

2017 annual stakeholder report

SEPTEMBER 1, 2016–AUGUST 31, 2017



NEW ENGLAND
HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

Founded 1845



**American
Ancestors**

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



2017 annual stakeholder report

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Connecting Families.

The desire to understand and connect to our family history is universal. This understanding represents who we are and how we came to live the lives we each have. Whether we are fully aware of it or not, the journeys our ancestors took and the choices they made have a profound effect on who we are today. Good fortune and bad, triumph and tragedy, prosperity and opportunity all comprise the incredible, winding path that leads from our ancestors to each of us. And while our stories may seem unique to us, we learn that they are also shared by many.

At NEHGS, we understand that as we uncover our families, we learn about history, too. The records we use, the sources we uncover, the information we gather, all need to be maintained and preserved. It is our mission to make sure everyone, everywhere, has access to their family's story for generations to come.

Advancing History.



Report of the President and CEO

Greetings,
In fiscal year 2017, we advanced the study of American family and local history in a myriad of important ways.

We reached new heights in online content collaborations, scholarly output, audience development, earned revenue, and charitable giving, among other notable accomplishments, all of which advance our purpose in connecting individuals to histories, both unique and shared. As we approach our 175th anniversary as the nation's founding genealogical institution—and as we plan for our key role in the worldwide commemorations of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower*—both in 2020—I am honored to report that the New England Historic Genealogical Society and American Ancestors prosper to a degree unprecedented in our long history.

In the fiscal year ending August 31, 2017, all activity areas of our organization excelled and, just as we multiply our offerings to a vast and ever-increasing audience, we are also poised for further expansion in the coming years, namely through developing an adjoining property at 97 Newbury Street in Boston, as part of our “people-centric” focus, and the continued growth of our online and in-person activities. Our four “Cornerstones” guide us in our work. Here are a few of the highlights of a truly remarkable year in each of these categories:

“In just a few short years,
we scaled our operations
and we surged.”

SUSTAINABILITY

In just a few short years, we scaled our operations and we surged. Our planning was methodical and its implementation well executed by our dedicated staff and key constituents. We are now in a new class. We are a \$10+ million-a-year nonprofit business with more than ninety employees, hundreds of thousands of members, millions of online users, and more than

“We are now in a new class.
We are a \$10+ million-a-year
nonprofit business . . .”

1.4 billion historical records on our award-winning website. This growth has transformed the nature of our financial sustainability. It has helped to build an economic platform to ensure our long-term viability, and it has escalated our national profile in important and, perhaps long overdue, ways.

And, simultaneously, our members have never been more generous:

- In fiscal year 2017, total donated support for operations and other contributions reached a historic high: \$9.3 million.
- We realized our largest cash gift ever: \$5.3 million—made by an anonymous donor who converted a planned gift into an outright gift so that it could go to work for our organization right away.
- We received the lead gift in our campaign to renovate our annex at 97 Newbury Street from trustee Thomas Bailey Hagen, who, championing our future vision, made a historic commitment of \$3 million to renovate and expand our campus in the Back Bay.
- Our operating results across earned revenue and contributed income categories were excellent. We exceeded budget and achieved a \$370,000+ cash-positive position, our largest surplus in a decade.
- My talented colleague, Ryan J. Woods, was promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and, in the present fiscal year, Susan Fugliese and Beth Brown were named Vice President for Advancement and Assistant Vice President for Advancement, respectively, as part of an enlargement of our executive group in order to better meet the needs of a much-expanded organization.
- We prepared for our future expansion through an architectural planning process with the architectural firm of Schwartz/Silver and a future business management planning engagement with the strategic planning experts at TDC.
- Finally, our endowment reached its uppermost-ever high of \$31.5+ million, a testament to the generosity of our members, favorable market conditions, the wise oversight of the members

of our Investment Committee, and the careful guidance of our professional fund managers.

Each of these accomplishments, and many others, helped to dramatically increased our sustainability as the nation’s leading nonprofit society in our sector.

SCHOLARSHIP

Our scholarly program reached new levels of productivity in this period and supported the work of historians, genealogists, families, and students across the globe. These advances occurred across multiple platforms: namely, in online databases, books and e-books, journals, our member magazine, and a blog.

For example, we:

- Added 345 million searchable records to our website. We now provide source materials for twenty-two countries and, through an ongoing partnership with FamilySearch, are a national leader in providing online content.
- Commenced a ground-breaking initiative with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, more than twenty years in the making, to bring 10+ million records online, thereby creating the largest U.S. Catholic genealogical database. These sources, dating from 1789 to 1900, will unlock information for families of Irish, Italian, French, and German descent, among others.
- Published twenty-one books, including our single best-selling title in NEHGS history: *The Stranger in My Genes*, a memoir by news anchor Bill Griffeth which shares the powerful story of how a DNA test changed his identity and his personal history forever. Other bestsellers included the *Genealogist’s Handbook for Irish Research* by Marie E. Daly with Judith Lucey, and *The Great Migration Directory* by Robert Charles Anderson.
- Developed an exclusive partnership with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants to digitize the pivotal fifth generation in the “Silver Books” series, a key to connecting to *Mayflower* lineages, and make it widely available for the first time.
- Produced much digital content through the Jewish Heritage Center—*The Jewish Times* of Boston becoming our library’s most searched digital collection.
- Grew our *Vita Brevis* blog, with more than 1.4 million views for the period.

- We became the steward of the Georgetown Memory Project—the effort to identify the 272 slaves sold by Georgetown University in 1838. To date, our partners have identified 211 of the slaves and more than 6,000 descendants. Together, we are building an online destination to tell this story and allow more descendants to discover their past.
- We commenced a partnership with FamilySearch and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants to digitize all member applications and supporting materials, and make them fully searchable in 2020, providing millions of Americans access to previously inaccessible data. After the turn of the fiscal year, we launched a *Mayflower*-themed web portal that includes biographies of all *Mayflower* passengers and a gallery of living descendants around the globe.

TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

Our work in technology and science ranged from search innovations brought to our website and the addition of millions of searchable records to expanding our DNA-related offerings and expertise.

- We launched the Historic Catholic Records project, digitizing millions of records and unveiling a custom landing site that sets a new design standard for our organization.
- We moved all database data to a cloud-hosted solution which has improved data security and the speed of returning search results.
- We uploaded the 1930 Federal Census with 125+ million searchable names, among scores of other large databases.
- We introduced database news alerts, a system which informs our members about new resources, the genealogical value of them, and hints on how to most effectively search the data.
- We developed and implanted targeted digital marketing campaigns to attract new guest members to our website.
- We designed with partners an innovative family tree function, to be launched in 2018, that will allow NEHGS to pre-populate trees with our own data, members to “lock” their own trees and prevent erroneous additions by others, and provide a rating system for trees based on the quality of sources provided.
- We deployed a strategy to monetize guest member activity on AmericanAncestors.org



and saw online purchase activity subsequently increase by 42%.

- We launched our DNA service packages, collaborating with the testing companies to provide discounted access to tests while providing our own unique consultation services and learning resources to thousands of constituents.
- We implemented a new business system for our membership and fundraising database that allows us to reduce clerical duties and increase customer service interactions as well as leverage leading software to manage our philanthropic activities. Our system, Tessitura, is an international leader in cutting-edge membership and fundraising software for cultural institutions.

RELATIONSHIPS

In this period, we continued to grow our large membership, reach new audiences, and retain long term constituents. Today, we serve more than 250,000 active members across regular, guest, and contributing categories, all of which enjoyed

continued growth in 2017. Our relationships flourished in FY2017 in some of the following ways:

- We developed stories that resulted in significant media coverage, and in the period just after the close of fiscal year 2017, had a string of Associated Press news stories, ranging from the launch of our Jewish Heritage Center to genealogical discoveries in the ancestry of Prince Harry's American fiancée Meghan Markle. Each of these stories significantly added to the usage of our already popular website and bustling services.
- We served once again as anchor location and consulting genealogists of the popular PBS series *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*,

“[We] provided more than 8,000 hours of personal tutorials and consultations for our constituents, visitors, and research tour attendees.”



which has now broadcast four seasons from Newbury Street, and, together with Professor Gates, our staff has published a weekly online column on African American genealogy for TheRoot.com.

- We nurtured and advanced relationships by providing more than 160 educational programs around the country and abroad. Especially notable among these offerings were our heavily attended online courses developed by Ginevra Morse and heritage tours led by Curt DiCamillo. Our online courses allow thousands of participants to conveniently learn from the comfort of home, while our heritage tours give our patrons the opportunity to enjoy special excursions, delve firsthand into history, and forge new friendships.
- We conducted 10,000 hours of paid research for members and the public and provided more than 8,000 hours of personal tutorials and consultations for our constituents, visitors, and research tour attendees.
- We planned for 2020 *Mayflower* commemorations by working closely with the Massachusetts State Commission and our colleagues at Plymouth 400, Mayflower 400 (UK), Leiden 400 (the Netherlands), the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, members of the Wampanoag nation, Plimoth Plantation, New England Beginnings, and many others.
- Finally, we hosted two Family History Benefit Dinners during the year, honoring television commentator and author Cokie Roberts in October 2016 and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Stacy Schiff in April 2017. These events attracted hundreds of our friends, as well as generous corporate sponsors, including Wells Fargo and Welch & Forbes, and many guests. They gave us a high-profile venue to highlight our genealogical expertise and foster warm relations with our distinguished

honorees, members, and the public. Most recently, we honored *Forrest Gump* author Winston Groom at our October 2017 dinner, historian and past NEHGS chairman Bill Fowler in January 2018, and we will honor two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough, in his first engagement at NEHGS since our Sesquicentennial celebrations in 1995, at our Family History Benefit dinner on April 27, 2018.

In closing, all positive trend lines continue in our present fiscal year 2018. With the continued hard work of an incomparable staff and a cadre of the finest subject matter experts, a world-class Board and Council, first-rate partners and collaborators, and hundreds of thousands of supporters, our Society will continue to flourish in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Brenton Simons
President and CEO



Get Connected. Be Inspired.

