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Honoring

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Commemorating the 175th anniversary of the founding of New England Historic Genealogical Society and the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing



Sir John entered the British Parliament in 1979 and joined Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet in 1987. He became Prime Minister in November 1990. On leaving office in 1997, he handed over the strongest economy any incoming UK Government had inherited. Sir John retired from Parliament in 2001. In 1999, Sir John was awarded the Companion of Honour by HM The Queen, in recognition of his initiation of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. In 2005, HM The Queen appointed him a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, England's highest award for chivalry.

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Hosted by



D. Brenton Simons is President & CEO of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society.



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William Miller family record, 1756–1847, available in Family Registers and Bible Records (NEHGS), in the Digital Library & Archives.

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On the cover: Photo 174979971 © Fizkes | Dreamstime.com.



Brenton Simons

A Message from the President and CEO

To mark the Pilgrim Quadricentennial, we have diligently worked throughout the last several years to research and publish pioneering historical and genealogical scholarship, introduce new online research materials, and produce programming to educate people about Pilgrim and Native history and how to research their possible genealogical connections.

The capstone of our recent endeavors to create useful tools to help *Mayflower* family historians, and anyone interested in family history and genealogy, has been the recent launch of the world's largest searchable database of *Mayflower* family history records on AmericanAncestors.org.

Through a partnership between our organization, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), and FamilySearch, we have digitized and made fully searchable Mayflower Society applications and supplemental applications from GSMD's founding in 1897. The vast scope of the material extends from *Mayflower* passengers through many generations to any applicant born before January 1, 1920.

The result of our efforts is *General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620–1920*, the single largest online database of authenticated *Mayflower* family history records. In total, more than 4.5 million searchable names from 1,790,000 pages of applications are now available. The searchable data includes applicant names; related vital record information; the names of the corresponding *Mayflower* passengers; and the known birth, marriage, and death information for every person in each generation between the applicants and their *Mayflower* ancestors.

In addition to this groundbreaking searchable database of Mayflower Society membership applications, we present full family trees for each *Mayflower* passenger through our exclusive AmericanAncestorsTREES online family tree software. These astonishing trees are visually stunning and provide another avenue for accessing this unique data. Like the database, the trees contain all known information from the *Mayflower* passengers to individuals born before January 1, 1920.

By adding these new offerings to our other online *Mayflower* databases—including *Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700–1880*, which contains more than 575,000 searchable names; *The Mayflower Quarterly (1935–1985)*, which features 92,000 searchable names and high-resolution images of all pages of the periodical for its first fifty years; and *Mayflower Descendant (1899–2020)*, the venerable periodical now under our stewardship, which provides more than 350,000 searchable names—we have compiled the most comprehensive suite of *Mayflower* research materials available anywhere.

As the country's leading nonprofit genealogical organization, we are incredibly honored to work with our partners, particularly The Mayflower Society, to illuminate the Pilgrim story. Our goal is to bring the highest standards of genealogical research to the digital age for the benefit of the public and to help even more people connect to their *Mayflower* ancestry.

D. Brenton Simons, President and CEO

Below: The Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor by William Formby Halsall, c. 1900–19. Library of Congress.

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Mayflower DESCENDANT

Editor, Christopher Challender Child
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Mayflower Descendant: A Journal of Pilgrim Genealogy and History has long been a highly regarded source of scholarship relating to *Mayflower* families and related genealogies, their origins in England, and their lives and places of residence in America, from the earliest of settlements to their migrations north and westward. The journal is published twice a year, in winter and summer. Each issue is approximately 100 pages, plus an annual every-name index in summer.

Back issues of *Mayflower Descendant* for 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 are available for purchase at \$25 each. **Complete your set!**

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From our readers

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Email magazine@nehgs.org or address letters to American Ancestors magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. Letters will be edited for clarity and length. We regret that we cannot reply to every letter.

Thanks so much for the latest issue of AMERICAN ANCESTORS with the focus on Maine [AMERICAN ANCESTORS (2020) 3]! The vast majority of my ancestry is Maine-based. If only I had this information when I started my research when I retired in 1997! Now, as I pass along my family history information to my descendants, I would like to send them all a copy of the issue so they can benefit from this resource.

Everett J. Hendrickson, Delaware, Ohio

After paging through “The Best Genealogical Resources for Maine” [AMERICAN ANCESTORS (2020) 3:26–30], I was dumbfounded to discover no reference to the Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk, Maine, nor to the Kennebunk Free Library. Both the museum and library hold original documents pertaining to Kennebunk’s rich history as a center of shipbuilding during the nineteenth century. Of particular interest to me as a family history researcher was the library’s collection of Andrew Walker’s diaries. These journals contain a daily record of Kennebunk’s events, large and small, spanning nearly 50 years, from 1851 to 1897.

Marcy (Titcomb) Kudirka, Wayland, Massachusetts

Michael M. Wood’s article about Corporal Charles Wood’s service and death in the American Civil War [“The Civil War ‘Quaker Dilemma’ and Charles Wood of Jacksonville, New Jersey,” AMERICAN ANCESTORS (2020) 3:44–47] was a very touching and informative treatment of the problems faced by dedicated pacifists during times of war. I know from my involvement with a recreated Civil War unit that Civil War infantry regiments at full strength had a bit over 1,000 soldiers and no artillery. [Due to an editing error, the troop strength of the entire Union III Corps was attributed to the 6th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry.—Ed.] I appreciated the article’s mention of General McClellan’s delusion that the Confederate forces were far greater in number than the Union forces. That wild exaggeration of the Confederate forces was one of his continuing problems in dealing with the southern insurrection.

Keep the great articles coming. I am going to be rereading the articles on Maine resources carefully since my father’s family roots run deep in the Freeport/Flying Point area, Portland, Mount Desert, Farmington, and other areas along the Down East coast.

William A. Brewer, Rochester, New York



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For visual updates on our Fine Art Collection treasures, events and tours, library recommendations, and more, follow [american_ancestors](https://www.instagram.com/american_ancestors).

In this issue

This issue's cover story—"Exploring our Digital Collections from Home" by Curator of Digital Collections Sally Benny—describes the unique genealogical and historical resources available in our Digital Library & Archives. Work on this latest version began several years ago. No one could have foreseen how fortuitous the timing of the launch of this new website would be. Although our building has been closed to the public, access to a wide variety of our materials remains available through the Digital Library and & Archives.

Since March 2020, our staff has worked extremely hard to design and deliver our many programs and services for an entirely virtual audience. We've been pleased to learn that many of you see our offerings as an essential part of your lives during the pandemic.

As magazine editor, my work was not as severely disrupted as that of my colleagues who deal directly with the public. But, like everyone, I did not have a typical year. I had always felt that working from home was not for me—I like exchanging ideas with colleagues and popping upstairs to the library stacks. Somewhat to my surprise, I found my work remained satisfying and I continued to be productive at home—despite the presence of my husband and two teenagers.

Last April, I began working in our virtually empty building one day a week, a practice I continue. I've been grateful for the chance to converse (from a distance) with the few employees who are there when I am. I keep a to-do list for my Newbury Street days and have found myself taking photographs for the magazine, fulfilling issue requests, retrieving items to deliver to staff members, and doing library look-ups for colleagues and members. I am a check signer for the institution, so I also perform that task in the building. But sometimes the timing isn't perfect. Several weeks ago I signed checks standing in my driveway with my finance colleague Nick Purinton six feet away. Countless other stories

could be told of our staff rising to meet pandemic-related challenges.

I have always enjoyed the connections I forge with staff and volunteer authors, editors, and proofreaders, but this past year I have appreciated those interactions even more. Conversations over email, telephone, and Zoom have helped me keep the American Ancestors community close, despite the physical distance.

Editor-in-Chief Scott C. Steward continues to review our articles, now by email instead of via paper copies. Senior Research Scholar Emeritus Gary Boyd Roberts, who also comments on all our articles, does not use the internet, but he lives a block from NEHGS. Almost every week I meet Gary in the vestibule of his building to leave articles and retrieve edits. We sit on the steps, as far apart as we can, discussing articles and exchanging news.

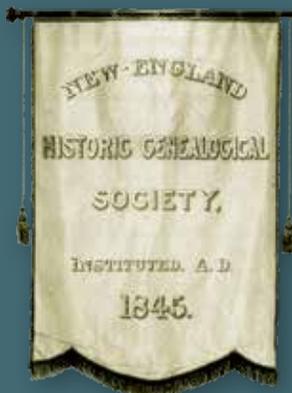
We are pleased to offer some particularly compelling feature articles in this issue. Alex Bannerman and Gary Boyd Roberts present "An Ancestor Table, as Currently Known, of President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr."—the most complete genealogical coverage of the new President's forebears available anywhere. Senior Editor Jean Powers provides a fascinating interview with Joe Bagley, Boston's City Archaeologist. Dr. Adrian Brockett analyzes the origins of the *Hector* 1637 "passenger list." Having discovered Arabic writing in Boston church records scanned for the Historic Catholic Records Online Project, Molly Rogers and Thomas Lester introduce us to Maronite Catholics in "From Lebanon to Boston: Two Families Make a New Home."

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the many people who have contributed to AMERICAN ANCESTORS. I am especially grateful for these efforts during this extraordinarily challenging year.



Lynn Betlock
Managing Editor
magazine@nehgs.org

American Ancestors



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

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Editor and Creative Director
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Senior Editor
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Gary Boyd Roberts

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David Allen Lambert is Chief Genealogist at NEHGS.

ask our genealogists

I have been examining Boston tax records from about 1880 to 1920. I am unfamiliar with an abbreviation that appears in the 1881–83 records, “Ch.” or “Chr.” An archivist I consulted didn’t know what it meant, and I didn’t find an explanation in the records.

The abbreviation “Ch” refers to chamber; it indicates that the individual rented a room, occupying a chamber rather than a building (abbreviated as “Bg”). The abbreviation “St.” stood for store. For example, a person might be listed in the tax records with 1 Bg. and 1 St.—1 building (usually their home) and 1 store.

An 1888 death record from Bolus Townland, County Kerry, gives a decedent’s age at death as “75.” Written above the number is the word “short.” What does this mean?

The entry indicates that the decedent was just short of his 75th birthday when he died.

I would like to further identify the first of two Connecticut men named John Cole who were listed on page 164 of *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army* (1914) by Francis Heitman. I have reviewed many original records that refer to men named John Cole who served as Continental Army officers but haven’t established which ones pertain to my John Cole. Can you suggest some useful sources?

Connecticut men who served in the Continental army and state militia during the Revolutionary War are documented in *The Record of the Connecticut Men in the Military and Naval Service During the War of the Revolution, 1775–1783*, edited by

Henry P. Johnston (Hartford: 1889). This volume can be accessed and searched online at HathiTrust, at catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009259369. In addition, the subscription website Fold3.com offers views of original Revolutionary War military records for Connecticut and the other colonies. Finally, the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut might hold additional information that could be helpful in your search. Contact the organization at theconnecticutsociety.org/contact.

Have you seen examples of individuals in Plymouth Colony who initially signed documents but later used a mark instead? What might account for such a change?

Usually, a change from a signature to a mark would be due to extreme age or infirmity.

My Scottish ancestors John MacEwan (b. 1767) and Janet Ritchie (b. about 1765) had a son named Richard or Ritchie MacEwan (b. 1794) who immigrated to Canada with his brother Colin. Ritchie married Nancy Agnes Cameron in 1821 and settled in Belvidere, Vermont. Despite using a variety of resources, I cannot find any further information on Ritchie’s parents. Do you have any suggestions?

I suggest searching for naturalization records for Ritchie MacEwan and any of his siblings who immigrated to the U.S. Also look for other American records for Ritchie and his siblings that might reveal the family’s Scottish place of origin. These sources include death records, obituaries, “mug book” entries, and biographical information collected by local historical societies.

For Scottish records, the ScotlandsPeople website (scotlandspeople.gov.uk) is an excellent resource. The site's indexes can be searched for free and a pay-per-view model is used for viewing and downloading digital images of the records. You can search the site's people index, but for some record sets you need to know a specific location to view original records. This is the case for the Old Parish Registers for the Church of Scotland, the best vital records available prior to civil registration in 1855. These records were kept on a parish level, and as noted on the website, "record keeping varied enormously from parish to parish and also from year to year. As a result, the information may be sparse, unreliable and difficult to read."

Begin by searching ScotlandsPeople for Ritchie and Colin MacEwan, as you have the most information about them. Knowing the names of the brothers' parents will help you eliminate other men of the same name as you search for clues to their Scottish origins. You may need to utilize advanced search options to broaden your query to include spelling variations.

I am searching for four obituaries for deaths in Lynn, Essex County, Massachusetts, between 1893 and 1904. I'm not familiar with Massachusetts newspapers and would like your recommendation.

Search the *Lynn Daily Item*. The major online newspaper databases do not include this newspaper, but the Lynn Public Library offers a free searchable database for the years 1877 to 1899, at lynn.advantage-preservation.com. ♦



John Melish, *Scotland* (Philadelphia: G. Palmer, 1814). David Rumsey Historical Map Collection.

Do you have a question for our genealogists?

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branches of our family



MARK T. COX, IV

“I love the challenge of solving mysteries”

Having grown up on a cattle ranch in Wyoming founded by my great-grandfather in 1867, I was exposed to family history from an early age. However, I never did any serious genealogical research until the late 1980s. When my wife and I moved from Washington, D.C., to Richmond, Virginia, I met up with a distant cousin. Over dinner, we began to try to determine exactly how we were related. This conversation started me on the path to my favorite hobby—genealogical research. I love the challenge of solving mysteries, and that is at the center of exploring family history. My training was a BA in history from Columbia College and skills learned as a military intelligence officer.

Initially, I set out to trace my wife’s lineage and my lineage back to the original immigrants. I also decided to find all the descendants of my wife’s and my great-great-grandparents. In the past thirty years I have completed most of my objectives. We discovered our immigrant ancestors include several *Mayflower* passengers and some early Jamestown residents.

Although some of my more recent research has been done online, I have done quite a bit the old-fashioned way. For example, on a trip to Barbados, I located a trove of original wills in the Barbados National Archives that established the descendants of Daniel Stanton, son of Thomas Stanton of Stonington, Connecticut, who went to Barbados in the 1680s. Daniel’s great-granddaughter—my fourth great-grandmother—returned to Connecticut from Barbados in the 1760s. This bit of research has helped the Thomas Stanton Society learn much more about Daniel’s descendants, who had previously been almost unknown.

On a trip to Providence, Rhode Island, my wife and I solved a major mystery in her family—the identity of “Grandma Lawton.” We have a hand-colored photo of Grandma Lawton, as well as her sofa and a few other pieces of furniture. However, I had been unable to place her in the Lawton family tree. Then, on a visit to Swan Point Cemetery in Providence, we found the elaborate plots for my wife’s

relatives George Brown Earle, John Dexter Earle, and other Earle family members. I spied a small, aged stone with the inscription, “Abby G. Lawton, wife of William Earle.” This information was the key to solving the mystery. William Earle, father of George B. Earle, married Abby Green Dexter in 1808 but died at sea in 1813. Abby married Joseph Lawton in 1828 and died in 1863. Her descendants naturally called her Grandma Lawton. Abby, my wife’s ancestor, is a descendant of Gregory Dexter (1610–1700), who had been Roger Williams’s printer in London.

I enjoy helping other people learn about their family histories. A couple of years ago, at our cabin in Wyoming, a neighbor introduced me to his guest from New Orleans who was of Italian descent. This fellow knew nothing about his ancestry but was very interested in discovering where in Italy his family originated. In less than an hour online, we had located his father’s line back to Italy and, with this information, he was able begin his research. He was thrilled and I, of course, was very happy to be of some help.

I became a member of NEHGS about twenty years ago, primarily to be able to access the Society’s superb databases. The staff and library resources are unequaled anywhere. ♦

Mark Thomas Cox, IV, of Richmond, Virginia, joined NEHGS in 2000. He is an Associate Member, a past Councilor, and current Trustee. He is president of the Chalk Bluffs Foundation for Historic Preservation and Conservation in Henrico County, Virginia, and Managing Member of Cox Ranches LLC. He retired from Dominion Resources in 2000 after eight years in senior executive positions. Mark also serves as one of the Trustees of the endowment of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants; his other lineage society memberships include the Society of Colonial Wars and the Society of the War of 1812.



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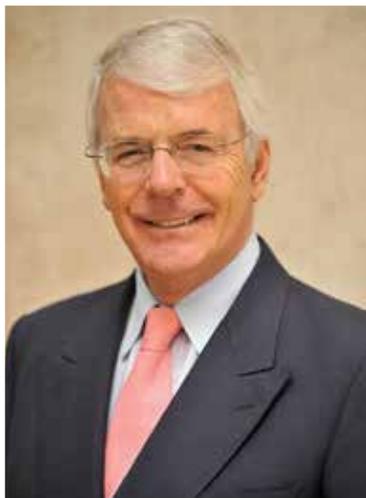
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How do I view or search the *Register* or *American Ancestors* magazine online?

All issues of the *Register* and *American Ancestors* are available to browse or search on AmericanAncestors.org. Hover your cursor over "Search" in the top menu and select "Search All Databases." Then click the "Database" drop-down menu and select the journal or magazine you wish to search. You can narrow your search by volume, page number, name, location, and more. You can also browse *Register* and *American Ancestors* issues from 2010 to the present through AmericanAncestors.org/browse/publications/the-register or AmericanAncestors.org/browse/publications/american-ancestors-magazine.

News



Family History Virtual Benefit Gala honoring Sir John Major

On April 22, 2021, we will honor the Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH, former Prime Minister, UK, with a Lifetime Achievement Award and a presentation of his genealogy at our annual family history benefit gala. This virtual event, hosted by D. Brenton Simons and Ryan J. Woods of American Ancestors and Christopher R. Wolf of the Social Register Association, will commemorate the 175th anniversary of the founding of New England Historic Genealogical Society and the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing. We will also enjoy a lively conversation between Sir John Major and Dr. Peter Abbott, British Consul General to New England on the unique and enduring relationship between America—especially New England—and the UK.

Sir John entered the British Parliament in 1979 and joined Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet in 1987. He became Prime Minister in November 1990. As Prime Minister, Sir John focused his efforts upon securing peace in Northern Ireland and upholding

Britain's position in the world community as a political, social, and economic leader. He was Prime Minister throughout the first Gulf War and, at home, instigated long-term reforms in education, health, and public services. On leaving office in 1997, he handed over the strongest economy any incoming UK Government had inherited. Sir John retired from Parliament in 2001. In 1999, Sir John was awarded the Companion of Honour by HM The Queen, in recognition of his initiation of the Northern Ireland Peace Process. In 2005, HM The Queen appointed him a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, England's highest award for chivalry.

Hosted by



D. BRENTON SIMONS is President & CEO of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society.



RYAN J. WOODS is Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society.

For more information, visit AmericanAncestors.org/2021Gala or contact Courtney Reardon at signatureevents@nehgs.org or 617-226-1215.

Join American Ancestors experts at 2021 NERGC Virtual Conference

The 2021 New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) conference, “Springing from the Past into the Future,” will take place online from April 1 through May 31. This virtual conference will feature three “Gathering Days” with speakers, presentations, and live chats, as well as three “tracks,” each including presentations and panel discussions. Other events include recorded presentations, a virtual exhibit hall, and a variety of group meetings and events available live and on-demand. Several of our experts will be presenting at the conference: Drew Bartley, Lead Genealogist for the Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 project; Researcher Pam Holland; Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert; Genealogist Melanie McComb; and Meaghan Siekman, Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press.

Learn more at nergc.org/2021-conference-2.



Celebrated author and historian Jill Lepore honored at Virtual Fall Family History Benefit

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, American Ancestors welcomed more than 100 guests to our virtual Fall Family History Benefit event featuring author and historian Jill Lepore, who was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography.

President and CEO Brenton Simons presented Lepore’s genealogy, detailing several of her ancestors’ stories of immigration, perseverance, and ingenuity, as well as connecting her to several past U.S. presidents, including Richard Nixon, and other notables including American actress and director Penny Marshall. Following Lepore’s illustrated talk, “American Ancestors: Reading Portraits,” she and Executive Vice President and COO—and former student of Lepore—Ryan Woods discussed her work in historical biography, her popular podcast *The Last Archive*, and more.

Another highlight of the evening was a greeting from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in honor of the Pilgrim 400th anniversary from British Consul General Dr. Peter Abbott. The celebratory event raised funds to support American Ancestors and further our mission to educate, inspire, and connect.

Jill Lepore receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Biography.



Thank you to our event’s sponsors

GOLD BENEFACTORS

John E. and Julie M. Corcoran
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SILVER BENEFACTORS

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Nancy and John W. Webster

BENEFACTORS

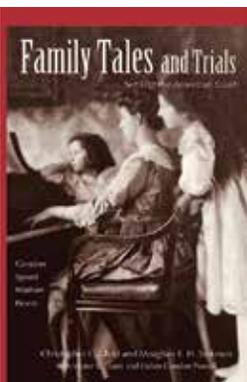
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New Publication from Newbury Street Press

shop.AmericanAncestors.org



Family Tales and Trials: Settling the American South

7 x 10 hardcover (no dust jacket), 288 pp.; \$69.95
By Christopher C. Child and Meaghan E. H. Siekman
with Victor S. Dunn and Helen Condon Powell

The ancestry of Richard and Virginia (Speed) Condon includes seven families: the Condon family of Ireland; the Wathen family of Kentucky, Maryland, and England; the Adams family of Kentucky; the Speed family of Kentucky, Virginia, and England; the Perrin family of South Carolina and Virginia; the Herndon family of Alabama, Pennsylvania, and England; and the Coffin family of Ohio. Family stories, shared memories, and a family art gallery lift the subjects of this book off the page to paint honest portraits, while bringing life to the breadth of the southern experience.

the ANTIQUARTO

Conversations with D. Brenton Simons,
President and CEO of American Ancestors

The Antiquarto is now an interview series!



American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society President and CEO D. Brenton Simons began *The Antiquarto* blog in January 2018 to explore topics relating to history, genealogy, collecting, and the arts. Now, three years later, *The Antiquarto* is a dynamic interview series with expert guests, available on our YouTube channel, [youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors](https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors), and website, AmericanAncestors.org/watch.



EPISODE 1: Brenton Simons and architectural historian and NEHGS Curator Curt DiCamillo discuss some of the highlights in the fine art collection at NEHGS, the new book *Family Treasures: 175 Years of Collecting Art and Furniture at the New England Historic Genealogical Society*, and our unique heritage tours.

EPISODE 2: Historians Christian Di Spigna and J. L. Bell of the Dr. Joseph Warren Historical Society interview Brenton Simons about his book *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues: True Stories of Scam, Scandal, Murder and Mayhem in Boston, 1630–1775*, the collections at NEHGS, and trends in genealogical research.

EPISODE 3, PART I: Emma Manners, the Duchess of Rutland, presents “21st Century Duchess” (available on AmericanAncestors.org/watch only; login required). Learn about the Duchess of Rutland’s role in preserving the history of Belvoir Castle and managing its daily operations; and about the role women have played in preserving England’s heritage for generations.

EPISODE 3, PART II: Emma Manners, Duchess of Rutland, discusses her new podcast, *Duchess*, and her work at Belvoir Castle with Brenton Simons and Curt DiCamillo.

Watch for more episodes of *The Antiquarto* in the coming months.
[youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors](https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors) | AmericanAncestors.org/watch

NEW Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

Genealogies, biographies, heraldry, and local histories

Early Vermont Settlers to 1784—14 new sketches

This study project, managed by Scott Andrew Bartley, offers genealogical sketches of heads of households who resided within the present-day borders of Vermont by 1784. A list of children, their spouses, and all their known vital records accompanies each sketch. The latest additions, all from Brattleboro, feature the following surnames: Alexander, Baldwin, Brace, Brown, Burt, Church, and Kendrick.

General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620–1920

To commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*, we partnered with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) and FamilySearch to create this important new database. This resource contains all applications and supplemental applications to the GSMD from its founding in 1897, with information for all applicants born before January 1, 1920.

The database index includes the applicant, his or her ancestral *Mayflower* passenger, and the names and birth, marriage, and death information for each generation of descendants on the application. The GSMD membership number is also provided.

The database is organized into 23 volumes—one for each family of passengers—and contains over 170,000 pages of applications and 4.5 million searchable names. Please note that all names are indexed to the first page of the application; you can page forward to see the lineage details.

In addition to the searchable database of membership applications, an extensive family tree for each *Mayflower* passenger can be viewed in AmericanAncestors. The trees contain individuals listed on the applications—from the passengers themselves through each successive generation to anyone born before January 1, 1920. You must be signed into AmericanAncestors to view the trees. The links for each available tree appear in the database description at the bottom of the search page.

Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts Membership Applications, 1560–1970—470 new applications

NEHGS has partnered with the Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts to offer a database of their membership applications from 1560 to 1970. This update completes the applications. The new material includes over 2,000 pages and 65,000 indexed names. In the future, Supplemental Applications through 1970 will be added. This database provides an index that includes the applicant, the colonial ancestor, and birth, marriage, and death information for each generation of descendants on the application.

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790—5 new sketches

This study project, managed by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG, profiles heads of families enumerated in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire Counties, an area that includes modern Franklin and Hampden Counties. The latest sketches feature residents of Greenwich, Hancock, Lenox, Warwick, and Windsor.

