

# Guide to the Archives in the Connecticut State Library

Fourth Edition

New Haven March 30. 1824<sup>th</sup>  
His Excellency Governor Wolcott —

Dear Sir

The Reader Mr. Beach  
will wait on you for a letter to the Gov.<sup>r</sup> of  
the State of New York to back a warrant  
for Arresting B. Livingstone for an Attempt  
to Blow up and Burn the College Chapel  
a most outrageous Act which has produced  
great excitement in College as well as among  
the respectable Inhabitants of the Town  
We consider it matter of great importance  
that the Offender should be arrested and  
Lurey and dispatch are important —

With Great Respect  
Your Obedt. Serv<sup>t</sup>  
James Hillhouse

Office of the Public Records Administrator  
and  
State Archives



Connecticut State Library  
Hartford, Connecticut  
August 1, 2002

COMPILED BY

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Office of the Public Records Administrator  
and  
State Archives

**Guide to the Archives  
in the  
Connecticut State Library**

**Fourth Edition**



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Hartford, Connecticut  
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FRONT COVER

RG 005: Governor Oliver Wolcott, Jr., Incoming Correspondence, Box 4

BACK COVER

RG 005, Governor Alexander H. Holley, Incoming Correspondence, Broadside of Resolution, Box 11

## Introduction

Since 1855, the Connecticut State Library has acquired archival records documenting the evolution and implementation of state government policies, the rights and claims of its citizens, and the history of its nongovernmental institutions, economy, ethnic and social groups, politics, military history, families and individuals. In 1909, the General Assembly recognized in law the State Library's unique role by making it the official repository, or State Archives, for state and local public records. Today the Office of the Public Records Administrator and State Archives carries out this important function.

Archivists Mark Jones, Bruce Stark and Nancy Shader compiled this guide.<sup>1</sup> It is the fourth summary guide of records in the State Archives. The previous version, published in 1981, provided an overview to about 19,000 cubic feet of records. Since then, as a result of a revived state public records management program and active accessioning, the collections in the archives have grown to approximately 32,000 cubic feet. For researchers familiar with the 1981 guide, this version documents the increased role of the State Archives in identifying and acquiring historical records. For those examining a summary guide to the State Archives for the first time, it provides a useful descriptive overview of the rich abundance of historical records in the venerable Connecticut State Library.

Some collections in the State Archives contain confidential information whose disclosure is prohibited by Connecticut law. Therefore, access restrictions may apply.

When new records come into the archives, the State Archives will update the online version of this guide. We also will take under consideration recommended revisions from users.

Mark H. Jones  
State Archivist  
August 1, 2002

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<sup>1</sup> Many thanks to archival consultant Lizette Pelletier for her assistance in formatting and design.

## About this Guide

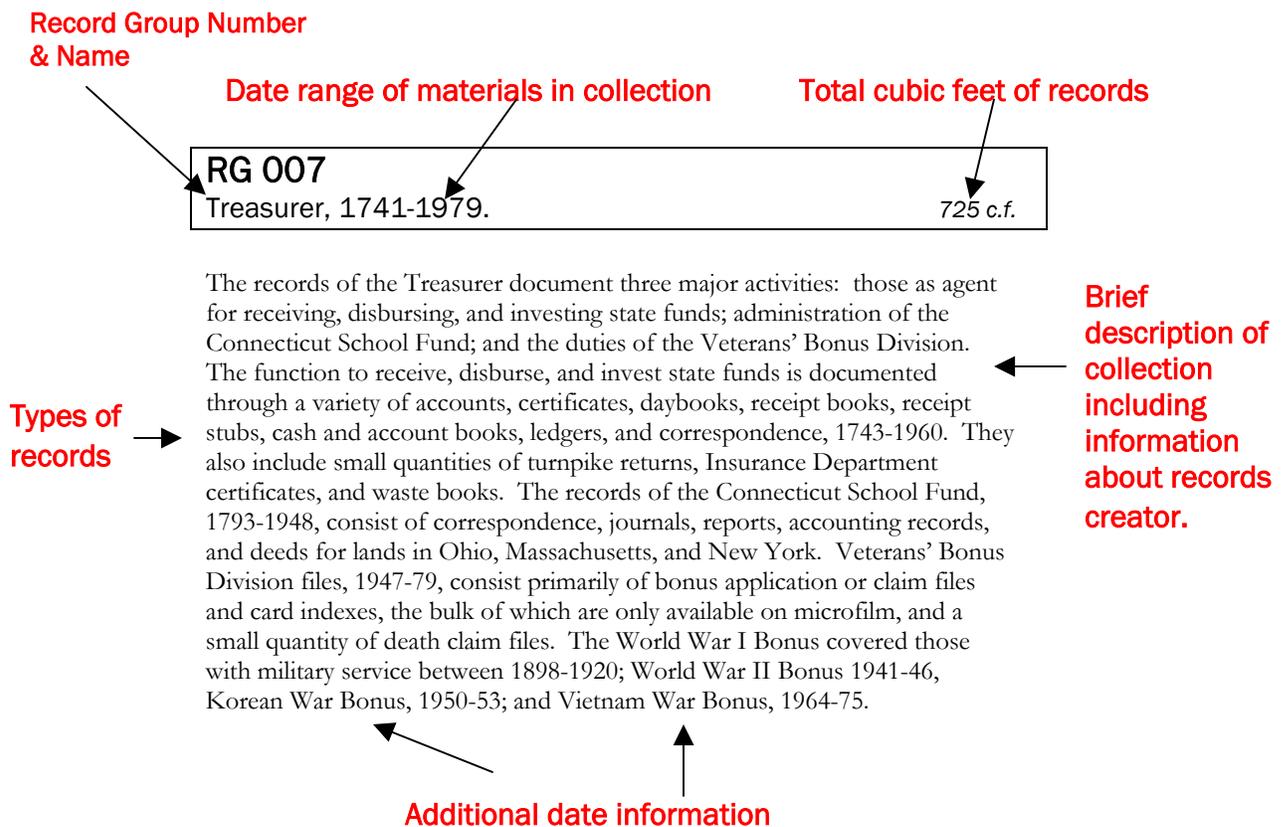
This is the fourth edition of *The Guide to Archives at the Connecticut State Library* created by the State Archives staff. *The Guide* provides a narrative overview of each record group in our collection. It is intended to help researchers identify collections of potential interest. Detailed finding aids are available in the History & Genealogy unit for most of the record groups listed in this *Guide*.

### **What is a record group?**

A record group is “a body of organizationally related records established on the basis of provenance with particular regard for the complexity and volume of the records and the administrative history of the record-creating institution or organization.”<sup>1</sup>

### **How is this Guide organized?**

Each record group has been assigned a number by the State Archives. *The Guide* is arranged by record group number. The index at the end of the *Guide* provides alternative ways to access collections. Each record group entry has the following information:



<sup>1</sup> *Modern Archives Reader: Basic Readings on Archival Theory and Practice* (1984)

## **RG 000**

**Classified Archives, 1631-1990.**

*1,129 c.f.*

The Classified Archives contain many of the oldest and most heavily used records in the Archives. Most of these materials are accessible through the old Manuscripts and Archives Catalog. They include a wide variety of personal and family papers, business records, town records, church records, land records, vital records, organizational records, correspondence and diaries of soldiers in Connecticut wars, papers of prominent political figures, county records, and a small quantity of colony and state records.

Collections include the William F. J. Boardman Papers, 1661-1835; Connecticut Land Company Records, 1795-1807; Records of the 1818 Constitutional Convention; Revolutionary War Orderly Books; Jonathan Trumbull Papers, 1631-1784; Jonathan Trumbull, Jr. Papers, 1763-1808; and the Robert C. Winthrop Collection, 1631-1716.

The Classified Archives hold a large collection of original Connecticut church records, with a particular emphasis on Congregational church organizations in the towns. Significantly less coverage is provided for Baptist, Episcopalian, and other Connecticut Protestant denominations. The Library also has 135 volumes of indexes to Connecticut Congregational Church Records. They contain vital records and membership status information, materials abstracted from records of the first Congregational churches formed in most towns.

Records arranged alphabetically by town make up the largest segment of materials in RG 000. They include personal and family papers, deeds, diaries, local histories, benevolent society records, account books and ledgers, school society records, town records, vital records, proprietors records, land records, not to mention a large quantity of church and ecclesiastical society records.

## **RG 001**

**Early General Records, 1629-1933 (span), 1629-1820 (bulk).** *545 c.f.*

Early General Records is composed primarily of colonial and state records to the year 1820. Except for (d), (e), (f), and (h) below, the records primarily document the activities, duties, and functions of Connecticut's General Assembly. They include much of the most valuable and significant archival material in the State's custody. The principal sub-groups are: (a) Records of the Colony of Connecticut. Proceedings of the General Assembly, other materials, 1636-1776. (b) Records of New Haven Colony, 1639-1649, 1653-1664. (c) Records of the State of Connecticut. Proceedings

of the General Assembly, other materials, 1776-1933. The records of New Haven Colony, Colony of Connecticut, and State of Connecticut to the War of 1812 have been published. Access to the originals, therefore, can only be seen once special permission has been obtained. (d) Records of the Governor and Council, 1663-1818. (e) Records of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England, 1643-1684. (f) Records of the Governor and Council of Safety, 1775-1783. (g) "Connecticut Archives", 1629-1820. Papers and correspondence of the General Assembly, the Governor and Council, other colony or state officials. (h) Early deeds, land records, turnpike records, 1640-1846.

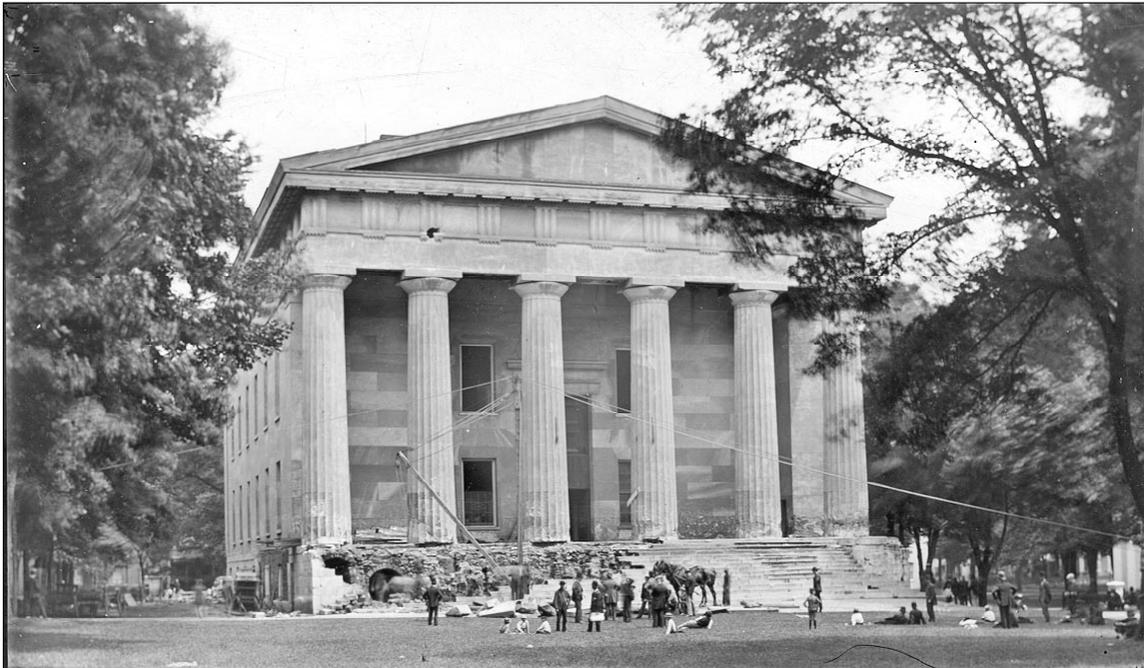


Figure 1 Demolishing the Old State House on the New Haven Green, 1889, PG 300, Connecticut Cities and Towns Collection, ca. 1885 – 1965, Box 6, Folder "New Haven."

Item (g) above is popularly referred to as the "Connecticut Archives." These records have been completely indexed and are available on microfilm. Special permission needs to be obtained in order to examine the originals. The "Connecticut Archives" are arranged into 27 topics and often further subdivided into series, arranged more or less by date. The topics are: Civil Officers; Colleges and Schools; Colonial Boundaries; Corporations; Court Papers; Crimes and Misdemeanors; Ecclesiastical Affairs; Estates of Deceased Persons; Estates of Incompetent Persons; Estates of Minors; Finance and Currency; Finances; Foreign Correspondence; Indians; Industry; Insolvent Debtors; Lotteries and Divorces; Militia; Miscellaneous; Private Controversies; Revolutionary War; Susquehannah Settlers, Western Lands; Towns and Lands; Trade and Maritime Affairs; Travel, Highways, Ferries, Bridges, and Taverns; War, Colonial; and War of 1812.

**RG 002**

General Assembly, 1708-2000.

1,295 c.f.

This collection contains the official records of the General Assembly, Connecticut's legislative body. The early records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776, and records of the State of Connecticut, 1776-1820, are found in RG 001. General Assembly Papers, 1808-2000 consist of petitions, memorials, remonstrances, affidavits, appointments and resignations, public acts, rejected bills, annual reports, reports of legislative committees, gubernatorial messages, and other official papers. Rejected Bills, 1808-1911, are separately housed, but for the period 1913-98 are located with General Assembly Papers.

The record group contains journals of the House of Representatives, 1708-1905; journals of the Senate, 1708-1869; engrossed bills, 1859-1990; plus docket books, 1810-1901, containing numerical lists of petitions and memorials to the General Assembly. Also included are records of special legislative commissions and task forces, together with files of a handful of individual members, the office of the speaker, and the office of the president pro tempore.

Individual bill files, as well as hearing transcripts and House and Senate Proceedings, are located in the Law and Legislative unit of the State Library.

**RG 003**

Judicial Department, 1636-1991.

4,844 c.f.

This record group consists of all types of legal documents relevant to court action, including, but not limited to, dockets, formal decisions, rules, appointments, judges' notes and opinions, indexes, case files, record books, executions, reports, and administrative papers, as well as materials from related entities such as the State Bar Examining Committee and Coroners and Medical Examiners. The records date from 1636 to the late 20th century, with the bulk from the 17th through the 19th century. Most extant state court records prior to 1870 are in the State Archives along with a substantial volume of municipal and justice court records. Record Group 003 also includes probate records including wills, inventories, bonds, administration reports, etc. until 1698, when the General Assembly established the separate probate court system. See record group 004 for Records of the Probate Court.

The records of the Judicial Department include colony and statewide materials for the Particular Court, 1639-65; Court of Assistants, 1665-1711; Superior Court, 1711-1879; and Supreme Court of Errors, 1784-1901. The bulk of the records, however, are arranged by county and consist of papers of county courts, courts of common pleas, superior courts, supreme courts of errors, and maritime courts.

**RG 004**

Probate Courts, 1636-1946.

4,226 c.f.

Probate Court records consist primarily of record books (mostly in microfilm form) and estate papers (original and microform). The documentation includes wills, bonds, inventories, and reports of estate administrators. A card index to estate papers is found in the History & Genealogy unit. When probate courts were first established in 1698, one existed for each of the colony's four counties, but the number of probate districts has continued to increase and the state is now divided into around 150 probate districts. The probate records in the volumes of record books are more or less in chronological order. Most volumes have their own indexes. Estate papers are alphabetically arranged by probate district and surname. Record books and estate papers do not always contain exactly the same information, so sometimes both need to be examined. This record group also contains some late nineteenth and twentieth-century probate records from nine probate districts.

**RG 005**

Office of the Governor, 1630-2000.

1,892 c.f.

The earliest records of Connecticut Governors are found in RG 001, the "Connecticut Archives," collections in the State Archives such as the Trumbull Papers, and materials scattered in repositories such as the Connecticut Historical Society, Yale University, and the New York Public Library. Some records in this group are generic for most gubernatorial terms, such as requisitions and extraditions, 1907-59. The records include executive journals and blotters, 1820-1949; proclamations and official statements, 1630-2000; incoming letters, 1811-1933, outgoing letters, 1863-1911; military correspondence, 1822-89; form commitment papers of indigent deaf, mentally retarded, blind, and insane persons to state hospitals, 1828-1948. Subject files for Governor Frank B. Weeks (1909-11) through Charles A. Templeton (1923-25) are organized by an indexed numerical system. Beginning with Governor John H. Trumbull (1925-31), subject files are organized alphabetically and correspondence files by the surname of the sender. Starting with

Governors McConaughy and Shannon (1947-49), records may include annual reports of agencies, commissions, and boards. The records of modern governors starting with Raymond E. Baldwin, Jr. (1939-41, 1943-45), the first governor to employ a full-time press secretary, may contain publicity, campaign, scheduling, speech, press, and subject files.



