

Volume 41, Number 4 • October 2014

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NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R — Students dancing at the Fall Ball in the 1960s. The Women's Association of Suffolk University (WASU), founded in 1947, was the school's first women's organization. In addition to providing service opportunities, the organization also ran many social events at the University from 1947 to 1969, including the Fall Ball, the Hobo Dance, the Beaux Arts Ball, the Beanie Dance, and the "Miss Suffolk University" beauty contest. Photo courtesy of the Moakley Archive and Institute at Suffolk University. Collection SUJ-004.01, item SU-1609.

I N S I D E — Important announcements about upcoming Fall and Spring meetings (pages 3 and 9), *From the President* (page 6), and other organizational news, including a new A/V Professional Development Award and NEA's first Diversity and Inclusion Statement (page 7). James McSpadden shares his experiences "behind the scenes" as Pforzheimer Fellow at the Harvard University Archives (page 4). Darla White interviews Maria Bernier of the Redwood Library & Athenaeum in Newport, Rhode Island (page 16). Jeremy Bangs shares details about the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum's Plymouth Colony Records Project (page 20).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

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New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

Office of Medical History and Archives
The Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North • Worcester, MA 01655
<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

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Membership in *New England Archivists, Inc.* is open to all.

Dues of \$35/year (\$45 for institutions) should be sent to: Kristine M. Sjostedt, Office of Medical History and Archives, The Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655, or join online at <www.newenglandarchivists.org>.

Notices of archival events should be sent to: Heather Mumford at <heather_mumford@hms.harvard.edu>.

The *NEA Newsletter* is published quarterly 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 for consideration to: Heather Mumford at <heather_mumford@hms.harvard.edu>, or to NEA Newsletter Editors, c/o Office of Medical History and Archives, The Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655.

Contributions for inclusion on the NEA website should be sent to: <webcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Deadlines for submitting materials are:

November 15 for January issue February 10 for April issue
May 15 for July issue August 15 for October issue

Advertising Policy:

There will be no fee to list position openings. Advertisements for archival products will be accepted as space permits. Advertising should be submitted to Jane Ward, (978) 459-2129 or <jane.ward@comcast.net>.

Rates: Full page: \$125; half page: \$75; quarter page: \$40. Payment is requested at the time the ad is submitted. All checks should be made payable to *New England Archivists*.

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From the Editors

- Carolyn D. Hayes

For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad. – Edwin Way Teale

Just like that, fall is upon us! As the leaves turn and we brace ourselves for another New England winter, NEA members are gearing up to gather together for the Fall Meeting, Saturday, November 1 at Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island – don't miss important details and information about the day's programming on page 9 of this issue.

We start the October issue off with a glance back at the summer season. In *Around and About*, James McSpadden reflects on his summer spent working in the Harvard University Archives as a part of the Harvard Library's inaugural Pforzheimer Fellowship program. In *From the President*, Jill Snyder gives us the latest news from the June Board meeting, including an update on plans for the future application of NEA's first organizational diversity statement. She also announces a new Audio/Visual (A/V) Professional Development Award and informs us on the status of the Board's ongoing work towards developing a new strategic plan for NEA.

A special *NEA News* section provides supplementary details about the new A/V scholarship and our recently-adopted diversity statement, as well as information about programmatic changes growing out of the REPS Mentoring Circles, and the announcement of new Representative-At-Large, Jessica Sedgwick.

Also in this issue, Darla White interviews Maria Bernier, Assistant Director of the Redwood Library & Athenaeum, Newport, Rhode Island, in the latest installment of her "Lessons in Leadership" series. And, from across the Atlantic in Leiden, Netherlands, Jeremy Bangs writes about the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum's ongoing Plymouth Colony Records Project, a years-long endeavor to transcribe and publish the first comprehensive collection of official Plymouth Colony records (1620-1691).

As always, *News and Notes* offers an exciting peek into repositories around the region, with updates on new acquisitions, open collections, project grants, and digitized content.

And, if the thought of winter is getting you down, don't forget to mark your calendars and book a room for the Spring 2015 Joint MARAC/NEA Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts (see ad below for details and special NEA room rates). ■



SPRING 2015 JOINT MARAC/NEA MEETING MARCH 19-21, 2015

#MARACNEA15

During the American Revolution, the country came together and redefined itself. Today, archivists are sounding a call to innovation in archival practice, redefining the profession for the 21st century.

Join us for a three-day archival revolution as New England Archivists (NEA) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) come together to host a joint meeting in the historic city of Boston, Massachusetts.

We're developing a regionally and professionally diverse session schedule, repository tours, a community work day, and the chance to meet up with colleagues from across our two regions.

Reserve your hotel room today.

To reserve your room:

BOSTON PARK PLAZA
50 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON, MA
ROOM RATE: \$159

<http://bit.ly/1k8h9ot>
(NEA members use code NEAJM)

AROUND AND ABOUT

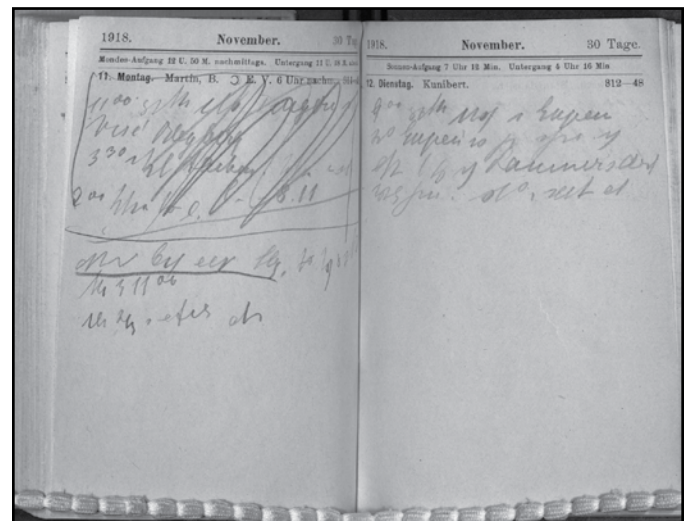
The Other Side of the Desk: A Graduate Student's Summer as an Archivist

by James McSpadden, PhD Candidate in History and Pforzheimer Fellow, Harvard University

History graduate students spend hours and hours in archives, but we are often stuck in reading rooms going through finding aids, ordering boxes that catch our eye, and piecing together a patchwork understanding of the collections we use. Few of us have the privilege of working behind the scenes with archivists to help describe entire collections. This summer, however, I was fortunate to take part in the inaugural cohort of Pforzheimer Fellows, a fellowship program created this year by the Harvard Library to offer graduate students in the humanities an opportunity to experience the work of the modern library, its special collection, and archives from the other side of the desk. From June to August 2014, I had the unique opportunity to work in the Harvard University Archives (HUA) with the papers of Heinrich Brüning (1885-1970).

At Harvard, among the collections of famous colonial Americans and world-renowned academics, Heinrich Brüning's papers seem like the odd one out. Brüning was a German politician, serving as chancellor from 1930 to 1932 during the waning years' interwar democracy. In fact, historians have pointed to his authoritarian policies as blazing the trail that Hitler would later follow. However, Brüning remained an under-researched figure because large accessions in his collection at HUA had not been catalogued. Brüning's old German script and his penchant for an idiosyncratic shorthand were both hurdles for tackling this collection. However, since my dissertation touches on Brüning and the political world he inhabited—full of people writing in this older handwriting—I spent last summer in Germany learning how to read this script and came to HUA ready to put these skills to the test.

The most interesting aspect of the experience of looking in every folder and opening every envelope is that I developed a more complete picture of Brüning as a human being, far different from how historians have painted him. Several objects and images particularly stand out as casting Brüning in a more natural light. For example, his experiences as a German soldier on the front lines of the First World War are brought to life in his so-called "War Diary," which dates from 1918. With a cover like any normal appointment book, as a soldier Brüning wrote in his almost inscrutable shorthand about his unit's movements and engagements. The page for November 11, 1918—the day the armistice brought an end to the war—shows that Brüning crossed out his original wartime engagements and replaced them with peacetime's pursuits.



