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NEHGS Presents 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award to Dame Angela Lansbury

October 7, 2014—Boston, Massachusetts—On Thursday evening, November 13, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts, the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) presented Dame Angela Lansbury with a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in the Performing Arts with a custom genealogy and multi-generation family tree. This prestigious event helped mark the success of the NEHGS “Connecting Families, Advancing History” capital campaign that has raised \$50 million of its \$55 million goal. The campaign includes the acquisition of 97 Newbury Street, which will be renovated to include educational space for school children, an enlarged museum shop, and increased exhibition space. In addition, the campaign supports a major website initiative for AmericanAncestors.org, expanding its depth to 2.2 billion records covering the US and the world.

NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons presented Miss Lansbury with a family history researched and written by staff genealogists at NEHGS. Highlighted within is her great-great-uncle, Robert Bruce Mantell, who had a distinguished career in England and America, and after 1915, as an actor in silent films. Following in Robert’s footsteps, her mother Moyna Macgill had an active career on the stage in London and in films after being discovered by the great actor Sir Gerald du Maurier; a second career awaited her in Hollywood after the family came to America in 1942.

Simons captured the evening during his opening remarks: “From this family history we draw an amazing and perhaps heretofore overlooked fact; few, other acting dynasties have performed consistently in motion pictures from 1915 to the present. Robert Bruce Mantell, Moyna Macgill, and Angela Lansbury together span a century of performances...virtually the entire period of motion pictures in America.”

In her legendary career spanning seven decades, Lansbury has won five Tony Awards, six Golden Globes, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild, a Kennedy Center Honor, a Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year Award, and has been nominated for three Best Supporting Actress Academy Awards. In 2014, she received an honorary Academy Award.

About New England Historic Genealogical Society

The founding genealogical society in America, New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) was established in 1845. Today it has a national collecting scope and serves more than 75,000 constituents through an award-winning website, AmericanAncestors.org. Since 1845, NEHGS has been the country’s leading comprehensive resource for genealogists and family historians of every skill level. Today NEHGS provides constituents with worldwide access to some of the most important and valuable research tools anywhere.

American Ancestors is the public brand and user experience of NEHGS representing the expertise and resources for family historians of all levels researching their origins across the country and around the world. NEHGS’s resources, expertise, and service are unmatched in the field, and their leading staff of on-site and online genealogists includes experts in early American, Irish, English, Scottish, Italian, Atlantic and French Canadian, African American, Native American, Chinese, and Jewish research. Expert assistance is available to members and nonmembers in a variety of ways. The NEHGS library and archive, located at 99–101 Newbury Street in downtown Boston, is home to more than 28 million items, including artifacts, documents, records, journals, letters, books, manuscripts, and other items dating back hundreds of years.

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