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Governor Rell Leads Procession to the State Library Kicking Off Connecticut's 375th Anniversary

Joined by schoolchildren, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, lawmakers and municipal officials, Governor M. Jodi

Rell led a procession from the State Capitol to the State Library on February 17 to officially kick off the Connecticut's 375th Anniversary Celebration.

"While all birthdays are fun, some are genuine milestones. This is certainly one of them," the Governor told those gathered in the State Library's historic Memorial Hall. "Today is just the beginning of a year-long tribute to those who came before us and helped shape the state we love. It is a state whose people will forever be industrious, inventive and enduring."

Historians point to 1635 as the critical year for settlement of the three river towns – Wethersfield, Windsor and Hartford – that initially established the Connecticut Colony.

The event, which also featured a ceremonial escort by the Governor's Foot Guard, also marked the unveiling of the official 375th website (www.CT375.com) which includes a calendar of events and activities that will include local schools, state parks, the arts community, museums and oral histories. To help plan and promote events, the Governor assembled a volunteer commission of historians, educators, arts and culture representatives, fund-raisers and others. "These marvelous volunteers who have stepped forward to help are contributing their time, their expertise and in-kind services to make sure this celebration is a fun and rewarding one," Governor Rell said.



State Librarian and Commission member Kendall Wiggin presented welcoming remarks and spoke about the significance of the State Archives and the Museum of Connecticut History in preserving and telling Connecticut's story.

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Governor Rell Leads Procession to the State Library Kicking Off Connecticut's 375th Anniversary (continued)

The 375th Commission includes Farmington Bank President John Patrick and former First Lady Nikki O'Neill, who co-chaired the state's 350th Anniversary Celebration. Other members are State Historian Walter Woodward, State Librarian Kendall Wiggin, former Lieutenant Governor Eunice Groark, and Karen Senich, Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. ⚙



Governor Rell cuts a cake baked in the shape of the State.

The Governor's Reading Challenge



Governor M. Jodi Rell inaugurated the 2010 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge at the State Library during a ceremony in Memorial Hall that honored the twenty-one schools that excelled in last year's reading challenge.

In honor of the state's 375th anniversary this year, the 2010 challenge encourages students to read at least one book by a Connecticut author or a book set in Connecticut, the Governor said.

The Governor was joined by State Education Commissioner Mark K. McQuillan and State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin to recognize and honor the twenty-one top performing schools in the 2009 Summer Reading Challenge. ⚙



Conservation ConneCTion

The Connecticut State Library has been awarded a \$238,605 Connecting to Collections Statewide Implementation Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The State Library was one of five



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

organizations nationally to be awarded a grant in this year's competition. The grant will allow the Conservation ConneCTion to implement a number of activities and programs that were identified during a planning process for which the State Library had received an earlier grant. Kathy Craughwell-Varda is the Project Director. The State Library is partnering with the Connecticut League of History Organizations and the Northeast Document Conservation Center to present two workshop series, one on disaster planning and response and the other on the care and storage of historic collections. These topics were identified as high priorities by Conservation ConneCTion's statewide survey (2009). The data from the



**NORTHEAST
DOCUMENT
CONSERVATION
CENTER**

survey found that institutions in Connecticut are struggling to provide safe storage for their collections. More than 55% of responding institutions indicated that collections are kept in unsafe attic and basement locations in their buildings. More than 22% responded that their storage areas were full, while 51% indicated that these areas were crowded. Only 6% of responding institutions indicated that they had sufficient storage space. The majority of collecting institutions responded that they were unable to provide the proper care for their collections, with nearly 90% of institutions indicating that they lacked funding to provide adequate preservation care for their collections, while 67% indicated that the inexperience of their staff or volunteers left them unable to carry out basic preservation efforts.

"The majority of collecting institutions responded that they were unable to provide the proper care for their collections, with nearly 90% of institutions indicating that they lacked funding to provide adequate preservation care for their collections, while 67% indicated that the inexperience of their staff or volunteers left them unable to carry out basic preservation efforts."

The Connecting to Collections Workshop Series: Emergency & Disaster Preparedness Workshop will be presented in collaboration with preservation service staff from the Northeast Document Conservation Center. As part of this

three-part series, participating institutions will learn about disaster planning, learn to complete dPlan Lite with the assistance of NEDCC staff, receive hands-on training in disaster response and recovery, and receive a site visit from NEDCC staff who will conduct a half-day training session at each participating institution on carrying out its disaster plan. This workshop series will begin in July 2010.

