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New England Historical Association Records

1965-2007

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[About SCUA](#)

[SCUA home](#)

[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Overview](#)

[Series 1. Administration](#)

[Series 2. Executive Committee](#)

[Series 3. Financial Records](#)

[Series 4. Correspondence](#)

[Series 5. Committees](#)

[Series 6. Annual/Semi-Annual Meetings](#)

[Series 7. Newsletter/NEHA News](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Series 1. Administration](#)

[Series 2. Executive Committee](#)

[Series 3. Financial Records](#)

[Series 4. Correspondence](#)

[Series 5. Committees](#)

[Series 6. Annual/Semi-Annual Meetings](#)

[Series 7. Newsletter/NEHA News](#)

Admin info

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Read collection overview

The New England Historical Association, the regional branch of the American Historical Association, was founded in 1965, when 31 historians of the New England area to meet informally at the University of Connecticut. The purpose of the NEHA is to serve the interests of New England historians of all levels: professional, academic, or amateur. These interests include a means to share their research and work, learn about history resources that are available to them for personal study or teaching, or simply to meet socially. NEHA aims to maintain the pursuit of history through both regional and national dimensions.

This collection holds the records of the New England Historical Association including an organizational history, constitution and meeting minutes, correspondence, financial records, membership lists, committee reports, meeting programs, and newsletters.

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Education

New England

Background on New England Historical Association

The New England Historical Association, the regional branch of the American Historical Association, was founded in 1965, when Harry Marks invited 31 historians of the New England area to meet informally at the University of Connecticut. The group met leisurely over coffee and doughnuts, and divided into smaller groups to hold talks about various topics, followed by long discussions. After breaking for lunch, they began talking about establishing a regional organization for historians.

The NEHA planned to build their network upon the colleges and universities of the region. After that first meeting initiated by Harry Marks, a committee was established to organize the association. The members of this committee were: William F. Allen of the University of Bridgeport; Mrs. Ann Beck of the University of Hartford; Reinhold Dorwart of the University of Connecticut; Mrs. Lisl Dinolt of Amherst College; William K. Winter of Central Connecticut; and Daniel H. Thomas, Chairman of the Committee. Five additional members were to be named by the following institutions: Rhode Island College; Wesleyan University; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Trinity College; and Springfield College.

In January of 1966, four historians-Bill Allen, Kenneth F. Lewalski, Daniel H. Thomas and Reinhold Dorwart, - met in Storrs, Connecticut to draw up a constitution. They were joined by the then-secretary of the American Historical Association, Paul Ward, who helped them get started. Their goal was to provide members of the profession an opportunity to share and discuss research, teaching, and trends in higher education relating to history. Their first annual meeting was held that spring.

Originally named the Southern New England Historical Association (Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island), the association was renamed in 1968 due to interest of the northern New England states to join. Daniel Thomas also worked to establish a strong connection between NEHA and the New England History Teachers Association (NEHTA). It was initially hoped that NEHA would eventually put out a scholarly journal; however they did succeed in publishing a semi-annual newsletter.

The purpose of the NEHA is to serve the interests of New England historians of all levels: professional, academic, or amateur. These interests include a means to share their research and work, learn about history resources that are available to them for personal study or teaching, or simply to meet socially. NEHA aims to maintain the pursuit of history through both regional and national dimensions.

Scope of collection

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Series descriptions

Series 1. Administration

1965-1993

Series 1 contains a history of NEHA, materials from the 20th anniversary, copies of the constitution of the SNEHA and NEHA, as well as meeting minutes.

Series 2. Executive Committee

1971-1986

Papers dealing with the Executive Committee: list of past presidents and officers, correspondence, Executive Secretary position

review, News releases, meeting minutes, questionnaires, directories, photos, and an interim report.

Series 3. Financial Records

1965-1989

Contained in boxes 3, 4 and 5, series 3 primarily holds the treasurer's records, membership cards, and miscellaneous financial records.

Series 4. Correspondence

1965-1986

Composed of correspondence of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History. Contained in boxes 6 and 7.

