

NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R — This photograph comes from the University of New Haven’s 1999 series “Homecoming.” The image showcases a gathering of students dressed as Star Wars characters, including Luke and Leia Skywalker, Chewbacca, and Darth Vader. Sean Stevens, previously the Library Technical Assistant of UNH, now the Assistant Librarian at Western Connecticut State University, submitted the images wishing to, “foster a sense of community from student to alumni.” Happy Halloween!

I N S I D E — Our main feature details the founding of the NEA and *Newsletter* (page 4); News and Notes from the region (page 7); The President’s Column re-prints the first NEA President’s address (page 10); A tribute in honor of Valerie Simpson (page 10); the Around and About column looks at the past and present membership stats (page 11); Matt Amedeo presents important news about the Racial Justice Honoraria Fund awards (page 12); NEA Roundtable Updates (page 13); Our Spotlight features Danita Callender and a Spotlight Flashback detailing the first Executive Board of NEA (page 14); and a very special interview with Eva Moseley, one of the founding members of our organization (page 16).

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 Daniel McCormack, NEA Treasurer-Elect, 18 Churchill Rd., West Roxbury, MA 02132.

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

- Jenifer Ishee

This past year, our organization has celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding in a number of ways, including focusing on the “Past, Present, and Possibilities” of our profession in our Spring meeting forums and discussions. As an organization that seeks to preserve, promote, and celebrate the historical record, it seems fitting that the last issue of the anniversary year should center on the archival record of the founding of NEA, reflected in its continuously run *Newsletter*.

In that regard, in addition to some of our regular features, we are republishing a number of columns and images from the 1972 to 1974 *Newsletters*. The President’s Column is a reprint of Sylvie Turner’s first address to the membership in 1974 (page 10). Our feature article reflects on the forming of the organization and contents of the first edi-

tions of the *Newsletter* (page 4). Our mini-feature analyzes the historical membership of the organization (page 11). A very special treat is a reflection by one of the early members of NEA (page 16). This issue’s Spotlight columns feature new member, Danita Callender, a 2023 MLIS graduate of Simmons; as well as a flashback to the 1974 Spotlight introducing the first NEA executive officers (page 14). This edition’s IDC column celebrates the recipients of the Racial Justice Honoraria Fund awards (page 12). And as always, catch up with our colleagues across New England in our News and Notes section (page 7).

While this edition focuses on our organization’s past, we are excited as we look to the future of the *Newsletter*, especially as we welcome three new editors: Sally Blanchard-O’Brien, Eve Fairbanks, and Patrick Doyle. Please remember, your participation and contributions make this newsletter possible, and we want to hear from you! Please reach out to us at <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org> with your article pitches, news, photographs, and ideas. ■



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ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

An Idea was Formed: The Founding of the New England Archivists Association and Newsletter

By Newsletter Editors

On November 2, 1972, twenty-one archivists who were attending the 36th annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Columbus, Ohio met to discuss the possibility of creating a regional organization to further the professional activities of archivists in New England. At that time, they discussed their vision for possible activities and meetings of such a group, which included distributing a periodic newsletter.

They acted quickly and by November 7, 1972, the first edition of the *Newsletter* was in print. The first New England Archives *Newsletter* was a very different iteration than what you have before you today. It consisted of two pages, setting forth the origins of the organization and the appointments of the first officers and steering committee members. (Figure 1)

The first formal meeting of the newly formed organization took place on April 7, 1973 at Bentley College, in

Waltham, Massachusetts. In addition to concurrent sessions related to oral history and the New England Document Conservation Center, those in attendance visited the Federal Archives Center and John F. Kennedy Library. At the first business meeting it was agreed the name of the organization should be the "New England Archivists" but should include all those concerned with preservation of cultural heritage materials. At this point, the second *Newsletter* had expanded to five pages, and included a summary of the meeting presentations, new members, and a call to: formally join the organization (for \$2.00); plan to attend the fall meeting; send program suggestions; and send in news and notes. This was the first "call" for news and notes that continues to this day. (Figure 2)

