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CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY



...Preserving the Past, Informing the Future

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WHEN LESS IS REALLY LESS **Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian**



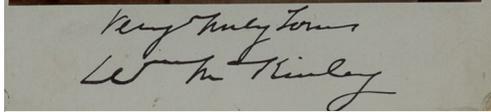
As our state and nation experience one of the most difficult fiscal times in memory, libraries, museums and archives have not been immune from its impact. The State Library has been on what seems like an endless budget roller coaster ride. At various points throughout the summer the proposed budget went from a modest reduction to the elimination of all statewide library programs to, and in the end, the budget that the Library had at the end of the previous fiscal year. But just as the library community and the staff of the State Library were celebrating the success of a level funded budget, news came of budget holdbacks mounting to over two million dollars. No sooner had the many hard decisions been made to deal with these devastating reductions, when word came of a five percent budget reduction on most of the State Library's line items. In addition to dealing with these budget cuts and holdbacks the State Library has also had to manage with far fewer employees as a result of the retirement of fifteen long-time employees under the retirement incentive program. For years programs like iCONN have thrived, even with level funding, but now, the magnitude of the budget reductions has resulted in the cancellation of databases and program cutbacks. The Library's materials budget, only recently funded at a level adequate to meet the statutory responsibility as the state's principal public law library, has been hit hard, making it impossible to maintain current subscriptions and add new titles. Keeping the collections current and viable has become a challenge. Of course the Library is not alone. All of state government is affected by the fiscal situation and is adjusting accordingly. But these adjustments, at least for the State Library, are, I believe, long-term and will result in a fundamental change in how we do business. It is not a question of how will we do more with less – we have long passed that quaint notion. Rather it is how we are going to identify that which are core services and then determine how best to deliver them effectively and efficiently – and yes with less. On the less is less theme, our mission statement has been reduced from 104 words to just eighteen: *to preserve and make accessible Connecticut's history and heritage and to advance the development of library services statewide.*

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SINCERELY. . . PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

by Dr. Mark Jones, State Archivist



William McKinley signed in the "White House," Washington D.C., December 29, 1896

The Connecticut State Archives has opened a year-long exhibit of presidential signatures in Memorial Hall at the State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford. On display will be signatures of all of the presidents, and all but one are from documents in the State Archives signed during the presidents' terms of office.

Highlighted this month and on exhibit throughout the rest of this year are documents signed by George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and related artifacts. Visitors will see a short note dated April 18, 1861 with president Abraham Lincoln's signature, sent to Connecticut's Gideon Welles, then serving as Secretary of the Navy, asking Welles to be at the Executive Mansion at 12 noon to discuss political appointments in Philadelphia. Also included is a check drawn on the bank account of John Wilkes Booth for fifty dollars dated December 24, 1864 and signed by Booth. Also exhibited is a ticket granting the bearer admittance to the Executive Mansion on Wednesday, April 19, 1865 for the funeral of Abraham Lincoln. Also on exhibit are documents signed by John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt. During the rest of this year,

the remaining presidential signatures will be exhibited on a rotating basis.

Visitors will see the signatures on letters from presidents on stationery marked "White House" and on military commissions, appointments, certificates of appreciation, certificates of merit, letters patent for land, bounty land grants for military service, and presidential pardons.

From president Franklin D. Roosevelt is a typed and signed letter of October 23, 1938, more than a month after the great hurricane that struck on September 21, to Governor Wilbur L. Cross, who had sent a telegram requesting federal aid in clearing away "fallen timber" in Connecticut. FDR answers Cross that the Works Progress Administration and Forest Service are coordinating efforts to ensure safety against fires by such work.



Autographed portrait of William Howard Taft

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THE WPA ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY – TAKING A PAPER COLLECTION ONLINE by Carol Ganz, History & Genealogy Unit



Circa 1800 house near the Housatonic River in Derby. The left photo [006] is lighter and brighter with more detail of railing, shutters, even a curtain in the window. The right photo [006_a] provides the setting as well as a glimpse at nearby houses.