Acs 13634 Box 2 Folder 14, Harvard University Archives.

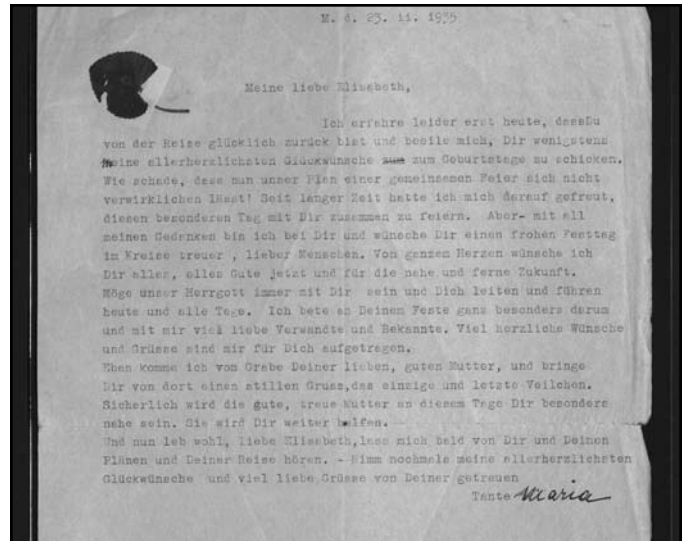
Other finds in the collection highlighted Brüning's relationship with his family, a topic rarely mentioned by scholars. Having lost his father at a young age, Brüning's elder brother, Hermann, was a major figure in his life. The family was devoutly Roman Catholic, and Hermann joined the priesthood and served in a parish in England before the First World War started and Hermann left for the United States. Part of Hermann's experiences in America included a trip to the Wild West—at least in a photo studio. Curious images of him and friends from 1921 ended up in Brüning's collection alongside a photograph of Hermann dressed as a proper priest. The juxtaposition of these images is particularly striking. Hermann labeled one of these picture postcards in German as being of "the German and Austrian delegation in the Wild and Woolly West." Presumably, the woolly reference is to the outlandishly fleecy chaps he is wearing.



Acs 13632 Box 1 Folder 5, Harvard University Archives.

In addition to the priest-turned-cowboy photos, Hermann's other letters in this collection include one of the most cryptic items I have ever come across in an archive. An envelope sent from Germany in 1913 addressed to "Reverend H. J. Brüning" in Cumberland, Maryland, included a small swatch of black wool cloth wrapped inside a scrap of paper. Finding textiles is rare enough, but included in the envelope was the traced image of someone's foot that had been cut out and carefully folded. This foot drawing includes measurements and the German phrase: "Most important not too small," likely a reference to shoes that were being requested. Whether this is Hermann's order for custom-made German shoes to match his latest black priest's cassock or the request of his mother for the latest in American shoe styles of the 1910s, we can't be sure. However, these small everyday items preserved in the collection of a man known as a leading politician of the Weimar period cast Brüning in a much more human light.

A large part of the family correspondence in Brüning's collection is between him and his sister Maria. During the years of the Third Reich when Brüning was in exile, Maria remained in Germany and secretly continued to send her brother letters. This letter she sent to Brüning in 1935 was addressed to him under the false name "Elisabeth" and

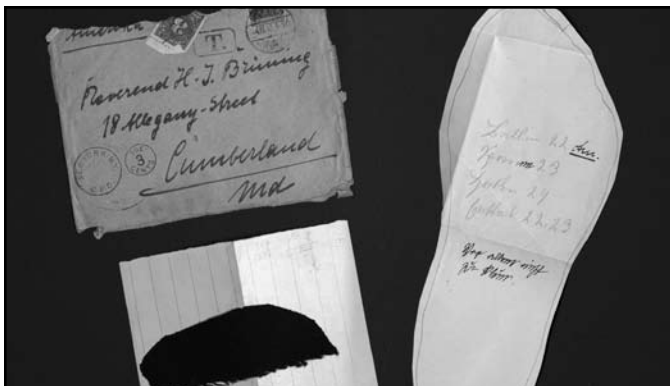


Acs 14078 Box 3 Folder 2, Harvard University Archives.

signed by "Aunt" Maria. It is particularly poignant because it includes a pressed leaf at the top that Maria referred to when she wrote: "I just now came from the grave of your dear, loving mother, and from there I've brought you a silent salutation, the last and only violet."

My summer at HUA gave me a taste of the archival profession and a fuller picture of one of the figures in my dissertation. By seeing much more than most archival researchers, I now have a better sense of the world in which Brüning moved and the history he helped shape. I only wish that more historians were able to have similar experiences: going behind the scenes at an archives, working closely with the collections they use for research, discovering unexpected gems, and leaving behind enhanced finding aids for other scholars.

- For more information on the Pforzheimer Fellows program, please visit <<http://library.harvard.edu/04282014-1643/new-pforzheimer-fellows-will-tackle-library-projects>>.
- For more information on James McSpadden's project, please visit <<http://library.harvard.edu/library.harvard.edu/university-archives/archives-news/16-PforzheimerFellow>>.
- For more information about the Papers of Heinrich Brüning, 1930-1982, please visit <<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.ARCH:hua20014>>.
- For more information about the Papers of Heinrich Brüning [unprocessed accessions], 1903-1985, please visit <<http://id.lib.harvard.edu/aleph/011568440/catalog>>.



Acs 13632 Box 4 Folder 7, Harvard University Archives.

Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Jill Snyder



Hey, NEA! Hope you had a wonderful summer! So what has the Board been up to?

The Board voted to approve the new diversity statement at the June Board meeting (see page 7 for more information). This is an important first step in building an organization that is reflective of all archivists across New England and will serve as a touchstone for deciding on a path forward for inclusion and diversity within NEA. We are using the statement, as a starting point, to write a job description for the new Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator position we hope to bring to the Board this winter.

The Board recently established a new award for audio/visual professional development. This award (of up to \$500.00) was made possible by a donation

Look for the NEA Board Meeting Minutes online!

NEA's Executive Board Minutes are going to be featured online, exclusively, beginning July 2014. Visit newenglandarchivists.wildapricot.org for more information.

from an anonymous donor and will be given annually for the next three years, by NEA, to promote the professional development of members in the field of audio/visual (see page 7 for more information about the award).

The Education Committee has been busy. The Arrangement and Description curriculum has been completed. The Reference and Access curriculum is next on the to-do list.

The Membership Survey went out to NEA members this summer. Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey. The survey is one way we know how the NEA is doing and what your needs are.

The Board is working on writing a new strategic plan for NEA. We asked for your input on future directions for NEA in the Membership Survey. We will be writing a new plan, based on your feedback, in the coming months. Be on the lookout for opportunities to get involved.

And what is in the works? The Board will be looking at the Roundtables and identifying lessons learned and areas for improvement. The Communications and Web Committees will be looking at ways to re-structure and work more closely together. The Board is currently drafting a records schedule. Planning continues for the Spring 2015 meeting with MARAC.

Looking forward to the Fall 2014 Meeting at Salve Regina University on November 1. This will be a great opportunity to meet and learn from your fellow members! ■



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[<www.newenglandarchivists.org>](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)

NEA News

New England Archivists Establishes New Award for Audio/Visual Professional Development

New England Archivists (NEA) announces an exciting new professional development award. An anonymous donor was inspired to fund this new award after experiencing the dedication and enthusiasm of the Spring 2014 Meeting, held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in March. The Audio/Visual (A/V) Professional Development Award, a disbursement of up to \$500, will be given annually for the next three years by NEA to promote increased advancement, education, and participation within this specialized area of the archives field.

