



American
Ancestors®

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR
FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

The Enduring Power & Promise of Family History



Annual Stakeholder Report

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022–
AUGUST 31, 2023



American Ancestors®

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR
FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

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

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

American Ancestors 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, American Ancestors 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 2023

Total revenue
\$18,043,108

Total membership and subscribers
456,498

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: 1,147

Brue Family Learning Center
225 programs
34,380 attendees

Vita Brevis blog
3,000,000 views since 2014

Social media
1,896,630 Facebook impressions
129,057 YouTube video views

Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center
More than 4 million records and more than 700,000 searchable digital 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

American Stories. American Lives.

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Historians and genealogists view history from different perspectives. Historians use a broad brush on a vast canvas to portray events that shaped our world, while genealogists are careful portraitists who uncover and flesh out the finer details of a person's life. When they work together, a richer and more nuanced narrative emerges. With almost 180 years of experience of original research into the lives of the people who built our nation, American Ancestors explores the many intersections between history and genealogy, culture, and heritage.

From its earliest days, America has been a mosaic rather than a melting pot. We are a country of a thousand cultures, hundreds of languages, and several major religions, united by our belief in an individual's right to freedom and access to opportunity. 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. American Ancestors is dedicated to uncovering and telling the stories of the individuals who built our nation, and to helping future generations understand how our past shapes our present.

When we tell his story, her story, and their story, we tell the whole story.

Many of our programs and projects span all periods of American history. We engage in specific groundbreaking research projects that further the understanding of the American experience. These projects begin with the colonization of America and continue into the 20th century. We illuminate the lives of the people who lived during the major events that shaped our nation.



Report of the President and CEO



Amos Doolittle, engraver,
“Plate II. A view of the town of
Concord,” 1775. New York Public
Library Digital Collections.

I have been fortunate to be granted the privilege to serve as a steward of this great institution, whose trajectory for a strong future was laid by my predecessor, D. Brenton Simons, and our many vastly talented colleagues. From its earliest days as a subject of study, family history has been a powerful tool for education, inspiration, and connection—and the grand ambition of our organization has long been to serve as a means to affect a positive force on individuals, families, and communities. When people are inspired and supported to explore and share their family history, they gain a better understanding of themselves and others.

As I look upon the horizon of the next generation of our efforts, I am guided by the belief that every family—every person— has a story worth telling and worth hearing. Engaging in family history enriches lives. It is a source of joy, education, inspiration, and empowerment; family history is also a means of healing and repair. It is an undertaking that can profoundly influence the lives of individuals, and it holds the power to impact society positively. Family history is both an exercise in self-discovery and a process for understanding the broader historical and cultural context of the world in which we live. It has the power to build and strengthen relationships within families and communities, fostering a sense of unity and shared identity.

American Ancestors is uniquely positioned to perpetuate genealogical and historical understanding of permanent value that is multifaceted and broadly inclusive because we provide comprehensive services and content for all people who seek the knowledge and context of their heritage. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, for example, family history has the power to bring the relevance of that vast event to more people as genealogy creates direct ties to colonial military service for millions of Americans, including the descendants of nearly 30,000 African Americans and Native Americans, who collectively served in the Continental and British forces.



In reflecting on the passion and purpose of this organization, to advance the study of family history in America and beyond by educating, inspiring, and connecting people through scholarship, collections, and expertise, as a family historian, I feel fortunate to be the beneficiary of an institution that achieves its purpose to allow everyone to experience the benefits of family history. Please take a moment to consider the accomplishments of our continued growth in Fiscal Year 2023 as a national center for family history, heritage, and culture as we reached historic milestones in content, programming, engagement, and philanthropic support.

Our work to provide leading family history research content continued in earnest with new, original databases created for Colonial American and Revolutionary War genealogical research. In total, we added more than 2.1 million new searchable names to AmericanAncestors.org this year. We published new genealogical and historical scholarship as part of ongoing work to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. *Biographies of Original Members and Qualifying Officers: Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut*, produced in collaboration with the Society of the Cincinnati, was recently awarded the coveted Connecticut Society of Genealogists prize in genealogical scholarship for 2023.

Our work to bring the power and benefits of family history to younger audiences achieved significant success: our exclusive youth curriculum for family history was adopted by the Department of Education in the state of Maine and is being piloted in classrooms in every county of the state, and we offered similar curriculum trainings to teachers in the U.S. Virgin Islands, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Cornerstone Project construction and future visitor experience work continued apace. We finalized the design and content for the interactive exhibitions and prepared the 99-101 Newbury Street building for renovation. Those preparations included packing and moving 30,000 rolls of microfilm, 13,000 books, and nearly 1,000 pieces of art, furniture, and collection objects. The existing structure at 97 Newbury Street was razed, piles and foundation slabs were installed, new steel framing began, and we commenced our fire suppression system installation.

We also finalized our designs for the Family Heritage Experience—an inviting, visually compelling, inquiry-driven visitor destination that will employ a variety of media (analog and digital) to support different learning styles while inspiring everyone to advance their family history journey.



Through a clear articulation and demonstration of our purpose and value as a leading cultural institution, we received extraordinary philanthropic support for our efforts. New commitments of philanthropy exceeded \$11.9 million—the most support in a single year in our history.

The detailed report that follows captures the enduring power and promise of family history as we engage in groundbreaking work.



Educate

We produced 225 programs—many representing multiple days, multiple presentations, and multiple hours' worth of content—and engaged 34,380 live attendees. Many thousands more registered for our programs, viewed archived online lectures through our video library and YouTube channel, and utilized our online research guides, templates, and other materials in the online learning center.

This past year was marked by significant strides in unlocking the transformative power of genealogy for young minds. We piloted teacher workshops, expanded programs for students, and laid the foundation for growth in the future. The result is a growing demand to incorporate genealogy into classroom curricula. We provided professional development to over 70 educators, and since its launch one year ago, our curriculum had 7,000 page views and 750 downloads by classroom teachers, home school educators, librarians, and genealogy societies across the country and around the world.

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center curated an online exhibit that combines audio oral history recordings, archival images, and educational text into an interactive web portal: "Jewish Neighborhood Voices." In addition to featuring detailed descriptions of the physical neighborhoods and their Jewish landmarks, the exhibit highlights overarching themes that emerged across each of the Massachusetts neighborhoods.

Our Books & Journals team released six new titles during the 2023 fiscal year. We published four issues of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and two issues of the *Mayflower Descendant* journal. Newbury Street Press books included *The Goelet Family of New York with Notes on Related Families* and *Ancestors and Descendants of William Joseph Finn*.

Partnering with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, named in *USA Today* as the number one patriotic attraction in the city, we worked to verify Tea Party participants and

planners, created a new searchable database of genealogical and biographical profiles of America's first patriots, and launched a new descendant lineage society.

We expanded our core databases with searchable record additions for the *General Society of Colonial Wars Membership Applications, 1893-1949*; *Providence, RI: Old Stone Bank Records, 1844-1897*; *On the Battlefield: Records of Soldiers, Veterans, and Refugees*; *Black Loyalist Directory, 1783-1788*; *Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Parish Cemetery Records, 1866-1940*; and many more.

Inspire

The launch of 10 Million Names, a collaborative project dedicated to recovering and restoring the names of the estimated 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America, brought unprecedented media and public attention to our work and institution. Through our media partnership with ABC News and other national coverage, third-party media impact analysis estimates information about 10 Million Names and American Ancestors reached 166 million people.

During the planning stages, someone referred to the project as a "genealogical moonshot." We liked this comparison. Indeed, we choose to do this not because it is easy, nor because it is hard, but because it is *right*. The yearning to know one's ancestors and their influences is innately human. For this ambitious undertaking, we seek to amplify the voices of people who have been telling their family stories for centuries, connect researchers and records with people seeking answers to family history questions, and expand access to data, resources, and information about enslaved African Americans. We have arranged our work





into five research projects—Making America: Records of Enslaved Laborers Within and Beyond the Plantation; On the Battlefield: Records of Soldiers, Veterans, and Refugees; Journeys to Liberation: Records of Mariners, Migrants, and Freedom Seekers; Community Building: Records of Black Institutions; and Remembering Slavery: Testimonials After Emancipation—and new advances in research are taking place daily.

Since launching our best-selling author lecture series, American Inspiration, in 2019, more than 135,000 have joined us to discover inspiring and thought-provoking stories of American families and the complex history which has shaped this country. In total, more than 170 authors, ranging from Nathaniel Philbrick to Annette Gordon-Reed, Stacy Schiff to Scott Simon, and Gail Collins to Ken Burns, have participated to present themes of personal identity, families, immigration, and social and cultural history. During fiscal year 2023 alone, American Inspiration drew 20,800+ live attendees and thousands of video views.

Connect

Our expert genealogists, archivists, and historians are the most respected and advanced in our profession, with specialized knowledge and skills in DNA, African American genealogy, Native American genealogy, Jewish history and genealogy, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century immigration. Location expertise includes New England, the Mid-Atlantic, the South, the Midwest, Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Poland, Austria, and Russia, among others.

One of the best ways to make progress in family history research is to connect with an expert. With over 1,100

consultations this past year, the genealogists at American Ancestors conducted phone, Zoom, or in-person conversations offering members a chance to ask a question and get immediate feedback, gain practical strategies, and learn about new avenues of research.

Beyond connecting for research help, we are also proud to provide other means of connection, such as Heritage Tours. These tours combine stimulating travel with lifelong learning. Our itineraries allow for both independent exploration and guided study, with participation from locals and area experts helping to establish relationships and impressions that last a lifetime. Each tour explores the art, architecture, history, and landscape of our forebears. Sold-out tours to England, Bermuda, and Scotland and walking tours of Boston and Providence provided members and friends of American Ancestors with the opportunity to discover the expert scholarship of American Ancestors leaders and local guides, engage in dynamic learning experiences, and meet interesting travel companions.

We have a deep appreciation of the past and an abiding commitment to the future to ensure we continue to serve as the nation's leading center for family history, heritage, and culture, where we educate, inspire, and connect people through genealogy and history.

Whether through heritage travel, facilitating archival research, dynamic educational lectures, or publishing new online databases, our mission is to support you and enrich lives through family history exploration.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan J. Woods
President & CEO



THE Brenton Simons Years

SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

1993 Brenton Simons joins staff

150th anniversary is observed with sesquicentennial conference



1995

American Ancestors brand is introduced



Partnership with American Jewish Historical Society begins

2010

1996 Our first website launches



Newbury Street Press is established

2009

A single donor pledges a historic \$7.5 million



Who Do You Think You Are? film's first episode at our building

Simons's book *Langhorne's of Langhorne Park* is released

1997

1999

Weekly newsletter is introduced



Simons's book *Boston Beheld* is published

Our first capital campaign is announced

2008

New England Ancestors member magazine debuts



2000



2002

Simons's book *The Art of Family* is published

Simons is named President & CEO
Simons's book *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues* is released



2006

Simons receives Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History



Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. debuts, with our building as its anchor location

2012

Adjacent building at 97 Newbury Street is purchased



Simons is named Chief Stewardship Officer and President Emeritus

International Congress of Genealogical & Heraldic Sciences to be held in Boston

2024



New visitor experience will debut

Simons receives OBE for services to Anglo-American history

Simons receives the Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence from the Saint Nicholas Society

10 Million Names

2023

10 Million Names launches



Construction of new building begins

Former UK PM Sir John Major honored

Simons receives the Bradford Award from Pilgrim Hall Museum

2021



Simons receives the John Adams Medal from the Sons of the Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing is commemorated



2020

Youth education program debuts

Constituency reaches 300,000



175th anniversary of NEHGS is observed



2013

AmericanAncestors.org becomes the most-used genealogical society website in the world



New visitor experience will debut

Partnership with FamilySearch secures 1 billion new records for our website

2014



Our website is named one of the "Best Large Database Genealogy Websites of 2015"



2015

Capital campaign concludes with \$62.2 million raised



2016



Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston collaboration begins

Cornerstone Project launches with lead gift of \$3 million

2017



JewishHeritageCenter.org debuts



2018

Georgetown Memory Project website collaboration begins



American Inspiration best-selling author series is launched

2019



"Our" Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History exhibit shown at our building

The Cornerstone Project

The Cornerstone Project is a multifaceted endeavor to inspire individuals and families to explore their history, increase in-person and virtual learning opportunities, and make critical capital improvements to our headquarters.

This is a momentous occasion in the history of our institution to renovate, improve, and expand our facilities to support our work to serve members and the public.



At the new National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture we are building, we will engage people with unparalleled learning experiences 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 web-based extensions.

Inspiration is at the core of our personal interactions with members and the public, and inspiration will be a hallmark of our new center. We will provide exciting and powerful experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds through a state-of-the-art museum space using technology platforms and inquiry-based interactive design.

Each of our exhibits will engage visitors to deepen their sense of identity and belonging and work to provide a greater understanding of the power of family history exploration.

As the country's founding organization for genealogy, we believe 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 seventeenth century and today, as an institution, we perpetuate genealogical scholarship of permanent value that is comprehensive 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.

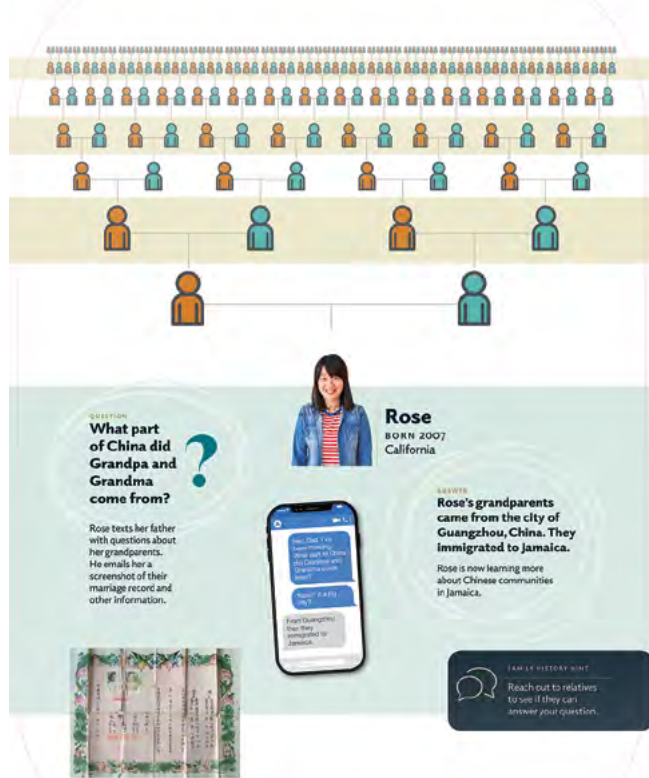
The Family Heritage Experience

Concept: Educate, inspire, and connect people across generations through inquiry-based exhibitions and interactives.

Members and guests will encounter a technology-rich, multi-generational friendly experience that will provoke thought and conversation about origins and identity.

The Family Heritage Experience will feature:

- **Interactive Map: "Who in the World Are You?"** The large format digital map (16' x 5') will prompt visitors to place a digital pin that reflects where they or their family are from. Visitors will see their pins (along with those of others) pop up on the screen. The exhibit is designed to be visually compelling, spark conversations, invite questions, and show the broad scope of our origins.
- **Genealogies in America:** Delving into family history is an adventure; you have all you need to begin. The place to start is *you*. Graphically captivating research models will display three different family examples and showcase how questions can begin a family history journey, the types of things one might learn, and the kinds of sources that might lead to answers.



The Cornerstone Society

Founders' Circle (\$1 million or more)

- Brady Brim-DeForest
- 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
- American Broadcasting Company (ABC)
- Judith Avery
- Gwendolyn Babcock
- Helen H. Berkeley
- John G. L. Cabot
- Stephen H. Case
- Kenneth Chenault
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Mark Thomas Cox IV
- Cheryl L. Edwards
- John M. Fleming
- Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman
- Leigh Maxwell Gelser*
- General Society of Colonial Wars
- Gerry and MaryLee Halpin
- Beverly L. Hamilton
- James and Susan Hunnewell
- John F. Keane*
- Jane D. Kivlin
- David W. Kruger
- Andrew P. Langlois
- Dr. J. Philip London, Sr.* and Dr. Jennifer London
- Jo Anne Makely
- William R. Marsh, M.D.*
- Massachusetts Cultural Council
- Mattie McFadden-Lawson
- Carol R. McGee
- National Society Daughters Of The American Revolution
- 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
- John Thorndike*
- Jonathan Buck Treat
- The Hearin-Chandler Foundation
- The Arnold Garrison Foundation
- Gypsie and Thomas Van Antwerp
- Katherine A. Van Demark, MD*
- Nancy Clay Webster
- Wallace S. and Isabel B.* Wilson
- Justin and Genevieve* Wyner
- Gwill York
- Anonymous (4)

*Deceased



Experience attributes

- Question Wall: The wall of questions invites visitors to choose (and take) a family history question from approximately 100 choices. Question cards will serve as a keepsake and a digital connection to the Records Station.
- All About Me: This digital interactive media gives visitors a glimpse into fun facts connected with their name, birth year, and geographic region of origin.
- Records Station: This digital exhibit will prompt visitors to share their chosen questions from the Question Wall and explore future possibilities for research, as well as how American Ancestors can help. The experience will teach people how to start their family history journey.
- DNA for Family History: This display will teach visitors about the benefits (and limitations) of DNA testing as one of many tools that can be used in cooperation with and in support of genealogical research.
- Family Treasures: This exhibition of American Ancestors collection objects explores and demonstrates that people have been recording family history and preserving keepsakes for a long time across cultures and asks: what are you doing to keep your family history and become “a thoughtful ancestor”?
- Listening Lounge: This audio-based exhibition will invite visitors to listen to themed family stories and prompt thinking about conversations within one’s own family.
- Feature Wall: A rotating digital exhibition highlighting signature research projects of American Ancestors. At launch, the exhibition will be 10 Million Names, the American Ancestors–led collaborative effort to recover and restore the names of the estimated ten million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in the present-day United States between the 1500s and 1865.
- Hidden Histories: This exhibition will include American Ancestors collection objects to prompt exploration and thinking about the kinds of things people hide about their family history, the types of “improvements” people make to their family history, how accurate stories can be recovered, and why some mysteries endure.
- Rotunda Projection Display: This mesmerizing light display will be a culminating moment of respite, connection, and beauty. It will demonstrate that American Ancestors is an extraordinary repository of family history treasures and research. The experience will be multi-sensory, feature American Ancestors content, and activate primary sources in an exciting way.

