

N E A N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 30, Number 4 • October 2003



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I N S I D E — “Books, Bones and Beliefs: Rethinking Resources for Historical Interpretation” (*Archival Insight*, page 4); “Maine Memory Network: The Challenges of Digital Collaboration” (*Around and About*, page 22).

**New England Archivists
Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
<www.newenglandarchivists.org>**

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Dues of \$20/year (\$30 for institutions) should be sent to: Debbie Richards, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Notices of archival events should be sent to: NEA c/o Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, or electronically to <ellen.doon@yale.edu>.

The *NEA Newsletter* is published in January, April, July and October. The contents of the *Newsletter* may be reproduced in whole or in part provided that credit is given.

Articles and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent to: *NEA Newsletter* Editors, Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, or <ellen.doon@yale.edu>.

Contributions to the NEA Web site should be sent to: <kathleen.burns@yale.edu>.

Deadlines for submitting materials are:

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May 15 for July issue
August 15 for October issue

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From the Editors

- Jason Larson

“History” is a fascinating discipline because there are so many ways to interact with it. The theme of the October issue of the *Newsletter* emphasizes the nature of history, ways in which history can be interpreted, and the resources used to create it, support it, and comprehend it. Archivists are continuously involved in how history is perceived and understood, and the records we preserve and promote will someday be the determining factors in how history is written and presented.

Michael Bell's keynote speech from the Spring meeting is

included here as this issue's *Archival Insight* article and reminds us in a fascinating and graphic way how the history of "a community is recorded in the mundane features that exist at eye level." In *Around and About*, Ellen Dyer presents an informative discussion of how digital collaboration affects and impacts the sources of historical research and the challenges digital resources present to historians and archivists.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *Newsletter* as much as we do, and we look forward to new contributions. ☺

☺ NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS ☺

Reviews

Dust: The Archive and Cultural History, Carolyn Steedman. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2002. Hardcover, \$59. Paperback, \$20. 195 pp. ISBN: 0813530466

- Betsy Pittman, *University Archivist, Curator for Political and Connecticut History Collections, Archives and Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut*

Carolyn Steedman, a professor of history at the University of Warwick, has provided a refreshing study that effectively demonstrates the randomness of documentation and the difficulties in attempting to create (or recreate) history through the recounting of events by those not present, on behalf of those who were. The focus of Steedman's compilation of previously published and unpublished articles is, as the title states, “dust”: the residue left behind, of having passed through, the last remnants of having *been*.

In eight brief, carefully footnoted chapters, Steedman

weaves her philosophy of historiography and the historian's use of the residue of living. Drawing on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century records, the author presents a thoughtful explanation of the battle undertaken daily in the archives reading room: the clamor raised among those individuals whose experiences provided the impetus for the creation of the written documents, the scribes who crafted the written text of—but who did not directly experience—the event, and the historian's manipulation and extraction of the “facts.” The commentary on history, historians, archives and the ever-changing relationship they share is revealing; the constant tension in the “double nothingness in the writing of history and in the analysis of it: it is about something that never did happen in the way it comes to be represented (the happening exists in the telling or the text); and it is made out of materials that aren't there.” (p. 154) Examples of this dichotomy are reviewed in detail—in particular, the history of rag rugs, background and interpretations of *Middlemarch*, and perceptions of Victorian England.

A unique feature of the book is the author's analysis of current history writing and of the historian's interaction with the residue of the living maintained and collected in

continued on page 27

Archival Insight

Books, Bones and Beliefs: Rethinking Resources for Historical Interpretation

Michael E. Bell, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

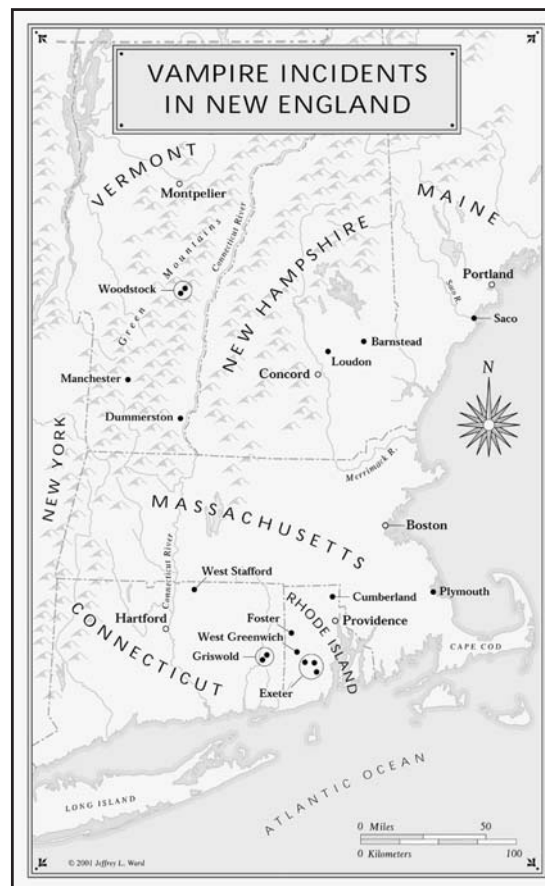
During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, New England was in the grips of a terrible tuberculosis epidemic. By the turn of the nineteenth century, one of every 250 people in the Eastern United States was dying of this disease, accounting for nearly 25 percent of all deaths. Tuberculosis continued to be the leading cause of death throughout the nineteenth century. Despite an abundance of cures offered by an eclectic mix of practitioners, a diagnosis of consumption—as pulmonary tuberculosis was then called—was the equivalent of a death sentence. Not willing to simply watch as their family members died, one after another, some New Englanders resorted to an old folk remedy whose roots surely must rest in Europe. Termed “vampirism” by outsiders, this remedy required the family to exhume the bodies of deceased relatives and check them for signs considered to be out of the ordinary. Liquid, or so-called “fresh,” blood in the heart, for example, was taken as a sign that the corpse might be responsible for the plague of consumption. To stem any further spread of the disease, the heart—and sometimes the liver or other organs—was cut from the body and burned to ashes. Often it was stipulated that the ashes be fed to any in the family suffering from consumption. A variant of this practice was to burn the entire corpse, sometimes having those afflicted inhale the smoke.

The practice appears to have taken hold beyond the Puritan heartland of Massachusetts and contiguous Connecticut, in the fringe areas that were Separatist, Tolerant or unspecified in terms of religious affiliation. Historic records indicate that, in fact, from 85 to 90 percent of white New Englanders of this era were “unchurched,” many practicing various hybrid religions that have been classified as “folk,” in the sense that they were unofficial combinations of Christian beliefs and various folk practices of the kind often referred to disparagingly as “superstitions.”

The most recent and well-documented occurrence of the vampire practice in New England is the case of Mercy Brown of Exeter, Rhode Island. I first encountered Mercy Brown through a family story told to me by Lewis Everett Peck:

Mercy Brown was a relative. I can't tell you right now how we're related, but we are related. My grandmother was a Brown. And it was told to me as a kid, you know, from my mother. Decoration Day was one of the big days, and Children's Day was one of our big days around here. You didn't go very far around here, you know. And when we went to the cemetery, there was Mercy Brown . . . just one lot or two over from where my parents are buried now. And they'd say, “Well, don't go runnin' over there. Don't touch the stone, because of this awful thing that took place years ago.”

So, anyway, over there was this stone and there'd been several in the family, they had come down with some disease. Young and old! All of a sudden! And everything that they did didn't seem to stop it. Even those that didn't even live here, as far away as Ohio . . . in the same family. Brother! Comin' down with the same sickness. So, there was twelve men, as it's told to me, of the family that was left. They got together and they figured it was all their turn. This is it!



Vampire Incidents in New England. *Courtesy of Jeffrey Ward.*

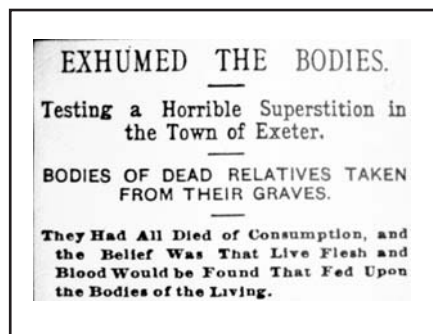
They got together and they took a vote, what to do. And they dug up one grave. They dug up Mercy. For some reason they picked her, 'cause there was something there that led it to that. They dug her up and she had turned over in the grave. Well, right away, there's a lot of problems there. So they took her out and they cut her heart out. There was blood in the heart. Well, they decided they had to kill it, so they started a fire, not far from the grave, and they burnt the heart, took the ashes and done something with 'em. I don't remember that stuff there, but anyway. And, it seems as if that's what took care of it.

You know, years ago you didn't have medicines, you didn't have nothin'. You, you had to figure out your own. They were self-independent people, everybody that lived here. There was no such thing as relyin' on somebody. You did it yourself.

My interview with Peck left me with many questions. Primarily, I needed to know how much of his incredible story was factual. As an experienced folklorist, I know that stories circulating by word-of-mouth tend to lose some factual details, while adding legendary elements.

The *Providence Journal* introduced the Brown family to the world at large on March 19, 1892 via this headline: "EXHUMED THE BODIES/Testing a Horrible Superstition in the Town of Exeter/BODIES OF DEAD RELATIVES TAKEN FROM THEIR GRAVES." Two days later, the newspaper published a more detailed account, headlined, "The

Vampire Theory/That Search for the Spectral Ghoul in the Exeter Graves." Although I found general agreement between Peck's family story and the newspaper descriptions, some of the discrepancies are remarkable and suggest how oral tradition can veer away from print sources. The newspaper account states that the bodies of both Mercy's mother and sister (both of whom predeceased Mercy) were unearthed—and there is no mention of Mercy having turned over in the grave. Peck says that Mercy's heart was cut out, then, to quote Peck, "they burnt the heart, took the ashes and done something with 'em. I don't remember that stuff there." According to the newspaper, both the heart and liver were removed and burned; the article stated that "to make the cure certain—the ashes of



Providence Journal headline from March 19, 1892, reporting the exhumation of members of the Brown family. Courtesy of Michael E. Bell

the heart and liver should be eaten by the person afflicted." The local medical examiner—Dr. Harold Metcalf—whom the newspaper reported as being in attendance to evaluate the situation, did not know whether or not Mercy's gravely ill brother, Edwin, ingested the ashes. Later I learned from death records that Edwin died on May 2, 1892.