Archivists work with a wide range of materials and media: audio and video tape, motion picture film, digital recordings, and more. The challenges and practices of preserving and making these records accessible are evolving as constantly as the formats themselves. Continuing education is vital for archivists caring for these materials.

Individual members of NEA are eligible to apply for the award. Applicants might propose participating in an educational program or workshop, preparing a paper for publication or presentation, attending a professional meeting, or some other activity supporting professional work with A/V materials. Recipients will report on their experience by writing for the *NEA Newsletter* or giving a presentation at the NEA Spring Meeting. Submissions will be reviewed and recipients selected by the A/V Professional Development Award Committee.

Fostering professional development for NEA members is a core value of NEA's mission. NEA Vice-President Colin Lukens notes that the "generous donation establishes an award to assist members in navigating a quickly changing and complicated aspect of the work we do. I hope the success of the A/V Professional Development Award will move others to support the vital work of growing NEA scholarships and awards through donations of their own."

The first A/V Professional Development Award will be presented at the Spring 2015 Meeting in Boston and details will be available by December 1st. For further details, keep

an eye on the Awards page on the NEA website at <www.newenglandarchivists.org>.

New England Archivists Officially Adopts a Diversity and Inclusion Statement

The New England Archivists (NEA) is pleased to announce our official Inclusion and Diversity Statement, adopted at the June 2014 NEA Board Meeting. As the beginning of a concerted effort to increase diversity within our membership and to encourage members' efforts to improve the diversity of their collections and user communities, it reads:

New England Archivists (NEA) supports inclusion and diversity as core values in achieving its mission. NEA is committed to building and maintaining an inclusive environment where differences of opinion, beliefs, and values are sought, listened to, respected, and valued. Through inclusion, NEA is dedicated to expanding membership, participation, and leadership that reflect the broad diversity of New England.

The adoption of the statement is "an important first step in building an organization that is reflective of all archivists across New England. This statement will serve as a touchstone for deciding on a path forward for inclusion and diversity within NEA," affirms NEA President Jill Snyder. As the next step, the NEA Board will appoint an Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator to lead NEA's efforts.

The diversity initiative had its start in 2010 with the passage of a new member-approved strategic plan. In 2011, the NEA Board formed a Diversity Task Force, co-chaired by Karen Adler Abramson (of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library) and Michelle Gachette (of Harvard University), charged with compiling research, engaging NEA members in the process, and presenting their findings to the larger organization. In the final report, submitted to the NEA Board in 2013, the Diversity Task Force recommended that NEA establish a sustainable inclusion and diversity program.

With the help of consultant Madeline McNeely of Conditioning Leaders, the NEA Board began to plan the process of formally integrating inclusion and diversity throughout the organization. The first action item, drafting an official

statement, resulted in three versions that were presented to NEA membership for comment. Obtaining the feedback of members was a vital aspect of this process, as ensuring the voices of all NEA members are heard is one component of the inclusion effort.

Colin Lukens, NEA Vice-President, emphasized the need to maintain the statement as a living document: "We will continue to request input from our membership on how it can be improved and more accurately reflect the nature of NEA membership and the archival profession."

To read the final report from the Diversity Task Force, please visit the NEA website: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/pdfs/DiversityTaskForceFinalReport20130602.pdf>.

New England Archivists Launches Innovative Mentoring Program

New England Archivists (NEA) announces the NEA Mentoring Program to encourage and support professional growth at all stages of our members' careers. With interactions occurring in person and online, this innovative approach will create new opportunities for archivists to interact, share ideas, and expand professional networks beyond the Spring and Fall meetings.

The original concept for the Program was first piloted between 2013-14 by NEA's Roundtable for Early Professionals and Students (REPS). Diverging from the more traditional one-to-one mentoring model, the REPS pilot encouraged participants to form communities. "The mentoring circles really embodied that spirit of collaboration that drives REPS. We were encouraging new archivists to learn not only from their seniors, but from each other, and we

were encouraging co-mentors to learn from one another as well as their mentees," notes Caitlin Birch, co-founder of REPS and Interim Chair of the Mentoring Task Force. Echoing that sentiment, Darla White, a mentor who participated in the online community, said that "mentoring is a two-way street, and those who seek mentors have a great deal to offer a mentoring relationship themselves. I was thrilled to be a part of the pilot year."

Following the success of the pilot, NEA is seizing the opportunity to offer this sustainable, permanent NEA Mentoring Program to all members. "Anyone can benefit and learn from participating in this program," says Jessica Sedgwick, NEA Representative-at-Large and liaison to the Mentoring Task Force, "be they students, mid-career professionals, or veterans of the field." Beginning officially this fall, monthly meetings will occur in person in the greater Boston area as well as virtually, using online platforms like Google Hangouts or Skype. The virtual component increases accessibility to all members, meaning that physical location will not be a barrier to participation.

NEA members interested in participating in this innovative approach are encouraged to apply: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/mentoring> and contact Caitlin Birch at <caitlin.birch@dartmouth.edu> with questions.

New Representative-at-Large Appointed

Jessica Sedgwick has been appointed Representative-at-Large, to serve the remainder of the term previously held by Vice President/President-elect Colin Lukens (through Spring 2015). Jessica recently served a three-year term as co-chair of the Membership Committee, and also participates in NEA's Mentoring Program as both a task force member and mentor. ■

Join us in a budding
NEA tradition!

NEA Networking Social

Wednesday, October 15th, 2014

5:30-7:30pm

Audubon Circle Bar and Restaurant
838 Beacon Street, Boston, MA

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November 1, 2014, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Bazarsky Lecture Hall, O'Hare Academic Center
Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island

NEA FALL 2014 MEETING

NOT YOUR AVERAGE NEA MEETING...

Participate in thought-provoking discussions in the City by the Sea this fall at "Archives in Action," NEA's half-day fall symposium. This informal meeting encourages idea sharing among all participants, so it's a must that all attendees come ready to participate and work together in lively brainstorming and workshop sessions.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about archival innovations from throughout the region and from varied areas of archival work (records management, digital collections, collaborative projects, and more!) and will build strategies for translating successful ideas to their own workplaces. All sessions will include active participation from audience members engaged in planning and practice activities that will cultivate strategies for implementation in their own workplaces.

Come engage with your colleagues, learn, explore, experiment, and plan for future projects. Be prepared to ask questions and use your creative problem-solving skills.

SPACE IS LIMITED—REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

Member: \$35 | Student: \$17.50 | Bridge Rate: \$26.25 | Non Member: \$50



http://www.newenglandarchivists.org/fall_2014
#NEAsymp14

News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Book on Local History Published by Windsor Historical Society

The Windsor Historical Society has published *They Lived in Windsor: A Reconstruction of the 1890 Census for Windsor, Connecticut*. At the time of this federal census there were 3,000 people living in Windsor, Connecticut. Our goal was to identify not only those who were prominent property owners or descendants of the old founding families, but women and children, farm laborers, mill workers, and recent immigrants.

Researcher Elaine Brophy examined a variety of period sources in the collections of the Society and in other area repositories. She has tried to ascertain those aspects of each individual's demographic information which would have been on the census forms: age, race, birthplace, occupation, and family members. The work will be of enduring value to genealogists, local history aficionados, and social historians interested in immigration and labor patterns.

They Lived in Windsor is comprised of a Master Census List, four supporting tables, and a searchable CD. Each en-



A Windsor, Connecticut family of the 1890s. From a glass plate negative attributed to C. Robert Hatheway. WHS Collection 2008.41.61. Courtesy of the Windsor Historical Society.

try indicates where that name was found in the documentary sources. Copies may be purchased through the Gift Shop on our website at <www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org> or by contacting Barbara Goodwin, Windsor Historical Society Librarian, at <bgoodwin@windsorhistoricalsociety.org>.

