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The CONNector



Kendall F. Wiggin
State Librarian

Surprises at the State Library

by State Librarian Kendall Wiggin

When I learned that this issue of the *CONNector* was going to include articles about “novel and surprising things from the State Library” I immediately began trying to decide which of the many wonderful documents, books, and objects that I have stumbled upon in my wanderings through the stacks and collection storage areas I should mention. Or

the interesting items that staff regularly bring to my attention. But the more I thought about it, I realized that it wasn’t the stuff you will find at the State Library that is novel and surprising - though there is a lot of cool stuff. Instead, it continues to be my pleasant surprise to find a staff that is so knowledgeable and dedicated to providing quality library service. It is also refreshing, if not novel, to find a staff willing to embrace change.

We all know change is inevitable, but as in so much of life, technology is accelerating the rate of change and the very way we do things. Technology, in the form of digitization, has been embraced by staff at the State Library as a way of broadening access to our collections. Visitors to our flickr photostream (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ctarchives/>) or Digital Collections page (<http://cslib.cdmhost.com/index.php>) can now discover gems from the collections of the State Library. Not surprisingly, building a virtual branch of the Library has proved more difficult and time consuming than first thought. But every day brings progress.

These have not been easy times. Resources are limited. We are doing more with fewer staff. Together we are stretching fewer dollars further. But again, the staff of the State Library have found novel and surprisingly creative ways to keep the doors open and the information flowing.

Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian

April 9, 2013

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After Thirty Years: Visual Surprises from the State Archives

by State Archivist Mark Jones

I am retiring after thirty years as State Archivist in the Connecticut State Library. This will be my last CONNector. I would like to share with readers those visual items that surprised me when I first found them and that will leave a memory with me.

The Political Fighter

Lou Edman was a photojournalist who worked for Congressman William St. Onge, but sometimes he accompanied other prominent Democrats. This photo is of Ella Grasso as she takes a break at a news conference in Bristol. We do not know the year of this photograph. Her “game face” shows focus and thought. To me she looks like a prize fighter between rounds.



RG 069:124, The Louis S. Edman Collection



RG 000, Classified Archives, Diary and Sketchbook Kept by A. J. Norris, While Working with the Nicaraguan Canal Commission, 1897-1898

Surveying in the Jungles of Nicaragua, 1897-1898

Before the Panama route for an isthmian canal was chosen, the Nicaraguan Canal Commission surveyed the route in 1897-1898. We know little about A. J. Norris, but his diary sketchbook reveals his artistic skill. He drew ink sketches of the survey camps in the jungle and colored pencil sketches of the flora and fauna of Nicaragua.

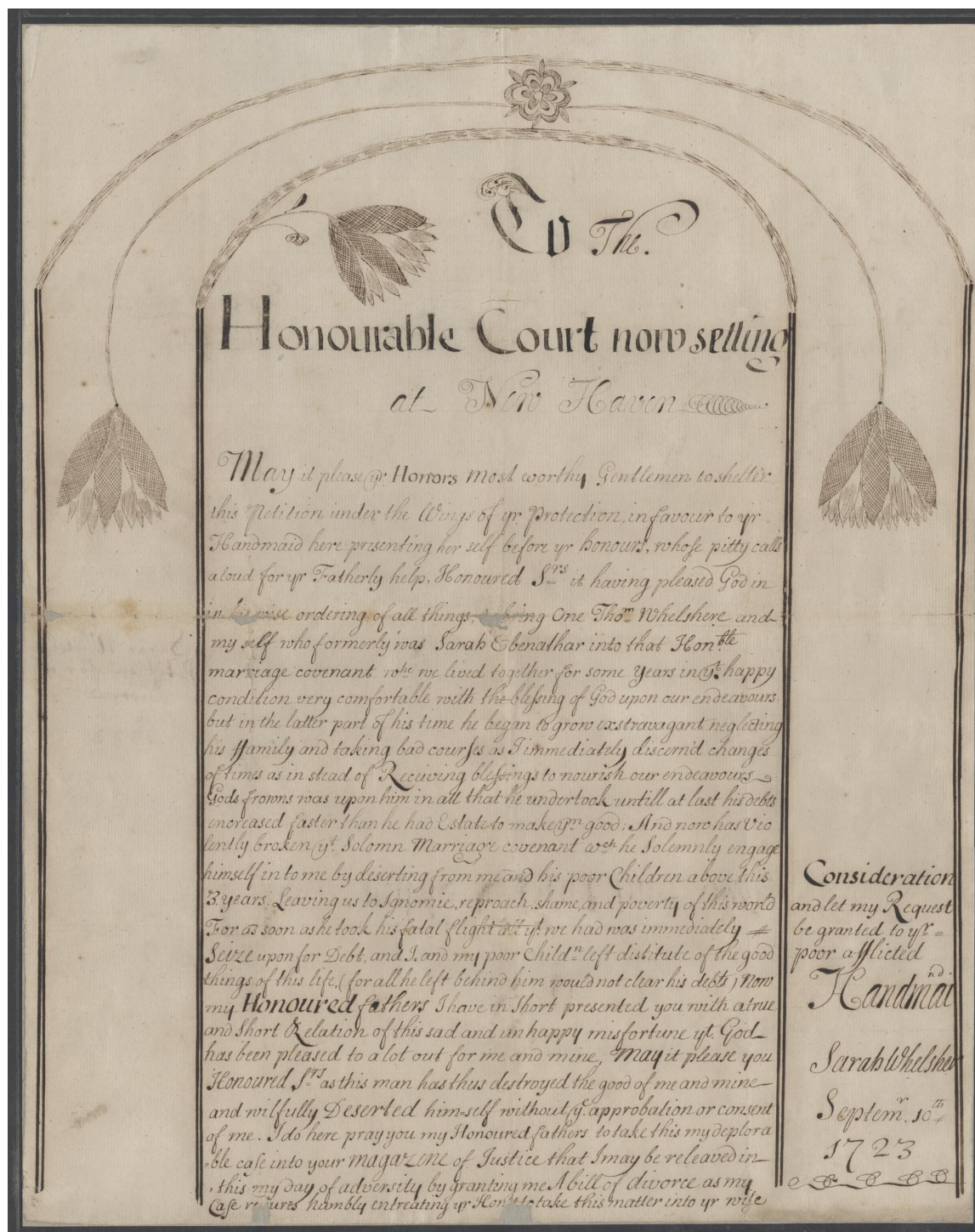
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RIP Marriage

In 1721, spouses could petition for divorce at the newly created county superior courts. Many

were wives whose husbands had abandoned their families. This 1723 petition was found in New Haven Superior Court files. Sarah Welsher submitted it for divorce from her long gone husband, Peter. She complained that every enterprise that he launched failed and that he left her and her children penniless. This petition is unusual because the outline is in the shape of a tombstone. This clearly conveys Sarah's contention that her marriage had died.