Journals and periodicals

American Ancestors magazine—1 new volume

This database now includes Volume 20 (2019), over 280 pages, with 2,800 searchable names. The index for these records includes full names, as well as article titles, their publication year, and the author name.

Vital records

Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1920—19 new parishes

Guest members can view the Archdiocese of Boston sacramental records for free in our browsable collection. The 73 new volumes include records from parishes in Boston, Dorchester, East Boston, Forest Hills, Hyde Park, and Mattapan. We have also updated 28 volumes from these parishes, adding post-1900 records to volumes already posted on our site.

Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1920—13 new parishes

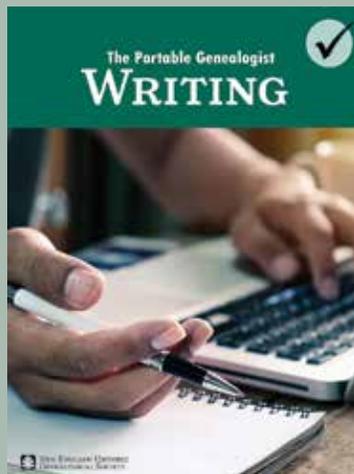
NEHGS and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston are collaborating to create an online database of millions of sacramental records from over 100 parishes across eastern Massachusetts. The 48 new volumes include records from parishes in Boston, Brighton, Brockton, Cambridge, Dorchester, Lynn, Newton, Wakefield, and West Roxbury. We have also updated 20 volumes from these parishes, adding post-1900 records to previously posted volumes.

Make 2021 the year you organize and publish your family history!

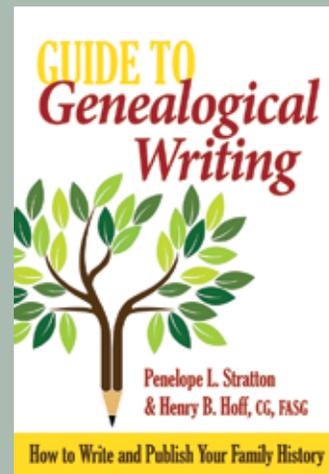
Whether you are new to genealogy or have been researching for years, these invaluable resources—authored by the expert staff at NEHGS—clearly and concisely lay out steps for organizing, writing, and publishing your ancestral story.



Learn how to organize your research and files, keep track of families, and create goals to guide future research.



This easy-to-use compilation of genealogical writing guides shows you how to build a sketch, number genealogical data, create an editorial style sheet, note references, make an index, compile a bibliography, and apply to lineage societies.



Using examples from award-winning NEHGS publications, our experts show you how to write your family history clearly and accurately—from building a genealogical sketch to adding images to indexing.



shop.AmericanAncestors.org



BRICK WALLS submitted by our members

We want to hear from you! Send a brief narrative (200 words or less) about your “brick wall” to magazine@nehgs.org or to AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your member number. We regret that we cannot reply to every submission. Brick walls will be edited for clarity and length. Responses will be forwarded to submitters.

Patrick McKenna (b. ca. 1831) in County Monaghan, Ireland, immigrated in 1848 and settled in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. His wife, Mary Catherine (McDonald) McKenna (b. ca. 1831) left Scotland in 1849 with their daughter Joanna and joined him. Census records from 1850 and 1860 show the family in Portsmouth. Patrick was a cotton spinner in textile mills who later moved to Lawrence, Mass., Manchester, N.H., and Lowell, Mass. (Intake records from the Tewksbury, Mass., almshouse provide dispiriting testimony about his later life.) I have not found birth records for Patrick and Catherine’s four oldest American-born children: **James W. McKenna** (b. abt. 1851); **Mary Ann McKenna** (b. abt. 1852); **Margaret T. McKenna**, my great-grandmother (b. abt. 1857); and **Charles McKenna** (b. abt. 1860).

According to later records, the children were all born in New Hampshire, likely Portsmouth. None of my queries to Portsmouth Catholic churches have been successful.

Joyce McKenna, Salisbury, Massachusetts

My ancestor **Daniel Balcom** was born February 13, 1779, in Mansfield, Connecticut, to Joseph and Mary (King) Balcom. Daniel married Susannah Ordway on November 29, 1804, in Haverhill, Massachusetts. The couple had four children in Haverhill: Rebecca, Hiram (my ancestor), Mary, and Sarah. Daniel Balcom is listed in Covington, Genesee County, New York, in the 1820 census. Sources indicate that Daniel built a gristmill and the first tavern in Covington. He sold the tavern in 1827. Similarly named men appear in the following censuses: 1830, Perrysburg, N.Y.; 1840, Yates, N.Y.; and 1850 and 1860, Caneadea, N.Y. However, the ages and families of these men do not match my Daniel Balcom. In the 1850 census, Susannah, listed as Susannah Ordway, is shown living with her brother in Wisconsin, where she died in 1875. I do not know where Daniel Balcom lived after 1827, and when or where he died.

Donna (Balcom) Reddout, Lawton, Oklahoma

My great-grandfather, **Charles Ernest Hersey**, lived and died in Barre, Vermont. He married Sarah Elizabeth Tracey on September 13, 1899, in Simcoe County, Ontario, Canada. According to the marriage record, his parents were Henry[?] Hersey and Adelia Gray. His World War I draft registration card and his obituary give his birthdate as March 26, 1876. Charles’s 1919 death certificate lists his parents as Henry Hersey and Julia Gray, both born in Vermont. I have searched extensively for Charles’s birth record and information about his parents. I have not found him in the 1880 census, but he is in the Barre 1900 and 1910 censuses. My searches online, at the Barre town clerk’s office, and the Vermont State Archives, have produced no results.

Charles Tracy Flint Jr., Clemson, South Carolina

The Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, vital records report that my ancestors Asa Mixer and **Ruth Murray** were married on December 24, 1793. The marriage was also recorded in Worcester. The marriage intention referred to her as “the widow Ruth Murray of Worcester.” Ruth died at Worcester in 1819. I’ve researched Ruth for thirty years, but I’ve been unable to find anything definitive about her earlier marriage, her maiden name, and her parents.

Joseph Ray, Dublin, Ohio

For a lineage society application, I am seeking information that connects my ancestor **Jedediah Carpenter** (b. April 8, 1776, in Richmond, Cheshire Co., N.H.–d. 1860 in Middlebury Twp., Tioga Co., Pa.) to his son **Samuel Carpenter** (b. Feb. 2, 1822, in Middlebury Twp.–d. 1895 in Tioga Co.) Samuel, the youngest of seven children born to Jedediah and Sarah “Sally” Hill (b. 1778), married Mary Kiphart (1828–1898). A deed indicates the family moved to Pennsylvania in 1811. Samuel was likely named after Jedediah’s father Samuel Carpenter (1741–1810), who served in the Revolution from New Hampshire. I have not learned where Jedediah, his father Samuel, and their wives are buried.

Patricia Ann Carpenter Jacobs, Norfolk, Virginia

National family history curriculum underway

This past fall, American Ancestors assembled a Teacher Consulting Group to assist with the development of a new family history curriculum for middle school students. Ten experienced educators—classroom teachers, informal educators, and curriculum specialists—were selected from more than sixty highly qualified applicants. The resulting group of teachers represented a variety of content areas, grade levels, and states, including Tennessee, New York, Hawaii, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Virginia, Florida, and California.

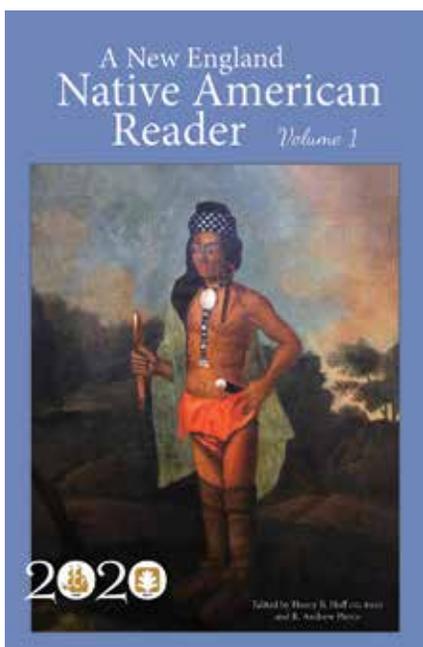
The Consulting Group discussed common challenges—and solutions—when teaching family history in the classroom. Youth Education Curriculum Coordinator Dustin Axe met with each teacher individually to discuss strategies and activities for teaching family history. The group also gathered for three remote workshops for presentations by NEHGS genealogists and archivists and to brainstorm ways to incorporate authentic genealogical methodologies and resources into classroom activities.

All lessons and strategies from the consulting group will be compiled and synthesized to develop a classroom curriculum for students in grades 4–6. Members of the group will provide feedback and pilot activities with students over the next year. The curriculum will be made available at no cost to teachers nationwide through AmericansAncestors.org, and lessons from the curriculum will be used for pre- and post-visit activities for teachers who bring their students to the American Ancestors Research Center. This ongoing youth education initiative is supported by the MacKiev Company, developers of FamilyTree Maker. To learn more about this program and to get involved, email Dustin.Axe@nehgs.org.



New Publication from American Ancestors

shop.AmericanAncestors.org



A New England Native American Reader, Volume 1

6 x 9 paperback, 100 pp.; \$24.95

Edited by Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, and R. Andrew Pierce

Introduction by R. Andrew Pierce

This first of two volumes is a collection of articles on New England Native American genealogy, history, and culture that have appeared in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* or *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* magazine (formerly *New England Ancestors*) from 1854 to the present. Articles cover topics such as Black and Native people of Old Braintree, Massachusetts; William of Sudbury; King Philip; Indians in colonial courts; DNA studies on the family of Edmund Rice; the Brotherton Indian Collection; Joseph Daggett of Martha's Vineyard; and Nantucket court records. This important and unique volume also includes a foreword, an introduction, and an index. (Volume 2, compiled by Eric G. Grundset, is an extensive annotated bibliography of books, articles, and dissertations that no one has previously brought together for New England. It will be published later this year.)

History comes alive in our American Inspiration author series

This fall, the American Inspiration author series brought to life our country's history and featured great figures and families.

We heard from David Hill—in conversation with NEHGS Editor-in-Chief Scott Steward—about David's new book, *The Vapors: A Southern Family, the New York Mob, and the Rise and Fall of Hot Springs, America's Forgotten Capital of Vice*. With award-winning author David Michaelis we followed Eleanor Roosevelt's story from Oyster Bay, Long Island, to New York City and Washington, D.C., to the Hudson Valley, to summit meetings worldwide, and explored her partnership with her husband, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Award-winning novelist Claire Messud took us from Paris to Toronto, Istanbul, and Boston, in her new memoir, *Kant's Little Prussian Head and Other Reasons Why I Write*, in conversation with Dani Shapiro, author of the DNA mystery-memoir *Inheritance* and creator-host of the *Family Secrets* podcast. We studied the life and impact of Malcolm X through a new biography, *The Dead are Arising*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Les Payne, whose work was completed by his daughter Tamara after his death in 2018. Ms. Payne was joined on screen by her brother, her mother, and L'Merchie Frazier of Boston's Museum of African American History. (The Paynes' remarkable work has since won the National Book Award for nonfiction.)

Continuing our partnership with the Boston Public Library (BPL), GBH Forum Network, and the State Library of Massachusetts, we presented New England author Nathaniel Philbrick in dialogue with NEHGS Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods. Before an online audience of nearly 2,100, the pair discussed Philbrick's award-winning 2006 book *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community, and War*. The program was part of the BPL's Baxter Lecture series, promoting "public understanding of the history of the settlement of and immigration to New England."

In December we returned to nineteenth-century America through the lives of Abraham Lincoln, Henry Wadsworth

Join the conversation

On November 18, 2020, we launched a new online Conversation Series featuring American Inspiration authors alongside NEHGS genealogists and other experts. "Finding Unexpected DNA Results" featured author and science journalist Libby Copeland with NEHGS's own Christopher C. Child and former trustee Bill Griffeth, also an author and TV anchor. On March 16, novelist

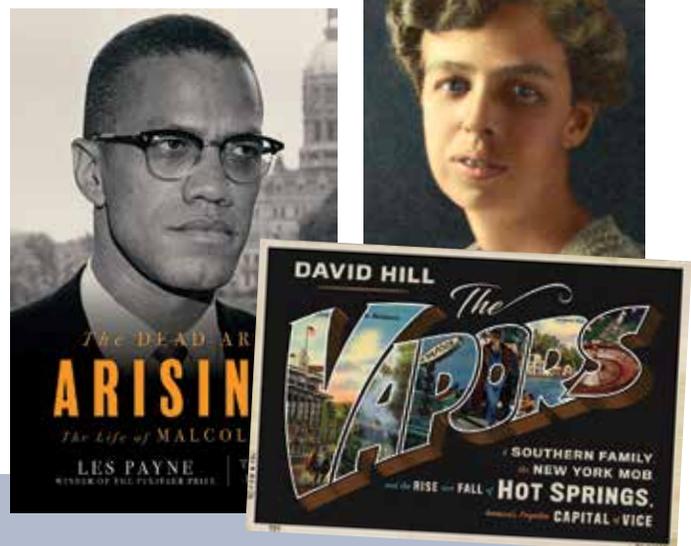
Join us online for more thought-provoking speakers!

Visit AmericanAncestors.org/Inspire to see a schedule of upcoming events, register for talks, and view videos of past interviews with authors.

Become an American Inspiration insider!

Subscribe to our newsletter to be in-the-know about featured authors events, just-scheduled writers, and book-related programs. Sign up at AmericanAncestors.org/Inspire.

Longfellow, and Fanny Appleton (Longfellow's second wife) with historian David S. Reynolds (*Abe*), author Nicholas A. Basbanes (*Cross of Snow*), and Diana Korzenik (compiler of the Appleton Family archives). The year closed with a conversation between Christina Schwarz, author of *Drowning Ruth*, and L.A. writer and comedienne Sandra Tsing Loh about Schwarz's new book *Bonnie*—on the infamous crime duo Bonnie and Clyde. Videos of all past events can be found on the series website, AmericanAncestors.org/Inspire.



Christina Schwarz will join genealogist Kyle Hurst and museum curator Elliot Bostwick Davis for a conversation about "Recreating Place." The trio will share tricks of the trades—the resources and methods they use to research and present historical times and places—offering insights for family historians in pursuit of the past.

online learning

2021 Online Learning Opportunities

Explore family history—and social history—without leaving home! From free webinars to new multi-day virtual research programs, American Ancestors is providing more online programming than ever before. Not only are we nearly doubling our offerings, but we are also expanding our coverage of topics, including cultural history, decorative objects, and stories from our archives. Mark your calendars and get ready to expand your family history horizons. Registration for our online programs typically opens one month prior to the broadcast. Learn more at AmericanAncestors.org/education/online-classes.

Virtual Research Tour to Washington, D.C.

March 24–27, 2021 • Cost: \$475

While we are unable to lead our in-person research tour to our nation's capital this year, this virtual research program will escort you through the major repositories and resources without leaving home! This four-day online program will devote time to each of the major repositories in Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Record Administration, Library of Congress, and DAR Library. Hear from archivists and experts from each research center, while our genealogists help you add context to the collections and make the best use of these resources from afar. Each day will include multiple lectures, real-time demonstrations and activities, chatting with experts and fellow participants, and more. Participants will also receive a one-hour, one-on-one consultation with a genealogist.

DAY 1: The DAR Library and Archives; Researching Your American Revolutionary War Veterans

DAY 2: NARA: Researching Pension Files and Bounty Land

DAY 3: NARA: Immigration Files

DAY 4: Library of Congress: Using Published Resources, Newspapers, and Maps in Family History Research

Below: Main Reading Room at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 2009. Carol M. Highsmith Archive, Library of Congress.



MARCH

- Starting 3/2/21 ... **ONLINE COURSE:** Freedoms and Challenges: America's Earliest Jewish Communities, 1650–1840, A Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center event, 4 weeks, \$85
- 3/2/21 **AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT:** Russell Shorto with *Smalltime: A Story of My Family and the Mob*, FREE
- Starting 3/3/21 ... **ONLINE COURSE:** History for Genealogists, 5 weeks, \$125
- 3/11/21 **WEBINAR:** Kitchen Explorations with Chef Michael Leviton, FREE
- 3/12/21 **WEBINAR:** Old House Do's and Don'ts, FREE
- 3/16/21 **CONVERSATION SERIES:** Recreating Place, \$65
- 3/18/21 **WEBINAR:** Urban Research in the 19th and 20th Centuries, FREE
- 3/20/21 **ONLINE CONFERENCE:** Researching Northern Irish Ancestors, \$125
- 3/23/21 **AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT:** John Matteson with *A Worse Place Than Hell: How the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg Changed a Nation*, FREE
- 3/24–3/27/21 **VIRTUAL RESEARCH TOUR** to Washington, D.C., \$475 see description to the left
- 3/26/21 **WEBINAR:** Tissington Hall: A Virtual Tour of England's Most Historic Houses, \$15

APRIL

- 4/8–4/10/21 **VIRTUAL RESEARCH PROGRAM:** Genealogical Skills Boot Camp, \$375
- 4/8/21 **WEBINAR:** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org?, FREE
- 4/8/21 **AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT:** Stellene Volandes with *Jewels That Made History*, FREE
- Starting 4/14/21 .. **ONLINE COURSE:** Research New Netherland Ancestors, 3 weeks, \$85
- 4/16/21 **WEBINAR:** Tartan Tales: Stories from Historic Scottish Houses, FREE
- 4/22/21 **WEBINAR:** Out to Sea: Researching Mariner Ancestors in New England, FREE
- 4/27/21 **AMERICAN INSPIRATION VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT:** Blake Bailey with *Philip Roth: The Biography*, FREE

MAY

- Starting 5/5/21 ... **ONLINE COURSE:** Massachusetts Research, 4 weeks, \$115
- 5/6/21 **WEBINAR:** Stories from the Archives: Diaries, FREE
- 5/14/21 **WEBINAR:** Palladian Pathways in Italy's Veneto, FREE
- 5/15/21 **ONLINE CONFERENCE:** Asian Family History Conference, \$85
- 5/18/21 **WEBINAR:** The Untold Story of Jewish Families and Their British Country Houses, FREE
- 5/27/21 **WEBINAR:** Using the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Archives for Family History Research, FREE

JUNE

- 6/5/21 **ONLINE CONFERENCE:** Using Land Records in Family History, \$125
- 6/10/21 **WEBINAR:** Researching the Deep South, FREE
- Starting 6/16/21 ... **ONLINE COURSE:** Rodzina!: Researching Your Polish Ancestors, 3 weeks, \$85

JULY

- Starting 7/6/21 ... **ONLINE COURSE:** Jewish Immigration to America: 1840s–1924, *A Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center event*, 3 weeks, \$85
- Starting 7/7/21 ... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching Acadian Ancestors, 3 weeks, \$85
- 7/8/21 **WEBINAR:** What's New at AmericanAncestors.org?, FREE
- 7/9/21 **WEBINAR:** Great Irish Country Houses, FREE
- 7/22/21 **WEBINAR:** Virginia Research & Resources at American Ancestors, FREE

AUGUST

- Starting 8/11/21 ... **ONLINE COURSE:** Researching Colonial War Ancestors, 3 weeks, \$85
- 8/19/21 **WEBINAR:** Stories from the Archives: Family Registers, FREE
- 8/21/21 **ONLINE CONFERENCE:** Researching German Ancestors, \$125

*Schedule is subject to change.

research tours & programs

2021 Research Tours & Programs*

Salt Lake City Research Tour

May 2–9, 2021

Navigate the resources of the world's largest genealogy library with the help of experts from American Ancestors. We have more than 40 years of experience leading researchers to Salt Lake City. You will benefit from special orientations and tutorials, one-on-one consultations, lectures, and more.

Early member registration by March 7, 2021: \$1,785 single; \$1,575 double; \$1,950 with non-researching guest; \$850 commuter

Member registration after March 7, 2021: \$1,875 single; \$1,650 double; \$2,050 with non-researching guest; \$900 commuter

Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to the above prices

Spring Research Getaway, Boston, MA

June 10–12, 2021

Come to Boston for three days of research, one-on-one consultations, and orientations, while exploring the rich offerings at the American Ancestors Research Center and benefiting from the knowledge of expert genealogists.

Early member registration by April 6, 2021: \$395

Member registration after April 6, 2021: \$450

Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to above prices

Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, Wikimedia Commons.

Massachusetts Research Tour

June 21–26, 2021

Whether your family ties to Massachusetts began 400 or 40 years ago, the Boston area is a fantastic place to conduct genealogical research. Moving beyond the doors of our own research center, this new tour will help you navigate world-class research facilities in and around Boston, providing special orientations, lectures, and guided research time. Repositories include the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston Public Library, Massachusetts State Archives, and more!

Early member registration by April 6, 2021: \$1,350

Member registration after April 6, 2021: \$1,500

Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to the above prices

American Ancestors Summer Institute for Advanced Researchers: Managing an Oral History Project

July 15–18, 2021

Whether you are interested in collecting stories about an individual,

a family, or a community, oral history projects require a methodical approach. This seminar will give you the tools to organize your oral history project, encourage meaningful and productive conversations, record interviews, and share your results with generations to come. Open to current American Ancestors members only.

Early member registration by May 7, 2021: \$1,200

Member registration after May 7, 2021: \$1,350

Come Home to New England, Boston, MA

August 10–14, 2021

NEHGS and American Ancestors have been collecting information about families in America for 175 years. This research program provides you the opportunity to “come home” to Boston and work closely with our staff to advance your research.

Early member registration by May 7, 2021: \$750

Member registration after May 7, 2021: \$850

Nonmember registration: Add \$150 to the above price

*Schedule is subject to change.





staff profile

MEET STEVEN SOLOMON Assistant Vice President for Advancement

I came to NEHGS in February 2010 as the Senior Philanthropy Officer and was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Advancement in September 2020. I see myself as a “scout” for new members, friends, and donors, including new trustees and Council members. My other primary role is to be a relationship builder, to ensure our constituents have the best possible experience with us and develop their philanthropic priorities to support NEHGS to the best of their abilities.

With degrees in music and business, I came to Boston in 1970 from Philadelphia and New York to work in the publicity department of the Boston Symphony in Boston and in the Berkshires. In 1972 the BSO established its first fundraising program and I was recruited to be part of it. This beginning proved to be a great start to what would become my life-long profession. Knowing I wasn’t destined to become a professional musician, I found that my new career path provided me with a wonderful way to spend eight years with the world’s greatest orchestra. Successive positions included the heads of development departments at the Museum of Science (12 years), the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (3 years), and Harvard University Graduate School of Design (7 years), among several others. My life at NEHGS continues to be one of my most rewarding professional experiences. I am grateful to be able to work with such a terrific staff and committed volunteers.

Over the years, I’ve been privileged to meet so many interesting members

around the country who have a wide variety of interests—including goat farmers, bagpipers, viticulturalists, art dealers, and a collector of carousel horses! I’ve become acquainted with our constituents in many different settings—at our events and programs in Boston and other cities, at members’ homes, and on our heritage and research tours to the United Kingdom.

Since the onslaught of the pandemic, NEHGS has benefited from our strong website and technological base. I have been impressed with the creativity and determination of our staff to provide a wide variety of online programs to support our members and their increased interest in family history.

My own genealogical breakthrough happened about ten years ago. My French Rosenau cousins on my mother’s side (whom I had never met) stopped in Boston to visit while on an around-the-world tour. We exchanged family history information and since then my wife Kay and I, and our children Rachael and Mark, have made several trips to France and traveled with these cousins in the U.S. My research expanded to the Solomons on my father’s side and to my mother’s Harvey and Harris families. In 2006 I organized a Rosenau family reunion in Bad Kissingen, Germany, the home of my earliest known ancestor, who was born in 1750. Fifteen people representing four generations gathered from around the world in this beautiful Bavarian spa town known for its roses—the inspiration for the surname of my Rosenau ancestors. ♦

Exploring our Digital Collections from Home

Visitors to the American Ancestors Research Center can explore a rich collection of genealogies, local histories, and manuscripts from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, the NEHGS Research Library, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC). Many of these items are unique or rare, yet traveling to Boston can be difficult—especially now. However, many of our books and manuscripts are available online in our recently redesigned website, American Ancestors Digital Library & Archives.

In 2014, Research Library and R. Stanton Avery Special Collection staff began working with JHC's archivists on a joint digital collections site. The goal was to include digital material from the collections of both JHC and American Ancestors | NEHGS, allowing them to be searched and accessed together. The new site, American Ancestors Digital Collections, was launched in March 2016. In September 2020, a redesigned and upgraded site was relaunched with a new name: American Ancestors Digital Library & Archives (DLA).

The DLA currently contains more than 780,000 images of digital material from the three repositories at American Ancestors and NEHGS: the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, the NEHGS Research Library, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. Each repository's digital collections are based on their own holdings. Most of these collections contain multiple resources with a common subject or format, such as published genealogies, manuscripts by individuals and families, or manuscripts related to the Revolutionary War. Some digital collections contain only one large manuscript collection. We choose items to digitize based on their research value and rarity, focusing on books and manuscripts that are not available on any other website at the time we make our selections. The many unique books and manuscripts on the site makes the DLA an especially valuable resource for both genealogical and historical research.

All of the books and manuscripts featured in the DLA have browsable images, which allows researchers to read them page by page, just as they would in the Research Library. Some items also have searchable full text transcriptions, but are not indexed by name, place, and date, as the databases on AmericanAncestors.org are.



