

NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R — Portsmouth, New Hampshire, has welcomed New England Archivists for the Spring 2023 Meeting, which celebrates the organization’s fiftieth anniversary. Portsmouth is also celebrating its 400th anniversary this year. One hundred years ago, the “City of the Open Door” rolled out the welcome mat for its tercentenary. Members of the local Masonic lodge constructed an arch and erected it across Middle Street in front of their fraternal building. The arch reads, “Friends! — We Greet Thee.” *Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum.*

I N S I D E — David Freeburg on the repatriation of the Samson Occom papers to the Mohegan Tribe (page 4); Caitlin Birch’s final Inside NEA column (page 6); News and Notes from Connecticut (page 7) and Massachusetts (page 9), as well as People updates (page 14); in From IDEAS to Action, a reprinted article by former Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator Anna Clutterbuck-Cook (page 12); Spotlights on Benny Bauer (page 16) and Jenifer Ishee (page 17); and throughout, photographs from archival collections in New England.

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE



New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

45 Skehan Street • Somerville, MA 02143

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

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

Annual Dues are \$35 for individuals, \$17.50 for students, and \$45 for institutions. Sign up online at <<https://www.newenglandarchivists.org/renew>>. Payment can be made via PayPal or by check made out to New England Archivists and mailed to Stephanie T. Gold, NEA Treasurer-Elect, 130 Collindale Drive, Meriden, CT 06450.

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 NEA members as well as other archivists and allied professionals should be sent for consideration to <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Requests for changes or updates to website content should be sent to: <webmaster@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 <vendorcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Rates: Full page: \$175; half page: \$100; quarter page: \$50. 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

- Charlotte Lellman

This issue of the *Newsletter* lands in your inboxes as many of us are gathered in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for NEA's Spring 2023 50th Anniversary Meeting. We hope you had a chance to say hi and share any ideas you have for the future of the *Newsletter*, perhaps through The New *Newsletter* Town Hall session or the [2023 Newsletter Survey](#).

Though we are in the midst of our spring meeting, this issue features a piece (page 4) adapted from a presentation at the last NEA gathering: the Fall 2022 Joint Symposium of NEA and Simmons University School of Library and Information Science. At that meeting, Archivist/Librarian for the Mohegan Library and Archives David Freeburg was a panelist in a session on archival generations, where he spoke with NEA Representative-at-Large and College Archivist and Records Manager at Dartmouth Peter Carini about the return of the Samson Occom papers from Dartmouth to the Mohegan Tribe. David writes about Samson Occom's life and the impact of the return of his papers on Occom's tribal community today.

We announce with sadness the passing of our colleague and fellow NEA member Anna Clutterbuck-Cook. The Inclusion and Diversity Committee has taken the opportunity to reprint Anna's words in their quarterly column, From IDEAs to Action (page 12). Anna wrote the first ever IDC column in 2015, laying out her vision for inclusion and diversity in NEA, a vision that has been cultivated by the IDC. We hope to include a tribute to Anna's social justice efforts in our field in a future issue. Other announcements from New England archivists appear in the News & Notes (page 7) and People (page 17) sections.

This issue's Spotlights feature the Newsletter Committee's own Jenifer Ishee (page 17) as well as a new NEA member, Benny Bauer (page 18), who recently joined the IDC.

In her last Inside NEA column (page 6), Caitlin Birch describes the work that NEA volunteers achieved under her leadership this past year. This year's spring meeting marks her transition to the role of Immediate Past President. Thank you, Caitlin, for your leadership.

As always, we are grateful to our contributors, and we welcome your article pitches, suggestions, news items, and seasonal photos from your collections. Reach us at newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org. ■



St. George's School Choir Holiday, Hope Island, Rhode Island, May 27, 1910. This glass lantern slide image was taken on Hope Island in Narragansett Bay (off of Portsmouth, Rhode Island) when the St. George's School choir was granted a holiday from classes to enjoy a picnic excursion. The photographer was Miss Emily Diman, the sister of the Head of School, and the image shows one of the school's younger students with a faculty dog named Scot (who was clearly very interested in the boy's lunch). *Courtesy of St. George's School Archives, Middletown, Rhode Island.*

ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

The Repatriation of the Samson Occom Papers

By David Freeburg

In 1972, Dartmouth College recommitted to the education of native students, a promise made in the college's charter, and founded what has become their Department of Native American and Indigenous Studies. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of that commitment, the Native American Visiting Committee, a group of native alumni who advise the college president on native matters, helped plan events on campus and exhibits at Dartmouth's Hood Museum. The committee also proposed ideas for an act the college could perform that would display the depth of their commitment and would truly honor the anniversary. Sarah Harris (Dartmouth Class of '00), a Native American Visiting Committee member and vice chairwoman of the Mohegan Tribal Council, suggested that the college return the papers of eighteenth-century Mohegan minister Samson Occom, whose role in the founding of the college had been given little recognition, to the Mohegan Tribe. The request was enthusiastically approved by members of the committee, library and archives staff, and College President Philip Hanlon.

Samson Occom (1723–1792) was born in a wigwam at Mohegan, Connecticut, and lived a traditional Mohegan life until being exposed to Christianity late in his teens. At age nineteen, he became a pupil of Congregational minister Eleazar Wheelock, studying at Wheelock's school in Lebanon, Connecticut, for four years. Occom excelled in his studies, mastering English and developing proficiency in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. Upon completing his studies, Occom spent ten years among the Montauk in Long Island as a minister, teacher, and healer, and was ordained by the Suffolk Presbytery in 1759.

In 1765, Occom's experience made him the perfect candidate to raise funds for Moor's Indian Charity School, a Lebanon-based missionary school founded by Wheelock in 1759. Occom, with Reverend Nathaniel Whitaker, traveled to England, where he would spend two years delivering over 300 sermons and raising £12,000 in private donations (approximately \$2.4 million today) to support Wheelock's school for native students in Connecticut. Upon his return, Occom learned that Wheelock had instead used the funds to found Dartmouth in New Hampshire, a school for colonists. This left Occom with a deep feeling of betrayal and would ultimately sever his relationship with Wheelock. Returning the documents would help the college deal with, as Sarah Harris put it, "unfinished business" with Occom.