The *Journal* article notes that "all mention of the vampire is omitted

from this account of the exhuming, but this signifies nothing. The correspondent simply failed to get to the bottom of the superstition." The newspaper then attempts to remedy this oversight by placing Mercy Brown's exhumation in the context of **European** vampire traditions. The article quotes the *Century Dictionary's* definition of "vampire": "a kind of spectral being or ghost still possessing a human body, which, according to a superstition existing among the Slavic and other races of the lower Danube, leaves the grave during the night, and maintains a semblance of life by sucking the warm blood of men and women while they are asleep." The editorial approach of the *Journal* (and other sources outside of the local community in Exeter, Rhode Island) was to reduce the Brown family tragedy to a war of civilization against superstition. Mercy Brown's exhumation was proof that—and I'm quoting from an editorial in the *Journal*—in "deserted Exeter," the "superstitions of a lower culture" had yet to be completely abolished.

In an essay on pulmonary tuberculosis written in 1799, Thomas Beddoes wrote a description of the consumptive that could be the very picture of the vampire Count Orlock, played by Max Schreck in the 1922 film *Nosferatu*: "The emaciated figure strikes one with terror; the forehead covered with drops of sweat; the cheeks painted with a livid crimson; the eyes sunk; the little fat that raised them in their orbits entirely wasted; the pulse quick and tremulous; the nails long, bending over the ends of the fingers; the palms of the hand dry and painfully hot to the touch; the breath offensive, quick and laborious." Viewed from inside the community,

consumption's specific symptoms correlate well with this vampire description. The victim suffers most at night, with profuse sweating. In the morning there is coughing and pain in the chest (sometimes described as a heavy feeling, like someone has sat upon the chest). There is a gradual loss of strength, color and appetite. As the disease progresses, ulcers and cavities develop in the lungs, creating a noticeably sunken chest (again, suggesting a weight has been placed upon the victim's chest). At night, sweating and coughing are worse; the sputum is thicker, often containing blood. Emaciation becomes extreme. One family member after another begins to fade away, and it appears that, during the night, something is draining away their life energy.

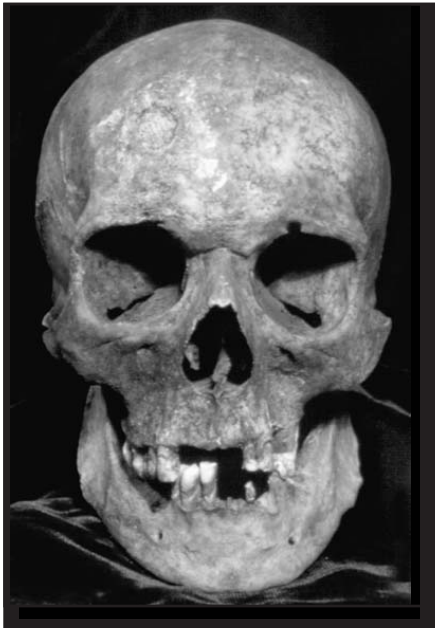
A New England farmer one- to two-hundred years ago did not know that tuberculosis is caused by a microscopic organism that invades the human system. Both vampires and germs are simultaneously tangible and intangible. The tangible parasite is so small as to be invisible without special instruments, just as the parasitic vampire moves unseen among its living victims. Did the killer abide within, laboring around the clock to destroy its host, consuming the lungs, eating away flesh, leaving behind a rotting mess and bright red blood, all froth and foam? Or did the killer live without, visiting its prey at night to feed on flesh and blood? The nineteenth-century farmer **did** know that tuberculosis passed from one family member to another and almost always killed its victims. He was a witness as neighbors, close friends, and even kin died without hope of cure. The head of a consumptive family felt enormous pressure—a sense of duty to family

and community—to take care of the problem. But he had few options. Apart from doing nothing, he could either stick with the medical establishment (most likely a death sentence) or turn to folk tradition, hoping that the old remedy worked. (Even if it didn't, he would know that he had exhausted every possibility, perhaps mitigating any guilt he might feel). Doing something is better than doing nothing.

During the two decades that I have been investigating this so-called vampire practice, I have found more than twenty cases in New England. The documentation suggests it was probably not uncommon in New England (extending into other parts of the Northeast and Canada, as well) during the late 1700s and throughout the 1800s. I believe that the handful of cases I've uncovered represents only a small percentage of the exhumations that were actually carried out. I was led to that conclusion by combining New Englanders' penchant for being close-mouthed, and their justifiable fear of ridicule by outsiders, with the apparently substantial odds against encountering whatever records were preserved. While not numerous, the resources that chronicle these events are diverse. The local histories, town records, newspaper articles, personal journals and unpublished letters that I utilized are standard resources for historical interpretation. My use of genealogies and gravestones may be less conventional, in that I wanted to go beyond the questions of who, when and where most often asked of these artifacts. I combined them with eye witness accounts, family stories and local legends and, through the lens of the folklore process, attempted to reconstruct the social networks and commonly-held beliefs and attitudes

that explained the transmission and acceptance of this folk medical practice. My guiding principle in this endeavor was that the vitality of a community is recorded in the mundane features that exist at eye level.

If we could see into the grave of one of these suspected vampires, what should we expect to find? Probably a skeleton that would have been disrupted after death, shown evidence of tuberculosis, and been found in a cemetery from the same time and place as other New England vampire accounts. It seems that just such a grave was excavated in Griswold, Connecticut, in 1991, by Nick Bellantoni, the State Archaeologist. Bellantoni was asked to investigate an unmarked, small family cemetery that was in jeopardy of being destroyed by a nearby gravel mine. The twenty-seven whole or partial skeletons excavated by Bellantoni's team appeared unremarkable for their time and place—except for one. The complete skeleton of this man, the best preserved of the cemetery, had been buried in a crypt with stone slabs lining the sides and top of the coffin. On the lid of the hexagonal, wooden coffin, an arrangement of brass tacks spelled out "JB-55," presumably the initials and age at death of this individual. When the grave was opened, JB's skull and thighbones were found in a "skull and crossbones" pattern on top of his ribs and vertebrae, which also were rearranged. Two adjacent burials appeared to be related to JB. One, a 45- to 55-year-old woman, had "IB-45" spelled out in tacks on her coffin lid and the other, a child aged 13 to 14, had "NB-13" on his/her coffin. Examination of JB's remains revealed lesions of the second, third, and fourth ribs, indicating



Skull of "JB". Skull and bone placement could be evidence of vampirism. *Courtesy of National Museum of Health and Medicine, Washington, D.C.*

chronic respiratory disease, most likely pulmonary tuberculosis, but possibly some other disease. In any event, JB's condition probably would have been interpreted as consumption.

During the time that this cemetery was in use, from the late 1700s to the early 1800s, consumption was a common killer in Griswold. A few miles down the road in the same town, in 1854, the bodies of two brothers who had died of consumption were exhumed and burned in a desperate attempt to save a third brother, ill with the disease. In light of this evidence, historical as well as biomedical, no other interpretation of JB's unusual remains even approached the coherence of the following scenario: an adult male, JB, died of pulmonary tuberculosis or a similar infection interpreted as tuberculosis by his family. Several years after the burial, one or more of his family members contracted the disease, including, possibly, his 45-year-old wife, IB, and his

13-year-old son or daughter, NB. As a last resort—to spare the lives of the family and stop consumption from spreading into the community—JB's body was exhumed so that his heart could be burned. When his body was unearthed, however, JB was found to be in an advanced stage of decomposition. Perhaps his ribs and vertebrae were in disarray as a result of the search for the remains of his heart. Finding no heart, JB's skull and thigh bones were arranged in a "skull and crossbones" pattern, a practice employed for centuries in northern Europe and Great Britain to keep a corpse from returning after death.

In my book on the New England vampire tradition, I concluded that those involved in the practice never used the term "vampire." In the spring of 2002, following a lead provided by someone involved in genealogical research, I visited the old part of a cemetery in northern Rhode Island. The researcher had advised me that there was a broken tombstone with an epitaph that linked consumption and vampires. Since there was no evidence that the label "vampire" was ever used by people in New England who exhumed their dead kin, I was naturally a bit skeptical.

Poking around this old, jumbled plot of tumbled-down tombstones in small family lots scattered in the woods seemed like a real shot in the dark. Finally, as I walked slowly through the underbrush, I noticed a stone with a broken top. I had found it! The inscription on the finely engraved slate gravestone read as follows:

In Memory of Simon Whipple
youngest son of Col. Dexter Aldrich

& Margery his wife
who died May 6, 1841 aged 27 years
Altho' consumption's vampire grasp
Had seized thy mortal frame,
inquiring mind

The rest of the inscription was not visible. The stone appears to have been anchored in cement, perhaps because people had tried to remove it. Unfortunately, the cement covered most of the third line of the inscribed verse as well as any lines that may have followed. Is this reference to "consumption's vampire grasp" merely metaphorical, or does it suggest that Simon or his older sister who had predeceased him was exhumed to try to save his younger sister, who died three years after Simon? I hope that further research will reveal the answer. For now, I am still asking, "What does it mean?" The vampire trail continues. ©

We Want Your Music!