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

We seek to make meaningful and valuable connections with and among our members and friends as well as connect people to their ancestors across generations, building a nationwide community of family historians with a shared dedication to accuracy and integrity in genealogical research.

For more than 173 years, we have been guided by a passion and a purpose that places people at the center of our work to advance history and connect families. We continue to cultivate relationships to reflect excellence and diversity in family history, while helping, engaging, and inspiring people everywhere who want to advance the understanding of these precious components of life: family and community.

As the nation's leading resource for genealogical research and the most respected name in family history, we provide comprehensive family history services to help family historians of all levels

explore their past and make connections across generations:

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

Award-winning website: Bringing accuracy and integrity to your family history research endeavors wherever in the world you might be, we offer family history researchers the most-used genealogical society website in the world—AmericanAncestors.org. Providing access to 1.5 billion records spanning twenty-two countries covering the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond, our award-winning website includes one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the largest collection of U.S Catholic records online, amongst many other unique resources.





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

World-class research center: Named by *USA Today* as a top-10 world destination for family history, we invite everyone to visit our eight-story library and archive where we offer the largest collection of original family history research materials in the country. Our collection, which continues to grow through acquisition and preservation activities, dates from the fourteenth century to the present and spans North America, Europe, and beyond. It includes more than

28 million diaries, letters, photographs, and manuscripts, and more than 200,000 books and microforms.

Education opportunities: Family history research is, at its core, a pursuit of endless learning. Encountering unfamiliar places, languages, and times; uncovering long forgotten family stories; and meeting the thousands of ancestors who came before you. Through guided research tours to repositories around the world, more than 160 annual lectures, seminars, intensive research programs, tours, online courses, webinars, and special events, we help you maximize your results and take your family tree to new heights.

A SELECTION OF OUR DEDICATED STAFF

Left, top row: Timothy G. X. Salls, Manager of Manuscript Collections; Claire Vail, Director of Digital Strategy; Jim Powers, Communications Manager; Christopher C. Child, Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press and Editor of *Mayflower Descendant*. Left, bottom row: Scott Steward, Editor-in-Chief; Donald C. Reagan, Director of Business Development; Lindsay Fulton, Director of Research Services. Above, top row: Sharon Inglis, Publishing Director; Jean Maguire, Library Director; Steven Shilcuskus, Director of Information Technology. Above, bottom row: Judith Garner, Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS Archives Outreach Coordinator; Beth A. Brown, Assistant Vice President for Advancement; Ginevra Morse, Director of Education and Online Programs; David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist.

Administration



D. BRENTON SIMONS PRESIDENT AND CEO

For more than a decade, Brenton Simons, an award-winning historian and author, has led our organization in unprecedented growth and to its pivotal role in the widespread popular interest in genealogy today.

He recently spearheaded a \$62+ million capital campaign for NEHGS and in 2017 launched two major initiatives: The Cornerstone Project, to expand the Society's headquarters, and the organization's Massachusetts 400 Commemorations through 2020. Brenton has been featured on CNN, FOX, and PBS, and in the *New York Times*. At annual NEHGS galas in Boston, he has presented family histories to distinguished guests including Ken Burns, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Doris Kearns Goodwin, Angela Lansbury, Cokie Roberts, David Hartman, and Bob Schieffer. Brenton's most recent book, *Boston Beheld: Antique Town and Country Views*, was praised by historian Douglass Shand-Tucci as "the book Jane Austen might have written had she run into Charles Dickens after his return from his Boston visit of 1842." For his first volume in a trilogy of Boston histories, *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues: True Stories of Scam, Scandal, Murder, and Mayhem in Boston, 1630–1775*, Simons received the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. In 2016 he received the Spirit of 1812 Award, with a special citation for excellence in non-profit leadership. He is a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, life member of the Colonial Society, a member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, the Club of Odd Volumes, and the Somerset Club, a proprietor of The Boston Athenæum, and a board member of Plymouth 400 and *The New England Quarterly*.



RYAN J. WOODS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND COO

An eleven-year veteran of key management positions at NEHGS, Ryan oversees all our day-to-day operations, including content and collection development, web services, publishing activities, research services, educational programming, financial operations, facilities management, and marketing strategies. Working closely with Brenton Simons to articulate the long-range goals for the institution and manage current business, our performance has blossomed in his tenure with substantial increases in earned revenue centers and massive growth in our total constituency. He has played a pivotal role in developing and managing collaborations with commercial and nonprofit partners, including overseeing the recruitment of more than 1 billion searchable records to AmericanAncestors.org. Earlier roles here included developing and leading research tours and education programs, spearheading a business and technology initiative, and modernizing the services and scope of our research library.

Raised along Lake Champlain in Vermont, Ryan earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University with concentrations in history education and program management. He has served in several key capacities at other Boston cultural and historical institutions, including the National Archives and Records Administration at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. While at the Kennedy Library he was recognized by members of Congress and by the Archivist of the United States with a special commendation for outstanding achievement in public service. A licensed educator, he is the author of several education and genealogical articles and a frequent speaker at national conferences. Ryan serves on several nonprofit boards and committees, including as Chairman of the Committee on Heraldry, as a Director of the Seven and Eight Park Street Foundation, as a member of

the Committee on Pretensions of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, as Secretary of the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as a member of the Development Committee for Plymouth 400, and as immediate past-President of the Boston University School of Education Alumni Association. Ryan and his wife, Karen, are patron members of Plimoth Plantation, Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Children's Museum, and the New England Aquarium.



SUSAN B. FUGLIESE

VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ADVANCEMENT

A member of the NEHGS leadership team since 2017, Susan is responsible for the Advancement department, comprised of development, member services, and advancement support. Fundraising and membership revenue is responsible for 60% of the organization's annual operating budget. In addition, principal and major gift fundraising is responsible for endowment, program, capital, planned, and deferred income essential to NEHGS's growth. Susan's areas of focus include identifying and securing funding

for NEHGS headquarter expansion to 97 Newbury Street, concurrent program support, the Family History Fund, support for key NEHGS elements such as the Jewish Heritage Center and the Catholic Records Project, and strengthening annual operating income. Susan oversees a highly-experienced principal, major and planned gift team, membership, stewardship and annual fund managers, and the areas of special events and Heritage Tours. Susan and her team work with trustees and councilors, individual members and donors, corporate sponsors, foundations, and others interested in greater participation in the life and support of NEHGS.

An American Studies graduate of Colby-Sawyer College, Susan began her career in philanthropy in planned giving at Massachusetts General Hospital, and then joined the faculty at Phillips Academy Andover where she fundraised, coached, and taught American Literature. Susan went on to create and manage advancement initiatives at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she created a program in Family Legacy; and Walnut Hill School for the Arts, where she was Dean for Institutional Advancement. Susan has recently moved to Beacon Hill.



BETH A. BROWN

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ADVANCEMENT

A member of the fundraising team at NEHGS since 2015, Beth travels the country identifying new volunteer leadership, raising funds from individuals, corporations, and foundations to support the operating budget, the Jewish Heritage Center, the expansion at 97 Newbury Street, the acquisition of archives, and other special projects. During her 15-year career in fundraising, Beth has worked with notable non-profit organizations throughout Boston such as Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,

Northeastern University's D'Amore-McKim School of Business, Handel and Haydn Society, and Boston Lyric Opera.

Raised in Cumberland, Maine, as a child Beth became fascinated with family history thanks to her grandparents' research and love of sharing family stories. She enjoys studying her ancestors from the Great Migration, early Quebec, New England, England, and France, as well as researching her husband's Jewish genealogy. She is a prospective member of the DAR, with interest to join the Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Colonial Dames. Beth received her Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Maine, cum laude, and a Master of Arts in Medieval Art History from McGill University in Montreal. Beth and her husband Chuck live in the historic Boston neighborhood of Beacon Hill.

Officers 2018–2019



NANCY S. MAULSBY CHAIRMAN

Nancy S. Maulsby of Greenwich, Connecticut, is former Vice President of Corporate Communications and Protocol at Chase Manhattan Bank and co-founder of Development Unlimited, Inc., a provider of management services for not-for-profits. She has served on several boards of not-for-profits and educational organizations, including the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, the Buckley School, Grosvenor Neighborhood House, the Metropolitan Opera Guild, and Hartwick College. She is a member of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem, which supports the international humanitarian endeavors of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. While living in Greenwich, Connecticut, she was actively involved with Christ Church Greenwich, having served on its vestry and in the Junior and Senior Warden positions. Nancy is the immediate past Vice Chairman of NEHGS, a past Trustee and past Councilor, has served on the Strategic Planning Committee, is the immediate past Chair of the Development Committee, and is currently Co-Chair of the Future Expansion Committee and a member of the Executive, Human Resources, and Garden Advisory Committees. She has been a member of NEHGS since 2002, a Life Member since 2009, and is a member of the Founders' Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving. She is presently working on a genealogy of the Sands and Van Volkenburgh families for publication by Newbury Street Press in 2018.

CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD, 1845–PRESENT*

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

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



STEPHEN H. CASE

VICE CHAIRMAN

Stephen H. Case of New York, New York, is Managing Director and General Counsel of Emerald Development Managers LP, Vice Chairman of the Museum of the American Revolution, a retired Partner of Davis Polk & Wardwell, a former Chairman of the Board, Motors Liquidation Company (f/k/a General Motors Corporation), and a Trustee Emeritus of Columbia University, New York Presbyterian Hospital, and Glimmerglass Opera Company. He is the co-author of *Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold's Plot to Betray America* (2012). Having joined NEHGS in 2007, he is a past Trustee and Councilor, serves on the Executive and Development Committees, and is a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving.



ANDREW P. LANGLOIS

TREASURER

Retired President of Mormac Marine Group, Chief Financial Officer of several affiliated companies; Investor and Director, Moran Transportation Company. Previous management positions with General Dynamics Corporation. Life member of Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. Member: New Hampshire Historical Society, Maine Historical Society, New Hampshire Society of Genealogists, Society of Genealogists (London). Published genealogist. Education: B.S., Carnegie Mellon University; M.B.A., Harvard Business School. Spouse: Lynne Langlois. NEHGS: member since 1979; past Councilor; Trustee; member, Executive, Audit, Finance, Investment, and Future Expansion Committees; member, Cornerstone Society for Giving and Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving; Associate Member.



