

Notes from Historical Records Council – June 20, 2007

Attendees

Kathy Flynn, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum,
Lori Foley, Director of Field Service, Northeast Document Conservation Center
Joanie Geurin, Archival Operations, National Archives and Records Administration
Bonnie Hurd Smith, Principal, Hurd Smith Communications
Laura Scott Lowell, Massachusetts Historical Society
Greg Pronevitz, Regional Administrator, Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System
(Danvers)
Mary Rhinelander McCarl, Historical Collections Consultant
Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Preservation Specialist, Massachusetts Board of Library
Commissioners
Bill Whiting, Board Member, Topsfield Historical Society

Review and Refine Priorities

The Council had a lengthy discussion on education needs in the historic records community including review of some past training and events, publicity avenues and barriers and the need to reach communities that have received state preservation funding and expand the knowledge base of where resources are located.

The Council should, whenever possible, partner with other organizations to reach as wide an audience as possible. One suggestion was partnering with the local chapter of the New England Archivists. Local board-member contacts should be tapped to help publicize events and provide grassroots connections.

Gregor provided an overview of draft legislation from Senator Resor that proposed raising funds for the preservation of public records. He will share this with the Council via email.

Finding aids/Catalogs were discussed and how many are listed in the Massachusetts Special Collections Directory and are available online on a tool which we should publicize at:
<http://mblc.state.ma.us/books/manuscripts/index.php>

Greg gave an overview of the statewide digital library project, The Digital Commonwealth, see: <http://www.nmrls.org/digitalcommonwealth/whatis.htm>. We discussed possible long-term steps of applying for a regional grant to digitize in an important area relevant in Massachusetts, e.g., underground railroad or World War II.

Assign responsibilities for next steps

Council Chair and Vice Chair – Greg was nominated as Chair for July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 and Sid was nominated as Vice Chair to become Chair for one year beginning July 1, 2008

Bonnie and Gregor will draft a mission statement for finalization via email and approval at our next meeting. This will be based on the mission statement of the ENHC HRC and our discussion notes from this meeting.

Mary will act as liaison to the Essex County Society of Genealogists and invite them to our next meeting

Lori and Laura will Co-Chair the Education Committee and design an event. Gregor will join the committee.

Bonnie will Chair the Marketing/Publicity Committee

Annie was nominated as Chair of the Advocacy Committee

Gregor will share information with the HRC on proposed legislation to raise funds for historic records preservation

Contact legislators

Other

Nominations to add members to the Council and subcommittees

Gregor will invite Michael Comeau to join the group.

Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting September 12, 2007 at NMRLS 10 am-Noon

Agenda Items

Adopt Mission Statement

Review Education Committee Recommendations

Discuss Advocacy Directions

Historical Records Council Roster

Greg Pronevitz, Regional Administrator, Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System (Danvers) - CHAIR

Sidney Berger, Phillips Library Director, Peabody Essex Museum – VICE CHAIR, NOMINEE

Patti Bruttomesso, Local History Coordinator, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

Lorna Condon, Curator, Library and Archives, Historic New England

Kathy Flynn, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum,

Lori Foley, Director of Field Service, Northeast Document Conservation Center – CO-CHAIR, EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Priscilla Foley, Director, Archival Operations, National Archives and Records Administration

Joanie Geurin, Archival Operations, National Archives and Records Administration

Annie Harris, Director, Essex National Heritage Commission – CHAIR, ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Bonnie Hurd Smith, Principal, Hurd Smith Communications – CHAIR, MARKETING/PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Brenda Lawson, Curator of Manuscripts, Massachusetts Historical Society

Laura Scott Lowell, Massachusetts Historical Society – CO-CHAIR, EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Rob Maier, Director, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Carolyn Noah, Regional Administrator, Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (Shrewsbury)

Mary Rhineland McCarl, Historical Collections Consultant – LIAISON TO ESSEX COUNTY SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Bill Steelman, Co-Director of Heritage Development, Essex National Heritage Commission

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Preservation Specialist, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Sunny Vandermark, Regional Administrator, Metrowest Massachusetts Regional Library System (Waltham)

Bill Whiting, Board Member, Topsfield Historical Society