RG 003, Divorce Petition of Sarah Welsher, September 10, 1723, New Haven County Superior Court, Papers by Subject, Divorce

Continued on next page



Holding the Reins

This whimsical photograph was taken during a trip by Governor Baldwin. The year is unknown. From his smile, may we infer that he had an easier time holding the reins of two tame buffalos than those in Hartford?



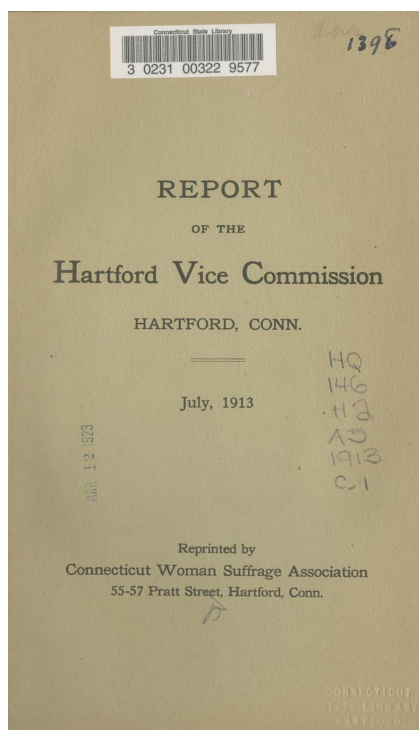
RG 069:010, Raymond E. Baldwin Papers, Photographs

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Princess of the East End

In 1913 the Association reprinted a report of a Hartford committee on vice, and several photographs are in the Association's records. This shot of a little child in Hartford's East Side made an impression on me that I shall not soon forget.



RG 101, Connecticut Woman Suffrage Association, Vice Campaign



RG 079, Board of Fisheries and Game

Class Project

This is a great picture of the successful completion of a project involving children making birdhouses as a part of learning to appreciate birds. Unfortunately, the children had to look into the sun.

Continued on next page



World War1 in Hartford

Picture Group 034, The Dudley Collection of Hartford in the First world War. Dudley's photos are also in RG 012, War Records Department, Photographs, 1898-1950, World War 1 pictures from the Hartford Courant, box 270.



RG 012, Connecticut State Library Records,
War Records Department

Silence is Golden

Caption reads,
"Hartford's Red Cross chapter surgical headquarters in eighth floor of the Wise, Smith & Co.'s building on Main street."

Selling Liberty Bonds

One of the ways to show loyalty during the war was to purchase liberty bonds. Here Mrs. Morgan G. Bulkeley, Sr., sells bonds over the phone. Our eyes, however, are drawn to her hat.

PG 034, Dudley Collection of Hartford
during World War I



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Be An American- Learn English??

This picture is of a newly built and painted liberty cottage where people could buy bonds. For immigrants who dominated the population of Hartford, speaking English was a sign of Americanism and loyalty during the war. The staff at the cottage may have informed immigrants of night classes teaching English. This effort was part of the Americanization campaign during the war. Speaking English remains a touchy subject in today's discussion about immigrants.



RG 012, Connecticut State Library,
War Records Department

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Demonstration of a Gas Mask

The First World War was the first war in which toxic gases were used. Although the Germans used them first, the Allies soon joined in. On both sides, gas masks evolved into devices like the one in this picture. It makes this wearer appear as a human insect, but its presence indicates the lengths either side would go to in order to break the stalemate on the Western Front. After the war, the use of gas was prohibited, but unfortunately, generations after the War to End All Wars have put on their own era's masks, and some nations have once more resorted to using poison gas.



PG 034, Dudley Collection of Hartford during World War I



RG 032, Connecticut Emergency Relief Commission, Project Photographs

Oxen Won!

From 1933-1935, this agency administered federal relief grants under the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA), the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Commodity Relief Distribution program under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). One such work project involved a team of oxen grading and realigning Hog Hill Road in East Hampton. The project ran from May to June

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RG 032, Connecticut Emergency Relief Commission, Project Photographs

in 1935. In late May, a supervisor of these projects directed the field man monitoring them to get a photographer to take pictures of the work. According to the supervisor, such photographs may have value in Washington, D.C. On June 18 during a rain storm, the field man, an unidentified woman and a photographer visited the project. Work had been halted on account of the

rain, but the oxen were brought to the road and the photographer took 11 shots. Two of them are shown here. It is not known whether these photographs were ever used for positive publicity, but captions on one picture confirmed that the project's costs amounted to only "two thirds of what would have been the normal estimate for road building." Another caption reads that the oxen "competed favorably with modern mechanical equipment."



PG 160, "Main St. North from Bridge St." Floods and Hurricanes in Connecticut, Flood of 1955, Winsted

Aftermath of the Flood of 1955 in Winsted

The flood of '55 devastated communities in eastern and western Connecticut. One of the worst hit towns was Winsted. Seven persons died. This photograph is a grim reminder of the power of water.

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Ghent, Belgium by James D. Barnett



PG 020, World Description and Travel Collection, 1860-1900, "Continental Sketches"

One of the biggest surprises in my 30 years with the Archives was opening the book entitled, *Continental Sketches*. The State Library acquired the book in 1945 from the Wolcott and Litchfield Circulating Library. A book plate reads, "Russell Gurney." Was he the original owner? The book contains "Sketches of France, Belgium and Germany by J. D. Barnett" and inside are watercolors of various towns Barnett visited throughout Europe. I could find little about James D. Barnett except that he lived from 1855-1891 and painted architecture and landscapes.