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Conservation ConneCTion (continued)

The Connecting to Collections Workshop Series: Care and Storage of Historic Collection will be presented in collaboration with the Connecticut League of History Organizations. This multi-part program will present best practices and standards for organizing and furnishing collection storage rooms on a budget, housing various collection types, implementing retrieval systems and marking systems for quick removal of collections in the event of an emergency. The first workshop will be on low-tech storage solutions and techniques, followed by workshops that focus on the care and storage of paintings, furniture, costumes and textiles, books and paper, photographs, decorative arts and metals and tools. All participants in this workshop series will have the opportunity to select one faculty member for a half day site visit to examine and make verbal recommendation regarding the care and storage of their historic collections. This workshop series will begin in September 2010. More information can be found at <http://www.conservationct.org/>. ⚙

"This multi-part program will present best practices and standards for organizing and furnishing collection storage rooms on a budget, housing various collection types, implementing retrieval systems and marking systems for quick removal of collections in the event of an emergency."



The Connecticut State Library Offers List can be viewed by visiting www.cslib.org/offers. Titles are categorized in five basic collection areas: General, History & Genealogy, Law, Newspapers, and State Documents. Books are available to eligible Connecticut state agencies and institutions such as public libraries, academic and school libraries, special libraries, law libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies on a first come, first served basis. Out-of-state libraries may submit requests thirty days after the Added Date. So visit this website often. You may find something that your library is looking for. Details about the Offers List can be found at <http://www.cslib.org/offers/OffersListInstruct.htm>. For more information contact: Diane Pizzo in Collection Services at (860)757-6561 or via email dpizzo@cslib.org. ⚙

United States Senator Truman Smith: A Connecticut Politician and Lawyer, 1791-1884

by Allen Ramsey, Government Records Archivist

Truman Smith, a long-serving politician and lawyer, is best known for being a backstage politico and is often credited with getting General Zachary Taylor elected president in 1848. Smith was born on November 27, 1791 in Roxbury, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale in 1815 and then studied at Litchfield Law School. In 1818 he was admitted to the Litchfield Bar and soon after began practicing law.

Smith was elected to the Connecticut State Legislature in 1831-1832 and in 1834. In 1838 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives as a member of the Whig Party and served until 1843. He served again as a representative to Congress from 1845 to 1849. Throughout 1847 and 1848 Smith along with other representatives formed a pro-Zachary Taylor club referred to as "the Young Indians." In late April of 1848 Taylor

in a private letter to Smith said, "It gives me much pleasure to learn that I have many friends in New England. I have the highest respect for that portion of our country. No section of the union commands more of my admiration for the high intelligence of its people and their regard to law and order." Taylor, while not fully behind Whig party principles and remaining ambiguous about his positions on issues, needed support from Smith and other northern Whigs in order to win the presidency.

At the June 1848 Whig nominating convention Smith played a pivotal role in the nomination of Zachary Taylor. The Connecticut delegation had been instructed to vote for Henry Clay. However, of the six total delegates, two followed Smith in voting for Taylor. The change in vote led other states delegates to switch their vote on the fourth ballot.

After the fourth ballot Zachary Taylor was nominated as the Whig Party's candidate for president.

"It gives me much pleasure to learn that I have many friends in New England. I have the highest respect for that portion of our country. No section of the union commands more of my admiration for the high intelligence of its people and their regard to law and order."

On March 3, 1849 Smith resigned from the United States House of Representatives and was elected to the United States Senate on March 4, 1849. After working on getting Taylor elected, he turned down a cabinet post in President Taylor's administration as the first Secretary of the Interior. Smith instead felt he could serve Taylor's administration better by remaining in the Senate. He resigned from the

¹Zachary Taylor to Truman Smith, 1848 April 27, box 2, folder 8, Truman Smith Papers, RG 069:150, Connecticut State Library. The Truman Smith Papers contain 6 letters from Taylor to Smith and 2 letters from Smith to Taylor.