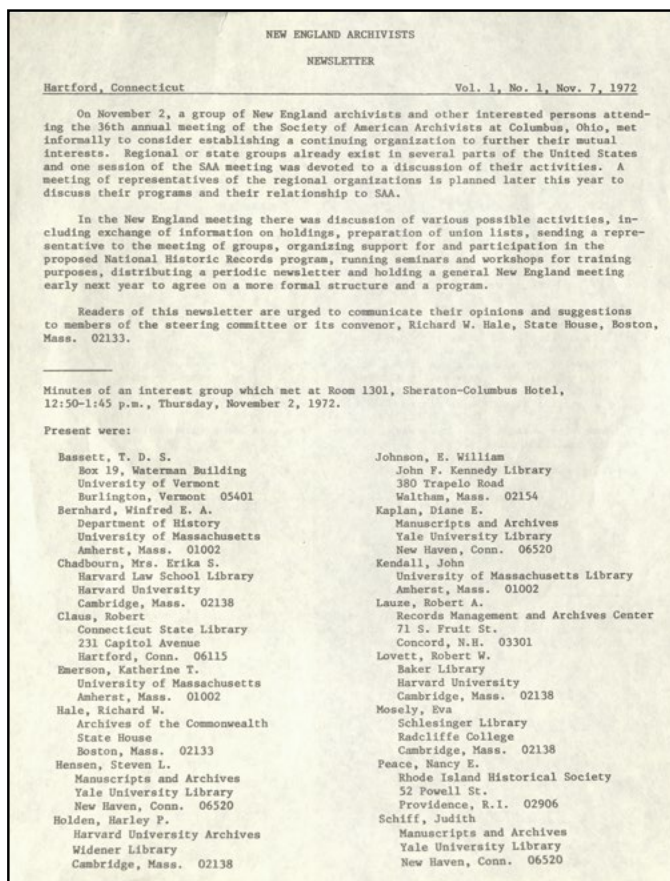


Figure 1

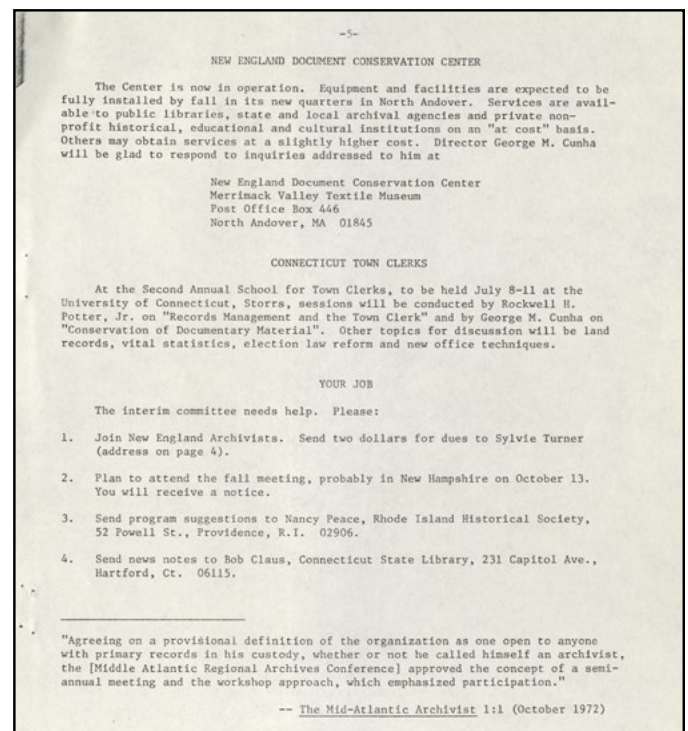


Figure 2

The third edition of the *Newsletter* contained a draft of bylaws for the organization, which stated its purpose was to “promote cooperation among individuals in New England having original records in their custody and those in related disciplines having an interest in such records and to provide a forum for matters in common by disseminating information on research materials and methodology, conducting periodic workshops and seminars and actively cooperating with similar organizations.” (Figures 3 and 4)

Importantly, the new organization was quick to take on issues directly relating to the preservation of important historical documents. On January 22, 1973, the group crafted a letter to Governor Curtis of Maine opposing the dismantling of the Maine State Archives and Records Management System. The reply they received from the Governor is pictured here. (Figure 5)

Additionally, at the Durham, New Hampshire meeting in August 1974, the members passed a motion in support of HR 15818 to increase funding for the National Historical Publications Commission which was introduced in the House

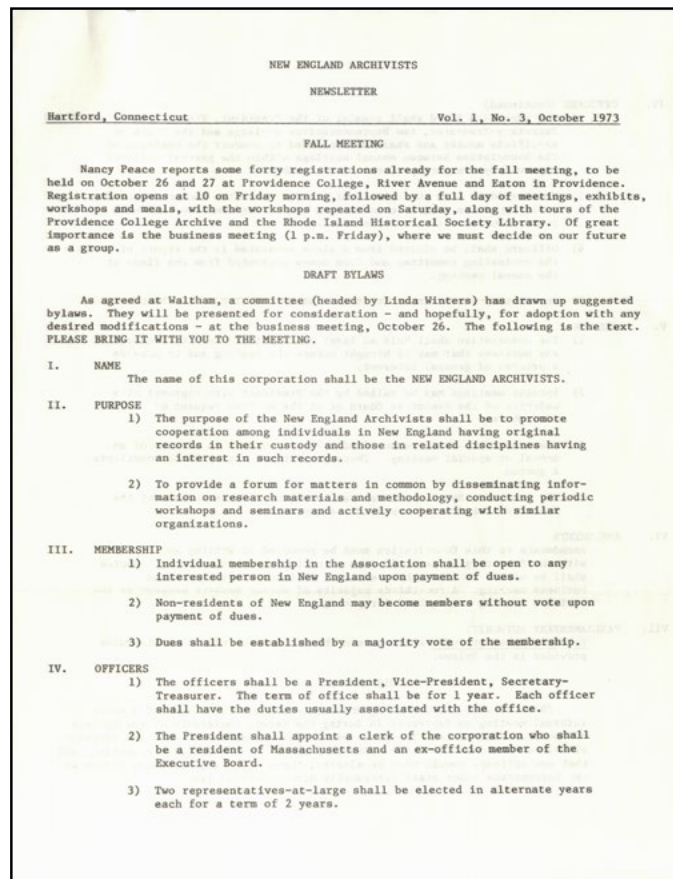


Figure 3

by Rep. Jack Brooks and Rep. Frank Horton. The Secretary of NEA followed up with a letter to Rep. Horton indicating the associations' support of the bill, which was reprinted in the *Newsletter*. The editors encouraged members to “write to your representatives!” (Figures 6 and 7)

By Volume 2, in August 1974, the *Newsletter* had grown to eight pages and included news and notes, information about recent meetings, letters to the editor, and a membership form indicating dues had increased to \$3.00 (Figure 8). The first “letters to the editor” involved a heated discussion on the SAA anti-discrimination resolution, which NEA had proposed to endorse at their April 1974 meeting. In an era before social media, this was a platform

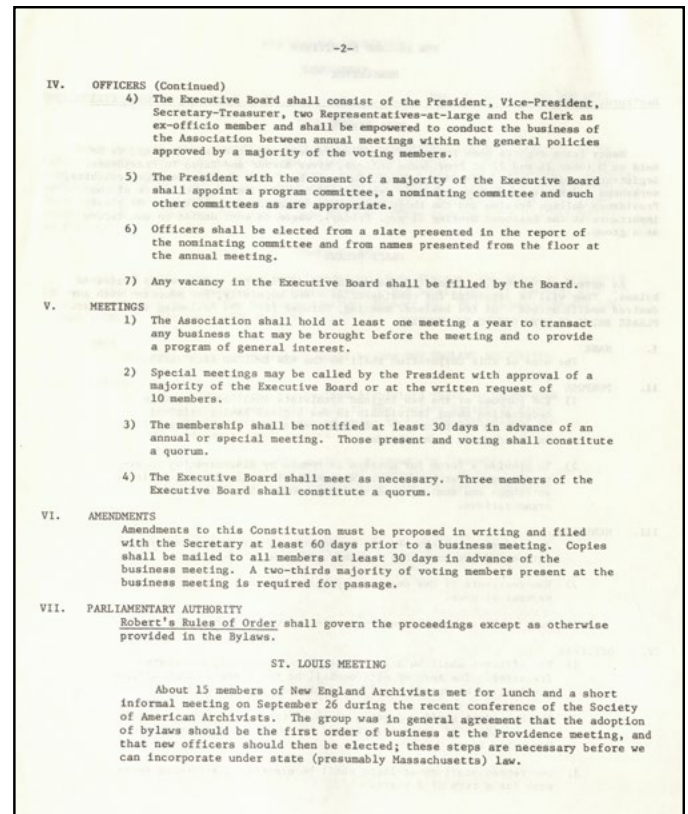


Figure 4

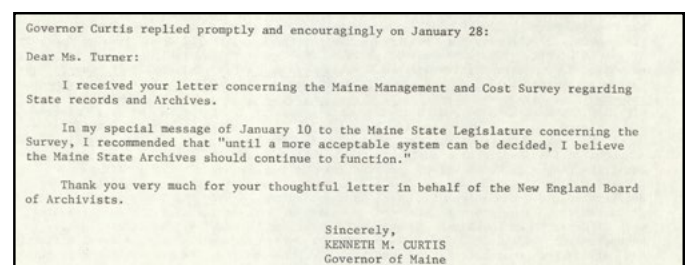


Figure 5

for members to air their comments and disagreements with one another.