Outcomes

Expanding 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 Family Heritage Experience will connect to several other spaces supporting innovative family history experiences, including a Learning Center and Lecture Room offering programming for 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; the Jewish Heritage Center's staff, collections, and archives; and a Business Management Center supporting operations.

Our facilities at 97 Newbury Street and 99-101 Newbury will be linked, creating an expanded complex with a new elevator and a staircase, connecting all floors of both buildings.

The integrated buildings will include critical fire protection for the first time in our headquarters, updated mechanical systems, and accessibility upgrades.

In 2023, we officially began the multi-million-dollar construction phase of the project with the deconstruction of 97 Newbury and the assembly of the steel frame of the new structure.

Ways to give

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.

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.



Get Connected. Be Inspired.

American Ancestors is a national center for family history, heritage, and culture based in Boston, Massachusetts, and one of the world's top destinations for family history research, according to *USA Today*. American Ancestors is the global brand of New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), America's oldest and largest genealogical society (founded in 1845). American Ancestors serves more than 400,000 members and millions of online users engaged in family history nationally and around the world through its website [AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.AmericanAncestors.org) with more than one billion names in its databases.

Located in Boston's Back Bay, American Ancestors is home to a worldclass research center and archive, an expert staff,

and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. It maintains a publishing division that produces original genealogical research, scholarship, and educational materials, including the *Register*, the flagship journal of American genealogy since 1847; *American Ancestors*, its award-winning magazine; and *Mayflower Descendant*, a journal of Pilgrim genealogy and history.

With a mission 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.



Databases

AmericanAncestors.org provides access to over 1.4 billion records spanning the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond. It includes an extensive online collection of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, the only online source for records from Boston's Catholic Archdiocese, and 10 Million Names, our new database dedicated to recovering the names of the estimated ten million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America between the 1500s and 1865.

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. We provide exclusive, in-depth learning opportunities online and in person, including more than 225 annual lectures, seminars, intensive research programs, Heritage Tours, American Inspiration book talks, and special events designed to benefit family history researchers of all levels and heritage and cultural enthusiasts. Through guided research tours to repositories around the world, we help you maximize your results and take your family tree to new heights.

Expert staff

Our expert staff of researchers and genealogists are among the most respected and advanced in the profession. Ask a Genealogist, our free online chat service, allows family historians to ask short research or history questions and get real-time answers from our experts. We also provide in-depth research assistance with our research-for-hire projects. 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, Jewish genealogy, and more, 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.



Research Center

Named by *USA Today* as a top 10 world destination for family history, all are invited to visit our eight-story research center, library, and archive where we offer the largest collection of original family history research materials in the country. Our growing collection dates from the fourteenth 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.

Original scholarship

We produce significant original research and publications in genealogy, including the longest continually published academic journal in the field, the *Register*. We also publish the quarterly *American Ancestors* magazine, the biannual *Mayflower Descendant*, ten-to-twenty books per year, a weekly email newsletter, and landmark study projects in New England research.

As the leader in genealogical scholarship, our study projects include 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.

Senior leadership team



Ryan J. Woods President & Chief Executive Officer

An educator and historian, Ryan J. Woods is President & Chief Executive Officer of American Ancestors. For more than two decades, he has dedicated his professional life to developing experiences to educate, inspire, and connect people through the exploration of history, heritage, and culture.

Since joining the American Ancestors staff in 2007, he has played a key role in bringing the enduring power and promise of family history to people across the country and around the globe, including serving as the lead creator of AmericanAncestors.org, which offers more than 1 billion searchable records, and leading the collaborative effort to establish our Jewish Heritage Center. Currently, Ryan is focused on partnerships, business planning for our headquarters' expansion, the creation of a national visitor destination experience, and 10 Million Names.

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, Deputy 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 a member of the Order of Saint John, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Mayflower Society, the Sons of the Revolution, the Saint Nicholas Society of New York City, and the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society.

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." Prior to joining American Ancestors, he held several positions at other cultural and historical institutions, including the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). During his tenure with NARA, he received the Archivist of the United States' Award for Outstanding Public Service.

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 education from Boston University.

Chairs of the Board, 1845–present*

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

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



D. Brenton Simons, OBE • Chief Stewardship Officer and President Emeritus

Author of the award-winning *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues*, and other books, Brenton Simons is the former President and CEO of American Ancestors, a position he held since 2005. In 2024, he stepped into his new role of President Emeritus and Chief Stewardship Officer to provide strategic and tactical assistance for donor relations, content initiatives, and partnership relationships in support of annual budgets and strategic plans. Brenton has an ME in Education and a BS in Communications from Boston University. In 2023, he was awarded an OBE by HM King Charles III for services to Anglo-American history.



Don Reagan • Chief Business Development and Marketing Officer

Don Reagan is responsible for analytics, communications, digital strategy, marketing, and member services activities that drive scalable financial growth and expand membership for American Ancestors. Don earned his BS and MBA from Clarkson University where his focus was business and technology management. Don also earned a BA in history from Clarkson.



Ginevra Morse • Chief Learning & Interpretation Officer

Ginevra Morse is responsible for genealogical programming, heritage & cultural programming, publications, and youth education. She joined the team in 2010 and developed the American Ancestors Online Learning Center before leading all research tours and programs, seminars, workshops, online programs, conferences, group visits, offsite lectures, youth education, and community events. Ginevra holds a BA in anthropology from McGill University in Montréal.



Bruce Bernier • Chief Financial Officer

Bruce Bernier is responsible for the areas of finance, human resources, information technology, and facilities. Bruce is focused on the well-being of American Ancestors and serves as a resource to its management team and employees. Bruce has served in a senior capacity at Massachusetts and New England-based not-for-profits for over twenty years. He earned his BS at the University of Vermont and MBA at Northeastern University.



Meghan Hallock • Chief Advancement Officer

Meghan Hallock is responsible for Board and Council engagement, relationships, and stewardship. She serves as chief fundraiser working closely with leadership and the advancement group to manage resource development and raise funds to fulfill its growth goals. She has a JD from the College of William & Mary, an MBA from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University, and a BA from Hamilton College.



Lindsay Fulton • Chief Research Officer

Lindsay Fulton is a nationally recognized professional genealogist and lecturer who joined American Ancestors in 2012. She leads the Research, Library & Archives, and Database teams and the research team working on 10 Million Names. She was featured in the Emmy-winning program *Finding your Roots: The Seedlings*, a web series inspired by the PBS series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* and the PBS series, *Samantha Brown's Places to Love*. She holds a BA from Merrimack College and an MA from the University of Massachusetts Boston.



Rachel King • Executive Director, Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

Rachel King leads the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center and oversees the JHC's work to preserve, illuminate, and connect people to Jewish history and heritage through its archives, programming, community relations and partnerships, and fellowships. She brings deep experience in communications, fundraising, strategic planning, and operations to advance the JHC mission. Rachel is a magna cum laude graduate of Brown University and has an MA from Columbia University.

Officers, 2024–2025



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.



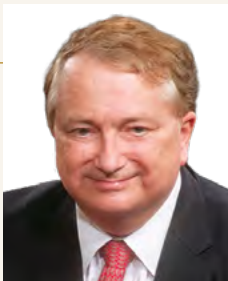
John E. Corcoran • Treasurer

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.



Gerard A. Halpin, III • Secretary

Forty-year career in international finance; retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Capital Company LLC. Education: BA from The College of the Holy Cross; MBA from the University of Virginia; Certificates in Genealogical Research from Boston University and American Genealogical Studies from the National Genealogical Society. Continuing genealogical education courses from American Ancestors/NEHGS, Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, and Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Genealogical interests include Colonial and early America, New France and early Canada and Irish genealogy. Spouse: Mary Lee Halpin. NEHGS: member since 2013; past Councilor and Trustee; Life Benefactor; a member of The Charles Ewer Society of Lifetime Giving.



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.

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Construction begins at 97 Newbury Street.



In the News



Washington Post reporter Sally Jacobs engaged researchers at American Ancestors to look into the ancestry of Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson, which led to a front-page story in the *Washington Post* on June 19, 2023. The lengthy story, which contrasted the family histories of Justice Jackson and her husband Patrick, a *Mayflower* descendant, contained numerous quotes from American Ancestors researchers Chris Child, Sarah Dery, and Lindsay Fulton.

Justice Jackson met with staff members of American Ancestors and agreed to serve on the board of 10 Million Names as an honorary member. The board grew to include Harvard professor and host of the PBS show *Finding Your Roots* Henry Louis Gates, Jr., media executive Paula Madison, and many more. In May, the ABC News Network agreed to be the exclusive media partner for 10 Million Names, a partnership that has extended into 2024 and that will result in stories that will be broadcast throughout 2024.

10 Million Names launched to an audience of three million viewers on August 2, with a three-minute-long segment on *Good Morning America*. A longer segment broadcast on the afternoon version of *Good Morning America* (GMA 3), and ABC News posted stories to its live streaming platform and across all social media properties.



American Ancestors continued the momentum with an announcement at the 2023 National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Media mogul and 10 Million Names Advisory Board member Paula Madison introduced 10 Million Names to more than 4,000 journalists of color. The announcement stimulated great interest and curiosity in the audience, which was only heightened when they learned that American Ancestors genealogists would also be conducting free family history sessions at the conference. Within 12 hours, all of the genealogy sessions were fully booked.

On August 3, American Ancestors issued a news release about 10 Million Names, which was distributed nationally to thousands of media outlets with a collective reach of 167 million viewers. American Ancestors held a press briefing at NABJ, which resulted in stories with AL.com, Alabama's most-viewed online news platform, and a segment on CBS 42, CBS's local Birmingham affiliate. Tufts Now, the online news platform for Tufts University, covered the role of Dr. Kendra T. Field, 10 Million Names Chief Historian, Associate Professor of History, and Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy at Tufts University.



Members of the American Ancestors Research Services staff and genealogists from 10 Million Names collaborating organizations held more than 250 free family history sessions with journalists, which stimulated their interest in the 10 Million Names story and deepened their determination to pitch their editors on more in-depth coverage of the project and its potential.

American Ancestors also launched 10 Million Names accounts on social media, which collectively resulted in hundreds of impressions within only the first two days of the launch. More than 100 reporters downloaded the 10 Million Names press kit over the next several months.

The Promise of

Joy

All of my ancestors came to New England with either English, Irish, or German ancestry. I was not aware of American Ancestors until I saw a brochure in Salt Lake City. Now I'm a Life Member. I began volunteering for American Ancestors about 20 years ago and transcribed gravestone, court, and vital records for the website. I was involved in indexing James Savage's volumes, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*.

I find great joy and value in family history because I learned about my background and how it influenced the way I was raised. There was a lot of pleasure in discovery, finding where ancestors lived, when they died, who they married, and their children.

While I have royal ancestors, I value the stories of everyday people the most. I grew up thinking my parents were a Yankee mother and a German Irish father. It turns out my father's grandmother was a Yankee. There was a poignant fact in a census record that showed that his grandmother had a child who was older than her years of marriage. I asked the family about it and heard that she worked as a serving girl and the owner of the house raped her. Family tales often grow out of a grain of truth, and this became my introduction to family lore. A cousin said it was Governor Hoar, yet there was no Governor Hoar in Massachusetts. There was a state and later U. S. senator in her town whose last name was Hoar who I suspect was the guy. You can't choose your ancestors.

I used the Bible records on AmericanAncestors.org and found it was difficult to know where to look for records like a person's spouse. The Bibles weren't indexed by name. I contacted Vice President of Research and Library Services Lindsay Fulton and offered a philanthropic gift to fund the initiative. There are two parts to the Bible Records Project: a new indexed database and the Bible and Family Records Collection in the Digital Library and Archives (DLA). Some of the Bible records were already digitized and uploaded to the DLA but they were not linked to a database name search. Soon a researcher will be able to put in a name, see the usual databases, and find a reference to the DLA. The greater access to records will help many with their family research.

Since the Bible records are some of the most requested items in our repository, there will be two access points for researchers to find family data within the Bible records. This will be the first time American Ancestors has linked the DLA and the database in this way and it will serve as a blueprint for future projects. There is a goal to add a total of 2,500 items by the end of the year. There are many images: 2,080 out of our goal of 3,400 collections have been scanned already.

The idea of helping people begin their family history journey is very appealing to me. I really have the bug, and I find much joy when I help friends. I recently traced someone's family and it was a wonderful experience. With the Discovery Center, anyone will be able to walk in off the street to start their family history journey. That appealed to me so much that I threw some money at it.



Jane Kivlin joined American Ancestors in 1995 and became a Life Member in 2009. She volunteers with the Database team to provide indexing and transcription for various databases. She resides in Elm Grove, Wisconsin.

New Databases

Top 10 Databases of 2023

1. *New England Historic and Genealogical Register*
2. Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700-1880
3. General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620-1920
4. Early New England Families, 1641-1700
5. Boston Tea Party Participant Biographies
6. Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850
7. *Mayflower Descendant*
8. Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920
9. *The American Genealogist*
10. Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784

General Society of Colonial Wars Membership Applications, 1893-1949 This database will eventually include all applications and supplemental applications to the General Society of Colonial Wars starting from their formal founding in 1893. Material is not included for individuals listed in the applications who were born after January 1, 1950. This database was created through a partnership of the General Society of Colonial Wars and American Ancestors.

Providence, RI: Old Stone Bank Records, 1844-1897 When complete, the database will contain all 29 signature books from the Old Stone Bank. The Old Stone Bank of Providence, Rhode Island, was founded in 1819, first as the Providence Institution of Savings. Following the 1854 construction of the iconic domed building located at 86 South Main Street in Providence, it was informally known as the "Old Stone Bank," eventually officially renamed as the Old Stone Savings Bank in 1967.

On the Battlefield: Records of Soldiers, Veterans, and Refugees This database provides lists of soldiers of color and accompanying genealogical information. This database is presented as a part of 10 Million Names. Each record includes regimental information, noted service records (including enlistment date, company, rank at enlistment, separation date and reason, as well as any casualty information).

Black Loyalist Directory, 1783-1788 This database was created from *The Book of Negroes: African Americans in Exile After the American Revolution*, edited by Graham Russell, Gao Hodges, and Alan Edward Brown, which contains transcriptions of Brigadier General Samuel Birch's inspection roll of Black and mixed-race loyalists who emigrated to Canada, the UK, the West Indies, and Germany at the end of the American Revolutionary War in 1783.

Boston Tea Party Participant Biographies The goal of this database is to create comprehensive biographical sketches for all individuals associated with or known to have participated in the Boston Tea Party, which took place on December 16, 1773, in Boston Harbor. This database is launched in conjunction with the announcement of the Boston Tea Party Descendants Program, a new lineage society for those whose ancestors participated in the historic revolutionary event. This database, as well as the Boston Tea Party Descendants Program, are both in collaboration with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum.

Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Parish Cemetery Records, 1866-1940 The cemeteries selected for this database are administrated by local parishes, which are distinct from those managed by the Catholic Cemetery Association. Most of the volumes contain records of lot sales or interments and may include lot owners, date of burial, and location of burial. This includes information for some people who no longer have, or may never have had, headstones, making this collection essential for research into Catholic burials in this region. This database offers records through 1940, with the exception of St. Joseph Cemetery (Plymouth) which offers records through 1970.

Lynn, MA: Harry Lipsky Company Records, 1934-1936 The Harry Lipsky Company was a furniture moving company founded in 1910 in Lynn, Massachusetts, by Harry Lipsky, who owned and operated the company until his death in 1926. He was born between 1887 and 1888 in Slavita, Russia (modern-day Ukraine), and immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, around 1904. He married Dora Rabotnick in 1910, and together they had three children, Jacob "Jack," Sidney Samuel, and Rose. His sons took over operations until the company was sold in 1988. This database contains a detailed ledger of all the moves that the Harry Lipsky Company undertook between 1934 and 1936, including the names and addresses of clients, and the cost and contents of the moves.

Database Additions and Updates

The Genealogist

Canadian Headstones: Cemetery Heritage Records of Canada

Brimfield, MA: Deaths and Burials, 1808-1850

Suffolk County, MA Probate File Papers

The Essex Genealogist

The Connecticut Nutmegger

Vermont Genealogy

Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784

Early New England Families, 1641-1700

Rhode Island: Vital Records, 1636-1850

Ireland: The Annals of Beara

GU272 Descendants, 1785-2000

Vita Brevis

Vita Brevis is celebrating its 10th year! In FY23, we received a total of 351,795 views and published 72 new posts on topics ranging from the genealogies of Super Bowl quarterbacks to the unexpected discovery of a Civil War ancestor's foot bones in a medical archive. With an archive rapidly approaching 2,000 posts strong, written by over 150 expert researchers, genealogists, and historians, *Vita Brevis* has established itself as an invaluable treasure trove of insight and knowledge for family historians of every kind.

