



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

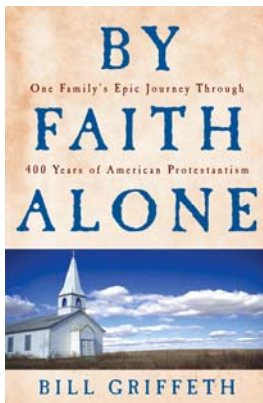
Media Contact

Tom Champoux, Marketing Director
617-226-1211, tchampoux@nehgs.org

NEHGS HOSTS DISTINGUISHED JOURNALIST BILL GRIFFETH

Noted Author and Journalist to Discuss New Book.

Boston, MA – January 2008 – On Wednesday, January 23, New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in Boston will host renowned journalist and news anchor Bill Griffeth, who will be on hand to discuss his new book, *“By Faith Alone: One Family’s Epic Journey Through American Protestantism.”*



Griffeth, the venerable co-anchor of CNBC’s popular “Power Lunch” news program, has been a journalist since 1991. While his two previous books center on the financial industry, his latest book is a bit of a departure, examining a much more personal account of 400 years of his family’s religious history. *By Faith Alone* is also a rich history of our country’s Protestant heritage. It is one man’s journey of more than ten thousand miles and four centuries, and it captures his personal desire to understand the courage and faith of his distant family members and to better appreciate how religion and the context of history shape his own life today.

When he made the startling discovery that his eight-times great-grandmother was convicted and executed during the Salem witch trials of 1692, he began to research the biggest story of his life: the four-hundred-year history of his family and of our country’s Protestant roots. It was a history that dated back to the seventeenth century and the English Puritans and Separatists who fled to North America for an uncertain future.

"The first photo I took of St. Nicholas Church [in Great Yarmouth, England] . . . is still my favorite of all the pictures I took. It is difficult to describe adequately what I felt standing before the church my ancestors had called home four hundred years ago. This was where it had all begun for my family ten generations ago, and I was in awe."

His travels took him to the fishing village in England where his earliest ancestors lived and worshipped; to the Netherlands where they sought refuge from persecution; and to the sites in New England and New York where they were members of colonial villages with legendary names: Salem, Plymouth, and New Amsterdam. They were Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Methodists, and they had a surprising connection to the founder of the Mormon Church.

Griffeth's account includes not only the stories of his long-forgotten relatives but also of some of their neighbors and colleagues whom history still remembers, including Plymouth's great governor William Bradford, New Amsterdam's swashbuckling director general Peter Stuyvesant, the infamous Salem witch trial judge Colonel John Hathorne, and the stouthearted Methodist bishop Francis Asbury.

For more information on this talk, visit NEHGS at www.NewEnglandAncestors.org or call 888-296-3447.

About NEHGS

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, founded in 1845, is the country's oldest non-profit genealogical organization. With more than 20,000 members nationally, NEHGS collects, preserves, and interprets materials to help make accessible the histories of families in America. Located at 99-101 Newbury Street in Boston, the NEHGS research library is home to more than 12 million books, journals, photographs, documents, records, and microfilms. NEHGS also boasts one of the largest manuscript collections in the country, covering more than four centuries of local and family history.

#