Digital Commonwealth News April 2022
1 message

Digital Commonwealth <admin@membership.digitalcommonwealth.org>  Fri, Apr 29, 2022 at 11:07 AM
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Digital Commonwealth News April 2022

Highlights

April 2022
Collection Update for March 2022

14,512 new items were added in March

Hosted:

- Boston Public Library – Colonial and Revolutionary Boston (Collection of Distinction) (1 item)
- Boston Public Library – Early, Rare, and Exceptional Items from Special Collections, Rare Books (1 item)
- Boston Public Library – Incunabula (Collection of Distinction) (3 items)
- Boston Public Library – Medieval and Early Renaissance Manuscripts (Collection of Distinction) (7 items)
- Boston Public Library – Nicholas Catsimpoolas Collection (2,416 items; photographs of archaeological sites and antiquities from Greece, Turkey, and Italy from late 1800s and early 1900s)
- Boston Public Library – Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection (15 items; maps for upcoming exhibition: “More or Less in Common: Environment and Justice in the Human Landscape”)
- Boston Public Library – Press Photography from the Breatley Collection (59 items; photographs of professional baseball players from 1930s)
- Boston Public Library – Tichnor Brothers Postcard Collection (7,876 items; addition of back images for previously ingested front-only postcards)
- Cambridge Public Library – Alice M. Ronchetti Papers, 1935-1973 (34 items; photographs)
- Cambridge Public Library – Cambridge Milk Dealer Account Book, 1607-1821 (1 item; documents)
- Cambridge Public Library – Cambridge Redevelopment Authority Records, 1952-2000 (159 items; photographs)
- Cambridge Public Library – Charles F. Walcott Archaeological Collection, circa 1960-1970 (42 items; Native American archaeological artifacts)
- Cambridge Public Library – John and Ellen Moot Papers (28 items; documents and photographs related to preserving recreation areas around Memorial Drive in Cambridge)
- Cambridge Public Library – Olive Pierce Photographs (280 items; photographs of Cambridge events and youth in the 1970s and 80s)
- Cambridge Public Library – Simeone’s Italian-American Restaurant Memorabilia Collection, 1964 (10 items; ephemera)
- Cambridge Public Library – Stereoscopic Photographs, circa 1880-1930 (16 items; stereographs)
- Cambridge Public Library – William Norman Ritchie Cartoons, 1917-1923 (10 items; political cartoons focusing on the modernizing of Magazine Beach in 1920s)
- Massachusetts Archives – Eastern Lands papers Land Office correspondence, 1783-1859 (3,218 items; correspondence from late 1700s related to management and sale of public lands in Maine)
- New Bedford Public Library – Atlas of the City of New Bedford, 1911 (46 items; maps)

* Starred items were added to existing collections
Join the Digital Commonwealth Board and Committees!

Digital Commonwealth’s nominating committee (Kate Boylan, Evan Knight, and Justin Snow) is seeking interested **volunteers for Board of Directors openings** beginning in July, 2022. We are also happy to recruit **new members to our dedicated and active Committees**. These are great opportunities to amplify the impact of important digital collections among colleagues and the general public, while networking with other talented librarians, archivists, and cultural heritage professionals. Contact nominations@digitalcommonwealth.org.

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**On the Digital Commonwealth Blog**
Paul Revere, “The bloody massacre perpetrated in King-Street Boston : on March 5th 1770 by a party of the 29th regt.” (1770), Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department.

**Paul Revere's Engraving**

Paul Revere's engraving, “The Bloody Massacre,” is part of Boston Public Library’s “Colonial and Revolutionary Boston”, one of Digital Commonwealth’s “Collections of Distinction”. Scholars agree that Revere copied the arresting image in “The Bloody Massacre” from an engraving by Henry Pelham entitled “Fruits of Arbitrary Power, or the Bloody Massacre” (1770). Pelham wrote to Paul Revere complaining about the theft of his intellectual property. “If you are insensible of the Dishonour you have brought on yourself by this Act, the World will not be so.”... Read more >
Facilitating Discovery: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston
Sacramental and Cemetery Records

When: Wed May 4, 1:30-2:30 pm ET
Where: Zoom

Since 2016, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston (RCAB) has partnered with American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) to digitize over 1,500 volumes of sacramental records resulting in a database of over 15 million searchable names, with work ongoing. The collection is free to access via americanancestors.org and the original project has expanded to include Catholic cemetery records. This database is consistently one of American Ancestors’ most popular offerings. Both organizations have employed a variety of strategies to better help users connect with the content.

In this presentation, Violet Hurst (Archivist, Archdiocese of Boston), Thomas Lester (Director of the Archive & Library, Archdiocese of Boston), and Molly Rogers (Associate Director of Database Content, American Ancestors/NEHGS) will discuss the motivations for forming this partnership, how they promoted the collection to potential users, and the research tools and content derived from the project.

Header image: A volunteer reads and transcribes names, dates, and locations from baptism records into a spreadsheet used to create the searchable online database. Credit: American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society.
16th Annual Digital Commonwealth Conference

Users and Uses: Centering Communities in Digital Collections

When: Fri Jun 14, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm ET
Where: Zoom

Please join us for an amazing line-up of distinguished speakers at this year's conference, including keynote speaker Dr. Tonia Sutherland (Assistant Professor, Department of Information and Computer Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa), the annual Digital Commonwealth Repository Systems Update by Eben English (Digital Repository Services Manager, Boston Public Library), and presentations on local history, responsible metadata, teaching using Digital Commonwealth collections, and more.

Registration is $10 for individuals from Digital Commonwealth member organizations and $20 for non-members.

View the full conference program >

Digital Commonwealth Member News

Welcome Back Returning Members
- Attleboro Public Library
- Brandeis University, Archives & Special Collections, Goldfarb Library
- Cambridge Historical Commission
- Groton Historical Society
- Lincoln Public Library
- Madeleine Clark Wallace Library, Wheaton College
- Mansfield Public Library
- Nahman-Watson Library at Greenfield Community College
- New Bedford Whaling Museum

- Norwell Public Library
- Phinehas S. Newton Library
- Plymouth Public Library
- Randolph Historical Commission
- Sandwich Public Library
- Sherborn Library
- Silver Lake Regional High School
- Swansea Free Public Library
- UMass Dartmouth Library
- Ventress Memorial Library
- Westborough High School Library
- Williams College
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Not a member? Join here.

Not able to become an institutional member?  
Become a Friend of Digital Commonwealth for $35 per year.