

2024

# LANTERN FOR LOST VOICES

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY POOR FARM CEMETERY  
Goffstown, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS:

Danielle St. Pierre, [dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org)  
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[WWW.LANTERNFORLOSTVOICES.ORG](http://WWW.LANTERNFORLOSTVOICES.ORG)

SOCIAL MEDIA: @LANTERNFORLOSTVOICES

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# OUR MISSION

Lantern for Lost Voices was founded by four individuals dedicated to amplifying the voices of the community. We are a nonprofit organization founded on the idea that all voices matter, and that carries into our team as well. Each member is a respected and valued part of our team. In 2024, we have added an additional staff person, several volunteers, and our first intern!



*Women and children of the St. Louis Poor House (1904), St. Louis, Missouri  
Photo Credit: City of St. Louis Water Department, CCO, via Wikimedia Commons*



# OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that through education and research we can mobilize our communities to understand whose voices are being silenced, why they are being silenced, and how this is important so that we break the cycle and learn from it to change our future for the better.

Voices that are often silenced are those that society deems “not the norm, unstable, and less human.” We are here to say that using these terms to describe people is inhumane. These labels are hurtful and are not accurate in the way that society has used them to describe our families, friends, and neighbors. These words are often used to describe people that are part of marginalized communities.

Our mission is to learn, document, educate and illuminate the lost and marginalized of the past and empower our communities to thrive towards a better future.

**It all started with two friends on a hiking trail in New Hampshire...**

To read the story behind our creation, visit

<https://bit.ly/LLV-story>



*Unknown women in an unidentified poor house;  
Photo Credit: Author Unknown, Date Unknown,  
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

# Hillsborough County Poor Farm

OUR CURRENT PROJECT



*Pine Grove Cemetery/Hillsborough County Poor Farm Cemetery, Goffstown, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. Photo Credit: Danielle St. Pierre 2023*

## TIMELINE OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY POOR FARM

1849: Land was purchased for a poor farm, almshouse, and house of corrections in Goffstown, NH

1866: Fire destroyed the almshouse leaving 125 without housing

1867: Land was purchased in Wilton, NH, and the poor farm was relocated.

1895: The poor farm once again moved to Goffstown, NH under the name "Grasmere"

1896: The cemetery we are research was opened for use

1960s: The poor farm's almshouse was renamed "Hillsborough County Nursing Home"

Pine Grove Cemetery, also known as Hillsborough County Cemetery or County Farm Cemetery, was established in 1896 (nearly 50 years after the creation of the poor farm) and is the final resting place of over 700 individuals who died as residents of the Hillsborough County Poor Farm. Many graves remain unmarked and unaccounted for while the others are marked with only a number.

It is our mission to identify and research as many of the individuals who rest here so that their stories become known. Through this, we can examine how we addressed poverty in America during the 19th and 20th centuries in order to do better now and in the future.

# MEET THE TEAM

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[dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## DANIELLE ST. PIERRE

### Co-Executive Director & Director of Education

They have a passion for challenging the status quo and ensuring ALL voices will be heard. Danielle is based in Massachusetts and is dedicated to creating positive change in their community.



[swhittier@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:swhittier@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## STEPHANIE PITCHER WHITTIER

### Co-Executive Director & Director of Research

A genealogist since 1999, Stephanie has a deep passion for telling the stories of the people who were the foundation of our local communities. She is a graduate student of Public History based in Ohio.



[gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## GRACE AFTANDILOV

### Director of Political & Anthropological Research

Grace is an anthropologist and international and comparative political analyst. Her goals and experience are underscored by her deep commitment to knowledge-sharing and reclamation efforts. Grace is based in New York.



[droscoe@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:droscoe@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## DANIELLE ROSCOE

### Community Liaison

Based in New Hampshire, Danielle's dedication to helping her community have access to resources powers LLV's networking with companies and schools to teach youth about their communities past, present, and future.



[vquintero@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:vquintero@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## VALERY LEON QUINTERO

### Restorative & Transformative Justice Educator

Based in Massachusetts, Valery's dedication to centering justice and reparations in educational practices helps LLV build resilient and knowledgeable communities where past voices are not forgotten.





[gthayer@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:gthayer@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## GRACE THAYER

### Grant Writer & Storytelling Educator

Based in Massachusetts, Grace's passion for utilizing storytelling as a powerful tool to share diverse histories across a wide range of communities helps power LLV's youth and community education programs.

