange for a gift of \$25,000 or more, NEHGS will provide guaranteed fixed payments to you for life.

Starting in January 2023, the payout rates were not only increased, but a new tax provision also now allows you to create charitable gift annuities using funds transferred from your IRA! For transfers up to \$50,000, these arrangements will also count toward your IRA's Required Minimum Distribution – potentially saving you thousands of dollars in taxes while increasing your income.



# Giving Societies

We gratefully acknowledge the following members and donors for making it possible for us to advance the study of family history in America and beyond.

## The Founders' Society

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

Judith Avery  
R. Stanton Avery\*  
R. Stanton Avery Foundation  
BayTree Fund  
Ruth Chauncey Bishop\*  
John B. Black\*  
Nordahl and Suzanne Brue  
John G. L. Cabot  
Laurence E. Crofutt\*  
Fidelity Charitable  
Waldo C. Friedland\*

Leigh Maxfield Gelser and  
Geraldine J. Martin\*  
Thomas Bailey Hagen  
Gina Hamister  
Kenneth and Beverly\* Houghton  
**Brenda L. Johnson**  
Tabitha King  
Dr. J. Philip London, Sr.\*  
and Dr. Jennifer London  
Carolyn\* and Peter Lynch  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Nancy S. Maulsby

Robert G. Shaw\*  
L. Ted and Alice R. Sloane\*  
Vivian B. Treat\*  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
Wallace S. and Isobel B.\* Wilson  
Anonymous

**Bold** indicates new members to the Founders' Society.

\*Deceased

## The John Quincy Adams Society

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

Robert O. F. Bixby\*  
David and Holly Bruce  
Stephen H. Case  
Howard Cox  
Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman  
Constance Wadley Fuller\*  
Albert H. Gordon\*  
**Beverly L. Hamilton**  
Ernest Henderson\* III  
Robert F. Hendrickson  
John F. Keane\*  
David W. Kruger  
William R. Marsh M.D.\*  
Robert L.\* and Ann C. Massard  
**Helen C. Powell**  
Bruce F. Roubaud

**Helen E. R. Sayles CBE**  
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Anonymous (2)

**Bold** indicates new members to the John Quincy Adams Society.

\*Deceased

## The Charles Ewer Society

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

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 Albert J. Zdenek Jr.  
**Martha Ziesenheim\***  
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**Bold** indicates new members to the  
 Charles Ewer Society.  
 \*Deceased

## The Daniel Webster Society

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

Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund  
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 Anonymous (2)

**Bold** indicates new members to  
 the Daniel Webster Society.

## The Benjamin Franklin Society

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

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Lynn Bryan Trowbridge  
Susan F. and William H. Watkins  
James H. Wick  
Carolyn E. Wood  
Justin L. Wyner  
Anonymous (3)

**Bold** indicates new members to the Benjamin Franklin Society.

\*Deceased

## The Henry Bond Society

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

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Janet Alpert

*Harry B. \* and Claire M. Anderson*

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 Anonymous (38)

**Bold** indicates new members to the Henry Bond Society.

*Italics* indicate members of the Ashburton Circle, named for the site of NEHGS's first permanent home, who have given irrevocable gifts to NEHGS.

\*Deceased

## The Legacy Society

Dr. Henry Bond led the way for hundreds of estate gifts since his bequest was received in 1859. The Legacy Society memorializes the past members of the Henry Bond Society whose thoughtful estate planning has resulted in generous contributions. NEHGS continues to grow and thrive as it has since 1845 thanks in large part to those who ultimately made their final and most significant act of generosity. These investments into our future will ensure that family history is preserved, advanced, and made accessible for future generations of genealogists.

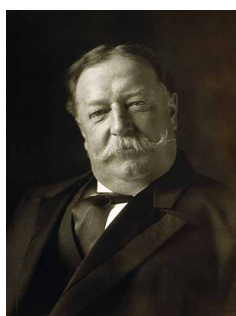
**We are humbled and honored to recognize the following individuals whose estates contributed \$529,156 since September 1, 2021.**

Caroline Blanton Thayer  
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 David L. Conlan  
 Abbott Lowell Cummings  
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# Support for Current Programs

During Fiscal Year 2021, NEHGS received 5,772 gifts totaling \$6,367,171 to support current programs.



## William Howard Taft Circle, \$25,000+

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

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John Winthrop  
Justin L. Wyner  
Gwill E. York and Paul Maeder  
Anonymous (3)

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

\*Deceased





## Grace Goodhue Coolidge Circle, \$10,000 to \$24,999

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

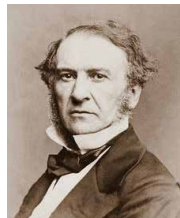
Gina Mazzei-Anderhub  
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*Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS's Family History Fund.*

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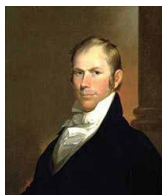
## William E. Gladstone Circle, \$5,000 to \$9,999

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

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Priscilla C. Greenlees  
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Sarah Gunderson  
Thomas Bailey Hagen  
Gina Hamister  
Gregg W. Hawes  
Arthur C. Hodges  
Richard C. and Mildred T. Hutchinson  
Priscilla\* and Gustavus\* Ide  
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Anne Louise Clap Van Nostrand  
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program  
\*Deceased