100 Years: Documenting Connecticut's Role in World War I - Needs Assessment Survey

The Connecticut State Library, The University of Connecticut, and Historypin have partnered to create a project titled *100 Years: Connecticut's Role in World War I*. This project focuses on Connecticut's role in World War I at home and abroad by supporting an immersive inter-generational and cross-cultural commemoration of the upcoming World War I Centenary. The Centenary presents an unprecedented opportunity to harness local history around the war by sharing Connecticut's rich cultural heritage from institutions and making it easy for individuals and local history organizations to make their content available for public discovery and research.

We request your participation in a survey we are conducting of the cultural heritage community and citizens of Connecticut. This survey seeks to help us better understand the needs of the cultural heritage community and the citizens of Connecticut for digitizing World War I historic material. The survey is open to all residents, institutions, organizations, and businesses in Connecticut and can be found at <<http://bit.ly/WWIinCT>> or on our website at <<http://ctinworldwar1.org>>.

MAINE

Maine Historical Society's Offsite Storage – A Collaboration

Maine Historical Society and Portland Public Library have joined in an exciting and innovative partnership. Even though each institution, located within a block of each other, has recently renovated our Congress Street institutions, we are now out of space.

Together, Maine Historical Society and Portland Public Library have developed a 35,500 square foot shared collec-

tion management center in the Riverside area of Portland, about five miles away from downtown.

The Maine Historical Society museum and library will occupy one half of the facility, and the first library collection to be stored offsite is the Bangor Theological Seminary records. This collection measures nearly 300 linear feet in its current state, and will be processed in the next eighteen months by project archivist Patrick Ford, courtesy of the generous funding provided by the Seminary itself. The collection should be available for research as early as 2016. The Bangor Theological Seminary ceased to offer degree granting programs in 2013, but continues to operate as the BTS Center, a charitable organization seeking “to equip and support clergy and laity for theologically grounded and effective 21st century ministries.”

For more information, please contact Nancy Noble at <nnoble@mainehistory.org> or 207-774-1822 x218.

MASSACHUSETTS

Writing Systems for the Blind Used by Helen Keller: A New Online Exhibit from the Perkins Archives

“There is nothing more absurd, I think, than to have five or six different prints for the blind...” – Helen Keller, 1901.

“The conflict was acrimonious in the extreme. The bitterness can hardly be imagined.” – Olin H. Burritt, on the efforts to standardize reading and writing systems for the blind.



Helen Keller reading an embossed book, ca. 1899 (left), and a screenshot of a virtual bookshelf from the digital exhibit: Writing Systems for the Blind Used by Helen Keller, 2014. Perkins School for the Blind Archives.

Helen Keller was educated at a time when many competing systems for reading and writing for the blind were being used, invented, reinvented, and eventually standardized. Keller was born in 1880 and it wasn't until 1918 that Standard Braille was adopted as the official system in the United States. Within that time, Keller became the first person who was deafblind to earn a Bachelor's degree, and she had to learn to read fluently in at least five different systems for her studies.

To view the collection, please visit the Perkins Archives Flickr Page: <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/perkinsarchive/collections/>>.

For more information, contact Molly Stothert-Maurer, Archivist, Perkins School for the Blind Archives at <Molly.Stothert-Maurer@Perkins.org>.

Grant from National Film Preservation Foundation Supports Preservation of Three Films at Emerson College

Emerson College Archives and Special Collections (ECASC) has preserved three films from 16mm to DVD with support from a \$5,300 grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation as part of the College's commitment to digitally preserve and share its vast collection of historical documents.

The newly preserved films include a short film produced by the College in 1955 to promote the speech and hearing clinic's service to the Boston community. Shot in black and white, the film shows the Robbins Center two years after opening, and includes footage of the center's founding faculty members working with children who have speech and hearing disorders. Another black and white film about the center, titled *Strong Hand, Helping Hand*, was produced in 1960. It includes the only existing shot of the College's Back Bay campus during this time period. The narration gives a detailed description of the program in its early days. A film from 1966 about the Thayer Lindsley Nursery, produced one year after it opened, includes footage of families who came to the nursery for treatment. Filmed in color, it highlights technologies and techniques used during the 1960s to treat children with speech and hearing problems and features candid discussions with mothers who share their experiences of caring for their children.

The films will be available to all researchers in the Emerson College Archives and Special Collections. For further information, contact <archives@emerson.edu>.

Brandeis receives grant to digitize 18th-century Venetian Jewish record book

The Archives & Special Collections Department at Brandeis University received a grant from The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation to digitize an eighteenth-century account book created by the Jewish community in Venice, Italy.

The book is a bound collection of receipts from the 1700s, written in both Italian and Hebrew, that track financial disbursements to a wide range of individuals for various purposes, including the salary of communal officials, emissaries seeking alms from the Holy Land, and non-Jewish artisans who had provided various services to the Italian Jewish community.

“This manuscript represents a significant unusual insight into the realities of Jewish life, primarily in the religious, economic, and social realm, in a relatively neglected period in Venetian Jewish history,” says Ben Ravid, professor emeritus of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis, who specializes in medieval and early modern Venice.



Book of records and accounts of the Jewish community in Venice, Italy. Courtesy of Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections, Brandeis University.

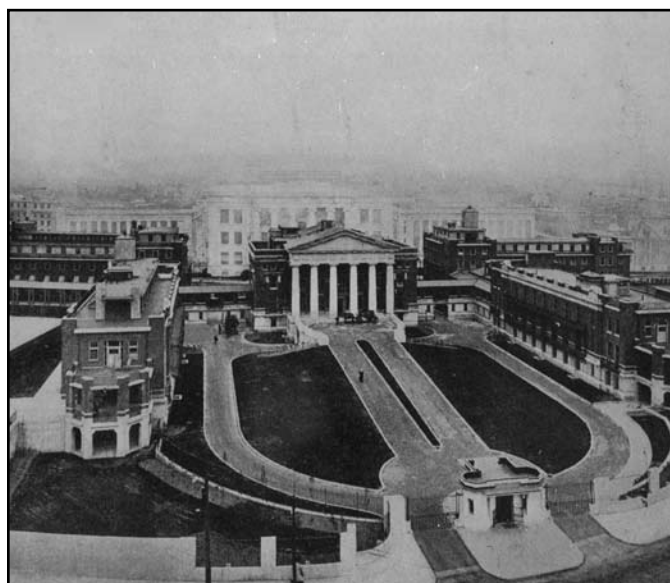
More than 600 digital images were captured, cataloged in Dublin Core, and uploaded into the Brandeis Institutional Repository.

For more information, please visit <<http://tinyurl.com/nj4vuuy>>.

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital Records Opened for Research

Harvard Medical School's Center for the History of Medicine and the Brigham and Women's Hospital Medical Library are pleased to announce that the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital Records, 1830– (inclusive), 1911–1980 (bulk) are now open for research. A guide to the collection can be found via this link: <<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HMS.Count:med00057>>.

The collection of historic material related to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (PBBH), one of the parent hospitals of the Brigham and Women's Hospital, includes photographs, memorabilia, business records, and historic publications that were created before its merger with Boston Hospital for Women and Robert B. Brigham Hospital in 1975, and while it operated as a division of the Affiliated Hospitals Center (AHC) until 1980, when the three AHC divisions were moved into the same new facility and unified under the new name, Brigham and Women's Hospital, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.



The Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (circa 1914), a 225-bed, pavilion-style hospital constructed 1911–1914 along Francis Street (Boston, Massachusetts) in front of Harvard Medical School. Courtesy of the Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library.

The Peter Bent Brigham Hospital collection includes much of its early administrative data, going back as far as 1902 (when the corporation to construct the hospital was formed and its close relationship with Harvard Medical School began), telling the story of the growth of a major metropolitan hospital from its opening in 1913 through the development of modern medicine during the greater part of the 20th century. The collection also includes records of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital School of Nursing (1912–1985), which became one of the preeminent training programs for nurses in the United States.