One project undertaken by the Works Progress Administration – the WPA – in Connecticut in the 1930s was the recording of old buildings through fill-in survey forms and photos, chronicling houses – those which still stand and those now long gone. These are recollections in words and photographs of the appearance of historical structures in the 1930s, the origins of buildings from many earlier periods, and the homes specifically of one’s ancestors. As people clamor for more and more of the historical information preserved at the Connecticut State Library to be made available online we are examining, prioritizing, researching, collaborating, brain-storming, and generally puzzling out the best way to present the most useful resources, while maintaining our traditional library responsibilities. One of the Agency’s earliest Digital Collections projects was the WPA Architectural Survey. From initial selection to online presence, the project has been a learning experience. Decisions about presentation and search-



The Nathaniel Baker house in East Haddam, probably built in the mid-1700s, survived just long enough to allow this photo. The survey form notes, "in ruins," but provides considerable description.

ability have been adjusted and improved as we discovered the variables in the collection while proceeding through the towns. When you access the Connecticut State Library’s growing collection of online WPA Architectural Survey (Census of Old Buildings) entries online, what are you seeing? Is it a collection of house photos with some supplemental information, or is it a survey of old houses, illustrated with photos and sketches? It may not matter much to most viewers, but it is a question that played a crucial part in designing the online project and still informs how the images and data are handled.

Assigning added subject headings in keeping with the original intent was complicated. Proofreading included not only watching for typographical errors and making the formatting adjustments agreed upon for the presentation, but also checking for images.

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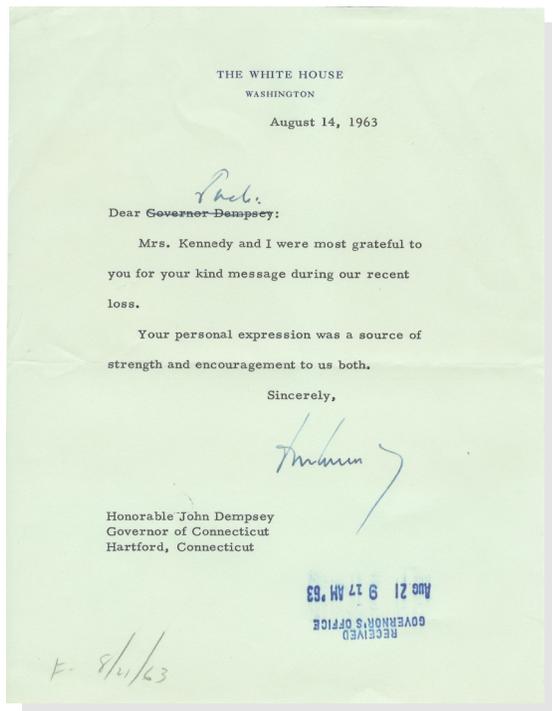
WHEN LESS IS REALLY LESS *continued from page 1*

2010 marks the hundredth anniversary of the State Library/Supreme Court Building. The bricks and mortar State Library and Supreme Court building represented a major advance in meeting the information needs of State Government and the people of Connecticut. It also represented a major financial commitment by the State. I have previously written about the need for the State Library to create a virtual branch. Building it will take the creation of bits and bytes instead of bricks and mortar; skilled librarians and technical staff instead of laborers and craftsmen; and a technical infrastructure as state-of-the art as the State Library and Supreme Court building was when it first opened in 1910. I am pleased to say that we are making some progress. Planning is underway for a complete migration of our Web site to an open source content management system. You can now follow the Library on Facebook and Twitter. We have instituted chat reference. We are connected to the Connecticut Education Network. This year we will begin redirecting capital funds to enhance our digitization capabilities and capacity because we recognize that more and more of our users want and need access to the full text of documents and publications – not just the catalog record.

While it is easy to adopt a hunker down mentality, we will continue to refine and deliver on our core services. We will start the new decade with far fewer employees and a significantly smaller budget than when we started the last decade. The employees that have remained have committed time and energy to carrying on the good work that has been a hallmark of the State Library's service. They have also made remarkable progress in meeting my challenge to them to create a larger virtual presence for the State Library and I am confident we will succeed. ❁

SINCERELY. . . PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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State Archivist Mark Jones said that few people realize that the State Archives possesses such documents. He hopes that the exhibit will provide students and adults with a glimpse at the powers of the presidency during our nation's history and the connections between the White House and Connecticut. Dr. Jones also hopes this exhibit will draw attention to the treasures in the State Library. ❁

When living in the White House, Jacqueline Kennedy lost a son, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, on August 9, 1963, two days after his birth. Governor John Dempsey sent the President and First Lady a letter of condolences on behalf of the people of Connecticut and himself. On August 14, President John F. Kennedy wrote a letter of thanks to his good friend, "Jack."