"Your having So many white Scholars and So few or no Indian Scholars, gives me great Discouragement — I verily thought once that your Institution was Intended Purely for the poor Indians with this thought," Occom wrote in a 1771

letter to Wheelock. "I Chearfully Ventur'd my Body & Soul, left my Country my poor Young Family all my Friends and Relations, to Sail over the Boisterous Seas to England, to help forward your School, Hoping, that it may be a lasting Bene-fet to my poor Tawnee Brethren, with this View I went a Volunteer — I was quite willing to become a Gazing stock, Yea Even a Laughing Stock, in Strange Countries to Promote your Cause."

The decision to approve the transfer of the documents came more quickly than expected for Dartmouth library and archives staff, but the challenging work had just begun. The tribe expressed interest in receiving everything that Samson had authored or written because, according to tribal beliefs, Occom's spirit is carried by anything that he touched. Fulfilling this request required College Archivist Peter Carini to search through and pull items from several prominent collections, including the papers of Eleazar Wheelock. The result of Peter's work is a rich collection of over one hundred letters, journals, sermons, and other writings, including Occom's Hebrew primer, in which he penned the earliest known example of the written Mohegan language.

In mid-April of 2022, Dartmouth staff including Peter, Dean of Libraries Susanne Mehrer, and Hood Museum Cultural Heritage and Indian Knowledges Fellow Zachary Miller (Chickasaw) hosted a small group from Mohegan, including myself, Museum Programs Coordinator and Tribal Historian Jason LaVigne, Library Coordinator Brittany Jullarine-Quinn, and Mohegan Village Tradition Specialist

Greg Chapman, to introduce us to a selection of pieces from the collection. The experience of being in the same room with the documents was more emotional than expected for some in our group. We are all familiar with Occom's words, and most of us had spent time looking at digital images of the documents, but being able to examine his handwriting in person caused a reaction that we all looked forward to sharing with Mohegan tribal members.

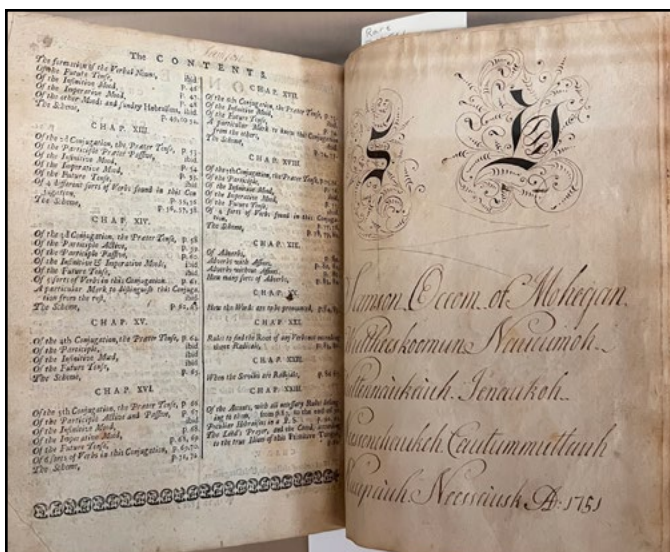
On April 26, Peter, Zachary and Professor of History and Native American Studies Colin Calloway arrived at Mohegan Cultural Preservation Center (CPC) with the documents, many of the most important stored in a beautiful custom box designed especially for the repatriation ceremony to be held the next day. As part of the ceremony, we debuted a new exhibit at the CPC titled *Life & Legacy of Samson Occom*. The documents were moved upstairs to secure storage where we made our final selections for display. We chose items such as Occom's 1765 autobiography in which he describes his upbringing, his education and his time at Montauk; an undated sermon on Ephesians 5:20 on the duty of giving thanks (appropriate for the occasion); a 1785 journal documenting a journey to Oneida where he founded the Brothertown Christian native community; and his language primer opened to his stunningly beautiful page of calligraphy in Mohegan, penned in 1751.

The repatriation ceremony took place on a sunny morning in front of the Mohegan Church, a revered space founded in 1831 and built on the only piece of land that has never left tribal hands. Gathered under a tent were mem-

bers of the Mohegan and Dartmouth communities and special guests from the Brothertown Tribal Council who had traveled from Wisconsin for the occasion. Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris and President Philip Hanlon spoke on the importance of the exchange for both Mohegan and Dartmouth. "Telling the truth of the college's founding honors and gives life to Occom's accomplishments and shows Native students that they are foundational to the school, not an afterthought," said Harris. "It has taken far too long for these papers to be returned to where they have always belonged," Hanlon said. "But they are here now, accompanied by the spirit of Samson Occom that lives with them."

Processing the documents at Mohegan was simplified by the fact that both the Dartmouth and Mohegan archives use ArchivesSpace. Peter Carini was kind enough to have all of Dartmouth's data collected and sent so that staff on our end could import the records into our system. To help researchers navigate access to the materials, a note indicating the new location of the original documents has been added to Dartmouth's records, and the records at Mohegan have maintained all of Dartmouth's collection and folder

Continued on Page 15



Samson Occom's Hebrew primer on display at the Mohegan Cultural Preservation Center. Courtesy of the Mohegan Tribe.



Portrait of Samson Occom by artist Douglas Henry hanging at the entrance to the Mohegan Church. Courtesy of the Mohegan Tribe.

Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Caitlin Birch



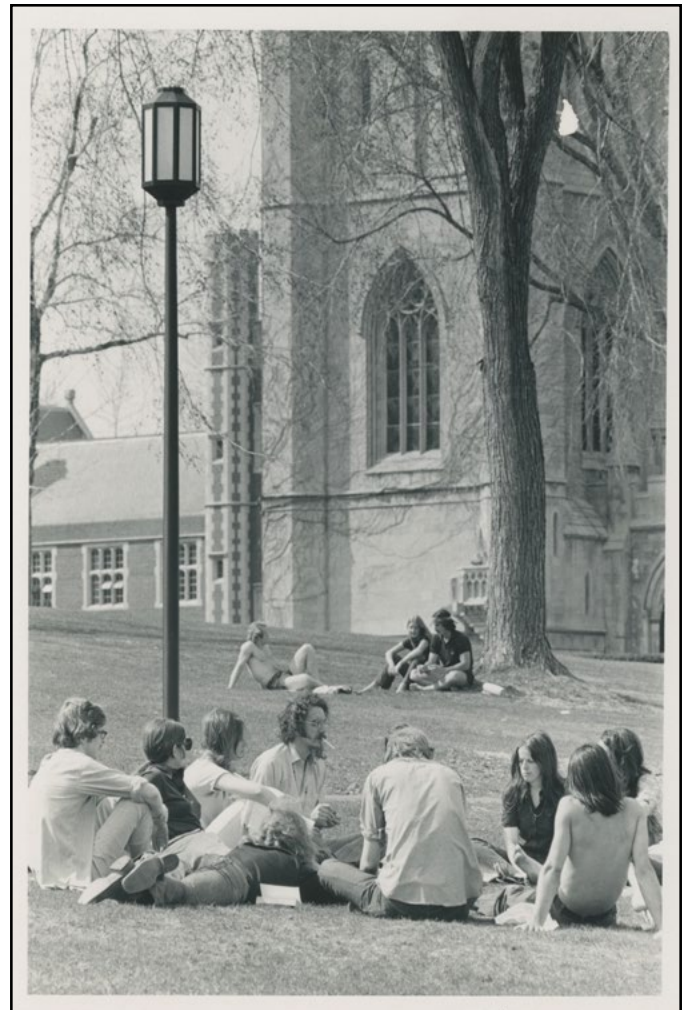
A lot can happen in a year. As Archivists, we know this better than most. We're experts in the passage of time, keenly aware of the volume of information a day can produce, nevermind 365 of them. We see it in the collections we steward—true regardless of type. And we see the inverse as well, how much goes undocumented, forgotten as the present slips into the past.

With my presidency drawing to a close, I can't think of a better use for my final column than to record, in brief, the last year of NEA's history. Because the truth is that although my role affords me visibility as an individual, my experience of it has been as a member of a team. The work of my teammates is what I want each NEA member to remember about this year, and what I hope will inspire us as we begin the next.

Between May 2022 and February 2023, eighty-seven volunteers served NEA. When this column appears in April, that number will have increased. Three award committees made professional development funding available; the Communications Committee translated a steady stream of requests from around the organization into useful information for members; the Education Committee planned successful webinars and NEA's first in-person workshops since 2019; the new Financial Planning Committee began providing critical guidance to the board; the Inclusion and Diversity Committee continued working toward a more inclusive and representative NEA through initiatives like the new Racial Justice Honoraria Fund; the JCAS editorial board shepherded open-source, peer-reviewed articles into the professional conversation; the Membership Committee fostered member engagement,

including through the revived NEA Mentoring Program; the Newsletter Committee produced robust issues of the *NEA Newsletter* while overseeing its transition to a digital publication; the Nominating Committee carried out a successful election; and the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Program Committees brought NEA its first in-person conferences in three years. Meanwhile, a dedicated executive board kept the organization running, doing the work of governance and management—of records, money, projects, and data—all while thinking big about NEA's future.

As I leave the presidency, I'm optimistic about that future. And as I hope my final column highlights, it's a future that needs all of us. My heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who made the last year a meaningful one. A lot can happen in a year, and with this team, a lot did. ■



Professor Hugh Ogden teaches an English class outside on the quad at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, circa 1978. Trinity celebrates its 200th anniversary in May 2023. *Courtesy of Trinity College Archives and Watkinson Library.*

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News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Litchfield Historical Society Completes Connecticut Humanities SHARP Grant

The Litchfield Historical Society is pleased to announce the completion of a Connecticut Humanities SHARP grant to process and describe several archival collections. Project Archivist Leith Johnson made five collections more accessible to staff and researchers through processing, arrangement, and the creation of finding aids.

Two assembled collections, the [Litchfield Historical Society Photograph Collection](#) and [Litchfield Historical Society Ephemera](#), contain material acquired throughout the society's history and are arranged by format. Leith wrote a [blog post](#) about his work to describe an interesting unidentified photograph.

In preparation for an upcoming exhibit celebrating the 225th anniversary of its founding, Johnson processed, ar-

anged, and described two collections of material related to the Litchfield Chapter of the American Red Cross: the [Litchfield Chapter, American Red Cross records](#) and the [Margery Boyd Papers](#).

Johnson also processed and described the [Blakeslee-Foy-Crabtree families papers](#), a collection containing records of a family that immigrated to Litchfield in the early twentieth century and was actively involved in the community, particularly in education.