The Local Arrangements Committee is trying to organize a live performance by the Holy Cross College Chamber Singers for our Spring 2004 conference. We need your help. The focus of the program will be music from New England archives and we ask you to send along songs from your collection. We'll consider vocal music of all types as long as it is received by January 1, 2004.

For further information,
please contact:

Mark Savolis
<msavolis@holycross.edu>
(508) 793-2506

or

Heidi Marshall
<hdmarsha@holycross.edu>
(508) 793-3023

Inside NEA

From the President

- Rutherford W. Witthus

Dialogues

Since its inception, New England Archivists has provided a place for professional and volunteer archivists to meet and share experiences with colleagues. Both at scheduled meetings and in more informal telephone or email conversations, its members freely exchange their practical knowledge of archival matters, with particular emphasis on topics pertaining to New England. Through its *Newsletter*, NEA members find information about new acquisitions, new colleagues in the area, professional training opportunities, and job prospects. The NEA web site at <www.newenglandarchivists.org> complements the published newsletter. Now, with the launch of two new Internet forums, members can receive announcements quickly and engage in self-moderated dialogues with other members.

As a regional organization connected to the Society of American Archivists, NEA and its individual members are given the opportunity to communicate with other archivists on a national scale. The annual meeting is a place to exchange information on local and regional projects that might have corollaries in other parts of the country. The dialogues that occur after formal presentations and the informal discussion between meetings are often an annual meeting's most cherished times. The electronic resources of the national organization are always available to everyone at <www.archivists.org>.

Through its outreach programs, NEA is committed to increasing public awareness of archival work and to informing historians, genealogists, students, and journalists, among others, about archival resources that might be of use to them. NEA also works with individuals in related professions, such as records managers, librarians, and town clerks, to promote the sharing of information among the larger community of information professionals. In case you don't recognize these words, they are taken directly from the home page of the New England Archivists. Dialogues with people from allied professions often produce moments of enlightenment and lasting friendships.

"Dialogues" is the theme of the next meeting of the New England Archivists. Convening this time in Storrs on

the campus of the University of Connecticut, archivists and allied professionals will meet to exchange information with engineers, geographers, scholars, journalists, archaeologists, librarians, consultants, architects, catalogers, and other archivists. At a time when all professions are moving toward a more interdisciplinary approach to solving problems, the New England Archivists program planners are offering our members and all who are interested a chance to engage in dialogue with our colleagues in other professions. Join us in Storrs for this exciting event on October 17 and 18.

Executive Board Meeting Report

- Tara Hurt

The business handled at the April 11, 2003 meeting of the Executive Board, is summarized below. All ***VOTING*** is in bold and italics. Complete minutes are available on the NEA Web site <www.newenglandarchivists.org> or from the secretary.

Officers' Reports

Immediate Past President Report (Appendix H): Joan Krizack gave the Immediate Past President's Report. She recommended that Chris Burns from the University of Vermont and Betsy Pittman of the University of Connecticut be appointed to the Nominating Committee. Rutherford made a motion to add the two new members, Peter seconded and ***all board members unanimously approved the appointments.***

Treasurers Report (Appendix J): Liz Andrews reported that NEA has a net income in June of \$12,000.00: she noted that our next major expense is upcoming summer and fall newsletters (approx. \$3,600). Two discussions followed the review of the financial report distributed by Liz: the first discussion was about the Hale Award the second was about a possible newsletter-only member fee. Joan moved to take the money for this year's Hale Award from the general account: Liz seconded the motion. ***All board members voted in favor of taking money from the general account.*** After much discussion the board felt a newsletter-only fee was not an option due to the ways in which

overall dues money is used. All board members agreed to stay with the current policy on membership fees.

Vice President's Discussion: Mary asked that if anyone had any ideas for possible upcoming meeting sites, that they forward the locations to her. The group listed the following as possibilities: Saco, Maine; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Williamstown, Massachusetts; and Amherst, Massachusetts. The group also discussed themes for the meetings. Mary would like to explore the theme of "recruiting." Many members liked the idea of a "recruiting" theme.

Meetings

2003 Spring Meeting Wrap Up: Rutherford reviewed all of the comments that were in the Spring 2003 Program Committee Chair's Report: he will pursue getting the complete group of evaluation forms from the Local Arrangements committee.

2003 Fall (UConn) Meeting Local Arrangements Committee (Appendix N): Kristen distributed a copy of the meeting's proposed budget. The budget is based upon a registration total of 165. A discussion followed about NEA's refund policy. It was noted that it is difficult to uphold the late registration policy. It was agreed by all board members that the registration form needs to specifically state the refund policy and deadline. The group discussed the current registration cost of \$45.00. Joan made a motion to accept the current registration cost of \$45.00: Paul seconded the motion. *All members voted in favor of the proposed Fall 2003 meeting registration fee.*

2003 Fall (UConn) Meeting Program Committee (Appendix O): Gregory Sanford sent all board members a copy of the programs being offered at the conference (attached). Rutherford noted if there were any comments on the program to please contact Gregory directly.

2004 Spring (Worcester) Meeting Program / Local Arrangements Committee: Lois and Heidi reported on behalf of the 2004 Committees. The committees are planning a "Music in Archives" set up for the Friday reception. The reservation of hotel rooms is underway. The committees are working to finalize the following schedule: Friday – Tours, Workshops, Multi Choice Sessions, Board Meeting, Lunch, Keynote Speaker and Reception; Saturday –

To reach NEA officers, please see contact information on the NEA Web site at:

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

Welcome, Multi Choice Sessions, Plenary, Business Meeting, Lunch, Tours.

Committee Reports to the Board

All members voted in favor of accepting the following reports (no action needed). Newsletter Editors (**Appendix A**), Print Coordinator (**Appendix B**), Membership Secretary (**Appendix C**), President (**Appendix D**), Web Committee Report (**Appendix E**), Development Coordinator's Report (**Appendix F**), Secretary Report (**Appendix G**). **NOTE:** With the agreed upon exception that further clarifications were needed on the Web Committee Report, Rutherford made a motion to accept the above reports; Joan seconded and *all board members unanimously approved the reports.*

Membership Committee Report (Appendix I): Beth Carroll-Horrocks gave the Membership Committee Report. It was reported that the Rodney Gorme Obien is successfully working on the NEA Listservs. Paul Carnahan proposed the motion to authorize the Membership Committee to issue a low-level, photocopied directory for the fall 2003 meeting. *All board members voted in favor of issuing a print directory for the Fall 2003 meeting.*

Public Relations Coordinator Report (Appendix K): Daniel McCormack reviewed his report: press releases were prepared and sent announcing Bruce and Patricia Stark's Distinguished Service Award. Daniel asked the board if there are plans for an NEA event at SAA (Boston 2004). After a short discussion the board approved giving a publicity list to SAA. The board will further discuss events and report back to Daniel.

Hale Award Committee Report: The board discussed who will be part of the Hale Award Committee: the senior rep at large becomes the chair of the nominating commit-

tee. Peter will be in touch with all members in order to 1) establish procedures for selecting recipients, 2) draft a release for the *Newsletter* and Web page and 3) work with the existing procedures in order to make the committee active and successful.

Outreach Committee Report (Appendix L): Susan reported that the NEA Bookmarks are underway. The Committee is in the process of getting the six photos (one for each state) and this set of bookmarks will not have the dates of Archives Week but reflect Archives Week as the first week in November. Discussion followed on how the book marks are supposed to be officially distributed. It was agreed that the letter that the committee sends with the bookmarks will be more clear and specify any particular locations (libraries, town halls, bookstores, craft shops, photo shops) the bookmarks should be distributed to.

Haas Award Report: Joan suggested NEA have more activity with the Haas Award group: Rutherford agreed and he will work with Lois to see how NEA can have more of a presence.

Education Committee Report (Appendix M): The Board reviewed the report and agreed to co-sponsor a NELINET workshop with minimal monetary cost to us: the set up outlined by the committee (NEA is able to give membership brochures and bookmarks to all participants and in turn NEA finds a speaker to conduct the workshop) is acceptable to the board. Once the committee has more details the board will meet to approve the workshop sponsorship issue.

E-mail Coordinator Discussion: Bridget asked the board what part of the *Newsletter* will be included in NEAannounce. Bridget has spoken with Ellen Doon about the information that is available. Bridget has the approval of the Board to work with Ellen to post material to the list that follows the NEAannounce content guidelines.

New Business

NEA Presence at SAA: Several NEA members will be attending SAA. The members will help to man an NEA table: thank you to all those who are helping. The issue of whether NEA will have a formal social meeting at SAA was

raised: for the past 5 to 10 years NEA has had a special reception for all NEA members attending SAA. It was agreed that Mary will pursue a morning session option for NEA members to attend.

By-Laws Revisions (21st Century Additions): A rewording and review of the by-laws has been prompted by the fact many of the words and phrases do not reflect the current technology and communication means now available to NEA and its members. Rutherford proposed that a Task Force be created: the new Task Force would be created in order to review the current by-laws and to submit any suggested changes to the board. It is the sense of the board that a Task Force to Review the By-Laws should be convened.

Archives Week Directory: The Outreach Committee will be working with the State Historical Records Advisory Boards in order to get NEA's information into the directory.

Hartford Convention Center Proposal: The Hartford Convention Center approached the NEA President: the convention center is networking to see what local area groups would be interested in having an event at the new convention center. The Board agreed that Rutherford should stay in contact with the Center and Rutherford will keep the board posted of any new information.

The next Board Meeting will take place Friday afternoon October 17, 2003 at Storrs.

Joan motioned to adjourn the meeting; Peter seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Annual Meeting

President Joan Krizack welcomed all of the participants and thanked the many people that have helped the organization over the past year. (Appendix A). Liz Andrews, NEA Treasurer, reported that NEA will close the year with a balance (not a shortfall) and that in the upcoming year she will work with the Board to keep NEA on stable ground. A vote for a dues increase was conducted and the NEA Membership *voted in favor* of the coming year's dues increase; \$20.00 to \$30.00 Individual Membership; \$30.00 to \$40.00 Institutional Membership.