CONNECTICUT AT WAR CONFERENCE by Bruce Stark, Vice President, ASCH, and David Corrigan, Museum Curator, Connecticut State Library

On Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14, 2009, the first known conference of a full or multi-day nature focused exclusively on Connecticut's wartime experiences from the seventeenth through the twenty-first centuries was sponsored by the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (ASCH), the Connecticut Militia Heritage Committee, the Connecticut State Library, and Manchester Community College. The conference began at noon on Friday in Memorial Hall at the Connecticut State Library with a concert by Tom Callinan, former State Troubadour, followed by remarks by State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin on war re-

gram was held at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory. Museum Curator David Corrigan delivered the keynote address, titled "The Connecticut State Armory 1909-2009."

"...the enthusiasm expressed by those in attendance clearly shows that the conference met a real need for an extended series of discussions on Connecticut in war time and activities associated with it..."



"Jordan Freeman: The Fight to Set a People Free." History & Genealogy Library Technician Kevin Johnson enters the room for his performance of a revolutionary war soldier.

lated collections at the State Library, and Kevin Johnson's performance of "Jordan Freeman: The Fight to Set a People Free." In order to take advantage of the meeting's location in Hartford's Capitol district, tours were scheduled for 1:30-2:30 of Civil War monuments on the Capitol grounds, led by Museum of Connecticut History Administrator Dean Nelson; the Connecticut Militia Heritage Gallery at the Armory, led by George Ripley, Chairman of the Connecticut Militia Heritage Committee; and the Colt Collection at the Museum of Connecticut History, hosted by Curator of Education Patrick Smith. The second half of Friday's pro-

His address preceded four presentations by Connecticut National Guard officers on the theme of "Fighting for Freedom since 9/11," which detailed their recent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. The day concluded with a reception at the Officers' Club of Connecticut, located in the Armory.

The Saturday, November 14 portion of the conference, held at the Arts, Sciences, and Technology Center at Manchester Community College, opened with a plenary session that featured Colonel Ronald P. Welch of the Connecticut Army National Guard who spoke on "Advising the Afghan National Army." The remainder of the day was divided into twenty concurrent sessions, at which forty-eight speakers discussed Connecticut's military involvement in seventeenth-century warfare, the French and Indian War, American Revolution, War of 1812, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, and the Cold War, plus such topics as citizen soldiers, home front activities, Civil War veterans, labor and war in the twentieth century, and the integration of the Connecticut National Guard.

The conference attracted academics, students, library and museum personnel, history buffs, those active in patriotic organizations and war round-tables, soldiers, and veterans. Others included a public school class on a tour of the Museum of Connecticut History that

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WHEN DISASTER STRIKES by Lizette Pelletier, Public Records Archivist

The Office of the Public Records Administrator through the State Library Web site at <http://www.cslib.org/publicrecords/cosa/index.htm> is currently hosting a self-directed course by the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) entitled "Introduction to Records and Information Management." The course is a prerequisite for two webinars being developed for CoSA's Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER) project. The ninety-minute narrated presentation focuses on fundamental records management practices which increase state and local governments' ability to access essential operational records and resume critical business operations quickly after a disaster strikes.



The only remnants of the Waveland, Miss. City Hall, a two story historic building, after Hurricane Katrina. The stairs and a marker commemorating Hurricane Camille were the only things left on the main thoroughfare through the town. Photo credit: David Carmichael, Georgia Archives.

The IPER project, funded by a \$2.6 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), evolved from CoSA's Emergency Preparedness Initiative in the wake of the 2005 hurricane season. In the weeks and months following Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, it became apparent that state and local governments had been ill-prepared to protect their vital operational records. The lack of Continuity of Operation Plans (COOPs) prevented agencies from effectively functioning during and after the storms and had a profound and lasting impact on the citizens and organizations in those areas.

During the hurricanes, local emergency responders were unable to locate maps, blueprints, and GIS records to determine the location and condition of area infrastructure. Local governments, businesses, and not-for-profits struggled to resume and sustain their operations. Individuals had difficulty proving their identity and property ownership, as well as educational or professional credentials for employment purposes. Nearly five years later, many individuals in the Gulf Coast continue to have difficulty proving property ownership due to the destruction of government land and tax records and bank mortgage records that people usually rely on as backups when their own records are lost. The same scenario was repeated during the summer of 2008 in the Midwest when extensive flooding occurred there.

The federal government, on the other hand, had a COOP in place. For instance, after Katrina, it made its normal payroll on time, even though the processing facility was located right outside of New Orleans. As part of the COOP, a hot site was designated in another part of the country to assume those duties prior to the storm. The federal court system in Iowa was well prepared to relocate and be operational in seventy-two hours, while state and local governments lost critical administrative, fiscal, and legal records that months later continued to have an impact on their citizens.