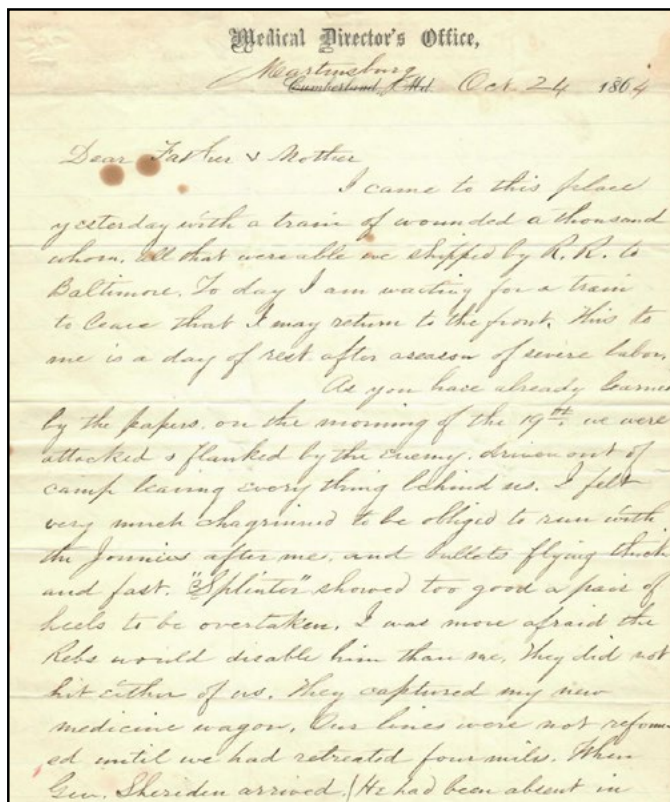
Patrons and staff now have easy access to description of portraits of Litchfield residents, as well as photographs of buildings, events, and groups, including early formats like glass plate negatives and daguerreotypes depicting scenes like the 19th Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers mustering on the green during the Civil War. They can browse folder listings showing programs of entertainments, maps, trade cards, and other ephemera; they can learn about Litchfield's early involvement in the American Red Cross (as the first chapter in the state, its charter was signed by Clara Barton); and they can read biographical and historical notes about the Blakeslee-Foy-Crabtree families and see a folder listing of the collection's contents.

Research at the Society's Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library is by appointment Tuesday–Friday between 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–4 p.m. Please call 860-567-4501 or email archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org to schedule your research visit.

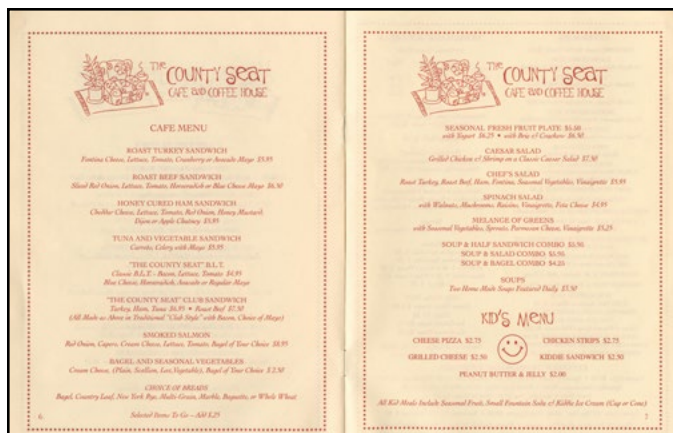
Litchfield Historical Society Acquires Papers of James Russell Cumming

The Litchfield Historical Society is pleased to announce the acquisition of a collection of original letters from Dr. James Russell Cumming, a surgeon with the 12th Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers from 1862–1865. Born in North Adams, Massachusetts, in 1830, Cumming studied at the Canajoharie Academy in Canajoharie, New York, prior to teaching in Colebrook and Farmington, Connecticut. He married Jane Elizabeth Cowles in 1853. The couple had one child, a daughter named Daisy, prior to his wife's death in 1856.

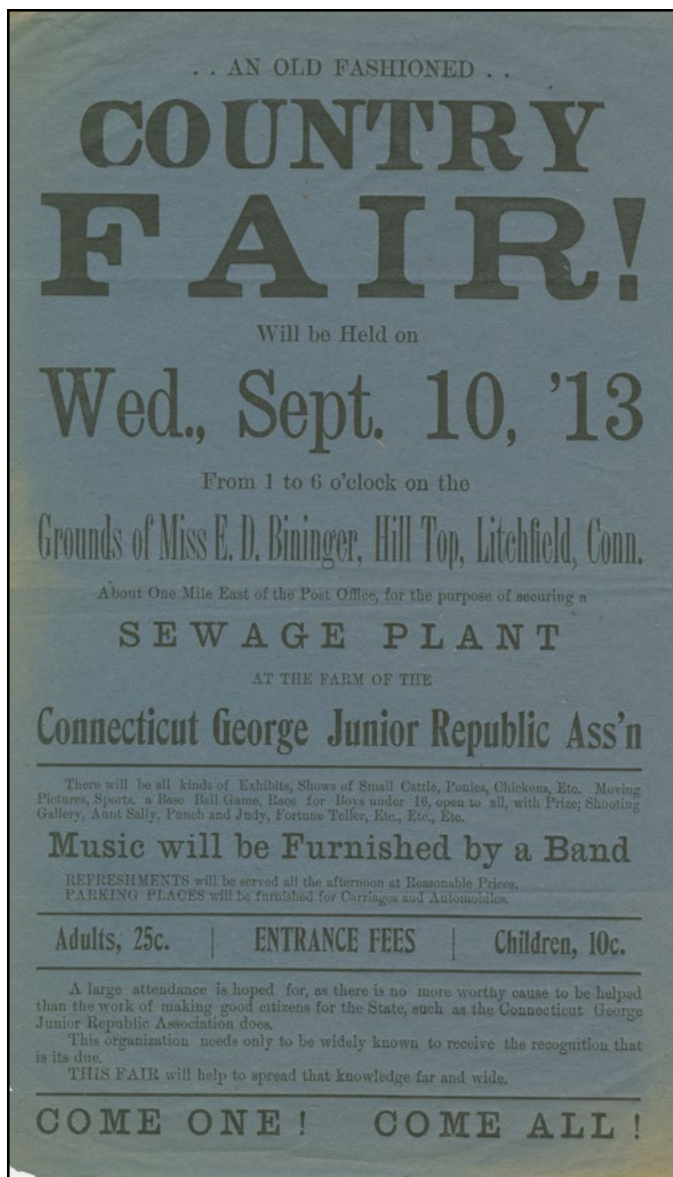
Cumming studied medicine with Dr. Holcomb of West Granby while continuing to teach, and later graduated from



James Russell Cumming letter, October 24, 1864. Courtesy of the Dr. James Russell Cumming papers, Litchfield Historical Society.



Menu, County Seat Restaurant. Courtesy of the Litchfield ephemera collection, Litchfield Historical Society.