For more information, please contact Catherine Pate, Brigham and Women's Hospital Archivist, at <cathy_pate@hms.harvard.edu> or 617-432-6195.

MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections Receives Papers of Jordan J. Baruch

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Institute Archives & Special Collections has received the papers of Jordan J. Baruch, former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology during the Carter presidency, educator, businessman, inventor, and acoustics expert. He had strong ties to MIT as both an alumnus and faculty member. While serving as Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Baruch initiated the founding of the first school of management in China, which helped establish business ties between China and the United States. He was also a decorated veteran of World War II.

The collection includes correspondence, research, papers, and documents relating to his work in China. The Baruch papers are currently being processed with support from donor funding and will be available to researchers once processing is complete.

For more information, please contact Dana Hamlin, Project Archivist, at <dgooblask@mit.edu> or 617-253-5705.

"This Man Grew According to the Need": Concord and Abraham Lincoln

The Concord Free Public Library's (CFPL) William Munroe Special Collections is pleased to announce the library's forthcoming fall/winter exhibition and lecture

CATALOGUE
OF
600 Bales and Bags
COTTON,
Tobacco, Turpentine, &c.
CARGO OF
PRIZE STEAMER TRISTRAM SHANDY,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
This Day, Wednesday, July 6, 1864,
AT 12 O'CLOCK, M.,
AT LEWIS WHARF,
PER ORDER,
JOHN S. KEYES,
U. S. Marshal.
TERMS CASH BEFORE DELIVERY OF GOODS.
No allowance will be made for imperfections or deficiencies
and purchasers will be required to pay 10 per cent. upon the
amount of their bids at the time of sale.
H. HARRIS & CO.,
AUCTIONEERS.
BOSTON:
1864.

In fulfilling his duties as United States Marshal for Massachusetts during the Civil War, Concordian John Shepard Keyes communicated directly with members of President Lincoln's cabinet. Courtesy of the Concord Free Public Library, William Munroe Special Collections.

series "*This man grew according to the need*": *Concord and Abraham Lincoln*. Located in the CFPL gallery, it runs from November 7th, 2014 through February 28th, 2015 and is free and open to the public during library hours.

The unique focus of the exhibit is Abraham Lincoln as seen through the eyes of Concordians ranging from Ralph Waldo Emerson (whose observation on Lincoln serves as the title of this exhibit), Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Bronson Alcott to William Whiting and John Shepard Keyes who, serving in his capacity as a U.S. Marshal in President Lincoln's administration, attended the president's first inaugural address and was present as he delivered the Gettysburg Address. Also included here are the shared thoughts of

members of the Prichard family, as well as the reactions of a number of Concordians, including Henry Francis Smith in his letters and diaries.

Materials in this exhibit feature selections from the CFPL's manuscript and image collections, including autograph letters, books, journal and diary entries, and a presidential order. Visuals include broadsides, engravings from the pages of *Harper's Weekly*, artwork, and photographs.

More information about the exhibit, accompanying lecture series, and additional programming is available on the library's website at <www.concordlibrary.org>.



A "before" picture of the manuscript closet in the Archives at the Jackson Homestead, Newton, Massachusetts.

CPA Funding Provides Storage Expansion and More for Jackson Homestead and Museum

Historic Newton is pleased to announce that the Archives at the Jackson Homestead and Museum has received Community Preservation Act funding that will improve conditions and storage in the Archives, upgrade our universal access, and provide fire protection throughout the building. The Archives is currently closed to researchers. The renovation is expected to take place between October 2014 and July 2015.

Progress on the project can be followed at <<http://actioninthearchives.wordpress.com>>. For more information, please contact Sara Leavitt Goldberg at <sgoldberg@newtonma.gov>.

Digital Collections at the Woburn Public Library

Digital Collections is a new resource at the Woburn Public Library's Dr. Thomas J. Glennon Archives, developed as part of a redesign of the library's website. The site provides online access to the library's museum, photographs, and archives collections.

Initial cataloging work focused on objects in the museum collection, documenting the industrial, military, and social history of Woburn. Until now, this collection has had only limited public access. With the assistance of volunteers and an intern from Salem State College's Graduate School of History, objects were inventoried, photographed, and assigned subject headings to create online records. In addition, images from the Glennon Archives' photograph collections and DACS-compliant collection level manuscript records from the archives collections are being added to the site on an ongoing basis.

The website can be viewed at <www.woburnpubliclibrary.org/archives>. For more information please contact Tom Doyle, Archivist at 781-933-0148 or <tdoyle@minlib.net>.

Visit the NEA online at:

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>



An exterior image of the John Hay Library. Courtesy of Brown University Library.

Amherst College Receives Grant to Process Theatre Collection

The Archives and Special Collections at Amherst College is pleased to announce that processing of the Samuel French Collection has commenced. Funding for this project comes from a Council on Library and Information Resources "Hidden Collections" grant, which was awarded earlier this year.

Founded in 1854, the Samuel French Corporation is one of the most prominent international theatrical publishing concerns in existence today. The French Collection at Amherst currently contains more than 400 cartons worth of mostly unprocessed material, including thousands of plays and publications, photographs, costume design illustrations, theatrical ephemera, and documentation of the Samuel French Corporation's business transactions dating back to the mid 1800s. Also of particular note in the collection are documents pertaining to international copyright law, a wealth of musical scores, and scrapbooks that detail decades worth of amateur theatrical performances.

Once processed, the Samuel French Collection will be of incalculable research value to scholars, performers, playwrights, and theatrical enthusiasts who want to learn more about the history of performance and theatrical publishing in the 19th and 20th centuries.

For more information about the Samuel French collection, please contact Rosemary K. J. Davis at <rkdavis@amherst.edu>.

RHODE ISLAND

Renovated John Hay Library Re-Opens

The Brown University Library is delighted to announce the opening of the newly renovated John Hay Library. This historic landmark has been revitalized by creating an open, welcoming study space for students in its magnificent first floor reading room. Other improvements include the creation of a state-of-the-art special collections reading room; enhancements to the service and exhibit areas in the central hall of the first floor; addition of a student lounge and conference room; installation of a ramp and accessible door to the front of the Library; and code compliance and fire safety upgrades throughout the building.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Betts, University Archivist, Brown University at <jennifer_betts@brown.edu> or 401-863-6414. ■



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Profiles in Archival Careers, Mentoring, and Leadership

Lessons in Leadership

By Darla White

Maria Bernier is the Assistant Director of the Redwood Library & Athenaeum in Newport, Rhode Island, in addition to holding numerous volunteer positions with local historical and archival organizations.

Maria, would you describe how you became involved in the archives?

It was serendipity, probably like a lot of people. When I graduated from college with a double major in English and History, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do. I ended up at an internship at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut for the summer doing museum studies. And while I was there a position opened up in one of the archives collections, so I sort of fell into my first archives job. I realized it was something that I really enjoyed doing, and looking around at people in the profession, I realized that I had to get an MLS. So that is what I did. I was in that job for about four years, and then I went to Simmons.

So how has your career progressed since you were at Mystic Seaport?

I was at Mystic Seaport for about twelve years altogether, but in different positions: an entry level job, as a three-year grant-funded project manager, and then for another three or four years as the head of the department I started in. It was nice to be able to progress within the museum. After twelve years I thought it was time for a change, to go somewhere else and learn new things; that is when I ended up at Salve Regina University as their Archivist. I was there for about five years. Then I happened to see a job posting at the Redwood Library, and about two and a half years ago came here as the Assistant Director.

I took this job at the Redwood Library because I really wanted an opportunity to step out of being a lone arranger and get more into administrative work. It was maybe a bigger step than I anticipated at the time. I thought, "I have an

MBA, I can do this" but the job is really much more people-dependent than I may have initially expected. Being a supervisor and a leader requires you to pay attention to everybody. I still have to work on my communication skills, talking to my staff, getting information from them and out to them. It is a constant thing for me, just remembering that I have to communicate all the time. Also, you have to give yourself permission to be wrong. I hate being wrong, but I learn from it.