Sally Benny is Curator of Digital Collections at NEHGS.





R. Stanton Avery Special Collections

The DLA contains thirteen collections of digitized material from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections. These collections, based on selected manuscripts, feature business records, church records, commonplace books, family papers, family histories and genealogies, family registers and Bible records, and local histories. Others focus on the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, and the Civil War. One collection is based on the papers of Riobard O'Dwyer, an Irish genealogist who researched families of the Beara Peninsula on the south-west coast of Ireland. Some of these collections, such as commonplace books, family papers, and business records, are valuable research sources for both historians and genealogists and are freely available to the public. Digital collections focused on genealogical material, such as church records and family Bible records, are only available to American Ancestors members.



Containing more than 400 decorative family registers; original Bible records; and typed copies of Bible records from New England, New York, and elsewhere, the Family Registers and Bible Records collection is one of the most popular offerings. Some of the handwritten records have been transcribed and are full-text searchable. Although most family Bible records are fairly short, they can

contain birth, marriage, and death data on several generations of related families. Some Bible records are accompanied by additional material, such as photographs, newspaper clippings, and letters. The Bible record for the Philip Hill family, for example, also includes calling cards, poems, obituaries, and two small pieces of embroidery. In other family registers, illustrations or decorative elements accompany the family data. Some, like the Hanrahan family record, are hand-drawn and painted, while other decorative registers were created on pre-printed forms with lithograph illustrations. One example is the Leonard Enos family register, recorded on a hand-colored lithograph printed by E.B. & E.C. Kellogg around 1847.



Another popular collection focuses on Church Records. Most are original, but the collection also contains some typed transcriptions. Most of the original church records are from the Boston area but the collection also includes material from selected churches in Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and elsewhere in Massachusetts. Church records may contain baptisms, marriages, deaths, membership lists, meeting minutes, and sermon notes.

The Family History Manuscripts collection features unpublished genealogies and research notes held by Special Collections. Some works are formal compiled genealogies, while other holdings consist of small groups of research material, such as notes, correspondence, and/or charts. Since these

genealogies are unpublished, most are unique; some, however, are carbon copies of works that are available in a few other libraries. The collection includes some early handwritten genealogies, which can be particularly useful because their authors may have had access to sources that no longer exist. One such early genealogy is "Paternal line of the Melvill family of Boston," written in 1818 by Allan Melvill, father of author Herman Melville. The Melvill genealogy includes a letter from the author's aunt Mary about several generations of their allied Scollay ancestors. Other collection highlights include genealogies by Winifred Lovering Holman, one of the first fellows of the American Society of Genealogists, and Charles N. Sinnett, a genealogist who focused on Maine families.



The Family and Personal Papers collection contains letters, diaries, poetry, and other material from original manuscript collections. Family papers are useful for all kinds of research because they provide personal, first-hand accounts of what people did and how they lived in a particular time and place. Some highlights of this digital collection include letters to and from Benjamin Franklin and his sister, Jane Mecom, as well as letters by several American soldiers in World War I. More than 60 volumes of diaries, written by students, ministers, women, and others, describe everything from the weather, their social lives, and their travels in New England and beyond. One of the longest

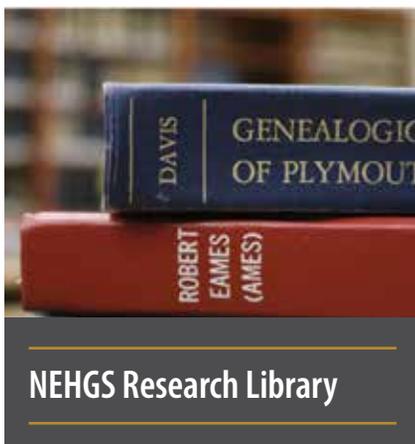
Visit the Digital Library & Archives at Digital.AmericanAncestors.org. Watch our webinar, "[Navigating the Digital Library & Archives at AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)," to learn more about searching, browsing, and using the Digital Library & Archives. View the webinar at AmericanAncestors.org/DLAWebinar or at [youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanAncestors/videos).

kept diaries is that of Rev. Thomas Cary, minister of the First Church of Newburyport, Massachusetts, who wrote a line in his diary every day for over forty years. Other diaries include those of Josiah Freeman Bumstead, superintendent of the Belknap Street Sunday School, African Baptist Church in 1834; Thaddeus Kingsley De Wolf, a physician in Chester, Massachusetts, in the 1850s; Martha Anne Kuhn, a student at Bronson Alcott's school in 1836; and Emily Wise, a shipmaster's wife in the 1830s. Diaries focusing on military experiences can be found in our war-related collections.



Three collections focus on wars: the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, and Civil War.

These collections contain military records, such as muster rolls and orderly books, as well as more personal accounts that provide insight into soldiers' experiences. All three collections contain letters and diaries, including the journal of John Thomas, a surgeon in King George's War, one of the French and Indian wars; the diary of Aaron Hayward, who fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill; and the letters of Rufus Chapman, a Union soldier from Maine. In addition to records of Union soldiers and regiments, the Civil War Manuscripts Collection includes some letters to Confederate soldiers, as well as letters to Jefferson Davis and to two Confederate governors of Virginia.



The NEHGS Research Library collects published resources, such as books, periodicals, CD-ROMs, and microfilm. In addition to a very strong collection of genealogies, we also have an excellent collection of local histories and transcribed records, especially for the East Coast and eastern Canada.

Our digital material focuses on three major strengths of the Research Library's collection: city directories, family histories, and local histories. Since we cannot digitize all of our holdings, we select books that we can legally post and are not available on any other freely accessible website.



The City Directories collection contains over 120 directories from New England, as well as New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and other states. Published between 1786 and 1930, the directories include lists of names and addresses and sometimes information about local government and history. *D.B. Cooke & Co.'s Directory of Chicago for the Year 1859*, for example, contains a map of Chicago with a key to the streets. *Directory of the City of Milwaukee for the Years 1847-'48* begins with a history of the city.



The Family History Books collection features over 400 volumes about families from the United States, Canada, England, Ireland,

and elsewhere. Although most of these volumes are older genealogies in the public domain, also included are many recent works, such as *Sears Genealogical Catalogue* (2014), an update to *The Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears) of Yarmouth, Mass., 1638-1888*, and *My Ayres-Wood Ancestry* (2017). Most of the recent genealogies are e-books, donated to us by the authors, and placed online with their permission. The collection also includes some family association material, such as *Proceedings of the Haworth Association of America at the First and Second Reunions*, and some biographies and memoirs.



The Local History Books collection contains a wide variety of published material on specific locations.

The most popular items are genealogies of all families of a certain place, such as *Genealogies of the Families of Braintree, Mass., 1640-1850*, by Waldo Chamberlain Sprague. Most books in this collection are town and county histories, but transcriptions of town and vital records, church histories, and cemetery inscriptions are also represented. Other highlights include transcriptions of Québec church records (in French), and *Art Work of Boston*, a volume of photographs of Boston buildings and streets published in 1891.

To find digital books that are not included in our DLA, check our library catalog at library.nehgs.org. If we find that a book in our physical collection is available on another website, such as Internet Archive or HathiTrust, we add that link to the library catalog record so that our members can find the digitized version easily. Our library catalog already has thousands of links, and we add more on a regular basis.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I log in?

Some Digital Library & Archives (DLA) resources are available only to American Ancestors Research and Contributing Members and JHC researchers. To access these materials, click on the “Log in” button at the top right of the screen. If you are not logged in to AmericanAncestors.org, you will be asked to enter your American Ancestors username and password. You will then be returned to the DLA.

If you are already logged in to AmericanAncestors.org, clicking on the Log In button will immediately log you in to the DLA site; you will not need to enter a username or password. (Please note: logging in to AmericanAncestors.org does not log you in to DLA at the same time. DLA is a separate website, so you need to click on the Log in button on the DLA site.)

An image is too small for me to read. How can I see a bigger version?

To view a larger version, click on the View button at the top right of the image. A new window with tools for enlarging and rotating each image will open. This window can also be used to page through a book or manuscript.

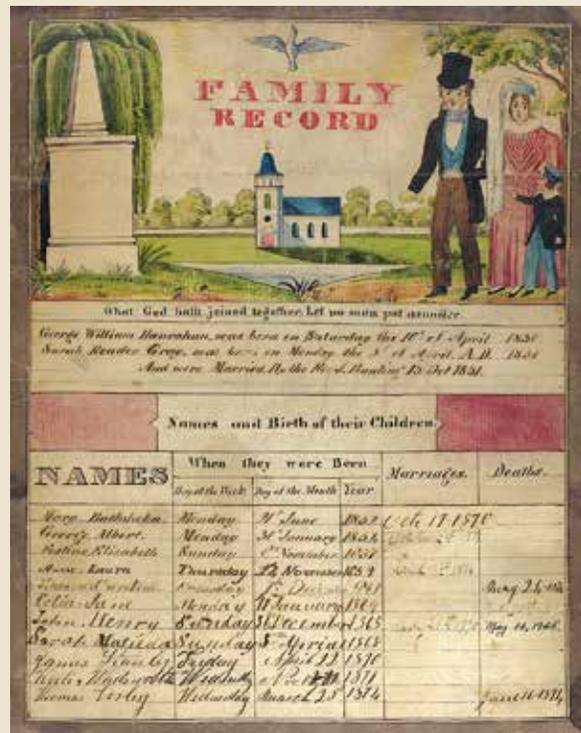
Can I save copies of pages or documents that I find in the Digital Library & Archives?

Yes! To save a copy, click on the Download button on the right and select the image size.

You can also save a full copy of some books. Click on the Print button and select All to download a complete PDF.

How can I restrict my search to a certain collection or repository?

To search within one repository, go to the DLA homepage and select Jewish Heritage Center, Special Collections, or Research Library. To search within a single collection, choose one from either the repository page or one of the pages listed in the Browse menu. You can also restrict your search results to specific collections after performing a search. From the search results page, go to the Collections box at the top left and click on the Show All button. Check and uncheck collections that you would like to include or exclude, and then click Update.



Hanrahan family record, St. Martins, New Brunswick, 1830–45. Available in Family Registers and Bible Records (NEHGS), in the Digital Library & Archives.

How can I search for an exact phrase?

The basic search bar at the top of each page only performs a general keyword search. To find an exact phrase, like a name, go to the advanced search and enter your search terms. In the dropdown box on the right, select Exact phrase. You can also restrict the search to a specific field, such as Creator. Please see the Search Tips page [digital.AmericanAncestors.org/digital/custom/search-tips] for additional details about Advanced Search options.

Can I recommend a resource or collection to be digitized for this site?

Yes. For Research Library or Special Collections resources, please email DigitalAccess@nehgs.org, and we will consider adding your suggestion to our (very full) digitization queue. For Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center resources, email jhreference@nehgs.org.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the Digital Library & Archives?

Email DigitalAccess@nehgs.org.

MOST VIEWED ITEMS FROM THE DIGITAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES, 2016–2020

R. Stanton Avery Special Collections

1. A History of Parts of Capt. and Mrs. Lane's and their Daughter's Work Among a Neglected People on Malaga Island, Maine: Local History Manuscripts (NEHGS)
2. Fort William Henry Muster Roll: French and Indian Wars Manuscripts (NEHGS)
3. "Mrs. Mary Osgood of Andover's strange months of 1692," compiled by Dorothea Barton Cogswell: Family and Personal Papers (NEHGS)
4. Commonplace Book of Francis Dane: Commonplace Books (NEHGS)
5. Index to the Papers of Rev. Herbert Leslie Buzzell in the New England Historic Genealogical Society: Finding Aids for Manuscript Collections (NEHGS)
6. Account Book of Samuel Sewall: Business Records and Account Books (NEHGS)
7. Diary and Account Book of Capt. William Sweat: French and Indian Wars Manuscripts (NEHGS)
8. Guide to the Riobard O'Dwyer Papers: Finding Aids for Manuscript Collections (NEHGS)
9. 1st Kansan Colored Vol. Reg't.: Civil War Manuscripts (NEHGS)
10. Journal of Samuel Hawes: Revolutionary War Manuscripts (NEHGS)

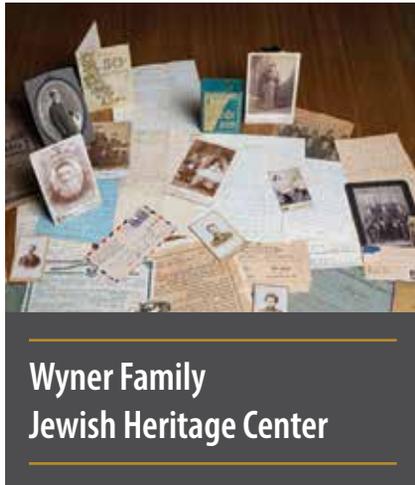
NEHGS Research Library

1. *Genealogies of the Families of Braintree, Mass., 1640–1850: Including the Modern Towns of Randolph & Holbrook and the City of Quincy*: Local History Books (NEHGS)
2. *The Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown, in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1629–1818*: Local History Books (NEHGS)
3. *Vital Records of Sandwich, Massachusetts*, volume 1: Local History Books (NEHGS)
4. *Sears Genealogical Catalogue*: Family History Books (NEHGS)
5. *Vital Records of Charlestown, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*: Local History Books (NEHGS)
6. *The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts*: Local History Books (NEHGS)
7. *The History of Ancient Windsor*, volume 2: Local History Books (NEHGS)
8. *A Genealogical History of Robert Adams, of Newbury, Massachusetts, and his Descendants, 1635–1900*: Family History Books (NEHGS)
9. *Vital Records of Hampton, New Hampshire, to the End of the Year 1900*: Local History Books (NEHGS)
10. *The Marlborough and Hudson Directory, 1923*: City Directories (NEHGS)

Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Collections

1. *The Jewish Times*, Boston, Massachusetts
2. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Boston, Massachusetts
3. Jewish Community Relations Council, Boston, Massachusetts
4. Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston, Massachusetts
5. Wyner Family Papers
6. Boston YMHA Hecht House, Dorchester, Massachusetts
7. Davis and Isaacs Families: Family and Individual Papers
8. Steven Kellerman Synagogue Photographs: Rabbinical, Synagogue and Jewish Education Papers
9. Records of Beth Hamidrash Hagodol (Crawford Street Shul), Roxbury, Massachusetts: Rabbinical, Synagogue and Jewish Education Papers
10. Kehillath Israel Synagogue, Brookline, Mass.: Rabbinical, Synagogue and Jewish Education Papers





Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center collects the papers and records of Jewish families and organizations from Boston and New England. Seventeen digital collections are currently in the DLA. In many cases, the entire original collection has been digitized.



The records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) in Boston are especially useful for genealogists or historians researching Jewish ancestry. HIAS kept case files for each immigrant or family that requested assistance through the Boston office, either with immigration to the United States, or with locating Jews in Europe. Many case files are rich sources of information; they often include letters of support and affidavits from family members and sponsors of prospective immigrants, as well as visa applications and other documentation. The digital collection includes only case files over 72 years old. The digitized case files can be searched by name, country of origin, date, and language, and may also include alternate spellings and the names of associated people. Digitization of the HIAS records is ongoing; new case files are added to the digital collection every month.



The *Jewish Times* collection is another valuable resource. This newspaper for the Boston area Jewish community was published from 1945 to 2001. The digital collection contains most issues from 1945 to 1992. The entire newspaper is full-text searchable. In addition to articles about national and local news and organizations, the newspaper includes birth, marriage, and death announcements.



JHC's family and personal papers includes diaries, correspondence, photographs, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, school records, and other material. Over forty small collections from the Jewish Heritage Center have been digitized and are available in the DLA. Examples include the papers of the Davis and Isaacs families, both active in the Jewish community in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the papers of Evelyn B. and Janot S. Roskin, musicians in Boston. Larger collections document the experiences of Jewish philanthropists, educators, businesspeople, and immigrants in New England. The Spiro Family Papers collection preserves the papers of Harry Spiro (1905–1982), a Lithuanian immigrant who moved to Havana, Cuba, and New York City before settling in Fall River, Massachusetts.

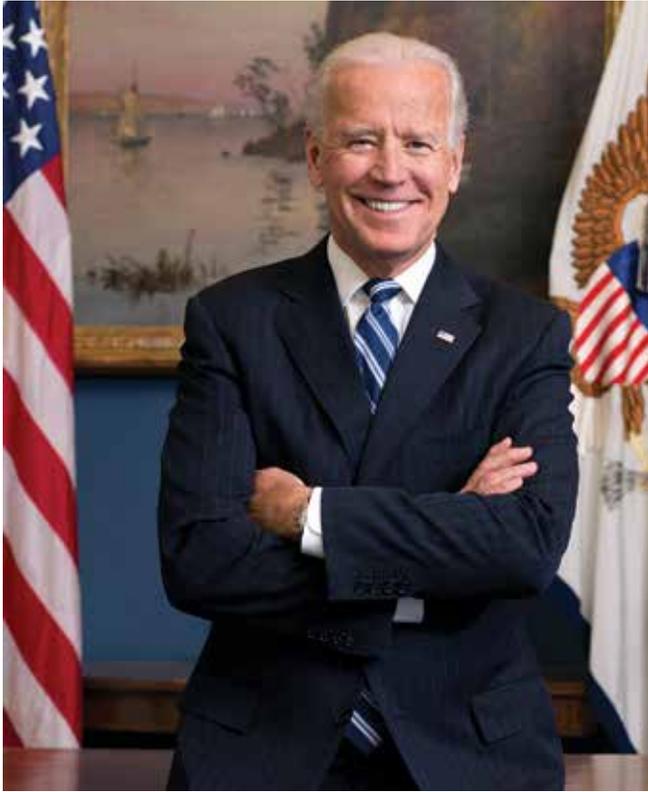
Some of the papers also include records related to family businesses and involvement with organizations and institutions. The Wyner Family Papers contains material on three generations of a prominent Boston Jewish family. Although the family's business and financial records are restricted, the digital collection includes documents on the development of Beth Israel Hospital, as well as the Wyner family's involvement with the American Jewish Historical Society, the Hebrew Free Loan Society of Boston, and other organizations.



JHC also holds the records of many institutions, such as community service organizations, trade associations, Zionist groups, synagogues, and cultural groups. These collections may contain financial records, membership lists, correspondence, meeting minutes, and other records documenting the institution's activities. The Community and Social Service Organization Records digital collection contains the records of several smaller service organizations, such as the Meretz Relief Association, the Farband Labor Zionist Order, and the Jewish Vocational Aid Society. Several larger manuscript collections have also been digitized, including the records of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston. Records of rabbis and synagogues can be found in the Rabbinical, Synagogue and Jewish Education Papers collection; additional synagogue records are available in the Jewish Communities of the North Shore collection. Although many synagogue records focus on activities, publications, finances, and administration, some religious records are included. The papers of Rabbi Aaron Gorovitz and Ber Boruchoff, for example, both contain early twentieth-century Massachusetts marriage records.



The rich collections of the NEHGS Research Library, the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center cover a wide variety of subjects useful to genealogists and historians. The DLA allows us to provide unprecedented access to books and manuscripts that would otherwise be available only at our research center in Boston. We continue to digitize rare and unique material, and new content is added each month. With every addition, the DLA becomes a more valuable resource for American Ancestors members. ♦



AN ANCESTOR TABLE, AS CURRENTLY KNOWN, OF President Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.

NOTE: As the chronicler of record, our Society has a long history of publishing genealogies of American presidents. Accordingly, they are published with each new administration irrespective of party affiliation or political positions. Most recently, the ancestry of President Donald J. Trump was published in this magazine [AMERICAN ANCESTORS (2017) 1:50–51] and genealogical tables for prior presidents (George Washington through Barack Obama) are compiled in an earlier book, *Ancestors of American Presidents* (2012), by Gary Boyd Roberts, available at shop.AmericanAncestors.org. As an historical note, John Quincy Adams, the sixth president, was elected on February 20, 1845, just prior to the Society's incorporation, as a founding member of NEHGS. Many presidents—both Republican and Democrat—have been members of our Society since that time, and one, Rutherford B. Hayes (R-OH), the nineteenth president, served as an honorary Vice-President from 1879 to 1889; for the first two of those years, he was President of the United States.

Research on President Biden's ancestry was undertaken (and the results published online) while he was a U.S. Senator, largely by Robert Battle and the late William Addams Reitwiesner of the Library of Congress. The online report also thanked, among other contributors, two former members of the NEHGS library staff (Marie Daly and Julie Helen Otto) and Christopher C. Child, now Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press and Editor of *Mayflower Descendant*. Considerable further research and expansion of the ancestor table were undertaken by Alexander Bannerman of Charleston, West Virginia, and Patricia S. Wasilik of Collierville, Tennessee, aided by Christopher Smithson of Darlington, Maryland (who obtained original records for several Baltimore families). Gary Boyd Roberts wrote the introduction

and encouraged the project. The Irish ancestry of the new President has also been explored by President Biden himself and by Ancestry.com. The ancestry of the new President's two wives, the late Neilia Hunter and First Lady Jill Tracy Jacobs Stevenson, has also been studied and will be published in the 2021 issue of *Executive Papers*.

Our new President is $\frac{5}{8}$ Irish, $\frac{1}{8}$ more Irish than Reagan and $\frac{3}{8}$ less Irish than Kennedy. President Biden's mother, fully Irish in ancestry, was a Finnegan; his father's mother's mother was a Hanafee. The President is also over $\frac{1}{16}$ German; note the surnames Bomberger and Shoemaker below. The remainder of the new President's ancestry is either late eighteenth- or nineteenth-century immigrant



Alexander Bannerman is a long-time NEHGS member and editor of *Executive Papers*, a publication of the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America. His email is hofpfla@gmail.com. **Gary Boyd Roberts**, author of *Ancestors of American Presidents* (NEHGS, 2012), is Senior Research Scholar Emeritus at NEHGS.

English (Biden/Liddell), or colonial American (largely England to Maryland or Philadelphia—Elkins, Randle, Robinette, Taylor, Johnson, and several other families who are only possible ancestors, via Pumphrey). Some of the colonial families may have been prosperous or locally prominent. Biden's kinship to the wife of a major Confederate leader through the Robinette family is outlined below.

A major English gentry surname in Biden's ancestry is Poyntz. A Mary Poyntz (1748–1798) of Philadelphia married William Elkins (the carelessly written marriage record uses Alkin and Points), and one of their granddaughters, Mary Elkins, married the immigrant William Biden. Among other Elkins-Poyntz descendants, a first cousin of Mary (Elkins) Biden was William Lukens Elkins (1832–1903), the Philadelphia oilman and traction (railway) magnate. His daughter, Eleanor (Elkins) (Widener) Rice, gave Widener Library to Harvard as a memorial to her son, *Titanic* victim Henry Elkins Widener (1885–1912).¹

The *ancestor table*, or *ahnentafel*, begins with one subject—in this case, Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.—and lists all of his known ancestors for nine generations. Each generation doubles in size. The numbering system is the key to determining relationships. The President is person number 1. Person 2 is his father and 3 is his mother. Men's numbers are always even, and women's numbers are always odd. To determine the number of a person's father, multiply the person's number by 2. To determine the number of the person's mother, add 1 to the father's number. To determine a person's child, divide the father's number by 2.