New Members*- Deborah A. Richards*

Lee Appelbaum
Simmons College - GSLIS
Lanesboro, MA

Nanette K. Balliot
Roger Williams University
Bristol, RI

Kathleen L. Burns
Yale University, Beinecke
Library
New Haven, CT

Arthur Dooley
St. Sebastian's School
Needham, MA

Marie-Anne Grenier
Notre Dame College
Manchester, NH

Abby Lester
Columbia University
Archives
New York, NY

Please visit us on-line at www.newenglandarchivists.org for more information about becoming a member of NEA

Janet Lexow
Camden Public Library
Camden, ME

Gail Roy
Danbury Hospital
Danbury, CT

Diane Shepard
Lynn Historical Society
Library
Lynn, MA

Johanna J. Smith
Council of Nova Scotia
Archives
Halifax, NS Canada

Deborah H. Wiswesser
Red Lion Inn
Stockbridge, MA ☺

President Joan Krizack presented Daniel McCormick with NEA's Hale Award. McCormick was given the award for his survey of Regional Municipal Archives. Immediate Past President Bill Ross presented Representative Steve Fontana with NEA's Archival Advocacy Award. Steve Fontana was chosen for the award for his work within Connecticut and Steve Fontana addressed the participants at the conference. Immediate Past President Bill Ross presented Bruce and Patty Stark with NEA's Distinguished Service Award. Bruce and Patty Stark were chosen for their many years of service to the archival community and they addressed the participants at the conference.

Immediate Past President Bill Ross announced this year's election results: Mary Ide – Vice President /President Elect, Elizabeth Andrews – Treasurer, and Anne Sauer – Representative-at-Large.

President Joan Krizack introduced NEA's newly-appointed President, Rutherford Witthus. Both individuals addressed the participants about the transition, their thanks and visions for the future. NEA's new President addressed the participants and shared his enthusiasm for the upcoming year.☺

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Internet Tidbits

- Megan Friedel

Documents from the Nuremberg Trials Online at the Harvard Law School Library

Recently, the Harvard Law School Library launched a significant new Web site, the "Nuremberg Trials Project: A Digital Document Collection" <<http://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu>>. This site is the beginning of a long-term project by the Library to digitize its extraordinary collection of documents relating to the thirteen trials of Nazi military and political leaders and other accused war criminals from 1945-1949. Containing approximately one million pages of documents, the Nuremberg Trials collection includes trial transcripts, briefs, documents books, evidence files, as well as other papers and, occasionally, photographs. The first phase of the project has been completed. The site now features digitized documents from and relating to Case 1. About 2000 pages of material from this case are now viewable. In addition, more than 3800 documents and 23,000 total pages of material relating to both Case 1 and Case 2, the prosecution of Erhard Milch, Field Marshall in the German Air Force, are now fully searchable on the site. (Documents from Case 2 have not yet been digitized.) The search analysis allows users to pinpoint and, in some cases, view the specific documents they are looking for by such search functions as keyword, title, author, date, or document numbers. Users may also search a browseable list of "trial issues"—an often horrific list of the specific crimes and, in this case, experiments for which the defendants were being tried.

The Harvard Law School Library's Nuremberg Trials Project is extraordinarily detailed, and will only increase in detail as the number of digitized documents available on the site grows. Thankfully, there is a range of contextual information available for the user. The site features summary information, a detailed chronology, and background information for three of the thirteen trials (including Cases 1 and 2); more will follow as the project progresses. For a broader overview, a "Who Was Who in Nazi Germany" details the names of prominent persons involved with the government, Nazi party, the SS, and the armed forces of Nazi Germany. A list of additional Nuremberg Trials resources also provides an avenue for further reading with

suggestions for both printed and on-line sources.

Harvard Law School Library aims to complete the Nuremberg Trials Project within the next ten years. ©

Job Announcements

For more job announcements, visit the NEA Web site at <www.newenglandarchivists.org>.

The Harvard University Library invites applications for the position of Harvard University Archivist.

The Harvard University Archives is a two-fold program consisting of Archival and Records Management Programs. The Archivist is responsible for providing leadership in long-range and strategic planning, development and promotion of archival and records management resources and services, initiation and management of appropriate technologies, including the preservation of digital resources, and budget and personnel administration for both programs.

The University Archives' 75,000 linear feet of holdings date from the 1630s and include University records, publications; manuscripts; faculty papers, doctoral dissertations; photographs, audiovisual materials; and ephemera; as well as some electronic resources. The Archivist oversees 20 FTE employees, including two Associate Archivists and an annual budget of \$1.8 million.

Qualifications:

- ALA-accredited master's degree in library and information science or equivalent library experience.
- Advanced degree in American History strongly preferred.
- Thorough understanding of archival and records management issues within an academic environment highly desirable.
- Substantial managerial and senior-level administrative experience. Ten years in positions of increasing responsibility in archives and an in-depth understanding of records management.

- Understanding of evolving issues in higher education, scholarly communication, electronic applications, and management of electronic records.

See complete on-line description at: <jobs.harvard.edu/jobs/search>. Interviews will begin on October 1, 2003 and continue until position is filled. To apply, please send cover letter, resume and the names of three references to: Barbara Graham, Associate Director in the Harvard University Library for Administration and Programs, Harvard University Library, Wadsworth House, Cambridge, MA 02138. ©

People

Melissa Watterworth has joined the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut where she will serve as the Project Coordinator for Connecticut History Online. Prior to joining the Dodd Center she was the Technical Archivist in Special Collections and Archives at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. ©

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Workshop: Fundamentals of Archival Acquisition and Appraisal

Co-sponsored by NELINET and NEA

Appraisal has been called “the most significant archival function.” Appraisal is, arguably, the most intellectually demanding of archival functions; indisputably it is the area of archival work that has seen the most controversy and debate within the profession. This workshop will briefly survey the history of appraisal theory and method, set appraisal within the context of collection development and acquisition, illuminate pitfalls in the mechanics of “doing” appraisal, outline some issues relating to electronic records and to reappraisal, and provide an exercise to illustrate the application of theory and practice.

This workshop is intended for those without extensive experience in archival appraisal, but also meant to be challenging in both the amount and complexity of material covered. The class will be limited to 25 participants. A reading packet of articles from several archival publications will be mailed in advance to participants and will cover essential background to the lecture and discussion.

The instructor will be Mark A. Greene, Director of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming—one of the nation’s largest manuscript repositories at 90,000 cubic feet. He began his career as a lone arranger at Carleton College, followed by eleven years as the curator of manuscripts acquisitions at Minnesota Historical Society. Mark has published a dozen articles in the U.S. and abroad on archival appraisal and related topics. He has taught appraisal workshops in the Midwest, Southwest, Northwest, and West coast. For the Society of American Archivists (SAA), he has chaired the Congressional Papers Roundtable, Manuscripts Repository Section, Committee on Education and Professional Development, and served on the governing council. In 2002 he was named a Fellow of SAA. Mark is also a past president of the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC).

Date: Thursday, December 4, 9:00-4:00, lunch included

Location: NELINET Office, 153 Cordaville Road, Southborough, MA

Pricing: \$125 - NELINET Full Member/NEA Member;
\$140 - NELINET Affiliate Member; \$190 - Non-member

Registration: <www.nelinet.net/calendar/wkshpreg.htm>

(Please indicate NEA membership by entering “SPEC-NEA” in the OCLC Symbol box on the registration form.)

News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Yale Archivists Initiate IT Training for Mid-Career Archivists

In a groundbreaking project funded by the Delmas Foundation, Yale University and Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science are collaborating to develop information technology training for mid-career archivists. Because many of these archivists entered the profession prior to the technological revolution and the evolution of the Web, they need additional training to fully utilize information technology in their institutions.

The funding will support a pilot project to produce, deliver, and evaluate a program that highlights key areas in basic information technology. These include networking, telecommunications, the Internet, Web technology, databases, and digitization, all of which enable, and in some cases force, archivists to reconsider how their institutions perform even the most basic core archival functions. The areas will be covered in a series of nine workshops, developed and taught by experts in the New England area. A group of fifteen archivists, representing four New England states and a variety of archival institutions, have agreed to take and evaluate the workshops.

Christine Weideman and Diane Kaplan, senior archivists in Manuscripts and Archives in the Yale University Library, originated the idea for the training. They solicited assistance from professors at the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science and formed a planning group of representatives from Yale, Simmons, and the Massachusetts Historical Society to develop the project.

The project will run from September, 2003 to May, 2004. The planning group will evaluate the results, after which Kaplan and Weideman will report on them in the professional literature and review them with the Society of American Archivists. The Society is planning to offer the workshops to other archivists around the country.

NEMA Conference Explores “The Passionate Life of Museums”

The New England Museum Association announces its 2003 Annual Conference, to be held November 12-14, 2003, at the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa in Mystic, Connecticut. The conference will be held in collaboration with the Museum Association of New York. This year's theme is “Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll: The Passionate Life of Museums.” An unusual title for a Museum Association conference? Join NEMA for a serious and comprehensive look at the role of museums in today's world and our connections with contemporary audiences.

Join museum professionals from New England and New York at this three-day event. With more than sixty-five sessions, the conference offers both nuts-and-bolts programming and more philosophical discussions. Sessions include: Secrets of the Passionate Trustee with the Museum Trustee Association, Registrar Legal Issues, Teaching

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History to Teens, Developing and Planning Exhibitions, Getting the Most Out of Your Advertising Dollar, Signature Objects, and much more. Wednesday offers special programs for Directors and Trustees. This year's conference features an enhanced program for Children's, Art, and Science museums.