In recent years, some other important milestones in the evolution of the *Newsletter* included:

- 1991: *Newsletter* accepts submissions via floppy disks
- 1996: NEA Website is launched
- 2002: *Newsletter* available in print and digital edition

- 2013: *Newsletter* features color cover in honor of the 40th anniversary year
- 2022: *Newsletter* moves from print and digital editions to all digital format

Since the inception of NEA, the *Newsletter* has continued to inform and update the membership with news from the region, features on new technology, and best practices in the archival profession, as well as information about recent meetings. It is important to remember that the content has always relied almost entirely on submissions made by the membership. Though the look has changed and evolved over the years, the mission is still the same – to be a voice, about and for the members of NEA, to connect us to one another as we seek to preserve and maintain the historic record for future generations.

Sources: Images, credit: UCONN NEA Archives; also, Colin Lukens' comprehensive [history of the organization](#). ■

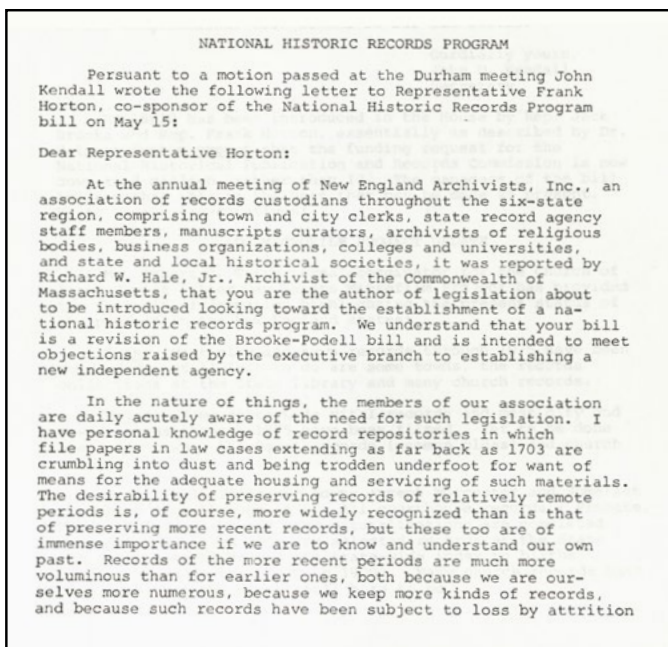


Figure 6

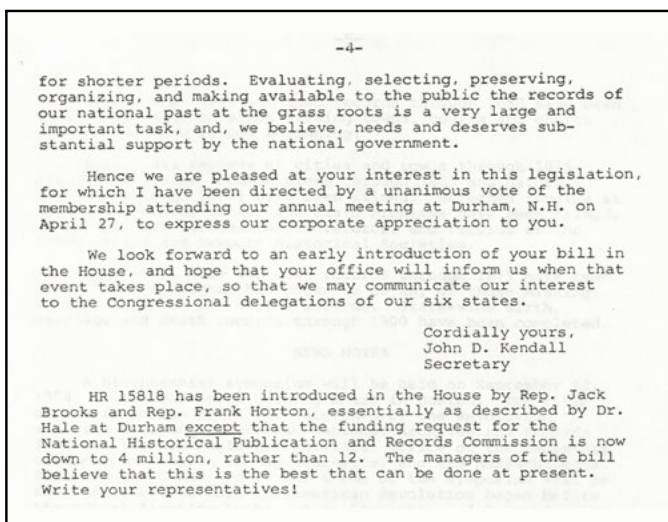


Figure 7

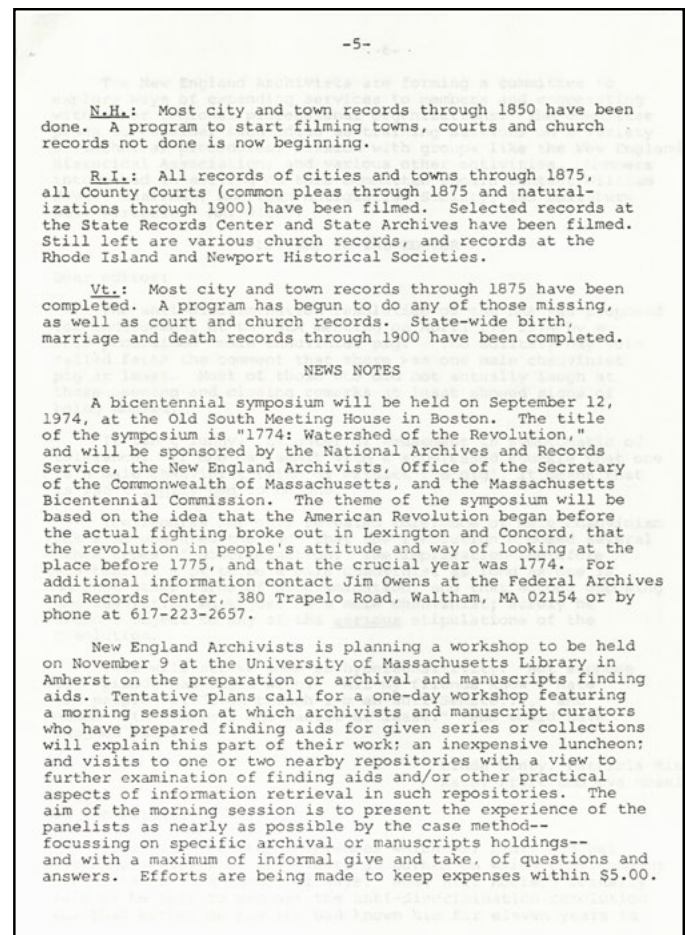


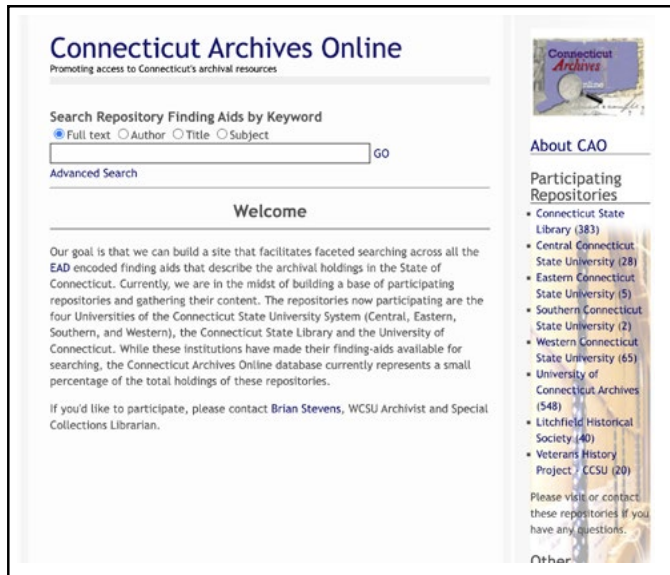
Figure 8

News and Notes

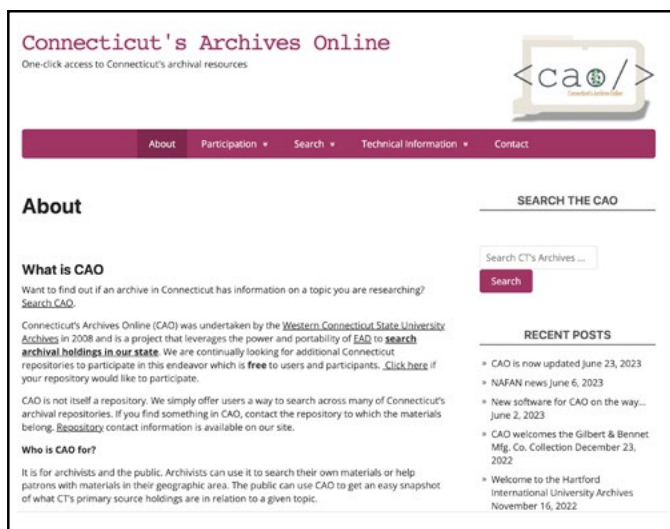
CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Archives Online is Fifteen

This summer, Western Connecticut State University Archives' [CT's Archives Online](#) (CAO) implemented ArcLight's v1.0.1 which deployed some interface improvements and incorporated updates to its dependencies. ArcLight, which powers CAO, is part of the open source [Blacklight project](#) and was developed to search archival material.



Screenshot from CAO's site in 2008.



Screenshot from CAO's site in 2023.

This summer also marks the fifteenth year of CAO's existence. CAO now has 24 repositories using its instance of ArchivesSpace and, for no charge to users or participants, searches across 72 CT repositories and two and a half million entries.

The Coast Guard Academy Receives Grant from State of Connecticut

The Coast Guard Academy Library has received a \$1 million grant from the State of Connecticut to create a climate controlled, secure storage facility for the Academy's Special Collections. Currently, the collections are stored in closed stacks, without the ability to control temperature, humidity, or light. The Library's Special Collections are focused on collecting materials that document the history of the Academy and the Coast Guard to support research and provide the cadets with a connection to the history and traditions of their service.

This generous grant will allow the library to build the proper facilities to house these materials, create an interactive digital display and fund some digitizing projects to provide more access to collections. Plans for the new space should be finalized in the next month and we hope that construction will be completed by the end of 2024.

