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Coming this Fall: A Day of Service for the New England Archival Community

New England Archivists (NEA) and the NEA Roundtable for Early Professionals and Students (REPS) are excited to announce an opportunity this fall for NEA members to give back to the archival community. During the Back-to-School Day of Service event this fall, volunteers will donate their time and professional expertise at four New England repositories in need of improving access to their collections.

On Saturday, September 13, 2014, volunteers will spend the day at the Brookline Historical Society (MA), Historic Newton (MA), Connecticut Historical Society (CT), or Norwich University (VT) assisting staff archivists with activities such as rehousing collections, arranging and describing historical materials, or transcribing correspondence. Details of each institution's projects can be found on REPS website [<http://repsnea.wordpress.com/2014/08/20/day-of-service/>].

The Back-to-School Day of Service was initiated by REPS as a way to further their goal to provide a forum for professional growth among members of NEA who are in the early stages of their archival careers. In the spirit of NEA's Days of Service, first organized in spring 2013 for the 40th Anniversary Meeting, the event is open to all NEA members as a way to bring the New England archival community together. "Professional bonding happens when you're getting your hands dirty in the archives," says Casey Davis, REPS Co-Chair, "often more so than at formal events. We thought this would be a great opportunity to invite both REPS and NEA members to work together in a casual day of service to help out fellow colleagues."

Why volunteer? Providing service to the New England archival community benefits everyone involved. The repositories receive needed help to jump-start projects that will make more of their collections accessible to researchers. Volunteers have a chance to interact with new and seasoned colleagues while gaining experience that may help them at their own repositories.

To get involved or learn more about the benefits of volunteering at this event, contact Casey Davis at casey_davis@wgbh.org and watch for upcoming announcements.

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About New England Archivists

Founded in 1973, New England Archivists is the premier professional organization in the field of archives and special collections in the New England region. Archivists are professionals who collect, arrange, describe, and provide access to historical documents. With approximately 600 members, the organization connects the archival community through meetings, workshops, and online resources. NEA facilitates professional development by offering a number of workshops and meetings per year.

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. For more information about NEA, please visit the New England Archivists website at www.newenglandarchivists.org.