Figure 2 Speech by Presidential candidate Senator John F. Kennedy, 1960, RG 005, Records of Governor John Dempsey, photographs. Seated left to right: Governor Abraham Ribicoff, John Bailey, and Lt. Governor John Dempsev.

Within subject files the researcher may find incoming and outgoing correspondence, memos, handwritten notes, photographs, films, audio tapes and cassettes, published material, official statements, copies of legislative bills, Federal program manuals and guides, newspaper clippings, press releases, speeches and remarks,

reports, and scrapbooks. For individual governors, the researcher may find special files not duplicated elsewhere such as the Reading Files for Governor John Dempsey. These are daily carbon copies of outgoing correspondence.

## RG 006

Secretary of the State, 1789-1984.

1,547 c.f.

The bulk of records for the Secretary of the State's Office relate to elections and commercial activities. The records of the Elections Division contain votes for state and federal offices, 1819-1912, plus a variety of papers on state, municipal, probate, and justice of the peace elections for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Records of the Commercial Recording Division include Articles of Incorporation for joint stock companies, chartered companies, and voluntary associations, 1837-1946; Records of Railroad Mortgages, 1849-1980; Certificates of Adoption of Trademarks, 1880-1963; together with annual and biennial reports, certificates, lists of officers, and other similar records for cooperative associations, non-stock corporations, specially chartered corporations, domestic corporations, and foreign corporations, 1834-1979.

Also included are records of county commissioners; the 1965 Constitutional Convention; returns on births, marriages, and deaths, 1848, 1853, 1855; and small quantities of papers covering such subjects as letters received, oaths of office, sheriffs' records, reports on jails, and temperance petitions.

**RG 007**

**Treasurer, 1741-1979.**

*725 c.f.*

The records of the Treasurer document three major activities: those as agent for receiving, disbursing, and investing state funds; administration of the Connecticut School Fund; and the duties of the Veterans' Bonus Division. The function to receive, disburse, and invest state funds is documented through a variety of accounts, certificates, daybooks, receipt books, receipt stubs, cash and account books, ledgers, and correspondence, 1743-1960. They also include small quantities of turnpike returns, Insurance Department certificates, and waste books. The records of the Connecticut School Fund, 1793-1948, consist of correspondence, journals, reports, accounting records, and deeds for lands in Ohio, Massachusetts, and New York. Veterans' Bonus Division files, 1947-79, consist primarily of bonus application or claim files and card indexes, the bulk of which are only available on microfilm, and a small quantity of death claim files. The World War I Bonus covered those with military service between 1898-1920; World War II Bonus 1941-46, Korean War Bonus, 1950-53; and Vietnam War Bonus, 1964-75.

**RG 008**

**Office of the State Comptroller, 1758-1954.**

*305 c.f.*

The Office of the Comptroller is responsible for superintending all matters concerning the finances of the State. A wide variety of financial records are found in Comptroller's Records, many of them from the Committee of the Pay Table during the Revolutionary War. They include accounts, bills, receipts, reports, vouchers, soldiers' notes, town accounts for supplies of soldiers' families, saltpeter certificates and accounts, and other papers. Other financial records covering the period from the 1780s to the early twentieth century include journals, waste books, receipt stubs for payment of soldiers and money loaned to the state, grand lists, Treasurers vouchers, Comptrollers vouchers, Civil War returns for soldiers' children and returns for family bounties, plus State Pauper Records, 1844-1920, financial records of the School for Imbeciles, 1913-54, and Military Separation Allowances, 1916-19.

**RG 009**

Office of the Attorney General, 1903-1973.

179 c.f.

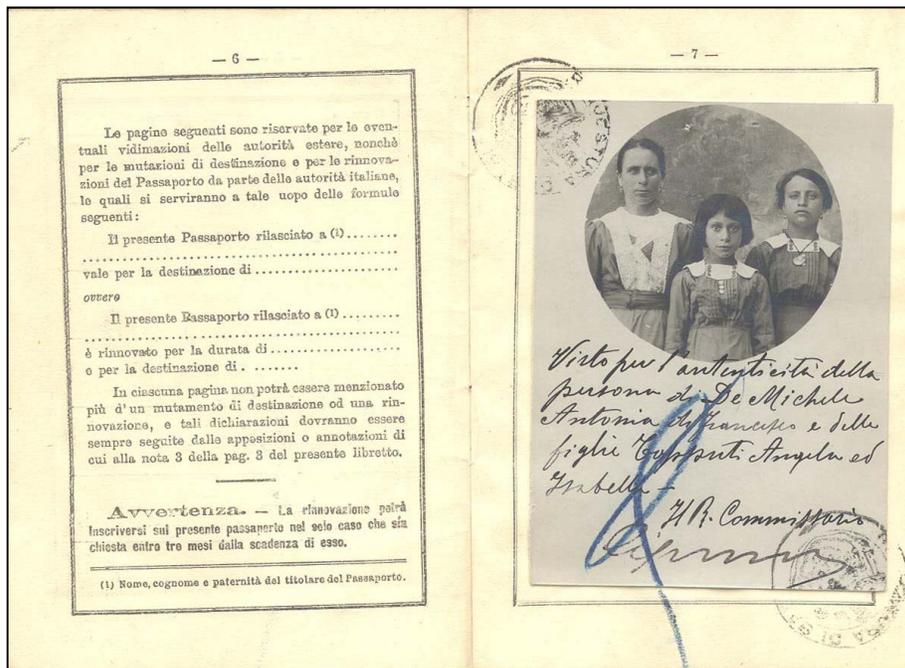
The records consist of Attorney General opinions, case files, subject files and correspondence. The opinions include written requests to the Office of the Attorney General for opinions about state agencies and policies. They include written formal and informal opinions including summaries of verbal opinions issued on a variety of topics as well as arbitrator's reports. There is also a large collection of attorney general opinions on the Workmen's Compensation Act (1950-59). Case files include testimony transcripts, consultants' reports, correspondence, and other supporting documentation concerning cases handled by the Office of the Attorney General. Subject files contain materials pertaining to the official business of the Attorney General's office and include correspondence, proposed bills, newspaper clippings, tax forms, maps, and blueprints.

**RG 010**

Department of Education, 1845-1997.

263 c.f.

The origins of the Department of Education date from an 1838 bill creating a Board of Education to investigate and report on the condition of all common schools. The current State Board of Education dates from 1865. A commissioner, who serves as



secretary of the board, heads the Department. This record group contains reporting records, 1845-1979, from state investigative agents and their supervisors, as well as records from the Superintendent of Common Schools,

Figure 3 Passport of Italian family immigrating to United States in 1919, Birth Certificates and Passports for Work Permits, RG 010, Box 20, Folder 9.

oversight committees, individual schools, county temporary homes, trade and vocational schools, technical schools and adult education. There are reports regarding child labor, school building inspections, finances, school libraries, statistics, and other related studies, together with passports (documents from the early part of the century used as proof for age and a person's school attendance to obtain a work permit). The records also include minutes from organizations within or associated with the Department of Education, including the Board of Education, principals of state normal schools, Secretary and Agents, Connecticut Public School Building Commission, and others. Subject files of Commissioner Mark Shed, 1981-83, student records of the State Trade School at Middletown, 1927-44, records of the Mystic Oral School for the Deaf, and modern school desegregation commission task forces, 1974-97 are also in the record group. Formats include typed and handwritten forms, ledgers, photographs, scrapbooks, stubs, letterbooks, and flowcharts.

## **RG 011**

**Insurance Department, 1871-1979.**

**23 c.f.**

The mission of the Insurance Department is “to protect the consumer by administering and enforcing the insurance laws in the most responsive and cost effective manner to ensure the financial reliability and responsibility of all regulated entities.” The Department is responsible for administration of the state's laws regulating the insurance industry. Records in this collection include quadrennial reports from the Exam Division, 1930-79, annual fire statements, and records from the Insurance Commissioner.

## **RG 012**

**Connecticut State Library, 1850-2000.**

**659 c.f.**

The State Library provides a variety of library, information, archival, public records, museum, and administrative services to state government, libraries and library organizations, town government officials, students, and the general public. The Library began as two law collections at the two state houses (New Haven and Hartford) and was placed under the oversight of a legislative committee in the 1840s. It was not until 1854, however, that the General Assembly created the post of State Librarian. The most important State Librarian in the agency's history was George Seymour Godard (1900-36), who was of critical importance in getting the building at 231 Capitol Avenue constructed and occupied. He also expanded the library's

services into new areas. Records include such formats as letterpress books, paper files, sound recordings, films, discs, photographs, architectural drawings, ledgers and logs, and ephemera. The group also includes materials of the Connecticut Friends of the Library organization, 1979–84. Records document the work of the State Librarian and division heads, the State Library Board, the Library’s many divisions, and defunct units such as the War Records Department. One of the largest series of this record group documents grants assistance given to public libraries through the Division of Library Development.

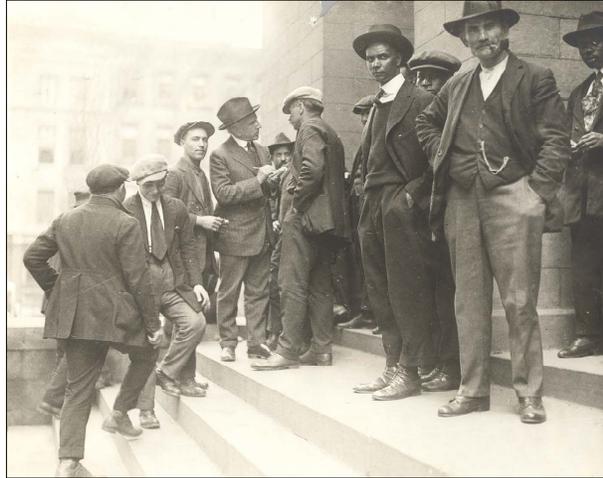


Figure 4 Signing up Hartford’s unemployed for jobs with the City Parks Department, Old State House, April 9, 1921, RG 012, War Records Department, Box 137, #114.11.

## RG 013

Military Department, 1776-1986.

720 c.f.

The records of the Military Department consist primarily of materials documenting the history of Connecticut’s militia, national guard units, and the service of Connecticut volunteers during the Civil War. The records contain extensive materials documenting the work of the Adjutant General, 1792-1807, including general orders, resignations and discharges, correspondence, militia returns, pensions, and reports and rosters. RG 013 also holds records of Civil War volunteer regiments, courts martial, bounty and pension files, and fragmentary pre-Civil War records of militia regiments. The Civil War regimental records include enlistment papers, muster rolls, monthly returns, and muster out rolls. In addition, records exist for the First Company, Governor’s Foot Guard, and Connecticut’s Civil War “Colored” 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> Regiments. Extensive documentation on various units of the Connecticut National Guard are included, consisting of records on specific regiments, the Connecticut Home Guard, and of artillery, naval, and air units. The bulk of the materials cover the period after 1820, although some records document the War of 1812 period.

## **RG 014**

**Department of Banking, 1918-1963.**

**98 c.f.**

A number of Connecticut banks failed during the depression of 1929, and in 1935 the General Assembly assigned to the Banking Commissioner the responsibility for liquidating their affairs. These are the papers from the Liquidation Division. The records are comprised of receivership files and include records of foreclosures, correspondence concerning closed banks, and administrative files. In addition, the collection contains the records taken over from the banks that were in receivership. Included in the bank records are legal papers, income tax returns, real estate files, correspondence, and bank records of accounts.

## **RG 015**

**Office of Policy and Management, 1897-1995.**

**216 c.f.**

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is the governor's staff agency. Its mission is to provide information and analysis that the Governor uses to formulate public policy goals for the State and assist State agencies and municipalities in implementing policy decisions on behalf of the people of Connecticut. Records in this collection include materials from predecessor agencies, the Board of Control, 1897-1927; Board of Finance, 1915-27; and the Department of Finance and Control, 1927-77. The record group contains materials from the Office of State Planning, Budget Division, Finance Advisory Committee, Special Bond Committee, State Bond Commission, Comprehensive Planning Division, Management and Justice Planning Division, and the Energy Division. The papers include meeting minutes, working papers, correspondence, financial data, land-use studies, reports, budgets, and scrapbooks. Also found are records pertaining to the abolition of county government, 1960.

## **RG 016**

**Department of Public Health, 1877-1991.**

**975 c.f.**

In 1878, the General Assembly established a State Board of Health mandated to "take cognizance of the interests of health and life" of the people of Connecticut. It made sanitary investigations to inquire into and report on the causes of disease and the sources of mortality. It distributed sanitary information to local boards of health and compiled data submitted by these boards. It also had supervision of birth, death, and marriage registrations.

Today the Department of Public Health is the State's lead agency in public health



Figure 5 Photograph of Athens Nathaniel Grant, M.D., attached to application for registration and License to Practice Medicine and Surgery, December 2, 1925, RG 016, Department of Health, Application for License, Vol. 16.

policy and advocacy. Its major program areas include prevention/education, regulation, planning, emergency medical services, and local health administration. The records contain materials from the first secretary to the board, Dr. Charles W. Chamberlain, 1878-83, and include correspondence, town surveys, railroad worker eye tests (1880), divorces, minutes of the board, and speeches made by Dr. Chamberlain. Dates for some of these go beyond 1883. More modern records include minutes, scrapbooks, annual reports and administrative files of the now defunct Tuberculosis Commission, minutes of the Connecticut Advisory School Health Council, 1958-71; Cedar Hill Hospital patient registers, 1910-54; commissioner's scrapbooks, 1919-71; minutes of the Community Nursing and Home Health Care Division, 1900-80; Coordinator's records of

the Commission on Long Term Care, 1980-91; the Tumor Registry, Medical Registration Applications, 1893-1976; minutes of various licensing boards, 1893-1991; annual reports of directors of local health departments, 1931-79; Bureau of Laboratories, 1943-56; and meeting folders of the Commission on Hospitals and Health Care, 1974-87.

## RG 017

Department of Correction, 1800-1974.

1,285 c.f.

The General Assembly established the Department of Correction in 1967. Prior to that year, the state's major correctional facilities at Somers, Enfield, and Niantic, and the earlier ones at Newgate and Wethersfield, existed as independent state agencies, administered by a board of directors appointed by the governor. The new department brought together all youth and adult correctional institutions and parole into a single agency. Connecticut was the first state to consolidate these services.

The materials in this record group pertain mostly to the Wethersfield State Prison (1827-1963) and include correspondence, financial records, warrants of commitment, prison discharges, architectural drawings, and inmate records, 1900-53. The collection contains a few records pertaining to Connecticut's first prison at Newgate.

**RG 018**

Civil Service Commission, 1913-1921.

19 c.f.

Chapter 232 of the Public Acts of 1913 set up the Connecticut Civil Service Commission consisting of three commissioners appointed by the Governor. Legislation divided the State employment system into unclassified service exempt from the bill and classified service that required applicants to take competitive examinations in order to be placed on eligibility lists. The Commission made rules, created classified job titles and tests, administered the tests and prepared eligibility lists, answered correspondence, and sought information about exempted or unclassified employees in State departments. Chapter 26 of the Public Acts 1921 abolished the commission. This record group contains minutes of commission meetings, financial records, correspondence with the public and state departments and institutions, subject files, papers and reports of appointments made, a card file of applicants and their scores (1914), a ledger of applicants and eligible candidates for each classified job, samples of forms and examinations, and manuals issued by the Commission and by other states.

**RG 019**

Department of Social Services,  
1809-1960 (span), 1893-1953 (bulk).

19.50 c.f.

The Department of Social Services provides assistance to families and individuals through programs such as child-care block grants, energy assistance, vocational rehabilitation, refugee assistance, programs for the elderly, temporary assistance for needy families, food stamps, Section 8 housing vouchers, and the state child support enforcement plan. The Department has evolved through several titles that reflect the changes in public policy toward those citizens in need: Board of Charities, 1873-84; State Board of Charities, 1884-1921; Department of Public Welfare, 1921-35; Office of the Commissioner of Public Welfare and the Public Welfare Council, 1935-53; Department of Welfare, 1953-75; Department of Social Services, 1975-79; Departments of Human Resources and Income Maintenance, 1979-93; and, once again, the Department of Social Services, 1993-present. The record group contains

registers of state paupers accounts that predate the board, 1809-22<sup>1</sup> and ledgers created by the Board and subsequent agencies, 1877-1917. The group contains minutes of meetings of the boards through the public welfare council, 1893-1951; a secretary's diary, 1893-1922; several reports and a Master's thesis, and records of the Litchfield County Temporary Home, 1908-15; and the New Haven County Temporary Home, 1899-90, 1910-16.