## Henry Clay Circle, \$2,500 to \$4,999

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

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UBS Donor-Advised Fund  
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Candace Wilmot  
Anonymous

\*Deceased



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

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

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 William and Lia Poorvu  
 Jane M. Rabb  
 Susan Radke-Sproull  
 Nancy Raphael  
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 Richard H. Rhoads  
 Phyllis Gerhold Scanlan  
 Larry Schliessmann  
 Teresa L. Scott  
 Florence L. Selleck  
 Kate Shuster  
 Roy Crane Siple  
 Jennifer L. Smith  
 Patricia A. Smith  
 Elizabeth L. Snow  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Wilcox Jr.  
 Tom and Annie Wilcox  
 Alfred Woollacott III  
 Suzanne L. Wright  
 Anonymous (4)  
 \*Deceased



## Harrison Gray Otis Circle, \$500 to \$999

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

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 Bruce R. Bartlett  
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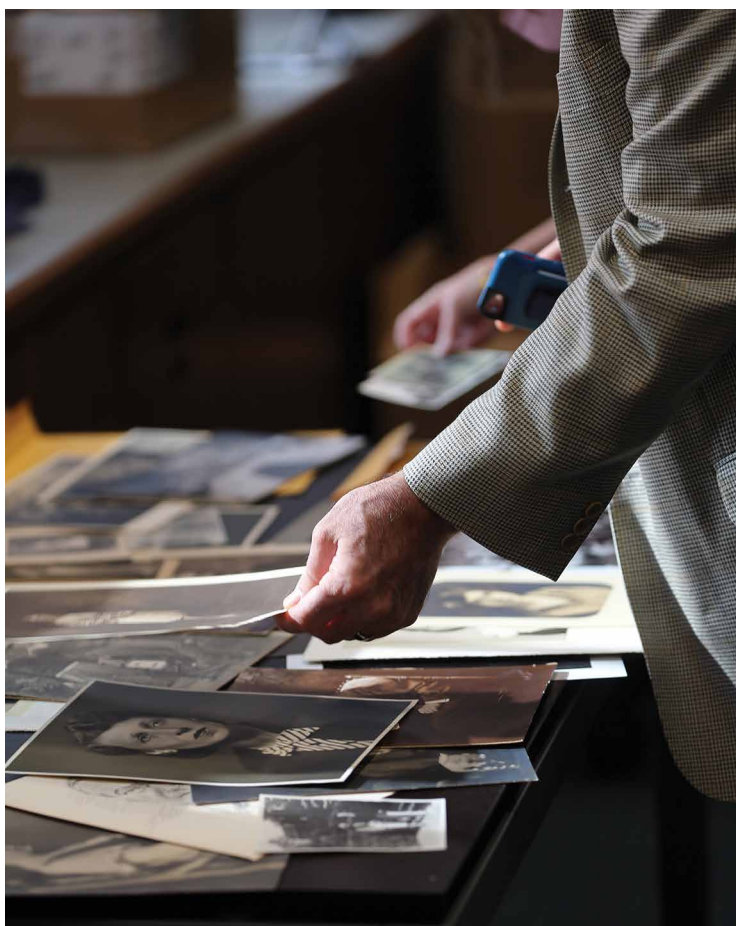


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Automated gifts on established intervals to the Family History Sustainer Circle ensure a steady source of funding for our mission throughout the year.

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## Why I Give

Growing up, I spent summers in my grandmother's historic New England shingle home, surrounded by memorabilia and hearing my grandparents tell family stories by the massive fireplace. I knew my mother's family had deep roots in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and that my father was a first-generation American born to French immigrants. Despite hearing lots of family lore, I had no family tree nor any deep understanding of my heritage.

After 30 years of dabbling, I decided to get serious about family history. In 2018, I took an NEHGS webinar on DNA and genealogy. A few more excellent webinars led to one-on-one consultations with expert NEHGS genealogists. Working with these passionate people inspired me and brought the NEHGS mission to life. There is a huge amount to absorb in this field, and if you work with the right people, you grow as a genealogist.

This journey has transformed and expanded my understanding of heritage. I discovered my mother's deep Quaker roots—a heritage of pacifism, tolerance, abolitionism, and gender equality. And discovered that not all my father's ancestors were French. My great-great-grandfather was an Ashkenazi Jew from Germany, who moved to the U.S. in the 1800s—a heritage of courageous people who left Germany to find a better life, and also of relatives who stayed and faced the atrocities of 20th-century Europe.

I began to wonder if NEHGS could become a lead partner in my family philanthropic mission of fostering individual growth through art, history, and heritage. During my first visit to NEHGS in early 2020, Ryan Woods and Brenton Simons shared their compelling vision and detailed ambitious goals for NEHGS. I'm grateful that this discussion convinced me to become a Life Member and, shortly thereafter, a Council Member.