1. **Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.**, born Scranton, Pa. 20 Nov. 1942; m. (1) New York City 27 Aug. 1966, **Neilia Hunter** (b. Skaneateles, N.Y. 28 July 1942; d. Wilmington, Del. 18 Dec. 1972); m. (2) New York City 17 June 1977, as her second husband, **Jill Tracy Jacobs** (b. Hammonton, N.J. 3 June 1951), daughter of **Donald**

Carl Jacobs and **Bonny Jean Godfrey** of Hammonton, N.J. and Willow Grove, Pa.
 2. **Joseph Robinette Biden** (Baltimore, Md. 13 Nov. 1915–Wilmington 2 Sept. 2002); m. Lackawanna Co., Pa. 30 May 1941
 3. **Catherine Eugenia “Jean” Finnegan** (Scranton 7 July 1917–Wilmington 8 Jan. 2010)
 4. **Joseph Harry Biden** (Baltimore 14 June 1893–Baltimore 26 Sept. 1941); m. Baltimore 27 Nov. 1914
 5. **Mary Elizabeth Robinette** (Md. Nov. 1894–Newtonville, Mass. 23 April 1943)
 6. **Ambrose Joseph Finnegan** (Olyphant, Pa. 11 July 1884–Scranton 27 May 1957); m. Scranton 1 June 1909
 7. **Geraldine Catharine Blewitt** (Scranton 1 Jan. 1886–Scranton 24 June 1949)
 8. **George T. Biden** (Baltimore 31 Oct. 1867–Lakeland, Fla. 31 Jan. 1933); m. Baltimore 8 March 1889 and divorced Baltimore 3 Dec. 1915
 9. **Mary Emily Liddell** (Baltimore 14 Sept. 1872–Baltimore 1 Feb. 1922)
 10. **George Hamilton Robinette** (Preston Co., W. Va. 3 Oct. 1844–Baltimore 2 April 1914); served as a Union soldier in the Civil War; m. (2) Salem, W. Va. 25 Feb. 1884
 11. **Mary Ann Hanafee** (Doddridge Co., Va. [now W. Va.] 1 Aug 1862–Baltimore 5 Jan. 1930)
 12. **James Finnegan** (bp. Lordship Parish, co. Louth, Ireland 18 Dec. 1840–Olyphant 1 March 1895); m. Ovid, N.Y. 2 Feb. 1866
 13. **Catherine Roche** (Ireland c. 1844–Scranton 4 April 1886)
 14. **Edward Francis Blewitt** (New Orleans, La. 2 Jan. 1859–Scranton 26 May 1926); m. (1) Scranton 10 May 1879
 15. **Mary Ellen Stanton** (Scranton 1861–Scranton 26 Sept. 1888)
 16. **Joseph H[enry] Biden** (prob. Baltimore 5 Sept. 1828–Baltimore 2 June 1895); m. Baltimore 22 Dec. 1852
 17. **Lydia Ann Randle** (Md. Jan. 1833–Baltimore 7 Sept. 1902)
 18. **Robert Theodore Liddell** (Baltimore 4 Jan. 1844–Baltimore

4 Oct. 1914); almost cert. the one called “*alias John Dawson*” who served in the 1st Maryland Infantry, Civil War; m. prob. Baltimore c. 1865
 19. **Susan E. Bomberger** (prob. Baltimore c. March 1845–Baltimore 23 July 1924)
 20. **Moses J. Robinett(e)** (Flintstone, Md. 9 Jan. 1819–Cumberland, Md. 17 Jan. 1903); innkeeper at Flintstone; m. (2) Allegany Co., Md. 24 June 1838
 21. **Jane Eliza Pumphrey** (Washington, D.C. or Md. c. 1820–W. Va. or Md. betw. 1860 and 1870)
 22. **John Hanafy (or Hanafee)** (Ireland 1815–Doddridge Co., W. Va. 1878); m. prob. Ireland
 23. **Mary Ward** (Ireland 1826–Doddridge Co. 1878)
 24. **Owen Finnegan** (Ireland c. Aug. 1818, and poss. the one bp. Armagh, co. Louth 9 Jan. 1816–Ovid 15 June 1875); immigrated to Seneca Co., N.Y. (1849); m. Cooley Par., co. Louth 8 Dec. 1839
 25. **Jane Boyle** (Ireland c. 16 Dec. 1820, and poss. the one bp. Armagh 31 Dec. 1823–Ovid 23 Dec. 1874)
 26. **Thomas Roche** (Ireland c. 1814–Ovid 28 Oct. 1870); m. prob. Ireland
 27. **Bridget Fox** (Ireland c. 1817–liv. Seneca Co. 1870)
 28. **Patrick F. “Patt” Blewitt** (Kilmore Moy, co. Mayo, Ireland 20 April and bp. 24 April 1832–Scranton 25 Nov. 1911); m. Scranton 24 Nov. 1857
 29. **Catherine “Kate” Scanlon** (Ireland 1838/40–Scranton 10 Feb. 1901)
 30. **James Stanton** (Ireland c. 1840–Scranton 15 Dec. 1890); m. c. 1860
 31. **Mary Arthurs** (Ballyclough [*sic?*], co. Mayo 10 Sept. 1843–liv. Scranton 1880)
 32. **William Biden** (England 20 Dec. 1787–Baltimore 24 Nov. 1849); m. Baltimore 13 Feb. 1822

Opposite page: Official portrait of Joseph R. Biden (as Vice President) in his West Wing office at the White House. Official White House photo by David Lienemann. 2013. Library of Congress; loc.gov/item/2017645542.

33. **Mary Elkins** (Md. 15 June 1801–Baltimore 12 Jan. 1863)
34. **Thomas Heisling Randle** (Baltimore 19 Nov. 1803–Arbutus Station, Baltimore Co. 3 June 1889); m. Baltimore 9 June 1830
35. **Mary Ann Shoemaker** (Md. 18 Sept. 1812–Baltimore Co. 15 Aug. 1902)
36. **John Liddell** (Lowick, Lancs., England 11 Jan. 1808–Baltimore 2 April 1854); m. Baltimore 25 Dec. 1833
37. **Emiline “Emily” Carmine (or Courmine?)** (Md. c. 1814–Pikesville, Md. 24 Oct 1860)
38. **John H. Bomberger** (prob. Norfolk, Va. c. 1812–Baltimore 8 April 1896); m. (1) Baltimore 13 Oct. 1834; served as a surgeon in the D.C. and Maryland Volunteers, Mexican-American War
39. **Susan Van Winkle** (Md. c. 1816–Baltimore soon ante 27 July 1845)
40. **Jesse Robinett** (Allegany Co. c. 15 Jun 1776–Allegany Co. 26 Nov. 1832); m. Allegany Co. 8 May 1807
41. **Dorcas Johnson** (Allegany Co. c. 22 April 1786–Allegany Co. 17 Jan. 1861)
42. (poss.) **James Pumphrey** (prob. Prince George’s Co., Md. c. 1765–Washington, D.C. 1832); m. (2) Loudoun Co., Va. c. 25 Dec. 1808
43. (poss.) **Elizabeth Hamilton** (c. 1785–Washington, D.C. 27 Aug. 1820)
44–45. -----
46. **John Ward** of co. Galway, Ireland
47. **Mary** _____ of co. Galway
48–49. -----
50. (poss.) **James Boyle** of Armagh
51. (poss.) **Eliza Robinson**
52–55. -----
56. **Edward Bluitt** of Kilmore Moy (c. 1802; drowned Scranton c. 24 July 1872); immigrant to N.Y. (1851)
57. **Mary Mulderig** (Ireland c. 1802–Lackawanna Co., Pa. ante 1870)
58. **Anthony Scanlon** (Ireland c. 1800–liv. Scranton 1860)
59. **Honora Hefron** (Ireland c. 1810–prob. Scranton by 1860)
60–61. -----
62. **Patrick Arthurs** of Ballyclough [*sic?*] (Ireland c. 1807–Scranton 24 Feb. 1895); m. Ireland by 1843
63. **Bridget Dongine** (Ireland 1820–Scranton 2 Aug. 1883)
64–65. -----
66. **Joseph Elkins** (Philadelphia 27 April 1776–Baltimore c. 1801); m. Baltimore Co. 10 Aug. 1797
67. **Nancy Fonts**
68. **William Randle** (Md. c. 1780–Baltimore by 20 April 1829); m. (license) Baltimore 29 Jan. 1803
69. **Mary Peirce** (Md. c. 1784–Md. 1831–1840)
70. **George Shoemaker** (c. 1785–Baltimore 4 April 1848); m. Baltimore 24 Nov. 1808; served as an ensign in the Maryland militia, War of 1812
71. **Rachel Waltham** (Baltimore c. 1789–Baltimore 10 April 1883)
72. **William Liddell** (c. 1778–Baltimore by 3 June 1834); m. Lowick 12 Nov. 1805
73. **Mary Dawson** (c. 1780–Baltimore 18 July 1858)
74. (prob.) **Thomas Carmine** m. Great Choptank Par., Dorchester Co., Md. 14 Nov. 1801
75. (prob.) **Rebecca Simmons**
76. **John William Bomberger** (bp. Baltimore 12 Feb. 1781–Baltimore 3 April 1860); prob. the one m. Baltimore 28 Aug 1802; served as a private in the Maryland militia, War of 1812
77. (prob.) **Sally Carter** (d. Baltimore by 1837)
78. **William Van Winkle** (d. Baltimore ante 1 Sep. 1853); m. Baltimore 20 Feb. 1810; served as a private in the Maryland militia, War of 1812
79. **Catherine Laudenslager** (1783–Baltimore 23 Dec. 1868)
80. **George Robinett** (Chester Co., Pa. or Frederick Co., Md. c. 1750–Allegany Co. 1831); member of the Md. House of Delegates (1812); m. (1) by c. 1775
81. **Sarah Dazier (Dozier?, Leasure?)** (d. by 1801)
82. **Benjamin Johnson** (Allegany Co. c. 21 Sept. 1758–Nottingham Twp., Harrison Co., Ohio); m. (2) Md. 1787
83. **Drusilla Perrin** (Chester Co., 17 Feb. 1766–Nottingham Twp. 5 July 1818)
84. (poss.) **William Pumphrey** (prob. Prince George’s Co., Md. by 1734–prob. Prince George’s Co. 1776–1786); m. by c. 1755
85. (poss.) **Elizabeth Kingsbury** (Calvert Co., Md. c. 1738–prob. the one liv. Piscataway Hundred, Prince George’s Co. 1796)²
86–131. -----
132. **William Elkins** (Va. c. 1751–Philadelphia 29 July 1798); merchant; m. Philadelphia 10 Jan. 1774
133. **Mary Poyntz** (c. 1748–Philadelphia 21 Sept. 1798)
134–141. -----
142. **John Waltham** (Kent Co., Md. by 1768–Baltimore 1 April 1822)
143. **Elizabeth Thompson** (bp. Shrewsbury, Md. 4 March 1761–bur. Baltimore 31 July 1855)
144–147. -----
148. **Jacob Laudenslager**
149. **Susan** _____
150–151. -----
152. **Arnold Bomberger**
153. **Elizabeth** _____
154–159. -----
160. **Nathan Robinett** (prob. East Nottingham Twp., Chester Co. c. 1718–prob. Allegany Co. 1785–1800)
161. **Elizabeth** _____
162–163. -----
164. **Griffith Johnson** (Md. 7 March 1733/4–Allegany Co. 1805); served as a captain in the Maryland militia, American Revolution; m. by c. 1760
165. **Elizabeth Thomas** (d. Allegany Co. by 1805)
166–285. -----
286. **Samuel Thompson** of Kent Co.
287. **Elizabeth** _____
288–319. -----
320. **Samuel Robinett** (almost cert. bp. Bunbury, Cheshire, England 11 May 1669–East Nottingham Twp., 1745–1747); m. Upper Providence Twp., Chester Co. (now in Delaware Co., Pa.) betw. 10 March 1692/3 and 14 Oct. 1697
321. **Mary Taylor** (bp. Kerwick, Cheshire 26 April 1674–prob. Chester Co. post 1747)
322–639. -----

640. **Allen Robanet** (later **Robinett**) (per recent research, almost certainly the grocer of Bunbury, Cheshire (d. Upper Providence Twp. 5 June 1694); immigrant to Pa. (c. 1682), m. Church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury, London 29 Sept. 1653
641. **Margaret Symm** (bp. St. Michael, Queenhithe, London c. 1632–d. prob. Chester Co. ante 4 June 1694) (Varina Ann Banks Howell, wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, was a daughter of William Burr Howell [and Margaret Louisa Kempe], son of Richard Bond Howell, Governor of N.J. [and Keziah Burr], son of Ebenezer Howell and Sarah Bond, daughter of Samuel Bond [and Ann Sharpless], son of Richard Bond and Sarah Robinett, daughter of this Allen and Margaret.)
642. **William Taylor** of Sutton, Cheshire, a Quaker, immigrant to Pa. (1682) (c. 1640–Chester Co. 6th, 1 mo. 1682/3); m. Prestbury, Cheshire 1 May 1665
643. **Margaret Finsham** (bp. Horningsheath, Suffolk, England 27 April 1645–Chester Co. 3rd, 1 mo. 1682/3) 644-1023. -----

Sources include numerous federal censuses (Biden, Blewitt, Bomberger, Finnegan, Hanafee, Laudenslager, Liddell, Pumphrey, Randle, Robinett, Roche, Scanlon, Shoemaker); marriage and death records (esp. Blewitt, Finnegan, Liddell/Liddle, Bomberger, and others); diverse obituaries and other newspaper items, esp. from *The Baltimore Sun*, as well as multiple tombstones and FindAGrave memorials (esp. Biden, Blewitt, Bomberger, Finnegan, Robinette, Roche, Shoemaker); various Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland indexes at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org covering births and christenings (1662–1911) and marriages (1655–1968), and England indexes covering births and christenings (1538–1975), and marriages (1538–1973); Baltimore Co., Md., marriage records at msa.maryland.gov (Randle, Bomberger, Van Winkle); estate

and probate files of James Finnegan (Lackawanna Co., Pa., #3271), Griffith Johnson (Allegany Co., Md., 1796–1940, Box 25, #1104), John Waltham (Baltimore Co., Md. Wills, vol. 11, image 22, pp. 414–15, and George Shoemaker (Baltimore Co., Md. Wills, vol. 22 [1847–1849], pp. 215–18), as well as Baltimore administration accounts of John W. Bomberger (1860–1861, Liber I.P.C. 70, p. 324), William Liddle (Liber D.M.P. 16, pp. 123–24 and Liber D.M.P. 32, pp. 172–73), and William Randle (1829–1830, Liber D.M.P. 27, pp. 400–1; 1830–1831, Liber D.M.P. 28, pp. 26–27, 91); Baltimore Co. inventory of William Liddle (Bk. 43, 1834–35, pp. 45–47); *Baltimore, Passenger Lists, 1820–1964, Pennsylvania, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1800–1962 and New York Passenger Lists (1820–1891)* at FamilySearch.org; *Ireland, Select Catholic Birth and Baptism Registers, 1763–1917* at Ancestry.com (“Patt Bluit” and “Mary Bluet”); *England & Wales, Quaker Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers, 1578–1837: Quarterly Meetings of Cheshire and Staffordshire, 1631–1799* at Ancestry.com, plus D. P. Cartwright, *Thomas Powell in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 1682, and Some of His Descendants* (1991) (Taylor); *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538–1975* at Ancestry.com; Prestbury (Cheshire) Parish Church Register at archives.cheshire.gov.uk; *U.S., Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863–1865* at Ancestry.com (George H. Robinett and Robert Theodore Liddell); War of 1812 widow’s Pension File, claim 13,569 (Rachel, wife of George Shoemaker); D. J. Stoddard, *Prominent Men: Scranton and Vicinity, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania* (1906) (Blewitt); H. J. Eckley and W. T. Perry, *History of Carroll and Harrison Counties, Ohio,*

Scranton, Penn. 1890. T. M. Fowler & James B. Moyer [1890]. Library of Congress. Scranton is the birthplace of the president, his mother, and other ancestors and relatives.

2 vols. (1921) (Johnson, Perrin); J. G. Leach, *Genealogical and Biographical Memorials of the Reading, Howell, Yerkes, Watts, Latham, and Elkins Families* (1898) (Biden, Elkins, Fonts, Poyntz); E. M. Clark, *William Pumphrey of Prince George’s County, Maryland, and His Descendants* (1992) (Pumphrey, Kingsbury). ♦

NOTES

- 1 The parents of Mary (Poyntz) Elkins were not found, and no connection to the Poyntz gentry family has yet been proved. An English Poyntz, Margaret Georgiana (1737–1814), married Hon. John Spencer (later 1st Earl Spencer) and was a 4th-great-grandmother of Diana, Princess of Wales.
- 2 The parents of William Pumphrey are unknown. The extended ancestry of **Elizabeth Kingsbury** is as follows: **James Kingsbury (Jr.)** of Calvert Co., Md. (c. 1704–1755), m. c. 1725 **Anne Demillian(e)**; **James Kinsbury** (d. Calvert Co. 25 Jan. 1726/7) m. **Elizabeth (Hall) Evans** (1673–1743), dau. of **Richard Hall** of Calvert Co. (c. 1635–will dated 17 Sept. 1684, proved 28 Aug. 1688), member of the Maryland Assembly, and **Elizabeth [Wingfield ?]**. **Anne Demillian(e)** was the dau. of **Rev. Gabriel Demilliane** (d. Calvert Co. by 8 Oct. 1714), m. 31 Jan. 1704 **Anne Young** (d. Prince George’s Co., Md. 5 Feb. 1730/1), dau. of **George Young** (d. Calvert Co. 4 July 1719) and **Elizabeth [prob. not ROUSBY]**, as suggested in some sources]. (George Johnston, *History of Cecil County, Maryland* [1881], pp. 480–81, contains a brief treatment of the Hall connection; see also Annabelle Kemp, *The Lucas Genealogy* [1964] and Kent Randell, “Genealogical Summary of the Rousby Family of Maryland and East Riding of Yorkshire, England,” in *Maryland Genealogical Society Journal* 61 [2002]:31–62, which makes a Rousby descent improbable.)



THE LANDSCAPE OF HISTORY

INSIDE THE CITY OF BOSTON'S ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

Founded in 1983 to protect Boston's archaeological treasures, the City Archaeology Program has overseen hundreds of historic sites and researched and cataloged thousands of artifacts. The program staff currently consists of City Archaeologist Joe Bagley and Collections Manager Sarah Keklak. Senior Editor Jean Powers spoke with Joe about how the program's work redefines our perceptions of historic Boston.

How did you become interested in urban archaeology?

My educational background is in ancient Native archaeology. I made the transition to historical and urban archaeology in graduate school when my thesis focused on a site that contained artifacts from both historical and ancient Nipmuc Native people. As the archaeologist for the City of Boston since 2011, I've come to really appreciate the complexities of sites that combine the ancient with the

near-contemporary. There are so many layers, so much going on underground—these sites have a lot to teach us about our history and how the city and its people developed and grew.

What are the goals of the City Archaeology Program?

Our official mission is to “celebrate Boston's diverse history through preservation, excavation, and community engagement.” Beyond that, we work to make the concept of archaeology accessible and inviting to the public. We want people to understand that finding something of archaeological significance on their property—residential or commercial—won't typically result in a disruption to their lives or their plans. And by working with the city's archaeology program, property owners will be helping to preserve these artifacts and expand understanding of our city's history.

Our city's distant and recent pasts are diverse. Archaeology can tell the story of those whom history has overlooked. We want to expand what Boston history means, and we can use the artifacts we find to tell the many stories of our ever-changing city.

One example of this effort is our Chinatown project. We were able to dig about six feet deep before hitting the water table, but much of what we found was from the 1980s. We uncovered food wrappers written in Chinese, restaurant bowls and lanterns with uniquely Chinese designs, and Chinese-brand cigarette boxes. This site was noticeably distinct from our other digs; the continuity of Chinese identity was evident. We are reaching out to members of that late-twentieth-century community for help in interpreting these artifacts and putting them into context.

For our project at Roxbury's Malcolm X house, we were able to work with Malcolm X's nephew, Rodnell Collins. Rodnell's mother, Ella Little-Collins, bought the house in 1941, and Malcolm X moved in with her that year. Rodnell was able to provide oral histories of many of the



Jean Powers is Senior Editor at NEHGS. **Joe Bagley** is Boston's City Archaeologist and staff of the Boston Landmarks Commission. Images courtesy of City of Boston.

Opposite page: Recently washed artifacts from a 1840s privy in Boston's North End dry on racks inside the City Archaeology Program's Laboratory. *Below: (Top)* New Edition's self-titled cassette tape, excavated during the Chinatown dig. *(Bottom)* The dig site at 6 Hudson Street in Chinatown.



What is the process for starting a new dig?

We work with the Boston Landmarks Commission and with the Parks Department on some areas designated as landmarks, such as Franklin Park or Boston Common. Those landmark sites are always reviewed for potential archaeological significance before major construction projects. Other projects happen as the result of a

objects we uncovered. We paired his descriptions with photos of the artifacts in a catalog now available to the public on our website. Along with our usual archaeological report, field notes, and other documentation, these oral histories provide invaluable information on the more recent past. And that concept is something I like to explain to student groups—archaeology isn't just the ancient past. We can do the archaeology of yesterday.

discovery, often during a construction project.

Before starting a new dig, we do as much research as possible on the site, going back to the glacial period. We explore the indigenous histories of the area and conduct extensive property ownership and genealogical research.

For one project in the North End, we traced the property ownership to the first building on the site in 1710. We researched all the families that had lived there and found that one family had occupied the site for 150 years. The family's patriarch, a blacksmith or silversmith, was an enslaver; records showed an enslaved man living on the premises. That discovery led us to research the enslaved person and his role in the family. We are trying to determine if he worked in the shop, or as a domestic servant in the home, or both.

The artifacts we uncover tell stories about the people who used them, handled them, and disposed of them, so it's important to determine who those people were and the context in which the artifacts were used. Are these artifacts telling us about the enslaved man who lived there, or about the oldest woman in the house, who, in the absence of a domestic servant, would likely have overseen the day-to-day household activities? Examining potential household dynamics is crucial to our interpretation of artifacts. Genealogical research creates the structure we can use for this interpretation, so we come to every site with an outline of what we think happened there. But we are still often surprised by what we find underground.

What is your favorite kind of site?

We love it when someone calls us with a mystery. In December 2020, we received a call that someone had discovered a "sinkhole" in Dorchester's Ronan Park. We didn't know what to expect, so our team grabbed everything we could find and rushed over. The hole was deep, and we couldn't see the bottom, so we taped a cell phone and seven LED flashlights to a paint





Top left: Some of the dozens of doll fragments found in the 1860s privy of the Dorchester Industrial School for Girls. *Bottom left:* Jane Lyden Rousseau examines an animal bone found by volunteers during excavations inside Old North's crypt.



such wrecks in that area, which will be uncovered as development continues.

One of my favorite projects involved the restoration of the Old North Church crypt. As part of a team called in to evaluate conditions in the crypt in order to inform the scope of the restoration project, we were present for the opening of an initial “sample” tomb, which had been sealed behind lathe and plaster for 100 years. Forensic archaeologist Jane Lyden Rousseau had found historic records stating that the tombs had likely been cleared and that we would find an empty chamber. However, when the door opened, we saw stacks of coffins, some collapsed and overturned, with their contents spilled onto the other coffins.

Our only action was to document the contents based on what we could see from the entrance. Our role was to help predict what might be in the other tombs, and to learn about burying practices from the early nineteenth century—the time period of the interments. The tomb entrance has since been covered back up.

What stories have you uncovered that especially moved you?

One of the most meaningful projects for me was at the Dorchester Industrial School for Girls. Founded in 1873 by philanthropists Lucretia O. Everett and Maria Greenwood, the school trained the daughters of impoverished families in the “domestic arts,” with the goal of providing them employment and elevating them from poverty. The property at 232 Centre Street in Dorchester was purchased in 2011 by the Epiphany School, in order to construct a new building next to the historic school. Due to the age and

roller and lowered it on a rope into the hole. It felt like a budget recreation of the *Titanic* exploration, we were so excited. We determined that the sinkhole was a stone-lined well that had been covered in ten feet of dirt. Property records indicated that the well was likely built by widow Mary L. Pierce, who acquired the land in 1871. Generations of people have passed above it, unaware of its existence.

A better-known story is the 2015 Seaport shipwreck. The Seaport area used to be mudflats; like other areas of Boston, it was filled in to create land. During construction of 121 Seaport Boulevard, the Skanska construction crew hit the original seabed about

thirty feet down and discovered a 54-foot shipwreck. They chose to halt operations on the site and called the city and state archaeologists. We were able to excavate the wreck over three days, removing artifacts and collecting samples of the timbers for analysis. The ship was determined to be a lime schooner from Maine, sunk by an onboard fire in the 1860s or 1870s. Lime schooners were prevalent in Boston at that time, in response to a construction boom. Lime (then a key component in building foundations) catches fire when wet, so these wrecks were not unusual, and we believe the crew survived. There are likely other

historical significance of the site, the Boston Landmarks Commission determined that an archaeological dig was warranted. We conducted an archaeological survey on the rear of the property, near the former location of a carriage house. Our findings there included dolls, buttons, clothing fragments, and school materials. We found a slate with “Lilly” written across the top and were able to locate two Lillies in the school records.

We then located intake records at Boston University’s Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center detailing the students’ family conditions, why they were at the school, and, occasionally, what happened to them after they left. Dr. Jane Becker of UMass Boston’s

Public History program took on the site for her Public History Practicum Projects class, charging her students with determining the girls’ fates.

Tracing these girls—without knowing their married surnames—proved challenging. The class was unable to locate further records for some of the girls, but many were documented. Several of the girls became important members of their communities. Others led tragic lives of chronic poverty. One UMass student, Rick Butler, was able to trace Industrial School pupil Delphi “Della” Collins from her birth in Sandwich, Massachusetts, through her time at a Sandwich almshouse, to the industrial school, through two failed adoptions, to her 1879 marriage to

Arthur T. Smith of Fremont, New Hampshire, with whom she had one son, Arthur. Butler located her great-great-grandson and shared photos and information about Della with him.

The work we did on this project was important; most of these girls wouldn’t show up in written histories, but

their stories were told through their records and the things they left behind.

How has the Covid-19 pandemic changed your work?

Because much of our planning takes place in the winter and early spring, we were able to get out ahead of things in early 2020 and make our summer and fall plans with safety limitations in mind. Our team’s in-person field work was effectively shut down. Currently, we can’t bring in volunteers, so it’s just Sarah and myself overseeing digs conducted by contractors and then analyzing the results. We’ll keep this policy until it’s safe again. Most of our work this year has been digitizing our existing collections at our archaeological repository in the City of Boston Archival Center.

What do you see for the City Archaeology program going forward?

Our goal is always to expand what Boston history means. Boston archaeology today is a multidisciplinary, collaborative process. We are working to involve communities in the interpretation of our findings, and to elevate voices that have been long overlooked. When we work on a Native site, we partner with the Native community. They are the decision-makers and the ones who tell us what the items mean, their significance, and how to best honor them—through display or active use. The changing nature of our urban landscape means that a single site can contain detritus from the twentieth century along with stone tools from twelve thousand years ago. A single artifact can change the way we view a site’s history. In a city known for its history, the landscape of time is more diverse and surprising than anyone can imagine. Those are the stories we want to tell. ♦

The Seaport shipwreck dig site.



Dig deeper!

