



ANDOVER  
CENTER  
FOR  
HISTORY  
& CULTURE

97 Main Street, Andover, MA  
AndoverHistoryandCulture.org

# CONNECTIONS

*Connecting you with the Andover stories you help save*

## What does it take to provide a closer look into the past? YOU!

### Thank you for opening windows to Andover's history



#### ***Inside Your Fall 2022 Newsletter***

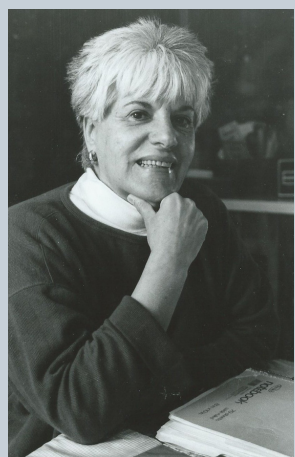
- ~ New research shared thanks to you
- ~ Elusive images
- ~ Summer research interns
- ~ Donor spotlight

# Your Gifts at Work: How YOU are

*How hard do you have to look to find one answer? How about hundreds?*

**Joan's work on her research project began in 2016, but the story she wanted to uncover began centuries ago**

**Thanks to your donations, her research is being shared today**



**Joan Patrakis** started volunteering at the History Center in the 1980s.

In 1990, Joan Patrakis published her first newsletter article on the history of people of color who lived in Andover. It was just one step in her life-long journey as a local historian.

In that first article, Joan highlighted Pomp and Rose Lovejoy, Cato Freeman, Rose Coburn, Phillip Abbot, Salem Poor, Robert Rollings, and Allen Hinton.

Over time, the list grew beyond these well-known few. It grew to hundreds of names.

*"My goal became to list all the names that appeared in the records I found. In the process I was able to determine family groups and individuals who may have had a prolonged visit or a brief stay in Andover."*

Each name represented the untold life of someone who lived, loved, and worked in Andover.

Between 2016 and 2021, Joan assembled her research into a database of folders organized by family name.

**Today, through your support, Joan's database is live on the History Center's website. It's there for students, researchers, genealogists . . . for anyone who wants to explore the deep history of people of color who lived in Andover.**

Joan's goal is to expand and extend the database. She

**Free, Enslaved, and People of Color  
in Andover Database**  
**[AndoverHistoryandCulture.org/research-websites](https://AndoverHistoryandCulture.org/research-websites)**

invites researchers to contribute to the database. To uncover and unravel the stories held in the database. To expand it beyond its current stopping point of 1850.

Joan's vision is to work with fellow history lovers, like you, to uncover the lives of the people behind the names.

Just a few database stories to be researched: Are Mars and Cloe Elfily, who married in Andover in 1780, the same couple as Mars and Cloe Philo? Who gave birth in 1843 to the 'pappoose of a Basket Maker from Old Town Maine?' Why were the deaths or burials of black residents not entered into the records of the Andover Town Clerk from the 1770s through the 1810s?

**So many questions. So many stories to uncover. So many ways your support matters.**



A historian's work is never done. *"I needed to record all the names I was finding, I knew it was just going to happen one day. . . I was going to create this database."* **Thank you, Joan! And thank you to the generous donors whose support made the database available to everyone!**

**If you have find information you want to share, please send an email to [info@andoverhistoryandculture.org](mailto:info@andoverhistoryandculture.org).**



# opening windows to the past . . . Thank you!

## What would you give to SEE the people listed in the database?

The database currently covers up to 1850, before photography became readily available. Few people could afford to have a portrait painted by an artist. The History Center has no identified images of people of color who lived in Andover before 1860. A few special photographs from the second half of the 19th century do exist in the collection. Some are identified. But many are not. One step at a time, you're creating opportunities to discover their stories.

### Elusive Images

Many times, we know the house or building that appears in a photograph. That gives clues about the people in the photograph, but not always a definitive answer.