FEMA, unfortunately, was not prepared to address the needs of local and state governments and cultural organizations in the affected areas. Volunteer archivists, curators and librarians were turned away when they tried to enter the devastated areas because local records and cultural items were not a priority in FEMA directives. Many important records, photographs and museum artifacts were lost to mold, mildew and water damage due to the delay in salvage and restoration efforts.

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CONNECTICUT AT WAR CONFERENCE *continued from page 5*

heard Kevin Johnson speak, National Guard personnel who attended the plenary “Fighting For Freedom Since 9/11” session at the Armory, and several walk-ins who simply wanted to attend sessions without registering. Total attendance for the conference was at least 220 and was a far broader and larger audience than any previous ASCH meeting.

Through the efforts of State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin, Governor M. Jodi Rell issued an official statement proclaiming November 13-14, 2009 as “Connecticut Citizen-Soldier Days.” The Connecticut Network (CT-N) taped the part of the program held at the State Armory, and the resulting DVD has been shown on CT-N, and is available for purchase from the network. Moreover, Christine Pittsley, Digital Collections Technician at the State Library, Twittered about the conference at: <http://twitter.com/LibraryofCT>.

So great was the interest in participating that it finally became necessary to stop accepting speaker applications, and the enthusiasm expressed by those in attendance clearly shows that the conference met a real need for an ex-



tended series of discussions on Connecticut in war time and activities associated with it, subjects that are often downplayed or unrepresented in academic circles. Because so many of the presentations deserve a wider audience, and conference attendees were almost invariably faced with difficult choices on what to attend, publication vehicles for many of the presentations are being pursued. These may include the State Library Web site, Connecticut History, or a collection of essays in book form. In addition, the overall success of the conference has led organizers to consider the possibility of a second one on the same theme, perhaps in 2011 or 2012. ❁

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

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The final outcome of the IPER project will be two, six-hour Web- and CD-based courses on “Essential Records” and “Records Emergency Planning and Response” broken into four 90-minute sessions. Adapted from National Archives and Records Administration training courses, they will be taught by state record management, emergency management and information technology staff. Each course will include each state’s specific requirements and regulations and information about locally available support services.

Course assignments will allow trainees to apply what they learn directly to their own organization. Additional information on the IPER project is available at <http://www.statearchivists.org/iper/index.htm>. ❁



Water and mud damaged city files stacked on counters in Bay St. Louis, Miss. Photo credit: Christine Wiseman, Georgia Archives.

THE WPA ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY – TAKING A PAPER COLLECTION ONLINE *continued from page 3*

Photographic prints in the “use” copy folders of the collection and in the “originals” folders can vary. While it was important to include all images from either source, the different photos were often clearly from the same negative but cropped differently or printed lighter or darker. How different did they have to appear to be considered a different image? Generally, if the two prints offered different information, such as sharper details in the close-up but more details of the setting in the wider print, both were included online. Some town surveyors had the time and skill to do beautiful sketches of details on the back of the form, others provided rough but informative sketch notes, many included just photos or even no illustration at all. In preparing the project, each file was carefully checked to be sure all images were represented online. In some cases scans were later redone to take advantage of better technology.

The survey forms were laboriously transcribed early in the project. In retrospect, they perhaps could have been just scanned, but this did enhance the search capabilities. The survey form lent itself well to being entered into an Excel database, since a major portion involved marking selected terms from a list, or doing a brief fill-in answer. The form headings became the fields and were filled in from the answers. Even this was not as straightforward as it seems, however, since the original workers sometimes chose to modify the form to suit their information, or tucked phrases in spaces between the blanks. For an example of the survey form see <http://cslib.cdmhost.com/custom/WPAArchSurv.php>. The underlined terms became headings for the online version.

To stay as true as possible to the original, it was necessary to make judgments about the original intent when recording the entry. To make the material easier to read online, some conven-

tions were followed for standardizing the punctuation, capitalization, and other elements, but the words chosen and the phrasing have not been altered. Sentences and sentence fragments were treated equally and left as written, to be true to the original. What you see online is a representation of what you will find at the State Library. “Facts” were preserved as written. We are not doing architectural research, and we are not second-guessing the accuracy of the material presented. It is up to the user to determine how accurate the presentation might be, just as if the user were looking through the folders here at the State Library. Home owners, local historical societies and others may have one more detailed research and have good information to share or corrections to make. One of the advantages of the online availability of the collection is that we can share this information to supplement the files we

“What you see online is a representation of what you will find at the State Library. ‘Facts’ were preserved as written. We are not doing architectural research, and we are not second-guessing the accuracy of the material presented.”

present. The table of information below each house photo provides first the data from the survey sheet (with title and subject added) and then the metadata about the sources. Between these sections is a line called “Tell Us More.” This field has a link to submit further information about a building, such as its current status, address, or other historical data through the Diginfo@cslib.org mailbox.