- [The City of Boston Archaeology webpage](https://boston.gov/departments/archaeology)
boston.gov/departments/archaeology
- [The Dorchester Industrial School for Girls dig](https://boston.gov/departments/archaeology/dorchester-industrial-school-girls)
boston.gov/departments/archaeology/dorchester-industrial-school-girls
- [Rick Butler’s history of Della Collins of the Dorchester Industrial School for Girls](https://dorchesterindustrialschoolforgirls.wordpress.com/della-collins/)
dorchesterindustrialschoolforgirls.wordpress.com/della-collins/
- [Commonwealth of Massachusetts archaeology resources](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcarch/archidx.htm)
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcarch/archidx.htm
- [NEHGS webinar: Researching the History of a House](https://youtube.com/watch?v=2LzqdR29gsU&feature=youtu.be)
youtube.com/watch?v=2LzqdR29gsU&feature=youtu.be

Stay tuned for future American Ancestors online programming and a special walking tour of Boston with Joe Bagley in 2021!



Deconstructing the *Hector* “Passenger List”

When you find a passenger list containing the name of an ancestor, you strike genealogical gold. On the internet you can readily find the names of about forty passengers on a 1637 voyage of the *Hector* from London to Boston, Massachusetts. No doubt countless descendants have been thrilled to see this record of their ancestors’ arrival in New England. But all that glitters is not gold, and what you can’t find is any documentary evidence of that list. To be blunt, a genuine record of those 40 or so passengers on a voyage of the *Hector* in 1637 does not exist. This passenger list is a factoid—what the dictionary describes as “an assumption or speculation that is reported and repeated so often that it becomes accepted as fact.”¹ This article suggests how the tale of the *Hector* passenger list first emerged and how it grew in the telling.²

Early records

Only one document with passenger information for the 1637 *Hector* voyage has been found to date. This source wasn’t a passenger list in the sense of a formal document drawn up by an officer of a ship or port but does offer contemporary evidence of five passengers.

In his journal, John Winthrop recorded the arrival of two ships in Boston on June 26, 1637—the *Hector* and another vessel—and noted five men on board: Mr. Davenport, a second unnamed minister, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Hopkins, and Lord Ley.³ According to Winthrop, Lord Ley was treated with disrespect by the master, Ferne, and some of the passengers, but Winthrop did not identify those passengers. Two members of the ship’s crew were named in other documents—the master, William Ferne, and the master’s mate, John Wood—but they were not passengers.

A petition submitted in January 1637, prior to the *Hector*’s sailing from London, did not name any passengers but much later became a key document in constructing the *Hector*’s passengers. The Admiralty had impounded the *Hector* for its own services, and the petition, a written legal request to the Admiralty by the owners and freighters of the vessel, asked for its release.⁴

The petitioners were two distinct parties, owners and freighters. The owners were likely hands-off investors, probably the same named owners who, a year earlier, on January 23, 1635/6, had submitted an application to arm the *Hector*.⁵ A freighter was “a person who loads or charters and loads a ship.”⁶ Chartering an ocean-going vessel involved drawing up a formal legal contract. The parties would typically be freighters and owners. Freighters were experienced at arranging such journeys and owners would invest capital to fit out a vessel and apply for licenses for cannons and other defensive equipment. Having chartered the ship, the freighters were responsible for making preparations such as recruiting crew members, purchasing provisions for the journey, and arranging docking. Freighters sought to cover costs and make a profit by selling fares to passengers and exports upon a ship’s arrival.

In this case, the two parties, the owners and the freighters, had contracted with each other for a voyage of the



Dr. Adrian Brockett’s career has mostly been connected with the Middle East and Arabic, including research on medieval Arabic manuscripts. These palaeographical and historical interests have now transferred to 15th–19th-century English manuscripts, demonstrated here by his close scrutiny of documents concerning the *Hector*. His ambition is to maintain his rigorous academic approach in genealogy.

Opposite: A detail of Jan Jansson, *Nova Anglia, Novum Belgium, et Virginia* (c. 1636). Reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library.

Hector across the Atlantic. The freighters had gathered sufficient provisions for the voyage and enlisted passengers. To be clear, the passengers were neither owners, freighters, nor petitioners. In making these preparations, most of the freighters had “engaged their whole estates”—in legal terms, mortgaged their property, in order to raise the capital necessary to send this trading vessel to the colonies. With this risk assumed and some money already paid, the freighters stood to lose everything if the ship wasn’t released from impound.

Atwater’s History of the Colony of New Haven (1881)

According to my research, the first author to suggest that the *Hector* carried more than five passengers in 1637 was Rev. Edward Atwater (1816–1887), in his *History of the Colony of New Haven*, first published in 1881.⁷

Atwater devoted a whole chapter to “The Voyage of the *Hector*” (chapter 3) and set the scene for it in the preceding chapter.

Atwater wrote his history as a narrative, to tell an engaging story. He acknowledged that imagination was necessary to picture the *Hector*—“we must avail ourselves of diaries of contemporary voyages if we would see them in imagination pursuing their way down the Thames, through the Channel, and over the Atlantic”⁸—and concluded the chapter with vivid tales of cross-Atlantic sailings by other ships.

This narrative style can make it difficult for readers—and perhaps even the author—to distinguish fact from fiction. As Atwater crafted the primary source information he had collected into a readable story, his historical account became compromised. Atwater’s own vision of the 1637 voyage of the *Hector* imposed a framework on the documentary evidence that later researchers should recognize.

Atwater introduced two imaginative—or imaginary—and interdependent constructs: the “company” and its “chartering” of the *Hector*.

Intimately bound up with these two constructs was Atwater’s flawed interpretation of the January 1637 petition. While this framework can be difficult to discern as Atwater’s story unfolds, analysis of it is essential to understanding the later emergence of a *Hector* passenger list.

Atwater’s interpretations

Atwater’s construct of the “company” allowed him to assert that the *Hector* brought more than five passengers to Boston in 1637. He used the term in two main senses, sometimes blurring the distinction between the two:

1. A collection of people that a leader gathered around him, in this case a company of emigrants, of future New Haven planters.
2. A legal entity that had trustees, or feoffees, a “joint-stock association.”

Although Atwater acknowledged that no actual passenger list had been found,⁹ he provided names of some members of his fictional company in England. In addition to Mr. John Davenport’s wife, Atwater named various relatives of Mr. Theophilus Eaton and suggested that several citizens of London joined the company: “there is more or less authority for including in such a list the names of [seven men].”¹⁰ But he didn’t cite any authority. Furthermore, Atwater’s chapter 3 then made the leap of describing the company embarking for a voyage across the Atlantic. Atwater also developed an inventive argument to explain why passengers were deliberately not named in the documents: He suggested that Davenport had withheld his own name from the petition in order not to call attention to himself, and his followers did likewise.¹¹

While the company said to be affiliated with the *Hector* was imaginary, the chartering/contracting of



The January 1637 *Hector* petition. The National Archives of the UK, ref. CO1/9 no. 39.

the ship wasn't. But Atwater's interpretation of it was imaginative, indeed incorrect. He implied that it was the company, whether in his first or second sense, that had chartered the vessel and that some company members had invested their whole estates in the venture.¹² But, as described above, the freighters were the ones who had chartered the ship with the owners and contracted with them.

By blurring the distinction between two usages of the word company, Atwater also obscured the distinction between owners, freighters, and passengers, claiming that his invented company chartered the vessel, invested its capital, and petitioned for its release. The petition is clear, however: the owners and freighters—not the passengers—were the petitioners; the owners and freighters had chartered the ship—not the passengers; and most of the freighters—again not the passengers—had mortgaged their estates. Emigrant passengers would not likely mortgage their property prior to leaving—sell it, perhaps, but mortgaging would make no sense for an emigrant.¹³

Atwater's interpretation, then, misrepresented the role of the passengers who, in actuality, had nothing to do with chartering, or contracting, the *Hector*.

Calder's *The New Haven Colony* (1934)

In 1934 Isabel MacBeath Calder published *The New Haven Colony*, a volume that laid the groundwork for an actual passenger list for the *Hector*'s 1637 voyage. The first chapter presented a history of the planters in England as an introduction to the history of the New England plantation in later chapters. Chapter 1 ends in a dramatic two-paragraph climax naming a group of Rev. John Davenport's followers who escaped a hostile situation by emigrating to begin a new life across the Atlantic.¹⁴

Calder herself didn't reproduce, or refer to, a passenger list, in the sense of a formal document drawn up by the officer of a ship or port, as later writers

implied. But she did list the names of the members of the emigrating group that she had created. And later accounts that quoted a *Hector* passenger list derived from Calder's book.

Calder's interpretations

While Atwater's discussions of the nature of his company were extensive and complex, Calder's explanations of her group were brief and simple. Atwater devoted a whole chapter and more to the *Hector*, Calder just two paragraphs. Where Atwater tentatively named a few members of his company, Calder confidently listed many members of her group. Where Atwater was fairly transparent about his sources, Calder seemed at times deliberately opaque. Apparently, Calder took Atwater's narrative at face value, although without acknowledgment.

But the structural similarity between the two narratives was greater than these differences. The same three main foundations on which Atwater constructed his narrative—the company, the chartering of the vessel, and the petition—also underpinned Calder's, albeit more briefly. Calder focused more on the first element, which she renamed the group, but all three were fundamental to her argument.

Calder's claims for her group come in six sentences in the final two paragraphs of chapter 1:

1. Reverend John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton organized a company to begin a plantation in the New World.
2. The nucleus of the group was composed of these two leaders and their families [16 names].
3. Many inhabitants of the parish of St. Stephen, Coleman Street, London [13 names], joined this nucleus all with surnames found in the accounts of the churchwardens of the parish.
4. Others [19 names] cast in their lots with the emigrants, probably all from the surrounding neighborhood.

5. This group chartered the *Hector* of London.
6. On June 26, 1637, John Winthrop recorded the arrival of the group at Boston in New England.

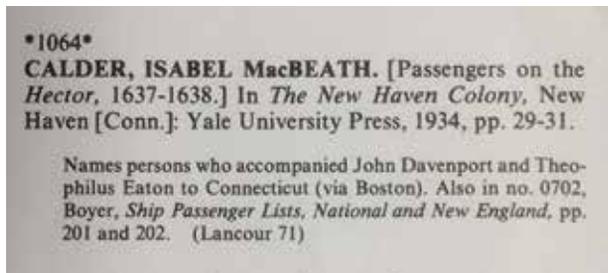
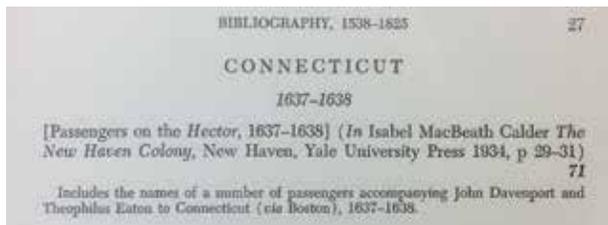
While Calder herself didn't refer to this tally of names as a passenger list, the progression of these sentences resulted in a de facto passenger list. Such a claim required evidence, and at first sight the scholarly appearance of Calder's thirteen footnotes, numbers 81–93, seems to supply ample evidence and inspire confidence. Some are references to Massachusetts publications, mostly accessible to readers in the U.S. or now online; others are to UK *State Papers Domestic*, not so generally accessible, and several refer to manuscripts in British archives, inaccessible to the general reader.

Calder's sources should have underpinned her assertions about the detailed composition of her group of emigrants and their sailing from London to Boston, but on inspection not one of the thirteen footnotes supplied valid evidence for either claim.¹⁵ A contemporary review of Calder's book as a whole by a Stanford University historian observed, "Her footnotes are repeatedly incorrect."¹⁶

Calder's claims that Davenport and Eaton "organized a company" in London required evidence, as did the notion of a "nucleus of the group." Her footnoted list of sixteen relatives was just that: a list of relatives, with no indication that they were the active heart of a larger body, nor that they sailed on the *Hector*.

Of the thirteen emigrants who were allegedly parishioners of St. Stephen because they had "family names found in the accounts of the churchwardens of the parish," Calder's evidence (footnote 87) concerned only the first of the thirteen names and provided no proof that this man was a parishioner of St. Stephen. Similarly, Calder provided no sources for the list of nineteen emigrants that she claimed were "probably all from the neighborhood."

As for the chartering construct Calder briefly asserted it as fact,



without citing the petition or other evidence.¹⁷ However, the construct was her all-important link between the alleged group of emigrants and the means of emigration. Calder concluded the chapter with the arrival of the emigrants on the *Hector*, having multiplied Winthrop's five men into a group of 48. Footnote 93 is misleading; Calder used it to imply scholarly endorsement of the group of 48, but the note simply refers to Winthrop's journal and its five men. Despite her thirteen footnotes, Calder produced no evidence for the existence of more than five passengers.

The error proliferates

But not surprisingly Calder's published—and apparently authoritatively sourced—list of passengers on the *Hector* was quickly acknowledged as an actual passenger list. Four years later, Harold Lancour included it in his 1938 bibliography of *Passenger Lists of Ships Coming to North America, 1607–1825* published by the New York Public Library.

Inclusion in a published bibliography of passenger lists accorded Calder's created group of names the status of an actual passenger list, and others followed this lead. In 1977, Carl Boyer 3rd's *Ship Passenger Lists* went further than Lancour's short bibliographical reference by reproducing Calder's discussion of the *Hector* passengers

Reference to *Hector* passengers in Lancour's *Passenger Lists of Ships Coming to North America, 1607–1825* (p. 27) [top] and Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538–1900* (p. 30) [bottom].

in full.¹⁸ P. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538–1900* (1981) then cited Calder, Boyer, and Lancour in regard to the *Hector* list.¹⁹ Since then, the “list” has been cited in subsequent indexes

and compilations, and on numerous websites. When online passenger lists of the *Hector* cite a source, it is often Boyer citing Calder, or Filby citing Calder, Boyer, and Lancour.

For instance, the *Hector* list on Olive Tree Genealogy's Ships Passenger Lists exactly follows the order in Calder's work, other than some names from Eaton's family party.²⁰ Thus, Calder's list had 48 names, and the Olive Tree list had 40 or so. The introduction to the Olive Tree Genealogy list notes, “A passenger ship list for the trip from Massachusetts Bay to New Haven, Connecticut, has not been located.” An additional note—“Nor one from London to Massachusetts Bay”—should be added. After all, the so-called passenger list of the 1637 voyage of the *Hector* only dates from the 1930s.

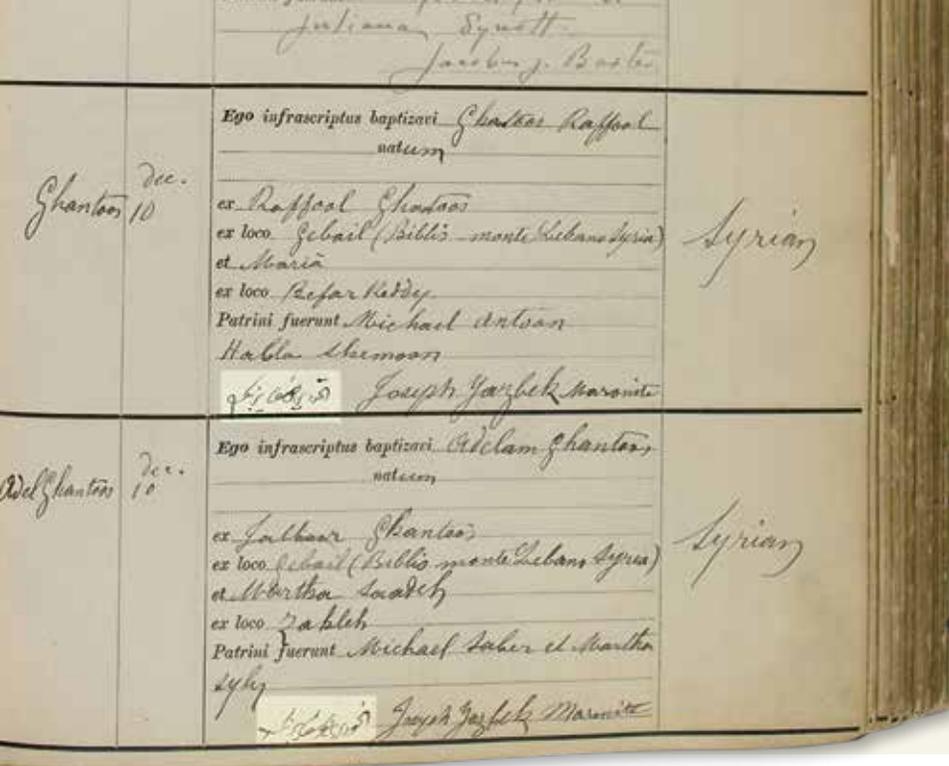
What then are the lessons of this tale? Constructed statements become accepted facts all too easily. Genealogists must be vigilant at every step in the process. Don't take apparent facts at face value. Follow up references, assess the quality of their evidence, and remain open to new findings.²¹ ♦

NOTES

¹ New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, vol. 1 (Oxford University Press, 1993), 904. The online Merriam-Webster Dictionary (merriam-webster.com/dictionary) definition is similar: “an invented fact believed to

be true because it appears in print.” Norman Mailer coined the term in 1973.

- ² For further analysis of the material presented in this article, see brockett.info/hector.
- ³ J. K. Hosmer, ed., *Winthrop's Journal*, “History of New England, 1630–1649,” vol. I (New York: Scribner's Sons, 1908), 223. Available at catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/012257295.
- ⁴ America and West Indies, Colonial Papers, 1636–38; CO 1/9, no. 39, The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew.
- ⁵ *State Papers Domestic Charles I XVII* no. 117, microfilm SP16.16–18.
- ⁶ NSOED [note 1], 1025. Also see merriam-webster.com/dictionary/freighter.
- ⁷ Edward E. Atwater, *History of the Colony of New Haven* (New Haven: the author, 1881). Available online at catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100327530.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, 55.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*, 53–4.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 41.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, 36, 50.
- ¹² *Ibid.*, 36.
- ¹³ I am grateful to Michael M. Wood of Munich, Germany, for this point.
- ¹⁴ Isabel MacBeath Calder, *The New Haven Colony* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1934), 29–31.
- ¹⁵ Additional analysis is available at brockett.info/hector/#Calderfootnotes.
- ¹⁶ Beverly McAnear, “Review: The New Haven Colony, by Isabel MacBeath Calder,” *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 61 (July 1937): 345–48.
- ¹⁷ Calder referred to the petition later, in footnote 90, but only with reference to its date, not to her claim that the group chartered the vessel. As though to obfuscate, footnote 90 also referenced three other items unavailable in the U.S. On inspection, one is an incorrect reference, and the others are not relevant.
- ¹⁸ Boyer, 201; Calder [note 13], 29–31.
- ¹⁹ P. William Filby, ed., *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538–1900* (Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., 1981), 30.
- ²⁰ Olivetreenealogy.com/ships/hector1637.shtml.
- ²¹ The American Society of Genealogists' “Genealogical Proof Standard” is an excellent set of principles to follow. For more information, see brockett.info/proof.



From Lebanon to Boston

TWO FAMILIES MAKE A NEW HOME

While working on the Historic Catholic Records Online project for AmericanAncestors.org, Molly Rogers, Database Manager for Digital Projects, noticed Arabic writing in the records of Saint James the Greater, Boston. Upon investigation, she and Thomas Lester, Director of the Archive and Library for the Archdiocese of Boston, discovered those records documented the earliest Syrian-Lebanese immigrants to Boston, predominantly Maronite Catholics from modern-day Lebanon.

The term “Syrian-Lebanese” requires some clarification. In Saint James the Greater records, members of this group were described as “Syrian,” but many of these individuals originated from the Mount Lebanon region of the country. Now part of modern-day Lebanon, the region’s rugged terrain was a haven to Maronites fleeing persecution centuries earlier.¹ When the church records were created, the region was part of the Ottoman Empire, so government records sometimes designated them as Turks.

The first of these Syrian church records appeared in 1888, prior to the

arrival of Father Gabriel Korkemaz, who was appointed to serve the Maronites in the Archdiocese of Boston on December 14, 1892. Upon arrival, he took up residence at Saint James the Greater, in what is now the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston, near where many of these immigrants had settled.²

Sacramental records of Saint James the Greater show sixty baptisms and eighteen marriages for this immigrant community between 1888 and 1898. Most baptisms and a few marriages are recorded as “Syrian” in the notation section; a few were listed as “Asyrian” [*sic*] or “Arabian.” Some records had no such notation, but a surname or the name of the officiating priest indicated ties to the community.

Often these records provide a location—either a Boston address or a town of origin. As genealogists know, searching for records pertaining to early immigrants can be challenging, as the spelling of names was rarely standardized. A search of the Massachusetts vital records yielded matching records for about half of these marriages. Fewer than ten birth

records corresponding to the baptismal records were found, making these church records a particularly valuable resource, with information that may not be found elsewhere.

By the end of the century, Boston’s Maronite community grew to an estimated 100 members, second in size only to the similar community in New York City.³ Now under the leadership of Father Joseph Yazbek, the small Boston congregation left Saint James the Greater and established a church of its own in a former junk shop at 78 Tyler Street.⁴ The building was renovated and dedicated to Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon on January 8, 1899.⁵ Three years later the four-story brick building was renovated again to include an enlarged chapel, a parish center, and living quarters for the parish priests.⁶

Like many immigrants, this Syrian-Lebanese group was seeking better economic opportunity. At the end of the nineteenth century, the Mount Lebanon region was in an economic decline, with effects felt most notably



Molly Rogers is Database Manager for Digital Projects at NEHGS. **Thomas Lester** is Director of the Archive and Library for the Archdiocese of Boston.

in the agricultural and silk industries. Furthermore, Ottoman rule brought burdensome taxes and conscription into its armed forces. Even so, many of the immigrants intended to work in the United States for only a few years to accrue savings before returning home.⁷ The stories of two Lebanese families, the Shamons and the Assafs, illustrate how these immigrants settled into life in Boston over multiple generations.

The Shamon family

The Shamon family—Ferris, Margaret, and their son Joseph—arrived in 1890, landing in New York, then settling in Boston near Saint James the Greater.⁸ Ferris was a merchant, primarily a beer distributor. With his horse-drawn

cart laden with beer, he traveled from Boston to Plymouth County and Cape Cod, selling to regular customers and filling his cart with a variety of goods for the return trip.⁹ The Shamon family expanded with the arrivals of sons Michael (1894), Elias (1896), and Cyrus (1898).¹⁰

Years passed and as the United States prepared for possible entry into World War I, Michael Shamon was one of the first South End residents to enlist in the Massachusetts National Guard. On June 26, 1916, he joined Company B, 9th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, which became Company B, 101st Infantry Regiment, in the 26th or “Yankee” Division, when it was mustered into federal service. Michael served in France, arriving in September 1917, and was wounded in April 1918. Returning home, he was honorably discharged on April 28, 1919, at Camp Devens, Massachusetts. Later, he spent fourteen years as a member of the Boston Fire Department.¹¹

In 1920, Elias Shamon graduated from Boston College, where he studied Romance languages; he was later noted for fluency in English, Arabic, French, and Latin.¹² In college he was a contributing editor of *The Stylus* and founding editor of *The Heights*, two student publications, and president of the Fulton Debating Society. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1923 and practiced law. He served as president of the Trimount Cooperative Bank, was appointed to the Boston Finance Commission by Governor Leverett Saltonstall in 1939,¹³ and became a justice of the Boston Municipal Court in 1944.¹⁴

Oldest brother Joseph’s chief occupation was caring for his parents, Ferris and Margaret,

as they aged. He also owned a truck and handled transportation for the brothers’ hardware store and furniture restoration business. Youngest brother Cyrus is recalled as the most business savvy. In addition to working at the hardware store, Cyrus served on the draft board during World War II and later owned a café in the South End.¹⁵

The brothers supported one another and, over time, became integral and prominent members of both the Syrian-Lebanese and wider Boston communities.

The Assaf family

On November 6, 1913, Georges and Saada Assaf arrived at Ellis Island, then continued to Boston by train. The couple was encouraged to immigrate by Saada’s sister and brother-in-law, Rose and Ulian Chelala, who lived on Huron Street in Boston’s South End. The Assafs intended to spend about three years in Boston, long enough to work and save for their return passage and a new house in Aramoun, Lebanon.¹⁶

Deciding to come to Boston was not easy. Unable to afford passage for the whole family, Georges and Saada brought their two daughters, eighteen-month-old Wardé and ten-year-old Chafika. Left behind were three sons, Youseff, 8; Abbas, about 6; and Habib, about 3. The boys were to remain with their aunt and uncle until the rest of their family returned; in the meantime, Georges and Saada would send money for their upkeep and education.

The Assafs found a small flat on Harrison Avenue in Boston’s South End.¹⁷ Georges, a well-known stone mason in Lebanon, was unable to enter the profession in Boston and instead found work at a slipper factory. Saada had made clothing in Aramoun and brought her sewing machine on the long journey to Boston. In addition to working in a factory, she sewed clothes for her new neighbors who were not adequately prepared for the cold climate. Chafika was dressed to look older and sent to work in a dress factory snipping loose threads from completed pieces.

Opposite: Records with Arabic names from St. James the Greater, in Massachusetts: (Image only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1920 in AmericanAncestors.org. *Below:* Michael J. Shamon, 9th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, circa 1917–19. Courtesy of the State Library of Massachusetts.



Rand McNally & Co's 1897 map of Palestine (showing Lebanon in green at the top) depicts the region at the approximate time when Maronites started coming to Boston. David Rumsey Historical Map Collection.

