professional meteorologists, the Weather Center began an alliance with Lyndon State College and its worldwide computer and satellite weather data service. Today NNEWC creates local weather forecasts covering Vermont, New Hampshire, upstate New York, and adjacent areas in the United States and Canada. “The Eye on the Sky” broadcasts by meteorologists Steve Maleski and Mark Breen of NNEWC are one of Vermont Public Radio’s most popular programs.

The success of the NNEWC papers enabled the Fairbanks Museum to secure funding to organize and make accessible more of its holdings. The museum joined together with four neighboring cultural institutions to form the St. Johnsbury Archives Collaborative. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) awarded a $143,191.00 grant to the collaborative in 1999 to catalog the documentary history of the town. The NHPRC is part of the National Archives and Records Administration, a federal agency based in Washington, D.C. The award to the collaborative is one of the largest commitments the agency has ever granted outside of a large metropolitan area. The funding has enabled the group to hire a professionally trained archivist to work on the records for three years.

Selene Colburn, project archivist, started the job in September 1999 of describing and cataloging 64 collections of historic material (thought to more than 1500 boxes), beginning at the Fairbanks Museum. Other collections of interest to the science community to be processed soon include the Fairbanks Museum’s Institutional Records, which document over 100 years of the teaching of science to local schoolchildren; annual spring first flower and bird sightings dating back over 100 years; and the Museum’s participation in local environmental issues, such as proposed Victory Bog Dam in the 1960s, which was never constructed. The museum also holds the records of the Northeast Kingdom Audobon Society, a local chapter of the organization, which has met at the museum since its inception.

Interested researchers should contact Colburn at the Fairbanks Museum at 802-748-2372 or selene.colburn@connriver.net or through the Fairbanks Museum Web site at www.fairbanksmuseum.org.

Factors Contributing to Earthquakes

A deficiency of rainfall and low barometric pressure were doubtless important factors in precipitating the earthquakes of January 7th and February 28th in New England, for anything which would tend to make the land lighter would increase the strain along the fault line. The quake of January 7th was preceded by three months of very dry weather with a deficiency of 8.1 inches of rainfall, and immediately followed by rain and a normal rainfall for that month. Then during February there was a deficiency again in rainfall and then the quake of the 28th, which was likewise followed by rain. Just before the quake of the 28th, the lowest barometric pressure for 2 years, 28.96 inches was recorded in Boston. This low moved in a northeasterly direction across New England and the Saguenay region, crossing the St. Lawrence fault. The weight of 8 inches of rainfall over all New England is computed to be 32,260,224,000 tons. No allowances for evaporation and runoff was made in this figure; yet even if these amounts were subtracted, the weight would still be several billion tons. A deficiency of 8 inches of rainfall, therefore, is equivalent to taking an enormous weight off New England. This, together with the extremely low barometric pressure of February 26–28, might well have been set of circumstances which “set off” the shock of February 28th.—Excerpts from article by R. W. Sayles, Boston Herald, March 21, 1925.