Special speakers include: *National Geographic*-featured explorer Bob Ballard; educator John Falk; historian Harvey Green; Boston's Museum of Fine Arts "Dangerous Curves" curator Darcy Kuronen; and curator Grady Turner, formerly of the Museum of Sex, NYC. Off-site programs will be hosted by Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, the Florence Griswold Museum, and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum. For more information, phone (617) 2424-2283 or visit <www.nemanet.org>.

Beinecke Library Celebrates Women in the Arts

The Beinecke Library at Yale University is pleased to announce two exhibits celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of women in the arts. Through October 18, "Intimate Circles: American Women in the Arts" and "Extravagant Crowd: Carl Van Vechten's Portraits of Women" will be on view from at the library, which is located at 121 Wall Street, New Haven, CT. The exhibit area is open to the public Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Fridays 8:30 to 5:00, Saturdays 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

"Intimate Circles: American Women in the Arts" documents the lives of sixty-one women who lived and worked in the early twentieth century—writers, artists, publishers, performers, collaborators, and community builders—whose energies set in motion lasting aesthetic and cultural practices. The exhibition maps the relationships among these women to reveal networks that shaped and defined the artistic movements of the period. The contributions they made to the development of modern art, literature, and theater have guided the course of these arts well beyond their own lifetimes. Subjects include: Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Georgia O'Keeffe, Muriel Draper, Josephine Baker, Harriet Monroe, Sara Teasdale, H.D., Marianne Moore, and Mabel Dodge Luhan, among many others.

The photographs in "Extravagant Crowd: Carl Van Vechten's Portraits of Women" represent only a fraction of

those Van Vechten took of women. Van Vechten's subjects included dancers, actresses, writers, artists, activists, singers, costumiers, photographers, social critics, educators, journalists, socialites, and aesthetes. The exhibit includes portraits of some fifty women of achievement photographed between 1932-1964, including Billie Holiday, Zora Neale Hurston, and Marianne Moore, to name a few of his most well known subjects—and some now-forgotten women who made significant contributions to the Broadway theater community, the Harlem Renaissance, the early Hollywood film industry, and the 1920s and '30s expatriate communities in Paris and London. Through these images, the exhibition also reveals something of the photographer's unique life. Born in 1880, Van Vechten was a leading opera and music critic in the early twentieth century and by many accounts he was America's first serious dance critic; he was also a best-selling novelist and a promoter of many literary talents, including Gertrude Stein, Langston Hughes, and Nella Larsen. After a full career as a writer and critic, Van Vechten began photographing friends and professional acquaintances in 1932.

MASSACHUSETTS

Archival Research Fellowship Symposium Held in Boston

On June 13, more than eighty archivists, curators and records managers attended the National Historical Publications and Records Commission Archival Research Fellowship Symposium, held in the WGBH Conference Center at Brighton Landing. The all-day Archival Research Symposium featured the research work of the program's first four recipients, and a keynote speech by David Levy of the Information School at the University of Washington.

The NHPRC Archival Research Fellowship program enables Fellows to conduct research and write about a topic of importance to the archival profession. Up to five projects of \$10,000 each are awarded annually. The first recipients of the non-residential NHPRC Fellowship program were Nancy Deromedi, Bentley Library at the University of Michigan; Richard Hollinger, Special Collections at University of Maine; Elisabeth Kaplan, Charles Baggage Institute at the University of Minnesota, and Richard Pearce-Moses, Archives and Public Records at Arizona State Library.

Elisabeth Kaplan's paper was titled "Electronic Brains, Archival Minds: Technology and the Shaping of Archival Professional Identity, 1945-1970." Kaplan reviewed archivists' relationship with early computer and electronic technologies saying that the rapid technological expansion that characterized the mid-twentieth century coincided with what has been called the "coming of age" of the American archival profession. Writings in the *American Archivist* and in the archival records of the SAA indicate that the emerging technologies were very much on the radar of the leaders of the profession, but that their almost exclusive focus on establishing a clearly delineated professional identity was at odds with the possibility of responding to technology as opportunity. Kaplan's research suggests that the legacy of these coincidences and decisions continue to plague our profession today.


Richard Hollinger's research involved a detailed examination of the use of electronic communications and retention the digital documents created by these modes of communication in several organizations. He found that electronic modalities were used for many routine office communications but not for those requiring either formality or nuanced interactions; that digital documents, especially e-mails, tended to be retained for a shorter period of time than paper documents; and that retention policies, legal requirements, and professional standards each had a significant impact on the retention of documents in a digital environment.

Richard Pearce-Moses research project was to update the 1992 Bellardo and Bellardo glossary. In his paper "The Language of Archives: Essence and Identity," Pearce-Moses said the rise of electronic records has had a profound impact on the language of archives. Archives—the word most essential to our identity—has been appropriated to mean backup. Records used to accumulate as persistent paper by-products; now in electronic format, every time a document is revised and saved, we suffer incremental amnesia unless we make a conscious decision to preserve the original. While the basic functions of archivy—appraisal, description, reference, and preservation—may stay the same, how we do those functions will change. A careful attention to the language of archives can help us better understand the nature of that change.

The title of Nancy Deromedi's paper was "Wired Faculty: Research to Assess the Archival Value of Faculty

Websites to Document their Functions and Activities at the University of Michigan." Deromedi showed through the analysis of Web site content, context, and structure that personal faculty Web sites have archival value. She found that faculty Web sites are a form of scholarly communication that function as a tool to reach audiences both locally and globally. The content on faculty Web sites is not limited to traditional scholarly outputs such as correspondence, syllabi, lecture notes, and research papers, but includes new forms of documentation that capture aspects of the research process that have been difficult to document and other forms such as the Web log that are currently being discussed in scholarly circles as a possible new form of community service. Lastly, Deromedi's study showed that faculty Web sites can provide a rich source of documentation yet; the collection of faculty Web sites will require a number of proactive steps by the archivist.

Symposium keynote speaker David Levy reflected on the place of archives in the digital age. Levy, a former computer scientist at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center and now



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professor at the University of Washington, is the author of *Scrolling Forward: Making Sense of Documents in the Digital Age*. Levy's keynote address concerned the balance between the abstraction of information and the grounded nature of materials, particularly the "disembodiedness" we face in the digital environment. According to Levy, we are still trying to begin to understand the "materiality" of how digital objects work for us.

The NHPRC Archival Research Fellowship Program is administered by the Massachusetts Historical Society and managed by an Executive Board consisting of: Brenda Lawson of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Joan Krizack of Northeastern University, Elizabeth Andrews of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Megan Sniffin-Marino of the Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute, and Mary Ide of the WGBH Educational Foundation.

Collaborative Action for Historical Records

On July 1, 2003, William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, announced the awards for the 2003 Documentary Heritage Grant program. The competitive grant program funds projects that educate the public to value historical records and archives, promote collaboration to achieve common goals, plan for adequate documentation of Massachusetts history, and improve the accessibility and preservation of historical records. The total award for the grant program is \$100,000.

The twenty-one projects meeting the funding criteria include: Rueben Hoar Library, Littleton (Preserving Littleton's Legacy, \$4,150); Martha's Vineyard Historical Society (Marthas Vineyard Historical Society Archive Assessment and Master Plan, \$5,000); Winchester Historical Society (Collaborative for Documenting Winchester's History, \$5,000); Institute for Asian American Studies, UMass Boston (Documentation Planning for Asian American History & Culture in Massachusetts, \$6,000); Boston Police Department (The Boston Police Media Project, \$5,125); Somerville Public Library (Somerville Latino Heritage Archive Project, \$5,000); Egremont Historical Commission (Discovering Local Resources, \$4,000); Beverly Public Library (Beverly Archives Project, \$4,800); City of Cambridge (Describing Documentation of Cambridge, \$4,290); Millis Public Library (Millis Archival

Records, \$6,000.00); Bedford Historical Society (Understanding Bedford of 1729, \$3,400); Town of Lexington (The Revolution & Beyond: Documenting Lexington's Heritage, \$4,500); Hadley Historical Commission (Documenting Hadley's History, \$6,900); Mount Wachusett Community College (The Gardner Furniture Industry Project, \$4,900); Wilbraham Public Library (Wilbraham & Hampden: A Shared History, \$4,800); Forbush Memorial Library, Westminster (Primary Sources related to General Nelson Appleton Miles, \$3,000); Morrill Memorial Library, Norwood (Norwood Heritage Collaborative, \$4,400); Hardwick Historical Society (Plan for Hardwick Historical Society, \$3,300); Bay State Historical League (New Strategies for Archives & Access, \$4,535); New England Small Farm Institute (Belchertown Agriculture & Community History, \$6,000); and the preservation of Scituate's Heritage, Inc. (A Salute to Scituate Veterans of World War II, \$4,900.00).

The Documentary Heritage Grant program is sponsored by William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, and the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board and, is made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a division of the National Archives and Records Administration.

Ada L. Comstock Papers Available for Research

The Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study announces the opening of Ada L. Comstock's papers. A native of Moorhead, Minnesota, Comstock was the third president of Radcliffe College and a champion of higher education for women. This collection focuses primarily on her life before and after her tenure as president of Radcliffe College and includes correspondence, household material including financial and medical records, clippings, photographs, and speeches from her presidency at Radcliffe. The extensive correspondence is primarily between Comstock and her family, especially her father S. G. Comstock, and with her husband, Wallace Notestein, including letters from the thirty-five years prior to their marriage in 1943. Additional correspondence is between Comstock and her large circle of friends and business colleagues. The bulk of her professional material covers Comstock's work after she had retired from Radcliffe College.