Top 10 Posts in FY23

1. "Surname Variants in Ireland" by Sheilagh Doerfler
2. "Ancestry of Patrick Mahomes (Part II)" by Christopher C. Child
3. "Linking Parents and Children—Without the Help of Vital Records" by Jennifer Shakshober
4. "Chasing Grandma" by Jeff Record
5. "Saving Grace" by Jeff Record
6. "Lodgers or Relatives? (Part I)" by Joe Smaldone
7. "The Tale of Christopher McNanny's Left Foot" by Don Reagan
8. "Why Was Lower Canada Above Upper Canada?" by Zachary Garceau
9. "Genealogical Clusters" by Alicia Crane Williams
10. "Woonsocket, Rhode Island: The Most French City in the United States" by Zachary Garceau



The screenshot shows the Vita Brevis website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Authors, and Subscribe, along with the AmericanAncestors.org logo. The main content area features the article title "Surname Variants in Ireland" in a large, bold font. Below the title, the author's name "Sheilagh Doerfler" and the date "March 15, 2023" are visible. A small map of Ireland is displayed, showing various regions in different colors. The article text begins with the sentence: "Simply put, Irish research is difficult. Beyond missing and incomplete records, there are many obstacles that can frustrate even the most seasoned genealogist. In my opinion, an obstacle that is often overlooked is the variation of Irish surnames."

250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

Activities and commemorations to mark the **250th Anniversary of the American Revolution** began in earnest in 2023.

Boston Tea Party

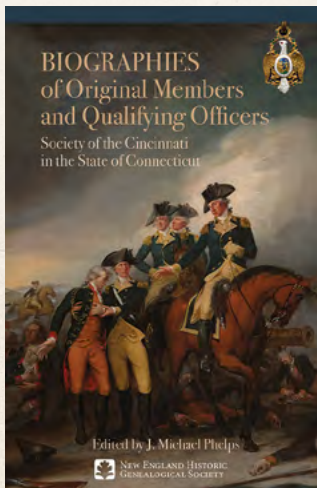
The seeds of American freedom were sown on December 16, 1773, when hundreds of colonists gathered in “opposition to the machinations of Tyranny” for the event we now know as the Boston Tea Party. The Boston Tea Party was the first significant act of defiance by American colonists. The impact was enormous; it directly led to the Intolerable Acts in 1774—a principal development leading to the actions at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, and the outbreak of the American Revolution.

While the Boston Tea Party is one of the most critical events in the eventual formation of the country, there has never been a complete genealogical and biographical treatment of the Boston Tea Party participants and their associates. Partnering with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, named in *USA Today* as the number one patriotic attraction in the city, we worked to verify Tea Party participants and planners, created a new searchable database of genealogical and biographical profiles of America’s first patriots, and launched a new descendant lineage society.

Society of the Cincinnati

In collaboration with the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, we published a monumental three-volume set of 715 fully cited genealogical and biographical sketches of all qualified propositi of the Connecticut Society, including renowned heroes such as Capt. Nathan Hale, Gen. Jedediah Huntington, Gen. Samuel Holden Parsons, Gen. Israel Putnam Sr., Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge, and Gen. David Wooster. It includes all Original Members and all who qualify under some other basis of the original or amended Institution.

- Volume 1: Thomas Abbe – Cornelius Higgins
- Volume 2: Joseph Higgins – Samuel Sanford
- Volume 3: Abijah Savage – John Yates/Yeats



Select Research Resources

AmericanAncestors.org/BostonTeaPartyBoston

Boston Tea Party Participant Biographies
Boston, MA: Church Records, 1630-1895
Boston, MA: Deaths, 1700-1799
Boston, MA: Dexter's Memoranda of the Town of Boston, 1711-1875
Boston, MA: Inhabitants and Estates of the Town of Boston, 1630-1822 (Thwing Collection)
Boston, MA: Marriages, 1700-1809
Boston, MA: Old Cemeteries of Boston, 1649-1920

Massachusetts

Hampden County, MA: Black Families in Hampden County, 1650-1865
Massachusetts: Divided Hearts, Massachusetts Loyalists, 1765-1790
Massachusetts: Grand Lodge of Masons Membership Cards, 1733-1990
Massachusetts: Legislators of the General Court, 1691-1780
Massachusetts: Miscellaneous Census Substitutes, 1630-1788, 1840, 1890
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850
Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts Membership Applications, 1560-1970
Western Massachusetts Families in 1790

New England

Colonial Collegians, 1642-1774
Colonial Soldiers and Officers in New England, 1620-1775
Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784
Enfield, NH: Vital Records, 1761-1940
New England Marriages to 1700
New Hampshire: Miscellaneous Censuses and Substitutes, 1640-1890
Vermont: Miscellaneous Censuses and Substitutes, 1778-1822, 1840

External Databases

American History, 1493-1945
Colonial America
Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876
Gale In Context: U.S. History
Gale: Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers
HeritageQuest Online

Black Soldiers in Colonial Conflicts

As part of 10 Million Names, we began work to make accessible through digital formats, the names of thousands of free and enslaved people who participated in North American military campaigns in the colonial period through American independence. Using a multitude of primary and secondary sources, with the support and collaboration of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Society of Colonial Wars, among others, we aim to reveal the stories of tens of thousands of Black soldiers—both patriots and loyalists—who participated in the American Revolution. In 2023, as part of our efforts, we launched the *Black Loyalist Directory, 1783-1788* database which includes more than 14,000 emigration, military, residence, and some vital and residence records from the recent publication, *The Book of Negroes: African Americans in Exile After the American Revolution*

250th American Revolution Anniversary Commission

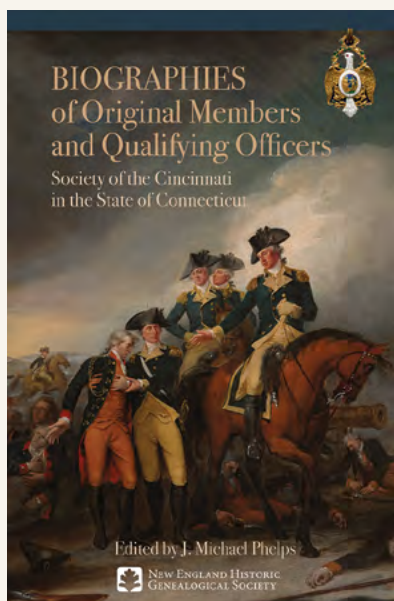
Ryan Woods is appointed commissioner of the Special Commission for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which was established by the legislature to investigate and study the promotion and celebration of the American Revolution. Among the commission's work is to develop a comprehensive plan for promoting and celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution; identify all opportunities for individuals, municipalities, or other actors across the Commonwealth to participate in celebrations of the anniversary and recognize the particular history of their geographical areas; investigate and promote under-represented voices in the American Revolution including, but not limited to, women, Native peoples and persons of color; and submit a report that covers an overview of the Commonwealth's particular role in the American Revolution and notable battles, events, and figures of the era. Ryan serves on the commission's education subcommittee as well.



Opposite page: *The Boston Tea Party*, 18th century. Mabel Brady Garvan Collection, Yale University Art Gallery. Above: "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.

New Publications

Our Books & Journals team released six new titles during the 2023 fiscal year. We also published four issues of *American Ancestors* magazine, four issues of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, and two issues of the *Mayflower Descendant* journal.



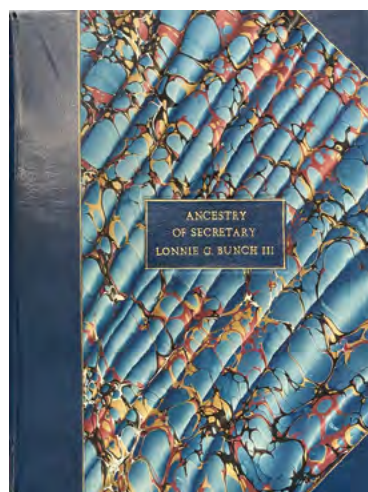
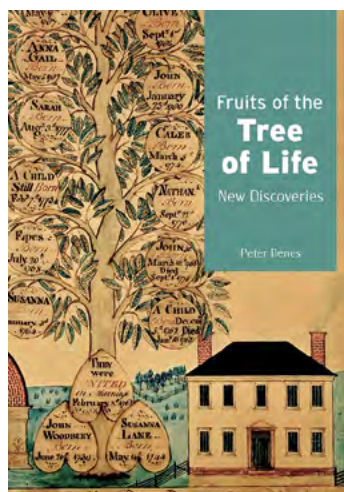
2023 NEHGS Books

Fruits of the Tree of Life: New Discoveries by Peter Benes

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790, Volume 5 by Helen Schatvet Ullmann

Biographies of Original Members and Qualifying Officers: Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, Vols. 1–3 edited by J. Michael Phelps

Ancestry of Secretary Lonnie G. Bunch III by Meaghan E. H. Siekman, PhD (April 2023 dinner honoree)



Winner!

2023 Connecticut Society of Genealogists' Literary Awards (Genealogical Resource Category)

2023 Newbury Street Press Books

The Goelet Family of New York with Notes on Related Families

by Scott C. Steward with Chip Rowe

Ancestors and Descendants of William Joseph Finn

by Susan Donnelly with Nancy G. Bernard and Whitney Buckley

Newbury Street Press Projects Undertaken in 2023

Ancestors of R. Stanton Avery

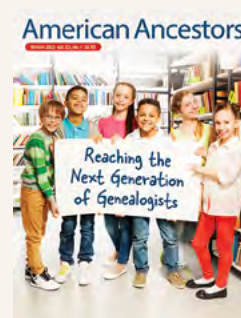
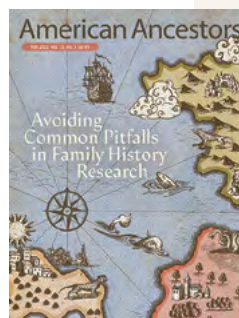
Ancestors of Dorothy Louise Durfee

Ancestors of Thomas Bragg Van Antwerp and Gypsie Boykin Bear

Periodicals

American Ancestors Magazine

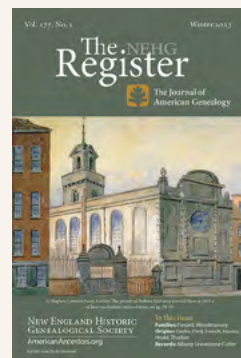
The four issues of *American Ancestors* magazine (fall 2022 through summer 2023) published in this fiscal year presented a number of engaging features, including advice on avoiding common pitfalls in family history research, an introduction to the new American Ancestors Family History Curriculum, and a focus on witchcraft victims in early America. Our summer 2023 issue was primarily devoted to our 10 Million Names initiative. Along with an array of perspectives on this new project, “10 Myths about Slavery in the United States,” by Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press Meaghan E. H. Siekman, PhD, provided important historical context. Columns on New York, Virginia, genetics, the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, and our manuscripts and collections offered a variety of genealogical and historical topics. Readers were also kept up to date on American Ancestors education programs and tours, events, the Cornerstone Project, and other news.



The Register

In Vol. 176, No. 4, we published a treatment of a Revolutionary War soldier and former slave named Monday Hector and covered the English origins of many 17th-century immigrants.

In Vol. 177, Nos. 1-3, we published articles on the English origins of 17th-century immigrants to Massachusetts and other New England colonies, as well as Maryland and New York; enslaved families in St. Mary’s County, Maryland, including descendants of enslaved people who were sold by the Jesuits in 1838–1843; an extensive kinship network in England and New England; the first two parts of Rhonda McClure’s “The Rotches and the Rodmans: A Tale of New Bedford Quakerism,” covering the Quakers in New England and how Quaker meetings operated, followed by a Genealogical Summary of Rotch and Rodman descendants with meticulous documentation from Quaker records; and a review of David Watson Kruger’s *Four Families of St. Mary’s County: Butler, Gough, Shubrooks, Lee* (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2022).



Mayflower Descendant

Our eighth year of publishing *Mayflower Descendant* included new details about the life and career of Edward^A Winslow (father of Gov. Edward Winslow); the English origins of Sarah Walker, wife of Nathaniel² Warren (*Richard*¹); the beginning of a genealogy of the descendants of Francis Curtis of Plymouth, Mass.; a discussion of a Francis Cooke descendant of Joseph Brownell of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, and Little Compton, Rhode Island—a Quaker who was married five times; and a discussion of Lydia Fosdick and her French Caribbean husband, Louis Lambert Macillier of Boston, whose daughters are the first known Catholic baptisms of *Mayflower* descendants.



In Their Own Voices



Community History and a Portrait of a Generation

When the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) set out to collect oral histories about a group of Massachusetts neighborhoods that had thriving Jewish communities in the first half of the 20th century, our goal was to complement the considerable paper documentation about those communities already in our archives with firsthand accounts from elders who remembered the communities in their heyday.

This project, "Jewish Neighborhood Voices," represented a new approach for the JHC, as we actively collected and expanded the types of documentation preserved in our archives. While our focus was on expanding historical understanding of four Jewish communities that were important to the story of Jewish settlement in Greater Boston and Massachusetts, we discovered that the oral histories together give a vivid portrait of a generation of Jewish Americans who straddled the traditions of their immigrant parents and grandparents and the opportunities and pressures of American secular life.

The JHC curated the oral histories recorded in 2022 into an interactive online exhibit that combines audio testimony, archival images, and text. In addition to featuring detailed descriptions of the physical neighborhoods and their Jewish landmarks, the exhibit highlights five overarching themes that emerged across all the neighborhoods: "Jewish Family Life: From Generation to Generation"; "Jewish Neighborhood Life: The Synagogue, The Butcher, and the Triple Decker"; "Neighborhood Relations: Friendships and Tensions"; "Memories of the Holocaust and World War II"; and "Moving Up and Moving Out: Class Distinctions, Blockbusting, and the American Dream."

Our narrators shared memories of their families and their relationships with both Jewish and non-Jewish neighbors. Many recalled the powerful, formative education about other cultures and religions that they gained through their friendships with non-Jewish neighbors. Alongside these positive interactions, many remembered experiencing or witnessing antisemitism and discrimination, and redlining that pitted marginalized groups against each other.

The narrators recall, with nostalgia and warmth, Yiddish being spoken in their homes, the cycles of Shabbat and holidays around which family life centered, and the strong Jewish values their elders embodied and passed on to them. Many discuss the expectations from their immigrant parents and grandparents that they would pursue education and strive for social, economic, and professional upward mobility.

"Jewish Neighborhood Voices" captures not only one generation of Jewish Americans' lived experience of a particular geographical region, but also the push and pull of immigrant traditions and American life. The JHC hopes that today's residents of the featured neighborhoods will gain an understanding of how a prior generation of Jewish neighbors experienced and shaped their communities, and that people of many backgrounds might see and hear their own family stories in this exhibit.



The Wyner Family
Jewish Heritage Center™
at AMERICAN ANCESTORS

The Promise of *Education*

I've been exposed to genealogy most of my life. My dad, his mother, and several other relatives worked on family trees for as long as I can remember. They made many discoveries including links to a Revolutionary War soldier who qualified my grandmother and a cousin for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. While these stories were interesting, I never really caught the genealogy bug until later.

After my dad's passing, I inherited his records and research. While it was fairly extensive for his side of the family, the research was minimal for my maternal side. I decided two things: that I wanted to better preserve it when I got the chance and extend the tree for my mother's side. Little did I know that the opportunity would arrive so quickly. When the pandemic started, it seemed like the perfect time to dive in. I quickly caught the right kind of bug and began extensive research on my tree. I quickly discovered that my mother's family had deep roots in early America, which led me to American Ancestors to find more records.

At the same time, I wanted to do better research and discovered American Ancestors educational programs and materials. One of the first resources I discovered was the virtual "Getting Started Guide" and its related video "First Steps in Family History" on YouTube. Since then, I've attended many other webinars about researching and general interest topics such as the American Inspiration webinar with Steve Inskeep discussing his new book on President Lincoln.

As pandemic conditions improved, I decided to attend in-person genealogy events including the American Ancestors Upstate New York Research Tour. Since I have a number of ancestors from New York, it was a valuable experience to learn how to research in the New York State Library and New York State Archives with other family history enthusiasts by my side. One of the most important things was learning the history of the upstate New York counties and where records might be located because of that history. One of my favorite things about visiting the library was handling physical copies of family histories that I had previously only seen as scanned copies on the internet.

While I've enjoyed learning about my ancestors, the best thing about doing genealogy has been discovering the connections that all of them had to history. Since starting this work, I have a much greater appreciation for and connection to that history. The earliest ones took nearly unimaginable trips across the ocean to a new land for a chance at a better life. Their descendants fought a revolution to create a new country. Later they fought in many conflicts to preserve that country. We can't forget the mundane things they did as well: farming, blacksmithing, teaching, factory work, hospitality, railroading, engineering, and numerous other occupations.

I'm proud to be part of an organization that wants to preserve the history of the country and the families that built it.

Dave Wagenknecht resides in York, Pennsylvania, and has been a member of American Ancestors since 2020. He is a Friend Member.



THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

This past fiscal year represents a resounding success for the Education & Programming team—accomplished primarily through online programming, with little overhead by a dedicated team. We produced **225 programs**—many “programs” representing multiple days, multiple presentations, and multiple hours’ worth of content and engaged **34,380 LIVE attendees**. Many thousands more registered for our programs, viewed archived online lectures through our video library and YouTube channel, and utilized our online research guides, templates, and other materials in the online learning center. Below is a listing of our Education programs from September 2022 through August 2023. For a full picture of our offerings, review the sections on the American Inspiration series, Heritage Tours, Youth Education, and Special Events in this report.