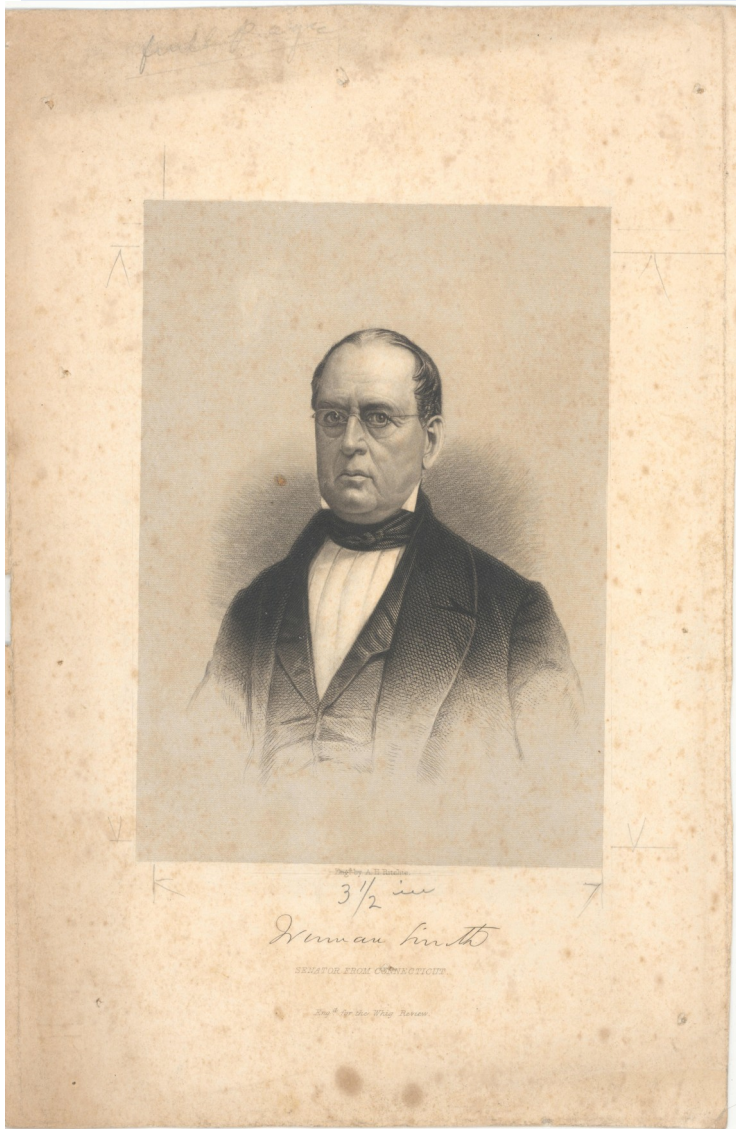
²General Zachary Taylor, "Old Rough and Ready," was a hero of the Mexican-American War fought from 1846 to 1848. The Whigs opposed the war because of concerns over expansion of slavery into new territories of the southwestern United States. In 1847-1848 most Whigs, north and south, believed General Taylor was someone who could win the presidency due to his hero status even though he owned slaves and was from the southern state of Louisiana.

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United States Senator Truman Smith: A Connecticut Politician and Lawyer, 1791-1884 (continued)

United States Senate on May 24, 1854. Several reasons are stated in various sources for Smith resigning from the US Senate including for financial reasons and disgust over passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He returned to practicing law by opening an office in New York but had few noteworthy cases.

In July 1862, President Lincoln appointed Smith to the Court of Arbitration in New York. Established by a treaty with Great Britain, this Court was tasked with bringing to trial suspected American and British vessels engaged in the slave trade. Congress terminated the Court of Arbitration in 1870 and Smith returned to practicing law. In 1873 he was the successful counsel for the defense in the US Supreme Court case *New York Central Railroad v. Charles C. Lockwood*. After the court case he retired from practicing law but remained active in local, state, and national politics. Truman Smith died in Stamford, Connecticut on May 3, 1884.



The Truman Smith Papers, 1811-2009, bulk 1811-1889, contain personal and political papers, bill files, legal papers, speeches, clippings, editorials, and spiritual writings. The papers document Smith's long career as a lawyer and politician along with his views on social issues such as temperance. The personal and political papers consist of correspondence between Smith and politicians, public officials, presidents, and family. The papers were donated by Katherine Truman Smith Coley, the great-granddaughter of Truman Smith, to the Connecticut State Library in 2009. ⚙

The "Green Team" and Single-Stream Recycling

by Ursula Hunt, Administrative Assistant



Following the 2009 Agency Staff Development Day presentation, "How Green is Your Workplace?" presented by Connie Mendolia and Mary Sherwin, Environmental Analysts and coordinators of the Department of Environmental Protection's Green Team, State Librarian Ken Wiggin suggested that the Agency form its own "green team". Several staff volunteered and Sharon Brettschneider agreed to chair the CSL Greening Committee. Committee members are Kris Aberly, Linda Williams, Todd Gabriel, Ursula Hunt, Russ DeBella, Claire Murphy, Jane Beaudoin, Carol Ganz, Stephen Slovasky, Mary Louise Jensen, and Ruth Shapleigh-Brown. The Committee held meetings on February 8, May 3, and June 7. Meeting minutes are available to staff on *CSL Echo* at intranet.cslib.org/greenteam.