NANCY CLAY WEBSTER

SECRETARY

Nancy Clay Webster of Omaha, Nebraska, is a past member of the Joslyn Art Museum's Board of Governors and its Executive Committee, and is a past president of the Joslyn Art Museum Association. She has served on the boards of the Brownell Talbot School, Salvation Army, American Lung Association, Omaha Symphony Guild, Children's Hospital Guild, Ronald McDonald House, Omaha Public Library, and Webster Family Foundation. She is a past NEHGS Trustee and past Councilor; a member of the Executive, Development, and Future Expansion Committees; a member of the Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving and the Cornerstone Society for Giving; and has been a Life Member since 2013, having joined the Society in 1990.

OFFICERS

Nancy S. Maulsby
Chairman

Stephen H. Case
Vice Chairman

Andrew P. Langlois
Treasurer

Nancy Clay Webster
Secretary

TRUSTEES

Class of 2021
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John M. Fleming
William R. Marsh
Olivia Hood Parker
Elizabeth McCaslin Passela
Jonathan Buck Treat
Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.

Class of 2020
Bill Griffeth
Thomas Bailey Hagen
Jo Anne Crowley Makely
M. David Sherrill
Diana M. Smith
Morrison DeS. Webb

Class of 2019
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Judith Waite Freeman
David W. Kruger
Linda A. Pescosolido
Peter C. Steingraber

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Francis de Marneffe
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Beverly M. Hector-Smith
Robert F. Hendrickson
James F. Hunnewell, Jr.
Brenda L. Johnson
Gary P. Kearney
James A. McDaniel
Ailsie Baker McEnteggart
Mark Kimball Nichols
Michele M. Pecoraro
Patricia R. Reed
David E. Rencher
Ellen C.L. Simmons
Eric N. Ward

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Ronald C. Curhan
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John F. Keane
Joan Bennett Kennedy
Stephanie Jones Martineau
Jonathan W. Montgomery
George Marshall Moriarty
Gregory G. O'Brien
Bonnie A. Reilly
David N. Smith
Tracy E. Smith

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Jane Barrows Tatibouet
Thomas Warren Thaler
David M. Trebing
Christopher M. White
Thomas R. Wilcox, Jr.
Justin L. Wyner

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Helen H. Berkeley
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Arthur M. Geoffrion
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Beverly Lannquist Hamilton
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Carol McGee
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Peter M. Small
Marjorie P. Snelling
Lionel B. Spiro
Edward J. Sullivan
Bryan C. Sykes
Mary M. Tedesco
Kathleen Van Demark
Diana E. Warren
Brenda M. Williams

TRUSTEES EMERITI

Rodney Armstrong
Richard H. Benson
John G.L. Cabot
William M. Crozier, Jr.
Allis Ferguson Edelman
William M. Fowler, Jr.
Judith Huber Halseth
Virginia M. Hamister
Kenneth E. Haughton

James Thomas Larkin
John A. Moore
Frank C. Ripley
Meriwether C. Schmid
Alvy Ray Smith
Robert C. Stevens
John Lowell Thorndike
Helen Schatvet Ullmann

HONORARY TRUSTEES EMERITI

Ralph J. Crandall
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Priscilla C. Greenlees

Beverly B. Haughton
J. Phillip London
George C. Putnam



Our Future Vision

Today we serve 250,000+ members ■ And millions of online users ■ With more than 1.4 billion records ■ We are now a \$10 million+ a year business ■ But we have outgrown our headquarters ■ And so we are expanding into a new building ■ Where we can better serve members and the public ■ With more space for 90 staff members and dozens of volunteers ■ Where we will mentor the next generation of family historians ■ And inspire and connect with people of all backgrounds ■ Where we will produce more scholarship and programs ■ And offer new learning experiences in genealogy, history, and DNA ■ Where we will provide a premium retail experience with food service ■ Making our society a destination ■ And fulfilling our promise as America's leading nonprofit genealogical organization

Our future is a bright one . . .

Please join us!

■ *The Cornerstone Campaign for 97 Newbury Street*



A key element of our people-centric strategic plan is to provide an enhanced range of personalized services through an expanded headquarters that will allow us to better serve members across the country as well as reach out to a broader audience of local visitors and tourists.

The first major step in carrying out our vision to serve our growing constituency and the next generation of family historians took place in late 2012 when we entered into an agreement to purchase the four-story 1874 brownstone next door at 97 Newbury Street. After acquiring the building with funds raised during the final stages of our capital campaign, we launched the **Cornerstone Project**, setting in motion a multi-year program to carefully study, plan, fundraise, and then, in due course, strategically renovate and expand our facilities.

Over the past fiscal year, several major milestones occurred in the Cornerstone Project.

In April 2017, our Trustee Thomas Bailey Hagen made the lead gift of \$3 million to the project; thanks to his incredible generosity, we were able to engage renowned Boston architectural firm

Schwartz/Silver to work with us to draft a master plan that thoughtfully lays out the blue print for renovating and expanding our complex in a manner that creates compelling experiences—in person and virtually—that will educate, inspire, and connect individuals and families for generations to come through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.



TRUSTEE THOMAS BAILEY HAGEN AND BRENTON SIMONS.

In 2017 we also commenced a business planning process with leading nonprofit consultants to ensure a vibrant and engaging family history experience that is delivered under a sustainable financial model.

We also began discussions with retail partners to create a signature Museum Store destination that will offer unique gifts and products that celebrate families, honor our nation's history, and will be cherished for generations.

In the fullness of time, the Cornerstone Project will include an expanded visitor center, food service, and a destination retail experience on the first floor of our headquarters, a learning center to expand programs—in person and online—to members, young people, and diverse communities near and far, a tech-oriented interpretive center with museum installations, and collaborate workspaces to allow our world-renown experts to provide consultations, conduct research, and produce vital, award-winning scholarship to advance the study of family history.

The Cornerstone Society

Judith Avery
 Helen H. Berkeley
 Nordahl and Suzanne Brue
 John G. L. Cabot
 Stephen H. Case
 Judith W. and Louis M. Freeman
 Thomas Bailey Hagen
 John F. Keane
 David W. Kruger
 Andrew P. Langlois
 Jo Anne Makely
 William R. Marsh, M.D.
 Nancy S. Maulsby
 Carol R. Mc Gee
 Peck Stacpoole Foundation
 The Arnold Garrison Foundation
 Nancy Clay Webster
 Wallace S. and Isobel B.* Wilson
 Anonymous (5)

*Deceased

BELOW: 97 NEWBURY STREET FAÇADE RENDERING



CORNERSTONE PROJECT COMPONENTS

DISCOVERY CENTER

To meet one of our highest strategic priorities, the Discovery Center will be a state-of-the-art museum space that combines history and technology to connect, educate, and inspire visitors of all ages and backgrounds. Using smart technology platforms and interactive design, the Discovery Center will feature immersive exhibits that tell the stories of the American experience—from immigration to westward expansion; from diaspora to manifest destiny; from Irish to Italian to Jewish to African American to Native American history. The Discovery Center will also contain a groundbreaking exhibit on DNA and genetics. School groups and families alike will benefit from experiences and content we are uniquely qualified to provide. Each of our interactive exhibits will transport visitors, deepen their sense of identity and belonging, and provide a greater understanding of their families' role in human history.

PUBLIC ENTRANCE

A new, open, modern, and welcoming entry to our headquarters will invite visitors to enter a retail space, café, and Discovery Center and encourage further engagement with family history experiences throughout the complex.

MUSEUM SHOP

A street-level retail experience will offer family history resources and gifts from NEHGS and other collaborating nonprofit organizations.



LEARNING CENTER

A state-of-the-art facility for expanded programming with scholars, multi-generational audiences, and diverse communities will provide flexible classrooms equipped for the production and broadcasting of seminars and webinars on family history throughout the world.

COLLABORATIVE WORKSPACES

Workspace for the newly launched Jewish Heritage Center (a collaboration with the American Jewish Historical Society) and similar groundbreaking research centers (e.g., African-American, Irish, etc.) and collaborative initiatives (e.g., DNA screening) will enable us to produce new scholarship and reach broader, previously underserved audiences.

The Cornerstone Project will have an important and enduring positive effect on the study of history and genealogy for decades to come. It will serve a national audience of historians, genealogists, educators, curators, and museum professionals, and will be a magnet to thousands of families and tourists visiting the historic Back Bay of Boston.

We look forward to keeping our members apprised of this exciting development as it progresses in the years ahead. If you would like more information about the Cornerstone Project at 97 Newbury Street, including its naming opportunities, please contact Susan Fugliese, Vice President, at susan.fugliese@nehgs.org or 617-226-1218.



2020 Commemorations

In the year 2020, our nation and this institution will each commemorate significant milestones. The 400th anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower* and the 175th anniversary of the founding of the New England Historic Genealogical Society are events of national and international significance.

The story of the Pilgrims and the native people of the Wampanoag Nation is no less than the story of the founding of America.

The creation of the New England Historic Genealogical Society as the first genealogical organization in the world has allowed for countless millions of people to explore their heritage in ways not possible elsewhere and, as a result, our work has forever influenced the way people see history and themselves.

Beginning in 2017 and continuing through 2020, we will engage in a series of programs, publications, exhibitions, and tours that will touch on the key themes of exploration, innovation, religious freedom, self-governance, immigration, and thanksgiving as we commemorate the enduring legacies of a country and an institution.

In the fall of 2017, we launched an online portal called *Mayflower.AmericanAncestors.org* that provides biographical and genealogical sketches for each *Mayflower* passenger, highlights our 2020 activities, and links to a variety of resources for early New England research. The website also hosts the largest online gallery of *Mayflower* descendants in the world. More than 1,000 individuals from all fifty states and from across the globe—Australia to Hungary—have added their pictures to our interactive map and expressed what being a *Mayflower* descendant means to them. We will continue to add new scholarship, features, and experiences on the website through the year 2020.