Broadside, Connecticut Junior Republic. Courtesy of the Litchfield ephemera collection, Litchfield Historical Society.

the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1862. He entered the army from Winsted, Connecticut, as an assistant surgeon in 1862 and was promoted to surgeon in 1865. He mustered out later that same year. Following the war, Cumming returned to Columbia to continue his study of general medicine. He and his daughter moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1867 where he started a general practice. In 1871 he married Anna Stillman Hubbell with whom he had two sons, Timothy Cowles Cumming and Pierson Russell Cumming. Dr. Cumming died in 1891 and is buried at the Mountain Grove Cemetery in Fairfield, Connecticut. During his years in the army, Cumming served in New Orleans, Port Hudson, Brashear City, Winchester, Fisher's Hill, and Cedar Creek. The correspondence contained in the collection consists of letters to his parents written from several cities, ships, and army camps. The letters reference food, clothing, prices, Army pay, medical procedures, skirmishes and retreats, and race among other topics. The collection also contains several military records and a tribute to Cumming from his peers following his death.

The Dr. James R. Cumming Civil War letters, along with historical notes which are the source of the information contained here, are a gift of Robert Cumming and fam-



Blakeslee children. Courtesy of the Blakeslee-Foy-Crabtree families papers, Litchfield Historical Society.

ily, direct descendants of James Russell Cumming. Robert Cumming provided the society with a transcription of the correspondence, which may be obtained upon request. A finding aid detailing the collection's contents is in progress.

MASSACHUSETTS

Digitization of the DCA is Underway

In April 2022, the College of the Holy Cross Archives and Distinctive Collections was awarded a Digitizing Hidden Collections grant by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). "Digitizing the Deaf Catholic Archives: A project to open and provide access to a collection of print and (audio)visual materials, which document the history, culture and religious education of Deaf Catholics in the United States and beyond" will make key components of the Deaf Catholic Archives (DCA) discoverable, accessible, and usable to the Deaf community as well as students, researchers and anyone interested in the material.

Nearly half-way through a two-year timeline, the grant team initially focused on the decision-making and workflow formation necessary to prepare the DCA for digitization and access. Some of these processes included identifying and contacting copyright holders to request permissions, finding solutions to various challenges, hiring and training staff and student assistants, populating ArchivesSpace, creating an online instance in the institutional repository, and physically preparing and packaging materials for outsourced digitization. Other considerations include utilizing best technical and metadata practices, efficiency tools, and proactive outreach to advertise and market the Deaf Catholic Archives collection even before the completion of the project.



A selection of items in the Deaf Catholic Archives. *Courtesy of the College of the Holy Cross.*

Newsletters are the largest series in the DCA collection, representing more than ten countries and hundreds of Catholic dioceses. They make up the majority of the project and as such, have provided a blueprint for the procedures currently being used. Processing this series is underway and selections will be available in CrossWorks later this spring.

The complete grant project will include digital exhibits, such as *Be Opened: The Deaf Catholic Archives*, also hosted in CrossWorks. These efforts, as well as the creation of metadata and description, intentionally incorporate input from members of the Deaf community here at Holy Cross and in partnership with others.

Questions about the Deaf Catholic Archives, inquiries about how to contribute materials, and requests to access the physical collection may be directed to <deafcatholicarchives@holycross.edu>.

Digitization of Records of Early Women in STEM at MIT

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of MIT's first woman graduate (Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards, class of 1873), MIT Libraries' Department of Distinctive Collections is pleased to announce digital access to collections recording the experiences of early women students at the institute. Included in the digitization project were the Collection on Ellen Swallow Richards (MC-0659), the Collection on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Woman's Laboratory (AC-0298), and records from the Association of MIT Alumnae (MC-0065), including responses to the 1906 and 1916 surveys of women who had attended MIT.

These materials offer valuable insight into the lives of women students in the late 1800s and early 1900s, as well as providing documentation on one of the earliest chemical laboratories open to women students. MIT's first woman graduate, Ellen Swallow Richards, was a pioneer in establishing early health and safety standards in the new fields of

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sanitary chemistry and home economics, and provided advanced chemical analysis and industrial chemistry instruction to women through the Woman's Laboratory at MIT.

MIT began enrolling women as non-degree-seeking students in 1871, accepting women as fully matriculated students in all fields of study by the end of 1883. The surveys of past students provide, in women students' own words, information on their studies, their experience of MIT as women, and their lives after leaving school. Many women students went on to establish careers in science and the humanities, and many others became full-time wives and mothers putting their scientific knowledge to use running safer households in an era when sanitation and food safety were still newly hatched ideas.

The collections were digitized as part of the Women@MIT Initiative which strives to add to the historic record by collecting, preserving, and sharing the lives and works of women affiliated with MIT. Digitized materials can be accessed on MIT's digital collections portal at <dome.mit.edu>. Please contact Thera Webb, Women@MIT project archivist, at <twebb@mit.edu> with any questions.



Ellen Swallow Richards and Louisa Hewins, 1899. Journal of Louisa Hewins "Excursions: Boston and Vicinity", 1896 - 1899, Box: 2. Collection on Ellen Swallow Richards, MC-0659. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries, Department of Distinctive Collections.

Massachusetts Historical Society Preserves 1910 Alumni Photograph

The Collections Services team of the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS) work to ensure the safety, preservation, and accessibility of their collections for patrons and researchers in Boston and around the world. As part of this effort Nora Saltonstall Conservator & Preservation Librarian Samantha Couture flattens and cleans this wonderful photograph of a gathering of the Tufts College alumni in June of 1910 (see below). This 8" × 38½" photograph is part of the Society's photograph collection.

The photograph, which was rolled so tightly that the image couldn't be seen, can now be cataloged. To ensure its longevity, the photograph will be stored in a mylar sleeve and a custom enclosure for storage with all the MHS photographs in a climate-controlled environment. For more information on the Massachusetts Historical Society, visit <www.masshist.org>.