## **RG 020**

**Department of Labor, 1917-1988.**

**143 c.f.**

The Department of Labor (DOL) assists workers with income support between jobs, protection on the job, training programs, assistance in searching for jobs and information on the economy, wages, and the workplace. DOL provides employers with workplace data and labor market information, recruitment assistance and programs to help maintain employee skills. The Department started as a "bureau of labor statistics" and it continues to fulfill this function as an arm of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics by collecting, analyzing and reporting workforce data. The Bureau began in 1873 but disappeared by 1875. The legislature reconstituted it in 1885 and in 1901 added the Factory Inspector. In 1915 legislation combined this post into a Department of Labor and Factory Inspection and in 1950, the agency was first called by its current name, the Department of Labor. This record group contains records of the Commissioner, 1970-88; records of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, 1923-87 (some of which are restricted); records of the United States Employment Service, 1917-19; administrative and meeting records of the various boards under the Minimum Wage Division, 1936-58; and files of the Department's own Employment Service Division, 1937-41.

## **RG 021**

**Department of Mental Health, 1867-1976.**

**876 c.f.**

The Department began as three mental hospitals: the first at Middletown in 1867, called Connecticut Hospital for the Insane, now known as Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH); the next, in 1904, Norwich State Hospital; and the third, beginning in 1933, Fairfield Hills State Hospital. Eventually all three were combined into one department. The current agency is the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. This is the "single state agency for providing comprehensive mental health

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<sup>1</sup> These probably were the State Comptroller's account books.

and substance abuse services throughout Connecticut.” Records in this group include those for CVH, 1867-1976: superintendent’s files and books, trustee minutes, surgical records, legal opinions, payroll ledgers and employee records, scrapbooks of activities, employee attendance records, records of the nursing school, and miscellany of operational records. There are also patient records from Norwich State Hospital, 1904-66, and admission and discharge registers from Fairfield Hills, 1933-72. In addition, the group contains minutes of the Commission on Alcoholism, 1945-59; monthly reports and papers of the Joint Board of Mental Health, 1948-55; files of the Associate Commissioner for Children and Adolescents, 1964-76; subject and grant files; and Advisory Board minutes for the Alcohol and Drug Dependence Division, 1956-75.

## **RG 022**

**Department of Economic and Community Development, 1939-1997. 40 c.f.**

The Department of Economic and Community Development administers programs and policies to promote business, housing and community development. The agency combines housing, tourism, and economic growth. It began in 1939 as the Development Commission; in 1973 became the Connecticut Development Authority in the Department of Commerce; in 1979 a separate agency known as the Department of Economic Development; and in 1995 the agency as it is today. Records include lists of members, 1939-71; minutes and attachments, January 1958-December 1969; a newsletter for members only, March 1941-February 1953; a printed bulletin, February 1940-June 1951; records pertaining to the development of an industrial park for New Britain, 1957-73; scrapbooks covering the peacetime draft in 1940-41; and a report on a “Tourism Product Development Strategy,” 1997.

## **RG 023**

**State Teachers’ Retirement Board, 1917-1989.**

**79 c.f.**

The State Teacher’s Retirement Board administers the Teacher’s Retirement System that provides members, public school teachers and their beneficiaries, with retirement, disability, survivorship, and health benefits. Records include annual staffing reports, 1917-63; annual retirement deductions, 1917-63; correspondence, 1940-50; membership records, 1949-53; and personal payments, 1957-63.

**RG 024**

Connecticut Historical Commission, 1774-1985.

12.25 c.f.

The records of the Connecticut Historical Commission are divided into three sections. First are correspondence, reports, and other documentation on the restoration of the Henry Whitfield House, a State Historical Museum in Guilford, together with deeds and other papers on Guilford families. The second section relates to the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut, which lasted from 1974-78, and documentation includes subject files, clippings, and scrapbooks. RG 024 concludes with six boxes of microfiche on the Connecticut Historical Commission's Statewide Historic Resources Inventory.

**RG 025**

Board of Pardons, 1883-1889.

0.25 c.f.

The Board of Pardons is an autonomous body within the Department of Correction for administrative purposes only. Its five members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of either house of the General Assembly. All must be state residents, three must be attorneys, one skilled in one of the social sciences, and one a physician. The Board has jurisdiction over the granting of and authority to grant, commutations of punishment or releases, conditional or absolute, commutations from the penalty of death, and pardons, conditional or absolute. This group consists of one book kept by the Board's clerk containing minutes and notes.

## RG 026

Division of Special Revenue, 1972-1974.

0.25 c.f.

The General Assembly created the Commission on Special Revenue by Public Act 865 in 1971. Its first action was to institute a lottery in Connecticut. In the late 1990s, the State transferred administration of the lottery to the Connecticut Lottery Corporation. Today the Commission is a Division and is a part of the Department of Revenue Services for administrative purposes only. The Division supports activities of the Gaming Policy Board and both regulate the conduct of legalized gambling within the state and monitor compliance with Tribal-State Compacts. The only records in this group are sample lottery tickets.

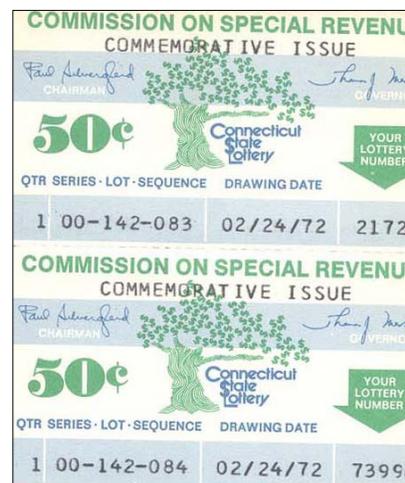


Figure 6 RG 026, Division of Special Revenue.

## RG 027

Board of Capitol Commissioners, 1871-1880.

21 c.f.

In July 1871, the General Assembly created the Board of Capitol Commissioners to issue bonds and expend funds to construct a new state capitol building in Hartford. The legislature accepted plans of architect Richard M. Upjohn of New York and awarded the construction contract to James G. Batterson. In 1873, dissatisfied with the original plans that called for a German style clock tower, the General Assembly appointed a new commission to direct changes and improvements in the design and specifications. For instance, a dome replaced the tower. The legislature occupied the new capitol in 1879, and the Commission turned over its files to the Comptroller on November 30, 1880. The record group contains minutes of meetings and secretary's notes, financial records such as receipts, materials lists, account books, vouchers and bank books, incoming and outgoing letters, time books and payroll, contracts, proposals, specifications and estimates, a record book, and diaries of activities. Also included are Upjohn plans, drawings, and descriptions, plans of competing architects, and applications for employment.

**RG 028**

Commissions to Study Government Efficiency  
and/or Reorganization, 1915-1992.

98 c.f.

This is an artificial record group designed to allow easier access to the records of the numerous twentieth-century committees and commissions created to study state government efficiency in delivering services and to recommend improvements or wholesale reorganization. Each series generally contains minutes, draft and final reports, working papers, subject files, correspondence, individual agency study reports, consultants' reports, hearing transcripts, newsletters, bulletins, press releases, and clippings. The commissions in this group are the following: Commission to Investigate the Advisability of Consolidating Certain State Boards and Commissions to Investigate the Public Health laws, 1915; Commission on the Reorganization of State Government, 1935-37; Commission to Study the Integration of the State Judicial System, 1943-45; Commission on State Government, 1949-50; Governor's Commission on Services and Expenditures (Etherington Commission), 1971; Committee on the Structure of State Government (Filer Committee), 1975-77; Human Services Reorganization Commission, 1977-79; Governor's Study Group on the Limitation of Government Expenditures, 1978; Commission to Study the Management of State Government (Thomas Commission), 1989-91; Commission to Effect Government Reorganization (Hull-Harper Commission), 1991-92.

**RG 029**

Military Census, 1917-1920.

209 c.f.

On February 6, 1917, Governor Marcus Holcomb addressed the General Assembly requesting that a law be passed directing him to undertake a state military census of materials and manpower "available for use in event of war." The census required that all men 16 years and older fill out a questionnaire. Unofficially, the state intended to use the census in order to identify enemy aliens. On February 7, the initial machinery of the manpower census was set up. This separate bureau was transferred to the State Library, which functioned as a Historical Records Department of the Council of Defense. Eventually the Library oversaw an agricultural census and others of nurses, automobiles, and industry. This record group contains administrative files, schedules, questionnaires and forms, punched Hollereith cards, index card files, scrapbooks, tabulations of summaries, numerous photostated lists, clippings, and reference files.

## **RG 030**

**Council of Defense, 1917-1919.**

198 c.f.

In April 1917, Governor Marcus Holcomb appointed an eleven-member council under an Emergency Act (Chapter 43, P. A. 1917) passed after the United States declared war on Germany and the Axis powers. The first meeting was held on May 8, 1917. Over time, the Council formed committees to deal with areas such as publicity, Americanization, fuel conservation, food supply, transportation, and military and naval affairs. The Council also formed a Woman's Division whose members sat on the council's committees. The Council coordinated, supported, and publicized the work of other war agencies at the state and federal levels. Gradually the committees acquired staffs of their own and an Executive Department headed by a director was formed. The Council was discontinued in March 1919. This large group contains records including administrative files, financial records, correspondence, subject files, and reference files of the council's executive department and several committees. Formats and types vary but include photographs, posters, newspapers, artifacts, lists, card files, lantern slides, copper and lead cuts and printing plates, sheet music, bulletins, mimeographed circulars, telegrams, and other paper materials.

## **RG 031**

**Connecticut Unemployment Commission, 1931-1933.**

10 c.f.

In December 1930, Governor John Trumbull and Governor-elect Wilbur Cross formed the Connecticut State Emergency Committee on Employment. The committee was charged with cooperating with state and federal agencies in investigating and mitigating the effects of serious unemployment and with encouraging employers to gather statistics and other information, so that a solution to unemployment could be devised. The Committee reported its findings in February 1931, and later in July, it went out of business. Its successor was the Connecticut Unemployment Commission authorized by the General Assembly under Special Acts, 1931, Ch. 468. It continued the work of its predecessor, working with local groups providing relief and served as a point of contact for federal relief activities such as the distribution of Army blankets and clothing, sale of wheat and cotton, and the Civilian Conservation Corps employment program. The Commission reported its findings in a report in December 1932 and went out of existence at the end of June 1933, succeeded by the new Connecticut Emergency Relief Commission. RG 031 contains minutes of meetings, financial records, general subject files consisting of correspondence, newspaper clippings and other publications, and reports, together with files of town surveys of relief organizations, construction projects, and payroll and man hours. In addition, the collection contains a scrapbook of newspaper clippings and files of the New Haven office.

**RG 032**

Emergency Relief Commission, 1933-1937.

70 c.f.

The General Assembly created the Emergency Relief Commission in 1933 (1933 Public Acts, Chapter 276). It was the successor to the Connecticut State Emergency Committee on Employment and the Connecticut Unemployment Commission. The ERC had two functions: approval of local municipal bonds for relief purposes and supervision of emergency unemployment relief projects. Records include files

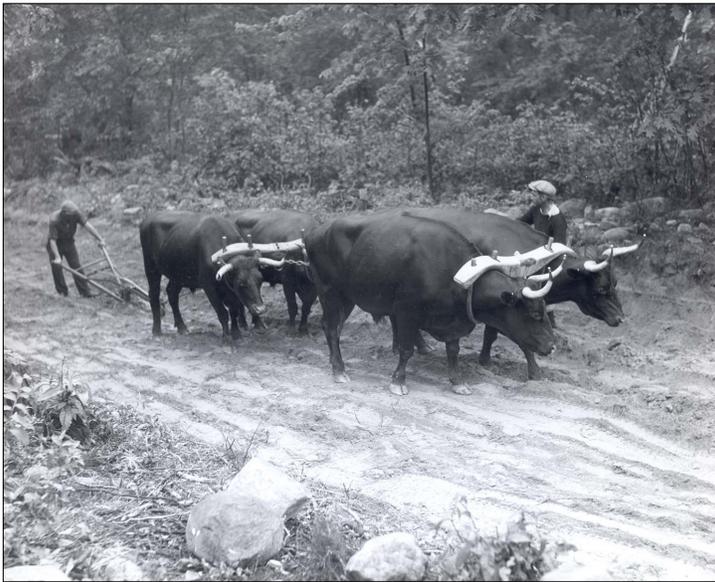


Figure 7 Mt. Parnassus Road Project, #41 – B1 – 10, East Hampton, 1935, RG 032, Box 49.

pertaining to projects funded under the Federal Emergency Relief Act and its successor, the Civil Works Administration, both in 1933. In 1935, funding for relief projects was transferred to the new Works Progress Administration. The Commission went out of business on February 1, 1937. This group contains manuals and circulars pertaining to instructions and rules and regulations for administering the Federal grants; minutes of meetings of the commission, 1933-37; and project files,

administrative records, audit and financial records, reports, blueprints and maps, incoming and outgoing correspondence, and photographs pertaining to projects using the FERA and CWA funds. There are also files, maps, photographs, correspondence and memoranda pertaining to the Connecticut Guide project and correspondence, blueprints, reports, memoranda, minutes and financial records for the Federal Transient Bureau, 1934-35. A card index control file, 1933-37, contains summaries for each project arranged by town.

## RG 033

Connecticut Work Projects Administration, 1935-1944.

169 c.f.

In 1935, the Federal government established the Works Progress Administration as the central agency in control of relief projects for the unemployed in the nation. When the Federal Emergency Relief Administration closed in late 1935, the WPA replaced it. In 1939, the agency's name changed to Work Projects Administration. In Connecticut, main offices for the WPA were in New Haven and district offices were in major cities. It was abolished on June 30, 1943 and liquidated a year later. This group primarily documents the Writers' Project and associated "white collar" projects. It contains correspondence, working papers, research reference materials, directives, circulars, manuals, completed survey forms, contracts, maps, photographs, clippings and scrapbooks, drafts of interviews and reports, field notes, scripts of radio programs, administrative and financial records, and manuscripts of unpublished works. Areas of activity include *Connecticut: A Guide*, ethnic histories, town and city histories, histories of city parks, Historic Buildings Survey, Church Records Survey, Manuscripts Inventory, the Federal Art Project, American Imprints Inventory, history of the Hartford Flood of 1936, and a variety of guides.



Figure 8 Burnishing brass buttons, Scovill Manufacturing Company, Waterbury, ca. 1940, RG 033, Box 57, No. 35.

## RG 034

State Salvage Committee, 1941-1945.

15 c.f.

The State Salvage Committee was organized in December 1941 as part of the State Defense Council (later known as the War Council). It also served as the Connecticut agent of the General Salvage Section of the Conservation Bureau of the U. S. Office of Production Management. The Committee informed the public of the need for

conserving scarce materials and assisted in collecting and utilizing salvage. It worked with local town salvage committees and with scrap and waste dealers on an Advisory Salvage Board. It went out of business in early 1945. The record group contains minutes and agendas of meetings, drafts and copies of speeches and reports, lists of local and industry committee members, incoming and outgoing correspondence, town production cards, publicity materials such as newsletters and photographs, administrative subject files, and town correspondence and memoranda files.

**RG 035**

Connecticut Office of Price Administration, 1942-1946.

14.50 c.f.

In August 1941, the Federal government set up the Office of Price Administration in order to stabilize prices, obtain optimum production of essential war materials and prevent a post-war price collapse. The agency set up nine regional offices, one of which was the New England office located in Boston. The Boston office set up the Connecticut branch office in December 1941, and in May 1942, Chester Bowles, future Connecticut Governor, became its director. The Connecticut office ran a rationing program, established price and rent ceilings, and engaged in various public information activities. This record group contains a rent survey chart (no date), correspondence, memoranda, press releases, bulletins, speeches and radio scripts, subject files, records of the local Goshen office, and ration card applications for New Milford and New London.

**RG 036**

Temporary State Housing Rent Commission,  
1942-1956 (span), 1952-55 (bulk).

5 c.f.

During the Second World War, national rent controls began under the Office of Price Administration-directed offices. In 1947, anticipating the end of national controls, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted a series of standby rent control laws. One of these, Chapter 356 of the 1951 Supplement to the General Statutes, created the Temporary State Housing Rent Commission. Appointed by the Governor, the Commission extended state rent control over the 82 towns not under federal direction. The Commission's work ended on April 1, 1956. The record group contains correspondence, memoranda, reports, instructions, hand written notes, minutes of meetings and agendas, rent surveys, subject files, rent case docket registers, and statistical analyses and working papers concerning demographics and housing and rental units in Connecticut. It also includes federal manuals, bulletins, circulars, files of the Hartford Area Rent Office (1942-53), and papers of an attorney who handled questions of compliance with U. S. regulations giving preference in housing to veterans.

