

## **Biographical Sketch: Maureen Taylor**

Maureen Taylor is an internationally recognized expert on historic photograph identification, photo preservation and family history research.

Sought out by clients all over the world from as far away as New Zealand, her pioneering work in historic photo research is unprecedented, evidenced by her success in solving photo mysteries. Ms. Taylor has a skilled eye for uncovering clues within a picture – a hairstyle, sign in the background, or shape of a shirtsleeve – in order to identify a person, place or era. What follows from her genealogical expertise is the story behind the images of the past, shedding light on what otherwise may remain unknown for centuries. It's no wonder she was dubbed "the nation's foremost historical photo detective" by *The Wall Street Journal*.

As a consultant and seminar leader, Ms. Taylor focuses on helping people rediscover their family history one picture at a time, tackle additional research if necessary and advises attendees on technical solutions to share those discoveries. She's passionate about getting folks to dig deep into their family history to tell the story of their ancestors.

Ms. Taylor is a frequent keynote speaker on photo history, photograph preservation and family history at historical and genealogical societies, museums, conferences, libraries, and other organizations across the U.S., in London and Canada. She is the author of several books on her topics of expertise and was a guest on *The View* and *The Today Show* for completing Meredith Vieira's family tree. Well-known publications including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *The Boston Globe*, *Martha Steward Living*, Germany's top newspaper *Der Spiegel*, *American Spirit*, and *The New York Times* have featured Ms. Taylor's photo and family history research. She also writes guidebooks, scholarly articles and online columns for such media as Smithsonian.com. She was recently a spokesperson and photograph expert for MyHeritage.com, an internationally known family history company.

Currently a contributing editor of *Family Tree Magazine*, Ms. Taylor also writes personal memoirs and narrative family histories for the Newbury St. Press of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. For more than a decade she's searched for images of individuals who lived during the Revolutionary War but also lived into the age of photography. It's currently a two-volume set titled, *The Last Muster*, and the quest for more photographs is ongoing.

Prior to launching her business in 1998, Ms. Taylor held distinguished leadership positions at the Boston History Collaborative, Rhode Island Historical Society, New England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston), and Houghton-Mifflin. She earned a Master's Degree in history from Rhode Island College (Providence) and resides in Rhode Island.