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Political Campaigning prior to November 1963



RG 005, Records of Governor John Dempsey Photographs

This is my favorite photograph of old style political campaigning. From left to right are President John F. Kennedy, Governor John Dempsey and former Governor Abraham Ribicoff. President Kennedy had come to help his friend and ally, Abraham Ribicoff, get elected to the U. S. Senate. The photograph was shot during an October, 1962 campaign tour up the Naugatuck River Valley. The three are seated on the top of the back seat of their car smiling and waving at crowds lining the streets in Ansonia, Connecticut. The photograph shows the careless abandon with which politicians strode into crowds or rode in open cars in those days. The thought that immediately comes to mind is Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, Texas in November, 1963.[∞]



**State Library Announces Publication of the
New Volume of the Public Records of the State of Connecticut**

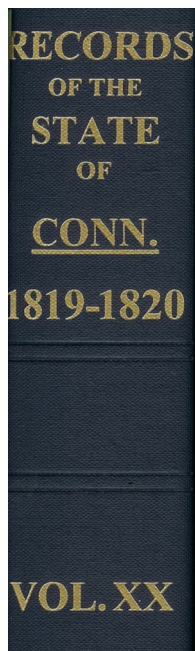
Volume XX, *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut*, 1819-1820.

Douglas M. Arnold, Editor; Kathy A. Toavs, Associate Editor

Volume XX of the *Public Records* series continues the documentation of the major reform movement that transformed public life in early 19th-century Connecticut. The movement began in 1816-1817 (Volume XVIII) with the electoral triumph of the Reform or Tolerationist coalition over the state's long-term Federalist establishment and climaxed in 1818 with the opening of the voting franchise, the adoption of a new state Constitution, and the ending of public funding for religion (Volume XIX).

Although the importance of the constitutional and ecclesiastical changes in 1818 has long been appreciated, Volume XX provides historians and the public with the materials necessary to understand the vital, but less well known, fiscal reforms that completed the state's political transformation. The years 1819 and 1820 witnessed the adoption of a new tax code, intended by its authors to redress past inequities, and the implementation of a policy of fiscal retrenchment. These had long been central goals of the powerful Jeffersonian Republican wing of the Reform coalition, who saw them as essential to the advancement of democracy and equality in the state.

Thus, Volumes XVIII, XIX, and XX form a trilogy centered on the crucial transformation of



Connecticut's civic life that took place between 1816 and 1820.

In addition, Volume XX documents important changes in Connecticut's public school system and arrangements for poor relief. On the national level, the volume addresses the impact of the financial Panic of 1819 and the subsequent economic depression; Connecticut's commercial rivalry with New York; the state's reaction to the Missouri Compromise of 1820 and the spread of slavery in the United States; and Connecticut's switch from legislative choice of Presidential electors to popular vote. The volume contains much more of interest relating to the constitutional, institutional, economic, social, and religious history of the state during these vital years.

Volume XX contains the record of actions of the legislative sessions of 1819 and 1820, the texts of Governor Oliver Wolcott's important policy messages to the General Assembly, and a transcription of the House of Representatives' debate over the Tax Bill of 1819. It also includes a full historical introduction, detailed annotations of specific issues and events, and a thorough bibliography and index. Pp. lxviii, 446.

Douglas M. Arnold

The Connecticut State Library announces that Volume 20 of the Public Records of the State of Connecticut has been printed. Free copies are going to all Connecticut public libraries and libraries of institutions of Higher Education. A limited number are available for purchase until the supply runs out. Each volume costs \$25.00 plus postage. If you wish a copy or more than one, please contact Damon Munz via e-mail (Damon.Munz@ct.gov) or at 231 Capitol Ave./Hartford, CT 06106, providing your name, mailing address and how many copies you want. Do not send cash, money orders, checks. A bill will come with the book(s).



Cryptographic Curiosity from the Connecticut State Library

by Bonnie Linck, former History & Genealogy Reference Librarian

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. " ¹ The United States was still an infant nation in 1805, not completely steady on its feet. That year also found the British still aware of their embarrassing defeat

in the American War, with a sharp eye on their lost colonial prize. In France, sixteen years of volatile politics since the Revolution had not settled the country, and Napoleon was on the rise. South American independence movements were beginning to stir. Barbary pirates threatened shipping routes along the coasts of Africa and Europe.

Times were indeed unsettled politically in 1805, not to mention the effect of such instability on business. What then, if a government official needed to quietly begin a negotiation with someone? Or if a Connecticut merchant wanted to send or receive a shipment of goods with no fanfare, without anyone knowing? Spies, both political and mercantile, were surely everywhere, and some information was no one's business but their own.

That year, in Hartford, Connecticut, an enterprising mind pondered this very problem.

With true Yankee initiative he took matters in hand and created a simple, yet effective solution. Something so simple it could be used by anyone, a handy little booklet that explained itself in its very title:

*A Dictionary; to Enable Any Two Persons to Maintain
a Correspondence, with a Secrecy, Which Is Impossible
for Any Other Person to Discover*

The booklet (about 9 X 6 inches) is 23 cm. tall and consists of pages of a rag paper sewn together at the fold, with the title page, with instructions, serving as a cover. The publisher is listed as "The Proprietor" and the place and date of publication are "Hartford, Conn. 1805."