Specific activities will include three 400th-anniversary tours with the General Society of *Mayflower* Descendants and Plimoth Plantation to places of historical and cultural importance. The first will be a 2018 tour to Scrooby Manor and environs led by Robert Charles Anderson, where we will follow the paths of William Bradford, William Brewster, and others in the important

years leading up to the decision to leave England. The second tour in the series will be a 2019 visit to the Netherlands, where we will explore Leiden, the Leiden congregation, Delft, and Amsterdam to gain an understanding of Pilgrim life before the voyage to the New World. The third tour of the series will bring us to the south of England to see Plymouth, Southampton, London, Sandwich, and Canterbury to illuminate the moments before the launch of the *Mayflower* and the journey that would change the world.

Planning for domestic tours is also underway as Plymouth and Massachusetts are foundational to American history and genealogy.

In spring 2018, we are hosting a ground-breaking exhibition: "Our Story: 400 Years of Wampanoag History," which will be an essential educational resource for telling an often omitted part of early American history. Amongst other key aspects of Wampanoag history, visitors will learn of the kidnappings and enslavement of Wampanoag people by Europeans in the years prior to 1620, the messenger runners who carried news throughout the nation, and some of the devastating effects of the European-brought plague that wiped out up to 90% of the Wampanoag people in a two-year span.

New scholarship will also emerge from our commemorations. Four new books from the Great Migration Study Project are in the works—a narrative history of the period: *Puritan Pedigrees: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England*, and three research compendia: *The East Anglian Migration*, *The West Country Migration*, and *The Mayflower Migration*.

We are proud to hold leadership positions in the national and international planning and execution of commemoration activities for 2020 with Brenton Simons serving on the Board of Directors of Plymouth 400, the lead organization charged with 400th-anniversary events. Many other NEHGS staff members are participating with key partners to make 2020 a success.

We are well poised to be at the forefront of our country's commemoration activities. As the first institution dedicated to genealogy, we are the nation's collective memory. We serve a broad and diverse audience by educating, inspiring, and connecting people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

Website and New Databases

The following databases were added to
AmericanAncestors.org during Fiscal Year 2017:

NEW DATABASES

- Berkshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1791–1900
- Bristol County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1686–1880
- Early Murphys in Newport, RI
- Massachusetts: (Image Only) Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, 1789–1900 (87 volumes)
- Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, 1789–1900 (51 volumes)
- Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700–1880 (7 volumes)
- North American Cemetery Transcriptions from NEHGS Manuscripts (57 volumes)



ADDITIONS TO EXISTING DATABASES

- American Ancestors Magazine (Vol. 17)
- Early New England Families, 1641–1700 (5 volumes)
- Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 (53 volumes)
- Hampshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1660–1889 (175,000 individual file papers)
- Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850 (8 volumes)
- The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (Vol. 170)
- Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 (34 volumes)

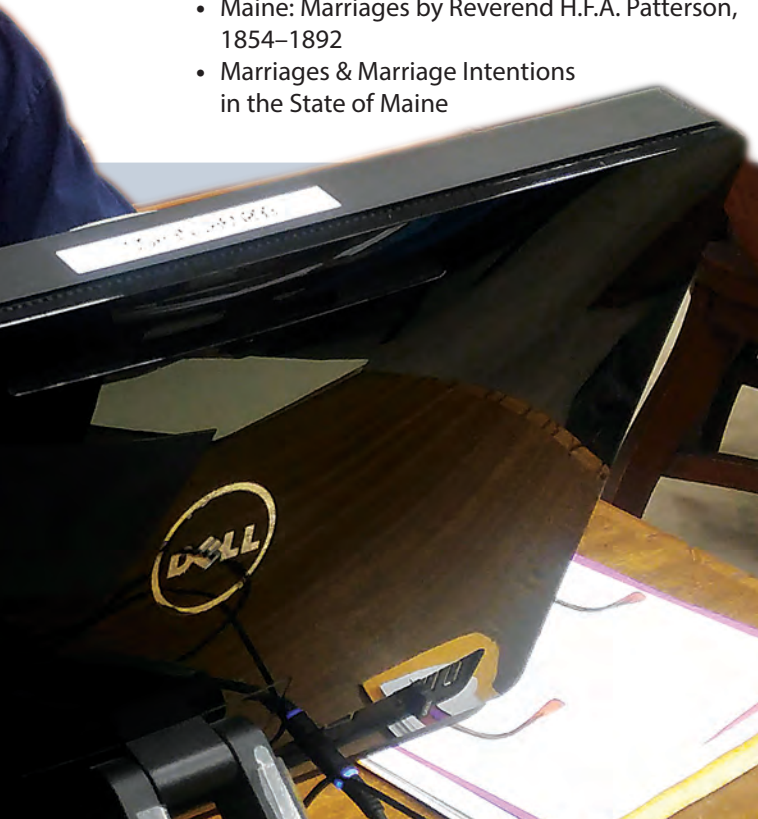
IMPROVED DATABASES

- Braintree, MA: Vital and Church Records, 1638–1850
- Connecticut Marriages and Deaths 1790–1833
- Cork, Ireland: Index to Marriage Bonds from the Diocese of Cloyne
- Dover, NH: Vital Records, 1649–1892
- Gray, ME: Marriages and Publishments 1778–1891
- Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to N.E. 1620–1633, Vols. I–III
- Hampton, NH Vital Records, 1615–1971
- Hartford, CT: General Index of Land Records of the Town of Hartford, 1639–1839
- Hingham, MA: Vital Records 1637–1845
- Kennebunkport, ME: Voters for Town Officers, March 1833
- Londonderry, NH: Vital Records 1720–1910
- Maine Marriages Index, 1892–1966, 1977–1996
- Maine: Marriages by Reverend H.F.A. Patterson, 1854–1892
- Marriages & Marriage Intentions in the State of Maine

- Massachusetts Revolutionary War Pensioners' Receipts, 1827–1836
- New Haven, CT: Vital Records, 1649–1850
- Onondaga County, NY: Abstracts of Wills, 1795–1883
- Plaistow, NH: Vital Records 1726–1821
- Quincy, MA: Vital and Church Records, 1672–1870
- Randolph, MA: Vital Records, 1731–1875
- Richmond, ME: Marriage Records of the Methodist Episcopal Church
- Salisbury, MA: Marriages by Elder Jabez True, 1812–1835
- Seymour, CT: Vital Records 1700–1910
- Suffolk County Probate Index V.1–3
- Waterville, ME: Marriages and Intentions 1772–1899
- Wells, ME: Vital Records, 1737–1841
- Westport, ME: Marriages and Marriage Intentions, 1828–1854
- Woodbury, Connecticut: Marriages, Deaths, and Early Settlers 1684–1784
- Woonsocket, RI: 1842 Heads of Families

Contributed to NEHGS by FamilySearch.org

- Argentina: Baptisms, 1645–1930
- California: Birth Index, 1905–1995
- California: Births and Christenings, 1812–1988
- Norfolk, England: Parish Registers, 1510–1997
- Scotland: Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950
- Scotland: Marriages, 1561–1910
- United States 1930 Federal Census
- West Virginia: Naturalization Records, 1814–1991



Historic Catholic Records Online Project

A collaboration between NEHGS and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, the Historic Catholic Records Online Project was launched to the public in January 2017. The project covers the 1789–1900 portion of the Archdiocese sacramental-record collection—estimated at nearly 1,000 volumes, 400,000 pages, and 10 million names to be indexed. It will take several years to complete the project. At that point, NEHGS and the Archdiocese will assess the completed work and consider the possibility of digitizing records beyond 1900.

The Archdiocese of Boston records are available in two different formats on AmericanAncestors.org: an image-only collection and a database with a searchable index plus images. The image-only collection is available for free to anyone with a NEHGS guest registration. The searchable database is accessible to our NEHGS members. As soon as we complete the digital imaging of a parish and perform quality assurance checks, we upload the images to the image-only collection so researchers can use them even before we have created a searchable index. Later, when the indexing of a parish is complete, we upload the index and images to the searchable database.

By fall 2017, thanks to the outstanding work of our staff and volunteers, we had completed the digital imaging of 22 parishes and missions, which consist of 142 volumes and 40,948 pages. This included the records of the largest parish in the Archdiocese—Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. The records of all these parishes were made available in the image-only collection on AmericanAncestors.org. Eleven of the 22 parishes and missions—63 volumes, 263,279 records, and 979,348 names—were also indexed, with data

“By fall 2017 . . . we had completed the digital imaging of 22 parishes and missions, which consist of 142 volumes and 40,948 pages.”

and images uploaded to the searchable database on AmericanAncestors.org.

The majority of the Archdiocese’s sacramental records are baptisms and marriages. This works well for researchers because these two types of records typically contain the largest amount of information. There are also many records of first communions, confirmations, ordinations, sick calls, and funerals. A few parishes have records of people admitted to the church, and we have also come across accounting records kept by some of the priests.

Archdiocese of Boston records are written in a variety of languages. Most entries are in Latin or English, but many records are in French, German, or Italian. Researchers do not need to know these languages to use the records on AmericanAncestors.org. Our staff and volunteers enter English synonyms for names, and researchers can enter these synonyms in their search. Likewise, although all the records are handwritten—with some more difficult to read than others—the researcher does not have to be proficient with reading old handwriting to use the records in the searchable collections. They can click on the Transcript view for a transcription of names and dates.

The geographic scope of the records extends well beyond Boston. The Archdiocese reaches as far north in Massachusetts as Amesbury, as far west as Ashby, and as far south as Rochester. By the time this digitization project is complete, it will cover at least 84 towns and 150 parishes. The records also include missions to places such as Providence, Rhode Island, and St. John, New Brunswick. In addition, in the early decades of the Archdiocese, priests from some parishes would travel far and wide to administer sacraments to Catholics living in areas without a church, and the sacraments would be documented in the records of Archdiocese of Boston parishes.