As a leader in the profession, what has your own leadership development been like? And what lessons have you learned along the way?

The path in terms of my own leadership development has been a mix of formal and informal.

I'm always paying attention to what other people are doing. I observe how my supervisors and other people in positions of authority handle certain situations, how they react, and what ideas they come up with. I've also had a lot of opportunities for more formal professional development. I had the chance at Salve Regina to take advantage of a staff benefit and get a free MBA. I wasn't going to turn that down! I took courses for four years within the MBA program with a focus on non-profit management.

Also in terms of my leadership development, I've done a lot of volunteering with non-profits. This has been huge in terms of obtaining leadership experience. Agreeing to be the treasurer for NEA, I learned a lot about finance and organizational management and interacting with the Board and other volunteers. I also volunteer with my local historical society in Westerly, Rhode Island. I started off as Vice-President, doing programs, and then became the President, leading the organization through a period of transformation. I volunteer other places as well.

I think, in terms of leadership, it is really just taking

opportunities like these to volunteer and learn along the way. And that is something I would encourage everybody to do — to not just sit. To always keep learning, whether it is through NEA, doing professional development for archives skills or leadership skills, or other places.

How did you find some of these opportunities?

A lot of times, if you just volunteer, people will take you. So then it's just a matter of finding the right organization to volunteer with. Because I've lived in Westerly for a while, I felt an obligation to help locally with the historical society. I have all this great training, and they were really in need of volunteers, so I've been with them for a while. With NEA, I would just step forward whenever there was a call for volunteers for helping out with a meeting or a committee. I know from being on the board of NEA that we don't know who wants to volunteer—you have to tell us. If you just sit and wait for someone to ask you, it is not going to happen. The best thing is really to put yourself out there. There are so many different ways to volunteer, and it is such a great way to work on your professional development, to contribute to the profession, and to meet other people.

But sometimes the opportunities find me. I also volunteer with the Northeast Document Conservation Center, and they actually found me. There was a member of the Advisory Committee who knew me, and they were looking for new members, and I happened to fall into the right geographic distribution, and so was asked to volunteer. It sounded like such an interesting opportunity to learn, but also to use what I know to help somebody else, so I was happy to volunteer.

What advice would you give to someone who is looking to develop their leadership skills?

Always keep your eyes open and be on the lookout for where there might be a need that fits your skills. Look, listen, and pay attention for the right opportunity, perhaps as a volunteer, to both offer and improve upon your skills. ■

NEA has eight Roundtables! For details, visit
<www.newenglandarchivists.org/roundtables>

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People

Darwin Stapleton has completed four years (2010-2014) as Professor and Director of the M.A. Archives Track in the Department of History at UMass Boston, and has retired from the position. Through excellent support from the History Department and the administration at UMass Boston, the Archives Track has been well-launched. Darwin will continue to be active in the archives field (consulting and speaking), and can continue to be reached by email at <stapled@rockefeller.edu>.

In May 2014, **John Campopiano** started a position as Records Manager for WGBH's investigative documentary television series, *FRONTLINE*. As Records Manager he wears two hats: he serves as liaison between production companies in the field and the WGBH Media Library and Archives, ensuring the proper archiving of all file based media and also as talent manager responsible for overseeing contracts and payments for all *FRONTLINE* talent. John graduated from Simmons College in 2013 where he studied Library and Information Science with a concentration in archives management.

Tufts University Digital Collections and Archives (DCA) welcomed **Dan Santamaria** as Director and University Archivist on September 2. Dan joined DCA from Princeton University, where he served as Assistant University Archivist for Technical Services at the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library from 2005 to 2014. At Mudd he led projects related to digitization, description, and discovery that have received national recognition, including the Society of American Archivists' 2013 Coker Award for innovative developments in archival description. Dan previously worked at the New York Public Library and both the Special Collections Library and the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan. He developed and teaches SAA's "Implementing More Product, Less Process" workshop and teaches advanced archival description at the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information.

The **Connecticut State Library** offers a broad range of professional development workshops and webinars.

To view the library's professional development calendar, visit
<<http://evanced.info/cslib/evanced/eventcalendar.asp>>

Polly Darnell has retired as archivist and librarian at the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne Vermont, a museum of fine, decorative, and folk art in thirty-eight buildings – including a 220-foot steamboat – on forty-five acres. She was hired in 1995 on a grant from the Luce Foundation to establish the institutional archives in advance of the museum's 50th anniversary and joined the permanent staff three years later, taking on responsibility for the staff library as well. She taught the Caring for Historical Records workshop for NEA and Understanding Archives for SAA for many years, as well as teaching at Archives Camp. In recent years she's focused on disaster preparedness and response, coordinating the museum's first disaster plan to incorporate collections salvage, and joining the American Institute for Conservation's Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT), with which she remains active. She echoes the sentiments of anyone who's done it: take the time to volunteer for your professional organization and you'll be well-rewarded.

In June, **Scott Reilly** assumed the position of Assistant Archivist for U.S. Naval War College. Scott previously worked as Senior Archivist for the Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, where he was involved with all aspects of the state archives and chaired the Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board. Prior to this, Scott played a key role as Project Lead in developing policies and procedures to reclassify 88,000 inactive litigation case files for the Attorney General, State of Texas. Scott graduated from University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts in History and earned his Master's in Information Studies with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from the University of Texas at Austin.

Rosemary K. J. Davis joined Amherst College's Archives and Special Collections as the Samuel French Collection Processing Archivist in July 2014. Over the next two years, she will arrange, describe, and perform outreach in order to make the French collection's vast amount of theatrical publishing documentation more readily accessible. Prior to her work at Amherst College, Rosemary processed Riot Grrrl collections at the Fales Library at NYU, exhibition records at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Jazz Loft oral histories at Duke's Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and the papers of Christian J. Lambertsen at the Duke University Medical Center Archives. In addition to an MSLIS degree from Pratt Institute, she holds a BA in Visual Studies and Fiction from the New School. ■

New England Repositories are Growing! Recent Staff Changes

Harvard University Archives

As part of a restructuring of the Harvard University Archives—combining Collection Development and Records Management Services into a single unit—we are delighted to announce several promotions and a new addition to the HUA staff. **Molly Macke** and **Juliana Kuipers** have been promoted to Records Manager/Archivist, and Collection Development Curator/Archivist, respectively. In her new role, Molly will consult with University staff on their record keeping needs, develop and optimize records schedules, and appraise archival and historical records for transfer to the Archives. Juliana will be focusing much of her time on implementing a strategy to collect and preserve materials for HUA's collections of faculty archives, alumni archives, and Harvard-related historical materials. **Sarah Demb**, most recently of the Museum of London, joins the staff in September as Senior Records Manager/Archivist. **Virginia Hunt** will take on an expanded role overseeing the department as Associate University Archivist for Collection Development and Records Management Services.

University Archives & Special Collections at UMass Boston

University Archives & Special Collections (UASC) in the Joseph P. Healey Library at the University of Massachusetts Boston is expanding, from new collections and collection focuses, to new programs and initiatives. To help meet this expansion, the department has seen a number of staff additions and changes in the past few months.

Meghan Bailey has been working in UASC since January of 2014 as Processing Archivist and, this August, her contract was extended another year, allowing her to continue to work on processing new accessions as well as the department's

backlog. In addition to her work at UMass Boston, Meghan currently serves on the Local Arrangements Committee for NEA's Spring 2015 Meeting and previously worked at the MIT Libraries as Digital Collections Assistant. Meghan holds an MSLIS from Simmons College and a BFA from Massachusetts College of Art and Design. She ran her own decorative painting business for five years.