For more information, contact elisa.p.graydon@uscga.edu.



CGA Library Staff with CT. Governor Ned Lamont and Superintendent Rear Admiral Michael Johnston.

MASSACHUSETTS

Digital Commonwealth Adds 3,700 Images Documenting the Quabbin Reservoir

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and the Massachusetts Archives jointly announce the digital online access, through [Digital Commonwealth](#), of 3,700-plus photographs, taken between 1927 and 1947 by the state, documenting the contract construction of various infrastructure associated with the Quabbin Reservoir, the water supply reservoir for the metropolitan Boston region. Photos document the Quabbin Aqueduct tunnel, 36 miles of highway and roadway construction, reservoir clearing, Quabbin Administration Building Complex, Observation Tower, the Quabbin Park Cemetery Building, a work boat (designed by a MIT naval architect), the Rutland-Holden sewer, amongst other associated infrastructure.

The digital access project was led jointly by DCR (through its Archives) and the MWRA (through its Library), and in cooperation with the Massachusetts Archives, and DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management. The professional digital imaging was undertaken by Boston Public Library Digital Services. For more information, contact sean.fisher@mass.gov or visit [the project site online](#).



Contract No. 62, Print 3, Clearing Lower Middle and East Branches, Quabbin Reservoir, tractor dragging tree to fire, Enfield, Mass., Feb. 27, 1939, with the soon-to-be demolished Enfield Town Hall in background; photo taken by Stuart D. Pike (1910-1978), a staff engineering photographer. <https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:1v53p4883>

Two Newly Processed Collections at Northeastern University Archives & Special Collections

Northeastern University Archives & Special Collections has completed processing two collections that are now open for research: the Frieda Garcia papers (16 cubic feet) and the Boston Gay Men's Chorus records (35 cubic feet).

Frieda Garcia is a community activist and leader who has worked primarily in Boston's South End and Roxbury neighborhoods since the mid 1960s. Her records document the 20 years she served as director of the United South End Settlements, and other positions held such as founding director of La Alianza Hispana and Special Assistant to the Governor of Massachusetts, and include correspondence, awards, and more.

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus was part of a wave of gay choruses established in the wake of the 1981 national tour of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The collection documents the Chorus's live performances through audio and video recordings, photographs, concert programs, posters and marketing materials, and planning and logistics files. For more information, contact archives@northeastern.edu.

