

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY



...Preserving the Past, Informing the Future



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A Stormy Season of Change by State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin

This Fall has been particularly stormy – first with Hurricane Irene and then the great snow storm. Libraries across the state were there for anyone needing a place to access the Internet, or to charge phones, laptops, and tablets. They also helped people find the information they needed regarding insurance coverage, shelter, food safety and more.

This has also been a stormy time for the State Library. The State Library survived the turbulent budget talks that occurred over the summer (at one point there was a proposal to eliminate the entire State Library) but not without budget holdbacks and organizational changes. The most significant budget holdback was in the library materials budget. The holdback of \$591,008 from the FY2012 library materials budget represented a 59% budget reduction which required the cancellation of the majority of legal treatises and legal digests on standing order. For the principal law library for the state, this level of cut is not sustainable.

The retirement of Public Library Construction Grants consultant Mary Louise Jensen was a change that is affecting the Division of Library Development. While we are happy for Mary Louise, the fact that our request to refill her position was denied has left us scrambling to administer the construction grant program and to provide the consulting that libraries come to us for. This fall,

"As of October 1, 2011 the State Library's business office and human relations operations were transferred to the state's Department of Administrative Services' business office and the Small Agency Resource Team (SmART) respectively."

"This Fall, Sharon Brettscheidner announced that she will be retiring in February. Again we wish her well, but we also know this change will be a significant one for the Division of Library Development and the library community."

Sharon Brettscheidner announced that she will be retiring in February. Again we wish her well, but we also know this change will be a significant one for the Division of Library Development and the library community.

Another significant change has been the loss of our business office and our human resources office. As of October 1, 2011 the State Library's business office and human relations operations were transferred to the state's Department of Administrative Services' business office and the Small Agency Resource Team (SmART) respectively. As a result of this transfer of operations, two employees retired and four moved to other agencies. While I am committed to making this change work, it has been a wrenching change and one that has added to the work load of staff who heretofore had not had to deal directly with fiscal matters.

Yes, it has been a season of change and like the two storms – often the change has not been welcome. But change is a constant and we are moving forward. We just ask for your patience and understanding as we work our way through it all.

Kendall F. Wiggin,
State Librarian



The Day Jack Johnson Boxed at Camp Hines, Niantic, Connecticut

by Mark Jones, State Archivist

While I was looking through town folders in our Picture Group 200, Connecticut Cities and Town Collection, 1885–1965, I came across a folder for Niantic, Connecticut and looked inside. I found around fifty black and white snapshots of something called



Jack Johnson, Pugilist, with
John B. Riddle, Hartford

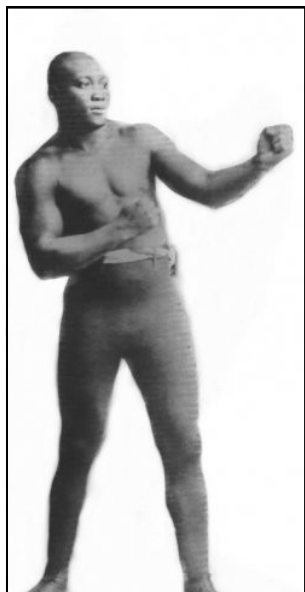
Camp Hines in 1923. There was a photograph of John B. Riddle of Hartford, who took most of the images. I kept seeing a well-built African American posing with the men at the camp and beside his fancy car. Could this be Jack Johnson? On turning to the reverse side of the image, I found a caption that the man in the pictures was the first African American Heavyweight Champion, Jack Johnson. What was he doing there? Who was John Riddle? What was Camp Hines?

Camp Hines was an outgrowth of growing concern over the ability of the wounded and disabled to fit into society and get the assistance they needed to do so. An article in the August 28, 1921 issue of the *Hartford Courant* was entitled: “Ex-soldiers by Thousands Paying in Suffering and Ill Health Toll Exacted by Overseas Service.” The article stated that 3,000 men came back to Connecticut as wounded and disabled by “tuberculosis, gas poisoning, shell shock, and nervous and mental disorders.” Five hundred were receiving treatment at government and private hospitals in the state. In the issue of the *Courant* dated November 16, 1924, another article entitled, “How War Wrecks the Human Mind” detailed the mental effects of the First World War. “Twenty Thousand American doughboys” confronted mental illness and nervousness as a result of the war. One out of three veterans in U.S. hospitals had acquired these afflictions. Specialists had warned that it would take a couple years for them to manifest themselves.

In 1921, veterans across the nation formed a national organization, the Disabled American Veterans of the World War (DAVWW). Membership was opened to the “wounded, injured and disabled soldiers, sailors and marines.” The DAV’s mission was to assist wounded veterans in overcoming their disabilities and reentering American society as useful contributors. Many casualties of the war who did not have outward visible wounds were suffering from the effects of being gassed in the trenches or from shell shock. Membership in the DAV was open to these wounded veterans.