Information gathered here is being compiled and will be presented online with the survey information. It will not be used to “correct” information in the survey, since we are presenting a collection as-is, but it will be linked to make it available when a user visits a house online. This added information is a bonus that can build a community of shared information on Connecticut historical houses while maintaining the integrity of the original collection presented online. <http://cslib.cdmhost.com/custom/wpaarchsurv.php> ✪

HANDS ON HISTORY - CONNECTICUT HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN THE CLASSROOM by Patrick Smith

"I never knew history could be so much fun!" When I heard a fourth grade student say that recently at the end of one of my outreach programs in a local school, I knew I had her hooked. Hooked on history that is. I had just finished presenting "A Connecticut Sampler" program, a

"At the Museum of Connecticut History we have a lot of stuff. Really cool stuff with really great stories that all have to do with some aspect of Connecticut history."

60 minute, whirlwind historical exploration of some of the highlights of the Nutmeg states past 350+ years. Of course not every kid felt that same sense of excitement, but at least one did and like many other educational or athletic endeavors if

you hook them early you'll often hook them for life. But, how to make history come alive in a classroom? Three words: STUFF and STORIES.

Stuff you ask? Objects, artifacts, material culture. Whatever you want to call it. Mix it up with stories, personalities, events and you have a good chance of making any learner at least somewhat interested. At the Museum of Connecticut History we have a lot of stuff. Really cool stuff with really great stories that all have to do with some aspect of Connecticut history. Part of my job is to bring this stuff to life for learners of all ages. One of my favorite ways to do this has been to bring history on the road, also known as outreach programming. Hands on History was born and the first program offered was Connecticut Invents!

Connecticut Invents! is a hands on education program for children (and sometimes adults!) generally in elementary or middle school. The program celebrates Connecticut inventors and inventions while letting the kids become inventors themselves. Connecticut Invents! highlights the numerous inventors and inventions that have come from our state over the past 200 years. Students are introduced to many famous and not so famous Connecticut inventions including the helicopter, Frisbee, hamburger (my personal favorite), submarine, Wiffle Ball, Silly Putty and many more.

I like to tell participants that from the helicopter above to the submarine below and a lot of stuff in between, we are surrounded by Connecticut inventions. Obviously I can't bring a submarine into the classroom so I use drawings, photos and stories of the invention of the submarine by David Bushnell in 1776 to bring the story to life. And since subs are still made here in state it's a bit of history that has some contemporary relevance to kids. On the other hand, literally, a container of Silly Putty and the story that goes along with its invention makes a fun foray into Connecticut's past and present. After discussing and seeing some Connecticut inventions the kids then get to become inventors with some simple hands-on activities. "Hands-on, minds-on," so the saying goes.

The other program currently offered is "A Connecticut Sampler" which uses objects from the museum collection, hands on activities and role-playing to explore Connecticut's political, military



"Students are introduced to many famous and not so famous Connecticut inventions including the helicopter, Frisbee, hamburger (my personal favorite), submarine, Wiffle Ball, Silly Putty and many more."

and industrial history. Topics include the founding of Connecticut, early settlers, the Charter Oak legend, Connecticut nicknames and place names (including some in whatever town I'm visiting), Connecticut inventors and inventions and life in Connecticut today.

The Sampler program can also be tailored to meet the needs of the classroom I am visiting. For example, if I know in advance that a teacher wants more time spent on Colonial Connecticut, or how Connecticut government works I can modify the program thus better serving the needs of the teacher and the students.

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EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

by Mary Engels

The Connecticut Library Association and the Connecticut State Library are pleased to announce that the winners of the 2010 Excellence in Public Library Service Awards are the Essex Library Association and the Fairfield Public Library.

Public libraries from across Connecticut were nominated for the awards which were judged on:

- Service to their community
- Creativity and innovation
- Leadership in creating programs that can be emulated by other libraries
- Developing services that will affect the future of the library and their community

A panel of three judges from outside Connecticut reviewed these remarkable nominations and while they were impressed with all of the nominees, when they took into account these factors, Essex and Fairfield emerged as winners.



GirlZone Dinner at Saybrook Point Inn

Essex won in the category of a community with a population of less than 15,000 for their program GirlZone. The GirlZone Girls' Self-Esteem Group was designed as an eight week series of workshops for girls between the ages of thirteen and seventeen to combat the injurious effects of low

self-esteem and emotional distress among adolescent girls.