Retired Schlesinger Archivist Eva Moseley Publishes Memoir

Long active in NEA (founding member, *Newsletter* editor, president, etc.), Eva (Steiner) Moseley was also active in the Society of American Archivists from 1972–1999, while serving as curator of manuscripts at Radcliffe's Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. In 2022, Olive Branch Press / Interlink Publishing Group published her memoir, *Skirting History: Holocaust Refugee to Dissenting Citizen*.



Samantha Couture flattens and cleans a photograph of the Tufts College alumni, June 1910. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.



Gathering of the Tufts College alumni, June 1910. *Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society.*

Absent fathers, and how public events affect private lives, are leitmotifs of the book. Eva and her secular Jewish family managed to evade the Holocaust and lesser public disasters, but not some private ones. They were able to leave Vienna a year after the Nazi *Anschluss* (annexation) of Austria, and Eva gradually evolved from a shy, often fearful child and adolescent to an increasingly self-confident feminist and peace activist.

She and George Moseley—descended from John Alden and something of a rebel against his right-wing military family—lived in New York, several places in New England, and Macao, Hong Kong, London, and Oxford. Family relations and troubles—including a pre-*Roe* abortion, more than one divorce, and an unsolved murder—unfold in the context of the Cold War and changes in Jewish status with the rise of Israel.

When first retired, Eva launched three archives-related projects, but later, worried about the future her offspring—and everyone else’s—will face, and long a dissenting citizen, she turned to issues ranging from nuclear weapons and global warming to advocacy for Palestinian rights and against US military adventures and its unquestioning support of Israel. She volunteers with Massachusetts Peace Action, Green Burial Massachusetts, and other worthy organizations, and can be reached at <esmoseley@mindspring.com>.

The book (\$20) is available from your local independent bookstore, the publisher, or, if all else fails, Amazon.

Visit NEA By-Laws online at:

www.newenglandarchivists.org/bylaws

South Sea Company Exhibition Opens at Baker Library

Baker Library is pleased to announce the opening of *The South Sea Bubble, 1720: Narratives of the First International Crash*. British citizens from all walks of life invested in the South Sea Company, a public private enterprise that was granted a trade monopoly with Spanish colonies in South America in return for converting British government debt into company shares. The exhibition explores the rise and fall of the South Sea Company stock and the company’s role in the transatlantic slave trade. Baker Library holds one of the world’s most extensive collections relating to the eighteenth-century financial crisis. From parliamentary decrees to satirical prints, the collection reveals economic, political, cultural, and social narratives of the investor frenzy and ensuing financial collapse of 1720. The [online research portal](#) allows users to search the collection in depth.

Please reach out to <specialcollectionsref@hbs.edu> if you’d like a copy of the exhibition catalog. 📖

Promote your photograph collections!

The *NEA Newsletter* is seeking submissions from repositories in New England for back cover pictorial features in This Season in New England History. Submissions should be in digital format at 300 dpi or better, along with a caption detailing the subject of the photograph. Please email submissions to <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org>.



From IDEAs to Action

About the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, social justice, and diversity within the archives profession and NEA.

By the members of the
Inclusion and Diversity Committee

In Memory of Anna Clutterbuck-Cook

Anna Clutterbuck-Cook served as the inaugural New England Archivists Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator from 2015 to 2017. In her role as coordinator, she was immensely influential in pushing for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice to be set as priorities for the organization. Anna initiated the creation of our [code of conduct](#) and continually advocated for initiatives to promote inclusivity and accessibility, including organizing bystander intervention training and the ever-popular pronoun buttons at NEA events. She also led the [2016 Contingent Employment Study](#), which was a major milestone in NEA's research and advocacy related to labor issues.

At the conclusion of her term, Anna recommended the creation of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee to increase the capacity for and scope of inclusion and equity work within the organization. As former chairs of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee, we have seen firsthand the impact of Anna's diligence and passion on all aspects of the committee's work to this day. She was a source of inspiration; a person whose life reflected her values.

To honor all of Anna's contributions to the IDC, we have decided to share the first column she wrote for the April 2015 issue of the Newsletter. In it, she laid out her vision and goals for the Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator role and for NEA. Her focus on aspirational goal setting, active listening, and addressing systemic injustice continues to inspire and guide us. Her passing is an incalculable loss, but the IDC, NEA, and the entire archives field will continue to be enriched by Anna's work for many years to come.

Rosemary K. J. Davis and Rose Oliveira (2017–2020)

Stephanie Bredbenner (2020–2021)

Jeanne Lowrey (2021–2022)

Meg Rinn (2022–2023)

An introduction

By Anna J. Clutterbuck-Cook

This column first appeared, in a slightly earlier version, on the [Off the Record](#) blog for the Society of American Archivists.¹

Welcome to the inaugural Who's Missing column, a new feature of the NEA Newsletter! Who's Missing is edited by the Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator (IDC) and will regularly feature voices of NEA members with unique perspectives on the challenges of inclusion and the importance of diversity within our field—and within NEA in particular. In this issue, I would like to share some of the history of recent efforts toward greater inclusion within NEA and my own guiding principles as the organization's first IDC.

In NEA's 2010 Strategic Plan, NEA formally recognized the importance of diversity and inclusion for our viability as a professional organization seeking to represent and support all of New England's archivists. To act upon this commitment, NEA established a two-year Diversity Task Force to examine the issue. This task force of six worked with NEA leadership between 2011 and 2013 to explore the history of diversity efforts within NEA, to engage in conversations around diversity with the membership, and, ultimately, to recommend some next steps.

In their final report to the board in June 2013, the task force made a number of recommendations, among them to "institutionalize NEA's commitment to diversity and inclusion by creating a permanent body devoted to assessing and promoting the organization's progress in this area." It is this recommendation that led to the creation of the Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator position on the board.