**RG 037**

Liquor Control Commission, 1932-1933.

1 c.f.

In 1932, Congress amended the Volstead Act to allow the sale of beverages with up to 3.2% alcoholic content. The nation expected that the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution would be repealed. Under Chapter 15 of the Special Acts of 1933, the Connecticut General Assembly set up a Liquor Control Commission to recommend legislation to regulate the sale of beverages allowed under the Volstead Act and the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages outlawed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Lawmakers gave the seven commissioners until April 14, 1933 to make their report. On March 30, 1933, they submitted the draft statute that set up a Liquor Control Board. This record group contains working papers of the Commission, including minutes of meetings, copies of previous Connecticut statutes dealing with alcoholic beverages dating back to 1918, and proposals for a statute. Also included are copies of statutes from other states and Canada, some correspondence, articles, and a carbon copy of the bill submitted and kept by the chair, John Buckley.

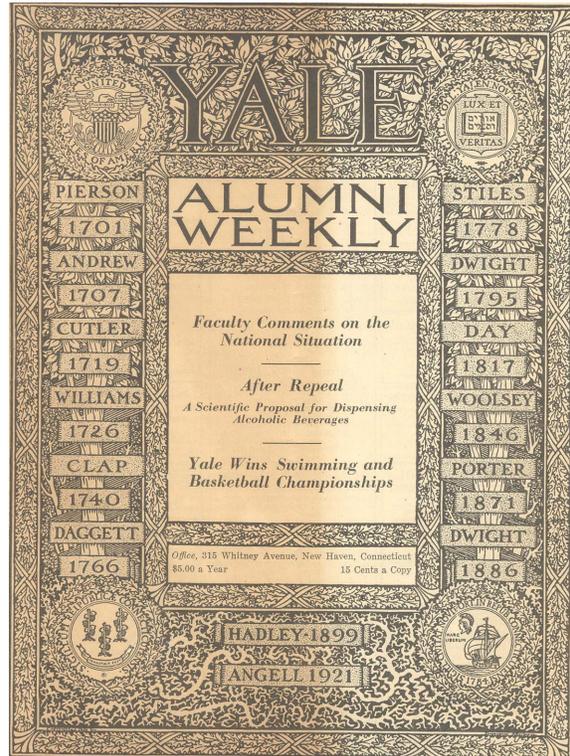


Figure 9 RG 037, Liquor Control Commission.

**RG 038**

Election Laws Commission, 1939-1941.

2 c.f.

Set up under Special Act No. 1 (HB 74) at the 1939 session of the General Assembly, the Election Laws Commission was a seven-member, bi-partisan body charged with studying election laws and proposing revisions. The Commission held its first meeting on February 6, 1939 and submitted its first report to the Governor on April 14, 1939. Lawmakers extended the Commission to May 1, 1941, and it submitted its second and final report on January 31, 1941. This record group contains the two reports, minutes of meetings and transcripts of public hearings, correspondence concerning Attorney General's opinions, drafts of reports and proposed legislation, and reference materials.

**RG 039**

Flood Recovery Committee, 1955-1956.

2.25 c.f.

In response to the flood of August 1955, Governor Abraham Ribicoff appointed a twenty-member committee to study emergency needs and immediate recovery problems and recommend a program of rehabilitation. The Committee, its Coordinating Group, and five subcommittees held numerous meetings. It issued its final report to the governor on November 3, 1955. This group contains subject files pertaining to the work of the Committee, other State committees working on the same problem, a coordinating committee and five subcommittees, publicity, and the final report. Files contain minutes, correspondence, lists of commercial businesses damaged, reports, newspaper clippings, and other reference materials.



Figure 10 Naugatuck, 1955 flood, M. Rallis, Photographer, PG 160, Floods and Hurricanes, 1936, 1938, 1955, Box 4.

**RG 040****Post-War Planning Board, 1943-1945.****4.25 c.f.**

Authorized by an act of the General Assembly in June 1943, the Post–War Planning Board’s charge was “to study and formulate plans for the readjustment and reconversion of agriculture, manufacturing, business and mercantile activities within the state from a wartime to a peacetime basis.” The Board issued Interim and Final Reports, and ceased to exist on July 1, 1945. The record group consists of minutes of meetings, September 22, 1943-June 19, 1945; correspondence, working papers and drafts of reports; newspaper clippings and other reference materials; photographs; completed confidential employment and planning surveys; and subcommittee records.

**RG 041****Public Utilities Control Authority, 1851-1992.****61 c.f.**

The records of the Public Utilities Control Authority contain correspondence, accident reports, investigation reports, hearings, petitions, and related materials from the Railroad Commissioners, 1857-1911; Asylum Bridge Commission, 1884-91; Public Utilities Commission, 1911-46; Public Utilities Control Authority Reorganization Task Force, 1975; and hearing transcripts of the Connecticut Siting Council, 1975-92.

**RG 042****Commission on the Prevention and Care of Sickness, 1939-1940. 1 c.f.**

In 1939, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 1650 that established a five-member commission appointed by the Governor to study the problems associated with physical and mental diseases in Connecticut, delivery of services by state facilities and expenditures made by them and those that the state should make. Originally called the Commission on the Treatment and Care of People Afflicted with Physical or Mental Disabilities, the group was better known as the Commission on the Prevention and Care of Sickness. HB 1650 required that the commission report its findings and recommendations, including draft legislation, to the Governor on or before January 1, 1941. In 1939, the Commission first held an investigation of charges against personnel of Norwich State Hospital for the Insane. Then it conducted studies and surveys of state agencies and institutions. Noteworthy is a report on the incidence of cancer. This record group contains correspondence, supplementary studies, survey reports, articles and newspaper clippings, transcripts of testimony and public hearings, draft recommendations, and the final report, published in 1940.

**RG 045**

State Revenue Task Force, 1969-1971.

2.50 c.f.

In 1969, the General Assembly created the State Revenue Task Force to prepare recommendations for a revised Connecticut tax structure. It met first at the State Capitol on September 9, 1969 and adopted its report at a final meeting on January 21, 1971. The Task Force commissioned outside reports, received recommendations and heard testimony from government, community and business leaders. Hearings were held in several major cities in addition to the regular meetings in the Capitol, most of which were open to the public. The group contains minutes of commission meetings, summary of recommendations, the final report, unpublished studies and memoranda, statements at public hearings, sound recordings of public hearings, a general subject file, and administrative files.

**RG 046**

Connecticut River Bridge and Highway District  
Commission, 1895-1949.

4 c.f.

In 1895, the General Assembly passed Special Act 343 establishing the commission and charging it to build a new bridge over the Connecticut River. The previous structure was made of wood and had recently burned. The first chair was Morgan C. Bulkeley, under whose direction the bridge was completed and dedicated in October 1908. In May 1927, the Commission renamed the bridge after Bulkeley. Until the 1930s, the Commission maintained the bridge, but gradually its duties and title to properties became the responsibility of the State and adjacent municipalities. On July 13, 1949, final liquidation of its accounts took place. The record group contains minutes of meetings of the Commission, 1905-49; bridge dedication materials, 1909-27; the builder's bid and payment papers, 1903-07; treasurers' reports and financial statements, 1895-1949; treasurer's financial registers, 1911-49; deeds and other legal instruments, 1879-1949; and plans, drawings and maps, 1903-49.

**RG 047**

Special Tax Commission, 1933-1935.

9 c.f.

Special Act 474, approved by the General Assembly in 1933, established a “Temporary Commission to Study the Tax Laws of the State and Make Recommendations concerning their Revision,” which took the name Special Tax Commission. The Commission held six public hearings and obtained the assistance of private citizens and state government officials. It submitted a report to Governor Wilbur Cross in November 1934. At first a 94-page summary was available to the public, but a full report of 642 pages appeared later. Commission records include minutes of meetings, correspondence of the research director and staff and commission members, correspondence between the chair and research director, commission administrative files, files pertaining to a study of the impact of a proposed change in the beginning of the fiscal year, publicity material, and a general file consisting of working files, reference materials, working papers, drafts, notes, and correspondence.

**RG 048**

Teenage Alcoholic Use Study Commission, 1964-1966.

0.25 c.f.

In 1965 by Special Act 257, the General Assembly created this commission to continue the study of the problem of teenage alcohol use and to implement recommendations of the earlier (1961) Teenage Liquor Law Coordination Commission. On December 6, 1966, the Commission held a conference on the problem at the Capitol. This group contains minutes of meetings, a transcript of the conference, meeting notices and agendas, background papers, reference files, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and Soundsciber discs.

**RG 049**

Veterans Advisory Commission, 1943-1949.

20 c.f.

In the summer of 1943, Governor Raymond E. Baldwin appointed a volunteer Connecticut Reemployment Commission to plan for the orderly reentry of veterans into the workforce, reemployment of displaced war workers, and the coordination work of all relevant State, local and private agencies. In 1945, the General Assembly made the Commission a statutory agency under the new name, Veterans Reemployment and Advisory Commission. At the end of the fiscal year of 1947, the

Commission's name became the Veterans Advisory Commission and it went out of existence on June 30, 1949. The group consists of meeting minutes, special memoranda, lists of members of the commission and local committees, interviews and reports of the "Town Planning Survey," administrative, financial, and personnel files, subject files, field representatives' files, and files pertaining to on the job training and apprenticeship programs.

**RG 050**

War Council, 1940-1945.

132 c.f.

After war broke out in Europe in 1939, the State created the State Defense Council, similar to the one during the First World War. It coordinated domestic mobilization through advisory committees of leading citizens, local councils and public officials, and agencies of the U.S. government. By 1943, this body was known as the War Council. It went out of business on October 1, 1945. Records include minutes, directives and circulars, general files, surveys, publications, and files (correspondence, memoranda, reports, subject files, and lists) documenting the work of sections dealing with protection services, an air raid network, air raid wardens, blackouts, bomb reconnaissance, communications, fire and plant protection, training, fuel, food, manpower, radio, film and statewide evacuation.

**RG 051**

Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Committee, 1926-1927.

4.75 c.f.

Governor John Trumbull and the State Board of Control authorized Connecticut's participation in the "Philadelphia Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition" celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Thirty-five thousand dollars were allocated, and a committee consisting of George S. Godard, State Librarian and Chair, former Governor Frank B. Weeks, and State Treasurer Ernest E. Rogers was appointed. The Committee built, furnished, and operated a Connecticut building, modeled after the old state capitol, and equipped it with exhibits of Connecticut life and industry. At the end of the Exposition, the Committee sold the building, and it held its last meeting on July 28, 1927. This record group contains minutes of meetings, an account book, pay receipts, registers of visitors, official town seals, blueprints of construction drawings and the contract for construction, ceremony programs and dinner menus, speeches and press releases, and photographs of ceremonies, construction of the Connecticut building, and other sites at the Exposition.

**RG 052**

Civil War Centennial Commission, 1959-1965.

3.50 c.f.

In 1959, the General Assembly created this Commission to promote and publicize the history of Connecticut's participation in the Civil War. The Commission consisted of twenty-five appointed members and had an office in the State Library. It held about twenty meetings between November 1959 and March 1965. It encouraged the formation of local groups to organize pageants, celebrations, and commemorative events, provided speakers, promoted publication of pamphlets about Civil War leaders from Connecticut, and distributed publications. John Niven wrote his book, *Connecticut for the Union: the Role of the State in the Civil War*, for the Commission. The group contains administrative files, minutes of meetings, general correspondence, correspondence with towns and other states, newsletters, drafts of unpublished works, publications and related materials of the Commission, and publications from other state Centennial organizations.

**RG 053**

Commission on a Civil Administration Code, 1919-1921.

1.75 c.f.

In 1919, the General Assembly created this Commission "to investigate and report on a civil administration code." Five members were appointed, and the first meeting was held in June 1919. The Commission collected data on state government organization and expenditures, took testimony from government officials and others, held public hearings between April and May 1920, and drafted its final report. The Assembly received the report in the 1921 session and formed a new joint committee on the matter. Legislators recommitted the bill reported out in May 1921, and the legislation died. The record group contains minutes of meetings, reports and bills from the legislature, printed reports of state agencies and administration codes of other states, working papers and drafts, organizational charts, drafts of the final report, and the report itself.

**RG 054**

State Fiscal Study Commission, 1956-1957.

1.25 c.f.

The Commission was appointed by Governor Abraham Ribicoff in 1956 “to consider general economy in State government, distribution of State financial aid to cities and towns, limitation of State debt, and matters relating to these subjects.” Seventeen members sat on the Commission and a staff supported its work. The Commission submitted its report to the Governor on February 11, 1957. The records consist of correspondence, minutes of commission and subcommittee meetings, an outside consultant’s report, newspaper clippings, working papers and drafts, drafts of subcommittee reports, and the final report, as submitted to the governor.

**RG 055**

George Washington Bicentennial Commission, 1931-1933.

4 c.f.

In 1931, Governor Wilbur L. Cross appointed a five-person commission to direct Connecticut’s participation in the national celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The Lieutenant Governor served as chair, and State Librarian George S. Godard was the secretary. Between September 28, 1931 and June 27, 1932, the Commission held regular meetings and planned, sponsored, or encouraged a variety of activities. The record group contains minutes of meetings, general files of correspondence, memoranda, clippings, scrapbooks, paintings and drawings of children’s contest entries, and a photostat copy of a history of Connecticut’s participation arranged by town. The Commission gave the original volume to the United States Bicentennial Commission.

**RG 056**

Connecticut Tercentenary Commission, 1929-1936.

10.25 c.f.

The General Assembly created this commission in 1929 to plan for the commemoration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Connecticut’s settlement. The Commission expanded from seven members to eleven, supported by an executive secretary and staff. It created several subcommittees to conduct work. Its program included publications, exhibits, public ceremonies, musical events, pageants, parades, school activities, an industrial exhibit, religious observances, and the sale of medals, plates, and auto tags. The record group contains minutes of meetings of the

Commission, its executive committee, and sub-committees, administrative, personnel, and financial records, scrapbooks, photographs, postcards and files about local celebrations, reports of public libraries, music, local history material, much of which was assembled by Connecticut school children, and visitors' registers.

**RG 057**

Governor's Metropolitan Traffic Committee, 1954-1955.

1 c.f.

This Committee was appointed by Governor Lodge to study traffic problems affecting the Hartford area. The Committee held meetings and conferences with town, business and railroad officials, and technical experts. Its report was submitted to Governor Ribicoff in 1955. The records include meeting minutes, correspondence, background materials, newspaper clippings, and drafts of the committee's final report.

**RG 058**

Research Commission, 1964-1971.

30 c.f.

The Commission was established by the General Assembly in June 1965. Its principal function was to support and encourage research and related activities "relevant to the interests and welfare or economic betterment of the citizens of Connecticut." The Commission met monthly to determine policy and agree on priorities for the allocation of funds. Projects covered many fields including research development and the environment. Governor Meskill ended the Commission's funding and it dissolved in 1971. The Commission's residual responsibilities were taken over by the Development Commission (see RG 022). Records include project applications (proposals), research support award files, contract files, meeting minutes, correspondence, press releases, background materials, and financial records.

**RG 059**

Advisory Committee on Fuel, 1947-1948.

1 c.f.

In November 1947, members of the petroleum industry in Connecticut believed there was a danger of a severe fuel oil shortage during the coming winter. Per their request, Governor McConaughy appointed ten industry representatives to an

Advisory Committee on Fuel. The Committee met frequently and worked to establish cooperative agreements between members to facilitate supply and transportation of oil into the state, assist small and unequipped dealers whose supply was threatened, and organize local committees to deal with emergency situations. In the spring, the crisis appeared to be over and the Committee concluded its work in March 1948. Records include the Committee's report to the Governor, correspondence, workbooks, and subject files.

**RG 060**

**Commission to Make Repairs to Capitol and to Procure Site for New Building for State Officials, 1903-1914. 3.75 c.f.**

The Commission was established by the General Assembly in 1903 to make repairs to the State Capitol and to "investigate and ascertain the necessity of erecting an additional building." In 1905, the Commission was asked to purchase land, to procure plans and specifications for a new State Library and Supreme Court building, and obtain bids for its construction. The new building was opened in November 1910. Records include correspondence, meeting minutes, arbitration agreements and contracts, financial records, and photographs documenting the construction of the new State Library and Supreme Court Building (see Picture Group 220).

**RG 061**

**County Governments, 1792-1963. 35 c.f.**

The Connecticut General Assembly abolished county government effective October 1, 1960. Various units of State and town government took over many of the functions performed at the county level. The Budget Division of the Department of Finance and Control liquidated any records not transferred to successor agencies and turned the remainder over to the State Library. As a result, the collection contains a variety of documents from a wide range of dates. Materials include financial records, administrative correspondence, personnel records, tax information, license applications, county temporary home records, and county jail materials.