"The CSL Greening Committee would like to raise the consciousness of staff to think more about their own carbon footprint and their role in helping the environment. From here on, staff will think twice before discarding a bottle or can."

The most immediate agenda item for the Committee is the implementation of single-stream recycling at 231 Capitol Ave. Sharon recently announced to the Committee that we are ready to institute the program. Flyers and notices are being prepared that alert staff and visitors to what can be recycled (food and beverage containers, all types of cardboard, and almost all kinds of paper); how to recycle (items must be clean), and where to recycle (signs will be posted). Maintenance staff will be placing barrels in strategic locations (mostly in the kitchen and lounge) for recycling purposes.

The CSL Greening Committee would like to raise the consciousness of staff to think more about their own carbon footprint and their role in helping the environment. From

here on, staff will think twice before discarding a bottle or can. Outlying CSL facilities are ahead of Capitol Avenue and already using single-stream recycling.

We are doing things at the Agency now to conserve energy and help the environment. We are buying recycled material and are using both sides of paper when possible. We are turning off large printers, copiers, and lights at night. Maintenance staff use environmentally friendly cleaners. The Committee is sending weekly emails to staff with tips on how to green their offices and their homes. Plans are being made to have a presentation on environmental issues as part of the Library's Third Thursday Brown Bag Luncheon series, which will be open to staff and to the public. We have created a Supply Exchange Center at the entrance to the Cataloging Unit where you will find office supplies such as paper trays, paper clips and clasps, colored paper, pencil holders, blank CDs, scrap paper, folders, and hanging folders. Staff are making these items that they are not using available to other staff. If not claimed they will be recycled.

Watch for more announcements and information on recycling at 231 Capitol and on ways to "green" your library.

The Committee welcomes your suggestions or questions. Please contact Jane Beaudoin at jbeaudoin@cslib.org. ⚙

Treasures of Connecticut Libraries

*by Tom Newman, State Library Data Coordinator
and Gail Hurley, Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator*

There must be dozens of libraries in Connecticut with rare photograph collections, manuscripts, and other documents that have real research value. Many of the collections have pride of place in the special collections rooms of libraries, but are underused and underappreciated. If only Connecticut libraries had an inexpensive and simple means to make these materials available digitally on the web, then these materials might begin to attract the notice and the research use that they deserve. That means exists now with the Treasures of Connecticut Libraries project.

Treasures began as a partnership between the staff of Library Connection, Inc. (in Windsor, Connecticut) and the Connecticut State Library. Both organizations understood that many libraries have material they wished to digitize, but did not have the means to do so. Library Connection staff had the ability to do the physical scanning and could assign the necessary metadata. Ken Wiggin, State Librarian, agreed to provide a home for the digital content by offering digital storage through the State Library's CONTENTdm license with OCLC. CONTENTdm handles the storage and management of digital content so that libraries can deliver this material to users via the web. Libraries digitize their collections and then use CONTENTdm to store the images, identify them, and provide a Web interface for searching and presentation. Most libraries cannot afford the CONTENTdm service on their own, so the State

Library's ability to include other libraries in the CSL license was a crucial step in advancing the project.



**Postcard of Trout Brook in West Hartford,
from West Hartford Public Library collection**

Treasures of Connecticut Libraries started with a pilot project to digitize a collection of gravestone images owned by the Farmington Library. Led by Ann Weaver, project coordinator at Library Connection, the staff there scanned the photographs and assigned the metadata. The State Library worked with OCLC to make sure the images would be available in a separate Web interface via

CONTENTdm. Gail Hurley, CSL's liaison to the project, works closely with Library Connection staff on making the images available through a Treasures website, and also creates custom URLs for libraries to use to promote their collections on CONTENTdm.

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Treasures of Connecticut Libraries (continued)

West Hartford Public Library joined the pilot project by contributing a historic postcard collection and a collection of historical atlases of their town. The pilot project ended successfully in the spring of 2009. By the end of that summer, the Lucy Robbins Welles Library contributed a collection of photographs of historic Newington homes, and the Hartford Public Library's Hartford History Center contributed historic photographs from their Hartford Times collection.

The Treasures project is growing so quickly partly because the State Library has provided some grant money to make it easier for libraries to participate. For the period of the two-year grant, which ends in April 2011, the project is free to libraries that provide up to one hundred items. Over a dozen libraries and their partnering institutions are currently represented in the Treasures project with more being added each month.

When the grant period is over, the fee for up to one hundred items should be about \$500. That will still be a bargain, but libraries are encouraged to participate in the project now. The grant application is short and simple.