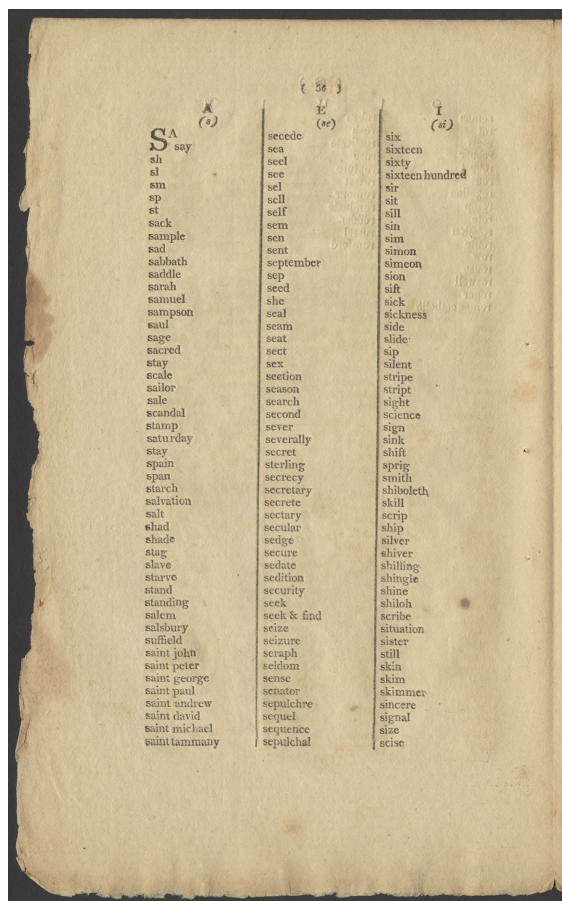
The contents of this booklet consist of an alphabetical 48-page list of a several hundred common words and some syllables, with room at the end for the user to add words. This was the foundation of a nomenclator code, one in which numbers stood for words and syllables, not individual letters.

The idea with a nomenclator code was to buy two or more copies of the booklet, and number the works the same in each copy. The owner then sent one copy to the person with whom they wished to secretly

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correspond. For example, the message: "65 23 9" would mean "wharf eight o'clock", and no one but you and your correspondent would know what it meant. If need arose, you could even renumber the words. Simple and to the point, this method was also good for affairs of the heart. Nomenclator codes were not new. They had been used by governments for centuries, and in the Revolutionary War.² Booklets of nomenclator codes were even sold in bookstores.³



What makes this pamphlet special, and a historic treasure in its own right, is explained by David Kahn in *The Codebreakers: The Comprehensive History of Secret Communication from Ancient Times to the Internet*:

"All these things [codes] have antecedents, and just as the telegraph itself did, so were there precursors of the cryptographic systems it engendered. What may be the earliest printed forerunner of the codes of today appeared at Hartford in 1805. *A Dictionary; to Enable Any Two Persons to Maintain a Correspondence, with a Secrecy, Which Is Impossible for Any Other Person to Discover* was a small book listing words and syllables in alphabetical order; these were to be numbered serially by the correspondents, omitting one number in every ten so that no two sets of correspondents would have the same code equivalents."⁴

This historic and most interesting pamphlet was brought to the attention of the History & Genealogy staff by a patron letter. The patron had discovered that the State Library was supposed to possess a copy. The State Library's Online Catalog, CONSULS, proved him right: call number: SpecColl Z104.D55 1805. The State Library may have the only copy in

the United States.

The title of the booklet is definitely intriguing, and invited the research for this article. But how to find out more about this utilitarian spy code and its publisher? The pamphlet itself offers few clues. There are no names on the booklet—not an owner's name or an author. The publisher is "The Proprietor." The publication place of Hartford, Connecticut is the one solid piece of information that relates to a creator. Combined with "The Proprietor," we can assume only a Hartford printer with his own shop could have created this pamphlet.

Looking for "The Publisher" only, how many printers were there in Hartford in 1805? The Hartford Room of the Hartford Public Library has a list of early Hartford printers, and kindly responded to my request for the name of an 1805 printing business⁵. Unfortunately, there were a number of printers in Hartford during that year, so there is no definitive answer to the question of who printed the booklet.

Thinking further, could I find a clue through a watermark on the paper used? It is rag paper, not newsprint. Rag paper was handmade sheet by sheet at a paper mill from cut up rags soaked in a lye



solution. The resulting slurry was spread on wire-bottomed frames and was allowed to dry. Some paper mills wove a fine wire pattern, called a watermark, on top of the standard wire screen. When the paper dried, the outline of the watermark appeared on the final sheet, marking the paper as from that mill. If our Publisher used paper from a mill that used a watermark, that mark would furnish another clue. But there is no watermark.

There is one last place to check, and that is modern online newspaper databases. The State Library subscribes to two databases that cover 1805: Proquest's "Historical Hartford Courant Online 1764-1986" and the Early American Newspapers database. If the publisher wanted to actively sell the pamphlet to a large audience, he would have advertised it in a newspaper.

I searched the Hartford Courant database first, entering search dates of 1800-1810, also narrowing the time to 1804-1805, and searched under several relevant terms. Again, I came up with nothing-there was no ad for a booklet.

I then tried the Early American Newspapers database, which covers the United States from 1690 to 1922. Other Hartford newspapers from 1805 are indexed here. It may be that the booklet was also advertised in the Massachusetts or New York newspapers of the era. I used the same years and relevant search terms, adding Massachusetts and New York. Again, unfortunately, there was no ad for the booklet.

The lack of an advertisement leads me to wonder if this was possibly a "word-of-mouth" pamphlet, sold only to those who came into the printer's shop or bookstore. Maybe it was just common knowledge that this type of booklet was in a shop and available. It could even be that the length of the title (23 words) made the item simply too expensive to advertise. Or, the demand was not that great.

So the origins of this useful little booklet remain something of a mystery. No other clues offer themselves. Yet these pages have, as David Kahn states, a pivotal place in American history. If time travel someday becomes possible, perhaps someone can go back to 1805 Hartford and make discreet inquiries about it.

Unless that happens, we will never know which Hartford printer felt that there was a need and a market for a pamphlet of this kind, enough so to create it and publish it. We will never know how many copies were printed. All we know is that from an era of political fire and instability, this tiny Connecticut spark has survived. May the hands that created it rest in peace.

¹ Charles Dickens, *The Tale of Two Cities*

² Gervais, Ron. *The Beale Treasure*, p. 2. Website at <http://thomasbeale.tripod.com/51RonGervais.htm> The website discusses a specific code in relation to the hidden Beale treasure, but mentions other codes and the CSL pamphlet that is the subject of this article.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Kahn, David. *The Codebreakers: The Comprehensive History of Secret Communication from Ancient Times to the Internet* (Google eBook) p. 194. Simon and Schuster: Dec 5, 1996. I am indebted to Ron Gervais's *Beale Treasure* website for this reference.