RHODE ISLAND

Old Slater Mill Association Digitizes and Preserves Historical Documents

For the past 18 months, the staff of the Old Slater Mill Association in Pawtucket, Rhode Island has been scanning and rehousing thousands of corporate documents relating to the preservation of the 1793 Old Slater Mill, and the history of the organization and the Old Slater Mill museum, dating from 1920. This summer the focus shifted to scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, brochures and publications covering an 80-year time span. To date, scrapbooks for the years 1921 through 1958 have been completed. After processing, the collections will be relocated to the Elizabeth J. Johnson Pawtucket History Research Center at Pawtucket Public Library to provide greater accessibility for researchers. For more information, visit <https://www.oldslatermillassociation.org/home>.

VERMONT

University of Vermont Receives the Papers of Senator Leahy

The Silver Special Collections Library at the University of Vermont (UVM) is excited to announce the acquisition of the papers of Senator Patrick Leahy along with \$2.5 million in funding from the US Secretary of the Senate to support arrangement and description of the collection, which documents Leahy's 48-year career in the Senate. Silver Special Collections also welcomed three Leahy Congressional Papers Archivists this summer. Over the course of five years, Shir Bach, Erica Donniss and Sally Blanchard-O'Brien will arrange and describe the collection, digitize content and make it available online, and conduct an oral history project with the Senator and his staff.

Shir Bach comes to UVM from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he received his master's in library science and worked at the Southern Oral History Program. Erica Donniss is a graduate of the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture and comes to UVM from Champlain College, where she served as Special Collections Director. Sally Blanchard-O'Brien received her MLIS from San Jose State University in 2012 and worked as a Records Analyst and Archivist for the Vermont State Archives & Records Administration.

To learn more about the Leahy Papers, read [UVM's announcement](#).



UVM Congressional Papers Archivists with Marcelle and Senator Patrick Leahy, and Special Collections Director Chris Burns.

REGIONAL NEWS

Making Wanderground Real and Visible

Wanderground Lesbian Archive/Library currently does not have a permanent location to house our large collection of Lesbian materials. However, we have been doing a series of "pop-up" events around the New England region. This sampling showcase of various items contained in our collection helps us to encourage interest in and excitement for the Lesbian legacies contained in Wanderground. We've been to Northampton, MA, Newport and Providence, RI. The New Haven, CT area is scheduled for September. In general, these events have been received with enthusiasm by those who attended. Older Lesbians experienced a walk down memory lane while younger viewers marveled at the broad array of Lesbian materials and new information. We're looking for venues in Vermont and Maine for some time in October. Additionally, we are laying the foundations for a capital campaign to launch sometime in early 2024. Through the campaign, we plan to raise the funds to get a Place of Our Own and finally place our collection in a permanent location. For more information, visit <https://wanderground.org/>. 🖤



Display features books published by Lesbian-owned Presses, 1970-1990, as well as buttons and greeting cards.



Showcase includes samples of videos, periodicals, memorabilia, music recordings, and other Lesbian-centered art and objects.

Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In honor of the 50th anniversary of NEA, and in lieu of our usual “President’s Column,” below is a reprint of the first address by Sylvie Turner to the newly formed membership of NEA which appeared in the February 1974 edition of the *Newsletter*:

“Fellow Members:

The New England Archivists are now a formally organized and incorporated association. With a membership of over 110 archivists, librarians, manuscript curators, town clerks, records managers, and others interested in archives, we can look forward to a productive year. Plans are progressing rapidly for a fine spring meeting in Durham, New Hampshire on April 27th, the details of which you will find described elsewhere in this newsletter. Bill Joyce, in charge of program planning, and Bryant Tolles, in charge of local arrangements, are doing a great job. Those of us involved in the formation of this new organization feel that the NEA fills a real need in this area. The response, enthusiasm, and support which we have received have been tremendous.

There are different types of functions and programs which it is now possible for our organization to embark upon, in addition to our annual meeting. There is definitely a need for an up-to-date guide to the archival resources in New England. Other publications, in addition to our Newsletter, are certainly possible. Other special symposia, workshops, or projects could be planned, perhaps in conjunction with the SAA. I would welcome any suggestions that any of you might have along these lines.

It is extremely important, I feel, for the organization to remain flexible, adaptable to change and responsive to the needs of its members. So by all means let me or any other member of the Executive Board hear from you if you have ideas and suggestions for the association to act upon.

And I hope to see you all in Durham.

Cordially,

SYLVIE TURNER, President, NEA” ■

People

One of St. George’s most devoted champions of the school, longtime faculty member and school archivist **Valerie G. Simpson** died in her longtime campus home, Wyn Wyc House, on Monday, June 5, 2023. She was 68.

Val arrived at St. George’s School with her husband, English teacher Jeff Simpson, in 1982 and served for many years as the school’s librarian before taking time off to be a full-time mother to her and Jeff’s cherished son, Will, a member of the St. George’s Class of 2014.

In 2011, Val became school archivist and presided over St. George’s collection of historic artifacts, trinkets, photographs, publications, and various eclectic ephemera with fastidious, heartfelt care and reverence.

Memorials and messages of condolence may be read and shared at <<https://www.stgeorges.edu/news/memorials/valerie-simpson>>. ■



Photo credit: Memorial Funeral Home, Newport, Rhode Island

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>.

AROUND AND ABOUT

Where we came from...who are we now?

By Newsletter Editors

The second issue of the *NEA Newsletter*, mailed to members in July 1973, contained the first overview of the organization: a description of some basic statistics for members and prospective members collected at the April 1973 meeting. Though the data described is not as specific as that collected in the current annual survey, a few of the data points do allow for direct comparisons with the results of the recent 2020 survey. (Figure 1)

The first of these is simply the question of where members reside. In both 1973 and 2020, Massachusetts had the highest percentage of archivists with 57.86% and 60.77%, respectively; Connecticut archivists made up 16.24% in 1973 and 22.3% in 2020; Maine archivists made up 3.05% in 1973 and 3.07% in 2020; Rhode Island archivists made up 5.58% in 1973 and 6.92% in 2020; Vermont archivists made up 7.61% in 1973 and 3.85% in 2020; finally, New Hampshire made up the biggest dip, making up 7.61% in 1973 and just 1.54% in 2020. (Figure 2)

The percentage of SAA members among NEA members has also changed dramatically. In 1973, 34.01% of the NEA members and prospective members surveyed were also SAA members, while in 2020, 79.28% were. However, as the 1973 Newsletter notes, this doesn't include members working at institutional members of SAA.

Finally, the data indicating the types of institutions where surveyed individuals worked also shows shifts in where the current membership is working. The original Newsletter states that most archivists were affiliated with local historical societies, followed by college and university archives. In 2020, most Archivists were affiliated with academic libraries, with historical societies only being the fifth most common organization, behind academic institutions, non-profit organizations, government archives, and special archives and libraries.