Once a grant application is accepted, the library sends its materials with some metadata to Library Connection. By the end of the process, the library receives a CD with TIFF and JPEG copies of the images.

The library and the town are added to the Treasures of Connecticut Libraries CONTENTdm site where the images are made available. Libraries have the option of having a collection-level MARC record created (for a small fee) that they can use in their individual ILS systems. Also, the library gets a custom URL to use on their Web site so that researchers can go directly to all those digital images in Treasures of Connecticut Libraries that are associated with the town.

There may be libraries out there that have already begun digitizing their collections, but still do not have a good way to make those digital copies available to the public. The Treasures project provides a solution. Library Connection will evaluate the digital images that have already been made, add metadata, and then Gail Hurley at the State Library makes the images available in the Treasures of Connecticut Libraries web interface.

Gail Hurley, Ann Weaver, Ed Stidum (in charge of scanning), and Max Rowe (in charge of metadata) have been visiting libraries and doing presentations



**Historic House in Newington,
from Lucy Robbins Welles Library collection**

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Treasures of Connecticut Libraries (continued)

throughout the State to explain the project and to go over the selection criteria. They explain the steps involved in the digitization process. They also work with the libraries to identify the best candidates for digitization, as well as discuss possible copyright implications. Once the library begins its participation, the project members work closely with the library to see that the final result is as desired. Quality control, from scanning to web page, is a project priority.



Trolley in Guilford, from Guilford Public Library collection

The Treasures project staff has been working with [Connecticut History Online](#), and the [Encyclopedia of Connecticut History Online](#) (from the Connecticut Humanities Council) so that any material deemed relevant for those resources will be added to them as well. This collaborative model has led to the creation of a presentation called "Digitization Nation," which has been presented at the CLA Annual Conference as well as several standalone programs around the State. Staff from CSL, LCI, CHO, ECHO, and HPL form the "Digiteam" presenting this program.

An off-shoot of this program has been the work with Gale/Cengage staff to harvest and integrate the digital collections of CSL, Treasures, and CHO into their PowerSearch platform so that iCONN users can find digital content along with articles when searching topics of interest.



**Postcard of Main St. Bristol,
from Bristol Public Library collection**

CSL, Treasures and CHO staff are also beginning a pilot project to digitize Connecticut newspapers.

To see what is currently available go to [Treasures of Connecticut Libraries](#).

If you click on the images in this article, you will go to the image in Treasures. ⚙

A Decade and \$10 Million in Grant Awards

by LeAnn Power, Public Records Administrator

July 2010 marked an historic event for the State Library, the public records program, and municipalities in the state of Connecticut as the Historic Documents Preservation Grant Program reached its tenth anniversary. Public Act 00-146, "An Act Concerning Real Estate

"This program has enabled municipalities to make significant changes in the preservation and maintenance of their most valuable records and to improve access to these vital resources. It is essential that municipalities are able to continue to preserve and make accessible the historical records of the State of Connecticut and its citizens."

Filings and the Preservation of Historic Documents," codified as CGS §11-8i to 11-8n, took effect July 1, 2000. This important legislation resulted from cooperative efforts of the Connecticut Council of Professional Genealogists, the legislative committee of the Connecticut

Town Clerks Association, State Representative Stephen Fontana, former State Senator Thomas F. Upson, State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin, and former Public Records Administrator Eunice G. DiBella.

The goal of the Historic Documents Preservation Program was "to enhance or improve the preservation and management of historic documents." The program has made a lasting impact statewide. For the past decade municipalities have had the opportunity to apply for targeted grants, competitive grants and disaster recovery grants. To date, the State Library has awarded 2,131 grants totaling \$10,606,901.

Every municipality in the State of Connecticut has received at least one grant since the inception of the program.

This program is funded by an additional fee of three dollars collected by town clerks for each document recorded on the town land records. The town clerks forward two dollars to the State Library for deposit into the Historic Documents Preservation Account, and they retain the remaining dollar for their town's preservation use. Two-thirds of the money deposited in the fund is returned to the towns in the form of grants. The Connecticut State Library uses the remaining one-third to administer the grant program, to provide workshops to town clerks, and to preserve and manage records in the State Archives collections.

The amount of grant funds available depends on the number of real estate documents recorded each year. This number varies with the state of the economy. When the first targeted grants were awarded in FY2001, the funding levels were \$2,500 for small municipalities (populations less than 25,000), \$5,000 for medium municipalities (populations between 25,000 and 99,999) and \$7,500 for large municipalities (populations of 100,000 or greater). In the peak years FY2004-FY2009, funding levels reached \$7,000, \$12,000 and \$17,000. Unfortunately, due to the declining housing market, the program has not been able to maintain these levels the past two years. Currently, the funding levels are \$3,000, \$6,000, and \$9,000.