Over the past year, a variety of organizations have announced digitization collaborations with other U.S. archdioceses. We are grateful to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston for being a trailblazer in the effort to improve access to historical information for family researchers all over the world, and we look forward to seeing more and more records appearing online in the coming years.

[Faint, handwritten Latin text from an old manuscript, including names like 'Caspares', 'Hans', and 'Matthias']



TheRoot.com and *Finding Your Roots*

During Fiscal Year 2017, we contributed 45 research articles to TheRoot.com. Co-authors included Meaghan Siekman, Katrina Fahy, Daniel Sousa, Zachary Garceau, Lindsay Fulton, and Jason Amos.

During the same time period,, researchers served as genealogical fact-checkers for Season 4 of *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* Those researchers included Lindsay Fulton, Jason Amos, Katrina Fahy, Sheilagh Doerfler, and Andrew Krea. One of the more memorable episodes from Season 4 was “The Impression: Bernie Sanders and Larry David.”

COMMENTS FROM THEROOT.COM READERS:

“I want to thank you and Professor Gates on behalf of my family. A chance encounter with a memorial to a Confederate general led to an email to The Root [that] has filled a few holes on our family tree. I so appreciate the time and effort put into this response.”

“Thank you for all your work, Professor Gates. I really love this series! I learn something new every time I read it!”



FINDING YOUR ROOTS: THE SEEDLINGS

Senior Researcher, Katrina Fahy and Director of Research Services, Lindsay Fulton visited the Finding Your Roots (FYR) Summer Camp at the Pennsylvania State University on June 24, 2017, and July 10, 2017, respectively, where they each delivered an original curriculum on family history and genealogy. The FYR camp program is a formal research project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson and Rockefeller Foundations. The primary goal of the camp is to stimulate interest in science by getting kids to study themselves—their DNA, their bodies, and their family histories—as scientists. This approach holds great promise for science education for all youth, but particularly for underrepresented minority youth and girls. The session given on July 10, 2017 was recorded and will be shared as an inspiration to STEM learning on the PBS series website entitled “Finding Your Roots: The Seedlings”; it will also be used as part of the camp curriculum’s teacher support materials as the program spreads out across the country.

Ancestral Showcase

In April 2018, we launched an exciting new staff-inspired exhibit in the stairwells between the third and sixth floors. The NEHGS Ancestral Showcase features large-format images of staff members paired with their ancestors, along with brief descriptions of the subjects. The Showcase provides visitors with a visual connection to the deep passion and dedication we feel for family history and our personal connections to the past.



ZACHARY GARCEAU, RESEARCHER

"My great-grandmother, Angelina Maria Cassani, with my mother on my mother's wedding day, 14 February 1987."

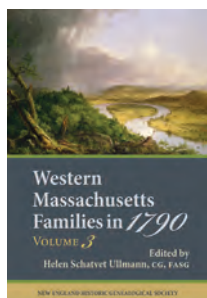


MEGAN PETERSON, JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

"Both of my maternal great-grandmothers (pictured here in 1942) emigrated from Southern Italy (in 1910 and 1911, at ages 17 and 22) and settled in Boston's North End."

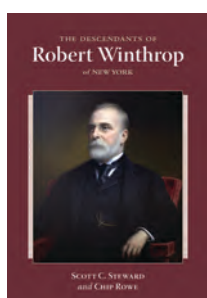
Publications

During the course of fiscal year 2017, we published a total of twenty-one new titles.



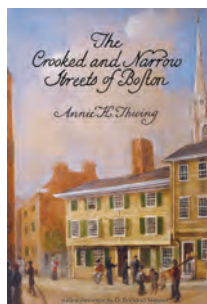
NEHGS BOOKS

- *Pioneers of Steuben County, New York: Migrations from New England, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, 1722–1790* by Marian S. Henry
- *Western Massachusetts Families, Volume 3* by Helen Schatvet Ullman, CG, FASG
- *Early New England Families* (Hardcover) by Alicia Crane Williams
- *Great Migration Newsletter, Volumes 1–25* by Robert Charles Anderson
- *Great Migration Newsletter, Volumes 21–25* by Robert Charles Anderson



NEWBURY STREET PRESS BOOKS

- *Descendants of Anthony Smith* by Helen Schatvet Ullman, CG, FASG
- *The Ancestry of Charles Augustus Hoff* by Patricia Law Hatcher
- *The Descendants of Robert Winthrop of New York* by Scott C. Steward and Chip Rowe
- *Phippen Genealogy* by John S. Fipphen and Richard C. Fipphen



REPRINTS OF GENEALOGICAL CLASSICS

- *The Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown: In the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1629–1818* by Thomas Wyman
- *The History and Antiquities of Every Town in the State of New York* by John Barber and Henry Howe
- *Chronicles of the First Planters of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, From 1623 to 1636* by Alexander Young
- *Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers of the Colony of Plymouth, From 1602 to 1625* by Alexander Young
- *The Founders: Portraits of Persons Born Abroad Who Came to the Colonies in North America Before the Year 1701* by Charles Knowles Bolton
- *The Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston* by Annie Haven Thwing



PORTABLE GENEALOGIST QUICK-REFERENCE GUIDES

- *Reference Notes* by Kyle Hurst
- *Pennsylvania Research* by Ann Lawthers
- *Cemetery and Gravestone Research* by Helen Herzer
- *Using Catholic Records* by Jeanne Belmonte
- *Essential Abbreviations and Acronyms* by Chip Rowe
- *Additional Abbreviations and Acronyms* by Chip Rowe



SPECIAL HONOREE PUBLICATIONS

Ancestors of Stacy Schiff
by Rhonda R. McClure
with Nancy Bernard



Ancestry of Winston Groom
by Eileen Curley Pironti
with Meaghan E. H. Siekman

NEWBURY STREET PRESS PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN

- *Ancestors of Elizabeth Dorothy (Johnson) McCaslin*
- *The Dwyer, Ryan, Quinn, and Harrington Families*
- *Some Descendants of Rev. Ethan and Bathsheba (Sanford) Smith*

VITA BREVIS

Vita Brevis, NEHGS's blog, is designed to offer the reader short essays as well as news of the greater genealogical community. It includes posts on research methods—applicable to a variety of genealogical subjects—as well as results. Like a mosaic, these posts have already become a resource for the genealogical researcher to explore.

Throughout FY17, contributors to *Vita Brevis* include most of the Society's genealogists as well as authors like Robert Charles Anderson, FASG (the Great Migration series), and Bill Griffith (The Stranger in My Genes). Subject matter ranges from medieval European genealogical research to the modern day, hopscotching from the voyage of the *Mayflower* to twentieth-century immigration through Ellis Island. While the blog

occasionally engages with breaking news, for the most part contributors tell a story—sometimes on themselves—as they pose questions and work out a way to plausible answers. Learning how to question assumptions—their own or those of earlier researchers—helps *Vita Brevis* bloggers break through intractable “brick walls”; often, too, the process is as engaging as the results can be pleasing.

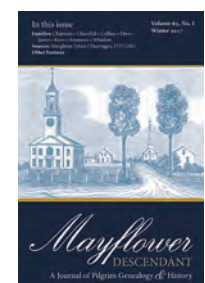
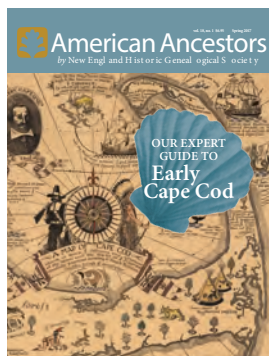
With almost one-and-a-half million page views in the life of the blog (launched in January 2014), *Vita Brevis* has become an important part of its readers' daily routine. A reader's comment about an August 2017 post can stand for many such responses: “Wonderful read—you had me on the edge of my seat.”

NEW WEEKLY GENEALOGIST NEWSLETTER FORMAT

Our very successful weekly newsletter received a design “makeover” to help readers make the most of its varied and compelling content.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY PROJECT INSIDER NEWSLETTER

This new quarterly newsletter gives Contributing-level members exclusive insight into the original scholarship being done on our Great Migration, Early New England Families, Western Massachusetts Families, and Early Vermont Settlers study projects.



Tours and Programs

FY2017

Using and Evaluating Mug Books

September 2, 2016

Mitzi! Jewish Photographers and Starlets

September 7, 2016

Book Talk: *The Boston Castrato*

September 21, 2016

Haven to Home Exhibit Launch

September 25, 2016

Imperiled Privilege: The

Passionate Women of

Boston's Colonial Elite

October 5, 2016

If These Walls Could

Talk: Researching the

History of a Home

October 7, 2016

Fall Research Getaway

October 13–15, 2016

The Gallows Hill Project:

Locating the Site Where Salem

"Witches" were Hanged

October 19, 2016

DNA Day

October 22, 2016

Book Event: *The Irish in New England*

October 26, 2016

Heraldry in America Seminar

October 29, 2016

Salt Lake City Research Tour

October 30–

November 6, 2016

Become a FamilySearch.org Power User

November 4, 2016

Game of Queens: 16th C.

Female Rulers

November 10, 2016

Lafayette's Farewell Tour

November 12, 2016

Researching Early New

England Ancestors

November 19, 2016

Imagining Ichabod

December 1, 2016

From Ginger to Jell-O: An

Unexpected Christmas History

December 2, 2016

Family Day & Fireside Chats (Open House)

December 10, 2016

Unexpected Genealogy

Adventures in the

Czech Republic

January 5, 2017

Building Your Genealogical Skills

January 7, 14, and 21, 2017

Applying to the Daughters of

the American Revolution

January 14, 2017

Introduction to Heraldry

February 3, 2017

Researching WWI and

WWII Ancestors

February 21, 2017

Winter Research Getaway

February 23–25, 2017

Locate! Research! Analyze!