⁵ My special thanks to the staff of the Hartford Room of the Hartford Public Library for their help. They furnished me with invaluable information otherwise would have been very difficult to obtain.[∞]

*"That year, in
Hartford,
Connecticut, an
enterprising mind
pondered this very
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took matters in hand
and created a
simple, yet effective
solution."*



Across the Cataloger's Desk by Bill Anderson, Librarian I, Cataloging, Connecticut State Library

Catalogers at the State Library aid researchers in the discovery of the great variety of research materials the State Library has to offer. Catalogers chronicle the library's intellectual, cultural, and historical wealth through the medium of the library's catalog. We record information on books, magazines, and many other materials, the people and organizations that create them, and people, places and topics they deal with in a consistent manner, so that researchers can focus in on the aspects that interest them.

My particular focus as a cataloger is with historical and genealogical materials. With more than 350 years of Connecticut History in the State Library, an extremely diverse variety of materials comes across my desk, from family histories to the work of local town historians. Some of the most interesting materials, are the everyday items that form the raw material from which historians paint their portraits of the past. This column (and perhaps future columns) presents a sampling of the interesting and unusual items that pass across my desk for cataloging.

Grand Army of the Republic

First for the consideration of the reader is this colorful booklet cover from the 29th Encampment of



the Grand Army of the Republic held at Louisville, Kentucky in 1895. The Grand Army of the Republic, or G.A.R., founded just after the Civil War in 1866, became the largest organization of Union veterans, with numerous branches ("posts") all over the country. The New England Civil War Museum in Vernon/Rockville is housed in the former hall of G.A.R. Post #71. This booklet is from the organization's glory years of the late 19th and early 20th century. The G.A.R. reached its highest membership in 1890 at 400,000 members, including 5 five U.S. presidents. The G.A.R. finally folded in 1956 with the death of its last member.

The Connecticut State Library holds a number of publications and materials put out by the G.A.R., both the national organization, the Department of Connecticut, and several local Connecticut branches. These materials include rules and regulations, local charters, souvenir programs for the encampments, newsletters, and other publications.

Joseph Pierce, Co. F, 14th Connecticut Volunteers

For the second topic, I will continue with the theme of American Civil War veterans. Here, I would like to highlight the research of Wallingford resident, Irving D. Moy into Joseph Pierce, Company F, 14th Connecticut Volunteers. My discovery of Mr. Moy's research came in a roundabout way when I was browsing through the screens of subject headings on the Civil War for a book I was cataloging. Subject headings can be remarkably descriptive of content when used well. The particular subject heading that caught my eye was "United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Participation, Chinese American."

The armies of the American Civil War were a diverse lot, with Irish Brigades on both sides, at least one

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Russian general (Ivan Turchaninov) serving the Union Army, and immigrants of many nations serving in the ranks. The State Library's Kevin Johnson has portrayed the story of African-American Private William Webb of Hartford, a soldier in the 29th Connecticut Volunteers in hundreds of presentations. However, I was surprised to learn of Chinese-American participation in the Civil War, though I was aware of their role in the history of the American West, particularly in building the railroads.

The simple stone inscription in Walnut Grove



Photo of Joseph Peck appearing in 1906 regimental history of the 14th Connecticut Volunteers as "The only Chinaman inlisted [sic] in the Army of the Potomac." Actually, there is some evidence of a few others.

Cemetery in Meriden, "Civil War Corp. Joseph Pierce, Co. F 14th C.V., Died Jan. 3, 1916, age 73" gives no hint of the extraordinary odyssey of the man honored by it. As a ten-year-old boy, he was bought by Connecticut sea captain Amos Peck in China in 1852. Pierce's Chinese name is lost to history. The boy acquired his new name from a combination of a nickname given on his sea journey to the U.S. ("Joe") and the name of the U.S. President at the time (Franklin Pierce). Upon returning to New England, Captain Peck left Joseph with his mother in Berlin, Connecticut. Although Pierce was bought as a slave, Mrs. Peck raised and educated him as a part of the Peck family.

On July 26th, 1862, 21-year-old Joseph Pierce volunteered in New Britain for service in the 14th Connecticut Volunteers, filling the "born in" space with "Canton," conspicuously crossing out "in the state of" and filling in the following space with "China." Joseph saw action at Gettysburg and other battles, and was promoted to Corporal. He survived the war and returned to Connecticut.

Pierce spent the rest of his long life as a silver engraver. He married Martha Morgan of Portland, Connecticut and fathered four children; two sons and two daughters. His obituary in the local newspaper makes no mention of his ethnicity, simply stating that he was "well known and liked."

The compilation of Mr. Moy's research, as well as many of the original records upon which it is based, are preserved at the Connecticut State Library.

Reference: Moy, Irving D. Joseph Pierce, Co. F Fourteenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, "A Chinese Yankee Soldier." 1997[∞]

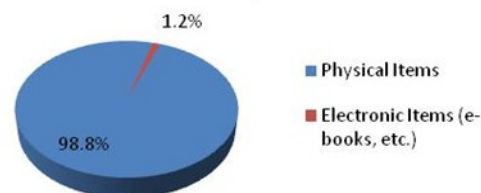


10 Myths about Connecticut Public Libraries by Tom Newman, Library Specialist,
Division of Library Development (Based on data in the "Connecticut Public Libraries: A Statistical Profile" publications)

1. E-Books are the new "big thing" in public libraries.

Despite their popularity in the commercial market, electronic books are not a major player yet in public libraries. Although e-book circulation in Connecticut public libraries increased from 207,767 in FY2011 to 379,215 in FY2012, e-book circulation still represents only 1.2% of total circulation. There are various reasons for this underwhelming performance. Not all e-book titles are available to libraries. Many library users don't know about the e-book collections in libraries. And many "available" e-book titles are actually in collections shared by many libraries and the likelihood of an e-book being available when you want it is low.