**RG 062**

**Town and Borough Governments, 1674-1984. 1,282 c.f.**

Town and Borough Governments contains a wide variety of local records from some 120 of Connecticut's 169 cities and towns. These records include town meeting records, selectmen's records, tax abstracts and tax lists, grand lists, assessment books, treasurer records, deeds and land records, school records, vital records, election returns and lists of electors, indentures, roads and highway records, justice court papers, public assistance and welfare records, old age assistance files, cemetery

records, licenses and license applications, and military service records. Smaller quantities of materials exist for such subjects as appointments, ecclesiastical society papers, earmarks and estrays, town deposit fund accounts, notices of meetings, probate and estate papers, bank statements, and records of town agencies and boards.

## RG 063

Maps, 1650-1979.

686 c.f.

The collection includes maps pertaining primarily to Connecticut and adjacent states. Materials range from manuscript maps to published atlases. Included are maps of cities, highways, railroads, rivers and the Connecticut coastline, together with geological maps, property maps, and some municipal plans (parks, dams, etc.). Large portions of this collection have been catalogued.

## RG 064

Pictorial Archives, 1770-1996.

687 c.f.



Figure 12 State Capitol, Richard S. Delamater, ca. 1880's, PG 200, Connecticut State Institutions and Parks, 1878 – 1973, Box 3, State Capitol, Exterior Views.

The pictorial archives focus on Connecticut government, history, people and places. This artificial record group is comprised of numerous individual collections or picture groups that were transferred to the State Library prior to the establishment of archival record groups. At that time, photographs were often removed from manuscript collections and housed separately in their own picture group. This record group also includes the photographic subject files created by the State Library for easy reference. Therefore, this collection contains all types of graphic materials, including photographs, negatives, lantern slides, glass plate negatives, original artwork, illustrations, and reprints from a variety of sources. For information on the individual picture groups, please see the *Guide to Pictorial Archives in the Connecticut State Library*.

**RG 067**

Architectural and Engineering Drawings, 1901-1975.

39 c.f.

This is an artificial group for plans, drawings, and blueprints mostly of local and state government buildings, highways, and bridges whose provenance is unknown. Researchers should note that plans and drawings and related files also exist in several record groups.

**RG 068**

Film and Video, 1933-1972.

6.75 c.f.

This small group contains film about the State Bureau of Aeronautics, 1933; film in which Governors Cross, Baldwin, and Lodge speak; a SNET film on the need for telephones during World War II; a film about the tobacco industry sponsored by a now defunct growers' association; and unedited television footage of the death and funeral of Governor Ella T. Grasso. All of these have been transferred from their 16mm medium to BETA SP masters and VHS cassettes. Other films include videos on Connecticut history subjects.

**RG 069**

Manuscript Collections, c. 1631-2000.

13 c.f.

The Manuscript Collections consist primarily of collections of personal and family papers, although some contain official records. Prominent political figures represented include

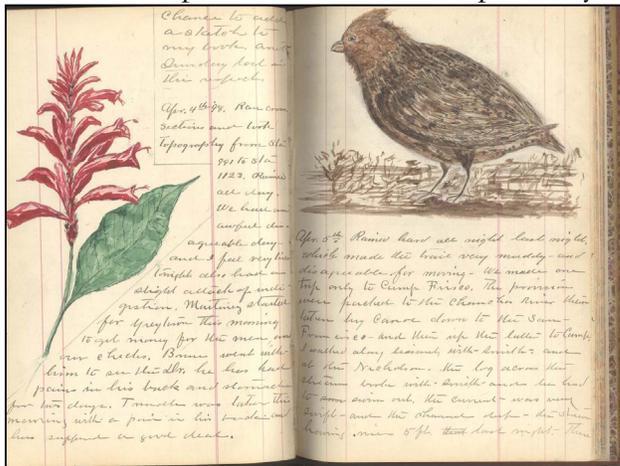


Figure 12 Diary and Sketchbook of A. J. Norris kept while working for the Nicaraguan Canal Commission, 1897 – 98, RG 069, Classified Archives.

papers, although some contain official records. Prominent political figures represented include Raymond E. Baldwin, Michael A. Connor, Wilbur L. Cross, Joseph R. Hawley, James B. Lowell, Orville H. Platt, Abraham Ribicoff, J. Henry Roraback, Isaac Toucey, and John Treadwell. In addition to politicians, the record group also contains papers of antiquarians (Ellen D. Larned), architects (Frank F. Forster), businessmen (Hiram Maxim), church leaders (Rev. Comfort Williams), lawyers and judges (Coddington Billings),

manufacturers (William J. Wood), merchants (Samuel Welles), surveyors (George J. Evans), and others. This record group also contains several important Civil War and pension collections, the most significant being the Dwight C. Kilbourn Collection, Andrew M. Morgan Collection, Noble Pension Collection, Major Edward V. Preston Collection, and George Q. Whitney Collection.

Manuscript Collections include materials on the Hartford Circus Fire, numerous scrapbook collections, family papers, collections containing records of local justices of the peace, genealogical collections, local history collections, and several autograph collections.

## **RG 070**

**Church Records, 1639-1994.**

*120 c.f.*

The bulk of the State Library's collection of church records is located in Classified Archives (RG 000). RG 070 contains church records that have generally been acquired since the closing of the Classified Archives. These Church Records consist of materials from about 80 Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Methodist churches from 47 cities and towns in Connecticut.

The State Library holds originals or copies of records of several hundred Connecticut churches and ecclesiastical societies. These contain minutes of church and society meetings; records of church admissions, baptisms, marriages, and deaths; correspondence; financial records, papers of clubs, committees, conferences, and missions; plus histories, memorabilia, and scrapbooks.

## **RG 071**

**Department of Housing, 1945-1994.**

*145 c.f.*

In 1979, the General Assembly created a Department of Housing and transferred to it housing programs of the defunct Department of Community Affairs. DOH was to be the "lead agency in all matters relating to housing and community development, including policy, development, redevelopment, preservation, maintenance and improvement of housing and neighborhoods." It inherited housing files dating from the old Connecticut Housing Authority, the Housing Division of the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Community Affairs. The group contains Commissioner's files, 1987-88, 1991-94; Deputy Commissioner's files, 1981-90; Office of Legal Assistance relocation appeals files, 1969-84; Director's files of the Innovative Housing and Special Initiatives Division, 1983-89. In addition, it also

contains records from the Department of Community Affairs and its predecessors including correspondence and quarterly reports files from the Bureau of Housing Development, Division of Rental Housing Management, 1958-66; and maintenance and miscellaneous files pertaining to Elderly Low Income Housing, 1945-75. The Department of Housing became part of the Department of Economic and Community Development in 1994.

**RG 072**

Vital Records, 1792-1934.

354 c.f.

Vital Records, an artificial record group, contains baptism, birth, church admission, death, and marriage information on Connecticut residents from a variety of sources. Although some vital records information dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the bulk of it was gathered and collated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most of this information is accessible through slip indexes in the History & Genealogy Section of the Connecticut State Library. The records consist of cemetery and burial records (including the Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions), vital records from towns and private sources, the Barbour Collection of alphabetically arranged transcriptions of birth, marriage and death records from Connecticut towns, Arnold copies of transcriptions of town vital records, church record indexes, Bible and family records, newspaper death and marriage notices, and lists of veterans buried in Connecticut. Also included are vital records from private sources, like diaries and journals.

**RG 073**

Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1863-1991.

265 c.f.

The General Assembly created the Department of Veterans' Affairs in 1987 to assist the State's nearly 400,000 veterans in obtaining benefits or privileges entitled to them under state and federal law. The Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill merged with the Department in 1988 and its new mission is to provide comprehensive health, social and rehabilitative services to all resident veterans in Connecticut. Records in this collection include those from Fitch's Home for Soldiers and Orphans (1863-1940) and Veterans Home and Hospital (1940-present). Materials include patient records, deceased veterans discharge files, death records, administrative records, and historic subject files.

**RG 074****Genealogical Materials, 1746-1996.****184 c.f.**

Genealogical Materials consists of Bibles and family records, coats of arms, correspondence, drafts of manuscripts, genealogical charts, genealogical notes, research files, working papers, and other similar materials, mostly of Connecticut families. In addition to collections on separate families, Special Genealogical Files contain smaller amounts of information on around 700 families. Most of these papers were donated to the Connecticut State Library by patrons.

**RG 075****Boundary Commissions, 1821-1962.****18 c.f.**

This record group includes materials created or collected by persons who served as Connecticut's agents on the bi-state commissions that established and maintained the boundary lines between Connecticut and neighboring states. Henry R. Buck, Henry W. Buck, and W. Robinson Buck, who served on the commission for an extended period of time, collected the bulk of the material while conducting research on Connecticut's boundaries. The collection includes bi-state agreements, field notes, commission reports, maps, photographs, plans, sketches showing the location of boundary markers and a history of Connecticut's State Boundaries. Many of the materials in this collection have been published.

**RG 076****Department of Revenue Services, 1933-1985.****77 c.f.**

In 1901, the General Assembly created the Office of the Tax Commissioner. It charged the Commissioner with inquiring into the assessment and collection of state and local taxes. It also granted the Commissioner power to summon and take testimony as part of an inquiry. The General Assembly also charged the Tax Department, over the years, with collecting various state taxes. By the 1950s, the office had expanded to include overseeing the inheritance, estate, and estate penalty taxes. In 1979 the Department became the Department of Revenue Services. Materials in this collection include administrative files, tax collections, legislative files, war contract renegotiations (1942-1944), personnel and payroll records, sales tax permits, and airline taxes. Various units including the Sales and Use Tax Division, Excise Division, Municipal Division, Inheritance Tax Division, as well as the Office of the Commissioner, created these records.

**RG 077**

**Bipartisan Commission on State Tax Revenue  
and Related Fiscal Policy, 1982-1983.**

3 c.f.

In 1981, the General Assembly created a bipartisan commission to “conduct a study and undertake an analysis of state tax revenue, state tax laws, administration of state tax laws, and state fiscal policy in relation to tax revenue.” The twenty-seven member Commission began holding meetings in early 1982 and issued preliminary findings, recommendations,



Figure 13 Anti – Income Tax Rally, State Capitol grounds, 5 October 1991, Jeffrey Feldman, Photographer, PG 210, Jeffrey Feldman Collection.

and opinions. The committee also invited public comment by mail and at five public hearings. The commission’s final report was submitted to Governor William O’Neill in January 1983. This collection documents the committee’s activities and includes transcripts of meetings (including sound recordings), written comments from the public, background information, administrative files and correspondence. Also included is an annotated copy of the final report.

**RG 079**

**Department of Environmental Protection, 1909-1998.**

520 c.f.

The Department of Environmental Protection was created in 1971 to address “the profound impact on the life-sustaining natural environment” by “the growing population and expanding economy of the state.” The new Department consolidated powers and duties of a number of small state boards and parts of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. These included the Park and Forest Commission, the Commission on Forests and Wild Life, the State Board of Fisheries and Game, the Water Resources Commission, the Boating Commission, the Shell-Fish

Commission, Marine Resources Council, State Soil Conservation Advisory Committee, the State Board of Pesticide Control, the State Geological and Natural History Survey Commission, and the Clean Air Commission.

The collection contains materials created by the modern Department of Environmental Protection and many of its independent predecessor boards. Records include individual commissioner's files, aerial photographs, administrative and subject files for the various boards including the Board of Fisheries and Game and the Bureau of Water Management. The collection is a rich resource of information documenting the State's environmental health and actions taken by the government to protect its natural resources. The collection also includes records created by the Office of American Indian Affairs.



Figure 14 Game Warden Edith A. Stoehr and unidentified female angler, Farm River, Branford, ca. 1940s, RG 079, DEP, Board of Fisheries and Game, Warden's Files, Accession 93 – 146.

## **RG 080**

**Connecticut Commission for  
Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition, 1905-1908.**

*2.75 c.f.*

The Jamestown Tercentennial Exposition was held in Hampton Roads, Virginia, April 29 to November 30, 1907, to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the first English-speaking colony. A Connecticut General Assembly resolution provided for representation and authorized the appointment of a three-member commission. The Commission oversaw the construction and furnishing of the Connecticut building and the State's exhibit hall at the Exposition. The records consist of correspondence, shipping costs, scrapbooks, and the register of visitors from the Exposition Hall.

**RG 081**

Department of

Connecticut United Spanish War Veterans, 1898-1972.

25 c.f.

The United Spanish War Veterans was organized in 1904 by the amalgamation of a number of veterans' organizations including the National Army and Navy Spanish War Veterans, the National Association of Spanish-American War Veterans, and the Service Men of the Spanish War. It was composed of men and women who "served at any time during the war between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain, or at any time during the war for the suppression of the insurrection in the Philippine Islands, including the China Relief Expedition." The objectives of this organization were to unite veterans who served during the war, to honor the dead, to assist veterans and their families, to perpetuate the memories of the war, and to collect and preserve the records of service of the individual members of the organization. Materials include administrative files, financial records, rosters, records relating to individual camps, documents relating to various encampments and social events, photographs and memorabilia, including a diary written by Catharine Pilgard, a nurse who served during the Spanish-American War.

**RG 082**

State Planning Board, 1934-1937.

0.50 c.f.

In the summer of 1933, President Roosevelt created the National Planning Board, later to become the National Resources Board. That same year, Governor Cross appointed a Connecticut State Planning Board. The Board "could render a valuable service by undertaking such activities as the making of an air map, adding to our information on the pollution of streams, and assembling other useful data." In 1935, the General Assembly passed legislation officially creating the State Planning Board (which superseded the so-called Governor's Board created under executive authority). The collection includes reports and summary of work.

**RG 083**

Committee on Library Improvement, 1963-1965.

0.50 c.f.

Governor John Dempsey appointed a nine-member committee in December 1963 to recommend action to improve library services to the state. The Committee adopted a report with recommendations for action. Recommended legislation, which was passed in June 1965 (Public Act 490), provided for reconstituting and expanding the

State Library Committee and combining the Bureau of Library Services (then in the Department of Education) with the State Library. The collection includes correspondence, meeting minutes, notes, newspaper clippings, and reference materials pertaining to the work of the committee and the preparation of its report.

**RG 084**

Commission on Preservation and

Restoration of Connecticut State Capitol, 1972-1973.

0.50 c.f.

The Commission, formed in March 1972 under the chairmanship of the Public Works Commissioner, was set up to arrange and obtain funding for a restoration of the State Capitol. A major portion of the project was the cleaning, strengthening, and restoration of the plaster figure, the *Genius of Connecticut*, a bronze version of Randolph Rogers which stood for some years on the dome. The collection includes the final report on the restoration.

**RG 085**

Connecticut Commission for Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904. 1 c.f.

The Commission was appointed to plan and direct Connecticut's participation in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition held in St. Louis, Missouri in 1904. Records documenting the commission's activities are not included. This collection only contains visitor registers from both the Connecticut Headquarters at the Exposition and the Connecticut Farm Products Exhibit and a sketch of the Connecticut Building.

**RG 086**

Governor's Commission on Tax Reform, 1972.

1.75 c.f.

Appointed by Governor Meskill, this nine-member Commission was created to analyze existing and potential revenue sources, review the State revenue structure, particularly with reference to its impact on various segments of society and on the climate for business and industry, examine the state of the property tax system, and recommend steps to be taken toward the complete reform of Connecticut's existing tax structure. Records include meeting minutes, correspondence, administrative files, newspaper clippings, press releases, and drafts of its final report.

## RG 087

Connecticut Tax Study Commission, 1966-1967.

1 c.f.

This nine-member Commission was created by the General Assembly in 1965 to study the property tax laws with respect to personal property of businesses. Records include correspondence, working papers, drafts and the final version of the Commission's report to the General Assembly.

## RG 088

Metropolitan District Commission (Hartford County), 1929.

0.50 c.f.

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) is a non-profit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929 to provide potable water and sewage services on a regional basis. Member municipalities include Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor and portions of other towns in the region. The collection includes a draft of the proposed statute, correspondence, and related materials.

## RG 089

Transportation Department, 1895-1994.

493 c.f.

The genesis of the Transportation Department dates back to 1895 with the establishment of the State Highway Commission. The modern Department was formed in 1969. RG 089 primarily contains records of the Highway Department, Public Utilities Control Authority, Connecticut Transportation Authority, and Railroad Commissioners, and the Transportation Accountability Board, 1986-87. Included are railroad architectural drawings, blueprints, and maps; turnpike and bridge construction photographs; bridge construction minutes; reports of transportation studies; aerial survey photos of Connecticut, 1934, 1951, 1970, 1980; and boundary perambulation records, 1975, 1986.