Learn how to start your

family genealogy

February 25, 2017

Book Event: Darkness

Falls on the Land of Light:

Experiencing Religious

Awakenings in Eighteenth-

Century New England

March 1, 2017

Using Manuscripts for

Family History Research

March 3, 2017

Washington DC Research Tour

March 5–12, 2017

The Fun of Writing Oral

History and Biography:

Lessons from Author and

Historian Larry Ruttman

March 8, 2017

NEHGS/TIARA Irish

Genealogy Seminar

March 11, 2017

Houston NEHGS Roadshow

March 18, 2017

New York and Connecticut:

Finding Records, Telling Stories

March 25, 2017

Tracing Your Irish Roots

March 25, 2017

Building Your Genealogical Skills

April 1, 8, and 15, 2017

Book Event: *The Race Underground*

April 5, 2017

Applying to Lineage Societies

April 7, 2017

John Singer Sargent in Boston

April 13, 2017

"Make thy castles high and

fair"—Medieval Castles

to Modern Fantasies

April 18, 2017

Book Event: *Damnably Heresy:*

William Pynchon, the Indians,

and the First Book Banned

(and Burned) in Boston

April 19, 2017

Book Event: *With Their Bare*

Hands: The AEF, the 79th

Division, and American Jews

April 27, 2017

The NEHGS Book Club

April 29, 2017

Breaking Down

Genealogical Brick Walls

April 30, 2017

Researching WWI

Veteran Ancestors

May 5, 2017

Benjamin Franklin in

London: The British Life of

America's Founding Father

May 11, 2017

Induction Ceremony of NASA

Astronauts into the Jewish-

American Hall of Fame

May 17, 2017

Italian Family History Day

May 20, 2017

Mapping the Genome of Black

and White Photography

May 24, 2017

Treacherous Beauty

May 25, 2017

Spring Research Getaway

June 1–3, 2017

Seattle NEHGS Roadshow

June 10, 2017

Building Your Genealogical Skills

June 10, 17, and 24, 2017

Edinburgh Research Tour

June 18–25, 2017

Free Fun Friday

July 7, 2017

NEHGS Summer Institute:

Writing and Publishing a

Genealogical Article

July 11–15, 2017

Open Newbury

July 23, 2017

Using AmericanAncestors.org

August 4, 2017

Come Home to New England

August 8–12, 2017

Open Newbury

August 13, 2017

Preservation Roadshow

August 19, 2017

Lineage Society Summit

August 26, 2017

PRAISE FOR IN-PERSON EVENTS

"This was my first experience researching with a group, and I had some hesitation. Within minutes of meeting the staff, all hesitation was removed and I was over the moon happy about the experience."

— Washington, DC, Research Tour participant, Joan Musser

"Thank you so much for making this possible. I've advanced so much over one weekend, comparable to four years at home online and in communication with others."

—Spring Research Getaway Participant, Karen Stanford

Online Programs

FY2017

Substitutes for pre-1880
New York Vital Records
September 22, 2016

Immigration and
Naturalization in America
October 5, 12, and 19, 2016

Researching the
History of a House
October 20, 2016

For Those Who Served:
Researching Your
Veteran Ancestors
November 9, 16, 30,
December 7, and 14, 2016

Getting the Most from Your
NEHGS Membership
November 17, 2016

Organizing and Preserving
Your Family History Papers
December 15, 2016

Breaking Down
Genealogical Brick Walls:
Strategies for Success
January 11, 18, and 25, 2017

Using and Evaluating
Mug Books
January 19, 2017

Searching Journals on
AmericanAncestors.org
February 16, 2017

Researching WWI and
WWII ancestors
February 21, 2017

Mastering New York Research
March 22, 29, April 5,
12, and 19, 2017

Connecticut Resources at NEHGS
April 13, 2017

Elements of Genealogical
Analysis
May 3, 10, 17, 24,
and 31, 2017

A Guide to Pennsylvania
Resources
May 18, 2017

Choosing a DNA Test for
Family History Research
June 15, 2017

Researching Early New
England Ancestors
July 5, 12, 19, 26, and
August 2, 2017

Boston's Historic Catholic
Records Project
July 20, 2017

Fraternally Yours: Finding
Your Ancestors in Fraternal
Organization Records
August 24, 2017

PRAISE FOR ONLINE PROGRAMS

"Great job in providing these webinars! They are such a wonderful resource and learning opportunity. I am constantly recommending people join you and these offer more to folks who wonder how often they might be able to get to the library and whether it is worth it!"
—Patricia Cirone, Webinar participant

"Thanks for providing online learning opportunities. I am unable to attend many of the sessions offered by my local genealogical society due to work and family demands, so quality online instruction is important to me."
— Pat Johnson, Webinar participant

"Another great course. Although I have been researching my family for over four decades, your educational material always adds to my skill sets. Thank you."
—Richard Fipphen, Online Course student



Heritage Tours

NEHGS Heritage Tours provide our constituents and their friends and families with educational opportunities that illuminate the lives of our ancestors through exclusive, behind-the-scenes experiences. Led by one of our experts—including Director of the Great Migration Study Project Robert Charles Anderson, historian Donald R. Friary, and Curator of Special Collections Curt DiCamillo—each tour explores the art, architecture, history, and landscape of our forbearers.



Coming in 2018



Palladian Pathways in Italy's Veneto
May 6–12, 2018

A GOLDEN LAND: COUNTRY HOUSES & GARDENS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

From September 25 to October 1, 2016, Curt DiCamillo led a group through some of the most historic and exquisitely appointed country houses in England. The group was accommodated in the grand splendor of Hartwell House, once home to exiled King Louis XVIII of France. They dined with Lord and Lady Astor at their magnificent house, Clivedon, which majestically stands on a high cliff above the River Thames. They experienced the glories of the Italianate masterpiece, West Wycombe Park, where they met its owners, Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood. Other private excursions included St. Paul's Walden Bury, where they were received by its owners, Sir Simon and Lady Bowes-Lyon (Sir Simon is the first cousin of Queen Elizabeth II), and Waddesdon Manor, for an in-depth tour of the incomparable Rothschild Collection.

For more information on Heritage Tours, please contact Jenna LaRiviere, Coordinator of Special Events and Heritage Tours, at jenna.lariviere@nehgs.org or 617-226-1215.



The Great Houses of Yorkshire
June 24–30, 2018



Pilgrim Roots of the Great Migration
August 7–15, 2018



The Dowager's Delights: Downton Abbey® & the Best of the English Country House • September 23–29, 2018

PHOTOS FROM RECENT HERITAGE TOURS

Clockwise from top left: Aldenham Hall in Shropshire (photo by Louis Freeman); Waddesdon Manor, the magnificent home of the Rothschild family; dinner at Chillington Hall hosted by John Giffard, whose family have been here since the 11th century; the group at Dorney Court; lunch on the terrace at West Wycombe Park hosted by Sir Edward Dashwood.



Jewish Heritage Center



In 2017, the Jewish Heritage Center continued its focus on expanding outreach through programming, exhibits, and collection development. This will continue to remain our focus, while enhancing our family history offerings, as we move forward with the development of a comprehensive resource for exploring and preserving the histories of Jewish families and institutions in New England and beyond.

COLLECTION AND ARCHIVES HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Boston Port project, we digitized 32 boxes with approximately 16,000 documents, which are now available online at digitalcollections.AmericanAncestors.org.

We accessioned 14 collections, including the collection of the Jewish Historical Society of

Western Massachusetts, the remaining collections of the Jewish Heritage Center of the North Shore, and the Papers of Rabbi Avraham and Hannah Friedman.

We processed, and made available to researchers, 20 collections, including the Papers of Arthur Obermayer, the Papers of Lionel B. Spiro, and the Records of the Vilna Shul of Boston, Massachusetts. Finding aids for all of these processed collections are available online at JewishHeritageCenter.org.

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

In commemoration of America's entry in World War I, we collaborated with R. Stanton Avery Special Collections at NEHGS and Historic Newton to create a building-wide exhibit, "Voices of War: Americans in World War I." The exhibit told the story of Col. Bernard L. Gorfinkle and Charles Judd Farley using archival materials from both collections. The exhibit received a grant from the World War I and America Commission, and a companion exhibit was created online at AmericanAncestors.org/browse/jhc/wwi.

We held an induction ceremony for the Jewish American Hall of Fame for Jewish Astronauts Drs. Jeffrey Hoffman and Judith Resnick, who was posthumously honored. Dr. Hoffman gave a talk about his experiences for the event on April 17, 2017.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Below, left to right: Arthur Obermayer, Judith Obermayer, and Senator Ted Kennedy at the signing of the Small Business Innovation Development Act, for which the Obermayers were key supporters. Poster for "Voices of War: Americans in World War I: 1917-1918" exhibit. Former Jewish Heritage Center Director Judi Garner and Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman, April 17, 2017.







2017 Annual Family History Benefit Dinner with Stacy Schiff

On April 28, 155 guests joined us at the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel for the Family History Benefit Dinner, honoring author and historian Stacy Schiff with our Lifetime Achievement Award in history and biography. Councilor Mary Tedesco presented Stacy's genealogy, our first Jewish genealogy produced for an honoree. Stacy comes from a hard-working Russian Jewish family, including her father, who was President of the Schiff Clothing Company, which celebrated its ninetieth year in 1987 and was said to be "the oldest store in northern Berkshire [County] owned by the same Jewish family, and Charles Albert Levine, who flew to Germany with Clarence D. Chamberlin in June 1927, becoming the first passenger on a transatlantic flight." Former Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society William Fowler led a fascinating conversation with Stacy covering a wide range of topics including her influences, research style, and hints at her upcoming projects.

Benefactors this evening were: Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation, Thomas Bailey Hagen,



Top: Moderator Dr. William M. Fowler, Jr. in conversation with honoree Stacy Schiff. Bottom: Ryan Woods and Brenton Simons with Stacy Schiff and her genealogy.

Nancy S. Maulsby, Mark Kimball Nichols, Herbert D. Simons, Lionel and Vivian Spiro, Nancy and John Webster, and Welch & Forbes LLC. Our Silver Benefactors for the evening were: Judy Avery, David H. Burnham, Robert Pemberton and Barbara Jordan, Sit Investment Associates, and Traust Sollus Wealth Management, Albert J. Zdenek, President and CEO. Our co-chairs for the evening were: Lionel and Vivian Spiro and Morrison DeS. Webb and Stacie J. Webb who are also Silver Benefactors. Our Platinum Benefactor for the evening was Wells Fargo.