CT Public Library Circulation Breakdown, FY2012



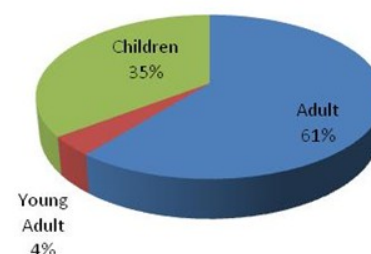
2. Small libraries don't do much programming.

The three libraries with the highest per capita program attendance in Connecticut have a population of less than 2,000 people. And of the top 10 libraries in program expenditures per capita, six of those libraries have populations under 7,000. Even small libraries in less wealthy communities often do an impressive amount of programming. Windham County, which has many libraries fitting this description, has a combined per capita program attendance about the same as the other counties. If there really is a "big thing" in public libraries these days, it is programming. Programming attendance rose over 20% in the last five years as libraries increased their programming budgets to meet an increasing need for this library service.

3. Libraries are losing the battle for limited town resources.

There is a perception that libraries are the first thing cut from municipal budgets during recessions, and that libraries do not compete well when battling for funding with other municipal departments. Though many libraries did see their budgets shrink in the past few years, the percentage of municipal budgets dedicated to libraries in FY2012 was just about the same as it was in FY2007. On average, libraries received 1.26% of total municipal revenue in FY2012, compared to 1.30% in FY 2007.

CT Public Library Circulation Breakdown, FY2012



4. With all the new media in public libraries, books aren't as popular as they once were.

Library users have many more borrowing options now than ever before. Audio and video collections in libraries are bigger and better. Internet availability is a major draw. So are people still checking out books? Yes, they are. Book circulation per capita is higher than it was in FY2007 and has generally followed the same ups and downs that other media have experienced. And at 64% of total circulation in FY2012, book circulation as a percentage of total circulation hasn't budged at all in the last five years.

5. Children's materials circulation is just a small part of total circulation.

If you believe 35% is a small percentage, then you might believe that children's circulation isn't important. When you consider that the median children's materials budget is just 25% of the total materials budget, then maybe libraries would do well to invest more in this well-used part of their collections.

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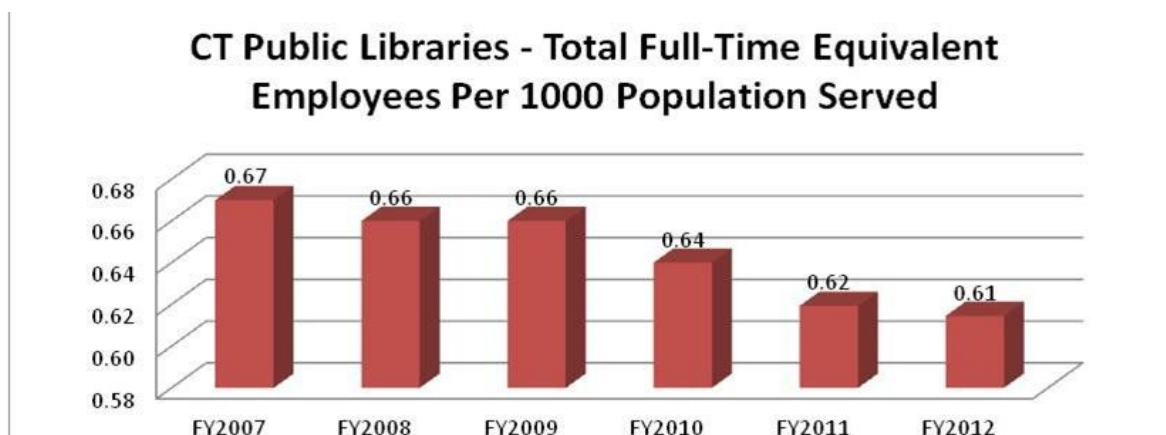


6. The number of staff in public libraries has been stagnant over the past five years.

The number of staff working in Connecticut public libraries probably hasn't changed much in the last five years, but if measured by "full-time equivalency" (FTE), the numbers have dropped from 2,335 in FY2007 to 2,181 in FY2012. Libraries now employ more part-time employees (2,408) than they do full-time employees (1,496). And if you take the rising population of Connecticut into account, the FTE per 1000 population has decreased by 10% since 2007.

7. The number of MLS librarians has dropped because libraries downgrade MLS positions when budgets are tight.

We know that when library staff retire from or leave a professional position requiring a master's degree, libraries sometimes downgrade the position in order to save money. But in the last five years, the percentage of FTE degreed librarians as a part of overall FTE library staff has stayed about the same. Libraries may have lost staff positions, but the downgrading of professional positions has not



taken place statewide. This may be one reason why Connecticut now has the highest number of MLS librarians, per population, in the nation.

8. Connecticard loans are much higher for libraries in wealthy communities with large budgets.

Libraries with the highest Connecticard loans (i.e. loans to non-residents) are usually larger libraries in central locations and not necessarily libraries with robust budgets. For example, of the top 10 libraries in Ccard circulation, six are libraries in the lower half of the Adjusted Equalized Net Grand List per Capita (AENGLC) wealth rankings.”.

9. Connecticut has a large number of small libraries serving a significant population of the state.

There are 193 separately-administered public libraries in Connecticut. Maryland, a state with 2 million more people, has just 24 separately-administered public libraries. Connecticut certainly does have a lot of small public libraries, but these libraries do not serve a lot of people. Of the 165 principal public libraries, half of those libraries serve just 16% of Connecticut's population.

10. Circulation in public libraries falls after recessions are over and library users have less motivation to borrow rather than buy.