In February 1922, Hartford veterans formed a Hartford Post No.1 of the DAVWW

and a month later held a meeting at a banquet room of the Hotel Garde. During the spring the post collected funds in Hartford for a summer camp for these men. By July, over \$12,000 had been raised with the slogan, "Hartford Never Forgets." A.I. Murdock, secretary of the camp fund executive committee, sent a letter to all ministers announcing



Jack Johnson, The
"Galveston Giant"

that it was the post's "desire that every disabled man have an opportunity to attend the camp." Murdock asked the clergy to use their pulpits to encourage all disabled by the war to make application for the camp, which was to run in the month of August. He called it a "recuperating camp . . . where the veterans may rest and enjoy the seashore."

The first camp was held in August 1922 and was named Camp Forbes for Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Forbes, director of the United States Veterans Bureau. In 1923, it was named after Brigadier General T. Hines who held the same post.

Businesses and charity organizations donated time, funds, supplies and food and labor to set up and help run the camp. Wooden structures for an administrative and recreation halls and a storehouse were built. Caterers provided meals and local dairy farmers provided milk at no cost. The kickoff was the gathering of the first set of campers at the Old State House in Hartford. Every man was chauffeured to Niantic in cars provided by the Rotary Club and Hartford municipal departments.

The entourage stopped at the green in Colchester on the way down to Niantic and on the return trip for a reception. As the *New London Day* reported, "several short addresses were made by citizens and the ladies served cake and ice cream."

The camp provided a diversity of entertainment and pastimes to help the veterans relax, such as bands, motion pictures, vaudeville and minstrel shows. Sports included volleyball and baseball, and there were checkers and card tournaments. Attendees went



Colchester women entertain each group of campers as they pass through the town.

on outings to Fisher's Island, Fort Wright and New London. Politicians, World War I officers from overseas, and members of the National Guard and regular Army visited and gave speeches. Relatives and citizens of Hartford visited and took in the entertainment. Though the camp remained open for the month of August, most men stayed for only a week and returned home. There was one rule—reveille and taps were not played.

In 1922 Camp Forbes was such a success that Hartford Post #1 planned and raised funds for another one in 1923. Governor Templeton wrote a letter expressing support and a hope that similar camps would appear across the state. The Hartford Post #1 was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly and legislators introduced bills supporting the camp. In 1923, members of the General Assembly took part in soliciting contributions. Governor Templeton favored a permanent fund for the camp.



Jack Johnson

One man who attended the camp that year memorialized it in black and white snapshots. He was a disabled veteran from Hartford, John B. Riddle. Riddle was born in Hartford on June 11, 1895, the son of Scottish immigrants. His father worked as a watchman at the State Capitol. Little is known about his son's life up to 1916 except that he was a machinist at Pratt and Whitney. When he was twenty-one, he served with Troop B, 5th Militia Cavalry at Nogales on the Mexican border. In 1917 after President Wilson declared war, Riddle enlisted in the Army and served with the 101st Machine Gun Battalion, 26th Division known as the "Yankee Division" on account of its preponderance of New England members.



Jack Johnson with a Group of Campers

He was in major battles of the "Yankee Division" and at Chateau Thierry, suffered from "shell shock" and mustard gas. He spent weeks in the hospital recovering from these wounds and was discharged in 1919. In 1922 he filled out a questionnaire sent out by the War Records Department of the Connecticut State Library to thousands of veterans writing that he had been "unable to work + have been in the Hospitals most of the time in the last two years."

In 1923, Riddle brought his camera and took pictures of the camp, some activities and the visit of Jack Johnson. Who was this man? Johnson was one of the most famous

African Americans of his time. He defied white prejudice and won the World Heavyweight crown in 1908 and kept it until he was defeated in 1915. He was born in Galveston, Texas in 1878. In his boxing prime, he was six feet tall and 200 pounds with a seventy-five inch reach. He was known as the “Galveston Giant.” In the ring, he taunted his opponents, and outside of it, he wore fancy clothes, drove fast motor cars and married two white women. All of this was so much an affront to racial bigots of his day that whites longed for a “Great White Hope,” who would defeat Johnson and return the title to their race.

In 1910, Jim Jeffries, a white boxer who held the title, succumbed to public pressure and came out of retirement to fight Johnson for the honor of the white race. The contest was billed as the “Fight of the Century.” It was held in Reno and had the largest monetary prize in boxing history. The fight took place in the sweltering afternoon of July 4th and was filmed. Johnson won by knocking Jeffries out in the fifteenth round. Whites were shocked and throughout the nation, the showing of the film of the fight led to white violence against blacks.

Johnson became a global celebrity, but his personal life resulted in an arrest under the Mann Act, which forbade the transporting of women across state lines for purposes of sex. He was convicted of the charges on a technicality and a judge sentenced him to a year in jail. He fled the country and for many years traveled around the world. In 1915 Johnson fought a younger boxer, Jesse Willard, who defeated him in a bout in Havana, Cuba. Johnson later claimed he threw the fight in order to return to the United States without serving his one-year sentence. However, he had lost his title and never regained it. In 1920, he returned to the U.S. and served a year in prison.

