

2025 Annual Report of the Archives and Historical Records Committee

Early this year the Committee completed a set of guidelines for local meetings on retention and destruction of records. These were posted on the NEYM website. In March we held an online workshop to review the guidelines, attended by about 30 Friends.

The Committee worked with Danielle Kovacs at the UMass Amherst Library to review and update our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide more clarity regarding types of access to sensitive material and issues surrounding access to digital records. A revised MOU was approved by Permanent Board in May 2025.

The Committee assisted Danielle Kovacs and Tamara Gaydos to clarify the process for adding NEYM records to SCUA.

The Committee regularly reviews and supports Tamara Gaydos' work with local meetings and individual Friends, and as our liaison with SCUA.

The Committee also supported the work of the Indigenous Boarding School Research Group, including a joint meeting with SCUA about changing search metadata associated with the records regarding Indigenous tribes and schools. This was follow-up to work done in the summer of 2024 by intern Charlie Barnard.

For future work, we continue to look toward developing a closer relationship with the Maine Historical Society, which holds many records from Maine Meetings and statewide committees.

Report of NEYM Outreach Archivist Tamara Gaydos

Records transfer: Facilitated donation of records from Burlington Friends Meeting; Quaker publication from Caroline Stone to SCUA; records from the McCandless family; and transfer of electronic records from Northampton Meeting. Worked with Weare Clerk to donate historical record books (drove them to SCUA).

Support to Meetings: Answered question from Friends' Camp archivist and Burlington Monthly Meeting. Worked with Mt. Toby on restrictions and policies so that they can decide on digital submissions and how to restrict records. Advised a member of Durham meeting about a donation from former NEYM Clerk Betsy Muench.

Outreach: Put out a news release of intention to offer a workshop. Created PowerPoint to be given at a workshop on records management and retention. Attended workshop.

Other: Attended presentations online at QSRA in England. Listened to FHA presentation on Indigenous Boarding School project in November.

Report of Danielle Kovacs, Curator of Collections, UMass Libraries (SCUA)

Summary of NEYM collection activities:

* Completed digitization project to scan and describe early meeting minutes of NEYM using funds generously donated by NEYM to support access to the collection. The digitized content was added to Credo, SCUA's digital repository in early 2025. In total, there are now more than 1200 items available via Credo from the NEYM collections.

* Met with the Archives Committee to review and update the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing our ongoing partnership.

* Updated all finding aids to reflect recent additions to collections; acquired and ingested digital accessions, communicated with meeting contacts to assist in acquisitions including digitized NEYM Minute books 1945-2011.