Programs and Family History Education

ONLINE SEMINAR Getting Organized in Your Family History Research, three weeks starting September 7, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Family History, September 10, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Applying for Dual Citizenship, September 15, 2022

ONLINE LECTURE What’s New at American Ancestors, September 22, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Family History, September 26, 2022

PRIVATE LECTURE Raising the Dead: Finding Clues to Ancestors from Headstones, Family Plots, and Burial Records, September 27, 2022

ONLINE SEMINAR Navigating our Nation’s Federal Records, five weeks starting September 28, 2022

PRIVATE LECTURE Getting Started in African American Research, October 3, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Using DNA in Your Family History Research, October 5, 2022

ONLINE LECTURE Using Cemetery Transcripts in Your Family History Research, October 6, 2022

PRIVATE LECTURE Getting Started in Polish Genealogy, October 11, 2022

LECTURE Heraldry and the Heralds, October 12, 2022

RESEARCH TOUR Fall Research Getaway, October 13–October 15, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Applying for Dual Citizenship, October 13, 2022

ONLINE LECTURE Verifying Descent from Salem’s Accused Witches, October 20, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Migrations: From New England To and Through New York, October 22, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Italian Family History Research, October 24, 2022

WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER ONLINE LECTURE Genevieve Wyner Annual Lecture: A Festival of Freedom, October 25, 2022

ONLINE SEMINAR Finding Origins: Cluster Research in Practice, three weeks starting November 2, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Researching Revolutionary War Veterans, November 3, 2022

RESEARCH TOUR Salt Lake City Research Tour, November 6–November 13, 2022

PRIVATE LECTURE Getting Started in Family History, November 16, 2022

ONLINE LECTURE GEDmatch: Features Every Genealogist Needs to Understand & Use, November 17, 2022

SEMINAR Using DNA in Family History Research, November 19, 2022

ONLINE LECTURE What’s New at American Ancestors, December 1, 2022

ONLINE SEMINAR New York City Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy, four weeks starting December 7, 2022

ONLINE LECTURE Stories from the Archives: Family Recipes, December 8, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Irish Migration to Canada, December 9, 2022

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Colonial Migrations to 1700, December 10, 2022

ONLINE SEMINAR DNA in Practice, four weeks starting January 4, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Genealogical Skills Boot Camp, January 5–7, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Basics of Jewish American Genealogy, January 19, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Introduction to American Ancestors, January 19, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Introduction to American Ancestors, January 19, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Virtual Preservation Roadshow: Documents, Bound Volumes & Photographs, January 21, 2024

ONLINE LECTURE Understanding and Deciphering Old Handwriting, January 26, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Using Probate Records in Family History Research, January 28, 2023

WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER ONLINE LECTURE Jewish Soldiers in the Civil War: The Union Army, January 31, 2023

“These webinars are fantastic. Great that there are syllabi, YouTube repeats, etc. for us to catch up what we have missed. I’m also impressed by American Ancestors, which I visited in person several years ago. Staff are tops. The quantity and quality of resources amaze me.”

ONLINE SEMINAR Virginia Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy, four weeks starting February 1, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Scottish Family History Research, February 2, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Tracing Your Ancestors Occupations, February 8, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Italian Research, February 9, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE DNA Consultations at American Ancestors, February 10, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Searching Great Migration Databases on AmericanAncestors.org, February 16, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Verifying Descent from Salem's Accused Witches, February 20, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Researching New England Colonial Soldiers, February 21, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Winter Stay-at-Home Research Program, February 23–25, 2023

PRIVATE LECTURE Getting Started in Family History, February 27, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Basics of Early New England Research, five weeks starting March 1, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE New Member Orientation, March 8, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Finding Your Ancestral Homestead, March 9, 2023

PRIVATE LECTURE Getting Organized in Your Family History Research, March 11, 2023

SEMINAR Using Irish Church Records in Family History Research, March 11, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Genealogy for the Next Generation, March 16, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors, March 18, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Organizing Your Irish Family History Research, March 18, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE What's New at American Ancestors, March 16, 2023

RESEARCH TOUR Washington, DC, March 26–April 2, 2023

WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER

ONLINE LECTURE Altruism and Adaptation: American Jewish Life in the Interwar Period, March 28, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Navigating Passenger Lists: Arrivals to the US, three weeks starting April 5, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Pennsylvania Research: Go-To Resources, April 6, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Discovering the Past through Digitized Archival Material, April 13, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Family History, April 14, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Using Italian Records in Your Family History, April 15, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Choosing a Genealogical Software Program, April 15, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Introducing American Ancestors, April 17, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Spilling the Tea: Researching Boston Tea Party Patriots, April 20, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Writing Your Family History, April 23, 2023

WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER

ONLINE LECTURE Overlook the Ignorance: Jewish Americans, Antisemitism, and the Second World War, April 25, 2024

PRIVATE LECTURE Using New England Town Records, April 29, 2023

PRIVATE LECTURE Matriarchs and Patriarchs, May 3, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Pennsylvania Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy, four weeks starting May 10, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Scottish Research, May 10, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Huguenot Family History Resources, May 11, 2023

RESEARCH TOUR Day Trip to Massachusetts Historical Society, May 12, 2023

SEMINAR New York City Roadshow, May 13, 2023

RESEARCH TOUR Albany, NY, May 17–20, 2023

WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER

ONLINE LECTURE "Israel Is We": Jewish Americans and the New Nation State, May 18, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Lithuanian Research, May 25, 2023

RESEARCH TOUR Day Trip to the Boston City Archives, June 6, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE New Member Orientation, June 7, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE What's New at American Ancestors, June 8, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Spring Stay-at-Home Research Program, June 8–10, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Understanding Calendar Systems in Family History Research, June 13, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Introducing American Ancestors, June 13, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Researching Impoverished Ancestors, three weeks starting June 14, 2023

RESEARCH TOUR Day Trip to Connecticut State Archives, June 18, 2023

RESEARCH TOUR Edinburgh, Scotland, June 18–25, 2023

"Seminars like this make me happy that I stumbled upon American Ancestors offices while on vacation with my wife a few years ago as we strolled through Boston's Back Bay. I immediately became an American Ancestors member and will remain one for the rest of my life. Quite unexpectedly after my initial introduction of American Ancestors, you have become a very valuable resource for my genealogical research in Virginia, through which three of my four main genealogical lines migrated in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries."

WYNER FAMILY JEWISH HERITAGE CENTER

ONLINE LECTURE Launch of Jewish Neighborhood Voices, June 22, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Getting Started in Family History, June 28, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Researching Black Patriots and Loyalists, July 6, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Using DNA in Family History, July 6, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Introduction to American Ancestors, July 8, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Quaker Research, three weeks starting July 12, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Massachusetts Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy, July 15, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Basics of Ohio Research, July 20, 2024

PRIVATE LECTURE Colonial New England Research, July 22, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Using Revolutionary War Records, July 22, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Atlantic Canadian Research, five weeks starting August 2, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Virtual Genealogical Skills Bootcamp, August 3, 2023

SEMINAR Tracing Ancestors on the Move, August 12, 2023

PRIVATE ONLINE LECTURE Best Practices for Online Family History Research, August 16, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Introducing 10 Million Names, August 24, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Travel with American Ancestors, August 31, 2023

Youth Education

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

American Ancestors is committed to enriching social studies education and making genealogy accessible for all students. This past year was marked by significant strides in unlocking the transformative power of genealogy for young minds. We piloted teacher workshops, expanded programs for students, and laid the foundation for growth in the future. The result is a growing demand to incorporate genealogy into classroom curricula.

Despite the potential for genealogy to enrich the lives of young students, genealogy is often neglected in learning standards, curricula, and teacher training across the nation. The benefits of genealogy are not being realized due to the marginalization of social studies in the classroom. Recent research reveals a notable disparity in professional training, curriculum resources, and classroom instructional time for social studies compared to other subjects.

This means teachers are left shouldering the burden of assembling materials and developing lessons on their own, with limited guidance for teaching important subjects, such as history, government, and geography. American Ancestors has a unique opportunity to address this need by providing high-quality professional development for the important yet overlooked and underrated subject of genealogy.

Our Youth Education program is in the beginning stages of filling this critical gap. Last year, we provided professional development to over 70 educators. This included one-on-one training to help teachers create a personalized plan to incorporate

genealogy into their classrooms with collaborative hands-on activities. Our workshops are designed to provide teachers with training and resources needed to implement our Family History Curriculum and to create learning environments that use inquiry to explore genealogy.

As part of this effort, we launched a year-long pilot program in collaboration with the Maine State Department of Education. The program's inaugural in-person workshop in Augusta, Maine, saw enthusiastic participation from 39 teachers, with at least one teacher from every county in the state, underscoring the growing interest in genealogy education. This pilot program can reach over 1,500 students in Maine, one of the most rural states in the nation. A follow-up survey revealed that an immediate impact of the workshop was a surge in confidence by teachers to integrate genealogy into their classroom, many for the first time. Teachers indicated that they would use lessons and strategies from the workshop directly with their students.

Building on the success of the pilot program in Maine, we will offer a workshop in 2024 for teachers in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The workshop, entitled "Using Genealogy to Teach Inclusive History," is also part of the launch of 10 Million Names. It will provide a cohort of 31 formal and informal educators with training and resources to effectively integrate





genealogy into their curriculum. A key focus of the workshop is to help teachers to use genealogy as a lens to teach inclusive history. Each educator will receive primary sources and case studies of historical figures from the U.S. Virgin Islands. While our teacher workshops are in a piloting phase, they are laying the groundwork for growth in the years ahead.

Our commitment to youth education is further exemplified by a wide range of new and improved programs offered directly to students. This includes free member access to our website for all K–12 schools; an affiliation with National History Day, connecting students to our genealogists for help with research projects; a cemetery scavenger hunt activity for Making History on the Common, an annual event that drew over 800 students from Boston Public Schools; and our Young Family Historians Essay Contest that garnered submissions from 13 different states.

Research from Emory University indicates that students who do genealogy can exhibit psychological and emotional benefits, including higher self-esteem, lower levels of anxiety, and more resilience in the face of challenges. These outcomes can emerge in students when families share stories again and again, especially when multiple generations gather for meals, holidays, and family celebrations.

A chief architect of this research endorsed our Family History Curriculum. Emory University Emeritus Professor

of Psychology Marshall Duke stated that our “curriculum empowers young students to develop critical skills needed to record individual and collective memories, which can help students develop a stronger sense of identity, belonging, and purpose.” His expertise was invaluable as we developed the pedagogical foundation of our Youth Education program, and his endorsement is a great asset as we work to promote our curriculum and workshops to teachers across the country.

Since its launch one year ago, our curriculum has garnered significant interest, with 7,000 page views and 750 downloads by classroom teachers, home school educators, librarians, and genealogy societies across the country and around the world. This exemplifies the growing demand for high-quality social studies curricula that help students develop critical research and thinking skills. Our curriculum does more than passively teach history; it puts students at the center of *doing* history through inquiry and making personal connections to the past.

These initiatives collectively represent substantial growth and improvement in our Youth Education program. We have made meaningful progress in filling a gap in professional learning opportunities for teachers across the country and we have expanded our programs offered directly to students. We are excited that our goal of bringing history to life for all students and inspiring the next generation of family historians is being realized.

Consultations and one-on-one support

"Listening to the recording of our conversations has been a great help in pulling out the "little" things that make a big impact on further research for me to scour. ... Thank you for sharing the outcomes of your personal family research and very interesting ancestors. It's all so fascinating to me. Every tidbit of it!"

"Your presentation not only set me on what looks like the right track but really reenergized me. My takeaways are too numerous to list. I am impressed. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, research strategies and resources."

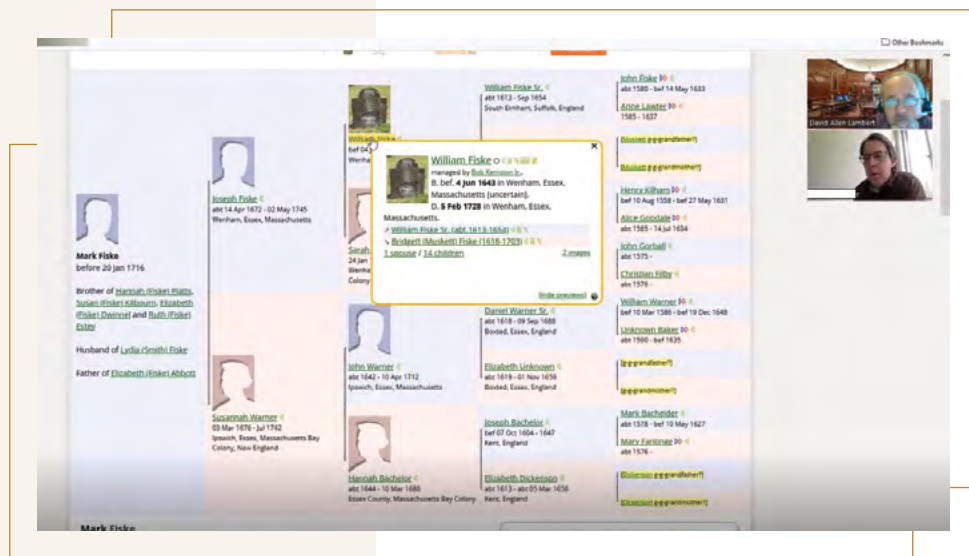
One of the best ways to make progress in family history research is to seek the guidance of experts. Consultations with the genealogists at American Ancestors—conducted over the phone, by Zoom, or in person—offer members a chance to ask a question and get immediate feedback, gain practical strategies, and learn about new avenues of research. On some occasions, a question can't be answered fully in one or two hours, so a member may schedule multiple sessions to receive continued one-on-one support with various brick walls in their genealogy.

Peter Lanza, a member from Stamford, Connecticut, has had several consultations with Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert. Their first meeting was in May 2022 leading up to an American Ancestors day research trip to the Phillips Library in Rowley, Massachusetts. During this pre-tour consultation, they discussed Lanza's Essex County, Massachusetts colonial ancestors and his goal to verify the lineage of two ancestors who fought during the American Revolution, focusing on their ancestors who immigrated to America during the Great Migration from 1620 to 1640. In this session, Lambert was able to determine the lineage of veterans Asa Harriman (1742–1819) and Joseph Fisk (1741–1837) and provided Lanza with a list of resources to examine during his visit to the Phillips Library. During their in-person research visit, Lambert worked alongside Lanza, discussed his discoveries, and mapped out a plan for further research after the program.

Since that first meeting, Lanza and Lambert have had five additional consultations to discuss his colonial ancestors; in each case, going into Lanza's online family tree and editing and removing material that cannot be verified by primary sources. A virtual family tree cleanup!

Lanza says, "Working with David during these sessions has enabled me to achieve the highest level of confidence that my family tree is now correct. Moving forward, this newly verified research will allow me to have the documented proofs to join various hereditary societies. This is only the start of working with David on well over one hundred more Massachusetts colonial ancestors for future consultations."

As an extension of their one-on-one work together, Lanza will be joining Lambert and other American Ancestors genealogists at the annual American Ancestors research tour to the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City this November.



The Promise of *Inspiration*

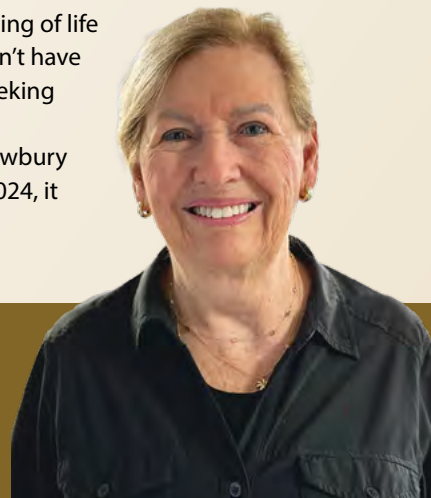
I joined American Ancestors in 2009 and attended many educational webinars and programs to assist in my family history journey. I am always seeking new ways to help with my research. When I learned that the Brue Family Learning Center at American Ancestors launched a free in-person series that quickly moved to online, featuring best-selling writers and their latest books that explore themes of personal identity, families and immigration, and social and cultural history, I was more than thrilled. Quality webinars like this inspire and help me think outside the box and keep me updated on current skills and available information.

It became one of my favorite things to tune in for the American Inspiration webinars. The lectures are fascinating, covering a wide range of topics about American history and its diverse peoples and families. I appreciate how the series introduces me to authors and titles I wouldn't have known about without the book talks. I recently attended the American Inspiration talk on Charlotte Gray's book, *Passionate Mothers, Powerful Sons: The Lives of Jennie Jerome Churchill and Sara Delano Roosevelt*. The author and moderator had an engaging conversation that drew me in, and it was one of the best book talks I have viewed. Thanks to the American Inspiration author series, my library is overflowing with great books, and being able to purchase signed copies from some of the featured authors is certainly a plus.

I find American Ancestors' other publications inspiring, informative, and interesting. I especially enjoy reading the *Register* and *Mayflower Descendant*. These wonderful resources have helped me prove my ancestry for lineage associations. I had one complimentary consultation with the Research Services staff that was terrific, which was one of the reasons I decided to become a Life Benefactor. They told me I might have *Mayflower* connections in that several ancestors arrived before the mid-1650s. This has been difficult to research as it involves maiden names, which are not always readily available. It is a work in progress, and I take pleasure in further discovery and working with the consultation service to help me progress with my research.

Online articles are fascinating and intriguing in helping to think about the family events and the legends we all share. I enjoy reading about others and their stories as it helps chronicle life in previous generations. My understanding of life before 1900 is from reading other's stories and history as I don't have many personal family stories before that time. I am always seeking new information and American Ancestors helps me with that research. I have always loved visiting the headquarters on Newbury Street. With the newly remodeled facilities opening later in 2024, it will be a delight to visit once the new building opens.

Catherine Palermo joined American Ancestors in 2009 and is a Life Benefactor. She attends many American Inspiration and Education programs. She resides in La Canada Flintridge, California.



Heritage Tours

"In our thirty years together, Ernie and I have enjoyed many wonderful trips to domestic and international locations, but our adventures with American Ancestors Heritage Tours eclipse all our previous travel experiences. Their wide-ranging emphasis on so many themes of the human experience, including art, architecture, and family histories put their tours in a category all their own. Heritage Tours have drawn us closer to American Ancestors through Life Membership, Council participation, and enjoyment of the extensive research and programming available to members. We also gained a new community of friends who share our interests, and for whom travel is just the beginning of the journey."

—Ernie and Joan Berndt



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 forebears.

Interest in traveling the world with American Ancestors has remained robust throughout Fiscal Year 2023. Sold-out tours to England, Bermuda, and Scotland and walking tours of Boston and Providence provided members and friends of American Ancestors with the opportunity to discover the expert scholarship of American Ancestors leaders and local guides, engage in dynamic learning experiences, meet interesting travel companions, enjoy behind-the-scenes access, and much more. All of which might explain why Heritage Tours has a long list of repeat travelers and a growing list of new fans.