While the original data described in the *Newsletter* is far from exhaustive, a comparison allows for at least a few insights. The final section of the original feature also contains a listing of regional archives with members. ■

WHO ARE WE?

According to John Kendall's analysis of available information, nearly 200 persons either attended the April meeting (109) or expressed interest in our organization. His chart shows that most reside in Massachusetts (114), with others divided among Connecticut (32), Vermont (15), New Hampshire (15), Rhode Island (11), Maine (6) and "Other" (4). Among those who attended the meeting, about 47 are individual members of the Society of American Archivists, as are about 20 of those interested who could not attend; others of course are associated with agencies which are institutional members. About half of those who attended the meeting paid the two dollar temporary dues on the spot. (If you have not done so, please become a member by sending a check payable to New England Archivists to: Sylvie J. Turner, Treasurer, NEA, John F. Kennedy Library, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02154.)

The examination of the agency affiliations showed a wide distribution of interests, with the greatest number associated with local historical societies (32) and college and university archives (26). Among those attending the meeting were staff members of the Massachusetts and Connecticut State Libraries; the Archives of Maine and Massachusetts; the state historical societies of Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire; the state records agencies of Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Connecticut; local historical societies in Stoughton, Lexington, Ipswich, Amherst, Hadley, and Berlin, Mass.; Manchester, N.H.; and Theford, Vt.; the American Antiquarian Society, The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Marine Historical Society, the Connecticut Aeronautical Historical Association, the American Jewish Historical Society, Old Sturbridge Village, the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and the Archives of American Art; the archives of Roman Catholic, Christian Science, and Jewish religious bodies; the universities of Maine (Portland-Gorham), Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Harvard, Yale, Clark, and Boston Universities; and the following colleges: Amherst, Bentley, Boston College, Lowell Tech, Middlebury, Naval War College, Plymouth (N.H.) State, Providence, Radcliffe, Stonehill, Wellesley, and Wesleyan.

Figure 1

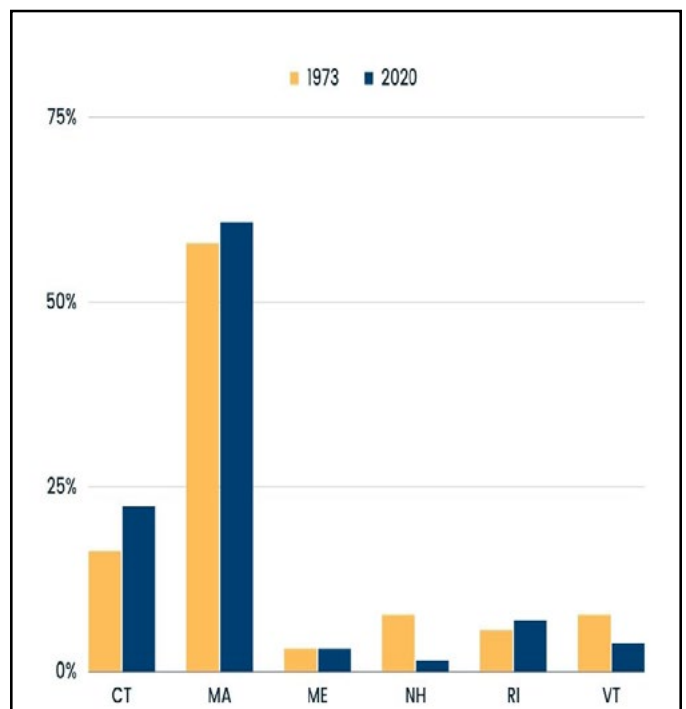


Figure 2



From IDEAs to Action

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

Racial Justice Honoraria Fund - First Recipients Announcement and Continued Call for Applicants

By Matt Amedeo

The Inclusion and Diversity Committee (IDC) is proud to formally announce that the first-ever Racial Justice Honoraria Fund recipients have been selected!

The Racial Justice Honoraria Fund, created to take action towards solving the issues of racism within the archival profession, helps archivists of color in their endeavors toward racial equity. This fund was created to help pay for workshops, courses, newsletter articles, conference attendance, and much more.

As the fight against white supremacy in libraries and archives continues, more often than not the emotionally tolling burden to be the educators of racism is placed on archivists of color. The New England Archivists strive to be at the forefront of the fight for equality, and this fund was created with this idea in mind.

After the fund's conception in the fall of 2021, the Racial Justice Honoraria Fund Committee has met and reviewed numerous applications that have been submitted. Each applicant was extremely worthy and strong, and the Committee is grateful for the thought and consideration put into these applications.

The first recipients of the Honoraria are Tatiana Bryant, Gina Nortonsmith, and kYmberly Keeton for their respective efforts in promoting equity in archival work. Below is a description of each recipient's respective work.

Tatiana Bryant plans to offer a series of reprises in collaboration with the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) that discuss racial equity in libraries and hold space for open discussion with participants. Tatiana and team would like to host a reprise for a black-only space, a BIPOC space, and a mixed audience space to ensure a variety of peer-to-

peer sharing and a safe space for ideas to be shared. With the Honoraria, Tatiana will offer these reprises to members of the New England Archivists who fall into each category as well. These sessions will not only be beneficial in promoting important conversations surrounding racial equity in our profession but will also provide a space for questions to be asked and answered in a safe environment.

Gina Nortonsmith, the recipient of the Racial Justice Honoraria Fund newsletter article award, will be writing an article for the *Newsletter* on her experiences with the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project at Northeastern University. Having presented at the spring NEA conference in 2023, Gina will write about her experiences and how racial equity can be achieved in archives.

kYmberly Keeton, on track to receive a doctoral degree from the University of North Texas, plans to use the Honoraria to take on new courses that will aid in the completion of her dissertation. Her research delves into the question of why Black people in Texas do not archive their history. kYmberly plays a key role in this process by figuring out what people of color can do to make a difference in this area of archives for change and inclusion. With the knowledge gained, kYmberly plans on writing an article about the experience as well as about her dissertation.

All recipients of the first round of the Racial Justice Honoraria Fund are extremely worthy, and we greatly appreciate their efforts to advance equity in archives. A major thanks is in order for Jeanne Lowrey, incoming NEA President, who launched this fund during her time as Inclusion and Diversity Committee Chair.