One of the founding members of the American Association of University Women, Comstock also served on the Wickersham Committee and the Institute for Pacific Relations. She was active in several clubs including the Chilton Club, Cosmopolitan Club, and Our Society. While there is some Radcliffe College material, particularly her speeches, Comstock's presidential papers are at the Radcliffe College Archives. Additional Comstock family collections are at Moorhead State University and the Comstock House, part of the Minnesota Historical Society. Wallace Notestein's papers are at Yale University. The finding aid for the Ada L. Comstock papers is available online at oasis.harvard.edu/html/sch00104frames.html. The Schlesinger Library also holds a microfilm copy of Comstock's diaries from 1902-1968. The finding aid for the diaries is also available online at oasis.harvard.edu/html/sch00105frames.html.

State Library of Massachusetts Receives Grant

The State Library of Massachusetts has received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of \$19,985 to fund the Alexander Parris Digital Project. Grant funds are provided through the federal government's Library Services and Technology Act and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Alexander Parris was one of the most prominent architect-engineers of Massachusetts in the first half of the nineteenth century, responsible for designing and/or superintending the construction of many important buildings in the Commonwealth, including Quincy Market, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the ropewalk at the Boston Naval Shipyard at Charlestown. The project will produce digital surrogates and transcriptions of the Parris documents held by the State Library and six other Boston repositories (Boston Athenaeum, Boston Public Library, Massachusetts Historical Society, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown Navy Yard, and Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities) that will be available for study on the State Library's Web site in June of 2004. For more information, contact Betsy Lowenstein, Chief of Special Collections, State Library of Massachusetts: (617) 727-2590; betsy.lowenstein@state.ma.us; www.mass.gov/lib.

Now Open for Research: Theater Offensive Records

The Northeastern University Libraries Archives and Special Collections Department is pleased to announce that the records of the Theater Offensive, a Boston-based, cutting-edge, queer theater group, is now available to researchers.

The Theater Offensive was founded in 1989 by Abe Rybeck, "to form and present the diverse realities of queer lives in art so bold it breaks through personal isolation and political orthodoxy to help build an honest, progressive community." Committed to supporting a broad range of activist-based and groundbreaking queer performances, the Theater Offensive sponsors in-house productions, touring performers, and popular festivals, including *OUT On The Edge*.

The collection is of particular interest to researchers studying the development of theater as a forum for political activism and personal expression, especially in the queer community. The collection contains a mix of publicity materials, programs, scripts, art work, photographs, grant files, and administrative records that document the Theater Offensive's productions and festivals, education and outreach programs, and the relationships to the queer performance community. A guide to the collection is available on the Archives Web site: www.library.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m82find.htm.

"Up until now," said Abe Rybeck, "the best queer history was gossip. Now we have some of the real history preserved in the Northeastern University Archives. It's an enormous honor, but even greater still is the knowledge that the work our community has done is available now and for generations to come."

This material contributes to the University Archives and Special Collection Department's collecting focus on the records of private, non-profit, community-based organizations that serve the African-American, Chinese, Latino, and gay and lesbian communities. For a list of the special collections that are currently open for research, see: www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/mcoll_by_topic.htm.

MIT Returns John Hancocks to State

In late 2001, MIT Museum curator Kurt Hasselbalch came upon a cache of late eighteenth-century Massachusetts state documents—most of them emblazoned with the signature of John Hancock. The documents were in an envelope labeled “Property of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1942.” Clearly, the museum was in possession of an old loan that had to be returned to its original owner, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The museum contacted the Massachusetts Archives about the documents and plans were initiated for their repatriation. On June 25, 2003, MIT Associate Provost for the Arts Alan Brody and Chancellor Phillip Clay presented the twenty-two bounty warrants, dated 1786-96, to Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin at a special event at the museum. Galvin’s agency includes the Massachusetts Archives, which will make the warrants available to researchers and historians.

The bounty warrants are essentially receipts for whale oil, cotton duck (for sails), hemp (for ship rigging) and sheet glass. Almost all are signed by the governor, secretary of state and treasurer; Hancock, Massachusetts’ first governor, validated sixteen receipts as a Boston selectman. Hasselbalch, curator of the Hart Nautical Collections, contacted colleagues at New Bedford Whaling Museum to inquire about their experience with such documents. They indicated that the documents appear not to have been studied by whaling researchers and constitute a new source for the economic history of whaling.

“These warrants might provide a more detailed view of the complex business relationships between whale oil merchants and brokers and insight into the subtle ways in which they tried to manipulate the markets or navigate domestic and international embargoes,” said Michael A. Jehle, director of curatorial affairs at the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Hasselbalch discovered the envelope containing the documents while cataloging some old files in the Hart Collections. A typewritten notation, appearing to be an exhibit label, opened with the following words, “Documents of the late 18th century, showing aspects of the mercantile life in Massachusetts.” The exhibit label

continued, “The bounty warrants indicate efforts made by the state government to revive the whaling industry after the Revolution, at a time when the British industry had profited by the war and soared ahead. [...] These documents have been loaned to the Institute [MIT] by the office of the honorable Frederic W. Cook, Secretary of the Commonwealth, through the courtesy of Mr. Donald H. Fassett, Director of Corporation Records.”

Because no records could be found relating to this loan, the curator and state archivist can only speculate about why the loan was made, the reasons the loan may have been forgotten, and why the documents were filed in an archival box in a remote corner of the museum for more than sixty years.

“Our presumption is that the documents were loaned in 1941 to the then Hart Nautical Museum to augment the inaugural exhibition of the Forbes Whaling Collection, which had been recently donated by Alan Forbes, Sr.,” said Hasselbalch. “After Pearl Harbor was attacked, MIT went into war emergency mode, the exhibit came down, the documents were filed away and the loan forgotten.” [Source: *MIT News Office, June 26, 2003*]

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Manchester Historic Association Under Renovation

The Manchester Historic Association Research Library is temporarily closed to the public to allow the staff to prepare for an upcoming renovation project. The library, along with offices, exhibit space and museum storage, is housed in the Association’s headquarters building at 129 Amherst Street in Manchester, New Hampshire. As part of the Association’s long-range plan, which included opening the new Millyard Museum in 2001, the headquarters building is undergoing a transformation to a Research Center that will house an expanded library, a research room for studying the museum collection, improved storage areas, and a small exhibit space and meeting room. Plans include installing an elevator and climate control system as well as replacing windows and rewiring. Because of the extent of construction the entire library and museum collection will be moved off site until the work is complete. To accommodate researchers some reference service will still be available

via voice mail (603-622-7531 x226), e-mail (library@manchesterhistoric.org), and fax (603-622-0822). Extensive research will not be possible but every manageable request will be addressed. Also the MHA photograph collection will be available at the Millyard Museum through the PastPerfect photo database, and in January 2004 a satellite library will be opened on a limited basis at the Millyard Museum. It will include the book collection, microfilm and atlases that have been available in the library reading room.

While the library is closed publicly there will be much activity going on behind the scenes. The staff will take this opportunity to reorganize parts of the collection and rescue items that have been tucked in corners or on tops of shelves because of lack of space. The goal is to inventory and process the collections so that when they return to the newly renovated space there will be better access for those interested in researching Manchester's history. Also the MHA's project archivist, Chris Steele, continues to work on adding to the photo database. Thanks to the generosity of the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation, The Trust Family Foundation, and the Norwin S. Bean Foundation, Chris is in his third year of the project and has cataloged over 5,500 images.

For information on the Manchester Historic Association and Millyard Museum, and updates on the schedule for reopening the Research Center in early 2005, check the Association's Web page at <www.manchesterhistoric.org>.

Exhibition Offers Retrospective of New Hampshire Primary

The history of New Hampshire's unique role in choosing the U.S. President will be explored in an upcoming exhibition, *First Stop: The New Hampshire Primary*, at the Museum of New Hampshire History in Eagle Square in Concord. The exhibition is presented jointly by the New Hampshire Historical Society and the New Hampshire Political Library. It will remain on view through March 28, 2004.

First Stop captures memorable moments of the New Hampshire primary with photographs ranging from Dwight D. Eisenhower waving from an open car in Concord, to John F. Kennedy greeting voters at a dogsled

race in Laconia. The exhibition also portrays moments of gritty reality faced by candidates: Mario Cuomo is pictured in Concord announcing his withdrawal from the Presidential race in 1988. Campaign advertising materials, posters, and pins round out the display.

First Stop explores the image of the New Hampshire primary, both here and across America. It looks at the impact our primary has on national political issues and tackles the tough question of whether New Hampshire serves well as a mirror of the country at large. The exhibit encompasses the origins of the primary, the stories of long-shot candidates who did well here, and the history of the political industry in New Hampshire and incorporates a look at the 2000 Presidential election, emphasizing that every vote counts. The colorful retrospective adds to our appreciation for the state's special role in selecting American presidents, at the same time reinforcing the importance of our own participation in the political process. Sponsored by Orr & Reno, P.A., Public Service of New Hampshire, the Grappone Companies, the Concord Comfort Inn, Fleet, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, and WMUR-TV, the exhibit is a "must see" during the upcoming political season.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the New Hampshire Historical Society and the New Hampshire Political Library have teamed up to present a five-part lecture series, beginning October 5, at the New Hampshire Historical Society's Tuck Library, 30 Park Street, Concord. Admission is free. Funding for the series has been provided by the New Hampshire Humanities Council. For more information, see <www.nhhistory.org/museumexhibits/primary/firststop.html>.

VERMONT

VMG Alliance Disaster Camp

The Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance (VMGA) conducted a "disaster camp" at the Grand Isle Lake House, Grand Isle, Vermont, on September 18 and 19, 2003. The camp was a two-day workshop focused on training a fifteen-member "Emergency Response Team for Cultural Institutions," comprised of staff from Vermont museums, historical societies, galleries, libraries, archives and town clerks. Emergency managers and first responders

from around the state were also encouraged to attend, in hopes of creating a coalition of cultural heritage leaders and emergency management professionals to protect local cultural and historic resources more effectively through team building and information sharing. The project is funded by a grant from Vermont Emergency Management.