GirlZone was funded by a grant from the Middlesex Community Foundation. The program topics covered positive body image, nutrition, inner and outer beauty, etiquette, job interview techniques, Internet safety and clothes sense – all of which speak directly to the special needs of young women. Guest presenters, drawn from business, fashion, medicine and others were all experts in their fields with experience helping young women find the best in themselves.

The program is an unqualified success. Girls who arrived in cliques, left with new friends. Girls who came along found a circle of caring peers whom they learned to trust. Girls whose low self-esteem had made them shy, blossomed before the library staff's eyes. Even those who came in defiant or withdrawn were totally engaged by the program's end. All of them graduated as stronger and more confident young women.



Library Director Maura Ritz welcomes attendees to Jobs 2009

The Job 2009 series of programs was conceived in response to the sudden economic downturn that resulted in widespread layoffs in Fairfield County and throughout Connecticut. At a minimal cost to the library, the project developed a series of weekly programs that partnered the library with area professionals speaking on a wide variety of employment topics as well as live and virtual networking groups that offered ongoing support and direction for job seekers.

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EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED *continued*

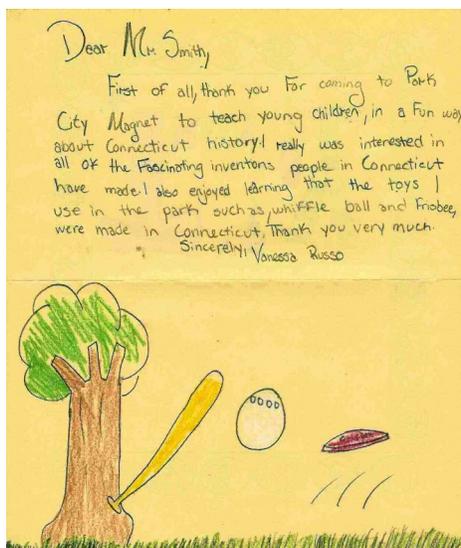
Jobs 2009 has reached over 2000 library users at programs and networking groups and has had over 2,200 hits on the podcasts for programs. Using social networking tools the project established a LinkedIn group which now numbers over forty-five members. The program covered all aspects of the job search and enabled the library to forge partnerships with local businesses and professionals. It also had a positive effect on the perception of the library and its funding needs by the public.

The goal of the program continues to be to provide all possible assistance to support residents in what is often a protracted job search process. Many attendees at programs have told the library that job searching is often a solitary discouraging process and that the weekly Jobs 2009 programs, networking groups, and podcasts have helped to keep them upbeat, focused, and informed about the latest trends in the job market. The program is very low cost (all the presenters are free), focused on timely, in-demand topics, and depends on the willingness of area business and agencies to partner with the library in a high profile example of community support. It is yet another example of how libraries truly can make a difference.

Essex and Fairfield will receive their awards at the April 2010 Connecticut Library Association Conference. They will present a program on both their projects at the conference as well. The Friends of Connecticut Libraries and the Association of Connecticut Library Boards are partners with CLA and the State Library in presenting these awards. ❁

HANDS ON HISTORY - CONNECTICUT HISTORY COMES ALIVE IN THE CLASSROOM *continued from page 9*

The story of the Charter and legend of the Charter Oak is always a part of the presentation. I'm always amazed how excited kids get when I tell it to them, show images, read newspaper accounts of the tree's fall, and then as the big finale show them some small pieces of the tree itself. "Oooh's and Aaah's" are always heard and many times from teachers as well! It's an old story but a great one that connects many generations here in Connecticut and that's what makes it so much fun to tell. The same goes for a discussion of Connecticut's nicknames. Why we are called the Nutmeg State (you would be amazed at how many kids have never seen a nutmeg), Constitution State or



A sampling of Connecticut history for kids: The Charter Oak, The Wiffle Ball and the Frisbee. Created by Vanessa Russo, a student at the Park City Magnet School in Bridgeport following an education program from the Museum of Connecticut History.

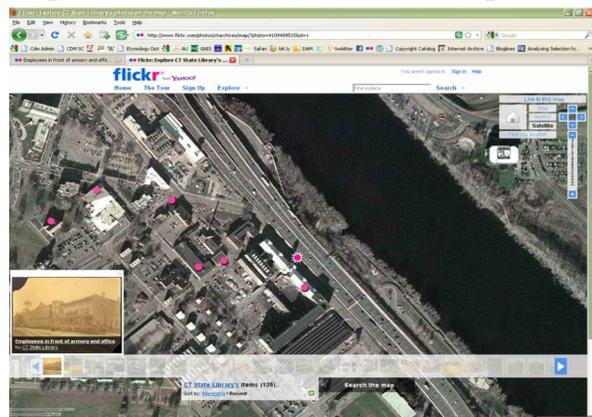
Provision State? These are all great stories which I think makes our past come alive.