The program initially emphasized preservation and conservation of land

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A Decade and \$10 Million in Grant Awards (continued)

records. Over the years, the grant categories have expanded to include re-indexing projects to improve access to land records, vital records, and survey maps; microfilming projects for minute books, military discharges, and vital statistic records to improve security and preservation; and storage and facilities projects to improve the physical environment for public records. Recent grant proposals include backfile conversion projects to scan the towns' land record volumes and merge the images with the land record indexes, with the ultimate goal of having a 40-year searchable online database of land record images and indexes.

In 2006, the Office of the Public Records Administrator introduced the competitive grant program. Competitive grants addressed broad records management or archival management needs. The competitive grants were much larger in scope than the targeted grants and concentrated on records above the individual department or office level. Towns were eligible for grants up to \$50,000. Twenty-eight competitive grants totaling \$1,146,674 were awarded between FY2007-FY2009. For example, in 2007, the Town of Hebron received an archival management competitive grant to preserve records dated 1780 to 1850. The grant focused on organizing a small group of historical records. Following the advice and direction of professional archivists, three volunteers who were lifelong residents of Hebron and members of the Hebron Historical Society participated in the reorganization effort. Their background in town history was essential to the accomplishment of this project and brought many hours of enjoyment from

the information discovered in the historical documents. The records are now organized and available to citizens and researchers.

As another example of a competitive grant, the Town of Southington received a \$50,000 records management grant to address a wide range of records management concerns in its Town Hall. The town was able to dispose of fourteen tons of paper after obtaining official permission from our office. The town created a new records center and transferred a collection of town and borough records, identified as permanent records, to the Connecticut State Archives. The town has benefited from the records management grant by being able to provide better and more efficient service to their citizens.



**Hebron Historical Society volunteers
Dottie Taggart, Marie Billard, Jean Raymond
and Assistant Town Clerk Ann Hughes.
Photo courtesy of Town Clerk Carla Pomporowicz.**

In May 2009, the legislature passed Senate Bill 1167, "An Act Concerning a State Deficit Mitigation Plan for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009." The legislation "swept" \$900,000 from the Historic Documents Preservation Grant fund leaving a balance of less than \$400,000 available for FY2010 grants. This resulted

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A Decade and \$10 Million in Grant Awards (continued)



**Tightly packed, tri-folded, 18th century documents prior to processing.
Photo courtesy of Hebron Town Clerk
Carla Pomproicz.**

in suspension of the competitive grants and the second round of targeted grants for the FY2010 year. As a result, competitive grants will not be offered again until sufficient funds are available to support these projects.

The Connecticut State Library has used its portion of the preservation account to preserve records at the State Library. Some of the more significant projects include conserving the 1934 Fairchild

aerial photography survey, replacing deteriorated sixty-year-old negative Photostats of the indexes to *Connecticut Archives* with new positive image use copies, and funding the publication of volumes 17-19 of the *Public Records of the State of Connecticut*, which include the documents of the 1818 Constitutional Convention.

The State of Connecticut continues to face difficult times. In the legislative sessions ahead, it is critical that the grant program remain intact. This program has enabled municipalities to make significant changes in the preservation and maintenance of their most valuable records and to improve access to these vital resources. It is essential that municipalities are able to continue to preserve and make accessible the historical records of the State of Connecticut and its citizens.

Additional information about the Historic Documents Preservation Grant program is available online at www.cslib.org/publicrecords/histdoc/index.htm. ⚙

September is Library Card Signup Month

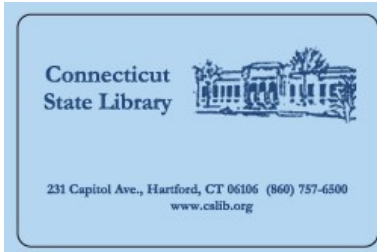
by Diane Pizzo, Collection Services Unit Head

Celebrate by applying for a Connecticut State Library Card from the Connecticut State Library.

Visit the Connecticut State Library to browse our resources on-site or use your Connecticut State Library Card as your key to a virtual visit. Delve into some of our online resources from home, including online newspaper, ebooks, ejournals and more at <http://www.cslib.org/eresourceshome.htm>.

Connecticut residents can apply for a Connecticut State Library Card in person or by mail using the procedure described here: <http://www.cslib.org/borrow.htm#Librarycard>.