After his release from jail, Johnson put on boxing exhibitions. At Camp Hines, he appeared with his two sparring partners in three bouts of three rounds. There were other fights on the card, but Johnson was the “star.” According to the *Courant*, one hundred camp attendees and a crowd of 400 visitors witnessed Johnson box. In September of the same year he boxed at Danielson before a crowd of 1,000.



Jack Johnson and
Two Sparring Partners

Johnson entertained the men with jokes and stories. He appears in the photographs with his famous large smile. According to the *Courant*, the veterans enjoyed his exhibition and Johnson showed something of his former speed in the ring.



Looks Like the Pugilist's Car.

He continued to box in exhibitions. In 1929 he put on an exhibition in New Haven before a crowd of 5,000. However, in that year he ended these bouts.

In one photograph, Johnson is standing beside his expensive car. He liked fast cars and was cited for speeding several times. Johnson survived four accidents. In each, his vehicles

rolled over. In 1946 however, speed caught up with Johnson. His car hit a telephone pole and

rolled over and he died. John Riddle's snapshots preserved the day he fought at Camp Hines.

The Hartford DAV held a summer camp in August at Niantic from 1922-1928. John Riddle worked for many years for the Office of the State Comptroller and remained active in veterans' organizations, even founding an American Legion post. He was active in Hartford politics as a Republican and served as a city alderman. He died in 1959.



Final Retreat, 1924

Your Legislator Said What? by Steve Mirsky, Law Reference Librarian



It is not uncommon for many of us to rely on how the media portrays our elected officials. Many times political coverage is editorialized with very few direct quotes. And if quotes are included, they are rarely substantial and often used within the context of pushing a point of view. So how can we get to the source and read what our senators and representatives here in Connecticut are saying each year? Believe it or not, everything they say on the floor of the

House and Senate and during public hearings is recorded and transcribed for the public record. Two full time staff members here in the State Library's Bill Room scan through every page (averaging 50,000 pages each year) and mark where specific bills are being discussed. This is critical since many times legislators do not specifically mention bill numbers when they speak. All of these specific pages associated with the passage of particular acts constitute a "legislative history". The State Library has bound volumes of House and Senate transcripts dating back to 1953 and of Committee hearing transcripts dating as far back as 1901. These books are available for anybody to walk in and look at.

But of course this is 2011. Now these pages are gradually being loaded online so we can find out from the comfort of home who supported the death penalty or who made certain points against marijuana decriminalization. It will take years to scan all the past years, but starting in 2009 the Connecticut State Library began acquiring PDF files deriving from the process for acquiring master microfiche of legislative hearings and proceedings. These pages are available via our legislative history index which directly links to the full text: <http://www.cslib.org/leghis.asp>. Here is a current listing of Connecticut legislative histories now available online.

- Connecticut State Library Digital Collection: House, Senate, and Committee transcripts from 1971 and from 2009 – present . These can be cited since they are a direct duplication of the paper.
- Connecticut General Assembly website: House, Senate, and Committee transcripts from 1988 to present. However, these documents are not official, have not been indexed or paginated, and therefore cannot be cited. Also, the early years do not include testimony submitted during Committee hearings.

The Photography of Lewis Sprague Mills (1874–1965)

by Bill Anderson, Cataloging Librarian



csl_arc_pg180_b1f08i05.jpg

Episcopal meeting house, Barkhamsted Hollow. Also identified as a "Universalist church" on the photo verso, the building was built in 1816.

The church in this photograph no longer exists. The graves surrounding the church were moved to Barkhamsted Center in 1939 in anticipation of the coming man-made flood. The site of the village of Barkhamsted Hollow which the church and cemetery served was fated by the water needs of a growing Hartford to lie under the waters of the Barkhamsted Reservoir.

This scene is one of the many photographs of people, structures and landscapes of Connecticut that educator and native son of Canton Lewis Sprague Mills took from 1895–1955, now held by the Connecticut State Library. In some cases, such as the church above, his photographs present a window on scenes which development or the accidents of time have erased from the landscape. Other

photographs are of well known and lesser known landmarks that we can visit to this day.

Lewis Sprague Mills was born on September 5, 1874 in, to quote his autobiography, a “drafty, fire-place heated and candle-light [sic] farmhouse”. The house, built by Deacon Uriah Hosford in 1821 still stands at 100 Barbourtown Road in Canton Center.¹ His father was Archibald Lewis Mills, a Civil War veteran with the 22nd Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteers, and a farmer for most of his life. A picture of A.L. Mills in his later years dressed in his Civil War uniform is in the collection.² Lewis S. Mills’ mother was Mary Sprague Loomis, who taught school before her marriage, and encouraged young Lewis in his educational aspirations, often over the opposition of his father, who felt the boy was needed on the farm.

