

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Cape Anncestry* Receives \$2,000 in Grant Funding to Build a Community Heritage Network**

GLOUCESTER, MA — *Cape Anncestry* has received \$2,000 in grant funding to establish an online community heritage network that preserves and shares Cape Ann's cultural histories.

The funding will support the digital infrastructure needed to create a sustainable public resource where community members can explore local histories, contribute stories and family archives, and engage in dialogue about Cape Ann's evolving heritage.

The platform will feature documentary clips, family stories, photographs, and publications, along with educational programming, including an online writing group, research tips, and resources. It will also provide a public home for *Branded*, Cape Anncestry's inaugural documentary and public history project, which examines the experiences of Sicilian and Italian immigrants in Gloucester who were classified as "enemy aliens" during World War II.

"As a community bank, we are proud to support organizations like *Cape Anncestry* that preserve and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of our region," said Cape Ann Savings Bank President Marianne Smith. "Their efforts to build a digital infrastructure that provides access to stories, educational resources, documentary films, and cultural history will create a lasting impact for generations to come."

Cape Anncestry is a collaborative initiative dedicated to preserving and sharing the cultural histories of Cape Ann's diverse communities. *Branded* brings together community historian and author Laura Ventimiglia, documentary filmmaker Sal Zerilli, and videographer Matthew Bradley. Other current work includes commemorative efforts marking the 100th anniversary of Saint Peter's Fiesta.

Media Contact:

Maria (Mia) Millefoglie

207-450-6194

writepages@hotmail.com

www.miamillefoglie.com