

Learn How to Preserve Your Family Treasures – Virtually – with the Oldest Genealogical Society in the World

From the Comfort of Your Home, Join American Ancestors | NEHGS for a Virtual Preservation Roadshow

June 4, 2020 – *Boston, Massachusetts* – Do you have important photos, books, and papers that contain precious family memories? If you plan to pass those to the next generation, you will need to take a few steps. Experts at American Ancestors can show you what to do, from the comfort of your home.

American Ancestors | NEHGS, the oldest and largest genealogical organization in the world, is holding a Virtual Preservation Roadshow, led by archivists and conservators, that will teach best practices on surveying, handling, and storing valued family materials. Experts will offer advice on how to care for items in a personal family collection so that they can be preserved indefinitely.

The event opens virtually beginning Friday, June 5, with participant access to recorded lectures and hand-outs, and culminates with a live Q&A encounter among experts, conservators, and participants between 2:00–3:30 p.m. (EDT) on Father’s Day, Sunday, June 21.

The program participation fee is US\$85.00. Registration is open, with a limited number of seats available. Reservations may be made at: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/8998240841017810689>.

Issues of maintenance and care of items accumulated over the years are continually of concern to those who are actively engaged in documenting a family’s history. This roadshow, offered by some of the nation’s leading experts in document preservation, will give solutions to common problems encountered in the process.

“Your family collections might be your closest connection to your ancestors,” said Ginevra Morse, Director of Education and Online Programs for American Ancestors.

“The items they made, used, or owned can give you a much better picture of who they were, their lives, and what they considered important. Your family treasures can even help you with genealogy research, especially manuscript records like vital records kept in a Bible or other religious text, letters from family members, and documents that were issued by governments, associations, or other organizations. Preserving them for yourself and future generations is important; it is a legacy you are tasked with protecting for the next generations.”

One of the features of the unique program offers participants the opportunity to submit a photo of



A Virtual Preservation Roadshow will be presented by American Ancestors | NEHGS beginning Friday, June 5, and culminating online on Sunday, June 21.

one item from their collection and receive advice on it from archivists and conservators. Submitted items may include photographs, albums, scrapbooks, bound volumes, born-digital or obsolete media, textiles, certificates and other documents, or other small, hand-held objects.

Participants in the Virtual Preservation Roadshow will receive:

- Access to 3+ hours of instructional video, plus handouts, articles, and templates
- Personalized advice from a qualified archivist or conservator on one family item*
(*Note: experts will not provide monetary appraisals in this feature)
- Access to a gallery of submitted items by other participants and the expert advice they generated
- Special discounts on American Ancestors | NEHGS products and virtual door prizes
- Participation in a live Q&A with instructors and a selection of submitted items for discussion
- Extended access to materials, recordings, and resources on AmericanAncestors.org until September 30, 2020.

Topics to be covered in the Roadshow's recorded sessions and/or handouts include:

- Surveying Your Collection (Recording and Handouts)
- Caring for Photos, Albums, and Scrapbooks (Recording and Handouts)
- Preserving Your Family Treasures (Recording)
- Organizing and Preserving Born-Digital Items (Handouts)
- Best Practices for Digitizing Family Papers (Handouts)
- Organizing Your Collection (Handouts)

NOTE: Registered participants will receive access to all recordings and handouts beginning on Friday, June 5. On Sunday, June 21, between 2:00–3:30 p.m. (EDT), American Ancestors will have a live Q&A with the instructors and a discussion of selected items. After that, access to all materials will continue online until 9/30/20.

The online event is but one in a growing number of new virtual programs created by American Ancestors | NEHGS to heighten engagement in family history during the current global public health crisis and resulting unprecedented at-home time.

A new companion portal on American Ancestors' award-winning website provides free resources for preserving family treasures: information, tips, and resources to get one well on the way towards responsibly caring for family treasures. It may be accessed by visiting AmericanAncestors.org/education/preserving-your-family-treasures.

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American Ancestors | New England Historic Genealogical Society serves as the nation's collective memory for family history. Founded in 1845, we are the country's oldest genealogical organization and the most respected name in the field. We bring together a broad and diverse audience seeking to understand the past by educating, inspiring, and connecting people through our scholarship, programs, collections, and expertise. Headquartered on Newbury Street in Boston, Mass., we are the most comprehensive resource for the study of family history. More at AmericanAncestors.org.

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