Lewis Mills made his career in education, teaching in Willimantic, Woodstock and Plainfield, graduating from Columbia University in 1908, and afterwards serving as a field supervisor for

¹Miller, Donna. Canton and Collinsville. Charleston, S.C., Arcadia Publishing, 2001. P.25

²PG180. Box 2 Folder 24

the State Board of Education. He retired in 1939. Mills also served as a justice of the peace in Plainville, director of Plainville's Chamber of Commerce, and lay minister for the Congregational Church.

Mills' chief passions were history and photography. He served as editor of *The Lure of the Litchfield Hills*, a magazine devoted to the history of Litchfield County, from his retirement in 1939 to 1956, and was the author of the first book on Connecticut history published especially for use in Connecticut schools, *The Story of Connecticut* in 1932. In 1961, the Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington, Connecticut was dedicated in his honor. Lewis Sprague Mills passed away at his home in East Hartford at the age of 90 on March 7, 1965.

It was during Mills' years as a young teacher at the Willimantic Normal School that he first learned the fundamentals of photography from colleague Mr. Frank Cunningham. Mills turned many of the photographic negatives into slides which he used in his classrooms as visual aids over the years.

Mills achieved his first published if uncredited photo in 1902 in rather unusual circumstances, as his very frank autobiography (held by the State Library in manuscript form) relates. Mills was asked by newsmen to sneak into a Ringling Brothers railroad car quarantined for smallpox in the Willimantic railroad yard to snap a picture. This was successfully done one night by flashlight, earning Mills the tidy sum of \$100. He escaped getting caught by either the railroad authorities or the smallpox (getting vaccinated *after* taking the picture). Unfortunately, this picture does not reside in the collection held by the State Library, and the author of the article has been unable to find the photo in the *Hartford Courant* or the *Willimantic Chronicle*, although the quarantine is mentioned several times in the later paper. Mills is silent on where his photograph was published.



cs1_arc_pg180_b2f19i01.tif
"Mighty Hunters, town of Canton". Taken in 1905

The preceding exploit earned Mills enough money to replace his five-by-seven inch camera with an eight-by-ten inch camera. Upon his return to the farm in the summer of

1902, his father allowed him the use the horse and buggy to ride around to photograph “a few old places and scenes” He later rented a horse and buggy as his photography brought in money (Mills, 68). Also that summer, he built a photographic studio in the farmhouse with the help of his father and brother, although his pious father strictly forbade photographic work on Sundays.

The Connecticut State Library purchased the collection of eight-by-ten inch black and white photographs (housed under Photo Group 180) from Mills between 1953 and 1958. Many are concerned with historic structures in Connecticut, such as historic houses, churches, bridges, factories, ships, and monuments, though others document events and people of the early to mid twentieth century. Noteworthy among the latter are photographs documenting the 1935 Connecticut Tercentenary Celebration, photographs of members of the Mohegan Indian Tribe and their reservation around Montville, and rural scenes including hunts and barn raisings. Although Mills hailed from Litchfield County, his photographs were taken across the entire state.

The photographs are currently being researched and cataloged by Bill Anderson, a cataloger at the State Library, using the Extensis Portfolio digital asset management system to embed the catalog record in the digital image for preservation purposes. Geospatial coordinates for the sites portrayed have been included whenever possible for use in future mapping projects. The State Library’s digitizing expert Christine Pittsley will transfer the digitized Mills photos into [Connecticut History Online](#), Connecticut’s premier repository of historic images, which contains thousands of other digital images relating to Connecticut contributed by the State Library, the University of Connecticut, Connecticut Historical Society, the New Haven Colony Historical Society and Mystic Seaport. The Collection is directly accessible under Mills’ name as well as being searchable by the town where the photograph was taken (if known) and the subject depicted, such as houses, churches, covered bridges, Mohegan Indians, and fishing boats.

“The addition of the Mills Photographs to Connecticut History Online (found at [cthistoryonline.org](#)) will enrich an already valuable treasure chest of visual Connecticut heritage with the photographic vision of a particularly talented observer of Connecticut in the first half of the twentieth century.”

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Sources

<http://www.registercitizen.com/articles/2010/12/19/news/doc4d0da1359bff8834704371.txt>

Lewis S. Mills obituary. Hartford Courant, May 9, 1965 p.4

Mills, Lewis Sprague. Autobiography of Lewis Sprague Mills. [Typescript held by State Library]

Miller, Donna. Canton and Collinsville. Charleston, S.C., Arcadia Publishing, 2001

Recovery of Public Records in Connecticut

by LeAnn R. Power, Public Records Administrator



City of Middletown burial permits dating from 1888 to 1900.

In 2004, The Council of State Historical Records Coordinators, The Society of American Archivists, and The National Association of Government Archives & Records Administrators (NAGARA) issued a “Statement Regarding the Sale of Historical Public Records through Online Auctions.” This was because of the increasing number of official government records becoming available for purchase over the Internet. In January 2011 it was discovered that original burial permits from the City of Middletown, Connecticut, were being offered for sale on eBay, each with a starting bid of \$9.99. The group of 164 records, dating from 1888 to 1900, had been purchased at a tag sale for \$25.