Figure 15 RG 089, 1951 aerial photograph

**RG 091****Board of Examiners of Embalmers, 1903-1929.****0.75 c.f.**

The Connecticut Board of Examiners of Embalmers was established in 1903. Its function is to examine and license embalmers and to make and enforce regulations for the practice of that profession. In 1941 the act was amended to include provisions for licensing funeral directors. Now known as the Connecticut Board of Examiners of Embalmers and Funeral Directors, the Board works closely with the Department of Public Health. Records include meeting minutes, cashbook, and a ledger listing individuals from whom licenses fees were collected.

**RG 092****Dental Commission, 1893-1950.****1 c.f.**

Established in 1893, the Connecticut Dental Commission regulates the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene including examining and licensing of dentists and dental hygienists. Originally an independent entity, the Commission became part of the Department of Public Health in 1979. The collection consists of applications for licenses, lists of dentists in Connecticut, meeting minutes, and photographs. The collection also includes the license of Dr. Evangeline Roberts Jones, the first woman in the United States to practice dentistry full-time to support herself and her family.

**RG 093****Selective Service System, 1940-1975.****22 c.f.**

President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, which created the country's first peacetime draft and formally established the Selective Service System as an independent Federal agency. That same year, the first local Selective Service boards were appointed in Connecticut. From 1948 until 1973, during both peacetime and periods of conflict, men were drafted to fill vacancies in the armed forces that could not be filled through voluntary means. In 1973, the draft ended and the United States converted to an all-volunteer military. The registration requirement was suspended in April 1975. It was resumed again in 1980 by President Carter and continues today. The records of Connecticut's Headquarters of the Selective Service System documents the various activities of the local boards and such committees as the Youth Advisory Committee, State Medical Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on Scientific, Engineering, and Specialized Personnel, and the Industry Advisory Committee. Records include manuals, procedural directives, statistical reports, requests for draft deferments, newspaper clippings, publications, meeting minutes, and correspondence.

**RG 095**

**Council on Human Services, 1973-1977.**

6 c.f.

In 1973, the General Assembly created the Council on Human Services to coordinate planning and carrying out programs involving two or more agencies, to plan for increased private sector participation, and to provide direction to and coordination with federally funded programs. The Council took over administrative responsibility for some existing programs and developed some new ones including Project Triage (home-care for the elderly), the Wilderness School, the Parent Child Resource System, and the Information and Referral Service. In 1976, the General Assembly abolished the Council as an administrative agency, changing its status to that of an advisory body to the Governor. In 1977, the Council was replaced by a human services reorganization commission. Materials include correspondence, meeting minutes and audiotapes, reports, subject files, and reference materials.

**RG 097**

**Connecticut Commission on the Arts, 1965-1979.**

65 c.f.

This collection contains materials documenting the administration of such Commission on the Arts activities as the exhibit, "300 Years of Connecticut Architecture," the American Revolution Bicentennial, Project Create, and Artists-in-Schools, plus programs on art, dance, environmental awareness and music. It includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and press releases.

**RG 098**

**Department of Agriculture, 1866-1978.**

3 c.f.

The Connecticut State Board of Agriculture was established in 1866 under Chapter 65 of the Connecticut Public Acts. The board helped establish the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the Connecticut State College, later the University of Connecticut. It was the forerunner of the present Department of Agriculture, organized in 1925. The department's mission is to foster a healthy economic, environmental and social climate for agriculture by developing, promoting and regulating agricultural businesses; protecting agricultural; enforcing laws pertaining to domestic animals; and promoting an understanding among the state's citizens of the diversity of Connecticut agriculture, its cultural heritage and its contribution to the state's economy. Records in this collection were created by both the State Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture and include meeting minutes, financial records, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks.

**RG 099**

Governor's Study Group on the  
Limitation of Government Expenditures, 1978-1979.

0.50 c.f.

In light of the national popularity of the taxpayers' revolt in California that resulted in Proposition 13, the Jarvis-Gann Initiative, Governor Ella Grasso appointed a 15 - member study group in June 1978 to evaluate the need for and application of various revenue expenditure control devices in Connecticut. Frazar Wilde, Chair of the Board Emeritus, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, served as chair of the group. It completed its final report to the governor in March of 1979. The records include copies of correspondence with the chair, minutes from June 27, 1978 to February 9, 1979, press releases, preliminary reports, publications used by the group, and the final report.

**RG 100**

United States Census Records for Connecticut, 1790-1930.

350 c.f.

Following the Revolutionary War, there was a need for a census of the entire Nation. The first census was taken in 1790. Over the years, the Nation's needs and interests became more complex and the content of the decennial census changed accordingly. The 1810 census included the first inquiry on manufacturers, quantity and value of products was conducted. In 1840, questions on fisheries were added. In 1850, the census included inquiries on social issues, such as taxation, churches, pauperism, and crime. The sole purpose of the censuses and surveys is to secure general statistical information. Personal census information is closed for seventy-two years after the date of the census. The collection contains official manuscript copies, photostats, and microfilm copies of the United States census schedules for Connecticut, with a few schedules for neighboring states.

**RG 101**

Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, 1869-1921.

7 c.f.

The Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association was organized at a meeting in Roberts' Opera House, Hartford, October 28-29, 1869. The meeting, called by a group of community leaders including Isabella B. Hooker, John Hooker, Frances E. Burr, Catharine E. Beecher and Harriet B. Stowe, was addressed by such eminent people as Henry Ward Beecher, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Julia Ward Howe, and William Lloyd Garrison. The Association carried on a spirited and energetic campaign to obtain the vote for women, first in school and local elections and then on a state and national level, working in collaboration with many other equal rights, equal franchise, and constitutional union groups. Its primary aim having been achieved with the ratification by Connecticut of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment on September 14, 1920, the Association voted to dissolve itself on June 3, 1921, offering its records to the State Archives. The collection includes records of meetings, membership and attendance registers, correspondence, reports, publications, and political and legislative campaign materials.



Figure 16 Photograph of Josephine Bennett with Frances and Katharine, Hartford, ca. 1918, RG 101.

**RG 102**

Connecticut Branch League of Nations Association, 1933-1936.

3 c.f.

The national organization of the League of Nations [Non-Partisan] Association was formed in October 1922 to promote world peace, educate the public about the League, and mobilize support for U.S. entrance into the League. The Connecticut Branch of the Association first met in New Haven in December 1924. It organized World Court committees, ran a Speakers' Bureau, planned meetings for anniversaries of the League and annual meetings of the Branch, many of which were held on the Yale University campus. It also promoted Model Assemblies, sponsored a competitive exam contest in high schools, worked with the Connecticut Council on International Relations and the National Peace Conference, and distributed publications of these and other organizations, including the Carnegie Endowment for

International Peace, and the National Committee for the International Labor Organization. It broadcast radio programs about the League and world conditions on stations in New Haven and Waterbury, mounted a successful campaign to show the national organization's film, "Hell and the Way Out," in commercial theaters in Connecticut, ran petition drives, and arranged lecture-series tours. The branch's executive director, Florence L.C. Kitchelt, donated the bulk of the collection's materials to the State Library. The collection includes administrative files, petitions, and public relations and educational materials.

## **RG 103**

**Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, 1826-1979. 72 c.f.**

The records of Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company document gun manufacturing at the armory and the company's subsidiaries, together with outside contracting activities. The bulk of the records cover the years 1840-1890. RG 103 has series of financial and accounting records, business correspondence, orders for arms, tests and reports, production records, and business files. It includes records of the Gatling Gun Company, London Armory Agency, and Union Ferry Company. The record group also includes the Richard C. Marohn Collection (1871-1934) of sales books, account ledgers and cash books, and business files.



Figure 17 Assembly Line, Colt Patent Fire Arms Company, ca. 1940, RG 033, Work Projects Administration, Box 57, Photo No. 40.

## **RG 104**

**Hartford Colony of the National Society  
of New England Women, 1934-1979.**

**6.25 c.f.**

Mrs. Clarence F.R. Jenne, who also served as the organization's first president, organized the Hartford Colony of the National Society of New England Women January 1, 1921. The object of the Society was to bring together in social relations, women of New England ancestry to engage in educational, patriotic, civic, and philanthropic work. Materials include annual reports, meeting minutes, history of the Hartford Colony, scrapbooks, addresses and pamphlets.

**RG 105**

Windham County Historical Society, 1935-1940.

0.50 c.f.

The Windham County Historical Society was founded in 1935 to encourage the study and collection of all types of material and information of historical value to Windham County. The collection contains materials that document the early formation of the Historical Society, including meeting minutes, correspondence, membership lists, newspaper clippings, publications, photographs and descriptions of old houses in Windham County, and copies of Green's *Connecticut Annual Register and United States Calendar*.

**RG 106**

Connecticut League of Women Voters, 1926-1956.

3 c.f.

The League of Women Voters is an outgrowth of the suffragist movement. The organization was founded in 1920 only six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote. The League began as a “mighty political experiment” designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. The national organization soon stimulated the formation of state Leagues (Connecticut in 1921) that in turn developed local ones. Materials in the collection were created by the Connecticut League and include series of newspaper clipping scrapbooks, lists of activities, correspondence to senators and representatives, financial records, and reports from local Leagues.

**RG 107**

Hartford Women's Club, 1896-1923.

1.25 c.f.

The Motherhood Club of Hartford was organized in 1896 by a group of young mothers “so burdened with the responsibilities of their lot that they chose to give their Club life to child problems rather than literary or social pleasures.” The Club engaged in various philanthropic, educational, and fund-raising activities and had a membership of 200. It was incorporated in 1917 and in 1921 the name was changed to the Hartford Woman's Club. A majority of the records document the history of the Motherhood Club and include meeting minutes, annual reports, historical sketches, financial reports, publications, newspaper clippings, and photographs.

**RG 108**

Arts and Crafts Club of Hartford, 1909-1951.

0.50 c.f.

The Club was organized with the purpose “to associate those actively or otherwise interested in the various branches of the arts and crafts for mutual benefit; to foster and promote interest in the handicrafts. . . and to encourage and stimulate. . . wider participation in and appreciation of good craftwork in all its branches.” The Club maintained a workshop and sponsored and organized exhibits, demonstrations, lectures, and study courses. When the interest of the members waned, the Club was legally terminated in 1951, with its material assets divided among the Children’s Museum, the West Hartford Art League, and the Society of Connecticut Craftsmen. The Club’s meeting minutes were deposited in the State Library in 1952.

**RG 109**

Military Order of Foreign Wars, 1901-1921.

2.50 c.f.

The Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States is the oldest veterans’ and hereditary association in the nation, with a membership that includes officers and their hereditary descendants from all of the Armed Services. It began as the Military and Naval Order of the United States, organized in December 1894 in New York City. Membership in the Order was originally limited to veterans (and their descendants) of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Mexican War. In April 1895, the name of the Order was officially changed to its present name. In 1969, membership was extended to veterans and their descendants who served during a foreign war or expedition and to those who served in an enlisted status and were later commissioned. The Connecticut Commandery was formed in February 1896. Records include financial records, membership certificates, campaign ribbons, and photographs.

**RG 110**

Monday Afternoon [History] Club, 1887-1936.

0.50 c.f.

The Monday Afternoon Club was organized on January 4, 1886. The main objective of the society was “the study of history-not general nor in consecutive course, but the selection of certain periods determined by vote of members.” Records include meeting minutes, correspondence, memorials to deceased members, and a short history of the group’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1936).

**RG 111**

International Order of the King’s

Daughters and Sons, Connecticut Branch, 1892-1968.

2.5 c.f.

An “international, interdenominational, inter-racial [sic] organization for development of spiritual life and stimulation of Christian activities,” the Connecticut Branch is composed of a number of local “circles” which met periodically. These circles conducted various social services including visiting the homebound and aged, reading to the blind, and fundraising for the needy. The organization also supervised various youth groups who engaged in similar social activities. The records in this collection were created by the state organization and include meeting minutes, membership rolls, scrapbooks, financial records, reports, and correspondence.

**RG 112**

Plainfield Historical Society, 1820-1933.

1 c.f.

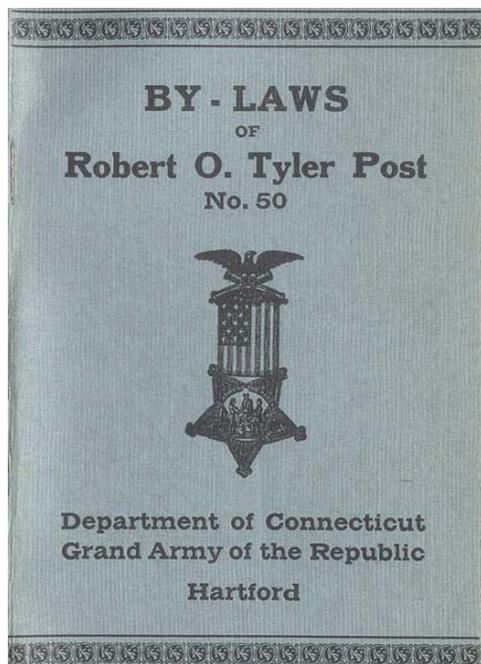
The Plainfield Historical Society was established in January 1916 in the Town Clerk’s Office, Central Village. Materials transferred to the State Library include records generated by the Society as well as historical materials collected by the Society. Records created by the Society include correspondence, financial records, reports, scrapbooks, historical sketch of the town of Plainfield, essays submitted for an essay contest, and materials documenting the Society’s reorganization in 1916-1917. Materials collected by the Society include records of North Meeting House School District (1821-31), the Moosup School District (1831-78), the Central School District (1829-73), the Plainfield School Society Treasurer’s records (1833-71), and some anonymous account books.

## RG 113

Grand Army of the Republic, 1866-1956.

49 c.f.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was established in 1866 by a former Army



surgeon and held its first national meeting that same year. Its membership consisted of Union veterans of the Civil War. The GAR evolved from local veteran groups. The Connecticut GAR began with the United Service Club. In 1867, this Club was initiated into the Grand Army of the Republic, and Post #1, located in Norwich, was formed in February 1867. The GAR was concerned with veteran benefits and was actively involved in establishing soldiers' homes, making provisions for soldiers' graves, and lobbying for pension benefits. It proved to be an effective pressure group and exerted significant influence in the political arena. Membership in the organization reached its highest point in 1890, when its numbers reached over 400,000. In 1949, however, with almost all its members deceased, the GAR held its last national meeting. The decision was made to disband the organization after its last

Figure 18 RG 113, Grand Army of the Republic.

member died in 1956. Records of the Department of Connecticut include general orders and circulars, correspondence, financial records, annual reports, post lists, membership lists, music, records relating to courts martial of GAR members, and scrapbooks. In addition, the collection includes records created by various GAR posts throughout Connecticut.

## RG 114

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1909-1915.

1.25 c.f.

This organization is composed of male descendants of veterans of the Union Army in the Civil War. The organization was involved in marking the graves of Civil War veterans, ensuring proper observance of national holidays, and the care and upkeep of Civil War Memorials. Records created by the Griffin A. Stedman, Camp #6 Connecticut Division, include correspondence, financial records and pamphlets.

**RG 115**

Northwest Child Welfare Club, 1910-1960.

1.25 c.f.

Originally organized as the Mothers Neighborhood Circle, it became the Northwest Child Welfare Club in 1936. The Club attempted to “promote child welfare in home, school, church and community . . . raise standards of home life. . . secure adequate laws for the care and protection of women and children.” In 1959, they agreed to disband, feeling their work had been successfully taken over by private organizations such as the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and the state in the form of aid to dependent children and workmen’s compensation. Records include meeting minutes, financial records, directories and programs, and a card file of member names and addresses.

**RG 116**

Society of Descendants of the  
Founders of Hartford, 1930-1939.

3.50 c.f.

The preamble to the Constitution of the Society of Descendants of the Founders of Hartford gives the following description of the objectives of the organization: “We, descendants of the Founders of Hartford, do hereby constitute ourselves the Society of the Descendants of the Founders of Hartford, in order to further the worthy celebration of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the city. . . that original documents and historical works of merit relating to the founders and the early history of the city may be published; and to see to it that relics of the founders and of the early history of the city may be preserved.” Records include scrapbooks, guest books, pamphlets, maps, genealogical charts, and photographs.

**RG 117**

Department of Motor Vehicles, 1903-1972.

6.25 c.f.

The Motor Vehicle Department was established by legislative act in 1917 to protect life and property by the administration of motor vehicle laws, to regulate, discipline, and educate motor vehicle operators, and to provide revenue through licensing for the construction and maintenance of state highways. The collection includes account books, early vehicle registration records, administrative files, and scrapbooks created by the Connecticut Highway Safety Commission.

## **RG 118**

Hartford City Guard Veteran Association, 1861-1917.

2.50 c.f.