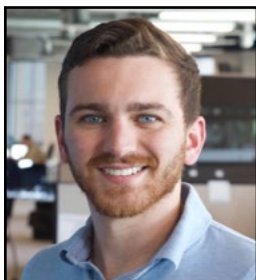
The Racial Justice Honoraria Fund continues to

accept applications as another round of funding will be dispersed by the end of 2023. We strongly encourage anyone who meets the criteria to apply! Applications can be found on the NEA Website. As a reminder, the criteria for applicants are outlined below:

- A self-identified person of color, regardless of NEA membership, who proposes a project related to archives or cultural heritage work, (for instance, a research project to be presented at a meeting or a newsletter article), or:
- A self-identified person of color, regardless of NEA membership, who proposes a project or is selected by an NEA committee to lead or advise programs or projects related to racial justice and equity.

In addition to the money allocated in the NEA budget for this initiative, designated donations made by NEA members and the public will allow the Racial Justice Honoraria Fund to grant more honoraria and make an even larger impact. If you are in a position to financially support NEA in this initiative, please make a donation at newenglandarchivists.org/donate.

Once again, congratulations to Tatiana Bryant, Gina Nortonsmith, and kYmberly Keeton! More on their research is to come. ■



Matt Amedeo is an early-career archives professional specializing in corporate archives. Matt obtained his Master's degree in History- Archives from the University of Massachusetts, Boston and is currently the Archivist at InterSystems in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Matt has a passion for work in diversity, equity, and inclusion, beginning with his foundation of the LGBTQIA+ Student-Athlete Advisory Committee in his Undergraduate career. Matt hopes to continue this push for equity within the archives profession.

Visit NEA online at:

www.newenglandarchivists.org

NEA Roundtable Updates

Preservica Roundtable Holds Annual Half-Day Spring Meeting

On May 19, 2023, the Preservica Roundtable held its annual half-day Spring meeting to network with other Preservica users and discuss using the system, as well as other digital preservation topics. Roundtable members provided updates on current processing projects, and shared recent successes and failures using Preservica. The group also discussed Preservica ingest methods and tools, processing email, providing access to digital content through Preservica's Universal Access Portal, utilizing various storage adapters in the system, adding metadata, and future upgrades to the Preservica interface. The Roundtable plans to meet again in the fall.

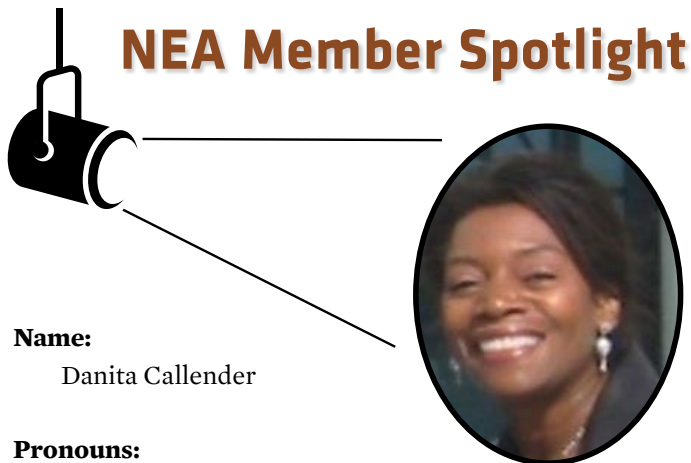
To join or learn more about the Preservica Roundtable, contact co-chair Caitlin Walker, <caitlin.n.walker89@gmail.com>, Digital Preservation Archivist at the Massachusetts Historical Society. ■



NEA Preservica Roundtable members at the Spring 2023 Virtual Meeting.

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.

**Name:**

Danita Callender

Pronouns:

she/her/hers

Affiliated institution:

2023 MLIS graduate of Simmons University with LIS/archives management concentration

Job title:

School Archivist

How did you become interested in the archival field?

I discovered this field as I was introduced to it during a Simmons Admissions Open House for its LIS graduate program. It was discussed with such enthusiasm and passion that I was smitten by the possibility of pursuing such an engaging subject. I decided to dip my toe in by enrolling in the archives management concentration and taking the beginning prerequisite courses. If I liked it, I would continue, and fortunately, to my delight, I did! So much so that I became the co-chair for our Student Chapter of the Society for American Archivists for my final three consecutive semesters. During this time we conducted an in-person tour of both the GBH and MIT archives as well as a virtual tour of the Lowcountry Digital Library based in Virginia.

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

Right now I am comparing myself to a brand new sponge, totally ready to absorb anything and everything it comes in contact with! During my internship this semester at the Houghton Library at Harvard University, I was pleased to focus my time and energy on the Albert Murray papers. Albert Murray was an American literary and jazz music critic, essayist, and novelist. During his time, 1916–2013, he championed the philosophy that the Black experience was essential to American

culture. Additionally, I would be happy to process a myriad of collections in a variety of LAMs settings, as I seek to gain well-rounded work experience throughout the beginning stages of my LIS/archives career.

What piqued your interest about New England Archivists?

I first heard of NEA when as a student I was invited to join the planning committee for the Fall 2022 Joint Symposium of NEA/Simmons SLIS. I worked on the communications team along with NEA member Elizabeth Wilkinson. Together we collaborated with NEA President Caitlin Birch and Simmons SLIS Associate Director Kathy Wisser and the entire team. I truly enjoyed the process of what it takes to make an event come together. From there, I just sort of organically drifted over to joining NEA! And what a fountain of information and knowledge I have received as a result of joining. I look forward to the emails, job postings, articles, and questions and comments that come up.

What are you looking forward to about your new membership?

What I'm most looking forward to is networking and meeting new and seasoned professionals as we move out of this COVID pandemic and have more opportunities for in-person gatherings. I'm also looking to learn from and engage with others in a way that goes beyond the classroom or an online environment.

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

I'd like to share the fact that I am a globetrotting individual known to visit places such as Bali, Morocco, Thailand, Hong Kong, Turkey, France, Netherlands, Austria, Greece and others. In my humble opinion, you get an education from traveling that you will never get from a book, classroom, or armchair travel show. Total immersion is the way to go! Alternatively, I do like to read a good book, hang out with family and friends, or just have some good old fashioned rest and relaxation!

What are your hopes for the archival profession?