The cover photograph is of 6 Whittier Court, which was owned by Henry W. and Abbie Cunningham in 1895. The woman in the photograph might be Abbie Cunningham and one of the men, her husband Henry.

Henry Cunningham was born in 1859 in Green County, Georgia, son of Ned and Grace Cunningham. In 1878, while still in Georgia, Henry married Abbie Watts. They eventually moved to Andover. Together they had three children, none of whom survived to adulthood.

The History Center's collection includes many photographs of unidentified people.

Among them are these two carte-de-visites.

Many famous people were featured on carte-de-visites that were collected and saved in special albums. Individuals also had carte-de-visites made to share with family and friends.

We know nothing about the woman on the left. There are no notes on the reverse that could give clues. Could she be an Andover resident? Was it a portrait given to a friend, family member, or sweetheart?

Printed on the back of the photograph on the right is "Hurd & Ward, North Adams, Massachusetts."

Handwritten on the back is "From Mrs. Anderson, 19 Mar 1947." There were a number of Anderson families in Andover in the 19th century. Could the woman on the carte-de-visite be an Anderson family member or friend? Or was this a collectible photograph?



Henry Cunningham was a gardener. He is listed in the 1883 street directory living on Punchard Avenue. Later Henry and Abbie moved to Whittier Court. Abbie was a used clothing dealer, which might explain her fashionable sense of style.

Can you help identify either of these women? Knowing their identity would add depth to Andover's history. Email [info@andoverhistoryandculture.org](mailto:info@andoverhistoryandculture.org) if you have any information to share.



The postures and facial expressions in these images counter the stereotypical negative portrayal of people of color in 19th century America. They show the agency and humanity of the sitters reclaiming their identity. (*New York Public Library, "Visualizing Black Agency in Carte-de-Visite"*)

## ACHC DONOR SPOTLIGHT

### Larry and Linda Ardito

Larry and Linda are long-time supporters of the History Center. Their strong passion for history is second to none.



"We've seen Andover Center for History and Culture evolve and recognize that the community is changing. Their work is vital to creating strong ties within the community. ACHC gives exposure to excellent educational programs for school-age children and adults. We love the historically powerful and heart-warming stories told through artifacts and documents which are meticulously archived and preserved."

## You won't want to miss this New Walking Tour!

### Prolific Against All Odds: Women Authors of 19th century Andover

Register now for a walking tour highlighting nine women who became prolific writers during a time when the odds were stacked against their success.

For information and registration  
[AndoverHistoryandCulture.org/walking-tours](http://AndoverHistoryandCulture.org/walking-tours)

**Read more about how you supported the creation of this exciting new tour below.**

## High School/College Collaboration Creates New Women's History Walking Tour

Thank you for helping make connections and opportunities like this possible!



Lindsey Schaffer, Graduate Student  
Museum Education, Tufts University

"Through my internship I had the opportunity to study nine fascinating women authors. Most interesting was uncovering the contradictions. Octave Thanet, for example, wrote about women outside traditional gender roles. She never married. Instead, she lived her life in partnership

with a woman named Jane Allen Crawford. It all sounds very progressive for the time, however, Octave Thanet also advocated *against* women's suffrage and she held anti-feminist rallies."

"Interning gave me the resources to dig into these stories that are uniquely interesting to me. As an aspiring museum educator, projects like these are exactly what I seek to do. My internship gave me valuable experience researching, developing, and implementing a program of my own."

"Working on the research for this project was very exciting! It was interesting to learn about the different stories of Andover citizens and the diverse backgrounds behind our community."

"The number of women who had the courage to speak out against traditional beliefs even with all odds being against them was very unexpected for me. It left me feeling empowered."



Grace Buckley, Andover High School Junior

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Please consider a monthly recurring donation. Your regular gift has a significant impact when made monthly to help save and share Andover history. Call Marilyn Helmers at 978-475-2236 or give at [andoverhistoryandculture.org/give](http://andoverhistoryandculture.org/give). Thank you!