Library circulation does seem to surge during recessions. And circulation often drops as times get better. But the decline in circulation probably has as much to do with libraries being poorer than it does with library users being wealthier. Library budgets fall in bad times and library materials are one of the first items to be affected. In Connecticut public libraries, materials expenditure per capita declined from \$5.51 in FY2008 to \$5.09 in FY2012. The squeeze on materials budgets can last a long time. Often the budget for materials remains lower for years, well into the “good times.” A library with fewer new books will have less circulation, even when library visits aren't dropping at all.∞



Gems by Jenny Groome, Government Information and Reference Services Librarian

The Connecticut State Library stacks are filled with hidden surprises - lots of them. Surprise is a strong word; when considering an agency's mission it is easy to think, "well of course, it makes sense to find that information here." With great original cataloguing, CONSULS reveals the depth of our collection, yet much of it still awaits retrospective

"The materials here are a treasure trove of new and old resources."

conversion to the online catalogue. As one of the newer librarians at the Connecticut State Library, I am constantly learning about our

amazing resources. I've been told it takes ten years to be fully trained in state documents - and I wonder how much of the comment was tongue in cheek.

When I started in 2010, my mother, a retired LTA and fan of local politics, was proud to have one of her daughters working at the State Library. Most of the early days, walking to the parking lot, I would call my mother at the nursing home and tell of some gem of information I learned that day.

Even after two and a half years at the Connecticut State Library, serendipity often brings forth surprising resources. Here are some of them. While the information highlighted may not be considered the most important aspect of the resource, it is what left an impression on me.

Connecticut School Documents¹

The series **Connecticut School Documents**, much like its federal counterpart **Bureau of Education's Bulletin**², is a collection of assorted monographic and serial documents that may have both a bulletin number and another number for an individual series. While the **Bureau of Education's Bulletin** addresses mostly national and general educational topics, the **Connecticut School**

Documents series addresses Connecticut state and local topics. With samples of curricula and lesson plans included in this series, it is possible to use primary sources when researching the history of Connecticut education. Looking at the table of contents over the years, one can see the change in emphasis, with a trend toward a more distanced bureaucracy and less personal information.

Some of the items in this series that I found interesting:

- Inclusion of Normal School students' and recent graduates' names (prior to privacy laws). Home addresses for not only school board members, but also students in some cases.
- "The public schools of every town and district shall be open to children over five years of age without discrimination on account of race or color...."³
- Cutting edge practices in Connecticut, even in the early days. Cooperation with other State Departments of Education and early use of AV materials, as demonstrated in the 1889 "Stereopticon Lectures," a list of lectures for five sets of lantern slides from the Department of Public Instruction of the State of New York.⁴
- While today's education is much more hands on, even in 1907 Connecticut's science curriculum discussed constructivist learning: "The simple experiments here outlined are intended to form the bases of science lessons to be given in the common schools...The teacher will perform the experiments before the class, directing that each observe carefully and report accurately what he [sic] sees (when asked). In general the teacher should refrain from telling the pupils too much; rather encouraging them to interpret what they see."⁵

Continued on next page



- Free tuition and supplies for teachers taking summer courses. The only expenses listed in various catalogs from the early 1900s were board and travel.
- “The Public Library and Its Critics” An address before Connecticut and Rhode Island Library Associations.

Register and Manual

Published by the Secretary of the State’s Office, the **Connecticut State Register and Manual**⁶ has been called “a treasure house of factual information.” The current edition is [available online](#) at the Secretary of the State’s website, and includes both an abstract length and a brief history of the publication. While now called “The Blue Book,” some earlier editions had maroon binding, and according to Peter Bartucca, editor from 1989-2003, early precursors were light blue or buff.⁷ As late as the early 20th century, the Register and Manual continued to offer a section with an almanac of phases of the moon, sunrise, sunset and tides for New London and New Haven. The almanac section was the most surprising to me. I thought of the *Register and Manual* as being more like its federal counter part, *The United States Government Manual*⁸, the official handbook of the U.S. federal government.

The main component of the Register and Manual covers government in the U.S. at various levels, with state being the major focus; some local coverage; and national to a lesser, more general degree. The order of entries has varied, with state sometimes listed first. Texts of the U.S. and Connecticut Constitutions are included, along with the 1662 Charter. There are tables of selected dates in Connecticut history and historical lists of governmental leaders at the state and federal levels. Members of the three branches of state government are listed. Brief biographies for key people are included in more recent editions. Much

like the catalogues of the state normal schools, the earlier inclusion of people’s home addresses was very surprising to me; nowadays contact information is for official offices only.

The Executive chamber section lists the offices/agencies within the Executive Branch. In earlier years, the entries included staff as well as officers, allowing me to see how many women were working at the Connecticut State Library in 1922. State boards and commissions include names, appointment, length of term and salary. The 1934 edition saw a reversal in the trend of adding more and more information to the Register and Manual. As stated in the Preface “The 1934 edition marks a departure as to the arrangement and contents.”⁹ Much of the almanac section was reduced, while the state government section was expanded quite a bit, corresponding to the Tercentenary of Connecticut. The Executive agency entries were markedly longer, with detailed descriptions of the agency, its authority, history and mission. With longer descriptions of the agencies came shorter lists of personnel, which from then on included only the top staff. The legislative section lists the representatives and committee assignments - with early 20th century editions including name, age, residence, birth place, occupation and marital status. In the earlier years, there were few farmers elected to the Senate, and many more elected to the House. The 1934 edition incorporated the Rules of the Senate, the Rules of the House, and parliamentary practice and precedents. It also included detailed duties for the Connecticut General Assembly’s opening day and the process of passing legislation.

The Judicial Branch entries list judges and staff for the various state courts. Earlier editions included the county and city court judges, as well as all the state’s notaries public and justices of the peace. Most surprising was the inclusion of detailed salary information, not available in the modern Register and Manuals.

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While currently entries for the 169 municipalities are in one alphabetical list, previously they were categorized by city, town or borough. Entries now include the higher-ranking municipal officers and basic statistical information. Delightfully, I discovered that earlier versions include more information, such as all town officers and sometimes their home addresses, fire districts, borough officers and attorneys. The Political section offers state and national election information such as the Statement of the Vote, political parties, and party affiliation statistics.