Questions can be directed to the State Library at <http://www.cslib.org/asklib.htm>. ⚙



Recent Acquisitions
Museum of Connecticut History
by David J. Corrigan, Museum Curator



Stoneware water cooler, marked "Stedman & Seymour/New Haven," c.1835

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Recent Acquisitions Museum of Connecticut History (continued)



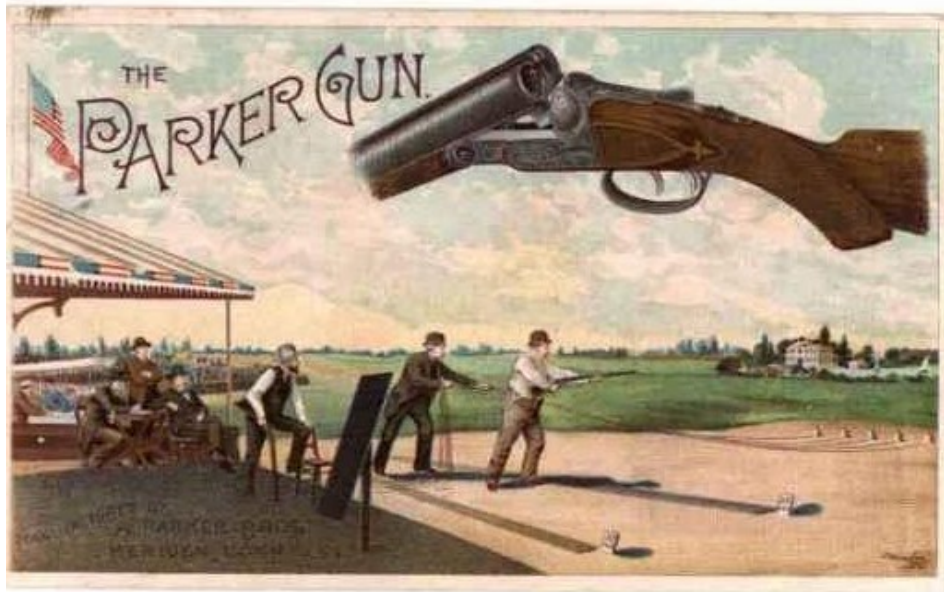
Tee Shirt, "Dump Dodd 2010"

Accession #2010.5.21

The most recent addition to the museum's Connecticut political history collection is a group of artifacts--buttons, bumper stickers, tee shirts, lawn signs, etc.--from "Dump Dodd 2010," a conservative grass-roots political organization founded in Woodbury in 2008 to oppose the re-election of U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd. The tee shirt depicts "Joe the Voter" dumping Senator Dodd out of the back of his dump truck. Since Dodd's January 2010 announcement that he would not run for re-election, the group has focused its attention on the senatorial campaign of Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

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Recent Acquisitions Museum of Connecticut History (continued)



Accession # 2009.17

Trade card, Parker Brothers, Meriden, CT 1890s

In addition to collecting Connecticut-made firearms and accoutrements, the Museum also collects Connecticut firearms-related trade catalogs, advertisements, price lists and other paper ephemera. This trade card depicts a trap-shooting scene with one shooter about to fire, another waiting his turn, judges sitting under a tent and a large crowd seated in a grandstand in the background. The reverse of the card contains brief descriptions of both hammer and hammerless shotguns and their prices. Parker Brothers was founded in 1868 by Charles Parker, a well-known Meriden manufacturer, and his three sons, Wilbur, Charles, Jr. and Dexter. Their shotguns quickly became highly sought-after firearms and the firm manufactured over 242,000. In 1934, the Remington Arms Company purchased the firm.



Accession #2010.19

Absalom Stedman and Horace K. Seymour operated a stoneware pottery in New Haven from c1825 to 1832. Although numerous examples of Stedman & Seymour stoneware survive, this may be a unique survivor. It measures 16 inches high and is decorated with ten cobalt blue bands. Originally, it probably would have had a wooden or stoneware lid and a wooden spigot.