Brenton Simons, Susan Groom, honoree Winston Groom, Louis Freeman, Trustee and Life Member Judith Waite Freeman, and Ryan Woods.

2017 Fall Family History Benefit Dinner

On October 26, 2017, nearly 100 guests gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel in Boston for the Fall Family History Benefit Dinner, honoring author and bestselling historian Winston Groom with the Lifetime Achievement Award in History and Literature.

Winston Groom took the publishing world by storm when his 1986 novel *Forrest Gump* flew to the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list and stayed there for 21 weeks. He is the author of more than 20 books. In addition to *Forrest Gump* and *Gump & Co.*, Groom's novels include the award-winning *As Summers Die*, which was made into a movie starring Bette Davis; *Shiloh, 1862*; *The Aviators*; and *The Generals*. He is also the author of *Conversations with the Enemy*, a non-fiction account of the experience of an American prisoner of war in Vietnam, a brilliantly rendered Pulitzer Prize finalist. His latest novel, *El Paso*, was published by Liveright in 2016.

Brenton Simons presented our honoree with an expertly prepared genealogy of his family. Simons revealed in detail Winston's deep southern roots and ethnic variety including Croatian, Irish, Spanish, and French ancestry. Highlighted were the author's ancestors noted for their patriotic service including the Civil War, the War of 1812, and the Revolutionary War. But the surprise of the evening for Winston, who won the 2011 Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer of the Year, was that he is Harper Lee's 7th cousin once removed. He is also a 7th cousin twice removed of Truman Capote and an 8th cousin once removed of Alabama actress Tallulah Bankhead.

The dinner's Silver Benefactor was Sit Investment Associates. David H. Burnham, Stephen H. Case, Thomas Bailey Hagen, Nancy S. Maulsby, Mark Kimball Nichols, and Welch & Forbes LLC were Benefactors for the evening. Honorary Co-Chairs were Judith and Louis Freeman.

RECENT KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & HONOREES

- 2018 David McCullough
Dr. William M. Fowler, Jr.
- 2017 Winston Groom
Stacy Schiff
- 2016 David Hartman
Bob Schieffer
Cokie Roberts
- 2015 Nathaniel Philbrick
HRH Princess Michael of Kent
James Carville and Mary Matalin
- 2014 Doris Kearns Goodwin
Dame Angela Lansbury
- 2013 David Gergen
- 2012 Michael and Kitty Dukakis
Bryan Sykes
- 2011 Ken Burns
- 2010 Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Annette Gordon-Reed
- 2009 Bill Griffith
Mayor Thomas M. Menino
- 2008 Mary Beth Norton

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS OF YEAR-END AUGUST 31, 2017

BALANCE SHEET	FY17	FY16	FY15
Total Assets	\$53,639,259	\$49,492,630	\$49,078,871
Liabilities	\$4,899,767	\$5,845,935	\$5,468,447
Net Assets	\$48,739,492	\$43,646,695	\$43,610,424
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$53,639,259	\$49,492,630	\$49,078,871

OPERATING FINANCIAL STATEMENT^a SEPTEMBER 1, 2016–AUGUST 31, 2017

REVENUE	FY17	FY16	FY15
Investment Return Designated for Operations ^b	\$1,809,860	\$1,480,732	\$1,501,521
Income from Operations	\$4,560,883	\$4,292,073	\$4,069,941
Contributed Income ^c	\$5,310,507	\$3,480,083	\$2,706,819
Total Revenue	\$11,681,250	\$9,252,888	\$8,278,281
EXPENSES	FY17	FY16	FY15
Member Services ^d	\$1,021,836	\$805,009	\$600,201
Research Library	\$2,905,833	\$2,599,673	\$2,268,674
Tours and Seminars	\$676,417	\$800,620	\$921,031
Retail Store	\$253,406	\$237,625	\$260,806
Publications	\$1,664,098	\$1,507,094	\$1,379,769
Website	\$1,453,514	\$1,298,401	\$1,239,614
General and Administrative	\$1,371,422	\$1,220,921	\$1,345,897
Fundraising ^d	\$832,145	\$633,938	\$701,591
Total Expenses	\$10,178,671	\$9,103,281	\$8,717,583
Net Income from Operations	\$1,502,579	\$149,607	-\$439,302
Endowment Assets ^e	\$22,302,617	\$19,937,475	\$19,386,226
Gain/(Loss) on Investments	\$2,923,194	\$1,302,936	-\$724,570

a. This financial statement represents the general operating activities for New England Historic Genealogical Society only. Other non-operating activity, including realized and unrealized gains on restricted assets, can be found within the audited financial statements.

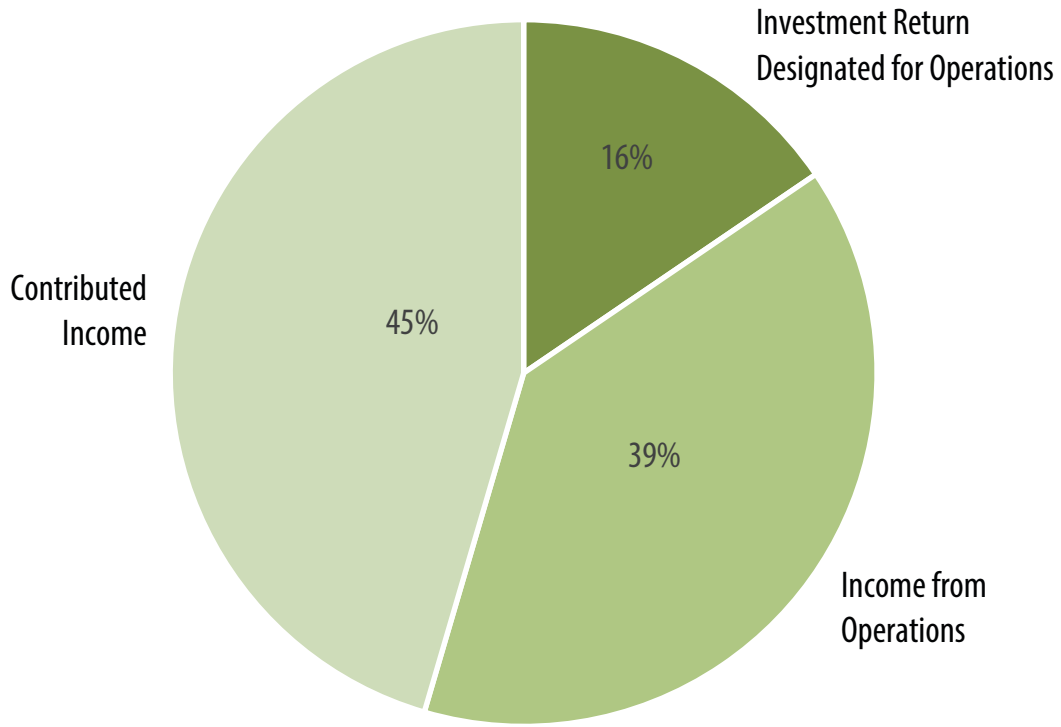
b. "Investment Return Designated for Operations" represent release of the annual draw, allocation of Family History funds, and release of related invested funds approved to support annual operations. The annual draw for FY17 was based on appropriating 4.40% of the preceding twelve quarter fair market value of the investments.

c. Excludes \$3.27M in non-operating donations to Cornerstone Project and past endowment and Capital Campaign donations.

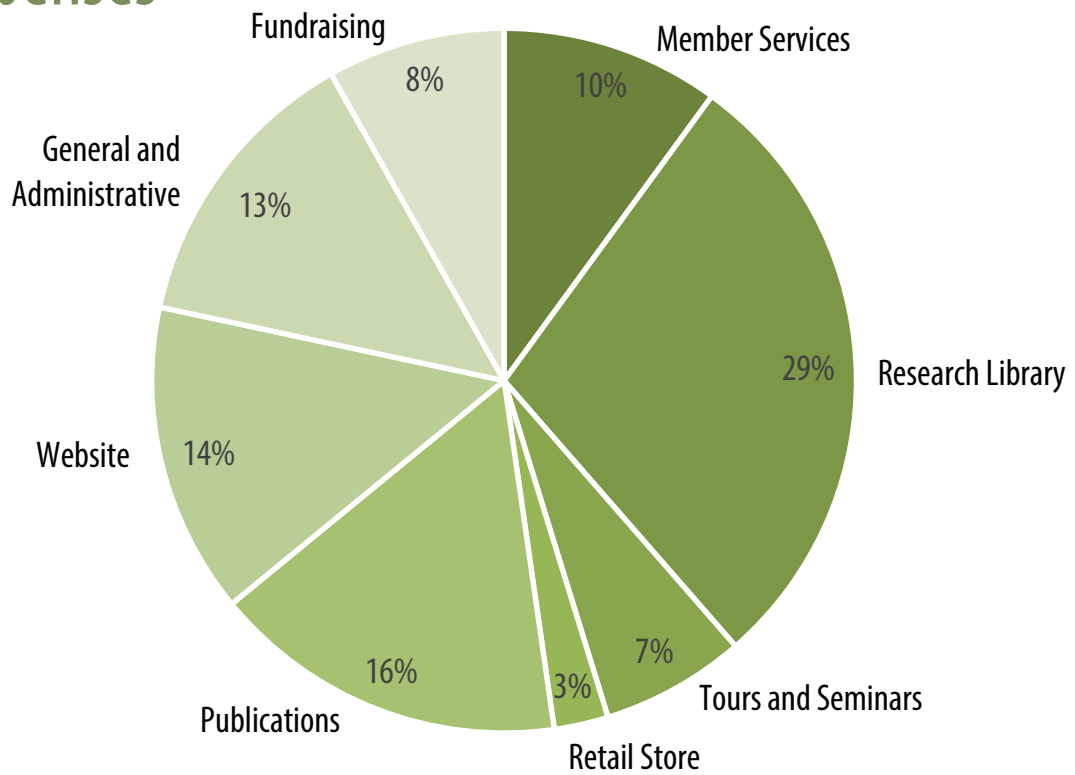
d. Financial statement amount less non-operating Cornerstone Project related costs.

e. Excludes beneficial interest in pooled income funds and charitable gift annuities.