Accompanied by Curt DiCamillo, architectural historian and American Ancestors Curator of Fine Art, tour participants explored the breathtaking landscapes of Norfolk; celebrated the Christmas holiday season in Shropshire; learned the history and discovered the beautiful gardens and monuments of the fascinating island of Bermuda; traveled to the Scottish Borders to visit some of Scotland's most glorious houses, romantic castles, sublime townhouses, and world-class museums; and enjoyed lively and informative walking tours of Boston and Providence.

HERITAGE TOUR A Slice of Heaven: Country Houses of Norfolk, September 11–September 17, 2022

HERITAGE TOUR Walking Tour of Boston's Back Bay, September 24, 2022

HERITAGE TOUR A Slice of Heaven: Country Houses of Norfolk, October 2–October 8, 2022

ONLINE LECTURE Magnificence, Marriage, and Murder: The Story of Scotland's Brodick Castle, October 21, 2022

HERITAGE TOUR Pilgrims in England: The Southeast Contingent, October 18–24, 2022

HERITAGE TOUR Walking Tour of Providence, October 29, 2022

ONLINE SEMINAR An Explosion of Beauty, Part 1, three weeks starting November 8, 2022

HERITAGE TOUR An English Country Christmas, November 29–December 4, 2022

HERITAGE TOUR An English Country Christmas, December 7–December 12, 2022

LECTURE Annual DiCamillo Rendezvous: The British Crown Jewels, January 19, 2023

ONLINE SEMINAR Explosion of Beauty, Part 2, three weeks starting February 7, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Weston Park: The House, The Families, and The Influence, February 10, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE The Houses of Parliament, 1086–2086, February 17, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Virtual DiCamillo Rendezvous: Ultimate Bling, March 10, 2023

HERITAGE TOUR The Art & Architecture of Bermuda, March 26–March 31, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Murray Pittman with *Scotland: A Global History*, April 7, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Neoclassical Berlin: A Virtual Tour, April 14, 2023

HERITAGE TOUR Scottish Borders, May 18–May 24, 2023

HERITAGE TOUR Scottish Borders, May 31–June 3, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE Downton Shabby: One American's Adventure Restoring His Family's English Castle, June 23, 2023

ONLINE LECTURE William Waldorf Astor: American Tycoon to English Lord, July 7, 2023



Online American Ancestors Heritage Tours: Expanding horizons without leaving home

Online lectures, courses, and other virtual events all enthusiastically presented or moderated by Curt DiCamillo were available to the general public as part of the Fine Art & Architecture series attracting thousands of registrants to American Ancestors.

In partnership with the National Trust of Scotland Foundation USA, Curt DiCamillo transported members and friends to the Scottish Borders and Brodick Castle in an online lecture and travelogue. Using one of the most remarkable collections of jewelry in the world as his touchstone, DiCamillo presented virtually “The British Crown Jewels: Triumph & Tragedy.” This fascinating story of the rise and fall of dynasties, of beheadings, coronations, and history-changing events was first presented in person at the 5th Annual DiCamillo Rendezvous in January to over 60 members and friends of American Ancestors.

Other lavishly illustrated online lectures shared by Curt included “Neoclassical Berlin” and “William Waldorf Astor: American Tycoon to English Lord” featuring Astor’s most magnificent houses, from his English country estates—to his stunning London home. Finally, in two 3-week online courses Curt shared the art, architecture, and collections of British country houses and the classical architecture from the 1st to the 21st centuries that helped create the modern world.

Guest lecturers, authors, curators, historians, and other experts continued to engage American Ancestors members and friends on a wide range of topics. Webinars included the history of Weston Park and its families and influence, the global history of Scotland and its place in the world, the history and architecture of the palace of Westminster, and Hopwood DePree’s journey of discovery into his family’s past and his vision for its future.

“Our trips with Heritage Tours in England, Scotland, and elsewhere have been exceptional in every way. Curt DiCamillo is a gifted leader. Though he wears his scholarship lightly, he shares his deep knowledge of these magnificent houses in ways that inspire us to learn more. These adventures are enlightening, entertaining, and enriching.”

— Mike and ML Riley

Travel the world with American Ancestors on ...

rich, intimate excursions that combine stimulating travel with lifelong learning—leaving you enriched, enlightened, and refreshed.

Our itineraries allow for both independent exploration and guided study, with experts helping to establish relationships and impressions that last a lifetime.

We hope you will join us.

- March 7–12, 2024 Historic New Orleans: An Insider's Look
- October 14–20, 2024 Treasures of Tuscany **SOLD OUT**
- December 9–14, 2024 An English and Welsh Country Christmas
- May 11–19, 2025 Jewels of the Baltics: Lithuania and Latvia

AmericanAncestors.org/Heritage-Tours

For more information or to register, please contact us at HeritageTours@nehgs.org or 617-226-1267.





AMERICAN INSPIRATION

A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR SERIES
BY AMERICAN ANCESTORS®

Since the launch of our American Inspiration series in 2019, more than 135,000 viewers have been inspired by our book talks featuring 170+ guest authors, ranging from Nathaniel Philbrick to Annette Gordon-Reed, Stacy Schiff to Scott Simon, and Gail Collins to Ken Burns. Produced by Margaret M. Talcott, book talks focus on our country's history and its diverse peoples and families:

Cultural organizations across New England partnered with us to present these American stories and lives, including Boston Public Library, GBH Forum Network, Museum of African American History, Massachusetts Historical Society, Peabody Essex Museum, The Cook's Cook, Provincetown Art Association and Museum, and Cape Ann Museum. Books were provided by Porter Square Books in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Mark Clague with *O Say Can You Hear? A Cultural Biography of "The Star-Spangled Banner"*, September 12, 2022

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Writing History: An Extended Q&A with Eric J Dolin, September 20, 2022

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT The History of Clothing: Two Authors Discuss Style and Substance, September 29, 2022

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Adam Hochschild with *American Midnight: The Great War, a Violent Peace, and Democracy's Forgotten Crisis*, October 11, 2022

ONLINE CONVERSATION COURSE Uncovering Hidden Histories: Compiling Biographies of People Omitted from Written Record, October 17, 2022

HYBRID AUTHOR EVENT Kerri K. Greenidge with *The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in an American Family*, November 14, 2022

HYBRID AUTHOR EVENT Robert Pinsky with *Jersey Breaks*, November 17, 2022

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Stacy Schiff with *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*, November 29, 2022

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Writing History: An Extended Q&A with Stacy Schiff, November 29, 2022

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Paul Fisher with *The Grand Affair: John Singer Sargent in His World*, December 12, 2022

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Malcolm Gaskill with *The Ruin of All Witches: Life and Death in the New World*, January 18, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Matthew F. Delmont with *Half American: The Epic Story of African American Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*, February 2, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT History of Sports: Sports Greats Jim Thorpe and Bo Jackson, February 23, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Margaret A. Burnham with *By Hands Now Known: Jim Crow's Legal Executioners*, February 27, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Richard Cohen with *Making History: The Storytellers Who Shaped the Past*, March 7, 2023

CONVERSATION COURSE The Secret History of Institutions and Institutionalization in America, 1880–1960, March 20, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT David Waldstreicher with *The Odyssey of Phillis Wheatley: A Poet's Journeys Through American Slavery and Independence*, March 27, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Ken Burns with *Our America: A Photographic History*, April 4, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Daphne Geanakopoulou with *The Pirate's Wife*, April 20, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Chad L. Williams with *The Wounded World: W. E. B. Du Bois and the First World War*, May 8, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Mark Lee Gardner with *The Earth is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation*, May 23, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Dror Goldberg with *Easy Money: American Puritans and the Invention of Modern Currency Presented*, June 5, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Jonathan Eig with *King: A Life*, June 20, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Alex Prud'homme with *Dinner with the President: Food, Politics, and a History of Breaking Bread at the White House*, July 11, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Leah Myers with *Thinning Blood*, July 18, 2024

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Summer Artist Colonies, August 8, 2023

VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT Dean King with *Guardians of the Valley: John Muir and the Friendship that Saved Yosemite*, August 29, 2023

Across 29 virtual and hybrid events, audiences averaging 425 people found:

Joy

"Today's session was a total delight ... One of the best events of this type I have ever experienced."

"I live in Alaska so won't be able to attend in person, but am so grateful to have this chance, from four time zones away, to join these great presentations."

Education

"American Ancestors' presentations are wonderful because of their wide range and knowledgeable speakers whom they invite. Each session's very worthwhile, entertaining, enlightening, full of information."

Empowerment

"This was an amazing presentation. Most of us who are African American can relate to how slavery destroyed families. We have to keep searching for the truth and telling our stories."

Repair

"The presenter's organization of the information supported by images made the time, place and people come alive, and stirred emotions as well as thoughts about courage, fighting injustice, and the contradictions in the American story of democracy through Black people who served in WW2."

Family History Benefits

Thank you to all our benefit sponsors

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NPR's award-winning legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg featured at our 2023 virtual Winter Benefit

On January 26, 2023, American Ancestors welcomed more than 100 attendees to our virtual Winter Benefit featuring Nina Totenberg. The event was moderated by Rita Braver, veteran newscaster and national correspondent for *CBS News Sunday Morning*. Totenberg discussed her extraordinary memoir, *Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships*, which details her friendship with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Following the discussion, then-President and CEO D. Brenton Simons and then-Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods presented Totenberg with our Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcast Journalism and a membership to American Ancestors.

Celebrating American Stories, American Lives honoring Lonnie G. Bunch III, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution

On, April 27, 2023, 178 guests attended "Celebrating American Stories, American Lives," our annual gala at the Fairmont Copley Plaza. The event honored American educator and historian Lonnie G. Bunch III, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Previously, he was the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and president of the Chicago Historical Society.



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In his opening remarks, then-President and CEO D. Brenton Simons announced our 10 Million Names initiative. Simons recognized several key attendees involved in making 10 Million Names a reality: Richard Cellini, founder of both the GU72 Memory Project and 10 Million Names; Dr. Kendra T. Field, director of the Center for the Study of Race and Democracy at Tufts University; Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Honorary Trustee and host of PBS's *Finding Your Roots*; and Gwill York, founding managing director of Lighthouse Capital Partners.

Secretary Bunch was in conversation with author, businessman, and philanthropist David Rubenstein about Bunch's career and his work with the Smithsonian. To cap the evening, Ryan J. Woods presented Secretary Bunch with a Lifetime Achievement in American History and Museum Leadership.

Our Summer Benefit honoring Pulitzer Prize–winning author and historian Alan Taylor

On July 27, 2023, approximately 95 guests attended our Summer Family History Benefit Gala at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

The event honored American historian and scholar Alan Taylor with our Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by our then-Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods.

Taylor spoke about population and ethnicity in early America. Taylor has twice won the Pulitzer Prize in History, most recently for *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772–1832*, which was also a National Book Award finalist. Taylor has written extensively about the colonial history of the United States, the American Revolution, and the early American Republic.

We were joined by representatives from local organizations, including the African American Genealogy Group of Philadelphia, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Delaware Historical Society, Genealogical Society of Philadelphia, and many others.



BAIADA PHOTOGRAPHY

Recent Keynote Speakers and Honorees

- 2024 Lucy Worsley
- 2023 Nina Totenberg
Lonnie G. Bunch III
Alan Taylor
Drew Gilpin Faust
- 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

American historian and author Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust honored at our Fall Family History Benefit Dinner

On October 26, 2023, American Ancestors welcomed 85 guests to Boston's Harvard Club for our Fall Family History Benefit dinner featuring Drew Gilpin Faust and Deval Patrick. Faust was presented with our Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to the field of American history. Faust was Harvard's first female president, and she is the author of six

books. *Necessary Trouble* reflects on her experience of growing up white and female in Virginia, and her engagement in midcentury social movements.

Following a reception and dinner, Faust was in conversation with the Honorable Deval Patrick, 71st governor of Massachusetts. Patrick is a politician, civil rights lawyer, author, and businessman and was the first African American governor of Massachusetts.

Opposite, top: Nina Totenberg in conversation with Rita Braver. Opposite, bottom: David M. Rubenstein and Secretary Bunch. Above, top: Board Chair David Trebing, Councilor Ross G. Perry, Professor Alan Taylor, and Ryan J. Woods. Above, bottom: Priscilla H. Douglas, Chair, Boston Public Library Board of Trustees and Drew Gilpin Faust.



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The Promise of Healing

Among the emotions experienced at the conclusion of a genealogical investigation—surprise, satisfaction, pride, shock, joy, bewilderment—healing ranks high on my list. Twenty-five years ago, my friend Nancy Parsons Crandall of Rutland, Vermont, asked me to prepare a family genealogy as a wedding gift to her son.

While Nancy expressed deepening curiosity with what I might find, she cautioned me that her mother, Catherine “Cassie” Dunn Parsons, then in her early 80s, had no enthusiasm for this undertaking. Cassie’s bitterness spilled into a conversation we had while listening to a summer band concert: “I have no interest in dredging up the past. When I was three, my mother died, and my [maternal] grandmother took me and my one-year-old brother. I remember how she helped me with my high-button shoes. Then, one day, we were taken away, to be raised by my father’s cousin. I guess my grandmother didn’t want us anymore.”



Following the death of Cassie’s mother Abigail, no one spoke of her parents. Her father remarried, had another child, and cut ties to Cassie and her brother. Though Cassie’s foster family gave her a stable home and provided for her education, she always experienced a keen sense of loss and deprivation.

My most revelatory discovery shed light on Cassie’s grandmother, Lillie Dutton. A breast cancer diagnosis coincided with Lillie relinquishing custody of Cassie and her brother. No one thought to tell a six-year-old child her grandmother was terminally ill. Seventy years later, I felt compelled to reveal this information to Cassie, with a plausible interpretation. I perceived Lillie’s

“abandonment” not as a lack of love but rather a realization that a dying woman did not want a child to see prolonged suffering.

For Cassie, this knowledge was transformative. She asked me to take her to her grandmother’s grave, which she had never visited. I carefully mapped out a heritage trail north to Pine Hill Cemetery in Brandon, and then to three other cemeteries in Sudbury, Vermont, where Cassie’s ancestors, the Grovers and Torreys, dating back to the American Revolution, were buried. Our last stop, Willow Brook Cemetery, took us two miles along a dirt road, then up a steep embankment. As I guided Cassie along through the uneven ground to show her the obelisk that marked the graves of Abigail’s grandparents and great-grandparents, she said, “I have been here before. Look!” She pointed to the flat stone of a family friend whose funeral she attended in 1995, unaware then she stood over the earthly remains of her mother’s ancestors.

Two years after our ancestral pilgrimage, when Cassie had been given the news, she only had weeks to live, she asked daughter Nancy to bring her to our home for a last festive picnic. Dressed in a summer hat and wearing white gloves, Cassie said to me, “Now I can die with a sense of peace and forgiveness for things I never understood. Thank you for giving me that gift.” Cassie’s words remain one of my greatest genealogical treasures.



Michael F. Dwyer first joined American Ancestors on a student membership and is a Friend Member. A Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, he edits *Vermont Genealogy*. His articles have been published in the *Register*, *American Ancestors*, *The American Genealogist*, *Maine Genealogist*, and *Rhode Island Roots*, among others.

10 Million Names



10 Million Names is a collaborative project dedicated to finding the names of the estimated ten million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America before 1865. During the planning stages, someone referred to the project as a “genealogical moonshot.” We liked this comparison. Indeed, we choose to do this not because it is easy, nor because it is hard, but because it is right. The yearning to know one’s ancestors and their influences is innately human.

For this ambitious undertaking, Dr. Kendra T. Field serves as our Chief Historian, and we have split the work into five manageable flagship projects, each with a clear and defined scope.

10 Million Names Advisory Board

Gwill York

Advisory Board Chair

Richard Cellini

Founding Director

Dr. Kendra T. Field

Chief Historian

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

Honorary Member

Ambassador Michael A. Lawson

Honorary Member

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Christal M. Jackson

Paula Williams Madison

Mattie McFadden-Lawson

Making America: Records of Enslaved Laborers Within and Beyond the Plantation

Millions of enslaved people lived on plantations, in private homes, and on university property before emancipation. Enslavers often created financial and personal records to track, count, and inventory families and individuals laboring on their land. And while these records were initially created for the benefit of the enslaver, genealogists can use these records to reconstruct family groups and rediscover names of the enslaved. Examples of records:

- Antebellum censuses (1850 and 1860 U.S. federal censuses, 1867 Maryland slave statistics, other state and local censuses, etc.)
- Plantation records (of presidential properties, including Monticello, Mount Vernon, and Montpelier; private estate papers; Bible records; etc.)
- College and university records (Georgetown University, the College of William & Mary, University of Virginia, etc.)
- Probate records and land deeds

On the Battlefield: Records of Soldiers, Veterans, and Refugees

Prior to emancipation, Black soldiers served both voluntarily and involuntarily in conflicts on land that is now the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Enslaved and free men took part in colonial wars (1609–1775), the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), the War of 1812 (1812–1815), and the Civil War (1861–1865). Later, free Black soldiers—most of whom descended from enslaved people—participated in the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902). This project will rely not only on the rich records created for soldiers, but also for veterans and wartime refugees. Examples of records:

- Military records (muster rolls, pay rolls, drafts, enlistment records, etc.)
- Veteran records (pension records, bounty land warrants, veteran headstone inscription records, etc.)
- Documentation from the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands—more commonly known as “the Freedmen’s Bureau”

Journeys to Liberation: Records of Mariners, Migrants, and Freedom Seekers

All throughout the slavery era in pre- and post-colonial America, individuals and families of African descent pursued paths to freedom. Most famously, people used the Underground Railroad to escape, but other enslaved people pursued “freedom suits” through legal challenges, paid for self-manumission, or experienced emancipation through African emigration. Invaluable collections of historical records provide opportunities to read accounts (sometimes firsthand) of formerly enslaved individuals and gain insights into their extraordinary paths to emancipation. Examples of records:

- Records of abolitionist groups, such as the American Colonization Society
- Court records (federal, state, and local court records)
- Crew lists, seamen’s registers, and passenger lists
- First-person accounts from the Underground Railroad
- “Runaway” advertisements in newspapers

Community Building: Records of Black Institutions

While historically Black institutions, organizations, and churches have played a pivotal role in the lives of men, women, and children of African descent after emancipation, some of these organizations were also central to enslaved people in pre- and post-colonial America. In general, the people served by these institutions created records for the benefit of fellow constituents. Researchers can use these records to learn more about the first generation of free people, as well as their ancestors and descendants. Examples of records:

- Records from schools for freed people (sponsored by private aid and benevolent societies), and records of the Freedmen's Bureau
- Church records (African Methodist Episcopal Church, National Baptist Convention, Church of God in Christ, Oblate Sisters of Providence, etc.)
- Records of historically Black colleges and universities (Howard University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, Lincoln University, etc.)
- Fraternities and sororities (Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Iota Phi Theta, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, etc.)