My hopes for the archival profession is that it will open up for more diverse and marginalized communities to have opportunities to have their traditions, cultures, and lifestyles brought into the mainstream and given

their due recognition. In my Preservation Management class, we were asked how much preservation plays a role in social justice issues. What is your comfort level for being a change agent? As a student, where do you currently feel most empowered to affect change? What do you see as the biggest obstacles to influencing change in your current position? I responded, “I suppose I never really thought out loud and pondered my comfort level for being a change agent. By my mere rank or station in life, as I have traversed this planet, I have this task unwittingly thrust upon me and can either take up the mantle and attempt to open minds or go scurrying off in a corner. The privilege of educating oneself about diversity, racism, and inclusion instead of experiencing it, is a luxury that has never come my way. As a student, I currently feel most empowered to affect change during my interactions with fellow students and instructors...” Now as I am about to embark on my professional career path, I hope to continue to be that same change agent in the work environment as I have been in life—always searching for the best possible outcome.

What challenges have you observed so far in your career?

One of my biggest takeaways thus far has been not to remain trapped at the item level for any extended length of time. This is time that in the end, does not serve you! You may very well need that time later on down the line for more critical tasks. I now know why there is the concept of the “golden minimum.” I believe for many new archivists just starting out, we want to devote as much time as possible to the collection at our very first pass surveying it. It truly goes against our instincts to spend perhaps only five to ten minutes, a maximum of fifteen with each box.

As a new jobseeker in this profession, I’m noticing that full time permanent opportunities are not always as prevalent as we would like. This has definitely been a challenge to work around and yet I am out there putting in my time every day in pursuit of my first professional opportunity. Wish me luck!

Visit NEA online at:

www.newenglandarchivists.org

Spotlight Flashback

In addition to our regular Spotlight column, we are including an excerpt from the August 1974 edition of the Newsletter which ran the following Spotlight on the first executive board of NEA:

MEET THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF NEA

PRESIDENT

Sylvie Turner, Research Archivist in the John F. Kennedy Library, has a bachelor’s degree in history from Clark, a master’s from Cornell, and an MLS from Simmons. She was successively librarian of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, research assistant at Old Sturbridge Village, and archivist in the Connecticut State Library. She is chairperson of the SAA Committee on Reference Access and Photoduplication. Her article “Connecticut Archives,” appeared in the Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin for July 1968.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Marlene Wallace, Assistant Editor, Vermont State Papers, attended the University of Vermont, where she continues her studies as circumstances permit. In her work, she evaluates official records of the Governor and Secretary of State; processes records of legislative committees; assists in preservation and restoration of the Secretary of State’s manuscripts; prepares finding aids; and edits historical manuscripts for publication. She participated in the Boston Athenaeum 1971 Seminar on the Conservation of Library and Archival Materials and has recently been planning a conservation workshop in the State Papers office. She serves as member of the Advisory Committee to the New England Document Conservation Center and of the Panel of Counselors to the New England Library Board.

SECRETARY

John Kendall, Bibliographer for American Studies in the University of Massachusetts/Amherst Library, did his undergraduate work in American history and literature and has an M.A. in history from Harvard. He is particularly interested in local records, having seen to the microfilming, on behalf of the Library, of valuable collections of town and private records from Hadley, Prescott, Rochester and

NEA Memories

As NEA turns 50, we reflect on the past, looking at where we've been, what we've done, and who we've known. Here, we share the reflections of Eva Moseley, a founding member of NEA with a long history of service within the organization. She served as Newsletter editor, 1975-78, and associate editor, 1980-83, and chaired the Program Committee in 1975, 1979, and 1982. She also served as NEA's Vice-President and Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee in 1988-89, President in 1989-90, and Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee in 1990-91. Eva was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in 1995. Her memoir, Skirting History, was published by Interlink in 2022.

In 1972 regional archival associations were multiplying; and at my first SAA meeting (Columbus, Ohio), at a gathering of New Englanders, the first question was what to call ourselves. I was about to say: "How about New England Archivists?" (no Association, Conference, etc.) when someone else said it.

Soon I was the newsletter editor, which included getting it xeroxed, and my kids, then 11 and 12, stapling, folding, sticking address labels. Tommy, who had adapted the Uncle Sam recruiting poster to say, I Want You to Clean Your Room, drew a version for NEA: ...to pay your dues.

In those pre-computer years, technology topics were not prominent, except preservation, with George Cunha of New England Document Conservation Center nearby as a frequent speaker. At one meeting in the 1970s I berated the program chair (a good friend) because all the speakers were male. He assured me it was unintentional, but the aim was to be intentional about including women.

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.

My favorite stint as program chair was New Haven, spring 1975, focusing on documenting "forgotten" groups. Byron Rushing, president of Boston's Museum of African American History (later a state legislator), spoke about African Americans, and someone from Sturbridge Village, about farmers -- actually gentleman farmers (not what I had in mind). Other speakers are now forgotten.

When Gregory Sanford was president, he couldn't chair his last board meeting because a daughter chose that day to be born. As VP I chaired it; Gregory thanked me with an archivist's shirt still in my closet. Far as I know, Gregory, aside from leading NEA, is the only archivist to have an archives building named for him; he did wonders for Vermont history and government.

-Eva S. Moseley, 2023 ■■

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Belchertown. He is on the board of Early Massachusetts Records, Inc., a non-profit organization for the micropublication of local records, and he serves as director of the Bay State Historical League and member of the Advisory Committee to the NEDCC Board of Governors.

TREASURER

Nancy Chudacoff, Reference Librarian, Rhode Island Historical Society, graduated in American history from Northwestern, after which she worked as Assistant Reference Librarian at the Chicago Historical Society. After a year in Cincinnati on the Miami Valley Project, Nancy removed to Providence, where she divided her time between research on the Old State House for the Bicentennial Commission and pursuit of an MLS at URI, which she received in 1973. Her publications include "Woman in the news 1762-1770: Sarah Updike Goddard," *Rhode Island History*, Fall 1973; Providence newspapers on microfilm 1762 to the present, Providence, RIHS, 1973; Rhode Island census records, RIHS, 1973; and Rhode Island architecture; a bibliography, RIHS, 1973." ■■

Visit NEA By-Laws online at:

www.newenglandarchivists.org/bylaws

N E A

New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

45 Skehan Street
Somerville, MA 02143

THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



This image depicts the passing of the torch between two campus queens, Homecoming Queen Sandy Hudson (1970) and previous Homecoming Queen Sandy Snow (1969). *Courtesy University of New Haven.*