Series 5. Committees

1970-1990

Box 8 holds documents relating to the Nominating Committee: reports, correspondence, job descriptions and curriculum vitae. Box 9 houses the Awards Committee records, primarily relating to the book award and media award.

Series 6. Annual/Semi-Annual Meetings

1966-1989

Meeting minutes. From 1966-1971, NEHA held annual meetings. Beginning in 1971, NEHA began to meet semi-annually; in the spring and in the fall.

Series 7. Newsletter/NEHA News

1967-2007

NEHA News was published twice a year beginning in 1974. Also included in this series are editor's duties and correspondence.

Inventory

Series 1. Administration

1965-1993

History of NEHA

1980

Box 1: 1

20th Anniversary

1985

Box 1: 2

Constitution (Southern New England Historical Association)

1965

Box 1: 3

Constitution (New England Historical Association)

1967

Box 1: 4

Constitution (New England Historical Association)

1974

Box 1: 5

Constitution (New England Historical Association)

1979

Box 1: 6

Constitution (New England Historical Association)

1982

Box 1: 7

Minutes (Planning Committee, SNEHA)

1965

Box 1: 8

Minutes (NEHA Executive Committee and Annual Meeting)

1968

Box 1: 9

Minutes

1970

Box 1: 10

Minutes

1971-1972

Box 1: 11
Minutes
1973-1974
Box 1: 12
Minutes
1975-1976
Box 1: 13
Minutes
1977-1978
Box 1: 14
Minutes
1979-1980
Box 1: 15
Minutes
1981-1982
Box 1: 16
Minutes
1983-1984
Box 1: 17a
Minutes
1984-1986
Box 1: 17b
Minutes
1985
Box 1: 18
Minutes
1986
Box 1: 19a
Minutes
1987-1993
Box 1: 19b
Ephemera
n.d.
Box 1: 19c
Series 2. Executive Committee
1971-1990
List of Past Presidents
1965-1986
Box 2: 20
List of Officers
1971-1990
Box 2: 21
Executive Committee Correspondence
1971
Box 2: 22
Executive Committee Correspondence
1972
Box 2: 23
Executive Committee Correspondence
1973
Box 2: 24
Executive Committee Correspondence
1977
Box 2: 25
Executive Committee Correspondence
1980-1981
Box 2: 26
Executive Committee Correspondence
1982

Box 2: 27
Executive Committee Correspondence
1983

Box 2: 28
Executive Committee Correspondence
1984

Box 2: 29
Executive Committee Correspondence
1985

Box 2: 30
Executive Committee Correspondence
1986

Box 2: 31
Executive Committee Correspondence
1986

Box 2: 32a
Executive Committee Correspondence
1989

Box 2: 32b
Executive Secretary position review
1985

Box 2: 33
Executive Committee News Release
1981

Box 2: 34
Executive Committee meeting
1981

Box 2: 35
Executive Committee Questionnaires
1979-1981

Box 2: 36
Executive Committee Directories
1984-1986

Box 2: 37
Executive Committee Photographs
1982

Box 2: 38
Executive Committee Interim Report
n.d.

Box 2: 39
Series 3. Financial Records
1965-1989
Duties of the Treasurer
1981

Box 3: 40
Treasurer's reports
1975-1986

Box 3: 41
Checking deposits and savings account records
1965-1989

Box 3: 42
Credits and life memberships
1981-1987

Box 3: 43
Disbursements
1966-1987

Box 3: 44a
Petty Cash
1981-1986

Box 3: 44b
Anniversary Fund
1983-1984
Box 3: 44c
PPG Industries
1978-1988
Box 3: 45
PPG Industries
1978-1985
Box 3: 46
Treasurer's Records
1972
Box 3: 47
Treasurer's Records
1973
Box 3: 48
Treasurer's Records
1974
Box 3: 49
Treasurer's Records
1975
Box 3: 50
Treasurer's Records
1976
Box 3: 51
Treasurer's Records
1977
Box 3: 52
Treasurer's Records
1978
Box 3: 53
Treasurer's Records
1979
Box 3: 54
Treasurer's Records
1980
Box 4: 55
Treasurer's Records
1981
Box 4: 56
Treasurer's Records
1982
Box 4: 58
Treasurer's Records
1983
Box 4: 59
Treasurer's Records
1984
Box 4: 60
Treasurer's Records
1985
Box 4: 61
Treasurer's Records
1986
Box 4: 62
Charter Members, Membership Lists
1966-1968
Box 4: 63
Membership Lists