Whether or not the fourth grader I mentioned at the beginning will ever become a historian, teacher, curator, etc. isn't relevant. What matters is I got her interested and sparked her curiosity about the state she lives in. Hopefully that interest will last a lifetime and she'll become a steward of our past. A caretaker of stuff, if you will, retelling the stories of Connecticut's past all the while preserving and protecting it for future generations. Stuff and Stories, a winning combination in my book. ❁

MOVING FORWARD WITH WEB 2.0 TOOLS by Christine Pittsley

The Connecticut State Library started the year 2010 learning that Facebook, Twitter and Flickr had become some of the most powerful social networking tools. Even here, we are using the Web 2.0 tools with great success. A team of dedicated staff have come together to make sure that the Library is represented in today's fast paced digital world.

CSL has a Flickr account, which can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ctarchives/>. Currently you can find The Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company photograph collection there. This collection includes images of company administrators; employees; visitors to the Armory; interior and exterior factory views, including from the fire of 1864 and floods of 1936 and 1938; other Colt properties; events; and promotional material. To make it an even better experience, we have added many of those photographs to a Flickr map to enable users to see where the picture



Geotagging in Flickr - The image above shows an inset photo on our Flickr map. The location where the photo was taken is geotagged on the satellite image as a pink dot with a white star around it.

was taken. This is done through geotagging in Flickr. Since we knew where many of the photographs were taken, we were able to drag and drop the images onto their corresponding locations on a Flickr map. This action creates a "geotag" which is basically a longitude and latitude that is added to the image metadata. Just look for a location on the right hand side of the page and click on (map) to see a pop up map with the photograph. There are locations all

over Hartford and as far away as San Francisco so be sure to check out our geotagged images in Flickr and have fun.

Next is Twitter, which, for those of you shaking your heads, is not as bad as it sounds. Twitter is a microblog, which means we get 140 characters to say what you need to say instead of unlimited amounts of text. Twitter has become a major communication tool reaching people all over the world. In October 2009, the Library tweeted excerpts from the *Samuel Wyllys Papers*, our archive of original documents from seventeenth-century Connecticut witchcraft trials. We had users following us from as far away as Slovenia and Hong Kong. Tune in to the conversation by following us at <http://twitter.com/LibraryofCT> or click on the Twitter icon on the right side of our home page.

We also have a Facebook account, which you can find on our home page, www.cslib.org, by clicking on the Facebook icon on the right hand side or go directly to <http://www.facebook.com/CTStateLibrary>. Here is where you can find a great deal of information about what is going on. You can find photo albums, our favorite Facebook pages and links to stories we think you might be interested in on the left hand side of our page. You can read our blogs, investigate our YouTube videos, our Bookshare books or even read the *CONNECTOR*. Come check us out and become a fan.



Last but not least, we have started using Meebo. What is Meebo? Meebo is an instant messaging program that allows patrons to instant message a reference librarian with their reference questions. You can find this under the "Contact Us" part of our homepage or on the "Live Chat" tab on our Facebook page.

Here at the State Library, we have responded to the new technology in order to attract an international audience to use State Library resources. We welcome your input on ways to more effectively utilize these technologies. ☼

FREE DOWNLOADABLE AUDIOBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE STATEWIDE ON iCONN

by Tom Newman



Remember the days when only the larger libraries had full-text databases for their library users? Thanks to iCONN, all Connecticut libraries and all Connecticut residents have Internet access to a variety of important databases. So too, today, there are many large libraries that are already providing downloadable audio service to their users, but most small and medium-sized libraries do not have the resources and expertise to provide this service. Once again iCONN is providing a solution.

Thanks to a \$59,200 PEGPETIA (Public, Educational, Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment Account) grant from the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC), iCONN is now offering over 1,300 downloadable audiobooks for Connecticut residents. With a library card from a public library, residents can download titles to their computers for immediate playback. And users can then transfer these titles (for limited times) to iPods and certain other MP3 players.

The audiobooks are available on a special Web site provided by Ingram Digital Group and linked from iCONN. Users can search the available collections on <http://connstatelib.mylibraryaudio.com/> and then use the free plug-in (Ingram Media Manager) to download the books to their PC or Mac computer. Books are checked out to one user at a time. If a user finds that a book is not available, the user may place a hold on the book and gain access when the book becomes available again. The Help link on the Web site provides more instructions on how the whole process works. Besides browsing the collection site, users can access titles via the reQuest catalog. The MARC records for all the Ingram audiobooks offered by iCONN are included in reQuest.



