

Family Heritage Experience

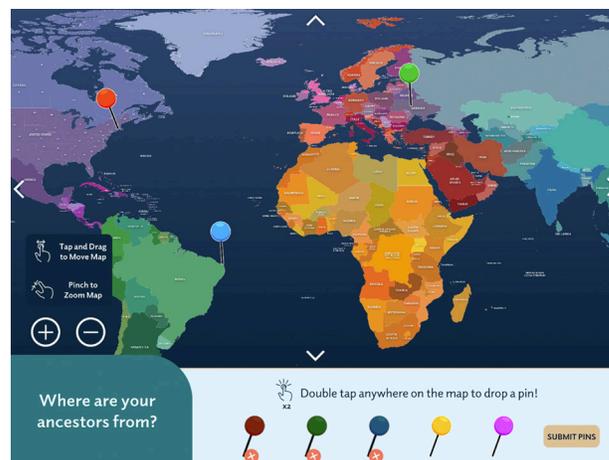
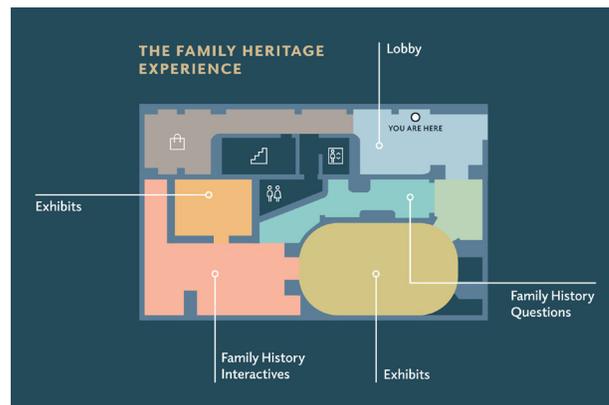


Graphics Library Information Guide

[The Where in the World Information panel](#) featuring the [Family Heritage Experience Floor Plan](#) graphic orients visitors to the features of the first floor, located near the exhibit entrance. The panel poses the question “Where in the world are you right now?” informing visitors of the locations they’ll discover at Family Heritage Experience. The floor plan illustrates the locations of the Lobby, family history interactives and exhibits that attendees are invited to explore during their visit.

On the opposite wall, also located near the entrance, the [Lobby Exhibit Digital Interactive Map](#) invites visitors to engage in adding locations from their own family history to a digital atlas displayed on an immersive two-wall 90 degree corner LED screen. Users drop virtual location pins on the map through a series of iPads indicating some of the places “where in the world” their family originated.

Visitors use iPads to place digital pins in an interactive 15-foot world map indicating where their ancestors originated, creating a compelling visual of journeys and migrations, accumulating as each guest passes through.



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Related photos available in the Family Heritage Experience press kit photo collection:



[Inside the Exhibit](#)



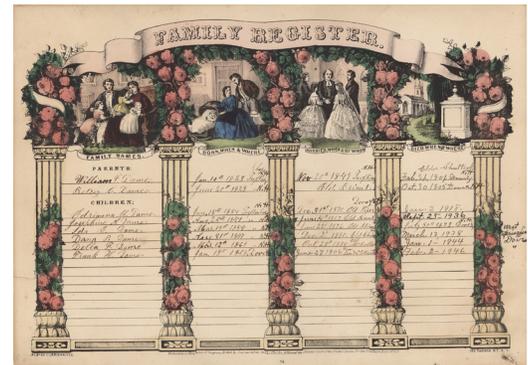
[You are Here](#)



[You have an Amazing History](#)

In the **Treasures Vault**, guests explore original and reproduction object displays preserved by a variety of cultures and individuals to preserve family history. Contemplate an intricate shell-beaded belt from the local Wampanoag nation, a patchwork quilt depicting scenes from African American family experience over centuries, photographs and items that document Jewish traditions, and artistic renditions of Anglo-American family trees from the 19th century. One of many treasures on display is the [William F Dame Family Register](#), sourced from American Ancestors Special Collections. The record is described in detail in its companion lithograph label, [The Dame Family Register](#).

Other exhibits allow visitors to explore events that took place the year they were born, learn how DNA test results shed light on genealogy, and listen to the family history research journeys of people from diverse backgrounds.



REPRODUCTION



Members of the Dame family
Dover, New Hampshire
The Dame Family Register,
20th century

Hand-colored lithograph by Currier and Ives (New York City, about 1852) with hand-inlined information
American Ancestors purchase, 2000
Ms5 487

Currier and Ives, the company famous for colored prints of 19th-century American scenes, also produced inexpensive family registers like this one. The format made it easy to organize information.

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 American Ancestors.