In Lebanon, the village priest was often responsible for educating children, and so the girls were sent to Saint James the Greater School. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur anglicized their names: Chafika became Sophie, Wardé became Rose, and Fahime, who was born in Boston in 1914, became Frances.

Unfortunately, World War I interrupted the family's plans to return home and, more importantly, prevented Georges and Saada from communicating with their three sons or sending money for their care. A locust infestation destroyed crops in Mount Lebanon, causing malnutrition and starvation; Georges and Saada feared for their sons' lives and prayed every night for their safety.

Georges and Saada Assaf spoke Arabic with their children at home, anticipating their return to Lebanon. When the war ended and the Assaf parents contemplated going back to their homeland, their children refused, insisting they were Americans and their lives were in Boston. With the conflict over, Georges and Saada resumed sending money for their sons, through a Presbyterian society in the process of establishing the American University in Beirut.

Saada peddled household items such as curtains, fabric, shears, and thread. When she was a young girl, Saada's mother had died and Saada was sent to work in the home of an Italian family in Beirut. Her knowledge of the language allowed her to connect with recently arrived Italian immigrants; those who settled in East Boston and Revere became her customer base.

Georges Assaf left the slipper factory and found employment at the Simplex Wire and Cable Company in nearby Cambridge. With his wife prospering, he later stopped working to care for their son John ("Johnny"), who was born with a disability. Georges

assumed these caregiving duties in order to repay what he considered to be a spiritual debt. He had asked God to protect and care for his three sons in Lebanon during World War I, and was resolved to safeguard his Boston-born son personally.

Although initially doctors did not believe Johnny would live to be five years old, he died at 74. Doctors attributed his longevity to the exceptional care he received at home. Georges

made Johnny his priority and sole occupation until his own death in 1934, aged 59. Johnny inspired his family and all those who knew him. In the 1950s, with the help of Councilor Gabriel Piemonte, neighbors successfully petitioned the City of Boston to change the name of their street to Johnny Court in his honor.

Sons Youseff, Abbas, and Habib used the support their parents provided wisely. Youseff graduated with a law degree from the Sorbonne in Paris and Abbas received a Doctorate of Canon Law from the University of Strasbourg. Their sisters Rose and Sophie traveled to France in the early 1930s to attend both graduations, giving the siblings the opportunity to be together for the first time in almost twenty years.

In the mid-1930s, Youseff spent nine months with his family in Boston. Returning to Lebanon, he opened his own law practice specializing in

inheritance law, was elected President of the Bar Association, and had five children. Abbas became the principal at a monastery school in Lebanon. He died of a heart attack in 1956, age 40, never having visited the United States and never seeing his parents again after they left Lebanon in 1913.

Habib attended a trade school in Lebanon where he learned carpentry and upholstery. Then in 1930 or 1931, he fulfilled his desire to join the rest of the family in Boston. Waiting at South Station to meet him, Rose asked her mother how they would identify him. Saada replied, "He will look like the rest of the family." As Rose searched, she saw a man step down from the train and looked into his eyes. She called Habib's name and he immediately responded. Habib went back to Lebanon to marry and then returned to the United States, eventually settling near his wife's family in Detroit.



Rose Assaf graduated from Saints Peter and Paul High School in South Boston, and as valedictorian of the class of 1929 received a medal and one-year scholarship to Emmanuel College. Rose hoped to become a lawyer. Her father insisted she refuse the scholarship; she would be unable to afford tuition beyond the first year, so he thought it would be a waste.

Later, while working as a bookkeeper, Rose was employed as a paralegal at the same firm as Elias Shamon. Seeing her potential, he offered to pay for her to attend the Portia School of Law (now New England Law), but since she did not have a college degree she had to decline. During World War II, Rose worked as a night shift welder in Boston's Charlestown Navy Yard. When she died on February 16, 1981, she had a law textbook in her hands. Forced to refuse her scholarship to Emmanuel College, Rose insisted that her daughter Rosanne attend the school. Rosanne graduated in 1970.

Over time, as the Syrian-Lebanese community grew, the small church at 78 Tyler Street proved inadequate. In 1935, Right Reverend Stephen El-Douaihy purchased a former Swedish Baptist Church on Shawmut Avenue in Boston's South End. The church was renovated and dedicated to Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon on May 31, 1936.¹⁸ In 1970, Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon moved to its current home in Boston's Jamaica Plain.

These moves reflected a general exodus. When asked why the Syrian-Lebanese community migrated from Chinatown to the South End and, later, to the suburbs, Rosanne replied that the moves were "in pursuit of their piece of the American dream." Many who immigrated were farmers, and land ownership was their ultimate goal. With their own land, they could build homes, plant crops, and provide for their families. Eventually, some members of the community moved to more

spacious areas with backyards where they tended grape vines and tomatoes.

Both the Shamons and Assafs continue to find strength in their families, the Maronite community in Boston, and Our Lady of the Cedars of Lebanon, where they are still parishioners.



We were excited to discover Arabic writing in the records of Saint James the Greater and learn about the Maronites who worshipped there. We hope this story will encourage others with ancestors from modern-day Lebanon and Syria to see whether their forebears might be named in these records. We want to inspire others to share stories about lesser-known groups of immigrants who made Boston their home. ♦

The authors wish to thank those who helped with this project, especially Rosanne (Williams) Solomon; Joseph Shamon, Jr., and Richard Shamon for sharing their family history. Also, Msgr. Georges El-Khali, Pastor of Our Lady of Cedars of Lebanon, Jamaica Plain, for being such a gracious host and allowing access to parish records. And to NEHGS Genealogist Melanie McComb and Caitlin Jones, Head of Reference at the Massachusetts State Archive, for helping to find family records.

NOTES

- ¹ *New Catholic Encyclopedia*, vol. 9 (New York: McGraw Hill, 1967).
- ² Robert Howard Lord, John E. Sexton, and Edward T. Harrington, *History of the Archdiocese of Boston: In the Various States of Its Development, 1604 to 1943*, vol. 3 (Boston: The Pilot Publishing Company, 1945), 237.
- ³ Lord et al., *History* [note 2], 238; "Syrians, Lebanese and Other Arab Americans," *Global Boston: A Portal to the Region's Immigrant Past and Present*, Boston College; globalboston.bc.edu/index.php/home/ethnic-groups/syrianslebanese-and-arab-americans.
- ⁴ Lord et al., *History* [note 2], 238.
- ⁵ *The Pilot*, January 14, 1899, 4; Lord et al., *History* [note 2], 238.
- ⁶ Lord et al., *History* [note 2], 238.

- ⁷ "Syrians, Lebanese and Other Arab Americans," [note 3].
- ⁸ *Massachusetts, Naturalization Records, 1906–1917*, database on FamilySearch.org, citing NARA microfilm publication M1368 (Washington, D.C.), familysearch.org/search/collection/2140604, records for Joseph Frances Shamon, 1911, 1914, 1915; The family's address was listed on Elias Shamon's 1896 birth record [see note 10].
- ⁹ Interviews with Joseph Shamon, Jr. and Richard Shamon, July 28, and September 22, 2020.
- ¹⁰ Archdiocese of Boston Archive, Sacramental Record Collection, *Boston, Saint James the Greater, Baptisms, 1888–1903*, 527 (Michael), 712 (Elias), available at the Archdiocese of Boston archive in Braintree, Massachusetts, or catholicrecords.americanancestors.org; Cyrus's birth year is listed on his gravestone. See Findagrave.com: Cyrus Shamon, 204333039, Mount Benedict Cemetery, West Roxbury, Suffolk Co., Massachusetts.
- ¹¹ "Greater Boston Boys Lead Casualty List," *Boston Post*, April 15, 1918, 2; Massachusetts Adjutant General, World War I Army Statements of Service, Michael J. Shamon service card, PS1/series 2842X, Massachusetts Archives. Boston, Massachusetts; Interview with Joseph Shamon, Jr. and Richard Shamon, September 22, 2020; Boston Fire Historical Society, "Boston Fire Department: Firefighting Force, Personnel Listings from the Year 1711," bostonfirehistory.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2019/08/bfd-personnellist-s.pdf.
- ¹² "Judge Shamon, 74, Dies; Always Spoke His Mind," *The Boston Globe*, October 14, 1970, 71.
- ¹³ "Governor Names Shamon to Finance Commission," *The Boston Globe*, December 13, 1939, 11.
- ¹⁴ "Postwar Fund Approved; Elias Shamon Named Judge," *The Boston Globe*, January 27, 1944, 22.
- ¹⁵ Interview with Joseph Shamon, Jr. and Richard Shamon, September 22, 2020.
- ¹⁶ Interview with Rosanne Solomon, August 27, 2020. Unless otherwise noted, the material on the Assaf family was derived from this interview.
- ¹⁷ Peter J. Solomon, "The Choice of Love: The Immigration of the Assafs to the United States of America," *Studies* 1, no. 2 (April 1997); maronite-institute.org/MARI/JMS/april97/The_Choice_of_Love.htm.
- ¹⁸ Lord et al., *History* [note 2], 744.



Richard Hall has been researching family histories of notable people for over a decade and his own family history for over three decades. He has written several notable descendant articles for *Mayflower Descendant* and is the founder of *FamousKin.com* and *MayflowerKin.com*. He can be reached at richhall@famouskin.com.

genetics & genealogy

Testing a Theory: Were Abraham Lincoln and Robert E. Lee Related?

In January 1929, over a million Americans opened their copies of *Good Housekeeping* magazine to an article by Rev. William E. Barton (1861–1930) entitled “Abraham Lincoln Was a Lee.”¹ The article referred to Barton as “the foremost living authority on Lincoln,” which was probably true. Barton claimed that President Abraham Lincoln and General Robert E. Lee were cousins through a common ancestor, Colonel Richard Lee. Barton expanded his claim later that year in his book *The Lineage of Lincoln*, devoting an entire chapter to the alleged relationship.²

Barton’s *Good Housekeeping* article attempted to show that Lincoln was a descendant of Colonel Lee and his wife Anne Constable through Lincoln’s ancestor William Lee (?–by 1717). Barton claimed that William Lee was the grandson of Richard Lee through an unknown son. The article displayed a pedigree chart showing the descent of President Lincoln and General Lee from Richard Lee; in Lincoln’s line, Barton identified the son of Richard Lee with a question mark.³

Although Barton lacked any evidence linking William Lee to a son of Richard Lee, he announced “It is my confident belief that the family of Lees from which Abraham Lincoln was descended was the same family from which Robert E. Lee was descended, both men being descendants of old Col. Richard Lee.” Barton made this claim even though just a few lines earlier he had admitted, “No record that as yet has been discovered enables us to disentangle

. . . William Lee . . . and so justify us in declaring whose son he was.”⁴

In support of Barton

Since 1929, Barton’s claim has been accepted and repeated by others as if it were a proven fact. Some go even further than Barton by identifying which son of Richard Lee was the father of Lincoln’s ancestor William Lee.

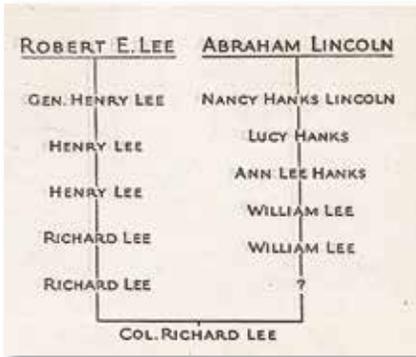
In her 1977 genealogy, *A Weaving*, Clara Funai reported that “several people in different parts of the United States, who are descended from this same William Lee, have written me that he is the son of Hancock Lee and his wife Mary Kendall Lee, and Hancock Lee is the son of Richard Lee, the emigrant. . . . If this be the fact, we would not only be able to trace our family line back to England, but also to claim kinship with the renowned [*sic*] Robert E. Lee. What more could one want!”⁵ In 1985, Mary Taylor Brewer stated in *From Log Cabins to the White House* that Lincoln’s ancestor William Lee was the grandson of Richard Lee through Richard’s son William, but did not cite any sources.⁶

Refuting Barton

In 1930, a year after Barton’s article appeared, historian Lyon Gardiner Tyler published the first refutation of Barton’s theory. Tyler, son of President John Tyler and former president of the College of William and Mary, was also the founder and editor of the *William and Mary Quarterly*. Now a scholarly journal of early American history and culture, the publication then focused

heavily on Virginia genealogy. Tyler ridiculed the “absurdity of the Rev. Barton’s claim of a descent of Abraham Lincoln from Colonel Richard Lee.” Tyler especially upbraided Barton for including the pedigree chart showing William Lee as a grandson of Richard Lee with “nothing but the wildest conjecture to sustain his view.”⁷

Over a half century later, Lincoln scholar and researcher Paul H. Verduin—often recognized as the compiler of the most complete pedigree for Lincoln’s Hanks ancestors—affirmed



that Lincoln’s ancestor “William Lee was no relation to the aristocratic Lees of Stratford Hall, or any of the other prominent Lee families of Virginia.”⁸ Christopher C. Child of NEHGS noted that Barton “tried, without evidence, to connect these Lee . . . families with the forebears of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.”⁹

General Lee’s patrilineal ancestry

In 1895, Edmund Jennings Lee published *Lee of Virginia, 1642–1892*, considered by many to be the best genealogical source for descendants of the immigrant Col. Richard Lee. Reprinted several times, the book’s editions since 1983 have included an additions and corrections section compiled by the Society of the Lees of Virginia.¹⁰ (Organized in 1921, the

society is open to any person who can provide documentation to prove a descent from Col. Richard Lee and Anne Constable by connecting to a descendant in the most current edition of *The Lees of Virginia*.)

Robert E. Lee’s descent from Richard Lee and Anne Constable is listed in the book. He was the son of Revolutionary War General Henry “Light-Horse Harry” Lee and Anne Hill Carter, grandson of Col. Henry Lee and Lucy Grymes, and great-grandson of Henry Lee and Mary Bland. This first Henry Lee was the son of Richard Lee and Letitia Corbin, and the grandson of the immigrant Richard Lee.

The chart (left) and magazine spread (below) are from William E. Barton’s January 1929 article in *Good Housekeeping*.

Abraham Lincoln WAS a Lee

But was he of the Lee? Were there two opposing Forces really most living—Authority has almost Proved

By William E. Barton

Let us remember his name and that he was alive and happy on May 12, 1771, when his grandfather signed the Declaration of Independence. His father had died thirty years before, and he himself had children, as we shall presently see.

And now let us examine the country in which all this occurred.

The northern end of the “northern neck” of Virginia, occupying a space of about thirty-five miles from northwest to southeast and with an average width of not more than fifteen miles between the Rappahannock and the Potomac, gave to the nation more famous men than any other spot of equal area in the United States. There lived the Carters, the Fendleys, the Carsons, the Montneys, the Taylors, the Jennings, the Womersleys, the Lees, and the Washingtons. The community was a remarkable one, and, having to this day no railroad and being kept in by deep and wide tidal rivers, it had its share of travel by boat or by mule through the woods. To an unusual extent its inhabitants knew their neighbors, and every one was related to every one else on the same level. It is much more than a possibility that our old friend Elizabeth Taylor met and conversed with Mary Ball Washington when little George was born in 1731. The Ball’s blood undoubtedly and the Washingtons undoubtedly were the Taylors. They all knew each other. For a time they were all in the same parish, and, when later the parish was divided, the same minister conducted services in both parishes, reviewed all the marriages, and baptized all the babies.

The first Lee in America of whom we have any record had settled across from the “northern neck” on the peninsula formed by the Rappahannock on the north and the York River on the south. He was named Richard, of a worthy family in Virginia, second best, vigorous spirit, and

big, and, because this narrative must be in good part a matter of documentary evidence, it must proceed in order and dignified sequence. There has been something enough. This is a plain and careful tale, including the characters in the order of their appearance, the certain ones first—Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond County, Virginia, who accepted her married name when the Virginia Taylors were all Taylors, and before William Taylor changed his name and that of his descendants to Taylor. The date is May 12, 1771, and on that spring day Elizabeth Taylor, weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks to the act of signing her will. She must have been nearly sixty years old when she attached her signature to that important document, and her daughters, Dorothy Crowder and Sarah Eliza, were, comparatively old ladies. Both were widows, and Dorothy had lost her husband, the first William Lee, in 1737, and the second, Richard Lee, in 1742. To these two daughters Elizabeth Taylor left her clothing, with the provision that it should be equally divided and that Dorothy should have first choice. The estate was equally divided, and the Dorothy should have first choice. The estate was equally divided, and the Dorothy should have first choice. The estate was equally divided, and the Dorothy should have first choice.

General Lee's DNA

The Lee DNA Genealogy Project of Virginia collected Y-DNA results from Lee males with unbroken patrilineal lines back to their earliest proven Lee ancestor. Out of hundreds of Y-DNA tests submitted to the project while Clinton Lee was its coordinator—a period of over ten years—only three lines successfully connected to the immigrant Col. Richard Lee.¹¹ With the assistance of Clinton Lee, Y-DNA results for two of the descendants of Richard Lee were made available to test Barton's claim. Both descendants were members of the Society of the Lees of Virginia.

The first DNA donor was a patrilineal descendant of Hancock Lee, son of Colonel Lee. The second was a patrilineal descendant of Charles Carter Lee, brother of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Both descendants took a 43-marker Y-DNA test through Relative Genetics (now AncestryDNA). Their resulting haplotypes matched, with 42 of 43 markers an exact match. Their haplogroup was I1a.

President Lincoln's Lee ancestry

For over a century, the parentage of Abraham Lincoln's mother Nancy Hanks was a mystery; it was only recently resolved through DNA evidence.¹² But even prior to this resolution most historians and genealogists seemed to agree that Nancy Hanks was the granddaughter of Joseph and Ann "Nanny" (Lee) Hanks. This relationship was confirmed by Abraham Lincoln himself in his June 1860 autobiographical notes, which included a mention of his mother's first cousin John Hanks.¹³ John was the grandson of Joseph and Ann (Lee) Hanks through their son William Hanks and his wife Elizabeth Hall.¹⁴

Ann (Lee) Hanks, grandmother of Nancy Hanks, was the daughter of William Lee (and an unknown wife) and granddaughter of William and Dorothy (Taylor?) Lee. Ann (Lee) Hanks is mentioned in the will of her great-grandmother Elizabeth Taylor, mother of Dorothy. Elizabeth refers to Ann as "my great granddaughter Ann



Lee daughter of my grandson Wm Lee.”¹⁵ In 1769 Ann's husband Joseph Hanks is listed in the final accounting of the estate of her father William Lee, who died in 1764: “To Joseph Hanks for his Legacy bequeathed his Wife by Elizabeth Taylor Decd.”¹⁶

This documentary evidence supports Abraham Lincoln's descent from William and Dorothy Lee, with no indication of a connection to the immigrant Richard Lee. As noted earlier, Barton himself admitted, “[T]here is apparently no way of finding out . . . the name of the father of that William Lee.” No supporting evidence has been found since Barton made that statement.

President Lincoln's DNA

In 2011, an article by Judy Kellar Fox in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* opened the door to finally resolving this issue.¹⁷ She presented Y-DNA evidence for three lines of descent from William and Dorothy (Taylor?) Lee through their sons William and Charles.

Since President Lincoln's great-great-grandfather William Lee,

father of Ann (Lee) Hanks, was a documented son of William and Dorothy, the Y-DNA results presented in Fox's article could be compared with the results of Richard Lee's documented patrilineal descendants to assess Barton's claim.

Two of the descents in Judy Fox's article were from patrilineal descendants of William and Dorothy's son Charles Lee. When the descendants took a 37-marker Y-DNA test from Family Tree DNA, their haplotypes matched exactly. Their tests also revealed an unsuspected match to a patrilineal descendant of William and Dorothy's son William Lee. However, this third person's 46-marker Y-DNA test was administered by a different company, Relative Genetics. To verify the third match, one of the Charles Lee descendants took the same 46-marker test from Relative Genetics. The result was another perfect match, proving that all three participants were descendants of brothers William and Charles Lee, sons of William and Dorothy Lee. Their haplogroup is R1b.

Conclusion

Lincoln's Lee family line is haplogroup R1b, while General Lee's family line is I1a. Not only did the haplotypes between the two Lee families not match, neither did the broader haplogroups. Since the two Lee families belong to different haplogroups, at a minimum any common ancestor would have lived thousands of years ago. Both documentary and DNA evidence has proved that President Abraham Lincoln's ancestor William Lee, husband of Dorothy, was not a grandson of General Robert E. Lee's ancestor Col. Richard Lee. In this case, as in many others, when documentary evidence is lacking, DNA evidence can often fill in the gaps and bring the truth to light. ♦

I am grateful to Clinton Lee and Nancy Royce whose help made this article possible. I am also grateful to those who contributed their Y-DNA so that this mystery could be solved.

NOTES

- ¹ N. W. Ayers and Sons *Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals* (Philadelphia: N. W. Ayers and Son), 1930, accessed on microfilm at the Newberry Library, Chicago; and William E. Barton, "Abraham Lincoln was a Lee," *Good Housekeeping*, January 1929, 20–21, 194, 196, 199.
- ² William E. Barton, *The Lineage of Lincoln* (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1929), 196–211.
- ³ Barton, "Abraham Lincoln was a Lee," [note 2], 20.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, 199.
- ⁵ Clara McLaughlin Funai, *A Weaving* (Lynchburg, Va.: The J. P. Bell Company, 1977), 22.
- ⁶ Mary Taylor Brewer, *From Log Cabins to the White House: A History of the Taylor Family* (Wootton, Ky.: M.T. Brewer, 1985), 275–76.
- ⁷ Lyon Gardiner Tyler, *Barton and the Lineage of Lincoln: Claim that Lincoln Was Related to Lee Refuted*, 2nd ed. (Holdcraft, Va.: 1930), 7–8. Viewed on Archive.org.
- ⁸ Paul H. Verduin, "New Evidence Suggests Lincoln's Mother Born in Richmond County, Virginia," *Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Magazine*, 38 (December 1988): 4355. This article also discusses six candidates for Lincoln's maternal grandfather, including Elisha Lingan Hall, nephew of Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, both signers

- of the Declaration of Independence, and grandsons of Richard Lee and Letitia Corbin. See Christopher C. Child, "The Hanks DNA Study: I Was Wrong!," *American Ancestors* 17, no. 3 (Fall 2016): 55–57, for a brief summary of Hall's Lee ancestors.
- ⁹ Christopher Challenger Child, "The Maternal Ancestry of Abraham Lincoln: The Origins of Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln, A Study in Appalachian Genealogy," *New England Ancestors* 4, no. 1 (Winter 2003): 55 (note 13). Viewed on AmericanAncestors.org.
 - ¹⁰ Edmund Jennings Lee, *Lee of Virginia, 1642–1892: Biographical and Genealogical Sketches of the Descendants of Colonel Richard Lee* (Philadelphia: the author, 1895; repr., Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983).
 - ¹¹ Mike Gruss, "You're Related to Robert E. Lee? What a Coincidence . . .," *The Virginian-Pilot*, March 28, 2009, (pilotonline.com/life/columns/article_bcaccae9-8731-5c6d-8c88-6680d1241754.html; accessed 12/03/2020).
 - ¹² Suzanne W. Hallstrom, et. al., "Nancy Hanks Lincoln mtDNA Study—Unlocking the Secrets of Abraham Lincoln's Maternal Ancestry," *Hanks DNA Project*, (familytreedna.com/groups/hanks-dna-project/about/news; accessed 12/03/2020).
 - ¹³ Abraham Lincoln, *Autobiographical notes possibly written for John L. Scripps*, June 1860. Holograph manuscript. Robert Todd Lincoln Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, 8.
 - ¹⁴ Douglas L. Wilson and Rodney O. Davis, *Herndon's Informants: Letters, Interviews, and Statements about Abraham Lincoln* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1998), 779.
 - ¹⁵ Richmond Co., Virginia, Will Book 5: 531–32, Elizabeth Taylor, dated 11 May and proved 7 September 1747; FHL microfilm 33,677, item 3.
 - ¹⁶ Richmond Co., Virginia, Account Book 1:547, William Lee, dated 3 April 1769; FHL microfilm 33,679.
 - ¹⁷ Judy Kellar Fox, "Documents and DNA Identify a Little-Known Lee Family in Virginia," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 99, no. 2 (2011): 85–96.



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research services: case files

Tracing a Downs Family on New Hampshire's Isles of Shoals

Six miles off the New England coast lies a small cluster of islands that have been a point of contention between Maine and New Hampshire for nearly three centuries. Collectively known as the Isles of Shoals, the group consists of nine islands, five belonging to Maine and four to New Hampshire.¹ The islands were first occupied by Europeans in 1628 when Thomas Morton was banished to Appledore Island. During the seventeenth century, the population of the islands grew steadily. In 1740, a formal survey led to a decree by King George II that established the boundary between Maine and New Hampshire in Portsmouth Harbor. Nonetheless, border challenges have been brought before various courts; as recently as 1977 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the matter, a decision affirmed by the Court in 2001.²

Detail of the Isles of Shoals from Joseph Blanchard, Samuel Langdon, and Thomas Jeffreys, *An Accurate Map of His Majesty's Province of New-Hampshire in New England* (Portsmouth, N.H.: 1761). Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center.



Although Star Island, the largest of the four islands belonging to New Hampshire, is a minuscule 38 acres with limited opportunity for population growth, the island was once home to many families. Among them were a multigenerational branch of the Downs family, the subject of our research.