Research projects are a wonderful part of this partnership. They grow my understanding of my family roots and simultaneously expand NEHGS's capacity



Marc Chardon at Neko Bay, Antarctica.

and influence. For instance, Research Services uncovered an odd question while confirming my early Nantucket Quaker roots: why did the granddaughter of Philadelphia and New Bedford Quakers marry the grandson of Rhode Island and Nantucket Quakers in a First Congregational Church? As it happens, these ancestors were born while their parents were embroiled in the 1820s Quaker schism in New Bedford. This prompted me to underwrite the "New Light" study project to explore how this schism affected the community. The "New Light" research in turn connected to the inspiring history of abolitionism in New Bedford and why whaling ships were an important part of the Underground Railroad. That suggested a new study project, "New Bedford, Massachusetts and the Maritime Underground Railroad," which I'm honored to support.

There are three things that I look for in a philanthropic partnership: 1) a deeply relevant mission and opportunity to learn, 2) a team with values that align with mine, and 3) an ability to contribute time, talent, and treasure in ways that support the mission. I'm fortunate to have found just that kind of partnership with NEHGS. It has enriched my life immeasurably.

**Marc Chardon currently resides in Bellevue, Washington. He is a strategic advisor at Genstar Capital, LLC and the former President and CEO of Blackbaud, Inc. He was educated at Harvard University.**



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# Kathryn Hicks Porter

## COUNCIL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



I vividly remember my first trip to the American Ancestors Research Center. I was mesmerized when I walked into 101 Newbury Street. It was magnificent to be surrounded by all of the records and books with history permeating the air.

I knew that this was the first genealogical library in the United States, but I was not prepared for the actual immensity of its collection. So many books and history! Each artifact potentially contained the power to solve the myriad of mysteries that lie between us and the past. The library provides genealogists with the power to step back in time. Touching primary sources, scanning family trees, and piecing together the ancestry puzzle were tactile methods that have become largely forgotten in the information age. From genealogies to town histories to rare volumes, this institution is a towering monument to the effort of preserving heritage.

Since my first visit 25 years ago, American Ancestors/NEHGS created an extremely user-friendly and navigable website to bridge the past with the present. The access to multiple databases of records essential to genealogical, historical, or archival research enhances the chance of finding that crucial piece of information in an efficient manner.

A library is much more than a collection of books. The knowledgeable staff impressed me as much as the library's collection. One particular instance stands out to me. I was sitting at the computer, scouring NEHGS's resources for a particularly tricky ancestor. Without prompting, a staff member

walked by and informed me about the collections the library had concerning the subject at hand. Not only did he offer personal assistance as I was trying to make use of their computer system, but he also found and brought out several boxes containing the materials I was searching for! In an era of computerized customer service, this attention made my visit as pleasant as it was impressive. With his assistance, I located tribal records on the Brotherton and Narraganset tribes that led to a proposal to the DAR for one of my own Revolutionary ancestors. I discovered he was the first of his tribe to be accepted by the DAR.

NEHGS may have started as only a resource for New England, but the collections are growing by leaps and bounds daily to encompass regions across the world. Thus, the decision to rename the library to American Ancestors was made. Today, NEHGS collaborates with other groups to strengthen their collections and extend the access they can offer to others. They provide tours and genealogical workshops worldwide that continue to respect and nurture the preservation of heritage. These are sure-fire ways to make a new friend while pursuing a common interest, and a way to discover a long lost relative!

When I was asked to serve on the Council, I was truly honored to be a part of the advancement of NEHGS. I look forward to the way the institution will grow. This is why I support American Ancestors.

**Kathryn Hicks Porter currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama. She is active in local and regional nonprofit boards including Women's Committee of 100 of Greater Birmingham, the Discovery Place Guild, and Birmingham Botanical Gardens, among others. She joined the Council in 2020 and has been a member since 1995.**

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During the year, 19,216 volunteer hours were generously donated, the equivalent of nearly 10 full-time staff. Over 260 volunteers and college interns assisted with research questions, processed manuscript collections, created content for youth education programs, worked on database projects, edited publications, and helped barcode and migrate thousands of books in anticipation of Cornerstone Project construction.

As the global pandemic ebbed, volunteers returned to work onsite, including the NEHGS Board of Trustees and Councilors. Governance meetings were held in-person, with the option of virtual attendance. Like many other volunteers, they enjoyed contributing their skills while working remotely.

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Carol Demers	Kate Kasoff	Joseph McMillan	Jackie Song	are listed on page 20
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Director, 10 Million Names Project

### **Kendra Field, PhD**

Chief Historian

### **Jonathan Hill**

Researcher

### **Danielle Rose**

Researcher

## Milestones

**30 years** D. Brenton Simons  
David Allen Lambert

**25 years** Carolyn Oakley

**20 years** Michael Forbes  
Judith Lucey

**15 years** Kyle Hurst  
Edward MacMahon  
Eileen Pironti

**10 years** Sheilagh Doerfler  
Meaghan Siekman  
Alicia Crane Williams

**5 years** Rachel Adams  
Barbara Britt  
Peggy Carpenter  
Thomas Grebenchick  
Chloe Jones  
Amy Joyce  
Rachel King  
Stacie Madden  
Melanie McComb  
Matthew Ottinger  
Todd Pattison  
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