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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Manchester Historic Association Seeks Family Photos for New Exhibit,
'Manchester's Immigrants: Then and Now'**

The Manchester Historic Association is seeking photographs for an upcoming exhibit entitled "Manchester's Immigrants: Then and Now."

This exhibit will showcase photographs documenting the lives of immigrants from all ethnic backgrounds as they came to make their home in Manchester, from the earliest Irish, French-Canadian and German mill workers to the more recent Bosnian, Sudanese and Bhutanese arrivals.

"We believe this exhibit will open inroads with that new refugee and immigrant population so these newcomers might better understand Manchester's historic role as a melting pot," said MHA Executive Director John Clayton.

In putting the exhibit together, the MHA will display extraordinary images of current refugees and immigrants as documented by photographer Becky Field, author of "Different Roots, Common Dreams," and, while the MHA can draw from its own collection of historic photos, Clayton wants to supplement that collection.

"We know Manchester homes are filled with framed pictures and photo albums that chronicle their families' arrivals in this community, and we would love the opportunity to include them in the exhibit," he explained. "What better way to honor your family legacy than to bring those photos to a larger audience?"

An early underwriter of the exhibit is St. Mary's Bank, which was chartered more than a century ago with a specific mission to serve the needs of Manchester's French-Canadian immigrants. Clayton hopes other entities will recognize the social and cultural value of this exhibit and step forward to help with funding.

"We want to demonstrate how Manchester has traditionally assimilated newcomers," he said. "Ultimately, our goal is to make these New Americans appreciate that they, too, will become part of the fabric of this city, as was the case for people of other ethnic backgrounds who came before them."

"Manchester's Immigrants: Then and Now," will be on display in the Millyard Museum's State Theater Gallery from March 9 through May 7.

For more information, call 603-622-7531 or go to www.manchesterhistoric.org.

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Founded in 1896, the Manchester Historic Association is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization with the mission to collect, preserve and share the history of Manchester, New Hampshire, USA. The Association operates the Millyard Museum and the Research Center, both of which are open to the general public. The Association presents a variety of public programs including lectures, walking tours and concerts, and also school programs for students from third grade through college. Call (603) 622-7531 for more information, or visit www.manchesterhistoric.org.