The Veteran Association of the Hartford City Guard was organized on November 26, 1867. It was composed of those persons who were active or honorary members of the Hartford City Guard prior to July 5, 1865. The Association's main objective was social with the intention "to keep alive old and pleasant memories and perpetuation of recollections of the old Company." Each year they held a reunion on the second Wednesday of January. The first reunion was held on January 8, 1868. At their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion held in 1917, it was agreed that it should be the last reunion, and the records of the organization were deposited in the State Library. The records consist of a constitution and by-laws, membership rolls, historical sketches, reports of reunions, correspondence, financial records, photographs, and ephemera. For records related to the Company, see Hartford City Guard Records (RG 124).

## **RG 119**

Army-Navy Club of Connecticut, 1892-1936.

1 c.f.

Founded in 1879 and disbanded in 1936, the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut was composed of honorably discharged Civil War soldiers and sailors. Annual dinner meetings were held, usually in Hartford. The Club was disbanded in 1936 and the records were deposited in the State Library. The collection consists of biographical sketches and obituaries, minutes of annual dinner meetings, membership lists, financial records, programs, Secretary's reports, and correspondence.

## **RG 120**

National Society of United States Daughters of 1812, 1905-1963. 7 c.f.

The Society was organized on January 8, 1892. To become eligible for membership, a prospective member was required to trace her genealogy directly to an ancestor who had served in the United States military or civil service between 1784 and 1815. Chief among the Society's purposes was the dissemination of knowledge of American history. Ways in which this objective was pursued were "preserving documents and relics, marking historic spots, recording family histories and traditions, and urging Congress to compile and publish authentic records of men in civil, military and naval service." The National Society is still active.

The Connecticut Society of United States Daughters of 1812 was organized March 2, 1906. The Connecticut branch participated actively in the national society, becoming particularly prominent when a Hartford woman, Mrs. Clarence F. R. Jenne, became the national president in 1918. The records contain newsletters, proceedings, scrapbooks, histories, reports, and publications.

**RG 121**

The Connecticut Magazine, 1896-1910.

5.25 c.f.

*The Connecticut Magazine*, described itself in its company letterhead as “Incorporated under the laws of Connecticut for the purpose of collecting in permanent form the various phases of history, literature, art, science, genius, industry and all that pertains to the maintenance of the honorable record which this state has attained.” *The Connecticut Magazine* was the successor to *Connecticut Quarterly* (1895-1898). In its day, the *Connecticut Quarterly* described itself as dedicated to “showing the manner of life and the attainment thereof in the commonwealth of a diligent people.” Both magazines included photographs, drawings, poems, reminiscences, stories, and historical articles. *The Connecticut Magazine* appears to have ceased publication after volume 12, number 3, in 1908. The collection contains correspondence, manuscripts submitted for publication, and photographs.

**RG 122**

Owens Machine Gun Veterans Association, 1920-1970.

0.50 c.f.

The Association was organized in 1919, composed of men who had served in the Machine Gun Company of the First Connecticut Infantry, the first American machine gun company. It operated under various names until 1926 when it was named in honor of Michael and John Owens, both members of the company. The association decorated the graves of deceased members on Memorial Day and held annual meetings until it disbanded in 1970. In 1942, a Machine Gun Company monument was erected in Soldiers Field, in Wilson (a section of Windsor), Connecticut. The records include by-laws, minutes of meetings, obituaries, photographs, and printed materials.

## **RG 123**

Daughters of the American Revolution,  
Connecticut Chapters, 1892-1989.

5.25 c.f.

The records consist primarily of material documenting the Ruth Wyllys Chapter of Hartford, formed in 1892, and the Penelope Terry Ashby Chapter of Enfield, founded in 1922. Included in the papers are annual reports, applications for membership, historical papers, minutes of meetings, scrapbooks, and treasurer's records.

## **RG 124**

Hartford City Guard, 1861-1917.

2.50 c.f.

The Hartford City Guard was an Independent Company from January 8 to September 11, 1861. It then became Artillery Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Militia, organizing under the captaincy of Charles H. Prentice. In 1863 it became an infantry company. Some Hartford City Guard officers joined the volunteer forces in the Civil War. The company was designated Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers on May 16, 1861. Afterwards, it changed to First Connecticut Heavy Artillery. On August 18, 1865, it became Battery D, Light Artillery, Connecticut National Guard, attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment. It was then attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment from August 8 1867 to August 1, 1871. In 1871, it became Company F of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, and it remains so today. The records consist of applications for membership, constitution and by-laws, contracts and agreements, financial records, minutes of meetings, special orders, and other similar materials.

## **RG 125**

Connecticut Peace Society, 1910-1921.

1 c.f.

The Connecticut Peace Society appears to have been established in 1910, "to foster the spirit of amity and concord among the nations, and to create a public sentiment which will lead to the abandonment of war as a means of settling international disputes." It functioned as a division of the American Peace Society, holding annual meetings, sponsoring peace essay contests, distributing pamphlets and other printed materials, and expressing its views through the press and by communications with government officials. On April 1, 1921, it ceased independent existence, though the American Peace Society continued. The collection includes a constitution, contest essays, correspondence, financial records, and publications.

**RG 126**

United Nations Association of Connecticut, 1967-1969.

1 c.f.

October 24, 1967 was proclaimed United Nations Day by President Lyndon B. Johnson. This marked the twenty-second anniversary observance of U.N. Day. In his proclamation, the president called on all American citizens to engage in an appropriate observance of the event. Governor John Dempsey appointed Dr. Frederick W. Lowe, President of Manchester Community College, to serve as U.N. Day Chairman for Connecticut. This collection contains materials that document Connecticut's U.N. Day celebrations under Lowe. Materials include correspondence, photographs, publicity leaflets and related materials.

**RG 127**

Connecticut Library Association, 1891-1975.

29 c.f.

The Connecticut Library Association (CLA) was organized in 1891 in New Haven to promote library interests by discussion and interchange of ideas and methods, and not to "trench upon the province of the American Library Association." The original aims of the CLA have grown to include standards for librarianship, advancing types of library services, and providing opportunities for action upon mutual problems by trustees, librarians, and others interested in library affairs. The collection includes proceedings, scrapbooks, meeting minutes, working papers, financial records, correspondence, and publications.

**RG 128**

Ex Libris Club of the Connecticut State Library and

the State Library and Supreme Court Club, 1912-1951, 1980-86. 4 c.f.

Formed in 1912, the Ex Libris Club was a social organization of employees of the State Library and the Supreme Court. The Club held parties and picnics, sent cards and flowers, attended weddings and christenings, published an internal newsletter entitled the *State Library Echo*, and kept scrapbooks of members and activities. Records include the original charter and constitution, bylaws, minutes of meetings, reports, financial records (especially of the Flower Committee, 1931-50), scrapbooks and miscellaneous publications, lists, and correspondence. In 1951 employees disbanded the club and formed the State Library and Supreme Court Club, 1951-86. Records of this Club include minutes and other administrative files, 1980-86.

## **RG 129**

**Tolland County Mutual Fire Insurance Company, 1829-1905.**

**37 c.f.**

The Tolland County Mutual Fire Insurance Company was chartered in 1828 with John Fitch as its first president. It ceased to exist in 1906 when, according to the Connecticut Insurance Commissioner's Report, it transacted no business and all of its policies had expired. The collection contains annual statements, journals and ledgers, a register of policies, insurance policies, treasurer's accounts, and other financial records.

## **RG 130**

**Order of the Founders and Patriots of  
America, Connecticut Society 1896-1914.**

**4 c.f.**

The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America was incorporated in New York on March 18, 1896. The terms of eligibility require that every member must be descended in the male line of father or mother, from an ancestor who settled in one of the original thirteen colonies within fifty years from the settlement of Jamestown, VA, May 13, 1607. An additional requirement stipulated that the member be descended through the same line from a patriot in the Revolutionary War, but not of necessity through those who rendered military service. Its insignia is a badge of double honor, "honor of descent from the brave and hardy pioneers who subdued the primeval wilderness and first planted within the limits of the original colonies the civilization which now leads the world, and honor of descent from those who, in patriotism and devotion and love of liberty, founded the first republic in the western hemisphere . . ."

The Connecticut members set up their own Society on May 9, 1896, and the organization has continued to meet regularly, publish various items and engage in other activities. The records include correspondence, minutes of meetings, publications, a scrapbook, and treasurer's records.

**RG 131**

College Club of Hartford, 1905-2001.

1.50 c.f.

The club was organized at a “mass meeting and rally of college women,” in Hartford on February 11, 1905, with its object “mainly social, philanthropic, or literary.” Among its activities, the Club took a leading role in the establishment of the Spruce Street Settlement, later known as Mitchell House. The materials consist of meeting minutes, annual reports, financial records, and materials relating to the Club’s activities at Mitchell House and during World War I. Also included are revisions to by-laws published in 1996 and copies of annual programs.

**RG 132**

Municipal Art Society of Hartford, 1904-1933.

2.25 c.f.

The Municipal Art Society of Hartford was organized on June 14, 1904 in the studio of Charles Noel Flagg. Its aim was to “be of service in preserving and enhancing the beauty of our magnificent city.” The Society was fairly active during World War I but little appears to have been done after 1920. A final meeting in June 1933 decided not to disband but nevertheless made arrangements for liquidating the accounts and transferring the Society’s records to the Connecticut State Library. The records include a constitution, minutes of meetings, reports, membership lists, accounts, correspondence, and printed materials.

**RG 133**

People for Question #1, 1974-1975.

0.25 c.f.

People for Question #1 was a “Political Committee” registered with the office of the Secretary of the State in 1974. Its purpose was to promote passage by state voters of a constitutional amendment prohibiting discrimination on account of sex. The State Chairperson was Helen Z. Pearl. The records consist primarily of campaign literature and newspaper clippings.

**RG 134**

Connecticut Council of Churches  
and Religious Education, 1832-1934.

3.75 c.f.

The Council was formed as an interdenominational organization to promote the Christian religion. The records contain minutes, convention programs, and the financial records of several predecessor organizations, the Connecticut Federation of Churches, Connecticut Sunday School Union, Connecticut Sunday School Association, and Connecticut Council of Religious Education. Also included are printed pamphlets and newspaper clippings.

**RG 135**

Union Company, Hartford, Connecticut, 1801-1862.

1.50 c.f.

The Union Company was incorporated in 1800 to clear a channel in the Connecticut River from Hartford to Long Island Sound. After the channel was cleared, the Company was allowed to collect tolls from vessels using the river. Included are records of directors' meetings, accounts, financial records, checkbook stubs, stock book ledgers, and receipt books.

**RG 136**

John Gray and Company, Lisbon, Connecticut, 1819-1830.

1.50 c.f.

John Gray and Company appears to have operated a general store and cotton factory in Lisbon, Connecticut. The records consist of account books, a cashbook, daybooks, ledgers, letterbooks, check stubs, and time books.

**RG 137**

United States Navy League, 1917-1918.

1.25 c.f.

On July 4, 1915, a group of women in Washington, D.C. formed the Women's Section of the Navy League. The League hoped to band women of various philosophical backgrounds under the banner of "Patriotism, Americanism, and

National Defense.” Twenty-five members of the Women’s Section in any town could organize a chapter, with chapters being named for a town, patriotic event or historic place, or historical character no longer living. The materials in this record group were created by the Comforts Committee of the Admiral Bunce Section of the Navy League. The function of a Comforts Committee was to knit woolen garments for men serving in the United States Navy. Materials included correspondence, newspaper clippings, and ledgers.

**RG 138**

Connecticut Medical Society, 1792-1912.

1.25 c.f.

The Connecticut Medical Society was incorporated in 1792. From its inception, until 1893, the Society was responsible for licensing physicians. Now known as the Connecticut State Medical Society, it exists as a voluntary non-profit organization for scientific and educational purposes. The records consist primarily of proceedings of the Society, together with a small quantity of Civil War era Connecticut Medical Examining Board materials.

**RG 139**

Connecticut Optometric Society, 1908-1942.

1 c.f.

The Connecticut Optometric Society, formerly known as the Connecticut State Optical Society, was organized July 29, 1908. The objectives of the Society are, “to encourage a higher standard of education in the science of Optometry, to keep abreast of the rapid advancement along these lines, to difuse optical and optometrical knowledge and promote friendly intercourse among optometrists and opticians, to safeguard the material interests of the profession of optometry, to assist in securing the enactment and enforcement of Optical Legislation, and to enlist and direct public opinion in regard to the problem of optometrical science.” The Society is now known as the Connecticut Association of Optometrists (CAO). Materials in this collection include record books and meeting minutes.

**RG 140**

Connecticut State Dental Association, 1864-1965.

4.25 c.f.

Established in 1864, the Connecticut Dental Society was incorporated in 1876. It was organized out of the “desire for mature improvement and the cultivation of the social element among all in our profession.” The records consist of minutes of meetings, reports of conventions and special meetings, scrapbooks, proceedings, applications, miscellaneous printed reports, and a manuscript history of the organization written in 1940 by P. Bullock Jones. Also included are minutes of meetings of the Board of Censors, 1901-1928, an organization concerned with ethical practices.

**RG 141**

Hartford Dental Society, 1897-1968.

2 c.f.

The Hartford Dental Society was formed in 1897 to “promote a more friendly feeling among the profession in Hartford and the immediate vicinity.” The records include minutes of meetings, notices of meetings, treasurer’s records, and stenographic notes of a 1933 post graduate course on oral diagnosis.

**RG 142**

General Federation of  
Women’s Clubs of Connecticut, 1897-2002.

28.25 c.f.

The General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Connecticut was formed on April 20, 1897. Its objective is to “bring the women’s clubs of the state into communication for intellectual culture, mutual help and social union, and to extend their influence in such matters as may properly come before them for improvements in homes and communities.” The records consist of executive committee minutes, press books, administrative files, presidential records and printed material.

**RG 143**

Colonial Dames of America, 1900-1942.

65 c.f.

The Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames of America was established in 1893 “to create widespread interest in history, to inspire love of this Republic, to do justice and honor to heroic ancestors, and to commemorate the labors and achievements of the founders of our country.” The members formed the Committee on Old Houses in 1900 (later renamed the Historic Buildings Committee) as a part of their program of community service and historic preservation and education; it soon became one of their most active endeavors. The Committee originally planned to make records only of Colonial houses, but encountered so many historically noteworthy buildings of later periods that they decided to expand their efforts. In order to produce a uniform series, the Committee prepared a standard form to be used in compiling the histories. This form includes a history of the property, technical architectural information, and an additional essay relating local traditions and anecdotes concerning the house and its former inhabitants. The forms were placed in volumes and also contain photographs and/or sketches. The bulk of the records in the collection consist of reports of the Historic Buildings Committee. These records are arranged alphabetically by Connecticut town and by the name given to the house.

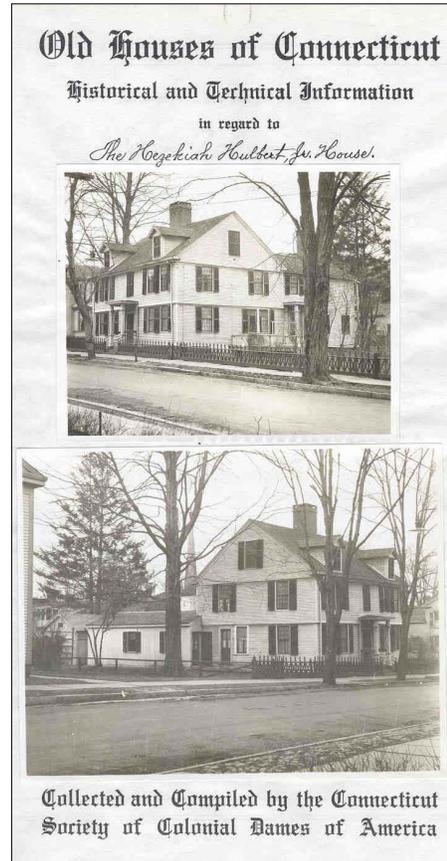


Figure 19 RG 143, Colonial Dames of America.

**RG 144**

Connecticut State Teachers Association, 1846-1934.

2 c.f.

The Connecticut State Teachers Association was chartered in Meriden on April 7, 1816. The purpose of the Association was, “the mutual improvement of its members, and the elevation of the character of our schools.” The records include minutes of meetings, records of the Board of Directors, financial records, programs, correspondence, and related papers. Also included are records of the Fairfield County Teachers Association, 1877-1934.

## **RG 145**

Connecticut State Teachers' League, 1903-1920.

0.50 c.f.

The Connecticut State Teachers' League was founded in 1903 to promote higher professional standards and training. Its membership was limited to women. The records consist of minutes of meetings, constitution, financial records, meeting announcements, and correspondence.

## **RG 146**

Connecticut Valley Kindergarten Association, 1895-1940.