In 1715, Gosport, Star Island's lone community, was established and remained independent until 1876, when it was incorporated into the town of Rye.³ Several factors make researching Gosport families challenging. One of the major events in the town's history was the evacuation of its residents in 1775, at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. After leaving Gosport, many residents relocated to nearby settlements in both New Hampshire and Maine. Following the war, some returned to the island but many did not, and those individuals proved very difficult to trace.⁴ In addition, a portion of the 1820 census records for Rockingham County, including Gosport, has been lost.⁵ Lastly, "the marriages of Shoalers were often celebrated on shore, and such marriages are consequently not recorded [in Gosport]."⁶ Despite these hurdles, the available resources offer sufficient information to connect most Gosport families to the original settlers. Our Research Services team was charged with just such a task.

Our client asked us to determine the ancestry of Solomon F. Downs (c. 1835–1900) of New Hampshire. Through largely conventional research

techniques, we traced Solomon to his great-great-grandparents, Edward and Mehetable (Bedean) Downs. Finding the parentage of Edward Downs, however, proved to be more difficult and required a detailed examination of several Gosport record collections.

Examining census records from 1790, 1800, and 1810, we charted the ages of Edward Downs for each year and determined that he was likely born between 1756 and 1765. We located an Edward Down, son of Samuel Down, Jr. and Margery Down, who was baptized in Gosport on June 14, 1752.⁷ Eleven months before Edward's baptism, on July 12, 1751, Samuel Down, Jr., had married Margery Down.⁸ This couple seemed to be likely candidates for Edward's parents, especially since a Samuel Down lived near Edward in Gosport in 1790.⁹ Unfortunately, we found no Rockingham County probate or land records, nor a Revolutionary War pension, for him.

The 67 Down/Downe/Downs/Downes baptisms in Gosport between 1728 and 1773 included only two for an Edward Down (the other was in 1733, too early to be Solomon's ancestor). As a result, we concluded that our Edward Downs was almost certainly the son of Samuel Down, Jr. and Margery (Down) Down. We then needed to identify the parents of Samuel Down, Jr.

The first Downs baptism recorded in Gosport was that of Samuel Down, son of William Down, on May 19, 1728.¹⁰ A Margery Down, daughter of John Down, Jr., and his wife, Abigail, was baptized on November 11, 1733.¹¹ To verify that these records were for Edward's parents, we visited the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, to review their collections on Gosport and the Isles of Shoals. However, none of the works we searched contained any additional information on the Downs families.

After following several false leads, we returned to the Gosport church records and

closely analyzed them to identify any references we might have overlooked. In doing so, we determined that the Samuel Down baptized in 1728 had a younger brother, Edward, baptized in 1733, the second child of William and Mary.¹² Possibly Samuel named his eldest son Edward after his brother. Based on this scenario, and the lack of any birth record for another Samuel Down/Downe/Downs/Downes in Gosport or nearby island or mainland towns, we concluded that William and Mary Down were the parents of Samuel Down and therefore the grandparents of Edward Down.

Since Samuel's 1728 baptism was the first Downs baptism recorded in Gosport, local church records could not provide the names of the parents of Samuel's father William. We then checked New Hampshire provincial land and probate records and found two items for

a William Downs and his wife, Mary, which showed Mary relinquishing her dower rights.¹³

After locating those records, we contacted the Portsmouth Athenæum

"Old Church at Star Island, Isle of Shoals, N.H.," 1902. New York Public Library Digital Collections.



Ancestry of Solomon Down of Gosport, New Hampshire

Solomon F. Downs, son of:

Henry Downs, son of:

Henry and Abigail Downs. Henry was the son of:

Edward Down and Margaret Down. Edward was the son of:

Edward Down (b. 1752) and Mehitable Bedean. Edward was the son of:

Samuel Down (b. 1728) and Margery Down (daughter of John Down [b. 1701]).

Samuel Down was the son of:

William Down (b. 1697) and Mary _____. William— and John— were sons of:

William Down (1665–1733) and Elizabeth Lakeman. William was the son of:

Richard Down (b. ca. 1635) and Rebecca _____

because their website had a record of a William Down (1665–1733), father of a younger William Downs (b. 1697). The elder William, son of Richard and Rebecca Downs, had married Elizabeth Lakeman, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Palmer) Lakeman. The parentage of William Down's wife was confirmed by William Lakeman's will, which names a daughter, Elizabeth Downes.¹⁴ The elder William Downs had two additional sons, one relevant to our research: John Downs (b. 1701). We determined that this John Downs was the father of Margery Down, wife of Samuel Down, thus making Samuel and Margery first cousins.¹⁵

We then sought to add one further piece of information to the ancestry of Solomon F. Downs: the origin of Richard Downs. The Portsmouth Athenæum records included a few facts about Richard Downs. Both he and his wife, Rebecca, were apparently born about 1635, and Rebecca's birthplace was listed as Kittery, Maine.¹⁶

Richard Downs, who also used the surname "Ford," was first recorded as a resident of Kittery in 1659, when he was renting the "Dustin House." This residence on Crooked Lane was sold by Thomas Duston on March 19, 1662, suggesting that by then Richard Downs was no longer living there.¹⁷

A search of early Maine records revealed a troubled history for Richard and Rebecca Downs in Kittery. On June 12, 1666, Richard was found to be "absenting himself from the publique meeting where the worship of God is dispensed." That same day, Rebecca Downs was charged with having "scolded and abused" her neighbors, forcing Richard to promise that his wife would "be of good behavior towards all persons, especially her neighbors."¹⁸ However, Rebecca was accused of disrupting the lives of her neighbors on several more occasions. On December 18, 1667, Roger Kelly, the Isles of Shoals magistrate, issued a complaint against Bartholomew Mitchell and Rebecca Downs, who had abused Kelly with "words and blows,"

causing Richard to forfeit a bond due to Rebecca's actions.¹⁹

According to another account, Rebecca struck Kelly while he was performing his official duties as magistrate.²⁰ Rebecca was brought before the court again on July 5, 1670, on charges of disturbing her neighbors.²¹ However, at least sometimes Rebecca had her husband's support. On September 6, 1671, Richard accused all petitioners against his wife of being drunk at the time of their claim.²² At some point after 1671, Richard and Rebecca Downs moved to the Isles of Shoals, settling on Hog Island (later known as Appledore Island) on the Maine side of the Isles, where they were living as late as 1684.²³

To discover the origins of Richard Downs, we noted the people he interacted with and, if the relationship seemed strong, we attempted to discover the English origins of these individuals. We also searched works on other early Downs families in New England. However, neither strategy revealed any record suggesting Richard Downs' English origins or even where he lived prior to his residence in Kittery in 1660.

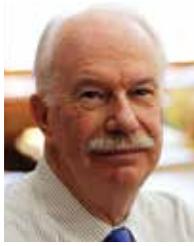
Despite extensive research, the origins of Richard Downs continue to elude researchers. Our findings represent a genealogy in progress; more work remains to be done by future researchers. We can say with certainty that he was the ancestor of Solomon F. Downs and that the Downs family has a long and storied history on the Isles of Shoals that spanned several generations. ♦

NOTES

- ¹ John Scribner Jenness, *The Isles of Shoals: An Historical Sketch*, (New York, N.Y., 1873), 7.
- ² Gordon L. Weil, ed., *United States Supreme Court: Original Jurisdiction Cases and Materials*, vol. III, (Lanham, Md., 2001), 619.
- ³ Langdon Brown Parsons, *History of the Town of Rye, New Hampshire* (Concord, N.H., 1905), 228, 233.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, 233.
- ⁵ "New Hampshire Censuses Existing and Lost," FamilySearch, familysearch.org/wiki/

en/New_Hampshire_Censuses_Existing_and_Lost.

- ⁶ Joseph W. Warren, "Church Memberships, Marriages, and Baptisms on the Isles of Shoals in the Eighteenth Century" *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 66 (1912): 143.
- ⁷ Warren, "Church Memberships" [note 6], 218.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, 146.
- ⁹ Samuel Down, 1790 U.S. Census, Gosport, Rockingham Co., New Hampshire, 223. Viewed at Ancestry.com.
- ¹⁰ Warren, "Church Memberships" [note 6], 302.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, 149.
- ¹² Warren, "Church Memberships" [note 6], 148.
- ¹³ *Province [New Hampshire] Deeds and Probate Records from 1623–1772*, vol. 46, 43–44, FHL Film No. 15431; and vol. 50, 91, FHL Film No. 15433. Available through FamilySearch.org.
- ¹⁴ *Massachusetts, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1635–1991*, Probate Records, vol. 309–10, Book 9–10, 1705–1713, 165. Viewed at Ancestry.com.
- ¹⁵ Person records for "Richard Downes, b. 1635" and "William Downs, 1665–1733" in the Online Collections Database, Portsmouth Athenæum, at athenæum.pastperfectonline.com.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, "Richard Downes, b. 1635"
- ¹⁷ Everett S. Stackpole, *Old Kittery and Her Families* (1903; repr., Rockport, Me.: Picton Press, 2001), 79.
- ¹⁸ Charles Thornton Libby, *Province and Court Records of Maine*, vol. 1 (Portland, Me.: Maine Historical Society, 1928), 263. Available at HathiTrust.org/Record/100820620.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 308–09.
- ²⁰ Diane Rapaport, *The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England* (Beverly, Mass.: Commonwealth Editions, 2007), 105.
- ²¹ Charles Thornton Libby, *Province and Court Records of Maine*, vol. 2 (Portland, Me.: Maine Historical Society, 1931), 200. Available at HathiTrust.org/Record/100820620.
- ²² *Ibid.*, 416.
- ²³ William M. Sargent, ed., *York Deeds*, Book IV, (Portland, Me., 1888), 14–15. Available at HathiTrust.org.



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

focus on New York



Nationalities Noted in the 1697 Census of Albany

Even though many early New York documents were destroyed or damaged in the 1911 fire in the State Library in Albany, many important manuscripts had previously been transcribed.¹ Among these was “A List of the Heads of Families and the Number of Men, Women, and Children in Each Household in the City and County of Albany, the 16th of June 1697,” published in Joel Munsell, *The Annals of Albany*, 10 vols. (Albany: J. Munsell, 1849–1859), 9:81–89, online at FamilySearch.org.

Below the manuscript’s title is the following statement: “References in the left margin are to the nationality of the individuals.” These references,

although inconsistently noted, provide valuable clues for English (see below) and especially French origins, plus a few others, with mentions of religion (Catholic, i.e., “Papists”), as follows.²

JAN ROSIE (FRENCH): *Annals* 9:81. Jan Rosie was buried in Albany in 1726.³ He married Elizabeth ____.⁴

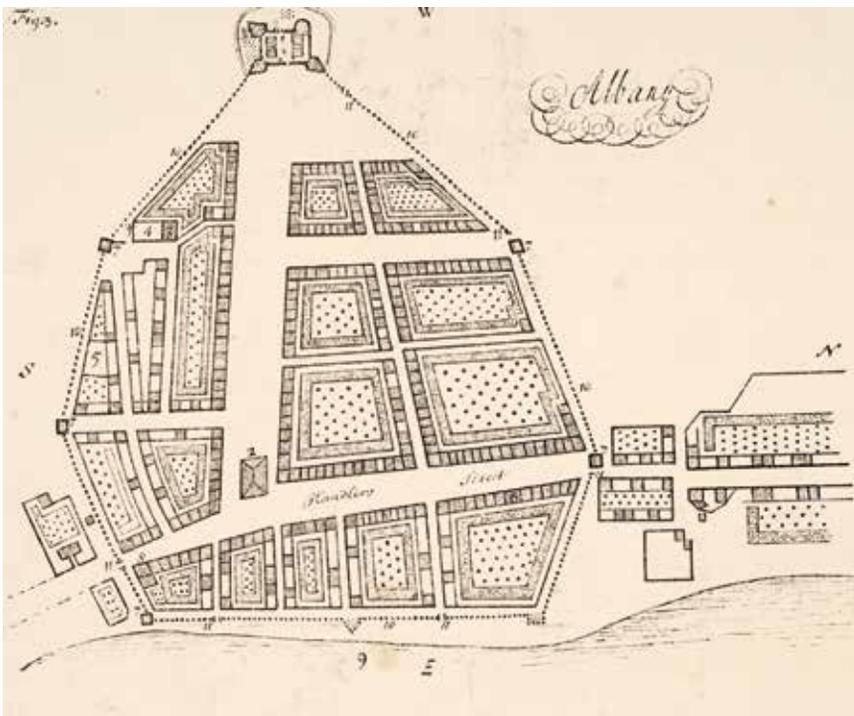
WILLIAM HOGAN (IRISH): *Annals* 9:81. He was from “Bor” or “Bosinylant” in Kings County, Ireland, and was an innkeeper in Albany. He married in Albany 3 September 1692, Martina Bekker.⁵ He died after 6 July 1736, the date his wife was buried.⁶

JOSEPH JANSE (SPANISH): *Annals* 9:82. Joseph Janse (also known as Joseph Van Santen or Van Zandt) married Seytie Marselis in Albany after banns dated 5 July 1688.⁷ He was naturalized in 1715 as Joseph Janse.⁸ He was buried in Albany 16 October 1753.⁹

ROBERT LIVINGSTON (SCOTTISH): *Annals* 9:84. Robert Livingston was a major figure in colonial New York.¹⁰

PIETER VILLEROY (FRENCH): *Annals* 9:85. Pierre Villeroy (also known as Pierre de Garmo and Peter the Frenchman),¹¹ married Caatje Vanderheyden before 1683, when the Albany Dutch Church records begin.¹² In 1699 he did not take the oath of allegiance because he was a Papist, but he took an oath of fidelity to King William instead.¹³ He was buried in Albany 6 March 1741.¹⁴

Map of Albany from John A. Miller, *A Description of the Province and City of New York in the year 1695* (London: 1843). New York Public Library Digital Collections.



JOHN VAN LOON (FRENCH; PAPIST): *Annals* 9:88. He was born in Liège in present-day Belgium. He married Marritje Alberts in the New York Dutch Church on 23 February 1676. He died after 1720 in the Loonburg Patent (present-day Athens, Greene County, New York).¹⁵ An excellent article on Jan Van Loon by Peter Christoph treats Catholics in New Netherland and seventeenth-century New York.¹⁶

HILLEBRANT LOOTMAN (PAPIST): *Annals* 9:88. There is an excellent article by James Hansen on Hillebrant Lootman and his family.¹⁷ He and his French-Canadian wife, Anne Leber, moved to Montreal in 1699, and he was rebaptized there on 8 November 1699. He died after that date.¹⁸

FRANS PRUYN (no reference to nationality), *Annals* 9:84. He was in Albany by 1665, and married Alida _____.¹⁹ In 1699 he and Pieter Villeroy (see above) did not take the oath of allegiance because they were Papists. Frans Pruyn died in May 1712.²⁰

HENDRICK ROELOFSE VAN DER WERKEN was one of the six children listed for Roelof Gerritse in the 1697 census (*Annals* 9:81). Hendrick married Marie Poupart, a French-Canadian woman, in or near Albany in 1707, and they moved to Montreal in 1708. By 1713 they had returned to Albany where the remainder of their children were born. He died after 21 June 1731, probably in Albany County.²¹

Additional information on Rosie, Hogan, Villeroy/DeGarmo, Pruyn, and Janse/Van Zandt can be found in Stefan Bielinski, *The People of Colonial Albany*, using the index at exhibitions.nysm.nysed.gov/albany/bios/bioindex.html#h.

Thirteen men on the list are marked E for English:

JOHN CARR, *Annals* 9:82.

JAMES PARKER, *Annals* 9:82.

JOSEPH YEATS [usually YATES]. *Annals* 9:82.

JONATHAN BROADHURST, *Annals* 9:82.

JOHN GILBERT, *Annals* 9:84.

EDWARD WHEELER, *Annals* 9:85.

JONATHAN STEVENS, *Annals* 9:88.

THOMAS SMITH, *Annals* 9:88.

WILLIAM HALL, *Annals* 9:88.

JEREMIAH SHIKSTONE, *Annals* 9:88.

DANIEL MATHERSCRAFT, *Annals* 9:89.

PHILLIP HARRIS, *Annals* 9:89.

JONATHAN DYER, *Annals* 9:89. ♦

NOTES

¹ See Harry Macy, Jr., "The 1911 State Library Fire and Its Effect on New York Genealogy," *The NYG&B Newsletter* 10:2 (Spring 1999):19–22; Henry B. Hoff, "Pre-1750 New York Lists: Censuses, Assessment Rolls, Oaths of Allegiance, and Other Lists," *The NYG&B Newsletter* 3:3 (Fall 1992):20–22.

² Most heads of household have no indication of nationality.

³ "Additional Burial Records of First Reformed Dutch Church of Albany," *The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany*, vols. 8–9 (1966–68), 58.

⁴ Jonathan Pearson, *Contributions for the Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany, from 1630 to 1800* (Albany, N.Y.: J. Munsell, 1872; repr. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976), 93, online at AmericanAncestors.org.

⁵ Pearson, *Genealogies of the First Settlers* [note 4], 63; *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Albany, New York, 1683–1909 . . . Excerpted from the Year Books of The Holland Society of New York* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), Part 1, 25.

⁶ William Vanderpoel Hannay, "Deacons' Accounts, 1654–1759," *The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany*, vols. 8–9 (1932–34; repr. as *Early Albany County, NY, Death Records* (Rhinebeck, N.Y.: Kinship, 2000), 41.

⁷ Pearson, *Genealogies of the First Settlers* [note 4], 140; *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Albany* [note 5], Part 1, 23.

⁸ Kenneth Scott and Kenn Stryker-Rodda, *Denizations, Naturalizations, and Oaths of Allegiance in Colonial New York* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975), 37.

⁹ Hannay, "Deacons' Accounts" [note 6], 62, as Joseph Janz Van Zante.

¹⁰ Three principal works about Robert Livingston and his descendants are Lawrence H. Leder, *Robert Livingston, 1654–1728, and the Politics of Colonial New York* (Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 1961); Richard T. Wiles and Andrea K. Zimmerman,

eds., *The Livingston Legacy: Three Centuries of American History* (Annandale, N.Y.: Bard College Office of Publications, 1987); and Cynthia A. Kierner, *Traders and Gentlefolk, The Livingstons of New York, 1675–1790* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1993).

¹¹ David M. Riker, *Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland*, 4 vols. and a supplement (Salem, Mass.: Higginson Book Company, 1999, 2004), vol. 1 "DeGarmo," citing Olive Turner MacArthur, *De Garmo: The Descendants of Pierre De Garmo of Albany, New York* (n.p.: the author?, 1939).

¹² Riker, *Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland* [note 11], vol. 1 "DeGarmo"; Pearson, *Genealogies of the First Settlers* [note 4], 39.

¹³ Joel Munsell, *The Annals of Albany*, 10 vols. (Albany: J. Munsell, 1849–1859), 3:280.

¹⁴ Hannay, "Deacons' Accounts" [note 6], 44, as Pieter Garmo.

¹⁵ John P. Dern, *Genealogical Contribution Reprinted from The Albany Protocol . . .* (Cornwallville, N.Y.: Hope Farm Press, 1981), 575–81, 587.

¹⁶ Peter R. Christoph, "The Time and Place of Jan van Loon: A Roman Catholic in Colonial Albany," *de Halve Maen*, 60:2 (Oct. 1987):8–11; 60:3 (Dec. 1987):9–12.

¹⁷ James L. Hansen, "The Lootman/Barrois Families of Canada, New York, and Points West," *The American Genealogist* 66 (1991):1–9, 88–92, 169–175. Among the descendants of Hillebrant Lootman is Hillary Clinton, former First Lady and Secretary of State (*Executive Papers, a Publication of the Hereditary Order of the Families of the Presidents and First Ladies of America*, 14 [Autumn 2017], 27–32).

¹⁸ Hansen, "Lootman/Barrois," *The American Genealogist* 66 [note 17]:1–3, 6–8.

¹⁹ Pearson, *Genealogies of the First Settlers* [note 4], 88, attributed four children of a Frans Janszen baptized in New Amsterdam between 1641 and 1663 to Frans Pruyn, but they are not included in John V. L. Pruyn, Jr., "The Pruyn Family—American Branch," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 13 (1882):11–15 et seq., at 11–12, or in Riker, *Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland* [note 11], vol. 3 "Pruyn."

²⁰ Pruyn, "Pruyn Family," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 13 [note 19]:12.

²¹ James L. Hansen, "The Family of Hendrick van der Werken" *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 118 (1987):1–13; Paul W. Prindle, *The Vanderwerken—VanderWerker Family* (Johnstown, N.Y.: Baronet Litho Co., 1966), 11–13.



Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight

Stephanie Call is Associate Director of Archives and Education at the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS.

From Revere to Kenya: How Jewish Ritual Objects Found a New Home

In recent years, several synagogues across New England have closed due to dwindling membership, including many in the greater Boston area. In Revere, Massachusetts—once home to a thriving Jewish community—the city's last synagogue, Temple B'nai

Israel,¹ closed its doors permanently in May 2019.² The building was sold to the Bosniaks Society of Boston Islamic and Cultural Center, the archives donated to the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC), and the torah scrolls given to military bases and other synagogues—including one in a rural Jewish community in Kenya.

Kehillat Israel Kenya, the Jewish congregation of Ol-Kalou, was founded by former Messianic Jews.³ Self-taught in Judaic rituals and traditions, this growing congregation has received assistance from Conservative Jewish groups in the United States, including the donation of typically expensive Jewish ritual objects. As a recipient of one of B'nai Israel's torahs, Kehillat Israel Kenya also needed a torah ark curtain and valance, a *parokhet* and *kapporet*. However, B'nai Israel's torah ark curtains had already been among the items dispatched and deeded to the JHC. After receiving an unusual request from the former synagogue's lay leaders to retrieve the curtains, the JHC team decided to deaccession them and return them to B'nai Israel, so the curtains could be sent to Kenya and used for their original purpose.

Parokhet and *kapporet* serve as a divider between the torah and the synagogue sanctuary. The *parokhet* symbolizes the curtain that covered



Parokhet and *kapporet* from Temple B'nai Israel of Revere, Mass. Photo by Claire Vail.

the Ark of the Covenant; the *kapporet* symbolizes the lid of the Ark. Both pieces are usually commissioned and donated by synagogue members in honor of a life cycle event,⁴ and the names of the donor and honoree are embroidered on the curtain. The JHC has several curtains in its collections, most made of velvet; all have embroidery, gold braiding and tassel work, and faux jewels. Often, the curtains are decorated with the symbols of the Lions of Judah, a torah crown, and seven-branched menorahs.

The curtains from B'nai Israel are simple in design, although no less ornate in execution. Each ivory velvet panel features a seven-branched menorah on gold velvet. An embroidered label provides some history of the Cotton family, as these curtains were originally donated in honor of Archie and Flora (Cohen) Cotton's 55th wedding anniversary in 1984 by their son Harvey, daughter-in-law Helaine, granddaughter Elyse, her husband Matthew, and grandson Andrew. Now, with the curtains installed in Kehillat Israel Kenya, these artifacts will continue an important tradition in an expanding Kenyan Jewish community. ♦

NOTES

- ¹ Temple B'nai Israel was founded in 1906 by Eastern European Jews as an Orthodox synagogue. It later became a Conservative synagogue.
- ² The two other Revere synagogues were Congregation Ahavis Achim (closed in 1998) and Congregation Tifereth Israel (closed in 2015). The JHC has the records of the latter.
- ³ More on the history of this Kenyan Jewish community can be found in *The Times of Israel* article, "In Kenya's Highlands, a Jewish Community Struggles for Recognition," by Melanie Lidman (March 10, 2015). Accessed 11/17/2020, [timesofisrael.com/in-kenyas-highlands-a-jewish-community-struggles-for-recognition](https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-kenyas-highlands-a-jewish-community-struggles-for-recognition).
- ⁴ Life cycle events are the *B'rit Milah* (circumcision), *B'rit Bat* (naming ceremony for girls), *Bar/Bat Mitzvahs*, confirmation (Reform only), weddings, conversions, illness, death, and mourning.



Embroidered label sewn into the parokhet in honor of Archie and Flora Cotton's 55th wedding anniversary. Photo by Claire Vail.

Campaign to celebrate a decade of collaboration and growth

Ten years ago, two prestigious organizations—New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and American Jewish Historical Society—New England Archives—launched a collaboration of shared resources, expertise, and commitment to family and community history. With the support of dedicated community members, the entity they created together—the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at New England Historic Genealogical Society—has become a premier destination for exploring and preserving Jewish history in New England and beyond.

To celebrate ten years of collaboration and growth, and to position the Jewish Heritage Center for the next decade, we have launched the **Tenth Anniversary Campaign**. With a goal of raising at least \$400,000 by August 31, 2021, the campaign supports these essential priorities:

- Expanding educational content and access online, to connect more people with Jewish history and heritage;
- Cultivating new research and scholarship that draws on the JHC archives and NEHGS resources to deepen understanding of the Jewish experience;
- Securing, preserving, and making accessible significant new family and institutional collections for the JHC's permanent archives.

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS is a vital resource: it is the only archive and historical center dedicated to, and specializing in, New England Jewish history. Please help us lay the groundwork for the next decade by making a meaningful contribution to the Tenth Anniversary Campaign this year. *Thank you!*

To make a gift to the Tenth Anniversary Campaign, visit [JewishHeritageCenter.org/donate](https://www.jewishheritagecenter.org/donate) (please indicate Tenth Anniversary Campaign in the dedication field); call the NEHGS Advancement Office at 617-226-1247; or mail your check to the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116.