Patricia Bruttomesso was hired in May as Archival Collections Project Manager and, in this capacity, manages the department's physical collections, including overseeing an extensive renovation project to enhance and expand collection storage, processing, and research facilities. For more than twenty years, Patty has worked in local and regional historical organizations in the Northeast and Midwest, most recently with Mass Humanities and, before that, the Bay State Historical League. Patty received her undergraduate degree in history from Brown University, and a Masters in History from the University of Delaware through the Hagley Program in the History of Industrial America. Her doctoral work in U.S. History at the University of Chicago (ABD) focused on the reciprocity of technological and social change in Iowa's woodworking industry from 1865 through 1925.

Jessica Holden was hired in August as Archival Reference and Processing Librarian; in this capacity, she manages the department's reference services and processing program. Before this current position, Jessica was the Special Projects Archivist/Librarian at UMass Boston. Jessica is also an editor for the NEA Newsletter and volunteers at The History Project, a community-based archives focused exclusively on documenting and preserving the history of Boston's LGBT community. Jessica holds an MSLIS from Simmons College and a BA in English from the University of Georgia. ■

Contribute to the NEA Newsletter!

Newsletter editors are now recruiting session reporters to cover all sessions at the NEA Fall Meeting, coming up on Saturday, November 1, 2014. This is a great opportunity for students and early professionals, but all NEA members are welcome and encouraged to volunteer! If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Hayes, Session Reports Editor <carolyn_hayes@hms.harvard.edu>.

Visit NEA online at:

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

AROUND AND ABOUT

Plymouth Colony Records Project

by Jeremy Bangs, Director of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, Leiden, Netherlands

The Plymouth Colony Records Project (a project of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum) aims for the complete publication of official records from Plymouth Colony (1620-1691) that, despite various earlier publication attempts, had remained in manuscript form only.¹ These records fall into two categories: the records of the colony court and records of towns within the colony.

A. Plymouth Colony Court Records

Documents created by the Plymouth Colony Court are extraordinarily complete, illuminating many aspects of seventeenth-century life. They record the actions of the assembled freemen or selectmen meeting at least twice annually, as well as the colony's central governing council of Governor and Assistants (magistrates); and they include the participation of Plymouth Colony's delegates as recorded in the acts of the United Colonies of New England. Twelve volumes of Plymouth Colony's court records were transcribed and edited by Nathaniel Shurtleff and David Pulsifer, published from 1855 to 1861. These comprise *Court Orders* (vols. 1-6), *Judicial Acts* (vol. 7), *Miscellaneous Records* (vol. 8), *Acts of the Commissioners of the United Colonies* (vols. 9, 10), *Laws* (vol. 11), and *Deeds* (vol. 12). The Civil War interrupted the project, leaving eleven volumes of manuscripts still unpublished, continuing the "Deeds" material. A volume of uncategorized fragments was edited by Charles Henry Pope and published in 1918 as *The Plymouth Scrap Book*. The colony's probate records from 1633 to 1669 have been transcribed by Charles Simmons, published in 1996 (under the title *Plymouth Colony Records, Volume 1* but also including vol. 2). Two further volumes of probate records (post 1669) have not been published.²

I have transcribed about half of the remaining unpublished Plymouth Colony Records. It will take around four years more to complete the transcription and a year to edit the remaining material. Included are all the records of transfer of land from Indian Sachems and other Indian land owners to the colony court, and from the colony court to the first European owners. These records (excerpted from the unpublished colony records) are published and discussed in my book *Indian Deeds*, which is described below.

B. Documents created by the towns within Plymouth Colony

The complete seventeenth-century town records of Plymouth were transcribed and published in 1889.³ Excerpts from the records of other Plymouth Colony towns appear in 19th-century local histories.⁴ I have completed the transcription of all the remaining town records from the Plymouth Colony period. They have been published (Scituate, 3 volumes, 1997, 1999, 2001; Eastham in 2012; and Sandwich in 2014) or are appearing in issues of *The Mayflower Descendant* (Marshfield, Duxbury, Bridgewater, and Dartmouth).

Other documents written by Pilgrims, e.g. journals and letters, not in the official archives of Pilgrim territory, and all other documents of any kind referring to the Pilgrims not part of the official records already described, fall outside the scope of the Plymouth Colony Records Project. These are mainly documents in the archives of places outside Pilgrim territory, e.g. England, the Netherlands, and other parts of the United States. Many in the National Archives (Kew), the Nationaal Archief (The Hague), and the Massachusetts Historical Society (Boston) are used in my book, *Pilgrim Edward Winslow, New England's First International Diplomat, A Documentary Biography* (Boston: NEHGS, 2004). I have used all those in the Leiden Archives in the research for my book, *Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners – Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation* (Plymouth: GSMD, 2009).

C. The Origin and Growth of the Plymouth Colony Records Project

My dissertation research at the University of Leiden involved reading the complete town archives of Leiden cov-

ering the period 1475-1575 for a study of the documentation of cultural activity in the town (painting, sculpture, architecture, tapestry weaving, decorative arts, printing, music, literature). Following my Ph.D. (1976), I carried out further archival research on early book production, for the Netherlands Organization for Pure Scientific Research (Z.W.O.) and, later, as a staff member of the Leiden Municipal Archives, systematically studying the archives through 1630, with a particular interest (among others) in the Pilgrims. My work in the Leiden archives familiarized me with the organizational concepts guiding archival practice in the Netherlands, especially as affecting inventorying. From 1986–1991, I was Chief Curator of Plimoth Plantation. I assumed that archival work for Plymouth Colony had been fully accomplished and was represented by the published documents described above (1855-1861; 1889, etc.).

Moving to Scituate in 1992, I was curious about early town records that might exist. To my surprise, Scituate's archival material had not been transcribed or published, and it proved to be more extensive than that of any other New England town outside Boston. I became (unsalaried) assistant town archivist and carried out this work, which was published by NEHGS in three volumes in 1997, 1999, and 2001. During that time I also volunteered at Pilgrim Hall Museum as Visiting Curator of Manuscripts. The Pilgrim Society (which operates the museum and library) has an extensive collection of seventeenth-century manuscripts, which I transcribed. (The transcription is available in the library there.) In the course of that work, I discovered that nearly half the official records of Plymouth Colony had never been published. Unfamiliarity with these documents has distorted and diminished the accuracy of all histories of the Pilgrims and their colony. The unpublished material was preserved at the County Commissioner's office. When I proposed transcribing those manuscripts, the County Commissioner was kind enough to provide me with a complete set of photocopies. Work on those started in 1996-1997, when I moved back to Leiden. Recently, the Family Search website has posted photographic images of archival material from towns, which has made it possible to transcribe and publish the remaining official town manuscripts.

D. Description of the Work Published So Far

Scituate Records

The first of my three Scituate volumes (*The Seventeenth-Century Town Records of Scituate, Massachusetts*,

NEHGS, 1997, 538 pp.) presents the contents of a manuscript that calls itself "The Town Book." The records begin in 1633, but they are not arranged by date or topic, and available blank space was used to record items as late as 1791, although most of the entries are from the seventeenth century. Internal evidence shows that clerks began from one end of the book, then began again from the other end (turning the book upside down), then returned to use previously unused blank spaces throughout the book. This practice recurs throughout New England records when paper was scarce. Besides providing the transcription (in which entries appear in the chaotic order of the original manuscript), I abstracted the legally significant details of each document in "regests" that are arranged chronologically. (Regests are typically more complete than calendar entries.) Each regest contains a page reference for locating the complete text among the transcribed documents. The content of documentary entries reflected functional divisions within the administrative structure of the town, foreshadowing the possibility of departments that could keep separate records. The regests are therefore separated according to divisions that are common in inventorying archive collections, starting with general structure and proceeding to types of specific activity: (1) Court Orders, Town Ordinances, and Decisions of the Town Agents (i.e. Selectmen); (2) Grants of Land made by the Freemen of Scituate; (3) Land Transfers (Conveyances); (4) Boundary Agreements; (5) Highways and Other Roads and Paths; (6) Indentures of Servitude, Receipts, Damages, etc. The introduction describes the town and its early history, correcting some earlier publications.