NEA has also recently adopted an Inclusion and Di-

iversity Statement, explicitly affirming its organizational commitment to the project of building and maintaining an environment where all of New England's archivists feel welcomed, supported, and represented.²

As scholar Sara Ahmed (author of *On Being Included*) has observed, the project of working toward diversity and inclusion is an aspirational goal, a project which by its very existence indicates that the organization or institution seeking such a state is working toward rather than having already arrived at that goal. Too often, institutional culture fosters an environment whereby statements and policies become substitutes for the continuing action of being welcoming, of looking outside of our comfortable community and asking, "Who is missing from this table?" It is particularly important to ask not only who is lacking representation within our profession, but what structural and historical forces have kept them away.

As NEA's first Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator, I have identified four overarching goals for my tenure as I develop this position to continue the work that our Diversity Task Force began.

My first goal is to establish that the work of being a radically welcoming space will always be an ongoing, aspirational process within our organization. NEA can and should always be looking outward and asking, "Who needs to be welcomed to this table; whose voice needs to be heard?" We cannot expect to become fully inclusive overnight, and our efforts and attention should be calibrated accordingly.

My second goal is to engage in active listening. The process of including diverse voices is, by definition, a group process, and, to that end, I plan to invite a lot of one-to-one and one-to-small-group conversations in which I listen on behalf of NEA to those who have felt alienated by the organization and solicit ideas for how to make our community a more inclusive and relevant space.

We cannot understand or increase inclusion and diversity without understanding and working against structural inequality and the way it privileges some voices while erasing, or marginalizing, or discounting others. My third goal will therefore be to assert the ethical imperative of resisting structural inequality. I will approach my work on the assumption that we must center social justice and equity in our efforts, and that to do otherwise might increase nomi-

nal diversity, but fail to create a truly inclusive organization or profession.

Finally, I am a writer and scholar who believes in the power of speech as a form of action. That NEA is discussing what diversity means to us as a community and that we have codified the importance of inclusive action in words are both steps in a more welcoming direction. However, I also know from personal experience that conversation and ideas can get stuck at the concept stage. We can be overwhelmed by the desire for perfection or paralyzed by the fear of making a mistake – particularly when engaged in dismantling structures of oppression. We will not be perfect, and we will make mistakes. My fourth goal is, therefore, to get us acting in small, daily ways that build up our collective confidence that change is possible.

Over the coming year, "Who's Missing" will feature contributors challenging us to consider how welcoming we are to the un- and underemployed among us; what we might learn from grassroots political organizing; and the realities of systemic racial injustice within our professional community. I will be looking for guest columnists for 2016-2017 and welcome suggestions from the membership. Please email me at: <acook@masshist.org> if you have an idea you would like to pitch. ■

1 "Who's Missing From This Table?" NEA Reflections on the Process of Inclusion," *Off The Record*, 28 January 2015. <<http://offtherecord.archivists.org/2015/01/28/whos-missing-from-this-table-nea-reflections-on-the-process-of-inclusion/>>. Accessed 16 February 2015.

2 The statement can be found in full on the NEA website: <<https://newenglandarchivists.wildapricot.org/diversity>>.



Plymouth Rock under the Billings canopy. Ca. 1905. Photographer unknown. *Courtesy of the Plymouth Municipal Archives, Plymouth, Massachusetts.*

People

Genna Duplisea is now the archivist at the Preservation Society of Newport County in Newport, Rhode Island. Previously she was archivist and special collections librarian just around the corner at Salve Regina University.

Tracey Kry is the new digital collections archivist at Mount Holyoke College. She is an alumna of the college. Before joining MHC, she was the archives and emerging technologies librarian at Western New England University, and prior to that, the assistant curator of manuscripts and assistant reference librarian at the American Antiquarian Society.

During the Danvers Archival Center's 50th anniversary celebration in October 2022, the center's archival library was renamed the Richard B. Trask Library in honor of **Richard B. Trask**, a longtime NEA member and archivist for the town of Danvers. You can read more about the renaming and Richard's career in [The Salem Evening News](#). ■

In Memoriam

We are sad to share that NEA member Anna Clutterbuck-Cook died on January 30, 2023. Anna was Senior Reference Librarian at Massachusetts Historical Society. Her professional involvement with NEA includes her roles as co-founder of NEA's LGBTQ Issues Roundtable, the first Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator for NEA, and a member of the first NEA Contingent Employment Study.

Outside of NEA, Anna was part of the Archival Workers Emergency Fund organizing group and a member of the SAA AWE Fund review committee.

GoFundMe campaigns have been set up to to [ease financial burden for Anna's wife, Hanna](#), and to [support the creation and maintenance of a bench in Anna's honor in the Arnold Arboretum](#).



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numbers. Access to digitized images and modernized transcriptions of the documents will continue to be provided via Dartmouth College Library's *The Occom Circle project*.

The presence of the Occom papers on Mohegan land has been deeply meaningful for tribal members and for the tribe's Cultural Department, of which the Library & Archives is a part. Samson Occom is much more than a historical figure at Mohegan. Tribal members grow up hearing Occom's name, as he is a member of their tribe and their family. His portrait hangs not only at the entrance to the Mohegan Church, but in the homes of tribal members. Being able to see Samson's handwriting up close and feeling his presence has been profoundly moving for tribal visitors. And for the department, whose primary purpose is to learn and teach about Mohegan history and culture, possessing the original papers has put Mohegan on the map for Occom scholars, attracting researchers who may have otherwise only traveled to Dartmouth.

The relationship between the Mohegan Tribe and Dartmouth College has only strengthened since the repatriation ceremony. In November, members of the Mohegan Tribal Council, Council of Elders and Cultural Department were

invited to Dartmouth to spend two days with faculty and staff. Out of our discussions arose ideas such as the creation of a short film about Occom for Dartmouth students, opportunities for students to visit and work at Mohegan, and an annual symposium to discuss new projects and share ongoing work. This effort makes clear that the repatriation of Samson Occom's papers was just the beginning of a new, mutually beneficial partnership. ■



David Freeburg is the archivist/librarian for the Mohegan Tribe in Uncasville, Connecticut. Not a member of the tribe, David has worked with the Mohegan community, overseeing collections and reference services, for eleven years. Before working at Mohegan,

David spent five years working in the archives and research library at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center. He received his MLS from Southern Connecticut State University and a BS in psychology from the University of Connecticut.



