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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Regional Archivists Group Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Worcester (MA), March 21-23, 2013, New England Archivists (NEA) will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the organization with a special three-day meeting on the campus of the College of the Holy Cross. The meeting will offer sessions on collaborative projects between regional repositories, open-forum discussion on timely issues, and a Worcester-based oral history project conducted by the national nonprofit StoryCorps.

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 Archivists are professionals who collect, arrange, describe, and provide access to historical documents.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.

The anniversary meeting will offer workshops on managing photographic collections, basic archival operations, oral history, and digital forensics. The program will feature a plenary talk by Dr. George Church, professor of genetics at Harvard Medical School, proponent of archival storage using DNA, and author of *Regensis*—the first book to be encoded into DNA. In his talk, Dr. Church will describe the process of using DNA for storing data and share new research on using organic matter to record information. The keynote speech will be delivered by Tom Scheinfeldt, Director-at-Large of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media and Research Assistant Professor of History in the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University. Dr. Scheinfeldt's keynote address will focus on the emerging trend of digital humanities and archives.

For a full meeting schedule and to register, please visit the New England Archivists website at www.newenglandarchivists.org

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Conducting onsite recordings will be StoryCorps, an independent nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives.

Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 40,000 interviews with more than 80,000 participants. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share, and is preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind.

For the Worcester project, the goal is to record the stories of 16 to 20 individuals over a three-day period. Participants will be given copies of the recordings, and duplicate copies will be deposited in the Worcester Historical Museum and the Library of Congress.

For more information, please contact Lisa Feldmann at lfeldmann@isgm.org, or visit the New England Archivists website at www.newenglandarchivists.org. For more information on StoryCorps or to listen to previous interviews, please visit www.storycorps.org. Funding for this project was provided by Mass Humanities, which supports programs that use history, literature, philosophy, and the other humanities disciplines to enhance and improve civic life throughout Massachusetts. Visit Mass Humanities at www.masshumanities.org.

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