Gerald W. R. Ward is the Katharine Lane Weems Senior Curator of American Decorative Arts and Sculpture Emeritus, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. A visiting lecturer at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, he also serves as a New Hampshire State Representative.

from our collections

Our Musical Chinoiserie Tall Case Clock



PHOTOS BY GAVIN ASHWORTH

Clocks were among the most sophisticated technological objects in an eighteenth-century home, as well as being among the most impressive visually. This imposing example stands just under nine feet in height. English clock historians have suggested that its exotic japanned case was probably made in London around 1740, rather than in provincial Exeter, where Edward Upjohn (1688–1764), the maker of the works, lived. In London, the wooden case would have been built by a cabinetmaker. A specialist craftsman known as a japanner, skilled in the techniques of using gesso, paint, and pencil, then worked his magic on the case, evoking the appearance of true Asian lacquer and providing an aura of the Far East. If this proposed scenario is correct, the decorated clock case would have been transported on poor, bumpy roads for almost two hundred miles, from London to Exeter, where Edward installed the works, transforming the object into not only a timekeeping mechanism, but a source of entertainment as well.

The japanned case is testimony to the eighteenth-century Anglo-American world's fascination with "exotic" Asian cultures. The pursuit of this style, often known as *chinoiserie*, was reflected in art, furniture, silver, ceramics, and other kinds of objects. Some of the decoration on Edward's clock, particularly the architectural elements, suggest that its japanner, although he may not have owned the book personally, was familiar with some related images published in John

Stalker and George Parker's manual, *A Treatise of Japaning and Varnishing* (Oxford, 1688, with later editions), an early guide to the techniques and imagery of the craft.

In addition to striking the hours, the clock also plays one of eleven tunes every four hours. As noted on an attached, engraved silvered ring, the songs are *The Blue Bells of Scotland*, *La Bella Catherine*, *Lass of Richmond Hill*, *White Cockade*, *Lieber Augustine*, *Duncan Grey*, *Capt. McIntosh*, *Rickers Hornpipe*, *Turkish March*, *Sicilian Hymn*, and *God Save the King*. These tunes are entered into the clock's musical pin barrel through pinning charts based on printed musical scores, allowing each note to be represented by a pin that activates a hammer to strike a bell and play the appropriate sound.

The song selections installed in a musical clock seem to represent individual and local taste. For example, several of the popular tunes on the Upjohn clock—*La Belle Catherine*, *God Save the King*, *White Cockade*, and possibly the *Sicilian Hymn*—can be found on American musical clocks, but most of the compositions seem to be found only in English versions. As with all mechanical objects, clocks often need maintenance and adjustment to their works as time passes. This clock is no exception; its works were repaired in the early 1950s and then again, more expertly, in 1997.

Edward Upjohn had a somewhat unusual life for an eighteenth-century craftsman. Born in Shaftsbury, Dorset,

he worked as a stonemason before becoming a clockmaker. In 1709, when he reached his majority, Edward married Mary Case (1683–1765). The couple moved to America in 1723, settling in Philadelphia, then Charleston, South Carolina. Due to Edward's ill health, the couple returned to England in 1726, where Edward continued his clockmaking business in Topsham, Devon. Twelve years later, in 1738, they moved to Exeter—the place name on the clock's dial is “Exon,” a Latin abbreviation—where Edward remained in business until his death. Edward Upjohn had no fewer than 15 descendants who were involved in clockmaking, including some in

London, although the majority worked in or around Devon.

Brian Loomes, a clock specialist in Harrogate, England, who was involved in the 1997 restoration, owned a manuscript memoir, the “Life and Times of James Upjohn,” written in 1784 by Edward's son James.

In his memoir, James recalled that Edward, then of Topsham in Devon, “set as many of us [his children] as were able to work; for I remember I was obliged to work between school hours and after I came home from school; my father never suffered any of us to be idle—I was taken from school at eleven years old, and I can remember five of us [he and his brothers] all at work at one time at Topsham in making clocks and watches completely within ourselves.”

One day, in about 1743, when James was working with his elder brother, William, the two asked their father when their terms of “apprenticeship” would end. Edward answered that they needed to turn twenty-one. Since William and James did not know their true ages, they examined their baptismal entries in the church register—and found they were both already over twenty-one. When the brothers told their father what they had learned, Edward burst into a rage and struck James such a blow that it knocked his

son off his work stool. The next day James packed his bags and left home forever with only five shillings in his pocket.

James also recalled Edward as an ingenious artisan who made all his own clock works, engraved the dials, and even cast his own bells—twelve in this clock, along with twenty-four striking hammers. One source also suggests that Edward enjoyed church music and taught his church's choir. Perhaps clockmaker Edward Upjohn had a special fondness for this secular musical clock from his shop, a device that literally played an important acoustical role and exerted a commanding physical presence in an eighteenth-century interior.

In 2018 Jenot and William Shipley generously donated this masterpiece of clockmaking to NEHGS, where it has pride of place in the Board Room at our headquarters in Boston. ♦

NOTE

¹ Brian Loomes, “Collecting Antique Clocks: The Stokes Family of Clockmakers,” accessed December 1, 2020, at BrianLoomes.com/collecting/stokes.



Illustration of a Japanese village from *A Treatise of Japaning and Varnishing* by John Stalker and George Parker, 1688. Collection of Smithsonian Libraries and Archives. cprhw.tt/o/75uFD.





Gaia Cloutier was Project Archivist at American Ancestors and NEHGS. She was responsible for the processing and description of the Reinier Beeuwkes III Family Collection.

Women Represented in the Reinier Beeuwkes III Family Collection

In February 1930, Hope (Clark) Spater of Providence, Rhode Island, sent a letter to her mother, Hannah LeBaron (Drury) Clark of Orono, Maine. Hope wrote about visiting family members and attending a lecture on modern art. She included a magazine clipping and a fabric sample for a dress that her mother offered to make for her. This short, casual letter from a daughter to her mother is not particularly noteworthy but gains significance through context.

Due to longstanding biases about what aspects of the past were important and whose records were worth saving, women's voices and words were often omitted from traditional historical accounts. Finding the surname of female ancestors and learning about the details of their everyday lives can be challenging. But manuscripts in archives can offer a more female-oriented perspective.

The extensive Reinier Beeuwkes III Family Collection, donated in 2019, spans more than 300 years of New England history. The collection contains documents, photographs, ephemera, and other materials related to the Beeuwkes, Clark, Drury, and Goodwin families, among others. These families were primarily based in Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island. The collection also includes extensive genealogical research and correspondence compiled by Reinier Beeuwkes Jr. and Elizabeth Hodges (Clark) Beeuwkes.

As I processed the material, I was particularly struck by the richness of this collection for interpreting women's

lives. The Reinier Beeuwkes III Family Collection includes hundreds of letters from Hope (Clark) Spater to her mother Hannah, along with artwork, correspondence, diaries, legal records, school notes, and other material created by women.

The oldest items in the collection belonged to Reverend Peter Clark, a Congregational minister in Salem and Danvers from 1717 to 1768. During this time, when new members joined the church, they addressed the congregation and provided information on their religious experiences, usually by recounting a declaration of faith, confessions, and spiritual narratives and reflections. Rev. Clark recorded the "relations" given by Lydia Withers, Ruth Dial, and Abigail Dial. Thanks to the preservation of Rev. Clark's records, these narratives have survived to give contemporary researchers insight into the faith and lives of these eighteenth-century American women.

Other women represented in the collection also stand out. Elizabeth Hodges Clark (1855–1932), always referred to as "Auntie," was the matriarch of the Clark clan during the second half of the nineteenth century. Although she had no children of her own, Elizabeth Clark raised her brother's four children. Elizabeth's brother, Thomas Welcome Clark (b. 1852), married Anna Newhall Russell in 1875. Anna died in June 1883 shortly after giving birth to their fourth child, Anna Newhall Clark. Thomas remarried that December but sometime later he abandoned his new wife and four children. The children's stepmother



Top: Elizabeth Hodges (Clark) Beeuwkes (1911–2005); Bottom: Passport photo of Mary "Molly" Rhodes Drury (1872–1936).



The “Aunts” at the Clark family reunion May 15, 1965, Newton, Mass. Seated left to right, Elizabeth Lambert Clark, Katherine Farwell Clark, and Anna Newhall Clark (Sister Deborah Margaret).

did not want to raise them, so they went to live with their aunt Elizabeth and her mother, Lydia (Hodges) Clark, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

As “Auntie,” Elizabeth kept close tabs on her extended Clark family members and wrote frequent letters. Elizabeth also worked as Alexander Agassiz’s personal secretary at the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, and at his home in Newport, Rhode Island. According to letters and an unpublished paper, “A Victorian Secretary,” written by her grandniece Elizabeth Hodges (Clark) Beeuwkes, Elizabeth played an integral role in managing the museum’s operations. Upon Agassiz’s death, Elizabeth received a substantial bequest.

The diary of Hannah Wheeler (Goodwin) Drury (1837–1916) offers glimpses into a woman’s daily life in Bristol, Rhode Island. The journal, which spans 1891 to 1914, includes a series of entries that illustrate how an ordinary routine might be impacted by historical events. In these accounts, Hannah reacted to the sinking of the *Titanic*:

April 16, 1912: One year has passed to Sam & Cornelia! The dreadful news of the Titanic struck by iceberg 10:20 Sunday night. She only got off women & children!

few. They had many stories of their experiences. Dull day. Rain much of the time.

April 20, 1912: Warm day. Molly out to look up our painter. Mrs. Jones here. The paper fills our minds. So sad all the accounts families, dependents were all left on ship.

April 21, 1912: Julia went to 8 o’clock service with me so I saw Mr. Larnel there. He had a “memorial service” in the evening. Mr. Locke preached a sermon on the Titanic morning.

The Beeuwkes Collection offers compelling stories of many more women. Mary “Molly” Rhodes Drury (1872–1936), a teacher and writer, left notes, drafts, and final copies of her work that offer a window into her creative process. The artistic talents of Hannah LeBaron (Drury) Clark (1875–1949) can be seen through her watercolors. Ruth (New) Berry (1890–1988) was an avid button collector.

The collection also includes documents and other material tracing the life of Anna Newhall Clark (1883–1977?) from her childhood to her adult life as Sister Deborah Margaret, S.S.M. Family correspondence from and about her reveals that, although her family did not understand why she decided to become an Episcopal nun—a member of the

April 18, 1912: Only reading the papers of the Titanic

April 19, 1912: We read in the papers the Carpathia reached N.S. [Nova Scotia] last night with all that were saved from the Titanic. So

Society of St. Margaret—its members supported her and maintained close relationships with her. As a nun, Sister Deborah lived with members of her community in four brownstones in Louisburg Square, in Boston’s Beacon Hill neighborhood. The buildings had been occupied by the religious order since 1883. (When the Society of St. Margaret sold the property in 1992, one of the brownstones was purchased by Senator John Kerry, who continues to make his home there.)

Elizabeth Hodges (Clark) Beeuwkes (1911–2005), daughter of Thomas Welcome Clark (1875–1960) and Hannah LeBaron (Drury) Clark, was born and raised in Orono, Maine. A graduate of Wellesley College, she married Reinier Beeuwkes, Jr. of Seattle, Washington, on June 29, 1936. They lived in Newton, Massachusetts, where they raised four children. Elizabeth was dedicated to helping others and volunteered for organizations that helped those in difficult circumstances. She served on the executive board of the Window Shop, established in Cambridge in 1939 to allow refugees and recent immigrants to create and sell goods, earn an income, and develop new skills.

Due to Reinier Beeuwkes III’s generous gift to the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, as well as the meticulous care taken to preserve the materials in previous generations, these stories and many more have been preserved for the future. Researchers and descendants of the Beeuwkes, Clark, Drury, and Goodwin families—and historians—have a wealth of information to consult when they look for accounts of the women (and men) who came before them. ♦

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Bryan Sykes, 1947–2020

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Bryan Sykes, renowned Oxford geneticist, acclaimed author, NEHGS Councilor, and a friend to many of us at NEHGS. Bryan died on December 10, 2020, aged 73. He was born in Eltham, U.K., on September 9, 1947, to Frank and Irene (Clifford) Sykes.

Bryan studied biochemistry at the University of Liverpool and received his PhD from the University of Bristol. In 1973 he became a research fellow at Oxford, where he gained renown for his groundbreaking research on elastin and collagen. He was appointed lecturer in molecular pathology in 1987. In 1997 he was appointed to a personal chair in human genetics.

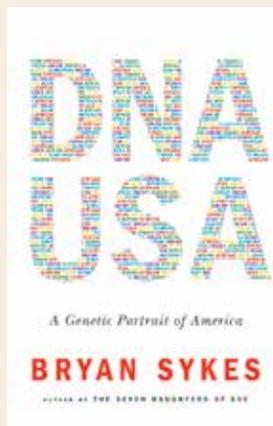
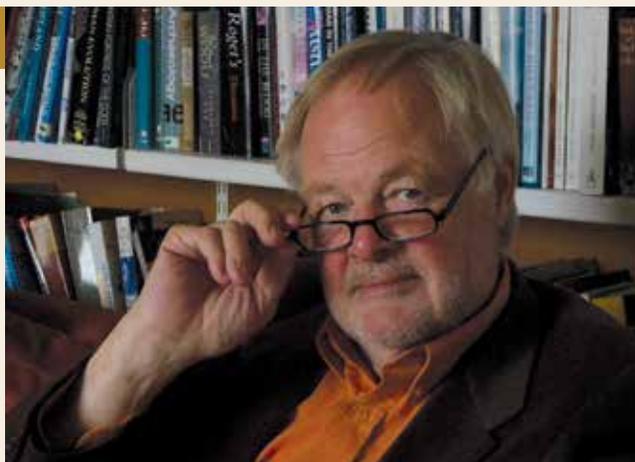
Bryan met Sue Foden at Oxford, and they married in 1978. The marriage was later annulled. Their son, Richard was born in 1991. In 2007 Bryan met Danish artist Ulla Ploughmand through a collaboration on an exhibition; their relationship lasted through the rest of his life.

In 2001, Bryan published his groundbreaking book, *The Seven Daughters of Eve: The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Ancestry* (2001). Our relationship with him began soon after. In Bryan's own words:

My friendship with the New England Historic Genealogical Society began . . . when my first non-specialist book, *The Seven Daughters of Eve: The Science That Reveals Our Genetic Ancestry*, was published — and just prior to its U.S. promotional tour in July 2001 — I was invited to speak at the NEHGS conference in Farmington, Connecticut. My invitation had been arranged by [NEHGS Councilor] Meriwether Schmid, who had been on one of George Redmond's famous genealogy tours when I gave a short talk to the group in Canterbury. Here was serendipity at work again. If the Sykes surname had been from anywhere but Yorkshire, I would have never gotten to know George, nor Meriwether, nor the Society. ["Beneath the Lid of the Melting Pot," *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*, Summer 2013]

Our relationship with Bryan developed over the years, and a decade ago, when he told us of his work on a forthcoming book about DNA in America, we put out a call for submissions for potential case subjects through our weekly newsletter. Later we invited him to use an office in our headquarters as his "home base" as he traveled the country with his son, Richard, and his partner, Ulla, interviewing the subjects. That book became *DNA USA: A Genetic Portrait of America* (2012), and NEHGS featured heavily in it. The book also included a profile of our President & CEO Brenton Simons, under the pseudonym "Atticus Finch." An excerpt from the book, titled "Beneath the Lid of the Melting Pot," appeared in the summer 2013 issue of this magazine.

In 2012, we presented Bryan with our Lifetime Achievement Award at our April 2012 dinner, at which he was keynote speaker. The event also served as the official

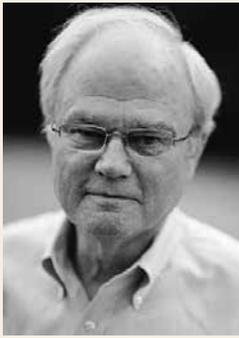


Top: Bryan Sykes in 2012; Middle: Sykes with NEHGS Councilor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and Ulla Ploughmand at our 2012 Annual Dinner. Bottom: The cover of *DNA USA*.

book launch for *DNA USA*. He was elected to our Board at the Annual Meeting in April 2013 and served as a councilor until 2019. As we remained in touch with Bryan over the years,

we were always interested to see the new paths his research followed.

Bryan will be remembered for many things—his engaging writing, his groundbreaking research, his belief in human interconnectedness, his willingness to push boundaries, his gentlemanly demeanor, and his wry wit. We will remember him as a dear friend, who was unfailingly kind to everyone at our organization, and who showed us that he lived as he wrote—creating connections with everyone he met. He will be missed. —JP



OBITUARY

DeWitt Clinton, 1942–2020

DeWitt Clinton, an NEHGS Councilor, died on October 12, 2020, aged 78. He was born in Buffalo, New York, in February 1942, to DeWitt and Marion (Zealand) Clinton.

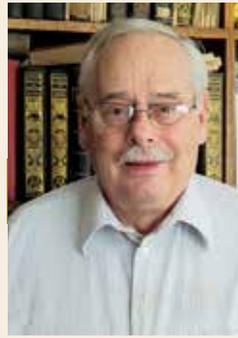
DeWitt attended Buffalo's Nichols School, and earned a BA in Mathematics at Williams College in 1964. He earned an MBA in Finance from Columbia Business School in 1970, and a certificate in executive education from INSEAD business school in 1991.

DeWitt went to work for Equitable Life Insurance in New York City, where he met his wife, Nancy Schade Clinton, in 1967. They married in 1968 in Portland, Maine.

DeWitt started in financial management in 1970 with a position at Digital Equipment Corporation; he and Nancy moved with the company to Geneva, Switzerland, where their son was born. The Clinton family later moved to Sudbury, Massachusetts, where DeWitt and Nancy had two daughters. He worked for Digital until 1996, then began a career as a business and financial consultant, and, in the early 2000s, partnered with his son on a software startup. DeWitt and Nancy moved to Wells, Maine, in 2001.

DeWitt had a long-time interest in history, and he served on the boards of New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Society of the Cincinnati, the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, and the Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts. He joined NEHGS in 2003 and was one of the longest-serving members of our Investment Committee. We are grateful for his service to our organization and will miss his presence at our meetings.

DeWitt is survived by his wife Nancy; son DeWitt Clinton; daughters Maggie Clinton and Cate Clinton; and four grandchildren. He was predeceased by his younger brother, George, in April 2020. —JP



OBITUARY

David Louis Greene, 1944–2020

David Louis Greene, PhD, FASG, eminent genealogist and long-time friend of NEHGS, died on November 20, 2020, aged 76. He was born September 24, 1944, in Middletown, Connecticut, to Rev. George Louis and Margaret Elsie (Chindahl) Greene. He graduated from the University of South Florida and received MA and PhD degrees from the University of Pennsylvania. His teaching career was at Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia, where he was professor of English for thirty-seven years.

His first genealogical article was published in 1972 in *The American Genealogist* (TAG), and after having several other genealogical articles published, he was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists in 1981. In 1984 he became co-editor of TAG and in 1992 editor, a position he held until 2014, when he retired. On the occasion of his retirement, a tribute to David was published in TAG 87:1 (2014):1–4, noting his many genealogical interests, including studies of victims of the Salem Witch Trials.

Among David's other interests was the history of genealogical periodicals. For the *Register* he wrote "Samuel G. Drake and the Early Years of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*" 145 (1991):203–233, and "The Civil War Years of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*" 150 (1996):437–450. David was a regular speaker at NEHGS programs and he arranged for AmericanAncestors.org to be the online provider of TAG. In 2001 he received the Coddington Award from NEHGS.

David is survived by his wife Amelia Jane McFerrin, daughter Jennifer Helen Greene-Rooks, son Christopher Douglas Greene, stepdaughters Elizabeth Johnson Epps and Laura Christine Wickiser, twin brother Douglas George Greene, brother Paul Eric Greene—and their spouses, as well as five grandchildren.

David is remembered with fondness and appreciation by his many colleagues and friends in genealogy for his valuable mentoring, his editorial skills, his thoughtfulness, and his delightful sense of humor. —HBH

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Genealogies

Clary *The Descendants of John Clary Sr. & Mary Cassell*, Ellwood Count Curtis (Cedar Falls, Iowa: Galactic Press, 2020). Softcover, \$26.50. 170 + xii pp. Index of people & places. This thirteen-generation genealogy includes female lines and biographical information. Available from E. C. Curtis, 145 Summit Drive, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613; ccurtis@cfu.net.

Gunn *The Descendants of Jasper Gunn & His Wife Christian*, Ellwood Count Curtis (Cedar Falls, Iowa: Galactic Press, 2020). Hardcover, 5 volumes, \$248.50. 2,460 + xii pp. Index of people and places, table of contents, color photos. This fourteen-generation genealogy includes female lines, biographical information, detailed documentation. Available from E. C. Curtis, 145 Summit Drive, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613; ccurtis@cfu.net.

Robbins *The Descendants of William Robbins (1651–1725) & Priscilla Gowing (1655–1744)*, Ellwood Count Curtis (Cedar Falls, Iowa: Galactic Press, 2020). Softcover, \$46.50. 365 + xii pp. Index of people & places, color photos of tombstones. This twelve-generation genealogy of William Robbins & Priscilla Gowing includes female lines and biographical information. Available from E. C. Curtis, 145 Summit Drive, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613; ccurtis@cfu.net.

Warren/Harding/Herkimer/Ellis/Kepner *Mayflower to Michigan and Beyond: My Family's Journey*, Susan Ruth (Washington, D.C.: the author, 2020). Hardcover, \$30. 418 pp. Index, illustrations, appendices, maps, ancestry charts. This book presents compelling stories of the author's immigrant ancestors and their descendants from the 1600s to the 1950s. Includes previously unpublished letters, war diaries, photographs, and memoirs. Available from politics-prose.com.

Other books

Biography *Duty, Family, Perseverance: The Story of William Watson*, Ann D. Watson (New Haven, Vt.: the author, 2019). Softcover, \$25.95. 98 pp. Illustrations, endnotes, index, genealogical summary. A biography of an English immigrant woolen mill worker and Civil War soldier in the New England farming and mill town of Conway, Massachusetts. Available from Lulu.com.

History *Van Buren's Scandal*, Ann Tracy Marr (the author: Michigan, 2020). Softcover, \$35. 335 pp. Illustrations, maps, author notes with genealogical material, index, research references. An account of two brothers in Michigan—Marshall and Bill Barker—who were railroaded into prison for murder by a fake Pinkerton detective and county officials. Available from Amazon. Contact marr794@aol.com.

History *Why Suicide? Volume 3: Compendium of United States Suicides from Colonial Times to 1940*, Harry George Woodworth (the author, 2020). Kindle edition. 649 pp. This ongoing project seeks to contribute information for suicide prevention research. Volume 1 contained 6,500 names of those who completed or attempted suicide. Volume 2 added 5,000 names with primary historical information. Volume III provides an additional 6,000 names, with all index names in all volumes hyperlinked to their location in the eBook. Available from Amazon.

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The NEHGS cartoon



"You weren't kidding—there is gold at the end of the rainbow!"

Submitted by Joan Hutchins Friel via Facebook.

Drawing by Jean Powers.

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Contributing authors:

Robert C. Amos, Robert Charles Anderson, Dustin Axe, Joe Bagley, Alex Bannerman, Sally Benny, Lynn Betlock, Adrian Brockett, Stephanie Call, Christopher C. Child, Gaia Cloutier, Brittany Contratto, Marie Daly, David C. Dearborn, Sarah Dery, Curt DiCamillo, Michael F. Dwyer, Priscilla Eaton, Zachary Garceau, Richard Hall, James Heffernan, Helen Herzer, Henry B. Hoff, Pamela Guye Holland, Kyle Hurst, Sharon Inglis, Rachel King, David Allen Lambert, Don LeClair, Thomas Lester, Judith Lucey, Kathleen Mackenzie, Jean Maguire, Rhonda R. McClure, Melanie McComb, Carol Prescott McCoy, Tricia Healy Mitchell, Ginevra Morse, Lindsay Murphy, Carolyn Sheppard Oakley, Todd Pattison, Jim Power, Jr., Jean Powers, Courtney Reardon, Stephen Reiter, Marilynne K. Roach, Gary Boyd Roberts, Molly Rogers, Timothy G.X. Salls, D. Brenton Simons, Anne Skinner, Scott C. Steward, Clifford L. Stott, Margaret Talcott, Karen Cord Taylor, Claire Vail, Gerald W.R. Ward, Michael M. Wood, and Michael S. Yoemans.

Contributing photographers:

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Volume 21 — Index of Persons

Compiled by Steve Csipke

Note: The first number in each listing refers to the issue number (spring 2020 – 1, summer 2020 – 2, fall 2020 – 3, winter 2021 – 4) and the second number refers to the page on which the name appears.

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Volume 21 Errata**SPRING ISSUE, 21-1**

p. 64 of the Annual Report: Rebecca R. Taft should have been listed as a new Life Member. Rebecca's husband, Sheldon A. Taft, was listed instead in error.

FALL ISSUE, 21-3

p. 3: Some Class of 2023 councilors were listed with incorrect states of residence. The following states are correct: Howard E. Cox (MA), Brantley Carter Bolling Knowles (VA), and Virginia Whitman Koster (MA).

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