Remembering Slavery: Testimonials after Emancipation

The most powerful, poignant, and detailed records of formerly enslaved persons are first-person accounts collected in the pre- and post-emancipation eras. The oral tradition of persons of African descent and enslaved persons helped Black family history and culture survive. Like the records of historically Black institutions, these testimonials can help genealogists learn more about the first generation of free people, as well as their ancestors and descendants.

Examples of records:

- Narratives collected by Fisk University, the Virginia Writers Project, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA)
- Oral histories collected by individual families and institutions
- Information wanted / lost friends newspaper advertisements (*Black Republican* [New Orleans, Louisiana], *Charleston Courier* [South Carolina], *Colored Citizen* [Cincinnati, Ohio], *Free Man's Press* [Galveston, Texas], *The Liberator* [Boston], etc.)

Long before 10 Million Names was conceived, many others dedicated themselves to this cause. We are grateful for their tireless work, and we strive to uplift their efforts. Some of the central aims of 10 Million Names are to amplify the voices of those who have been telling their family stories for centuries, connect researchers and partners with those seeking



ELIZABETH CECIL

Resilient Roots: A Celebration of the 10 Million Names Project

American Ancestors hosted “Resilient Roots: A Celebration of the 10 Million Names Project” at the Martha’s Vineyard Museum. Approximately 75 residents, long-time stakeholders, and new friends attended this brunch and panel discussion.

Dionne Jackson, Assistant Vice President for Inspirational Giving, greeted attendees and unveiled the 10 Million Names documentary film. She asked guests to write the name of an ancestor and place the paper in a jar. She explained: “As we join to celebrate this endeavor to recover, restore, and remember, we encourage you to remember your ancestors by name.”

Lindsay Fulton, Vice President of Research and Library Services, introduced the panel of 10 Million Names experts. The panelists were Richard J. Cellini, Founding Director, 10 Million Names; Dr. Kendra T. Field, Chief Historian; Kerri Greenidge, Scholars’ Council Member; and Paula Madison, Advisory Board Member. The ensuing conversation was rich with stories, illustrating how strongly this project resonates with the African-American community.

Above: Panelists Paula Madison, Dr. Kendra T. Field, Dr. Kerri Greenidge, and Richard J. Cellini.

answers to family history questions, and to expand access to resources and information about enslaved African Americans and their descendants. We have partnered with several of these groups: Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc., Daughters of the American Revolution, FamilySearch, the Georgetown Memory Project, and the White House Historical Association, to name a few.

10 Million Names, is by design, a collaborative project bringing together professional genealogists, historians, historically Black organizations and historical societies, family historians, and many others. The power to make this project a success lies with all of us and in 2024, our goal is to add 500,000 unique names and 20 databases to 10 Million Names.

Research Projects

Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery program

With the help of 10 Million Names Founding Director, Richard Cellini, our team contacted Harvard University to assist with creating the framework for the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery program. The group asked American Ancestors experts to help support their group by defining the scope of the project, implementing research strategies, and helping to identify living descendants. In Fiscal Year 2023, a team of researchers began to work with Harvard Research Fellows on investigating 36 individuals enslaved by Harvard officials.

Through this project and with many of the 10 Million Names flagship projects, we are only beginning to recover, restore, and remember the names of the estimated ten million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in pre- and post-colonial America. So far, we have identified over 500 living descendants within the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery program.

To learn more about this project and how to get involved, please visit legacyofslavery.harvard.edu.

The Newhall Family Tour

In the fall, we welcomed Chuck, Ashton, and Adair Newhall of Maryland and Florida to the Boston area for a three-day ancestor experience that they would never forget! The Newhall family commissioned our Research Services team to research their ancestry and create a one-of-a-kind, in-person tour of historic areas in Arlington, Boston, Concord, Lexington, Salem, and Saugus, Massachusetts. Our brilliant genealogist, Sheilagh Doerfler, researched and identified ancestors that experienced some of the most important events in American history, including the Battle of Concord and Lexington and the Witchcraft Hysteria of 1692. This research was used to construct a tour of key spots where their ancestors walked, lived, fought, and eventually, where their lives ended.

Curt DiCamillo, American Ancestors Fine Arts Curator, and David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist, joined the group to add historic insight to many famous areas along the route such as Paul Revere's Capture Site and Granary Burying Ground. In addition to American Ancestors staff, we also welcomed outside historians for their help on the tour. Huge thank you to George Quintal, Jr. and Charlie Newhall (similarly named to the patron!).

From Lexington Green to Bunker Hill to Proctor's Ledge, the Newhall Family left Massachusetts with many memories from the past—all carried through to the present—with the help of American Ancestors Research Services team.

Order of the Merovingian Dynasty, Order of the Founders & Patriots of America, and Sons of the Revolution – Massachusetts

American Ancestors continued to expand its partnerships with lineage societies and has been added as the reviewers of any new and supplemental applications for membership to the Order of the Merovingian Dynasty, the Order of the Founders & Patriots of America, and Sons of the Revolution – Massachusetts.

Our Research Services experts will assess each completed application to verify the genealogical accuracy and adherence to the qualifications for membership eligibility. These new relationships will help thousands of descendants honor their connection to significant moments in history.

Our talented team of experts in Research Services surpassed the goal for the second year in a row, both in revenue—collecting \$1,177,652 and by acquiring several historically impactful projects. Our department of dedicated individuals has expanded their expertise by collaborating with institutions that have been around longer than most of American Ancestors' founding members, along with increasing their knowledge of geographic areas that go beyond the Western World.

Our genealogists and researchers continued to create connections between our patrons and their ancestors through daily genealogical research, our Ask a Genealogist online chat, and through reference phone calls. Through these daily interactions, our team has maintained a virtual link with constituents since the Research Center has been closed for renovation. Over the last year, our chat service team on AmericanAncestors.org answered over 1,150 genealogical or historical messages.

It was a big year of preserving good relationships with many lineage society organizations, to which we continued to review applications, including the General Society of Colonial Wars, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, and the Boston Tea Party Descendants Program. We have been busy reviewing submissions for membership to these societies from applicants and are eager to continue this work in FY24.



The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center™ at AMERICAN ANCESTORS

For the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC), fiscal year 2023 was a year of new content, staff, and procedures. We welcomed our first Historian in Residence, a funded position that brought new scholarship and capacity to the JHC; we created a new online oral history collection and a curated exhibit; we explored important themes in American Jewish history; and we gained new audiences and learned about their interests.



Collections, Research, Access, and Scholarship

The JHC accessioned a very large collection: the records of Hebrew College in Newton, Mass., a historically significant institution dedicated to training educators in Hebrew language and Jewish tradition. We brought in 26 other new collections over the course of the year, adding to the more than four million items now in our collections. Our hands-on work with the JHC collections went on hiatus when we packed up all JHC collections housed at American Ancestors headquarters—a significant undertaking—and moved them to offsite storage for the building renovation project.

The JHC hosted its first Historian in Residence, a position that enables the JHC to produce new scholarship based in our collections. Over nine months, Dr. Miriam Eve Mora, PhD, a scholar of American Jewish history and ethnicity, immigration, and gender, studied several collections. Among these were the Bernard Gorfinkle Papers and Herbert Gorfinkle Papers, which document the military careers of a father and son, and enabled her to compare the experience of Jewish American soldiers in the first and second world wars, as experienced by two generations of the same family. She also studied the Wolper Family Papers, which contains the troubling story of a national antisemitic backlash to a Boston-area family's 1949 request to make observance of Christmas optional in their public school. Dr. Mora explored its lessons in an article for *American Ancestors* magazine and in a public webinar. She added new documentation to the collection by conducting an oral history about the incident with the surviving member of the Wolper family.

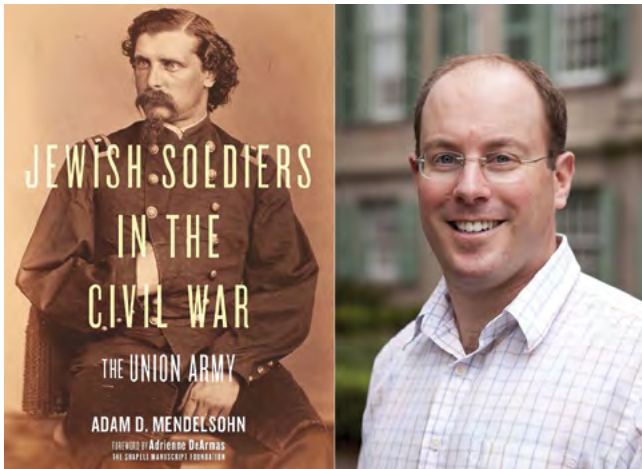
Content, Programs, and Partnerships

To fulfill the "Expanding Massachusetts Stories" grant we received from Mass Humanities, the JHC created two significant new resources. We created a new collection in the Digital Library and Archives comprising recorded interviews, transcripts, and photos from the "Jewish Neighborhood Voices" community oral histories we had collected in 2022—adding original oral histories to our collections as another form of documenting New England Jewish history. We created a second resource by curating the oral histories to create a lively online "Jewish Neighborhood Voices" exhibit. After going live, the exhibit tripled the number of users of the JHC website. One visitor

to the exhibit observed: "This will be a resource for generations." The JHC also hosted a community reception to celebrate the launch, at which a panel of oral history narrators shared their stories, and audience members added their own memories. (See more about "Jewish Neighborhood Voices" on p. 28.)

The JHC offered a series of webinars exploring the American Jewish experience. These included the Genevieve Geller Wyner Annual Lecture, presented by Jessica Cooperman, PhD, Associate Professor of Religion Studies and Director of Jewish Studies at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and the JHC's 2022 Genevieve Geller Wyner Research Fellow. Dr. Cooperman's talk, "A Festival of Freedom," explored observances and interpretations of Passover in American culture from the early 20th century.





The JHC drew a record online audience with its webinar “Jews in the Civil War: The Union Army.” The audience learned from Adam Mendelsohn, Associate Professor of History at University of Cape Town in South Africa. After presenting the history of Jewish involvement in the Civil War, Dr. Mendelsohn engaged in a lively conversation with Jonathan D. Sarna, University Professor and the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University. One viewer wrote: “[This was] really one of the best, well organized, well moderated talks I’ve attended. Thank you.”

Historian in Residence Dr. Mora gave a series of three webinars exploring American Jewish life in the first half of the 20th century. These included “Altruism and Adaptation: American Jewish Life in the Interwar Period,” exploring how the Depression, the rise of American antisemitism, and the immigration restrictions of the 1920s contributed to the redefinition of American Jewish identity; “‘Overlook the Ignorance’: Jewish Americans, Antisemitism, and the Second World War,” about American Jewish encounters with antisemitism during World War II, both on the battlefield and on the home front; and “‘Israel is We’: Jewish Americans and the New Nation State,” about the creation of Israel in 1948 and its impact on American Jewish identity. These presentations gave an in-depth picture of the American Jewish acculturation process in the early 20th century.

Continuing the JHC’s commitment to partnerships, we hosted the first in-person meeting of the New England Jewish History Collaborative, to discuss collaborative projects and shared issues and opportunities in our field. We also participated in Jewish American Heritage Month observations in May, as a partner organization with the national campaign led by the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, and by invitation to an event at the Massachusetts State House with Governor Maura Healy.

Enhancing Our Team and Audience

The JHC was delighted to add talented new staff members to its team. Once Collections Management Archivist Gabrielle Roth joined the JHC, she hired Digital Archivist Henry Treadwell. The new archives team organized, updated, and made significant enhancements to archival systems and workflow. Sarah Quiat joined as JHC Programming and Outreach Manager, bringing a deep knowledge of the Jewish community and education to her role. Together, this new team has brought creativity, expertise, and fresh approaches to the JHC’s work.

In late spring, we conducted our first survey of the JHC mailing list. The audience reported high levels of satisfaction; nearly 80 percent of respondents reported satisfaction with the JHC overall, and 95 percent reported satisfaction with our programming. We learned both qualitatively and quantitatively about the programming and research offerings this audience is most interested in, and the survey results will be invaluable in developing JHC programming and priorities going forward.

Throughout the year, the JHC focused on providing superior service and access to our patrons and creating new content that deepens the understanding of the New England and American Jewish experience. We received a comment that aptly sums up the JHC’s efforts and their impact: “[Your work is] textbook definition of labor of love, scholarly endeavor, and commitment to furthering the world’s knowledge of Jewish family heritage. I send my congratulations and thanks for everything you put into this work—it’s a real achievement.” In this moment of great challenges for the Jewish community, the Jewish Heritage Center’s work to deepen understanding of Jewish history, heritage, and participation in American life feels more necessary than ever.



Financial Report

Summary Balance Sheet as of fiscal year end August 31, 2023

BALANCE SHEET	FY23	FY22	Increase (decrease)	% Increase (decrease)
Total Assets	\$66,422,648	\$58,526,477	\$7,896,171	13%
Liabilities	\$10,949,395	\$5,622,383	\$5,327,012	95%
Net Assets	\$55,473,253	\$52,904,094	\$2,569,159	5%
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$66,422,648	\$58,526,477	\$7,896,171	13%

Consolidated Income Statement, September 1, 2022–August 31, 2023

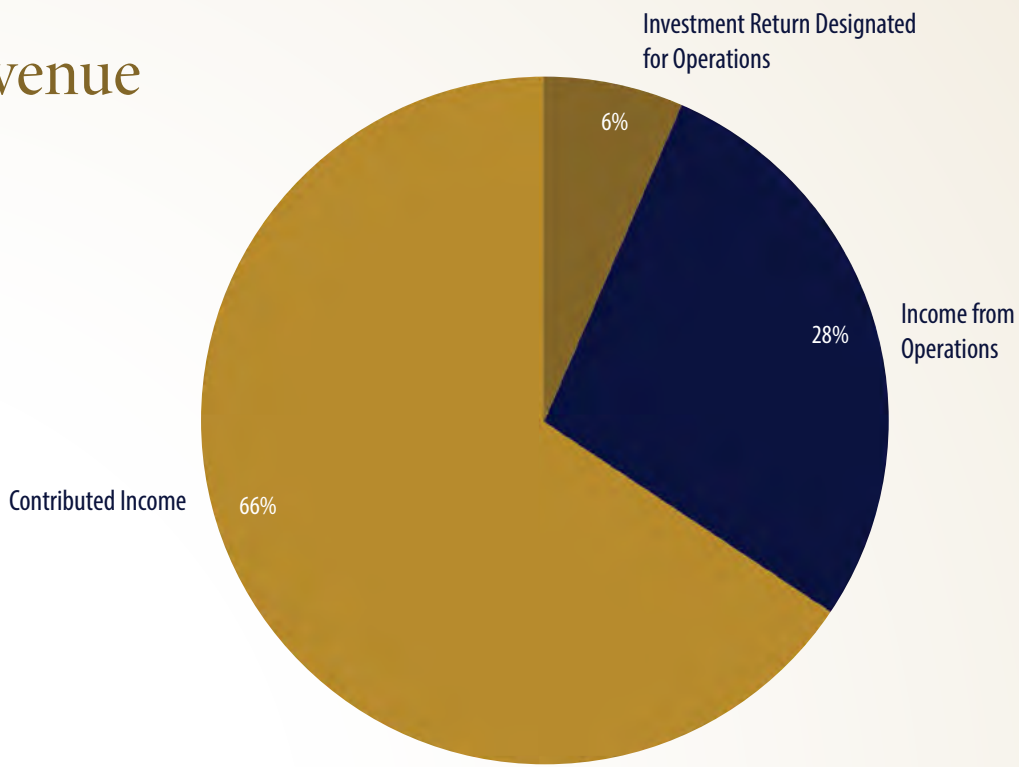
REVENUE	FY23	FY22	% Increase (decrease)	% of total
Earned Revenue	\$5,010,865	\$4,860,259	3%	28%
Contributed Revenue	\$11,851,243	\$6,132,545	93%	66%
Investment Return Designated for Current Operations (a)	\$1,181,000	\$1,095,976	8%	7%
Total Revenue	\$18,043,108	\$12,089,050	49%	100%
EXPENSES	FY23	FY22	% Increase (decrease)	% of total
Member Services	\$391,493	\$494,494	-21%	3%
Research Library	\$2,564,972	\$2,605,961	-2%	17%
Tours and Seminars	\$1,687,644	\$1,698,544	-1%	11%
Retail Store	\$67,804	\$113,920	-40%	0%
Publications	\$2,015,781	\$2,119,742	-5%	14%
Website	\$1,650,019	\$1,866,406	-12%	11%
General and Administrative	\$2,542,391	\$1,920,172	32%	17%
Fundraising	\$3,995,220	\$2,151,960	86%	27%
Total Expenses	\$14,915,324	\$12,971,199	5%	100%
Consolidated Net Income from Operations	\$3,127,784	(\$882,149)		
Non-Operating revenue, including investment return (b)	(\$558,625)	(\$9,746,963)		
Consolidated Net Income	\$2,569,159	(\$10,629,112)		
Endowment Net Assets (c)	\$24,928,210	\$23,606,302		

(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.