Mohegan Tribal Council Vice Chairwoman Sarah Harris addresses the audience at the Samson Occom papers repatriation ceremony on April 27, 2022. *Courtesy of the Mohegan Tribe.*

NEA Member Spotlight



Name:

Benny Bauer

Pronouns:

she/they

Affiliated Institution:

Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut

Job title:

Digital Media Librarian

How did you become interested in the archival field?

In high school, I loved antiquing (still do), and I worked as a page at my public library. In college, Mark Dimunation (head of rare books and special collections at the Library of Congress) gave a lecture on the re-creation of Thomas Jefferson's library, and suddenly everything clicked into place—I wanted to work with Old Stuff™. I immediately began seeking out informational interviews with special collections librarians and archivists, trying to find my future place in the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives, museums) world. I got my first internship that summer at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and I fell in love with the archival field.

What are some of your focuses and interests in the archival field?

While I enjoy processing and digitizing textual materials, I've found that I'm most interested in working with audio-visual and born-digital materials, specifically digital video.

What piqued your interest about New England Archivists?

What piqued my interest about New England Archivists was the roundtables and committees. Since joining NEA as a new member, I joined the Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC)!

What are you looking forward to about your new NEA membership?

I'm looking forward to collaborating on different projects with colleagues from around the New England area.

What's an interesting fact about you or an unexpected talent or interest? Alternatively, what would you do on your ideal day off?

I collect Jackie Chan vinyl! (Yes, *that* Jackie Chan. He's a singer, too.) I only need two more vinyls to complete my collection of his studio albums. I'll then continue collecting movie soundtracks and compilation albums on vinyl, as well as his CDs.

What are your hopes for the archival profession?

I hope the archival profession will continue pursuing efforts to dismantle systemic/structural racism, to decolonize, and to make archives (its leadership, staff, and collections) more diverse and accessible. I hope I can contribute to these efforts in my work with the IDC.

What challenges have you observed so far in your career?

The biggest challenge I've observed so far in my career is bureaucracy. It's difficult to get things done in a timely fashion when there are different levels of approval that must take place first. Communication can also suffer when it must go through other people before it gets to the person you're trying to speak to or before it gets back to you.

While I've had employers express an interest in eliminating the hierarchy among staff and supervisory roles, doing so is easier said than done. When an institution runs a certain way for a long time, it's hard to make change happen. In government archives, where much of my career began, this is especially the case. Referring to the last question, I hope we can work together to remove these types of challenges and other barriers within the field. ■

NEA invites you to start a roundtable!

NEA members are encouraged to start a roundtable—a more informal way to get involved with NEA and the archival community, and to connect with others around your interests and needs as a professional. Roundtables organize workshops or events, develop conference sessions, and work with NEA committees on specific initiatives.

NEA Board Member Spotlight



Name:

Jenifer Ishee

Pronouns:

she/they

Board member title:

Reviews Editor

Affiliated Institution:

Connecticut College

Job title:

Linda Lear Librarian for Special Collections
and Archives

How did you become interested in the archival field?

Like many archivists, this wasn't my first profession! I worked in the legal field for many years, but decided I wanted to do something I was much more interested in, which was history. So, I completed an MA in history, but it turned out that every position I wanted to apply for also required an MLIS, so, I went back to school and obtained that degree.

What are some of your focuses and interests in the archival field?

I work with a lot of women's history collections, and I'm also interested and involved in digital humanities projects, and digital preservation.

What is your role on the board and what are your responsibilities?

I am the reviews editor, so I work on soliciting content about software, exhibits, programming, etc. that our community has engaged with and would like to offer feedback about.

What are you looking forward to about being on the board?

Working with my colleagues to continue to bring news and information to the archival community and working on developing the new iteration of the all-digital edition.

What do you hope to accomplish while on the board?

I think we all want to incorporate more ideas from our community of archivists to make the newsletter as informative and interesting as we can.

What do you see as the most pressing challenge to archives? Also for NEA?

I think the most pressing challenge for any special collections, archives, or associated organization is working towards diversity and inclusivity in our profession and enlarging the presence of underrepresented groups in the archive's collections. I think we also have a challenge to demonstrate the relevance of libraries, archives, and museums in a digital world, which will take some creative thinking and programming.

What's an interesting fact about you or an unexpected talent or interest? Alternatively, what would you do on your ideal day off?

On my day off, I'm working on my dissertation! I'm ABD (all but dissertation) in history, so that is pretty much all I think about when not at work! But for fun, I'm very fortunate to live in an incredibly beautiful area of Connecticut where there are always fun things to do like outdoor music events and farmer's markets.

What are your hopes for the archival profession?

I'm hopeful when I see so many people entering the profession and even undergrads interested in pursuing a career in archives. So, I hope we will work harder to mentor new archivists and listen to their voices and what they are learning in their graduate programs. ■

It's Your Newsletter: Contribute!

The *NEA Newsletter* always needs news from your archives and other archives in New England, about NEA members, and about upcoming events. We also need people to write reviews, long articles, and session reports for NEA meetings. If you have any ideas for articles, etc., please contact an editor.

N E A

New England Archivists

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This photograph, taken in May, 1974, by Alex Brown, depicts members of Bennington College's Black Music Division (from right, Milford Graves, Stephen Horenstein, Bill Dixon, Henry Letcher, Susan Feiner, Jay Ash, Sidney Smart, and Arthur Brooks). According to a 1974 statement on establishing a Black Music Division separate from the Bennington's Music Division, the purpose of the Black Music Division was "to both preserve and advance the art and discipline of contemporary Black Music - teach both its musical and philosophical points of view, and to train and engage the young musician in a specific musical discipline - acquaint the student musician with the art of ensemble playing, composition, how to listen with a critical ear, development in the art of the solo, involvement with the intricacies of the instrument, and for writers how to write critically and intelligently about the music." *Courtesy of Crossett Library, Bennington College.*