1976-1981

Box 4: 64

Membership Correspondence and Notes

1972-1985

Box 4: 65

Membership: Community Colleges

1973

Box 4: 66

Membership Application Forms and Notices

1974-1983

Box 4: 67

Membership Cards

1966-1985

Box 5: 68

Series 4. Correspondence

1965-1986

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History: Correspondence

1965

Box 6: 69

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1966

Box 6: 70

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1967

Box 6: 71

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1968

Box 6: 72

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History: Correspondence

1969

Box 6: 73

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1970

Box 6: 74

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1971

Box 6: 75

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1972

Box 6: 76

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1973

Box 6: 77

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1974

Box 6: 78

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1975

Box 6: 79

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1976

Box 6: 80

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1977-1978

Box 6: 81

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1979

Box 6: 82

National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History

1980
Box 7: 83
National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History
1981
Box 7: 84
National History Day
1981
Box 7: 85
National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History
1982
Box 7: 86
National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History
1983
Box 7: 87
National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History
1984
Box 7: 88
National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History
1985
Box 7: 89
National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History
1986
Box 7: 90
National Coordinating Committee for Promotion of History
1975-1982
Box 7: 91
Series 5. Committees
1970-1990
Nominating Committee Reports
1972-1990
Box 8: 92
Nominating Committee Correspondence
1972-1990
Box 8: 93
Job Descriptions for Officers
1980
Box 8: 94
Nominating Committee Candidates: Curriculum Vitae A-L
1970-1990
Box 8: 95
Nominating Committee Candidates: Curriculum Vitae M-Z
1970-1990
Box 8: 96
Awards Committee: Reports and Calendar
1982-1988
Box 9: 97a
Awards Committee: Awards Descriptions
1984
Box 9: 97b
Awards Committee: Book Award Policy
n.d.
Box 9: 98a
Awards Committee: Book Award
1984
Box 9: 98b
Awards Committee: Media Award (WGBH)
1984
Box 9: 99
Awards Committee: Book Award