The Connecticut General Statutes §11-8c stipulates that “upon complaint of the State Librarian, the Attorney General shall replevy any public records which have been unlawfully transferred or removed in violation of §§1-18, 1-210, 7-109, 11-8 and 11-8a. Such public records shall be returned to the office of origin and safeguards shall be established to prevent further recurrence of unlawful transfer or removal” . <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/pub/chap188.htm#Sec11-8c.htm>].

The Public Records Administrator (PRA) emailed the individual who was selling the permits on eBay to gather additional information about these important documents. She then contacted the Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics at the City of Middletown Health Department. It was determined that these records were missing from the town’s collection, which dated back only to 1901.

Burial permit records are the property of the town and they are permanent records in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §7-65 *et seq.* [<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/pub/chap093.htm#Sec7-65.htm>] and Connecticut Municipal Retention Schedule M5: Town Clerks and Registrars of Vital Statistics Records, Item M5-510 [<http://www.cslib.org/publicrecords/retclerks.pdf>].

The goal was to prevent the sale of these historical public records and to ensure that the records were returned to the City of Middletown Health Department. The PRA contacted the Assistant Attorney General and the Middletown City Attorney for assistance in the

recovery of the records.

The Assistant Attorney General was able to identify the seller of the burial permits by finding an email that matched the seller's eBay moniker. The Attorney General's office prepared the following documents for delivery to the eBay seller on July 8, 2011: Notice and Order of Hearing, Notice of Hearing, Notice Regarding Hearing, Summons, Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order, Application for Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order, Cease and Desist Order, Affidavit, attachments, Writ, Of Replevin, Affidavit, attachments, and Notice and Recognizance. The PRA signed two affidavits and was expected to attend a hearing on August 1, 2011.

On July 11, 2011, the Public Records office received some encouraging news. The seller had returned all 164 burial permits to the city and they had been received at the City Attorney's office. The Attorney General's office withdrew the lawsuit. Our office applauds the diligent efforts of the Assistant Attorney General and Middletown City Attorney. We recognize the importance of preventing the sale of historical public records on online venues. Our hope is that the recovery of the burial permits in Middletown will set an important precedent in Connecticut for the recovery of government records.



Lisa Mountain, Assistant Registrar of Vital Statistics, City of Middletown Health Department displays the burial permits that were returned to the City.

First published in the NAGARA Clearinghouse, 2011, Vol. 27, No. 3, pg. 15

Connecticut Forum on Digital Initiatives

by Christine Pittsley, Digital Collections Technician



On October 28, 2011 the Connecticut State Library hosted an event called the Connecticut Forum on Digital Initiatives. The purpose of this Forum was to bring together people from academic, public and research libraries, museums, historical societies, academics and various other

cultural resource organizations to talk about the state of digital initiatives and projects in and around the state of Connecticut.

The Forum was held in Memorial Hall and was attended by over one hundred individuals from institutions such as Prosser Public Library, American Museum of Natural History, Stonington Historical Society, Fairfield University and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut. This is the first time such a diverse group of institutions and organizations have come together and the results were amazing.

We had speakers from local institutions such as Yale University, University of Connecticut, Connecticut



Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian, making opening remarks.



Tom Scheinfeldt,
Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media

History Online, Trinity College and the Hartford History Center as well as the Getty Research Institute, Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media and Historypin. Nick Stanhope, CEO of We Are What We Do, the London based nonprofit that is behind Historypin, was able to speak

about Historypin & Institutions, with the support of the Connecticut Humanities Council. The topics they covered included imaging, digital preservation, digital asset management, and tools for publishing content and most importantly, collaborative projects happening here in Connecticut.

If you were able to make it, we thank you for your participation and hope you'll stay a part of the conversation. If you weren't able to join us you can still join the conversation at the Forum's companion website. Here you will find the presentations given by our speakers, links to favorite sites, and a digital project repository where you can list your projects and see what everyone else is working on. So visit <http://ctdigital.drupalgardens.com/> and add your voice to the conversation!