The VMGA is also working with the Rutland County Municipal Clerks Association to develop a collaborative disaster risk analysis. This project is also funded by Vermont Emergency Management. Both projects build upon earlier collaboration between the VMGA and the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board under a regrant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

News from the Vermont State Archives

The 2003 legislature added three new exemptions to Vermont's Right to Know/Public Records Act. The exemptions reflect national trends. One exemption relates to statewide voter checklists created under the national Help America Vote Act and is designed to protect voter identification numbers. Another exemption is modeled on Homeland Security legislation and exempts certain building and infrastructure plans from public inspection. The third is associated with new legislation allowing credit card payments and protects credit card information. The building plan exemption generated public discussion of security versus right-to-know tensions. The State Archives is developing an overview of the Right to Know/Public Records Act to provide a broader understanding of current record statutes. The project should be available on the Archives Web site this fall.

Increased interest in former Governor Howard Dean's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination is reflected in requests for access to his gubernatorial records. One consequence has been public discussion over the use of executive privilege to close certain records for ten years. Another consequence has been an ongoing review by the State Archives of current appraisal and other practices in terms of gubernatorial records. The Archives is meeting with staff of Governor Jim Douglas to explore management practices for the more systematic appraisal and preservation of governors' records.

OUTSIDE NEW ENGLAND

GERA Releases "The Quality Electronic Records Practices"

The Global Electronic Records Association (GERA) is pleased to release for feedback "The Quality Electronic Records Practices," which focus on designing, validating, and legal defense of electronic evidence in documentary form. GERA's focus is on the entire lifespan of electronic records and their long-term preservation and access for many decades, centuries, or perhaps "permanently." The National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC) and the Collaborative Electronic Notebook Systems Association (CENSA) have jointly funded the Quality Electronic Records Practices (QERPs) standard specifications and guides.

The first three QERPs Specifications and Guidelines are now available for your input and feedback: "The Electronic Records Lifecycle Specification," which identifies and defines all required design elements in an organizational program to capture and manage electronic records over their entire lifespan; "Litigators Guide to Electronic Records," which draws upon CENSA's Legal Acceptability Guide for Electronic Records, and will be helpful for taking your e-records to court; and lastly the "Validation Guide for Electronic Records Programs and Systems," which is designed to help any government or industrial organization validate and verify all required elements of a Quality Electronic Records Program, its organizational components, and its technology systems and components.

The guides are now available on GERA's Web site with no obligation to register: <www.erecordscentral.org>. GERA invites all to download the documents. Please consider reviewing the documents and providing comments: instructions for reviewers are also posted on the Web site, as well as GERA's monthly project newsletter. If you'd like to know more, contact Kris Kobi, Researcher/Project Manager at (781) 935-9600, extension 203. ©

Please visit us on-line at
<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

Around and About

Maine Memory Network: The Challenges of Digital Collaboration

Ellen Dyer, Outreach Consultant, Maine Memory Network

Have you checked out the Maine Memory Network yet? If you have not, direct your browser to <www.mainememory.net> and take a look at one of the first statewide digital museums on the Web. Launched in December of 2001, we are still very much in the building stage, and interesting images are still being added every day. There are many exciting things about the Maine Memory Network: it is set up so that any collecting agency may contribute items to the digital museum; it allows the user to view the images in many ways; and it is targeted specifically for school and research use. I am a member of the Maine Memory Network (MMN) team, working as an outreach consultant for central and eastern Maine. As such I have had a chance to work very closely with a wide variety of libraries, archives, and museums, helping them master the technology involved. I have had the opportunity to witness first hand the enthusiasm and energy generated when repositories realize the possibilities that Maine Memory Network affords them. I have also seen the outreach program find itself filling needs not originally imagined. I'd like to take you behind the scenes of working for and participating in such an innovative project.

First, a little background about the history of the Maine Memory Network is in order. The seed money came through

the efforts of the Maine Cultural Affairs Council, a unique public-private partnership of seven statewide cultural agencies. Five public agencies—the Maine Arts Commission, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine State Archives, Maine State Library, and the Maine State Museum—partnered with two private organizations—the Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Historical Society—and developed a

cooperative appropriations request to the state legislature. In 1999 the legislature responded with an appropriation of \$3.2 million to fund specific activities supported by each of the council partners, what became known as the New Century Community Program. One of those activities was a statewide digital museum and archives, the brainchild of Richard D'Abate, director of the Maine Historical Society.



Five Monson-Maine Slate Company quarry workers in a wooden hoist box ready to be lowered into the quarry to work, ca. 1910. *Contributed to the Maine Memory Network by the Monson Historical Society.*

The next step was to hire Dan Kaplan as project director. Kaplan spent the first four months on the job gathering information from other cultural organizations about what they would like to see on Maine Memory Network. He was assisted by an advisory board including representatives from Fogler Library at the University of Maine, the Maine State Library, Northeast Historic Film, the Maine State Museum, the Maine Humanities Council, and, of course, the Maine Historical Society. He also consulted with other organizations working on similar projects, such as the Colorado Digitization Project, the California Heritage Collection, American Memory, and the Minnesota Historical Society. From all this information, he started to assemble a plan for the Web site.

One of the top priorities for Maine Memory Network was to

incorporate the ability for any repository with collections related to Maine history to contribute their own historical images to the database. The intent behind the New Century Program was for projects to have a statewide impact. While the Maine Historical Society has a rich and varied collection that covers much of the state, everyone realized that the content of the Maine Memory Network would be exponentially deeper if other historical societies and museums could contribute images from their own collections. Furthermore, it would allow smaller, volunteer-run organizations to have access to technology they would probably have not have been able to afford on their own. Knowing the Maine temperament (we can be pretty independent), another priority was to ensure that those contributing partners would be able to participate with a great deal of autonomy. Within certain standards, contributing partners should be able to choose, upload, and catalog their images with minimal dependence on MMN staff. This is one of the features that sets the Maine Memory Network apart from other similar digital projects.

After reviewing many Web sites, and investigating software, Kaplan determined that stock photo Web sites were already doing a lot of the things Maine Memory Network wanted to do. He approached Aurora and Quanta to see if they could adapt a stock photo application to satisfy MMN requirements. Happily, they

were able to make provisions for the distributed input and holding pen that Maine Memory Network required. The result was an agreement to license the software from A & Q for much less than it would cost to develop it from scratch. Then work began on building the initial Maine Memory Network site. The Maine Historical Society became the test case for working out the processes and identifying the bugs. When Maine

by the U.S. Department of Commerce, provided the funding for an outreach program in the fall of 2001. The mission of the outreach program was to recruit and train contributing partners as well as raise general awareness about the Maine Memory Network. Kathy Amoroso was brought on board to act as outreach coordinator, helping to develop the standards for submissions to MMN, the manual that would become the contributing partners' guidebook and making initial contact with potential contributors. She then turned her sights toward hiring two other outreach consultants to increase MMN's presence throughout the state. Maine is, after all, a large state—to drive from Portland to Fort Kent can take nine hours. Fortunately, Rick Asam, in Presque Isle, works with organizations in the northern part of the state. Based out of Warren, I work with organizations in eastern and central Maine.

The easy part of the outreach job is getting people excited about using the Web site. One can search the database in a variety of ways—by key-

word, by county, by time period, by theme, or by person. A "browse" tool is slated to go live in early fall 2003, a way for researchers to narrow down a group of images through hierarchical subject categories. Once a user identifies an image they would like to take a closer look at, they proceed to a detail



Map of Maine for the United States Gazetteer by Joseph Scott, 1795.
Contributed to the Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society.

Memory Network went live, all of its images were from the Maine Historical Society. Obviously the database needed more depth, which is where the outreach team comes in.

A grant from the Technology Opportunities Program, administered

page that gives descriptive information about the item and contact information for the organization that contributed it to the Maine Memory Network. From there the user can “zoom” into the image. For select images the user can rotate the item, getting either a 360° view of three-dimensional items or the ability to see the writing on the back of a postcard (for an example of the rotate tool, type 6034 in the search field and view the Robinson pitcher).

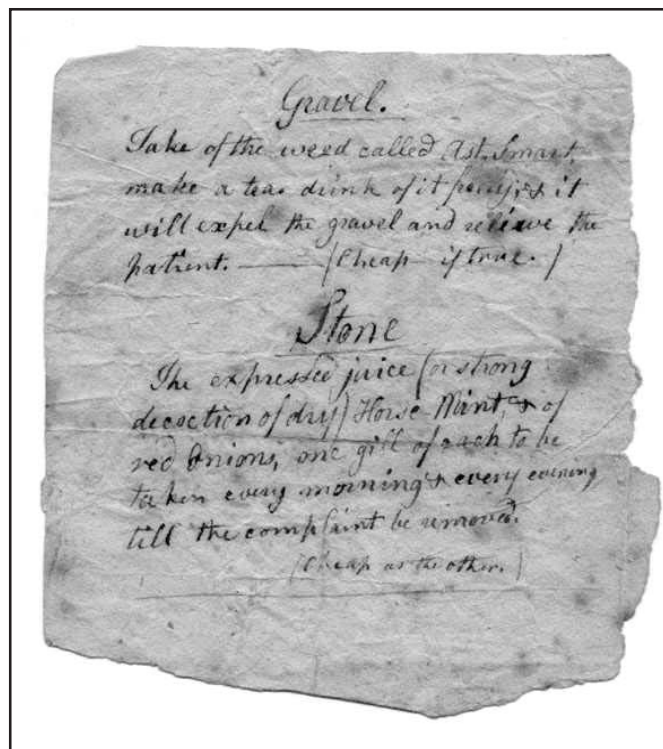
The album feature allows the user to group specific images together, add text, and view it as a slide show, with its own URL. This allows a school child to put together a project and e-mail it to his or her teacher, or for a small historical society to put together a virtual exhibit and link to it from their own Web site. A significant part of MMN is dedicated to educators, and the schools section provides access to primary documents that support teachers and students using the new Maine Studies textbook, *Finding Katahdin: An Exploration of Maine's Past* (University of Maine Press, 2001). There is also a section of on-line features that explore different historical themes in detail.