Downloadables are iPod compatible, and will also play on many MP3 players.

This grant project from DPUC is part of a project to support educational technology initiatives. The State Library applied for the grant in early 2009 and the audiobook collection became available for the first time on August 21. In the first month, 766 books circulated. iCONN decided to purchase the service from Ingram Digital Group because the vendor

waived the start-up fees, made the annual access fee affordable, and allowed iCONN to purchase the books rather than just lease them. Also, the books are all iPod compatible.

With the grant approved, the Connecticut Digital Library Advisory Board's Database Committee chose the initial titles for this new service, and they will be adding about 700 titles during the next year. All books purchased are intended for K-12 readers, as required by the grant provisions. Further purchasing decisions of new titles and duplicate copies will depend in part on data from

circulation and holds reports. The State Library intends to keep adding titles to the collection after the grant money is exhausted.

Ingram Digital Group provides a help guide on the site and technical support for those having problems.

If anyone has comments or questions about the service in general, they should contact Eric Hansen, ehansen@cslib.org or 860-704-2224. Eric is the project coordinator working with Ingram to provide the service. ☼

PILLAR PLACED ON ITS PEDESTAL BY MOONLIGHT

by Nancy Peluso

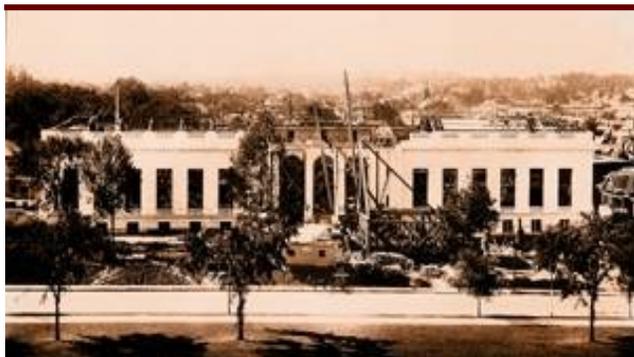


Photo dated 9-1-1909. State Archives, RG 60

On August 23, 1909, midway through construction of our new facility, three of the majestic stone columns in front of the State Library were installed.

The granite pillars, each twenty-seven feet long, four and one-half feet in diameter and weighing twenty-two tons, were made in a quarry near Barre, Vermont. Transporting them from the New York, New Haven & Hartford freight yards on Windsor Street through the congested, hilly roads of Hartford was not an easy prospect. It was a daylong operation, involving complicated and precise transfer of the pillars from flat car to wagon, twelve horses for each column, sturdy drays and skillful drivers.

“Twelve horses, each of which weighed on an average about 1,600 pounds, were used to drag the dray through the streets on its journey of nearly a mile, and it was almost an hour before each pillar had reached its destination in front of the new building. Eight of the horses pulled the load from the front and the other four pushed it from behind. In this way the four horses in the rear served to check the momentum of the load on the downward grades, and on upward grades they did their share of the moving work as well.”

With spectators lining the streets, they wound their way up Windsor Street to Main, down Main Street to Capitol Avenue and up Capitol

Avenue to the corner of Lafayette Street. The columns were delivered without mishap. Waiting for the delivery at the State Library was a derrick from Washington with a fifty-foot boom that had just recently placed the pillars in position at the Treasury Building in Washington.

“After an hour and a half of adjusting and re-adjusting the chains and steel cables, the foreman finally blew his whistle, the cables quivered and tightened, one end of the pillar rose gradually from its cradle, swung loose, poised a moment in the air and then descended gracefully to the pedestal which had been prepared for it. It was nearly dark, however, when the column reached its destination for all time on the round granite pedestal and the crescent moon was shining down upon it from the western sky.”

All quotes from the *Hartford Courant*, August 24, 1909. ❁



Undated Photo. State Archives, PG 220

Connecticut State Library *CONNector* Editorial Board

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Editor's note: Volume 11, Numbers 3 and 4 were not published.

Web site Feedback Sought

The Web Presence Committee would like you to hear your thoughts about www.cslib.org (<http://www.cslib.org/>). A feedback section with an online suggestion box has been added to the News from CSL blog (<http://cslibweb.wordpress.com/feedback/>). The committee will also be conducting site usability tests in coming months. If you're interested in being one of our test users, please contact Sharon Clapp (sclapp@cslib.org).

Sharon Clapp

Web Resources Librarian, Connecticut State Library, 860-757-6584

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