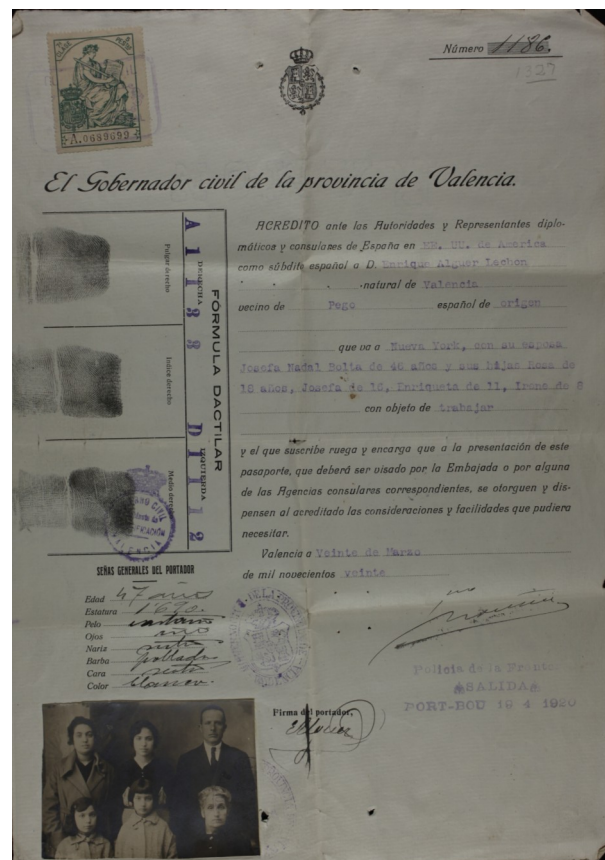
Nick Stanhope, CEO, We Are What We Do, talking about Historypin

Ancestry.com Digitizing Partnership Now Documents Minors' Work Permits and Service in World War I

by Carolyn Picciano, History & Genealogy Librarian

There has been a great deal of activity this past year in the small, closet-sized room that the camera operator from Ancestry calls home. Our first operator left at the end of December 2010 after finding a permanent position out of state, and the project was on hold until March of this year, when Caroline Ford began work. She more than made up for lost time and finished the World War I Military Census this last August; a total of 150 boxes of records were digitized. These are now being indexed by Ancestry, but we do not have a date that they will be available for public use.

After completing the Military Census, Caroline's next project was from Record Group 10: Records of the Department of Education, specifically Series 19: Age Documentation for Minor's Work Permits. This collection consists of passports and baptismal certificates of children born in other countries. Reform legislation in the early twentieth century required that children receive documentation proving they were old enough to legally work for wages, but many children may not have had birth certificates issued from their country of birth. Other documentation was then collected by the state and children were issued a permit from the Education Department. These documents, twenty boxes in all, date from approximately 1900 to 1930; the documents are written in languages as wide ranging as



English, Italian, Polish, Swedish, Russian or Farsi. Some passports even have photographs of individuals or entire families. While it is a small collection, to someone finding an ancestor, it will be a true treasure.

Ms. Ford is now working on a collection that will complement the 1917 Military Census. In 1919 the War Records Department of the State Library was created and charged to "collect, classify, index and install in the library all available material relating to Connecticut participation, public or private, in the World War and thus to establish permanent and accessible records of its extent and character, such record to be as complete and comprehensive as possible and to cover not only the activities of the state, its subdivisions and agencies but also of Connecticut agencies of the federal government, organizations of private persons and of those individuals who were direct participants in the great struggle, whether as soldiers, sailors,



aviators or otherwise." The War Records Department soon sent Military Service Record questionnaires to veterans or surviving family members asking for information about an individual's service experience as well as his or her opinion regarding wartime service. Some

individuals included a photograph with his or her reply. State Archive's staff produced a database a number of years ago, which is available on our website, <http://www.cslib.org/www1.asp>. Approximately sixty questionnaires, mainly from African-Americans and women, are available on the Connecticut History Online website; go to <http://www.cthistoryonline.org/cdm-cho/search.php> and click on "Government Documents" for a list of records available. Unfortunately, most are only available by either visiting the State Library or requesting a photocopy through the History and Genealogy Unit; this could take several days or longer and the image, especially of a photograph, would not always be the best quality. Soon the entire collection of over sixty boxes of records will be available for all to view whenever they choose.

Note. This Questionnaire should be completed so far as possible with such information as can be furnished at once, and returned with photographs and additional notes or letters, if available, to Department of Historical Records, State Library, Hartford, Conn.

D. H. R.—Form 1
State Library

7822

State of Connecticut
MILITARY SERVICE RECORD

Compiled by the Department of Historical Records of the Connecticut State Council of Defense, State Library, Hartford, where it will be filed, as a permanent memorial of the deeds of Connecticut soldiers and sailors in the service of the federal, state and allied governments during American participation in the World War.

Name in full Lopinsky Louis
(family name) (first name) (middle name)

Date of birth Sept 16 1893
(month) (day) (year)

Place of birth Hartford Hartford Conn. U.S.
(town) (county) (state) (country)

Name of father Benjamin Lopinsky Birthplace Russia
(country)

Maiden name of mother Rachel Lopinsky Birthplace Russia
(country)

Are you White, Colored, Indian or Mongolian? White

Citizen Yes Voter Yes Church Temist
(yes or no) (yes or no) (denomination)

Married 1 at _____

To _____ Born 1 at _____
(maiden name)

Children _____ Born 1 at _____
(name)

_____ Born 1 at _____

_____ Born 1 at _____

Fraternal Orders None

Previous military service or training None

Occupation before entry into the service Transitman & Concrete Inspector

_____; employer Courtney Eng. Co. Cleveland Ohio

Residence before entry into the service 910 Morris St Charleston Nanamha W.Va.
(street number) (town) (county)

Present home address 146 Mather St Hartford Hartford Conn.
(street number) (town) (county) (state)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What was your attitude toward military service in general and toward your call in particular? Very Good. Who wouldn't fight against the plunderers of the civilized world and especially under the Star and Stripes?