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Related photos available in the Family Heritage Experience press kit photo collection:



[Compilación of the Family Perez y Garay](#)



Commission: [Familial Bridges](#), gouache, pastel, and gel pen on paper, Yuko Okabe



Commission: [Sharing Our Family Heritage](#), quilt, Sisters in Stitches Joined by the Cloth



Excerpt of [Quilt by Sisters in Stitches Joined by the Cloth](#)



[Exploring Family Treasures 1](#)



[Exploring Family Treasures 2](#)



[Exploring Family Treasures 3](#)



[Exploring Family Treasures 1](#)



[Face to Face Exhibit](#)



[Hanrahan Family Record](#)

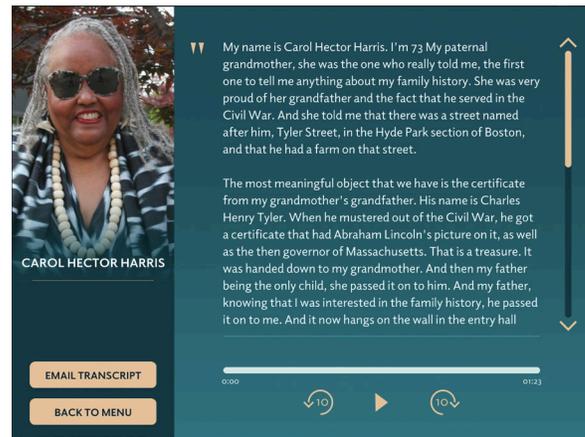
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The **Story Station** is a dedicated space where visitors can listen to audio recordings by people of all backgrounds narrating their family history discoveries. Through curiosity and persistence, they uncovered information about people and events often long forgotten.

The screen display of one recording is the subject of our [Listening Lounge graphic](#), featuring the story of Carol Hector Harris, a 73-year old woman who shares stories of her grandmother's account of her own family history, and heirloom objects that have inspired her genealogy exploration. Each research story shared deepens visitors' understanding of their ancestors and themselves. The walls of the Story Station amplify the theme with quotes like "My mother said, 'There's more stuff in the attic ...'" and "Now my grandchildren can tell their grandchildren where they come from."



Related photos available in the Family Heritage Experience press kit photo collection:



[Listening Booth 1](#)



[Listening Booth 2](#)



[Listening Booth 3](#)

As guests step into the historic Rotunda room, several Hidden Histories displays will catch their eye. The collection features "improvements" that prior generations slipped into family heirlooms or art, adding or subtracting from the facts, perhaps from trying to erase an unwelcome memory. The incidence of these edits are not uncommon, though as time passes, the reason for such changes becomes the greater interest.

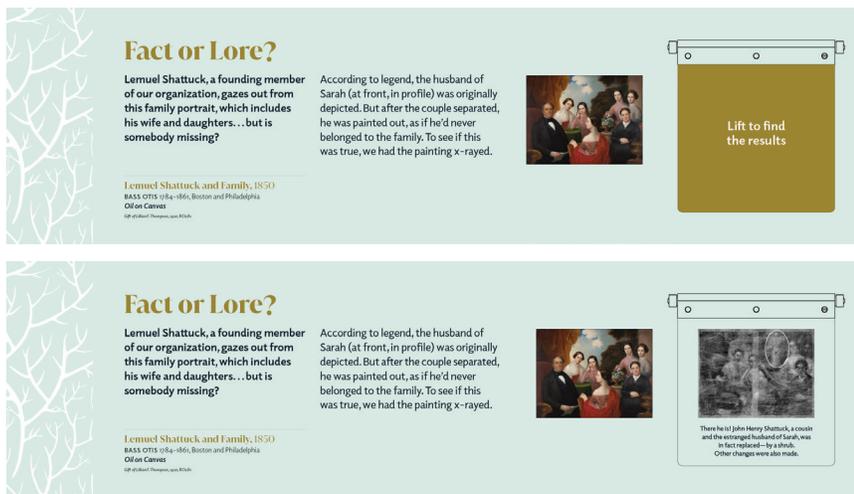
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In the “**Fact of Lore?**” collection, two objects from American Ancestors’ collections are associated with stories that may, or may not, be true. The reproduction painting “Lemuel Shattuck and Family,” an oil on canvas work from 1850, shows American Ancestors’ founding member Lemuel Shattuck, his wife and daughters gazed out from a family portrait . . . but is somebody missing? According to legend, the husband of Sarah (at front, in profile) was originally depicted. But after the couple separated, he was painted out, as if he’d never belonged to the family. To see if this was true, American Ancestors’ staff had the painting x-rayed.

Guests view this conundrum in the [Fact or Lore Graphic - Shattuck - with answer drop closed](#), and then lift to find the result in [Fact or Lore Graphic - Shattuck - answer drop open](#). There they find that John Henry Shattuck, a cousin and the estranged husband of Sarah, was in fact replaced—by a shrub. Other changes were also made.



Related photos available in the Family Heritage Experience press kit photo collection:

[Hidden Histories, Fact or Lore - Lemuel Shattuck and Family painting and graphics](#)