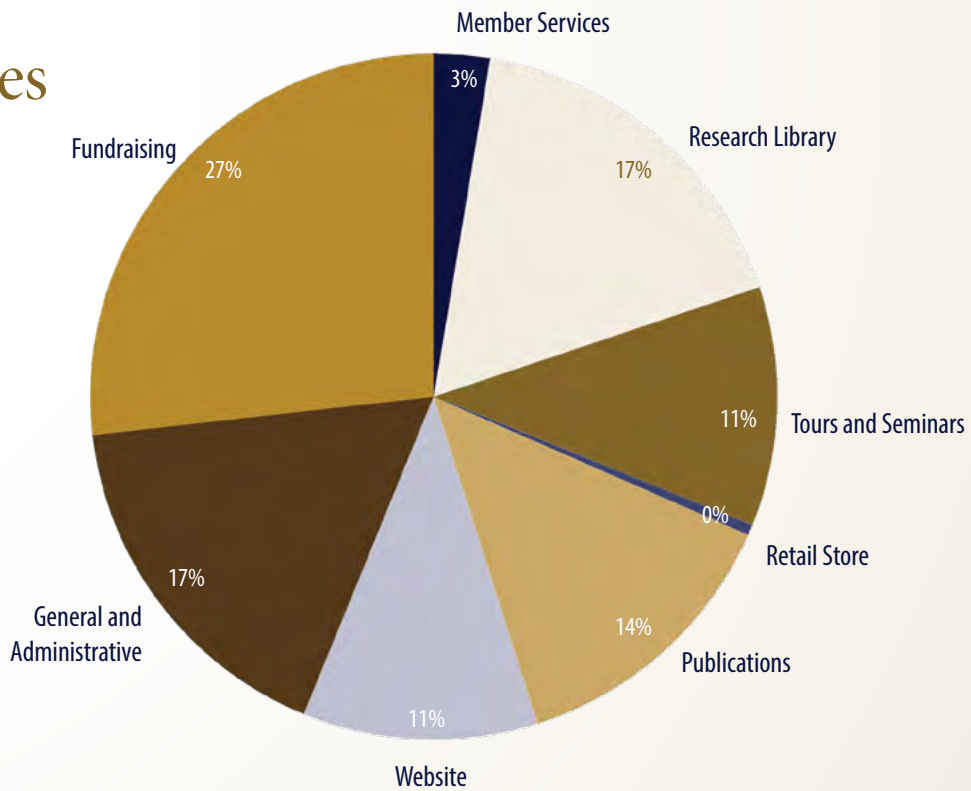
(b) Includes: (1) Interest and Dividends, Realized and Unrealized Gains, net of Investment Management Fees; and (2) Appropriation of Investment Return Designated for Operations.

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

Revenue



Expenses



WHY I GIVE

Brady Brim-DeForest

My journey into family history began seven years ago, sparked by an interest in heraldry. This field captivated me with its rich blend of art, science, anthropology, sociology, and genealogy. As I delved deeper, it naturally led me to explore my own family's past.

As a voracious reader and amateur historian, I approach family history through the lens of lived experiences. It's about understanding those who came before us. Engaging in genealogy is a voyage of self-discovery, where patterns emerge and stories unfold, connecting us with our ancestors at pivotal moments in history.

One such exploration involved my paternal grandfather's service in World War II. He served in a tank battalion in France, a unit with a well-documented history. By examining genealogical artifacts like his discharge papers and decorations, I could place him in specific battles, bringing his story vividly to life.

Bringing history to life through educational and cultural experiences is a passion of mine. I am honored to have the opportunity to do so in collaboration with American Ancestors later this year as the patron of the 36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences, bringing this esteemed event to the U.S. for the first time. The congress offers a unique opportunity to showcase the vibrant heritage of heraldic art in America and to nurture the growing interest in this field on this side of the pond. We are witnessing a heraldic renaissance, with increasing enthusiasm from a new generation of heraldic collectors and artists.

I have also committed to supporting the publication of the Gore Roll of Arms, a significant artifact held by the Committee on Heraldry at American Ancestors for over a century. This artifact symbolizes the melding of old and new worlds, illustrating the important societal role that heraldry played in colonial America.

Joining the Council and Trustees was a decision to invest my time and talents to support the mission of the institution. While financial support is valuable, dedicating personal efforts to advance the organization's mission is even more crucial. I am eager to contribute to shaping a future for American Ancestors that appeals to younger generations and ensures its enduring legacy.



Understanding our past is essential for navigating our future. American Ancestors excels in making genealogy deeply personal, accessible, and relevant today. Through initiatives like 10 Million Names, they are democratizing access to a vast trove of historical data. My commitment to this organization reflects our shared values and my belief in its role in enriching our understanding of history and safeguarding our future.

Brady Brim-DeForest splits time between Maine, Texas, and Scotland. He is the CEO of Formula.Monks and a managing partner at Late Stage Capital. He joined the Council in 2023 and became a Trustee in 2024. He was educated at the University of Southern California.

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The Founders' Society recognizes the generosity of individuals who have given cumulative gifts of \$1,000,000 or more.

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

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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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65	5.7%	7.1%	8.1%	11.5%
70	6.3%	7.8%	9.1%	13.2%
75	7.0%	9.0%	10.5%	14.8%
80	8.1%	10.2%	11.7%	16.1%
85	9.1%	11.4%	12.7%	16.1%
90	10.1%	11.6%	12.7%	16.1%

Please note that this information is for illustrative purposes and is not intended as tax or legal advice. Rates are subject to change and are based on rates suggested by the American Council on Gift Annuities.



“My ancestors risked their lives and futures for the promise of a land filled with opportunities, enduring treacherous ocean crossings in deplorable conditions to do so. Hard work to cultivate undeveloped land was the destiny of most. They valiantly fought and sometimes died in wars that both shaped and safeguarded this nation and its ideals. I hope they’d take pride that their descendant now contributes to NEHGS, preserving their memories for future generations. My ongoing support stems from my belief that the organization remains dedicated to the fundamental objective of providing universal access to family history resources. The charitable gift annuity I established initially not only supported the NEHGS mission but also ensured a consistent lifelong income for myself. This gift arrangement benefits all so successfully that I was glad to create a second one.”

—Jennifer Francis Piña,
Napa Valley, California

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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Anne Stearns Tanner
 James H. Tenney
 Eva L. Terry
 Thomas L. Thornton
 Lynn Bryan Trowbridge
 James E. Turner
 Lorraine Naquin Tyler
 Anne Louise Clap Van Nostrand
 Kathleen Vivas
 Eric and Sarah Ward
Lowry Rush Watkins Jr.
 Marston and Kathleen Watson
 Linda Wensrich
 Donald R. White
Judith C. Williston Ph.D.
Rhonda L. Wilson
 Ryan J. and Karen K. Woods
 Laurie E. and John F. York
 Robert J. Young
 Albert J. Zdenek Jr.
 Anonymous (42)
Bold indicates new members of 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 \$970,897 since September 1, 2022.

Claire M. Anderson
Mary Z. Bryant
Mary Margaret Wenzel Crandall
Abbott Lowell Cummings
Richard L. Forstall
Patricia C. Goodrich
Parker Moses Greeley
Stanley Hazen
Eleanore Hodson
Priscilla and Gustavus Ide

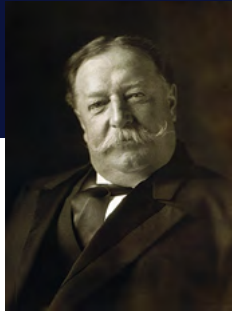
Frederic Kidder
Shelly A. Gray Krempel
Desmond LaPlace
Charles Bradford Leonard
Shirley Stewart McGrath
Marlen T. O'Neil
Winnifred P. And Roy Pierce
Bruce F. Roubaud
Robert G. Shaw
Halcyon Hobbs Springer

Robert M. Stone
Caroline Blanton Thayer
Zane A. Thompson
John L. Thorndike
Kathleen A. Van Demark, MD
Marcus Van Winkle
Maxine Houghton Wallin
Annie E. Williams
Madeleine Wilkinson



Support for Current Programs

During Fiscal Year 2023, American Ancestors received 5,212 gifts totaling \$11,851,243 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 New England Historic Genealogical Society. For his keen interest in genealogy, William Howard Taft is commemorated with an oak table in our Reading Room.

Robb Aley Allan
 Amelia Peabody Charitable Fund
 Ancestry.com
 Sumner E. Anderson
Judith Avery
 Ayco Charitable Foundation
 Flora N. Beggs Trust
 The Boston Foundation
 Brady Brim-DeForest
 of Balvaird Castle
 Susan Elizabeth Carlson
 Stephen H. Case
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 Kenneth Chenault
 Christopher Challenger Child
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Howard Cox
 Mark Thomas Cox IV
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 Thomas Bailey Hagen
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Hearin-Chandler Foundation

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 Herman Dana Trust
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 James and Susan Hunnewell
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 Cleon Talboys Knapp
 Keli D. Levine
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 Massachusetts Cultural Council
 Nancy S. Maulsby
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 Helen C. Powell
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 Richard Schilder
 Schwab Charitable Fund
 Roger and Kristin Servison

Robert G. Shaw*
 Diana M. and David N. Smith
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 John L. Thorndike*
 Jonathan Buck Treat
 David Martin Trebing
 Kathleen A. Van Demark, M.D.*
 Vanguard Charitable
 Endowment Program
 Steven and Barbara Watson
Morrison DeS. Webb
 Welch & Forbes LLC
Wheelock Whitney III
 Brenda M. Williams
 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 New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1935, the first of many American First Ladies to be so honored.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| Gwedolyn Babcock | Virginia Whitman Koster | M. David Sherrill |
| Bruce R. Bartlett | David W. Kruger | Society of the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy |
| Ernst and Joan Berndt | Andrew P. Langlois | Lionel and Vivian Spiro |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation | Ambassador John L. Loeb Jr. | Ryan Taliaferro |
| Combined Jewish Philanthropies | Anne G. Maletta | Susan Thompson |
| Prudence S. Crozier | Olivia H. Parker | Lynn Bryan Trowbridge |
| Diane M. Fishburn | Elizabeth and George Passela | Betsy and Michael Vitton |
| Jeffrey M. Griffith | Robert Russell Perry | Eric and Sarah Ward |
| Sarah Gunderson | Ross G. Perry | Albert J. Zdenek Jr. |
| Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hoch | Bonnie A. Reilly | Anonymous (2) |
| Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation | Thomas Roosevelt | |
| | Julia K. Schmolke | |



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 New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1884.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Janet Alpert | Deborah Campbell Hale | Kathryn H. Porter |
| American Endowment Foundation | Deborah B. Haskell | Laura D. Ramsay |
| Gina Mazzei-Anderhub | Gregg W. Hawes | Anne Gleekman Salenger |
| Jonathan S. Bean | Leslie Holmes | Sarracenia Foundation |
| Caroline Blanton Thayer* | Priscilla* and Gustavus* Ide | Stacy Schiff |
| Len and Heather Cariou | David M. Johnson | Sit Investment Associates |
| Thomas O. Carlson | Joseph Swan Junkin | Marjorie Snelling and Len Caldwell |
| Sara Stewart Champion | Donald N. Lamson | Karen Steelman |
| Donna M. Cross | William Locke | Paul R. Sugarman |
| Ronald and Joan Curhan | Sally and Tod MacKenzie | The Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren of Harris Poorvu |
| Maureen Q. Dwyer Esq | Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities | Zane A. Thompson* |
| William Fahey | Ailsie McEnteggart | William W. Treat Foundation |
| Fiduciary Trust Company | Ellen Michelson | Wells Fargo |
| Judith and Louis M. Freeman | Tamsen Nichols Munger | Dale Ellen Yoe |
| Thomas Gede | Hans F. Olsen | Anonymous |
| Arthur and Helen Geoffrion | David R. Pokross, Jr. | *Deceased |
| Bill and Cindy Griffeth | William and Lia Poorvu | |
| Amy Griffin | | |



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 New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1847.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Christine Bosworth | Priscilla C. Greenlees | Beatrice and Peter Nessen |
| Sandra Faye Brock | Erica Hahn | Lisa Pennington and David Furlow |
| Brookline Bank | George C. and Diantha C. Harrington | Rebecca M. Rogers |
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| Robert and Margaret Cole | Eleanore Hodson* | UBS Donor-Advised Fund |
| Melinda D. Culpon | Jeaninne Surette Honstein | Nancy Clay Webster |
| Diane Longshore De Golia | Carol Jansons | Tom and Annie Wilcox |
| Amy L. Domini | Karen Kerman | Anonymous (3) |
| Karen L. Finlay | Frederic Kidder* | *Deceased |
| Barbara S. Giles | Brantley B. and Peter I. C. Knowles, II | |
| Elizabeth Goddard | Richard F. Larkin | |
| Mr. and Mrs. James Gould | Barbara A. Miers | |



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 New England Historic Genealogical Society in 1847.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Madeline Allen | Christopher Challenger Child | Gwen M. Haagensen |
| Ameriprise Financial | David and Sara Clapp | Linne Haddock |
| Michael F. Aylward | Colonial Dames Of America | Robert J. Halliday |
| William T. Babcock | Thomas R. Crowley | Kathleen MacLeod Hanzeli |
| Janet L. Bailey | Abbott Lowell Cummings* | Sue Hart |
| Bill and Marjorie Bardeen | Sherry Bigelow Cyza | Genevieve M. Hassan |
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| Pamela C. Behring | Debra A. Dempsey | Timothy Hilton and Sara Jane Miller |
| Benevity | Joann and George Denton | Howard Hodgson |
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| Elaine S. Briggs | Joan Engel | Erik Gilbride Johnston |
| Edmund and Betsy Cabot | Christina M. Feicht | Norma Storrs Keating |
| Lucille Cameron | Lea Sinclair Filson | Barbara Klein |
| Gretchen & Don Campbell | Diane and John Flynn | Shirley A. Gray Krempel* |
| Virginia J. Charest | David M. Gott | Kathleen Lenihan and Daryl Wiesen |

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 Raymond Luddy
 Henry S. Lynn, Jr.
 John Cargill MacKeen III
 Janice A. Maden
 Peter and Isabel Malkin
 Michael H. and Sandra Massey
 Diamond Mather
 Laura L. McAuliffe
 Mildred Wilcox McComb
 Everett G. McDonough Jr.
 Nancy A. Meikle
 Howard and Jean Merrill
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 Willard S. Moore
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 Alan Morse
 Ben P.P. Moseley III, Esq.

Parker Moses Greeley Trust
 Alice Murphy
 National Financial Services LLC
 National Society Daughters Of The
 American Revolution
 Order of Colonial Lords of Manors
 in America
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 Dick and Brena Parsons
 Dorothy Piacentini
 Kenneth M. Quimby
 Jane M. Rabb
 John Ralls
 Richard H. Rhoads
 G. C. Ryder
 Judith S. Saulnier
 Phyllis Gerhold Scanlan
 Harold and Ellen Schein
 John McConville Shannon
 Simons Family Foundation

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 Jennifer L. Smith
 Patricia A. Smith
 Sharon Carroll Stanley
 Kathryn A. Steckelberg
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 Doris S. Stockly
 Edward J. Sullivan
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 Art and Glenna Symons
 Mary M. Tedesco
 The James Talcott Fund of the New
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 Roxanne Walstrom

Michael John Ward
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 Peter Weeks
 Marie Alice Wells
 Susan Westmoreland
 Linda Crichlow White
 Susan Whitfield
 Candace Wilmot
 Alfred Woollacott III
 Suzanne Wright
 James Wyner
 YourCause, LLC
 *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.