What were the effects of camp experiences in the United States upon yourself — mental and physical? No change

What were the effects upon yourself of your overseas experience, either in the army or navy or in camp in France or in England? It gave me somewhat of a broader mind.

If you took part in the fighting, what impressions were made upon you by this experience?

What has been the effect of all these experiences as contrasted with your state of mind before the war? A change that all soldiers get and that is the change going from civil life into military life

Photographs — If possible enclose one taken before entering the service and one taken afterwards in uniform, both signed and dated.

Additional data

Signed at 146 Mather St. on October 7 1918
(place) (date)

Louis Lopinsky Sergeant Postal Express Service
(full name) (rank) (branch of service)

The information contained in this record, unless otherwise indicated, was obtained from the following persons or sources:

Storm Stories by Laura Klotz, Library Technician, Bill Room

We grew up with our elders telling us just how different today was from 'their days.' The day before Tropical Storm Irene struck, I realized just how different today was. We are all used to lines at the grocery store before any kind of storm, so that wasn't a tip off, but my electric company left a message on my answering machine with instructions for me to follow if I lost power. My daughter's auto insurance company left another message warning her about the dangers she might face. I got an email from my state



senator with emergency tips and telephone numbers. Things sure are different today. What happened after the storm showed me that libraries had something to cheer about.

We started hearing snippets of stories from the library community that business had picked up. It started with a friend's email about a

busy day at work, or a spouse that worked at one of the public libraries talking at dinner about all the new people stopping by to use the computers. With all the news about the storm damage and power, cable and cell phone outages, there wasn't much room for the greatest story of the storm. I sat down and wrote a story about all the things that were going on in the library community. Well, life sure had a different ending to my story. The snow started falling in Manchester at around noon on Saturday. By nightfall, I was without power and all I could hear in the silence was the snapping and crashing of tree limbs. We all have tales to tell, but once again the greatest story was how libraries in the state stepped up and helped out. Most of you were leaving cold dark houses to get to work to help our patrons with the same problems you were facing. I heard one of us even made the national news.

I originally asked two libraries to share their stories about Irene, but we would love to

hear more. Following are the stories from two very different libraries. Putnam Public Library in the northeastern corner of the state sent me their story, as did Darien Library from the southwestern corner. Hope you enjoy them, and send yours to me. I will be sure to pass them on. We could fill an entire CONNector, or someone out there could combine the stories into a book. I know a lot of librarians that would love to have one for their coffee table.

"The Putnam Public Library was very important to the area in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. The surrounding area was largely without power for up to a week after the storm, but the Library was fortunate to be located in a section of town that never lost power. The week following Irene brought people looking for electrical outlets to plug in phones and laptops, as well as many people connecting to the wireless network for their information needs. An informal survey of users during that week found a university professor administering her online class, business people working, students studying for their online classes, as well as people checking their email, Facebook pages and job searches. The usual count of 25-35 users in a week ballooned to over 200 wireless users, and the number of people walking into the library rose by more than 600. Metrocast was kind enough to augment the wireless bandwidth for the week following the emergency, and the Library updated some of the equipment to better serve the community. When it was clear that the power outage would last more than several days, the Library began to show movies for children in the community room. This gave families a free thing to do together that they could bundle with their errands. It was a busy week, but gratifying for Library staff to be assured that their help was needed and appreciated".

Priscilla Colwell
Putnam Public Library

"On Sunday afternoon, August 28, as more than half of the residents of Darien experienced power outages as a result of Hurricane Irene, Darien Library announced that the Library had power and would open on Monday morning, as usual, at 9 a.m., and extend hours until 10:30 p.m. through Thursday, September 1.

There were more than 3100 visitors to the Library on Monday, August 29 (approximately double the average number of daily visitors) and Library staff members made every effort to accommodate the needs of the

community during the weather-related emergency. Late fees were waived, special programming was added, folding card tables were set up for use, and in an effort to assist and meet demand, dozens of extra power strips were purchased as people arrived to charge and recharge their portable and mobile devices.

Said Library Director and Chief Executive Officer Louise Berry, "We are glad that once again, the community was able to depend on Darien Library. The outpouring of gratitude from so many people, including government officials, has been very inspiring. The Library staff has been terrific and despite the number of visitors, they maintained the high quality of customer service our community has come to expect."

John Blyberg, Assistant Director for Innovation and UX at Darien Library, added, "The Library never lost power during the storm. We did, however, lose Internet connectivity for a brief period on Sunday. We are very grateful to Fibertech for getting us back online quickly and without disruption to our services and to our community."