Revenue



Expenses



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

The Founders' Society

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

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Vivian B. Treat*
Wallace S. and Isobel B.* Wilson

*Deceased

The John Quincy Adams Society

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

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Bold indicates new members of the John Quincy Adams Society.
*Deceased

The Charles Ewer Society

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

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 Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.
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Bold indicates new members of the Charles Ewer Society.

*Deceased

The Daniel Webster Society

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

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Peck Stacpoole Foundation
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Sarracenia Foundation, Inc.
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Anonymous (1)

Bold indicates new members of the Daniel Webster Society.

The Benjamin Franklin Society

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

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Anonymous (2)

*Deceased



American Ancestry

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The Henry Bond Society

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

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Anonymous (4)

Bold indicates members of the Ashburton Circle, named for the site of NEHGS's first permanent home, who have given an irrevocable gift to the Society.

*Deceased

Legacy Society

Ensuring that NEHGS connects people through scholarship, collections, and expertise for future generations, the estates of the following legacy donors made contributions during Fiscal Year 2017. We will be forever grateful that these generous individuals chose NEHGS for their final act of philanthropy.

Marcia J. Bandy

Mrs. Jayne E Bickford

Ruth Chauncey Bishop

John B. Black

Laurence E. Crofutt

Anne Hood Denny

Anne C. Drummond

William H. Eaton

Elaine A. Eddy

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Laura Gaskill Hager

Priscilla and Gustavus Ide

Mary Janvrin

Margaret and Dean Kleyn

Helyn (Anderson) Luechauer DDS

Marianne and Charles McDermon

James M. Seeley

Robert and Phebe Collins

Marilyn V. Snodgrass

Zane A. Thompson

Kathleen Roe Trevena

Edward and Martha Williams



“Given the explosive growth of interest in family history, the Society’s future has never been brighter. I hope others will join me by investing in the future of NEHGS in their estate plans with a bequest or life income gift.”

—STEVE CASE

Why I Give

Stephen Hopkins Case, Vice Chairman of the NEHGS Board of Trustees, has a life-long interest in family history. Dating back to his childhood, Steve learned about his ancestors through stories and material from his elders. Knowing where they lived, the kind of people they were, and how history affected their lives has always been intriguing to him. “Understanding them as I do now would never have been possible without the help of the superb staff at NEHGS. For example, I have gotten far enough in my research to have identified all sixteen of my great grandparents. When they were children, the presidents were Madison, Monroe, and John Quincy Adams. I am now working to discover whether any of my ancestors served in the Civil War.”

NEHGS is particularly important to Steve because of its reputation for service to its members, attention to detail, scholarship, education, excellent management, and the collegiality of all the wonderful people who comprise its staff. “No organization is more careful and thorough than NEHGS. The Society is always growing, never relaxing, constantly reaching out to an ever-increasing number of members and friends whose interest and passion for family history has been fueled by NEHGS.”

Steve was first introduced to NEHGS in 2010 by a neighbor and friend in New York, herself an active member. The people from NEHGS whom he met at a luncheon were impressive and aroused Steve’s interest to further his own research and to

get actively involved with the Society. “As a former Council member and now a Trustee, I see how special this organization is, how well it is managed, and the benefits it has to offer to over a quarter million members. My philanthropic investment in NEHGS through its planned giving program ensures a strong and bright future for this world-class organization.”

Steve is a Trustee Emeritus of Columbia University in New York where he received both undergraduate and law degrees, and is Managing Director and General Counsel of Emerald Development Managers, LP. A member of NEHGS since 2007, he serves on the Executive and Development Committees, is a member of the Henry Bond Society, the Charles Ewer Society for lifetime giving, and the Cornerstone Society. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia and author of *Treacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, The Woman Behind Benedict Arnold’s Plot to Betray America* (2012). He is an avid baseball fan and passionate opera lover and can be found frequently in the audience at the Metropolitan Opera.

During Fiscal Year 2017, NEHGS received 3,378 gifts totaling \$5,488,431 to support current programs.



William Howard Taft Circle, \$25,000+

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

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John G. L. Cabot

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Anonymous (1)

Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS's Special Projects or Family History Fund.

**Deceased*



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

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

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Bank of America
Bruce R. Bartlett
Kathryn Smith Black
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Sara Stewart Champion
Mark Thomas Cox, IV
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Harold Hunter Leach, Jr.
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Nancy S. Maulsby
Ailsie McEnteggart
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Shirley Ms. Saunders
Sit Investment Associates
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Jason H. Stevens, M.D.
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Nancy Clay Webster
Webster Family Foundation
Welch & Forbes LLC
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Brenda Williams
Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.
Anonymous (2)

Italic indicates members who made contributions to NEHGS's Special Projects or Family History Fund.

*Deceased



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

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

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

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

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Lars Albright
 Virginia Smith Alexander
Nordahl and Suzanne Brue
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*Deceased



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

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

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 The Rev. David Shepherd King
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 Sandra Davis Owen
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 Susan Newcomb Rock
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Tom and Annie Wilcox
Elizabeth Hirschhorn & Bruce H. Wilson
 Richard Wujciak
 Anonymous (8)

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*Deceased



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

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

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 Benjamin T. Wright
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*Italic indicates members who made
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Gifts herein were made between September 1, 2016, and August 31, 2017, unless otherwise specified. We have made every effort to ensure accuracy in this Annual Report. We apologize for any inadvertent error. Please notify Lena Sparks at 617-226-1267 or lena.sparks@nehgs.org to report any corrections.

New Life Benefactors (\$7,500)

Dorr B. C. Begnal

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Life Member, Judith Waite Freeman

My love of genealogy was something I never would have predicted in my early years. It was not until the imminent birth of our first grandchild, whose parents asked for family names to consider, that I realized I knew no names beyond those of my own grandparents, three of whom had died before I was born. Growing up the daughter of a career naval aviator, moving every few years and with no real ties to family beyond my parents and siblings, I was at a loss. Through serendipitous events I somehow became aware of a special library in Boston called the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Little did I know that I was beginning a wonderful journey into the field of genealogy and what wonderful discoveries were in store for me. Family research has become both a passion and an obsession for me. Interacting with an amazing staff of researchers at the NEHGS Library; participating in three "Come Home to New England" seminars; traveling with the Society for research in Salt Lake

City at the Mormon LDS Library and in England with the renown George Redmonds; exciting trips with Curt diCamillo to London for "Dowager Delights" and touring country houses in Shropshire were all wonderful and rewarding adventures. Being asked to serve on the Board of the Society in 1995 was a special honor and I have been a Trustee off and on since then. Research conferences with staff have been incredibly helpful in guiding me through the process of publishing my family genealogy *Ancestors and Descendants of Lawrence Albert Waite and Hilda Marie Slaiger of North Attleborough, Massachusetts*, soon to be completed by Newbury Street Press. The Society has grown and prospered under the superior direction of D. Brenton Simons and his staff and is headed into a new era of growth and prosperity.

Being a Life Member of NEHGS has been a tremendous life changer for me and a source of great pride.

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Volunteers

"Volunteers make a tremendous difference, whether providing help to library patrons, assisting with publications, research or Special Collections projects, working on mail-outs, restoring or conserving documents, serving on the Council of the Corporation, or digitizing and indexing Website database projects. I couldn't imagine us functioning without them!"

—Helen Herzer, Volunteer Coordinator

During the fiscal year, 215 volunteers—college and high school interns, NEHGS Trustees and Councilors—donated over 25,000 hours working at the library or from home. This is largest number of volunteer hours recorded to date and the equivalent of an amazing 12 unpaid full-time staff years.

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*Deceased



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Marie Daly: 30 Years at NEHGS



Marie Daly joined the staff of NEHGS in 1987, and many of our members may be surprised to learn that she joined it not as a Genealogist, but as our Business Manager. She was experienced in this line of work from her time on the staff of Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, where she spent 17 years before coming to NEHGS. She was already known to the Society as a visitor to the Library and active participant in the Irish genealogy community. As Business Manager, she played an important role as NEHGS implemented computerized accounting systems, created a website, and undertook a major building renovation.

In 2001, Marie informed then-Executive-Director Ralph Crandall that her true long-term goal was to work as a Genealogist in the Library. Ralph had different plans, though, and decided to appoint her as Director of Library User Services and eventually as Library Director. During that time, Marie was a strong advocate for excellent customer service, and she helped the Library adjust to the new world of technology and online information. She was also a great promoter of the Library's consultation service, and it grew significantly under her leadership.

It was not until 2012 that Marie was able to fulfill her long-held dream and officially take on the title of Genealogist. She decided to retire from the position of Library Director and reduce her schedule to part-time, sharing the position of Senior Genealogist with David Dearborn. We were very fortunate to have Marie continue her career at NEHGS in this way for the next five years.

Well known and highly respected as an expert in Irish genealogy, as well as Prince Edward Island and Massachusetts research, Marie helped to found TIARA (the Irish Ancestral Research Association) in 1983. She has lectured widely on Irish genealogy and other subjects, she authored the *Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research* with Judith Lucey in 2016, and she made it possible for countless NEHGS Library patrons to further their genealogical research.

Marie's last official day at NEHGS was December 13, 2017. On the previous day, a staff luncheon was held to celebrate her and her career. Brenton Simons presented her with a Life Membership and, from the staff, a silver necklace from Ireland with a "tree of life" pendant. We are pleased to report that she has already returned to the Library—this time as a visitor to carry out her own research.

—Jean Maguire, Library Director

Milestone Tenures

25 YEARS	John Phlo David Allen Lambert D. Brenton Simons
20 YEARS	Olga Tugarina
15 YEARS	Michael Forbes Judith Lucey
10 YEARS	Kyle Hurst Edward G. MacMahon

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



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