

Our Common Wealth:



INTRODUCING THE COMMONWEALTH HISTORICAL COLLABORATIVE

**New England Archivists
Fall Conference**
October 14, 2016

Veronica Martzahl
Digital Records Archivist
Massachusetts Archives

Background



- Initiative of the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (MA SHRAB)
- Through funding and support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)
- Generous technical support for the Special Collections and University Archives at U-Mass, Amherst

The Goal



- To Create a Comprehensive Directory of Cultural Heritage Institutions and Collections in Massachusetts

The screenshot displays the website interface for the Commonwealth Historical Collaborative. At the top, the header includes the site name and a navigation menu with links for Home, About CHC, Browse by map, CHC calendar, and Events and opportunities. Below the header, there are search filters for 'Search by town' and 'Search by subject', both with dropdown menus. A 'Browse our partners' section lists various towns: [A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W]. The main content area shows search results for 'Subject: M', featuring two entries: 'Malden Historical Society' and 'Manchester Historical Museum'. Each entry includes a brief description and a 'Read more' link. The Malden entry describes a non-profit group founded in 1886, and the Manchester entry describes a society founded in 1886 to preserve town records and artifacts.

At a minimum



- Each institution receives a directory listing

The screenshot displays the website chc.library.umass.edu/blog/massachusetts-archives/. The header features the title "Commonwealth Historical Collaborative" and the tagline "HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE BAY STATE". A navigation menu includes "Home", "About CHC", "Browse by map", "CHC calendar", and "Events and opportunities".

On the left side, there are search filters: "Search by town" with a "Select Category" dropdown, "Search by subject" with a "Select Tag" dropdown, and "Browse our partners" with a list of letters: [A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W]. Below this is the "About the CHC" section with links for "About CHC", "Browse by map", "CHC calendar", "Commonwealth Historical Collaborative", and "Events and opportunities".

The main content area is titled "Massachusetts Archives" and includes a breadcrumb trail: "» CHC catalog » Massachusetts Archives Digital Repository". Below this is a tabbed interface with "About us" selected, and other tabs for "Background", "Collections", and "Members".

The "About us" tab contains the following text:
The Massachusetts Archives, acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, is responsible for securing, preserving, and managing for the public good state government records that possess archival value. These records document the purpose and function of state government and show the interactions between the government and its citizens. Under the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution, the Secretary was given the responsibility for the management and care of state records – current records as well as those of the previous colonial and provincial governments. Nineteenth century legislation repeatedly referenced the archives as part of the Secretary's office. The General Court codified this arrangement in 1897, when the Secretary's Third Clerk was designated as the Chief of the Archives Division.

The Archives collection dates from the beginning of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1628 to the present day. The Archives holds records created by the legislative and executive branches of the Massachusetts government, including state agencies and institutions, as well as some pre-1786 judicial records.

The early settlement of Massachusetts and continuing migration of people through the state means that the Archives holds records relating to large numbers of families and individuals. Our collections are valuable to many different types of researchers including genealogists, historians, lawyers, architects, students, and government officials.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm:

At the bottom of the page, there is a "Blog" link.

Added value



- Connections back to own digital repository

The screenshot shows the website chc.library.umass.edu/blog/massachusetts-archives/. The main navigation menu includes: Home, About CHC, Browse by map, CHC calendar, and Events and opportunities. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation menu, there are two dropdown menus: "Search by town" (with a "Select Category" dropdown) and "Search by subject" (with a "Select Tag" dropdown). A section titled "Browse our partners" contains a grid of letter links: [A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W]. Below this is an "About the CHC" section with links for "About CHC", "Browse by map", "CHC calendar", "Commonwealth Historical Collaborative", and "Events and opportunities".

The "Massachusetts Archives" section is highlighted with a red dashed box. It features a breadcrumb trail: » CHC catalog » Massachusetts Archives Digital Repository. Below the breadcrumb trail is a navigation menu with links for "About us", "Background", "Collections", and "Members". The main content area contains three paragraphs of text:

The Massachusetts Archives, acting on behalf of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, is responsible for securing, preserving, and managing for the public good state government records that possess archival value. These records document the purpose and function of state government and show the interactions between the government and its citizens. Under the 1780 Massachusetts Constitution, the Secretary was given the responsibility for the management and care of state records – current records as well as those of the previous colonial and provincial governments. Nineteenth century legislation repeatedly referenced the archives as part of the Secretary's office. The General Court codified this arrangement in 1897, when the Secretary's Third Clerk was designated as the Chief of the Archives Division.