A total of 6070 people visited Darien Library on the Monday and Tuesday following the storm. For thousands, Darien Library became a source of power and light. It also became a place for people to connect. Computer logins and wireless use skyrocketed and many looked to the Library as a place to gather for information and to share stories. Some people came to the Library as a sanctuary – a way to stop thinking about the storm. Following rousing applause at the conclusion of the Library's Wednesday Matinee film, "Captain Horatio Hornblower," June Penn exclaimed, "We loved it! Thank you for making us forget about Irene for a little while!"

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, schools were closed in Darien but the activity and atmosphere at Darien Library resembled that of a busy university on the first day of classes. At times, every available seat was taken and people sat on the floor. The building hummed with the energy of its visitors; people working quietly, others in conversation and catching up with old friends, and some just stopping in to recharge electric devices. Uncle's Brain Food Café, located on the Main Floor of the Library experienced long lines and had to request more food to be brought in from their main store, Uncle's Deli.

The suspension of service on Metro North prevented most businessmen and women from the area from reaching their jobs in New York City. During that time, hundreds of regular commuters arrived at the Library to conduct business, using the Internet and charging laptops and cell phones. The Bloomberg terminal, located in the Cheswick Finance Center on the

Library's second floor, saw nonstop use.

Dozens of visitors were waiting outside before the Library opened on Tuesday morning, including several people sitting around the courtyard fountain with their laptops making use of the Library's free WiFi.

In the week following Hurricane Irene, social sites Twitter and Facebook were filled with words of thanks to Darien Library. Senator Bob Duff thanked the Library for extending hours. Site followers mentioned Darien Library with great frequency and appreciation: " We were quite grateful you were open! It saved us!"; "Darien Library is the place to be!"; "[w]e love our library!! Spent the day with you yesterday. Be back later for an outlet."; "Libraries rule!"; "Back at @darien library, our port after the storm!"

John Blyberg, Darien Public Library

I am sure that your patrons thanked you for being there for them, but I want to thank you, too. I have known that libraries are the coolest places in the world since I was little, but to see so many citizens realize it too warms my heart. Just maybe some of those new patrons will fall in love with libraries the way I and most of you did way back when life was different.

Laura Klojzy



In 1957 and 1958, Mary Q. Fahey served in the Connecticut Legislature, being the first female resident of Torrington to do so. She also ran unsuccessfully for Secretary of the State in 1958.

A Recent Addition to the Collection

By David J. Corrigan, Museum Curator

The Museum of Connecticut History recently received a significant donation of nearly 1,000 Connecticut political campaign buttons from Mr. James Cassidy of Greenwich. Cassidy first became interested in collecting political memorabilia while attending Greenwich's New Lebanon School in 1936, originally storing his collection in cigar boxes. In the 1960s he met Charles McSorley, the prominent political collector. McSorley introduced him to the American Political Items Collectors (A.P.I.C.) and through that organization he met other collectors and continued trading and purchasing items. A great admirer of Harry S. Truman, Cassidy has a vast collection of Truman buttons. He was President of the Harry S.

Truman Chapter of the A.P.I.C. for 26 years and also edited the chapter's newsletter. On many occasions, he has returned to New Lebanon School and shared his collection and love of political memorabilia by meeting and talking with students. In addition to the Connecticut political collection donated to the Museum, Cassidy donated a similar collection of New York political buttons to the New York Historical Society in New York City. Cassidy is a retired State of



One of nine framed panels that contain the Cassidy political button collection.

Connecticut employee, having worked as a toll collector on the Merritt Parkway for 26 years.

Included in the collection are buttons from



In many state elections, various interest groups express their support for their chosen candidate. Chester Bowles (D) was elected governor in 1949, serving one term. John D. Lodge (R) succeeded Bowles and served two terms as governor, from 1951 to 1955.



campaigns for Governor, Lieutenant Governor (until 1966 the Governor and Lieutenant Governor were elected separately), Treasurer, Secretary of the State, Attorney General and Comptroller. In addition there are buttons from races for U.S. Senator and Representative as well as examples of materials from local political campaigns. Winners and losers are both represented. One of the oldest buttons in the collection dates from Melbert Cary's unsuccessful run for Governor in 1902. The Museum has a sizable collection of Connecticut

Melbert B. Cary was born in Racine, WI in 1852 and resided in Ridgefield, CT for many years. He was the Connecticut Democratic state chair from 1898-1900 and ran unsuccessfully for Governor in 1902.

political memorabilia and there is some duplication in the new acquisition, but examples of buttons not previously in the collection far outnumber the duplicates. Connecticut political history is one of the Museum's three primary collecting areas, the others being military and industrial history. Of the three, political history is the hardest to illustrate, and artifacts such as campaign buttons, bumper stickers, lawn signs and similar materials are significant ways of linking abstract political ideas to the politicians who espouse them.



Homer S. Cummings ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Senator in 1910 and 1916. From 1914 to 1924 he was the State Attorney for Connecticut in Fairfield County. In 1909, he joined with Charles D. Lockwood to found the law firm of Cummings and Lockwood.

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