1985
Box 9: 100
Awards Committee: Media Award (N.Z. Davis)

1985
Box 9: 101
Awards Committee: Book Award

1986
Box 9: 102
Awards Committee: Media Award

1986
Box 9: 103
Awards Committee: Book Award

1987
Box 9: 104a
Awards Committee: Book Award

1988-1989
Box 9: 104b
AHA Prizes

1988-1989
Box 9: 105
Announcement Forms

1985-1987
Box 9: 106
Award Catalogs

n.d.
Box 9: 107
Series 6. Annual/Semi-Annual Meetings

1966/1986
Conference Planning Forms

1983
Box 10: 108
1st Annual Meeting, University of Connecticut, Storrs (Conn.)

1966
Box 10: 109
2nd Annual Meeting, Harvard University, Cambridge (Mass.)

1967
Box 10: 110
3rd Annual Meeting, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Mass.)

1968
Box 10: 111
4th Annual Meeting, Boston University, Boston (Mass.)

1969
Box 10: 112
5th Annual Meeting, University of Rhode Island, Kingston (R.I.)

1970
Box 10: 113
6th Annual Meeting, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Mass.)

1971
Box 10: 114
Fall Meeting, Yale University, New Haven (Conn.)

1971
Box 10: 115
Spring Meeting, University of New Hampshire, Durham (N.H.)

1972
Box 10: 116
Fall Meeting, University of Hartford, Hartford (Conn.)

1972
Box 10: 117
Spring Meeting, Bentley College, Waltham (Mass.)

1973
Box 10: 118
Fall Meeting, Connecticut College, New London (Conn.)
1973
Box 10: 119
Spring Meeting, Rhode Island College, Providence (R.I.)
1974
Box 10: 120
Fall Meeting, Clark University, Worcester (Mass.)
1974
Box 10: 121
Spring Meeting, Pine Manor, Chestnut Hill (Mass.)
1975
Box 10: 122
Fall Meeting, University of Maine, Portland (Me.)
1975
Box 10: 123a
Spring Meeting, Saint Joseph's College, Hartford (Conn.)
1976
Box 10: 123b
Fall Meeting, Exeter Academy, Exeter (N.H.)
1976
Box 10: 124
Spring Meeting, Harvard University, Cambridge (Mass.)
1977
Box 10: 125
Fall Meeting, University of Connecticut, Storrs (Conn.)
1977
Box 10: 126
Spring Meeting, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Mass.)
1978
Box 10: 127
Fall Meeting, University of Lowell, Lowell (Mass.)
1978
Box 10: 128
Spring Meeting, Boston College, Boston (Mass.)
1979
Box 10: 129
Fall Meeting, Colby-Sawyer College, New London (N.H.)
1979
Box 10: 130
Spring Meeting, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge (Mass.)
1980
Box 11: 132
Fall Meeting, Rhode Island College, Providence (R.I.)
1980
Box 11: 133
Spring Meeting, Mount Ida Junior College, Newton (Mass.)
1981
Box 11: 134
Fall Meeting, Albertus Magnus, New Haven (Conn.)
1981
Box 11: 135
Spring Meeting, Holy Cross, Worcester (Mass.)
1982
Box 11: 136
Spring Meeting, Presidential Address
1982
Box 11: 137

Fall Meeting, University of New Hampshire, Durham (N.H.)
1982
Box 11: 138
Spring Meeting, Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg (Mass.)
1983
Box 11: 139
Fall Meeting, Rodger Williams College, Bristol (R.I.)
1983
Box 11: 140
Spring Meeting, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester (Mass.)
1984
Box 11: 141
Fall Meeting, Framingham State College, Framingham (Mass.)
1984
Box 11: 142
Spring Meeting, Bowdoin College, Brunswick (Me.)
1985
Box 11: 143
Fall Meeting, University of Connecticut, Storrs (Conn.)
1985
Box 11: 144
Spring Meeting, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester (Mass.)
1986
Box 11: 145
Fall Meeting, Boston College, Boston (Mass.)
1986
Box 11: 146a
Meetings
1991-1999
Box 11: 146b
Series 7. Newsletter/NEHA News
1967-2007
Editor's Duties
1985
Box 12: 147
Editor's Correspondence
1975-1986
Box 12: 148
Newsletter
1967
Box 12: 149
NEHA News, September 1974
1974
Box 12: 150
NEHA News, April 1975
1975
Box 12: 151
NEHA News
1976
Box 12: 152
NEHA News
1977
Box 12: 153
NEHA News
1978
Box 12: 154
NEHA News
1979
Box 12: 155

NEHA News
1980
Box 12: 156
NEHA News
1981
Box 12: 157
NEHA News
1982
Box 12: 158
NEHA News
1983
Box 12: 159
NEHA News
1984
Box 12: 160
NEHA News
1985
Box 12: 161
NEHA News
1986
Box 12: 162
NEHA News
1987
Box 12: 163
NEHA News
1988
Box 12: 164
NEHA News
1989
Box 12: 165
NEHA News
1990
Box 12: 166
NEHA News
1991
Box 13: 167
NEHA News
1992
Box 13: 168
NEHA News
1993
Box 13: 169
NEHA News
1994
Box 13: 170
NEHA News
1995
Box 13: 171
NEHA News
1996
Box 13: 172
NEHA News
1998
Box 13: 173
NEHA News
1999
Box 13: 174
NEHA News
2000

Box 13: 175
NEHA News
2005
Box 13: 176
NEHA News
2006
Box 13: 177
NEHA News
2007
Box 13: 178

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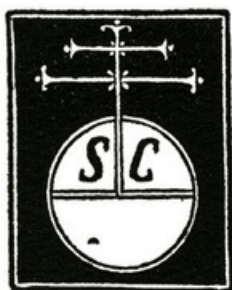
New England Historical Association [\[main entry\]](#)

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