Donald Saunders Adam
 Virginia Smith Alexander
 Robert C. Anderson
 Sandra S. Anderson
 Sandra E. Atkins
 Robert and Karen Avery
 Gretchen S. Bering
 William R. Bradford
 Nancy D. Brower
 Mr. and Mrs. Lalor Burdick
 Charlotte Lyeth Burton
 Ann Moore Campbell
 Marie P. Carr
 Kathryn Carrithers
 Robert Frederic Carter
 Robert S. Cooke
 Ann Davidson
 Jolene Bryant Davis
 Jane Dessecker
 Edward and Julia Hansen Foundation

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 Karen Franzen
 Virginia C. Galpin
 Florence Gatten
 Arthur Goldstein
 Merrilee and Doug Gordon
 Donald C. Grant
 Eben W. Graves
 Gabriel Hanzeli
 Ann F. Hare
 James Paul Harper
 Marilyn Holland Harris
 Jan Hawkins
 Lisa Immel Hefner
 Barbara A. Henry
 Arthur C. and Eloise W. Hodges
 Bill Horder
 Edward G. Hubbard
 Nancy S. Hudson

Ruth A. Hunter
 Kathleen Javdani
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 Pamela Johnson
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 Wendy and Philip Kistler
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 Carolyn Ladd
 Genevieve Wyner
 James T. Larkin*
 Clifford J. Laureno
 John A. Lappman, MD
 Ailene Robinson and Thomas Lewis
 Kristin Liddle
 Jane Knowles Lindsey
 Elvin C. Lloyd
 Andrea H. Loernz

Connie Luker
 Susan Lundt
 Martha V. Lyon
 William D. Mann
 Donald J. Marshall
 Walker Martin
 Robert and Theresa E. Mathiesen
 Susan F. McCann
 Stephen J. McCarthy
 Charles W. McCollum
 Howard A. McGinn
 Lisa Meyer
 Kathleen Diane Moineau
 Esther Mulroy
 Erik Nicolaysen
 Jane and Richard Nylander

Ellen J. O'Flaherty
 Paul O'Neil
 Arthur Page
 Andrew Searle Pang
 Linda A. Pearson
 John and Alice Pepper
 Margaret Petersen
 Martha Pierce
 Pitney Bowes
 PNC Financial Services
 Michael Potaski
 Barbara Powell
 Nancy Raphael
 Barbara Reining
 David E. Rencher
 Marie Robinson

Peggy and Ted Sands
 Susanna S. Schick
 Lewis M. and Josephine A. Schneider
 Janice Seligman
 Kathryn Sencabaugh
 K. Lea Sewell M.D.
 Ken Shores
 Roy Crane Siple
 Ann Renwick Sloat
 Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell
 Diane Hayford Sonneck
 Maxine Stansell
 Vincent Paul Stanton, Sr.
 Karen Steele

Mary Elizabeth Stewart
 Mark A. Storey
 Alan R. Stuckeman
 Nancy Sweet
 Tamarack Foundation
 Robert S. Troth
 John Weingartner
 Grace G. White
 George R. Wilson
 Larry M. Wilson
 Robert Windsor
 Carolyn E. Wood
 Ann Wrampelmeier
 Anonymous (8)

Family History Sustainer Circle

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

Dr. Constance L. Ace
 Douglas Q. Adams
 David M. Ames
 Lucille Higgins Atkinson
 Andrea R. Backlund
 Christopher M. Baker
 Bruce A. Barnes
 Heather Tilton Benoit
 Sandra Boling
 Janice H. Brazil
 Jean R. Collins
 Barbara Cripe
 Robert F. Cronin
 Susan M. Cross
 Susan Crouse
 Doris Mussatto Daviers
 Jolene Bryant Davis
 Meryl K. Delasco
 Gwendolen Young Devoe
 Roberta L. Dobson
 Carol M. Ellis
 Patricia Emslie
 Carol A. Foell
 Diane M. Fullerton
 Joseph A. Gano
 Grant W. Gee

John P. Graham
 Amy Griffin
 Mary W. Hammond
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 Alison Hawley-Washington
 Catherine Hernandez
 Ian Charold Herriott
 Robert E. Hill
 Fritz and Dianne Homann
 Kristin Hovde
 Martha Barrett Hubbard
 Nancy S. Hudson
 George and Judy Hunt
 Anne Hunter
 Mary E. Hunter
 Dawn M. Hutnik
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 Joan Grace Kelly
 Jane C. Kelso
 Janice Kooiker
 Robert Alan Kraft
 Susan Krecker
 Sidnie Kruse
 Mona Lee

Jeannine T. Levesque
 Kristin Liddle
 Lisa Luna
 Susan Lundt
 Leilani Adams Maguire
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 Marcia McCrary
 Jennifer L. McMurdo
 Ben P.P. Moseley III, Esq.
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 John Robison
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Carol P. Schmidt*
 Maxine Stansell
 Margaret Stehle
 Christine Stenberg
 Sara C. Stinson
 William C. Sullivan
 Adina V. Taylor
 Janice Uehlein
 Leslie O. Vaughn
 Vicki L. Vaughn
 Bethany Viens
 Stuart Walker
 George* and Caroline Wanstall
 Donald E. Watts
 Vickie A. Weber
 Viki Welch
 Marie Alice Wells
 Timothy H. Wheeler
 Lynda Wiltsie
 Beth A. Witham
 David Van Voorhis Wood
 Nancy C. Wooters
 Cathy Young
 Anonymous (4)
 *Deceased

Person in honor
Donor
 10 Million Names
Len and Heather Cariou
 Lonnie Bunch III
Lionel and Vivian Spiro
 Susan E. Carlson
Barbara A. Henry
 The Culpon Family
Melinda D. Culpon
 William Allerton Cushman
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 Chris Child
John McConville Shannon

Sarah Dery
Curt DiCamillo
 Curt DiCamillo
Alice Burgess
Leslie Holmes
Linda A. Pearson
Ailene Robinson
and Thomas Lewis
The Garden Club of Dublin
 William I Froghthingham and
 Ann Froghthingham Bradley
Anonymous
 Rachel King
William and Lia Poorvu
 David Rencher
Richard W. Price

Brenton Simons
Priscilla C. Greenlees
*James T. Larkin**
 John J. Smith and descendants
Edith Walker
 Steve Solomon
Bruce R. Bartlett
 Charlotte Stone
Judith S. Saulnier
 Ryan Woods
Society of Colonial Wars Alabama
The Colonials Dames of America
 Dale E. Yoe
Marlene Woodbury Bekey
 *Deceased

Honorary Gifts

\$250 and above

Person in memory
Donor
 Butch (Albert) Acken
Joann and George Denton
 John James Babson
Kathleen MacLeod Hanzeli
 Dan Barney Trust
Anonymous
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 Betty Campbell
Merrilee & Doug Gordon
 Anna Duelda Murray Clarke
Janice A. Maden
 Edgar Child
Robert S. Cooke
 Frank J. Coughlin
Erik Gilbride Johnston
 John Luther Damron
Brenda Damron Fitz
 Russell and Janet Dannecker
Linda Gillen Garvin
 Barbara Spencer Davis
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Patricia Ann Wisel Dunn
Michael Sean Dunn
 The Dempsey and Nalty Families
Debra A. Dempsey
 Her father
Anonymous
 Thelma Mayfield Filmore
Lisa Immel Hefner
 William I. Froghthingham and
 Anne Froghthingham Bradley
Anonymous
 George E. Hubbard
Edward G. Hubbard
 Jacob Sumner Jaffe
The Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren of Harris Poorvu
 Elizabeth R. Jennerson
Kathleen MacLeod Hanzeli
 Ines Orlov Kellner
Alison Poorvu Jaffe and Daniel Jaffe
 Henry D.P. Kichline
Susanna S. Schick
 Marshall K. Kirk
Kathleen Kirk McCracken

Martha Mae Sparks Ludden
Norma Storrs Keating
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 John C. Mendez
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 John and Barbara Nixon
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 Increase Robinson Penilly
Ruth Burt Ekstrom
 Theodis and Marie Rodgers
Marva Rodgers Cooksey
 Leroy L. Ryder
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 James Albert Sanderson
Alexandra and Marshall Stocker
 Rusty and Jean Sencabaugh
Kathryn Sencabaugh
 John Lathrop Slade
George R. Wilson
 William W. Treat
The William W. Treat Foundation
 Brooks Wrampelmeier
Ann Wrampelmeier

Memorial Gifts

\$250 and above

Gifts herein were made between September 1, 2022, and August 31, 2023, unless otherwise specified. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy in this Annual Report. We apologize for any inadvertent error. Please notify Stacie Madden at 617-226-1217 or stacie.madden@nehgs.org to report any corrections.



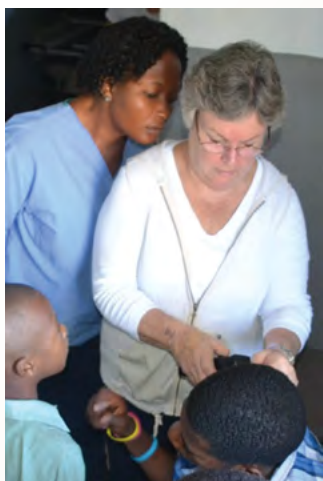
The American Ancestors exhibit at RootsTech.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dale Yoe

I retired as a labor and delivery nurse after 41 years. Now I am a Parish Nurse for the Middleham and



St. Peter's Parish Church, and a Certified Community Health Worker. My husband, James, and I started our charity to aid the less fortunate of Calvert County, Maryland. I am a member of the Homeless Board and the Community Life Center of Southern Calvert County. I am a member of the Haiti School Nurse Project supporting four nurses that we send to five schools in the Leogane coastal community to provide healthcare to over 2,500 children.

We were told that my husband and I failed retirement because we are super active. Volunteering and giving back are vital to who we are. And I have a love of family research and genealogy. Before my mother passed away, she asked questions about her ancestors. As the eldest of 10 siblings, she never had time to seek information about her past. That's when I decided to get involved in genealogy.



I have used the resources at American Ancestors and their expert team often to help me learn about my family history and as president of the Herrick Family Association. I joined the association in 2002 to help gather family information for all individuals with an ancestor or spouse named Herrick and for those descended from Henry of Salem, also known as Henery Hericke. I am currently working on an addendum for the *Herrick Genealogical Register*, third edition, last printed in 2016.

Dale Yoe lives in Solomons Island, Maryland. She is Parish Nurse for Middleham and St. Peter's Parish Church and a Certified Community Health Worker. She is a member of the Haiti School Nurse Project and is the President of the Herrick Family Association. She joined the Council in 2020 and has been a member since 2005.

I've been to London's National Archives for research, and on several Heritage Tours and research tours. It's the research trips that I enjoy the most because that's what I do. One of the most exciting things we did was visit the College of Arms, and we met the Garter King of Arms. Last year we went to Rome, and it was stunning, interesting, and there were so many things that we had the chance to see and do.

I asked to help the 10 Million Names project because I worked on African community history for our church's 325th anniversary to find out about slavery issues and the members of our church that owned slaves. Our church was originally built in 1684 and rebuilt in 1748. We still have the marks of the slave gallery. For 10 Million Names, I transcribed 74 pages of records of slaves that joined the Colored Troops of the Civil War from the Maryland Archives. I'm working on the Baileys list, which is about the slaves left on Tangiers Island by British ships after the War of 1812. I will be part of a group visiting the National Archives to scan and digitize 830 pension records for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment.

My involvement with American Ancestors began in 2005 and I felt it was important to give back. American Ancestors has been good to the Herrick Family Association and to us. I've learned and enjoyed the programs and the studies, and I wanted to give back in some way, shape, or form, and I thought that by being a counselor I might be able to help out.

There's a monument at the entrance to the National Archives in D.C., and it is engraved "what's past is prologue" and I use that as my inspiration. I think in order to know about yourself and know what and who you are, you need to know about your past.



Life and Contributing Members

New Life Members (\$5,000)

Jay Berger
Gary A. Boughton
Daniel Campbell-Benson
Bill Griffeth
Wendy Kistler
James D. Laur
Roger Prince
Robert Lee Wilson

Patron Members (\$1,500/year)

Gina Mazzei Anderhub
Reinier Beeuwkes, III
Lucille W. Cameron
Jacqueline Cottingham-Zierdt
Keith Austin Doree
Leslie Holmes
Richard C. and Mildred Hutchinson
Brenda L. Johnson
Roberta Killeen
David W. and Jean Kruger
Leslie Masson
Jonathan W. Montgomery
Gretchen W. Nielsen
Stefani Loring Operacz
Emily Peters
Brian Prentice
Regina K. Scully
Cathy Simon
Steere Family Association
Mary Florence Van Orsdol
Ruth and Louis Vignati
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Mary Kathleen Wright



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Wendy J. Carman	Frank W. Gardner	Dennis C. O'Dowd	Tawny Welch
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Leslie Hill and Dennis Carroll	Gerald Gilligan	William T. Owens Smith	Linda Crichlow White
Karen F. Claiborne	Judith A. Gorin	Diane Parrish	Melissa Whitten
John A. Clark	David Haley	Deborah Patel	Diana M. Wild
Mr. and Mrs. John Colbert	Deborah B. Haskell	Michael Potaski	George Wilson
Gale Bowles Conley	LTC Robert D. Hill USA (Ret.)	Pamela Solomon Reid	Carrie Zeidman
Donna M. Cottingham	Art and Eloise Hodges	Katharine S. Reynolds	
H. Richard Coughlin	Jeaninne S. Honstein	Peter Riemer	
Sally W. Crawford and Peter F. Wells	Gene Hullinghorst	Valerie and Alan W. Rogers	

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Scott Foley	Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent	*Deceased

Volunteers

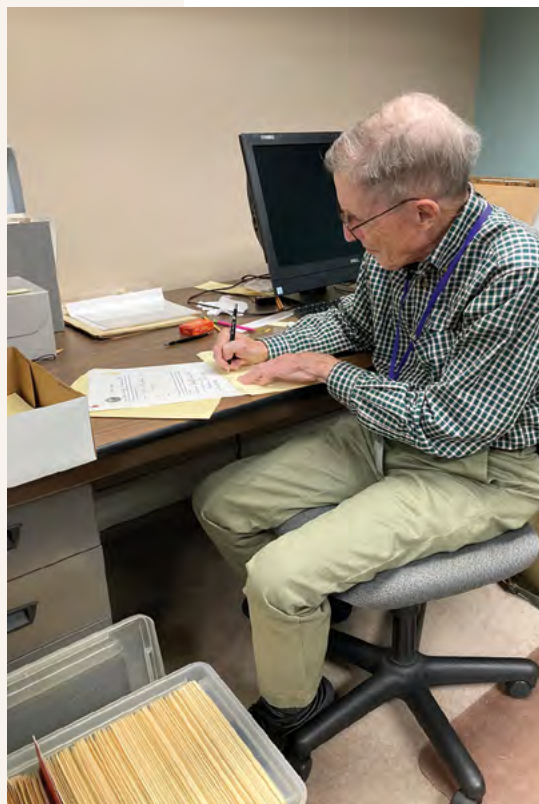
American Ancestors counts on donated volunteer hours year after year, and in this fiscal year, our volunteers assisted with several large projects that helped American Ancestors Research Center get ready for the building renovation.

In the fall, we saw a 6 percent increase over the same period last year, with 159 volunteers who donated 4,390 hours. Our Web team, who numbers about 80 volunteers, or 50 percent of the volunteer core, donated 3,303 hours or 75 percent of these total hours. As we started to prepare for the Cornerstone Project, our volunteers packed the 7th floor family genealogies into boxes and helped staff determine which sources had online digital versions and which sources were not part of the Ancestry.com digitization project. Volunteer Ray Luddy continued to process lineage applications for the Order of the Crown of America into archival boxes.

Leading into the winter, our volunteers increased their donated hours to 4,559. The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center welcomed two academic interns from Simmons University, and we are thankful to Nicole Zador and Jasmine Vandermark, who assisted Gabrielle Roth, Collections Management Archivist, in the JHC archives for a few months. We finished the packing of the 7th floor family genealogies with freely available links to eBooks and all non-Ancestry.com project genealogies with web links had been removed, barcoded, and packed for shipment.

By the spring, Volunteer Ray Luddy had finished processing the lineage applications for the Order of the Crown of America, the Society of Colonial Wars for the State of New Hampshire, and processed recent additions of applications to the National Society of Americans of Royal Descent. He began processing additions to the Heraldry Committee. This accomplishment was celebrated by the volunteers who donated 4,585 hours with other activity area projects.

Ending the fiscal year, we had three academic interns representing Simmons University, Boston University, and Bowdoin College. And while we continued (and finished!) with many projects over the year, we could not have done it without the 222 unique volunteers who donated over 17,911 hours—which is the equivalent of 9 full-time staff years.



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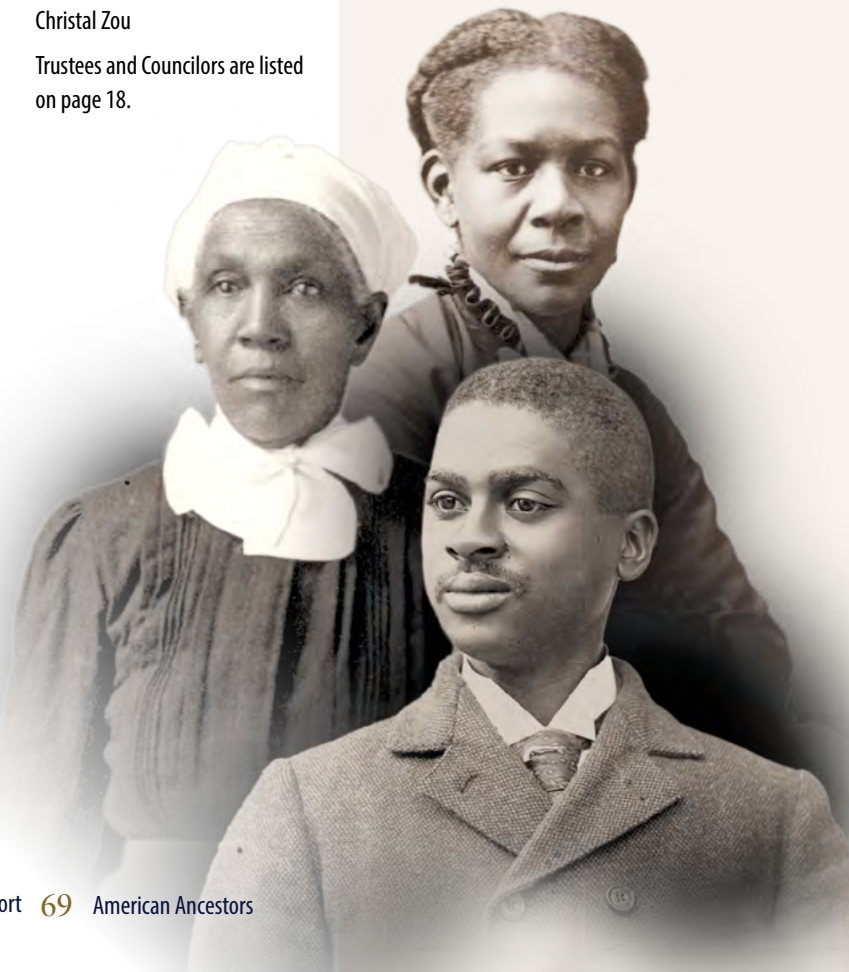
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 Gay Hyson
 Carolyn Jack
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 Nancy Johnson
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 Christal Zou

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 on page 18.

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Far left: Special Collections volunteer Ray Luddy.
 Left: Bowdoin College volunteer Ian Morrison.

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Digital Marketing Associate

Sarah Dauer

Programming and Outreach Manager

Sarah Quiat

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Carolyn Sheppard Oakley

10 years Zachary Garceau
Claire Vail
Kathleen Mackenzie

5 years Margaret Talcott
Jennifer Shakshober
Hallie J. Kirchner
Bruce Bernier
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