The second Scituate volume (1999, 613 pp.) presents the Conihasset Partners' Book, records of a land company that owned and managed the territory of north Scituate. The full transcriptions are preceded by a chronological table of contents, also arranged according to administrative categories: Transcribed Court Records Concerning the Conihasset Grant; The Meetings of the Conihasset Partners or Proprietors; Land Grants and Lay-Outs; Land Transfers (Conveyances); Highway Lay-outs; Boundaries; Depositions, Obligations etc. The introduction surveys the history of the company's actions, with attention to leading figures and moments of dispute, again correcting previous publications.

The third Scituate volume (2001, 666 pp.) publishes the seventeenth-century town meeting minutes, treasur-

ers' accounts, and a record of marriage intentions together with earmarks and stray animals. Thirty-one appendices add non-official Scituate documents, such as a private letter from 1634, church records, and price and wage information from the private accounts of a farmer and merchant from Scituate.

The extensive, detailed information about Scituate and its relation to the colony corrects not only previous histories of Scituate, but also earlier views of the development of the colony as a whole that had practically ignored what became the colony's largest town after 1650. Besides topics of local political, social, and church history, the archival material justifies a broader, comparative assessment of opinions based on the records of other New England towns, on such subjects as suffrage, agriculture and craft production, King Philip's War, material culture, and patterns of land distribution. The Scituate information contradicts or adds nuance to opinions about New England town history in standard works by Sumner Chilton Powell, David Grayson Allen, Philip J. Greven, and David Hackett Fischer. The introductions to these volumes (totalling ca. 225 pp. of historiographical commentary) indicate that the Scituate archival material provides a touchstone for studies of New England town history.

Indian Deeds

Indian Deeds: Land Transactions in Plymouth Colony, 1620-1691 (NEHGS, 2002, revised paperback ed. 2008, 647 pp.) publishes and analyzes for the first time all the deeds that transferred ownership from Indian Sachems to the colony court, and thence to the initial colonial private owners. The previously unknown documents illumine the structure of Native society in transition, while providing a necessary background for understanding the tensions leading up to King Philip's War.

These transactions form an essential aspect of the expansion of colonial land use and the contraction of open forest and agricultural land retained for use by Indians. The documents support the claim that, before King Philip's War, Plymouth Colony attempted to obtain land not by fraud and deception but by what was considered by both sellers and buyers to be fair exchange. (That is not to say that either side clearly understood the negative effects on Native society of the piecemeal loss of land as it proceeded, until the aggregate result was unavoidably confronted.) The book demonstrates that Indians in this region

did not have communal land but that instead individuals possessed specific, bounded parcels of land by personal inheritance (extending historically to pre-contact times). This contradicts the sentimental romanticism put forth since the 1970s by people enchanted by neo-Noble Savage myths.

Eastham and Sandwich Records

The Town Records of Eastham during the time of Plymouth Colony, 1620-1692 (Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, 2012, 428 pp.) and *The Town Records of Sandwich during the time of Plymouth Colony, 1620-1692* (LAPM, 2014, 264 pp.). In these volumes, the chaotic town records are preceded by calendars that include material about these towns that appears in the Plymouth Colony Records, thus providing a chronological overview of official action related to the towns' development. Aspects of local history come into focus, such as Eastham's commercial horse breeding and early whaling regulations, which involve relations with the Nauset Indians, contributing to understanding why the Nauset Indians did not rebel against Plymouth Colony in King Philip's War in 1675.

Other Town Records: Marshfield, Duxbury, Bridgewater, and Dartmouth

For complete understanding of those towns' histories, pages omitted from nineteenth-century publications needed to be presented, together with corrections to published transcriptions. My additions and corrections are appearing as contributions to the journal *The Mayflower Descendant*.

E. The Remaining Work

Transcribing the town records is complete. Transcription of the unpublished Plymouth Colony Records (primarily deeds from ca. 1650 on) is about half finished; but its continuation requires financial support, not presently available. This information is essential for understanding the history of the colony in the second half of the century — the period which lacks information like what is found in William Bradford's memoir *Of Plymouth Plantation*. I estimate the remaining work could be accomplished in about five years, but that would require financial security. There is no better project for commemorating the Pilgrims in 2020. ■

Calendar of Events



Press releases and other announcements should be sent to Heather Mumford at <heather_mumford@hms.harvard.edu>. Please provide the date, time, place, a brief description of the event, and an internet link for contact information and/or registration.

October 2014. October is American Archives Month—an opportunity to raise awareness about the value of archives and archivists. See <www2.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-month> to get involved.

October 8-11, 2014. Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Conference in Savannah, Georgia. For details see <www.amiaconference.com>.

October 16-18, 2014. Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) in Baltimore, Maryland. For details see <www.marac.info>.

October 18, 2014. NEDCC workshop on IDENTIFICATION AND CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHS at the Maine Historical Society in Portland, ME. For details, see: <www.mainehistory.org/programs_events.shtml#event_417>.

October 26-28, 2014. ARMA International Live! 59th Annual Conference & Expo in San Diego, California. For details see <www.arma.org/Conference/2014/SanDiego.aspx>.

October 28, 2014. Digital POWRR workshop: From Theory to Action: A Pragmatic Approach to Digital Preservation Tools and Strategies at Smith College, Northampton, MA. For details, see: <<http://digitalpowrr10282014.eventzilla.net/>>.

November 6-7, 2014. Focusing on Photographs: Identification & Preservation Presented by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts at the Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, Rhode Island. For more information, visit: <www.ccaha.org/education/program-calendar>.

November 15, 2014. Being Resourceful: DIY supports & enclosures workshop at the Providence Public Library, Providence, Rhode Island. For details, see: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/event-1754632>.

November 19-21, 2014. New England Museum Association (NEMA) Annual Conference in Cambridge, MA. For details, see <www.nemanet.org/conference-events/conference>.

January 30 - February 3, 2015. ALA Midwinter Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. For details, see <alamu15.ala.org>. ■

1. A note for clarification: The Plymouth Colony Records Project, begun in 1992 with the Scituate records, is not the same as, nor is it a part of, a different (internet) project begun independently in 1998, called the Plymouth Colony Archive Project, initiated by James Deetz. The Deetz project consists of analytical commentary from an anthropological point of view, on topics excerpted from the records published in the 19th century, together with sociological conclusions derived from study of probate inventories.
2. Catherine Martin, Joelle Stein, and Anne Yentsch had transcribed all the probate volumes ca. 1980, but their work remained unpublished. A copy is in the library of The Pilgrim Society, Pilgrim Hall Museum. James Deetz and his students used the published material

and these typescript probate inventory transcriptions (by Martin, Stein, and Yentsch) as the basis for commentary on Plymouth colony topics, in James Deetz and Patricia Scott Deetz, *The Times of Their Lives, Life, Love, and Death in Plymouth Colony* (New York: W. H. Freeman and Company, 2000).

3. W. T. Davis (ed.), *Records of the Town of Plymouth, vol. I, 1636-1705* (Plymouth: Avery & Doten, 1889).
4. Many of the excerpts are included 19th-century county histories, such as D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts ...* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1884).

THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



Filling the Silo, ca. 1885

Purchased in 1875 by Dr. Herbert Marshall Howe, Ferrycliffe Farm in Bristol, Rhode Island, was known for its Jersey dairy cattle. Here the farm hands prepare a winter supply of food for the cows, filling the silo with corn stalks.

In the early 1960s, Roger Williams University (then a College) purchased sixty-three acres from Dr. Howe's granddaughter, Mary Howe DeWolf Fulton, and her husband Marshall Nairne Fulton. The University bought the remainder of the property in the 1990s.

Courtesy of Roger Williams University Archives, Bristol, Rhode Island.