The Archives collection dates from the beginning of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1628 to the present day. The Archives holds records created by the legislative and executive branches of the Massachusetts government, including state agencies and institutions, as well as some pre-1786 judicial records.

The early settlement of Massachusetts and continuing migration of people through the state means that the Archives holds records relating to large numbers of families and individuals. Our collections are valuable to many different types of researchers including genealogists, historians, lawyers, architects, students, and government officials.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm:

Blog

Added value

- Option to create own online catalog

The screenshot displays the website chc.library.umass.edu/blog/massachusetts-archives/. The main header features the text "Commonwealth Historical Collaborative" and "HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE BAY STATE". A navigation menu includes "Home", "About CHC", "Browse by map", "CHC calendar", and "Events and opportunities". On the left side, there are search filters for "Search by town" (with a "Select Category" dropdown) and "Search by subject" (with a "Select Tag" dropdown). Below these are sections for "Browse our partners" (a grid of letters [A][B][C][D][E][F][G][H][I][J][K][L][M][N][O][P][Q][R][S][T][U][V][W]), "About the CHC", and "About CHC" with links for "Browse by map", "CHC calendar", "Commonwealth Historical Collaborative", and "Events and opportunities". The main content area is titled "Massachusetts Archives" and includes a sub-header "Massachusetts Archives Digital Repository". A red dashed box highlights the "CHC catalog" link, which is pointed to by a red arrow from the text above. Other links in the sub-header include "About us", "Background", "Collections", and "Members". The main text describes the Archives' role in securing and managing state government records, its history under the 1780 Constitution, and its current holdings, including records from the 1628 Massachusetts Bay Colony and pre-1786 judicial records. It also lists "Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm" and a "Blog" link at the bottom.

Added value



- Option to create own online catalog

The screenshot displays the Massachusetts Archives website. The browser address bar shows the URL chc.library.umass.edu/state-archives/. The page title is "Massachusetts Archives". Below the title, there is a dark blue header bar. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a search bar labeled "Search collections" with a "Find collections" button, a "Categories" dropdown menu with "Select category" selected, and a "Browse collections" section with a "M" filter and an information icon. The right column features a "WELCOME TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES CATABLOG PAGE" heading, followed by the "Mission of the Massachusetts Archives:" section, which lists three bullet points: "To ensure the preservation and accessibility of the records of government.", "To provide assistance to government agencies.", and "To provide leadership to ensure the preservation and accessibility of Massachusetts's historical heritage." Below the mission statement, there is a paragraph describing the Archives' role in preserving and making accessible records. The footer includes the "CHD" logo, the text "MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES", and the address "220 Morrissey Blvd * Boston, MA 02125 | Site policies".

Added value



- Option to create own online catalog

The screenshot displays a web browser window with the URL chc.library.umass.edu/state-archives/tag/m/. The page title is "Massachusetts Archives" and the subtitle is "Welcome to the Massachusetts Archives catalog page".

On the left side, there are search and navigation options:

- Search collections:** A search bar with the text "Find collections".
- Categories:** A dropdown menu labeled "Select category".
- Browse collections:** A list of letters, with "M" selected and highlighted in red.

The main content area shows the results for the letter "M":

- M (1 COLLECTIONS)**
- CHC** (Council on the Arts and Humanities)
- Massachusetts folklife interview files**
- Title:** Massachusetts folklife interview files, 1987-1988
- Name of Creating Agency:** Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities
- Record Group Number:** AF10
- Series Number:** 870X
- Extent:** 1.75 cubic feet (5 document boxes)
- Finding Aid** (button)
- Scope and Content:** The Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities was established to maintain a continuing study of the cultural resources of the Commonwealth. During 1987 the council, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution's Office of Folklife Programs, conducted fieldwork to identify and locate traditional folk artists from Massachusetts to participate in the 22nd annual Festival of American Folklife, held on the grounds of the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., July 1988. In documenting interviews in the areas of traditional narrative, occupational folklife, foodways, and traditional music, folklorists created interview tapes.
- Files contain preliminary and final field reports, notes, interview report forms, photologs, tape logs (see related series below), and contact sheets of photographs/slides of the interviewees. Information includes name of interviewer; name, age, and ethnic background of interview subject, and narrative describing the folklore tradition related to the folkway treated in the interview and photographs. Massachusetts folklife audiocassettes were created in conjunction with this series.**
- Arrangement:** Arranged alphabetically by interviewer's name.

Interested?



Veronica Martzahl
Digital Records Archivist
Massachusetts Archives
veronica.martzahl@sec.state.ma.us

Rob Cox
Head of Special Collections
U-Mass Amherst Special Collections and University Archives
rcox@library.umass.edu

<http://chc.library.umass.edu/>