0.50 c.f.

The Connecticut Valley Kindergarten Association was organized in 1882. The object of the organization was, "to promote sympathy and helpfulness among its members and to stimulate interest in all branches of kindergarten work." The collection includes meeting minutes, lists of members, and records from the treasurer.

## **RG 147**

Connecticut Teachers' Annuity Guild, 1896-1927.

1.50 c.f.

The Connecticut Teachers' Annuity Guild was formed in 1896 from various smaller regional teacher organizations around the state. The records consist of minutes of meetings and financial records.

## **RG 148**

Thompson Raceway, 1952-1967.

5 c.f.

The Thompson Raceway was the first private road racing course built and operated in the United States. Prior to its construction, all sports car road races had been conducted either on public highways or on airport runways. The Thompson Raceway was opened in 1952, just prior to the ban of racing on public roads, and was used for road racing until 1967. Now called the Thompson International Speedway, it has been rebuilt as an oval and is used for occasional NASCAR events. The collection includes administrative files, publicity materials, entry lists, race information, financial records, scrapbooks and photographs.



Figure 20 Race, September 4, 1955, Howard D. White, Photographer, RG 148, Box 4.

**RG 149**

Emerson College Alumni Association, Connecticut, 1946-1973. 0.50 c.f.

Emerson College, founded in 1880 as a small school of oratory, has evolved into the only comprehensive college or university in the country dedicated exclusively to communication and the arts. Located in Boston, the college presently enrolls 2600 undergraduate and 600 graduate students. The Alumni Association fosters and maintains the spirit and devotion of the alumni in an effort to promote growth and the reputation of the College as a leader in communication and arts education. This small collection contains meeting minutes and an Emerson College Bulletin.

**RG 150**

Society of Colonial Wars  
in the State of Connecticut, 1893-1972. 2.50 c.f.

The Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Connecticut was organized in 1893 to “perpetuate the memory of the events of American Colonial History, and of the men who assisted in the establishment, defense and preservation of the American Colonies.” Membership is composed of male descendants of men who rendered military or civil service to the colonies from the settlement of Jamestown, May 13, 1607 to the battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775. The collection consists of supplemental and original applications for membership in the state organization.

**RG 151**

Wellesley Club of Hartford, 1914-1978. 1 c.f.

The Wellesley Club of Hartford was organized in 1894. Its purpose is “exclusively charitable and educational, particularly to advance the interests and promote the welfare of Wellesley College.” There are four classes of members, (active, life, associate, and honorary), but only active and life members may vote and serve on the board of directors. Included in the records are minutes of meetings, reports, correspondence, constitution and by-laws, reminiscences, and printed pamphlets.

**RG 152**

Tolland Banks, 1828-1920.

14 c.f.

The Tolland County Bank was established August 4, 1826, at a meeting of leading citizens. They obtained a charter and the bank opened for business on March 18, 1829. In 1865, the bank obtained a charter as the Tolland County National Bank. It went out of business in 1885. The premises, furniture and fixtures were sold in 1886 to the Savings Bank of Tolland, which had been chartered in 1841, and had operated since that date in the same building and often with the same officers as the commercial bank. These records were among the contents of ten to fifteen burlap bags received by the State Library from an unknown source in 1935. Subsequent examination revealed the collection also contains Tolland town records, Tolland county records, and a few Farmington town papers. Also discovered were personal files of Frank T. Newcomb, who served as a cashier and treasurer of both banks, town clerk, town treasurer, and county treasurer. The collection includes bills and receipts, promissory notes, quarterly bank statements, correspondence, deeds and mortgages, and lists of subscribers.

**RG 153**

University of Connecticut. Center for Oral History, 1980-1981. 0.50 c.f.

The Center for Oral History at the University of Connecticut was established as the Oral History Project in 1968. It was designated a Center by the University's Board of Trustees in 1981. The Center originates, sponsors, and supports projects that emphasize Connecticut's history and development. The records consist of transcripts of twenty-one oral history interviews conducted by the Center for Oral History at the University of Connecticut on the subject, "The Emergence of Political Women in Connecticut: 1920-1945." The transcripts were transferred to the State Library in 1982.

**RG 154**

Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, 1954-1989 (span), 1954-1984 (bulk).

153 c.f.

In 1943, the General Assembly created the first state race relations board in the nation, known as the Interracial Commission. Over the years, the agency's name has changed, and today it is called the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. CHRO seeks to eliminate discrimination based on race, sexual preference, gender, age, or religion in Connecticut by enforcing statutes, monitoring state agencies' affirmative action plans and reports, and engaging in advocacy and public education. The group contains case files, dating mostly from 1954-84.

**RG 155**

Governor's Task Force on Infrastructure, 1983-1984.

2 c.f.

The Governor's Task Force on Infrastructure was established by Governor William O'Neill in April 1983 with the charge to develop a coordinated response to repair and replace the State's infrastructure of roads, bridges, public buildings, water systems, and the like. The records contain background files, administrative files, subcommittee files, and a local needs infrastructure survey.

**RG 156**

Connecticut Order of Women Legislators, 1937-1983.

2 c.f.

In 1927, State Representative Julia Emery of Stamford formed the Connecticut Order of Women Legislators, the first in the nation. Its objectives were to promote a network and decide on priority legislation. In 1938, Ms. Emery led a movement to establish a national order. Today the OWL promotes a legislative agenda for the General Assembly. This group contains guest books, a list of female legislators in Connecticut, 1921-45, state and national by-laws, group photographs, and 6 scrapbooks, 1937-84.

**RG 157**

Commission on Forfeited Rights, 1949-1975.

17 c.f.

Established in 1949 and abolished in 1975, the Commission on Forfeited Rights was charged with the responsibility of reviewing and acting upon petitions to restore forfeited electoral rights for those who had been released from prison. The records consist of minutes of meetings, sound recordings, petitioner case files, and administrative subject files.

**RG 158**

Governor's Task Force on

Insurance Costs and Availability, 1984-1986.

3.50 c.f.

Established in 1984, the records of the Governor's Task Force on Insurance Costs and Availability include minutes of meetings, hearings, working papers, and the final report, plus Connecticut Commercial Insurance Study survey forms.

**RG 161**

Department of Public Safety, 1919-1998.

168 c.f.

All records in this collection were created by the Connecticut State Police. The State Police was established in 1903 by the Connecticut General Assembly with the appointment of five state police commissioners and the first superintendent. In 1905, the superintendent of the State Police also became the State Fire Marshall. Over the years, the General Assembly has enacted many laws changing the organization, size and duties of the State Police Department. Today, the State Police is part of the Department of Public Safety, which was established in 1979. Records in this collection include State Police investigation files, Commissioner Long's administrative files for 1990-91, and case books kept by Troop A and Troop E.

**RG 163**

Special Libraries Association,  
Connecticut Valley Chapter, 1934-1987.

6.50 c.f.

The Special Library Association was founded in 1909 in an attempt to bring together librarians whose jobs had actually created a new kind of librarianship, one geared to meet the needs of specialized situations. The records in this collection are from the Connecticut Valley Chapter of the Special Library Association and include membership rosters, minutes of meetings, correspondence, minutes and reports of the executive board, lists of officers, annual reports, subject files, and publications, 1934-84.

**RG 164**

Department on Aging, 1977-1983.

1 c.f.

The Commission on Aging was established in 1993 when the Department on Aging disbanded and folded its program functions into the Division of Elderly Services in the newly created Department of Social Services. The commission's purpose is to "advocate on behalf of elderly persons on issues and programs of concern to the elderly including, but not limited to, health care, nutrition, housing, employment, transportation, legal assistance, and economic security." Materials in this collection were created by the former Department on Aging and include meeting minutes of the Advisory Council and administrative files.

**RG 166**

Historical Commemoration Commissions, 1927-1991.

13 c.f.

RG 166 is an artificial record group that contains materials on the Battle of Bennington Sesquicentennial, Connecticut Commission on the Chicago International Exposition of 1933, Connecticut State Commission on the New Sweden Tercentenary, United States Constitution Bicentennial Commission of Connecticut, and the Yorktown Sesquicentennial Celebration. The records include newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, scrapbooks, and subject files.

## **RG 169**

**Clubs and Private Organizations, 1889-1998.**

*5.25 c.f.*

Another artificial record group, Clubs and Private Organizations contains materials on such organizations as the American Legion, Connecticut Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Connecticut Editorial Association, Connecticut State Nature League, Hartford Advertising Club, Hartford Poetry Club, Reading Circle of Newtown, U. S. Flag Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

## **RG 170**

**Department of Mental Retardation, 1891-1990.**

*125 c.f.*

The records of the Department of Mental Retardation, established in 1975, consist primarily of records of predecessor organizations like the Mansfield Training School. The Mansfield Training School records consist of annual reports, minutes of meetings, administrative files, land records, photographs, and other similar materials. Also included are small quantities of papers from the Mystic Oral School and the Community Services Division of the Department of Mental Retardation.

## **RG 173**

**Military Service Veterans Organizations, 1885-1948.**

*2.25 c.f.*

An artificial record group, the records are composed of those of Company K, Veterans Corps, First Infantry, Connecticut National Guard, and the Veterans Soldiers Association. The records of Company K include addresses, histories, minutes, record books, and scrapbooks, while those of the Veterans Soldiers Association consist of minutes of meetings.

## **RG 174**

**Workers' Compensation Commission, 1914-1950.**

*295 c.f.*

Established by an act in 1913 as the Board of Compensation Commissioners, this Commission administers the State's workers' compensation laws. It "facilitates voluntary agreements, adjudicates disputes, makes findings and awards, hears and rules on appeals, and closes out cases through full and final stipulated agreements." Records include approved and rejected case files from the Hartford or First District, 1914-39; files from the Waterbury or Fifth District; awards and stipulations, 1914-50; voluntary agreements, 1914-50; and findings and awards, 1937-50.

## **RG 176**

**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, 1973-1991. 124 c.f.**

The General Assembly created the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) in 1973. The Commission was charged to work to eliminate sex discrimination within the state. The Commission's first task was to review existing statutes to ensure conformity with the 1974 state equal rights amendment. It continues its efforts to ensure equal employment, housing, credit, and educational opportunities for the state's women. In addition to its legislative efforts, the PCSW assists individuals who believe they have suffered sex discrimination in employment and other areas. The PCSW offers advice on legal rights and assists with filing formal complaints with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (RG 154). Records include materials created by the Executive Director, Public Information Office, Legislative Coordinator, Office Manager, and Intake Officer. The collection includes administrative files, correspondence, reports, subject files, photographs, newspaper clippings, and financial records.

## **RG 177**

**Department of Administrative Services, 1875-1989. 27 c.f.**

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) was established in 1977, the result of an extensive reorganization of state government. The records come in part from the Division of State Personnel and the Advisory Committee of the Bureau of Purchasing Standards. The DAS records consist primarily of subject files and materials from the state employee suggestion program.

## **RG 178**

**Department of Children and Families, 1854-1972. 33 c.f.**

In 1969, the General Assembly passed P.A. 664 that centralized "the state's efforts to prevent delinquency and treat juveniles" in a new agency known as the Department of Children and Youth Services. The new agency absorbed the Connecticut School for Boys (established 1854) in Meriden and the Long Lane School for Girls (established 1870). The agency currently is the Department of Children and Families and its program areas include services in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, protection for children and youth under 18, foster care, adoption, education and juvenile justice and "funding to community service providers." This group contains photographs of Long Lane, 1880-1946, and records of the defunct School for Boys.

The School for Boys records include photographs, scrapbooks and clippings, Executive Committee minutes, 1894-1918, Trustee minutes, 1854-1969, minutes of the Committee on Parole and Discharge, 1899-1922, financial records, sound recordings, legal instruments pertaining to the conveyance of property, and inmate daily registers and history books, 1854-1967.

## RG 179

Special Care Sanatoria, 1910-1990.

791 c.f.

This artificial record group was created for all materials relating to state-run, special-care hospitals, specifically tuberculosis hospitals. All institutions included in this collection were created or administered by the State Tuberculosis Commission (RG 016). Among the sanatoria created by the Tuberculosis Commission was Uncas on

Thames Sanatorium in Norwich. It was opened in February of 1913. In 1932 a surgery unit was added. In the earlier days of the Tuberculosis Commission, all surgery that was performed in the state was done under the direction of the chief Surgeon, who had facilities at Uncas.

Laurel Heights Sanatorium in Shelton was formerly

known as the Shelton or Fairfield County Sanatorium and was opened in August 1910. Cedarcrest was the second of the sanatoria to be formed in 1910 in the Hartford Area. The Director of the Laboratory of Pathology and Research who performed the post-mortem exams, biopsies, and clinical pathological conferences and related research was located at Cedarcrest. The smallest and most recent of the sanatoria was Seaside. Architect Cass Gilbert designed the facility. Seaside admitted only children under the age of 15, whereas the other sanatoria admitted only patients over 15. Because of Seaside, Connecticut was considered a pioneer in providing special institutions for children. Most patients at Seaside had bone tuberculosis. Records in this collection include administrative files, autopsy reports, laboratory reports, patient registers, publications, training manuals, school records (Seaside), and patient files.



Figure 16

Figure 21 Training class, Cedarcrest Sanatorium, Newington, CT, 1931, Accession 85-29, Records of the State Tuberculosis Commission.

**RG 181**

Department of Public Works, 1951-1996.

25 c.f.

Public Act 87-496, effective July 1, 1987, established the Department of Public Works. Prior to that date, the Department functioned as a Bureau of the Department of Administrative Services. The Department of Public Works operates under provisions of Title 4b, Chapters 59 and 60 of the General Statutes. It is responsible for the purchase, lease and construction of property and space to house State agencies, and the operation and maintenance of State of Connecticut facilities. Materials in the collection include architectural plans for the State Capitol, photographs of various Public Works projects, and files documenting the Home Ownership Program (1951-1962).

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State of Connecticut, }  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
MAY SESSION, 1857. }

*Resolved*, That as the fathers of American Liberty held, so do "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, *liberty*, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed;" that as the fathers of the Republic designed to favor no particular class of men, but to establish a government giving equal political rights to all, and the greatest amount of liberty consistent with public safety; we maintain that the great purpose of our national government should be, to secure and protect those rights, and make perpetual the blessings of *Liberty*.

*Resolved*, That slavery being contrary to the principles of natural right, founded upon injustice and fraud, at war with the principles upon which our government is founded, injurious to the growth and prosperity of the country, and a reproach to a people professing to love liberty, ought never to receive the national sanction; that while we recognize it as a local institution, maintained by force of the law of the State where it exists, and over which we have no control, and for which we have no responsibility, it is our right and our duty to resist to the last, every attempt to extend it into the Territories of the Republic.

*Resolved*, That a majority of the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States in the recent case of Dred Scott, in declaring that a *free* negro of the African race, whose ancestors were brought to this country and sold as slaves, is not a citizen within the meaning of the Constitution of the United States, and is not entitled to sue in a court of the United States, and that no State can make him such citizen; that Congress has no power to prohibit slavery in the territories; that every slave-owner may carry his slaves into the territories and hold them therein, as slaves; that the federal government recognizes slaves as property, and pledges itself to protect it in the territories, and that the Missouri compromise act was void, when such declarations or opinions were not necessary for the decision of the case before said court; have departed from the usages which have heretofore governed our courts; have volunteered opinions which are not law; have given occasion for the belief that they promulgated such opinions for partisan purposes, and thereby have lowered the dignity of said court and diminished the respect heretofore awarded to its decisions.

*Resolved*, That the resolutions of the General Assembly of this State passed in 1849, declaring that Congress has full Constitutional power to prohibit Slavery in the Territories of the United States, by legislative enactment; that the people of Connecticut, while abiding by the compromises of the Constitution, and averring their attachment to the Federal Union, are unalterably opposed to the extension of Slavery into free territory, and the further extension of its influence into the councils of the Federal Government; that in resisting the extension of Slavery we do not make a sectional issue nor oppose the interests of the people of the South, express *now*, as then, the sentiments of the people of Connecticut.

*Resolved*, That the people of Connecticut deeply sympathize with their brethren in the Territory of Kansas, in their struggles against the aggressions of Slavery, and earnestly desire that they may continue to resist, by all lawful means, until they shall make Kansas a free State.

*Resolved*, That our Senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our Representatives in Congress are hereby earnestly requested to vote always and in every stage of the question, against the admission of another Slaveholding State into the Federal Union.

*Resolved*, That His Excellency the Governor, be requested to transmit a copy of these resolves to the President of the United States, to the Governors of each of the States and Territories, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, }  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE. }

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing is a true copy of the Resolutions passed by the General Assembly of the State at its May Session, A. D. 1857, on record in this office.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said State, at Hartford, this fourth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.

*Secretary of State.*