Because contributing partners run the gamut of professionalism, resources, and comfort with technology, MMN has simple standards in place to ensure a consistent level of quality across the database. To keep the collection focused we require that submissions

be somehow related to Maine and of historic interest. Since items are displayed at a standard 600-pixel width, whether the original is a slide or an 8 x 10 print, we require that the final scan be a certain file size instead of a certain resolution. This ensures that they both will display at roughly the same resolution at a 600-pixel width. We encourage contributing partners to scan at a very high quality, resulting in a 40 MB jpg file when opened. This captures a lot of detail, enables the zoom tool to function well, and allows the contributing partner to make that image available for sale if they choose. If file sizes are a real concern for them, they may choose to submit 2.5-3.5 MB files instead (for more details about our scanning standards, please see our Contributing Partners Manual, available on the Web site). The cataloging for each image is standardized as much as possible

through the use of an on-line, password-protected form whose fields roughly correspond to MARC record fields. MMN staff double check every submission to ensure everything is in order and our intrepid cataloger, Fran Pollitt, adds Library of Congress subject headings before a finished submission goes on-line.

One of the hardest challenges of the outreach mission is getting contributing partners through the initial training and making sure they have the tools they need to participate. MMN has made a real effort to make the process of scanning, uploading and cataloging as simple as possible. A number of contributing partners have the equipment readily available and are comfortable enough with technology that all they have to do is skim the Contributing Partners Manual and they are ready to go. But not everyone is that fortunate. Many of Maine's historical societies are small, volunteer-run organizations with a high percentage of volunteers who are not comfortable with technology. If they have a computer and scanner, it may be an ancient one someone donated when they upgraded their home system (have you ever tried opening a 40 MB file on a seven-year-old computer?) They may not even have a phone line in their building for Internet access. Or they may not have the time to do the work, especially for manuscripts, which require a full transcription. The outreach consultants doing the training must be able to decipher a variety of scan-



18th-century document describing herbal prescriptions to relieve complaints called 'Gravel' and 'Stone'. Contributed to the Maine Memory Network by the Maine Historical Society.



Fragment of chinoiserie wallpaper from the Thomaston, Maine mansion built by Major General Henry Knox. Probably purchased from Moses Grant of Boston, ca. 1795. Submitted to the Maine Memory Network by Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum.

ning and imaging software to ensure that we can help the contributing partner meet MMN standards.

Maine Memory Network has faced this challenge in a variety of ways, from the simple to the innovative. We have helped connect organizations to grant resources to get equipment, and have even located an intern or two to help with their scanning and cataloging. In Skowhegan, director of education, Steve Bromage, managed to facilitate a collaboration between two middle school teachers and the Skowhegan History House. The curator provided access and insight into the students' local history, and in return the students provided the manpower to scan, and the school provided access to equipment and a high-speed Internet connection. Their efforts have resulted in over eighty images on-line. Last fall the Maine Memory Network partnered with the Lewiston Public Library in a New Century grant to create a scanning center for local contributing partners. A computer, scanner and trained staff

person were funded by this grant, and all are available at the Lewiston Public Library for any contributing partner without equipment or a good Internet connection to use.

Another challenge has been educating contributing partners about the issues


involved in making images available on the Web. Attitudes range from the desire to scan everything without regard to privacy or copyright issues to the fear that putting an image on the Web will mean it will show up mass-marketed on t-shirts next week. MMN provides each contributing partner with a primer on copyright law, and talks them through the grey areas so that they can make an informed decision about what their risks are in putting certain images on the Web. We have helped them develop better gift agreements that assign copyright as part of the gift, and provided sample photo releases to get permission to post images of people still living. To help allay fears about widespread dissemination of an image, each submission is watermarked, and users do not have direct access to high quality images except through the zoom tool, which does not allow easy copying.

Beyond all the information directly related to Maine Memory Network the outreach team disseminates, we

have discovered there is a real thirst for information about proper archival and museum methods, especially in the rural areas. In addition to advising on gift agreements, we have frequently found ourselves advising contributing partners on where to find grant money for archival supplies, connecting them with experts on exhibit mounts for museum objects, telling them where to find information on creating disaster plans, pointing them in the direction of places they can purchase collection management software or informing them about archival classes available to them. This is a service not originally envisioned by MMN, but it is one that our contributing partners have appreciated, and one that makes them stronger organizations. The stronger they are as a repository, the stronger they are as contributing partners.

The Maine Memory Network has covered a lot of ground and faced a lot of challenges in the course of recruiting and training contributing partners, but we have many more ahead of us. We are currently working on expanding the number of museum objects and over-sized documents available on the Web site, which requires the use of digital cameras instead of scanners. We are in the process of making audio clips available to researchers as well. Video clips are also part of our future plans. A newly-hired historian, Candace Kanen, is helping to identify gaps in the database, and locating possible material to fill them. A lot of new things will be happening. By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, the Maine Memory Network should have over seventy contributing partners. For an outreach consultant, that's the most exciting thing of all. ©

Calendar



Press releases and other announcements of upcoming activities to be published in the *Newsletter* should be sent to NEA, c/o Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, or sent via e-mail to <ellen.doon@yale.edu>. Please provide the date, time, place and a brief description of the event and the name, address and telephone number of the person to be contacted for information.

October 1-4, 2003. The first International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (I-CHORA). Toronto, Canada. <www.fis.utoronto.ca/research/ichora/home.html>

October 8-12, 2003. Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Bethesda, MD. "Creating Communities: Cultures, Neighborhoods, Institutions." For additional information, contact Roger Horowitz, OHA Program Chair, (302) 658-2400, ext. 244, <rh@udel.edu>.

October 17-18, 2003. NEA Fall Meeting. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT.

October 17, 2003. SAA Basic Electronic Records Workshop, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Instructor: Tom Ruller, Applications Area Coordinator, New York State Education Department's Division of Information Technology Services. To register, go to <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=845>.

Through October 18, 2003. Exhibits: "Intimate Circles: American Women in the Arts" and "Extravagant Crowd: Carl Van Vechten's Portraits of Women," Beinecke Library, Yale University.

October 19-22, 2003. ARMA International 48th Annual Conference and Expo. Boston, MA.

October 19-24, 2003. "Holistic Stewardship of the Historic Site," five-day seminar co-sponsored by the Nantucket Historical Association and the National Preservation Institute, Nantucket, MA. For more information, call (508) 228-1894, ext. 123.

October 26-28, 2003. The New England Library Association Annual Conference. Worcester, MA.

November 2-8, 2003. Archives Week in the NEA region.

November 6-9, 2003. New England Regional Genealogical Conference, "New England: America's Melting Pot." Sea Crest Resort and Conference Center, North Falmouth, MA. For more information, see: <www.rootsweb.com/~manergc/index.htm>.

November 8, 2003. NEA "Archives on the Road" events: Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut, noon-3:00 p.m. (contact Amy Braitsch, (203) 869-6899); and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (contact Heidi Marshall, (508) 793-3023).

November 12-14, 2003. "Sex, Drugs, and Rock & Roll: the Passionate Life of Museums," New England Museum Association Annual Conference. Mystic, CT. <www.nemanet.org>

November 18, 2003. "To Catch a Thief: How Librarians Can Help Prevent Plagiarism in Academia," presented by the Connecticut Library Association, College and University Section. Conference Room, Wallingford Public Library, 10:00- 2:00 (coffee and pastries 9:30 a.m.).

November 18-22, 2003. Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Conference. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. <www.amianet.org/04_Annual/Annual.html>

December 4, 2003. Workshop: "Fundamentals of Archival Acquisition and Appraisal". 9:00-4:00. NELINET Office, 153 Cordaville Road, Southborough, MA. Registration: <www.nelinet.net/calendar/wkshpreg.htm>

February 15, 2004. Application deadline for NEA Richard W. Hale, Jr. Professional Development Award.

March 1, 2004. Application deadline for NEA Richard L. Haas Memorial Award.

March 15, 2004. NEA "Archives on the Road" event, Leicester Historical Society, Leicester, MA (contact Heidi Marshall, (508) 793-3023).

March 25-28, 2004. Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. <www.oah.org>

March 26-27, 2004. NEA Spring Meeting. Worcester, MA.

Through March 28, 2004. Exhibit: "First Stop: The New Hampshire Primary," at the Museum of New Hampshire History in Eagle Square in Concord, NH.

June 20-24, 2004. Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (ALA) Pre-conference at Yale University, New Haven, CT.

June 24-30, 2004. American Library Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

August 2-8, 2004. Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting and Conference, Boston, MA.

October 20-22, 2004. New England Library Association Meeting, Manchester, NH.

November 8-13, 2004. Archives Week in the NEA region. ☺

Reviews...from page 3

archival institutions. Steedman focuses not so much on the straightforward—the who, what, where, when and why of history—but studies how historians analyze historical events and effectively use archives.

Just as the materials found in archives were not created for the sole purpose of becoming "history," it is unlikely that Steedman's intended audience is only the archival professional. However, there is pleasure to be found for the archivist in its pages, an alternative to the nuts and bolts of accepted practice and new uses of technology. For this archivist, *Dust* is a pleasant intellectual stroll through the experiences of the patron, the "voice on the other side of the reference desk." It is also a realistic and understanding presentation and awareness of those "brought face to face with the *ordinariness*, the unremarkable nature of archives and the everyday disappointments that historians know they will find there" (p. 9). Lastly, it presents a compassionate understanding and awareness that "*Nothing goes away*," (p. 163) but all that may be left is—Dust. ☺



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Simon Whipple's headstone, linking consumption and vampirism. *Courtesy of Cyril Place. (Archival Insight, page 4)*