

Collection Update for June 2018

57,780 new items were added in June including:

- ✓ Boston Public Library - Carte de Visite Collection (21 items)*
- ✓ Boston Public Library - Incunabula (Collection of Distinction) (5 items)*
- ✓ Boston Public Library - John Sullivan Dwight correspondence regarding Brook Farm, 1840-1848 (32 items)
- ✓ Boston Public Library - Medieval and Early Renaissance Manuscripts (Collection of Distinction) (17 items)*
- ✓ Historic New England (54,104 items)**
- ✓ Needham Free Public Library - Needham Historical House Collection (3,583 items)*

* Ingested items ** Harvested items

113,925 Item views

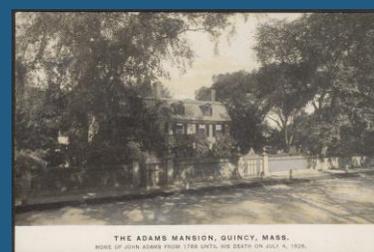
632,027 Total item-level records

264,714 Total hosted items

A July 18 Giant Cheese Ball & Two July 4 Passings

On July 18, 1801, the town of Cheshire, MA made a 1235-pound ball of cheese as a gift for Thomas Jefferson, who had just been elected President. Did you know that in 1826, Thomas Jefferson and another of the Founding Fathers died on July 4? Fifty years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted, John Adams died at the age of 91 at his home in a part of Braintree, MA, that is now in Quincy. As he was dying, Adams whispered, "Thomas Jefferson survives". Little did he know that Thomas Jefferson had passed away just a few hours earlier at Monticello!

Digital Commonwealth has a collection of photos of the [Adams Mansion](#). Unfortunately, we don't seem to have any photos of the giant cheese ball!



THE ADAMS MANSION, QUINCY, MASS.
IMAGE BY JOHN J. SMITH FROM THE ADAMS MANSION, QUINCY, MASS.

Interview with Digital Commonwealth Incoming President, Sadie Roosa

Can you tell us about your professional background and what drew you to pursuing a career in Library and Information Science?

I decided to go into Library Science when I was researching my undergrad thesis, which I wrote about the history, development, and linguistics of the School Boy Story genre post-WWII. I started library school right after undergrad then got hired by WGBH as part of the Media Library and Archives team where I'm now the Technical Project Manager for our internal and public-facing websites and repositories.

How did you first become aware of DC and why did you decide to get involved?

I first learned about DC at WGBH. Karen Cariani, former president of DC and Director of the WGBH Media Library and Archives, brought me to a DC annual conference and encouraged me to get involved. My career has been focused around providing access to content online, and DC seemed like a place I could help people do that across Massachusetts. After a few years leading the Outreach and Education Committee, I wanted to get more involved so applied to join the Board.

You're not from the public or university library sector...how do you think that shapes your approach to DC?

I do think working in an archive outside of the public/academic library world shapes my approach to DC. I work pretty much exclusively with audiovisual collections, and primarily with digitized and born-digital content. So, I come into DC understanding that the majority of our collection is photographs and manuscripts, but I'm really aware of the other types of materials in the collection. I think there are a lot of both challenges and benefits to providing access to such a diverse collection. I'm also often focused on historical content from a pretty recent period (most collections I work with were created between 1960 and 2010). Not everyone thinks of content from 2010 as historical, but it's important to start thinking of it that way so that we're already in good shape 20 or 30 years from now, when people do start thinking of it as historical. One of my favorite things about DC is the breadth of the collection.

What do you hope to achieve in your year as President?

I hope to be able to provide events for members to get together, share their experiences and expertise, and build up a sense of community.

I think the conference does a wonderful job of doing this every year, but I want to expand that with smaller, regionally-based events too. This is also our first year participating in the new Digital Public Library of America Network Councils, so I look forward to working with other hubs and figuring out what issues DC members want us to focus on at the national level.

How do you envision the future of the Digital Commonwealth 5 years from now?

My hope for DC's future is that it continues to grow. There are so many different kinds of cultural heritage institutions across Massachusetts, and the more types of content we add, the richer and more useful our collection gets. I think the next 5 years should be focused on figuring out how to make sure more organizations and users are aware of DC, and making sure DC adapts to meet the needs of the new types of organizations.

Thank you, Sadie, for sharing your vision for Digital Commonwealth!

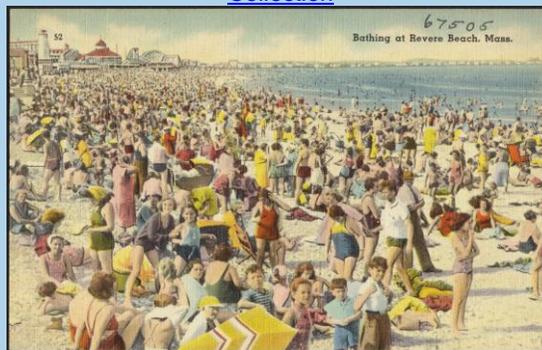
Coming next month... an introduction to DC's newest Board members.....



July 12, Dealing with Summer Heat

As we move into the heat of summer, many of us are thinking about heading for the beach. Massachusetts boasts the first public beach to open in the US.... Revere Beach opened on July 12, 1896. Our favorite photographer, who we've mentioned in the May and June newsletters, Leslie Jones, took many photos of people reveling in the sunshine at Revere Beach. These are available as part of the [Digital Commonwealth collections](#). Due to its popularity, there were many postcards published, depicting the beach, and Wonderland, that featured many rides and amusements. Although the amusement park no longer exists, there is now a station on the MBTA's blue line named after it. Revere Beach is probably as packed today as it was back then!

[Postcard: Revere Beach, from the BPL's Tichnor Brothers Collection](#)



[Needham Public Library: Needham Historical Houses](#)



[Boston Public Library: Incunabula](#)



Selected Items Newly Added to the Collection

Greg Pronevitz Retires as Executive Director of Massachusetts Library

On July 5, 2018, Greg Pronevitz retired after 20 years of service to Massachusetts Libraries at the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System and the Massachusetts Library system. A celebration of Greg's career and achievements was held at the Harvard Public Library on June 28th and was attended by approximately 60 people. Greg was a great proponent of Digital Commonwealth during his tenure at MLS and served as an *ex officio* Board Member. Digital Commonwealth honored Greg's contributions at our Annual Conference in April 2018. We extend our best wishes to Greg as he transitions into a consulting role.



[New Address for Digital Commonwealth](#)

Please note DC has a new address. We are now located at:
210 Park Avenue, Suite 311, Worcester MA 01609-2246

Membership

Welcome new member:

- Wheaton College

Thanks to our returning members:

- Phillips Academy Andover, Archives
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- UMass Dartmouth Libraries
- North East Document Control Center
- Brandeis University, Archives & Special Collections
- Springfield College
- Historic New England
- Harvard University Botany Libraries
- Governor's Academy
- New England Conservatory
- Franklin Historical Museum
- Lancaster Historical Society

Join Digital Commonwealth!

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