

## Collection Update for May 2018

1,274 new items were added in May including:

- ✓ Atwood House Museum, Chatham Historical Society - Nautical Chart Collection
- ✓ Boston Public Library - William Hogarth (1697-1764). Prints (162 items)
- ✓ Lawrence Public Library - Hurricane, September 21, 1938 (17 items)
- ✓ Lawrence Public Library - Lawrence, Mass. Cyclone July 26, 1890 Photograph Collection (68 items)
- ✓ Lawrence Public Library - Sheet Music Collection (27 items)
- ✓ Wilbraham Public Library - Wilbraham Town Archives Photographic Collection (143 items)

**197,854 Item views**

**574,035 Total item-level records**

**260,026 Total hosted items**

## Babe Ruth Retires, June 2, 1935

Everyone knows George Herman Ruth Jr. as “Babe”, but do you know how he got his nickname? At the age of 7, George’s parents realized he was somewhat unruly and needed a more disciplined environment, so they enrolled him in the St. Mary’s Industrial School for Boys, a school run by an order of the Xaverian Brothers. It was here that he developed his passion for baseball. One of the monks at St. Mary’s became a mentor to George and helped him hone his baseball skills. He became so good that Jack Dunn, owner of the Baltimore Orioles, was invited to watch George Jr. play. George Jr. was offered an immediate contract. When the Orioles players saw George Jr. for the first time, they called him “Jack’s newest babe”, and the name stuck forever.



The Bambino selecting a bat at Yankee Stadium  
© Leslie Jones

## Interview with Digital Commonwealth President, Kristin Slater

On July 1, Kristin will end her year as DC President. She will remain on the Board for another year as Past President. We sat down with Kristin to ask her about her background and her experience with Digital Commonwealth.

### Can you briefly share your professional background with us?

I started working in libraries in 1990 at UMass Dartmouth where I had the exciting job of filing cataloging cards! Then in 1995, I joined the SEAL Network as a part-time copy cataloger. At this time, I was also working on my MLS from Simmons. In the mid 1990’s, the SAILS network formed from the merger of the SEAL and ABLE networks. I became the full-time copy cataloger, then shortly after, the Manager of Bibliographic Services for SAILS.

### What keeps you excited about libraries?

I love when people say to me “Why do we need libraries, isn’t everything on Google?”

Libraries are so much more than information. They’ve evolved into real community gathering places. They offer diverse programs such as knitting classes, passport services and concerts, and you can still borrow the latest James Patterson novel. Lending also goes way beyond books....we have SAILS member libraries who loan out bicycles, and even metal detectors!

### How did you become involved with DC?

I was actually a member-at-large in the mid 2000’s but had a young child so needed to take a break. I became the Conference Committee co-chair in 2015, VP in 2016, then President in July 2017.

### If you had to explain the value of being a DC member to someone, what would you tell them?

By being a member of DC, you are helping to preserve the rich cultural heritage and history of Massachusetts.

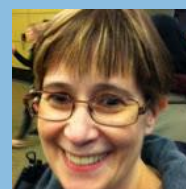
### What are the highlights of your year as President?

For the first time ever, DC was able to make a financial contribution to the BPL towards digitization services.

We also became a member of the Mass History Alliance.... we’re hoping to create a partnership with them so that we can reach the smaller historical societies and cultural organizations who aren’t familiar with DC.

### As your term as President comes to an end, what message would you like to share with DC’s membership about how they can help grow and strengthen DC?

Get involved! Volunteers run the DC, and we always need more. Join a committee or run for the Board. We have just formed a new Membership Committee so that we can reach out to more organizations in Massachusetts and expand DC’s membership base and influence.



Thank you, Kristin, for your service to Digital Commonwealth!

Coming next month... an interview with incoming President, Sadie Roosa

## June 9, 1953, Worcester Tornado

As the hurricane season is upon us, it is interesting that we have two new collections added this month from the Lawrence Public Library on the 1890 cyclone and the 1938 hurricane.

June 9, sixty-five years ago, also marks the anniversary when the city of Worcester and the surrounding area, was hit by a powerful and deadly tornado. The twister stayed on the ground for ninety minutes, cutting a path of destruction 48 miles in length. 94 people died, 1000 people were injured, and 4000 buildings were damaged. The picture of damage to Assumption College was taken by Alfred K. Schroeder. More photos from this collection are available at [Digital Commonwealth](#).

In the May newsletter, we mentioned the bird photographs of Leslie Jones (and Leslie's photo of Babe Ruth is on page 1 of this newsletter)... however, he was also on the scene following the tornado, taking pictures of the damage in his position as a staff member of the Boston Herald. His photo of a damaged vehicle is [here](#). Enter "Leslie Jones tornado" into DC's [search engine](#) for more.

Damage to Assumption College



Worcester, MA

Lawrence Public Library: 1890 Cyclone



Lawrence Public Library: 1938 Hurricane



*Selected Items Newly Added to the Collection*

## June 1 & June 5, Literary Moments

The 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alcott family arriving at Fruitlands in Harvard, MA was marked on June 1. Bronson Alcott's contemporary, Charles Lane, purchased the 90 acre estate for \$1800. A total of eleven adults eventually joined Fruitlands community, the major members being the Lanes and the Alcott family, consisting of Bronson, his wife Abby, and their four daughters – Anna, Louisa, Lizzie and May. If you haven't been to [Fruitlands](#), it's well worth a visit for its museums, stunning views and great café!

June 5, 1851 saw the first publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Harriet Elisabeth Beecher was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, on June 14, 1811.



[Louisa May Alcott](#) and [Harriet Beecher Stowe](#)

### Membership

Welcome new member:

- Worcester Academy

Thanks to our returning members:

- SAILS Library Network
- Peabody Institute
- Williams College
- Forbes Library

Join Digital Commonwealth!  
[Click here](#) for membership information....

### Student Blog Entries from Annual Conference

Essays from our conference scholarship students are now available!

**Ashley Miller:** [Outreach and Accessibility in the Digital World: A Report from the Digital Commonwealth Annual Conference](#)

Ashley is finishing work on her dual-degree History and Archives Management Master's program. Her conference report is on accessibility of digital collections and Professor Nugent's Joycestick presentation.

**Daniel Chivvis:** [A Glance at the 12th Annual Digital Commonwealth Conference](#)

Daniel is a graduate student at the Simmons School of Library & Information Science. His focus is on Information Technology. His report also recounts Professor Nugent's Joycestick presentation as well as Professor Carolina Ruiz's "Concepts in Data Mining."

**Jacob Loberti:** [An Undergrad on a Mission: Attending the Digital Commonwealth Annual Conference](#)

Jacob is a sophomore at Wheaton College in Norton, MA, majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Business. Not surprisingly, Jacob, too, writes about Professor Nugent's Joycestick presentation. Jacob got to talk with Professor Nugent about his class project, which made his day.