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**As an organization, we wish to acknowledge the stewards of the lands in which we research and reside.**

Lantern for Lost Voices is based in the state now known as Massachusetts, specifically on the land of the Wampanoag and Pokanoket peoples. Our team members also work and learn within the land of the Miami, Hopewell, Kaskaskia, Wabanaki, N'dakina, and Pennacook peoples.

Our mission to shine light on the forgotten voices of the past would be worthless if we failed to acknowledge the lives, communities, and stories erased through colonialism, ethnic cleansing, forcible removal, and sheer racism in the places in which we live and work.

**Part of the process of illuminating voices is making a safe space to exercise that voice and having that voice respected.** We welcome any member of the indigenous community to share their thoughts on how we can accurately acknowledge the lost voices of these lands or amend our content related to them. Please contact us at [gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org).



# OUR PROGRAMS

As with everything at Lantern for Lost Voices, we are planning our 2024 Educational Programming with intent and purpose. We will offer both in-person and virtual opportunities for adult and youth audiences, schools, community organizations, genealogical and historical societies, libraries, and more.

**We have a two-pronged focus with LLV: Education & Research.**

Educational programming will be made available to help the community learn the historical significance of poor farms. We will also discuss how they relate to the solutions offered both historically and presently in our communities for poverty, mental health needs, the unhoused, and other relevant topics.

Our research-focused programming will share the tools and techniques we use to research those who lived in poor farms and almshouses as well as how to tell their story - and the difficult stories of other situations - with sensitivity and awareness.

## CURRENT WORKSHOPS

- **LLV 101: Learn about our mission, programs, and research projects**
- **Storytelling 101: Learn how to tell the difficult stories within our families or communities with sensitivity and understanding.**

**We also believe in the power of collaboration.**

We will provide any resources, research, assistance, and support to local organizations also researching, recording, and remembering those who have been hidden in history's shadow. We encourage others to reach out if we can be of any support the important projects in your community, poor farm or otherwise.

Additionally, we believe in the inclusion of the next generation. Our goal in 2024 is to expand our Board of Directors to include a youth board that will help grow the research and communication skills of teens interested in history and genealogy. Internships and volunteer opportunities are also available.

If you would like to collaborate or have information you feel would make our work at LLV better, we encourage you to contact the Co-Executive Director and Director of Education: [dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org).

# ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

One of the main goals of Lantern for Lost Voices in regards to accessibility is to make the work and information we find as accessible and digestible as possible for readers and community members.

***Of course, with the nature of what we are doing there will be jarring and graphic information.*** This is an important element to recording historical detail as society has fought so hard to have this information overlooked and deemed acceptable. However, it does not serve us to cause any distress to our community or ourselves in the process.

We will make ourselves as open to feedback to empower all voices and warn, where we can, of any possible distressing information so we all can better take care of ourselves as we help others. Historical research is a living and breathing entity, and as such the information we have may change and grow throughout a project. We are always open to educating ourselves and editing our information on our website or in workshops and resources.

We welcome any member of an affected community to share their thoughts on how we can accurately, sensitively, and correctly acknowledge the lost voices of the past including amending our content related to it. Please contact us at [gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org).



## Lantern for Lost Voices

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[www.lanternforlostvoices.org](http://www.lanternforlostvoices.org)

## Social Media

Instagram: [@lanternforlostvoices](https://www.instagram.com/lanternforlostvoices)

TikTok: [@lanternforlostvoices](https://www.tiktok.com/@lanternforlostvoices)

Facebook: [@lanternforlostvoices](https://www.facebook.com/lanternforlostvoices)

## Research Questions

Stephanie Pitcher Whittier,  
Co-Executive Director and  
Director of Research  
[swhittier@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:swhittier@lanternforlostvoices.org)

Grace Aftandilov, Director of Political  
and Anthropological Research  
[gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:gaftandilov@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## Programming Questions

Danielle St. Pierre,  
Co-Executive Director and  
Director of Education  
[dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:dstpierre@lanternforlostvoices.org)

## Collaboration Questions

Danielle Roscoe,  
Community Liaison  
[droscoe@lanternforlostvoices.org](mailto:droscoe@lanternforlostvoices.org)