State Library's Mansell Volumes Transferred to the Library of Congress

*by Stephen Slovasky, Cataloging Unit Head
and Diane Pizzo, Collection Services Unit Head*



**Gabriel F. Horschler, (right) Head, of the Law Cataloging Section
at Library of Congress, and Kevin Johnson, (left),
History & Genealogy Library Technical Assistant**

In April 2010, Gabriel F. Horschler, Head of the Law Cataloging Section at the Library of Congress, drove a rented cargo truck to Hartford to claim our donation of *The National Union Catalog Pre-1956 Imprints* (commonly known as "*Mansell*" after the British publisher who issued the set between 1967 and 1981). *Mansell* is a massive compilation of 13 million book titles and a record of the libraries that own them. Because it includes thousands of entries not listed in parallel online bibliographic sources, it is a critical resource for interlibrary loan and bibliographic reference, serving readers and researchers, librarians, and booksellers. Head of Collection Services Diane Pizzo, who arranged the donation, is gratified that the set journeyed safely to its new home in Washington, D.C. The State Library, while retaining its 9,200-microfiche copy of *Mansell*, has recovered 140 linear feet of shelf space, and those Congressional law librarians who regularly consult *Mansell* now have it conveniently located in their work area. ⚙

Connecticut Archives Month, October 2010

by Mark Jones, State Archivist

What Are Archives?

Collections held by archives are quite varied and may include letters, diaries, account books, deeds, probate records, business records, photographs, and many other types of documentary evidence. Together they form a rich documentary legacy which shapes our understanding of the past and our assessment of the future.

What Is An Archivist?

An archivist is a person who works with records to make them accessible for research, publication, or exhibit. Archivists do everything from choosing which records to preserve to describing them in detail to aid researchers in finding the information they seek.

Why Are They Important?

Archives provide evidence of past events, help establish legal rights, and contribute to a better understanding of cultural history. Documents provide us with the evidence we need to prove where and when we were born, what property we own, and the permission we need to drive or vote or travel. If you have ever lost your wallet, you know the difficulties involved in trying to replace documentation. These records are maintained by libraries, archives, historical societies, town halls, churches, and a variety of other organizations.

What Is Archives Month?

Since 2005, the Society of American Archivists and the Council of State Archivists have celebrated October as American Archives Month to recognize the value of the work of those doing archival activities and the importance of historical records.

Has Connecticut Celebrated Archives Month?

For several years, the State Archivist, who chairs the Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, has asked governors to issue Official Statements making October "Connecticut Archives Month." Last year under a grant from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission, the State Archivist asked historical societies, libraries, and museums to send announcements of activities in October that pertain to archives for an Archives Month Clearinghouse on the State Library's web site at www.cslib.org.

Who Participates?

- Archival repositories
- Libraries
- Museums
- Historical Societies
- Churches celebrating anniversaries
- Genealogical organizations
- Local historians

- Students doing *History Day* projects
- Private organizations
- Town Clerks

What Do They Do in October?

- Exhibits using historical records
- Workshops on using, preserving and caring for archival records
- Researcher workshops
- Lectures
- Repository Tours
- School Programs that use documents to teach curriculum units
- Oral Histories
- Articles about collections in newspapers, periodicals, and journals

What Do Other States Do for Archives Month?

To see what other states have done for American Archives Month, go to <http://www.statearchivists.org/archivesmonth/index.htm>. Remember to inform the State Archivist of your activities during October and to use the Archives Month Clearinghouse on the State Library's web site (<http://www.cslib.org>) to find out what others are doing to celebrate the month.

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New Resource Sharing Pilot Project for Connecticut State Employees by Diane Pizzo, Collection Services Unit Head

Are you a Connecticut State Employee?

Do you have a Connecticut State Library Card?

If you answered (quietly and to yourself) "YES!" to these questions, then without leaving your office you can request library materials that are available for loan from any four Connecticut State University Libraries: Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western.

Do you have a pin code or password to login to your Library record?

If you answered (quietly and to yourself), "YES!", then fire up your web browser and go to <https://www.consuls.org/patroninfo> to login to your library record, enter your Connecticut State Library Card barcode and your pin code or password.

Voila! Now you can search to your heart's content. If by chance you find an item that might help with your most current project at work and if by chance, that item is AVAILABLE at one of the Connecticut State Universities or at the Connecticut State Library, then go ahead and click



The request will find its way through a series of tubes, well not really, but the item you requested will soon be on the way to the State Library. When it arrives, you'll receive a phone call or email alerting you that the item is ready for pickup. If your State Office is closer to one of the Connecticut State University Libraries, you can choose to pick-up your item at Central, Eastern, Southern or Western.

Do you need a Connecticut State Library card?

If you don't already have a Connecticut State Library Card, now is the perfect time to apply. Go to <http://www.cslib.org/borrow.htm#StateEmplServ> for more details.

Do you need a pin number?

If you already have a Connecticut State Library Card, but need to add a pin code or password to your library record, visit https://www.consuls.org/screens/help_pin.html for instructions on how to get started.

Questions?

Questions can be directed to the State Library at: <http://www.cslib.org/asklib.htm> or by phone at (860) 757-6500.

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