The Miscellaneous section grew during the first half of the 20th century. Currently some of that information is available only in the online version. This section includes (or included) state symbols, post office locations and postal regulations, appendices such as U.S. States and Territories, Connecticut towns in order of their establishment, and points of highest altitude in Connecticut. Among institutions and societies, private as well as state colleges were listed, as were ecclesiastical societies and clergy. Financial institutions entries included officers, holdings, dividends, interest rate, and so on. The 1920 edition (and others) lists licensed physicians and dentists by town. The section still includes lists of public libraries, museums, historical societies, Connecticut press and radio and television stations, and much more.

Digital Collections

One resource that truly surprised me was the Connecticut State Library's [Digital Collections](#) - I did not realize the scope and mission of the gems I found there. The [Internet Archive](#) and the [Hathi Trust](#) host a number of state documents digitized by the Connecticut State Library and other institutions; but [The Digital Collections](#) is the Connecticut State Library's crown jewel, its own digitized items in

OCLC's ContentDM. Content can be accessed either on The Connecticut State Library's collection page or through the search interfaces of CONSULS, the State Library catalog. The materials here are a treasure trove of new and old resources. Harvested web pages of the previous governors and constitutional officers are found along side [Founding Documents of Connecticut](#). The holdings are so varied and so useful, I cannot list them all - but I implore everyone to explore this resource. For more information, please see [Connecticut State Library Digital Collections](#).

Newspapers

Connecticut Newspapers is described as the "most comprehensive collection of Connecticut newspapers known to exist."¹⁰ Of all the wonderful and enlightening sources I have found here at the Connecticut State Library, none was more surprising or personally important to me than that collection of Connecticut Newspapers. I knew about the newspaper databases, such as *Hartford Courant Historical*, and I knew that larger city daily newspapers were often held in microfilm by the local public library. But I had no idea of the depth of our microfilm collection until my first few days of orientation; this collection also includes reels of the lesser-known papers of smaller Connecticut towns. I found my mother's local column from the early 1970s! A talented writer, my mother was able to include poems, literary references and an occasional poetic description in her neighborhood gossip column. On my coffee breaks I would go through reels of microfilm to find the little nuggets of her writing, hoping to give her copies as a present. The inconsistency of the film images was surprising - ads on the page were often crisp and clear while my mother's column was fuzzy and hard to read. About my

"The holdings are so varied and so useful, I cannot list them all - but I implore everyone to explore this resource. For more information, please see [Connecticut State Library Digital Collections](#)."

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sixth week of working at the Connecticut State Library my mother passed away, pleased with the knowledge that her tidbits of writing were preserved in our newspaper collection. I never did finish compiling her columns, but still add to the collection of *Gems of the Day* my mother and I shared during those first exciting weeks working at the Connecticut State Library.

Here are some places in the collection you might want to start to find and enjoy your own Gem of the Day. Please feel free to share them with me.

- Online index to Special Acts.
- [General index to the private laws and special acts of the state of Connecticut \[1789-1943\]](#)
- [Index to Connecticut Special Acts, 1944-2012](#)
- *Register of Absent Voters. Connecticut in the World War 1917-1919*
- *The Connecticut Valley in the Age of Dinosaurs: A Guide to the Geologic Literature, 1681-1995.* [Borrow](#) from the library. [Purchase](#) from DEEP Store.
- *The Connecticut Butterfly Atlas.* [Borrow from the library.](#) [Purchase](#) from DEEP Store.
- *Connecticut Men in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States in the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection and China Relief Expedition.* Online at [HathiTrust](#)
- *Connecticut Hospital for the Insane.* Series found at: ConnDoc In713
- *Report of Department of Labor and Factory Inspection and Industrial Investigator.* [Must be used in the Library.](#)
- *Industrial Directory of Connecticut.* [In library use only.](#)
- [Manufacturer catalogs](#) in the Museum
- *Annual Report of the Railroad Commissioners* [In library use only.](#) UConn digitized for [Archive.org](#).
- *The Mentally Ill in Connecticut: Changing Patterns of Care and the Evolution of Psychiatric Nursing 1636-1972.* [Available](#) at the library.
- Connecticut Tercentenary Commission. [Historical publications.](#) In print and in the Digital Collections.
- Educational materials - state, but especially federal agencies have long tradition of providing curricular resources. I was surprised to find NASA jigsaw puzzles in the stacks.
- Not only was *Arsenic and Old Lace* based on a true story, but we have records of Connecticut's own Amy Archer Gillian and her trial.
- Numerous primary sources on Prudence Crandall's trials~

¹ Connecticut State Department of Education, Connecticut School Document. 1884-1972.

² United States. Bureau of Education, *Bulletin (Bureau of Education)*.

³ Connecticut State Department of Education, "Laws Relating to Schools", *Connecticut School Document*. No. 3352, 1910, p.17

⁴ Connecticut State Department of Education, "Stereopticon Lectures," *Connecticut School Document*. 1889

⁵ Connecticut State Department of Education, "Common School Science (reprint of same title 1907)", *Connecticut School Documents*, no. 347, 1910, p.2)

⁶ Connecticut. Secretary of the State, *Register and Manual - State of Connecticut*.

⁷ Bartucca, Peter J., *The Connecticut State Register and Manual: A Brief History*. Secretary of the State [n.d.] p.2. <http://www.sots.ct.gov/sots/lib/sots/RegisterManual/rmhistorypdf.pdf>. Accessed 27 March, 2013

⁸ Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, *The United States Government Manual*.

⁹ Connecticut. Secretary of the State, *Register and Manual - State of Connecticut*. 1934, p.4.

¹⁰ Connecticut State Library, "Newspapers - Research Topics." <http://www.ctstatelibrary.org/topics/newspapers> Accessed 27 March 2013~



Adoption of the Regulation concerning Real Property Electronic Recording

By LeAnn R. Power, Public Records Administrator

With the adoption of the State Library's Regulation concerning Real Property Electronic Recording, Connecticut becomes the 43rd state to allow town clerks the option of accepting electronic documents for recording on the land records. This new regulation ensures that electronic recording is implemented in a manner that is consistent with national and statewide practices and that the records and recordkeeping systems are maintained properly and securely.

Electronic recording or "eRecording" provides for the delivery and return of an electronic document, using an electronic document delivery system, for the purpose of recording that document on the land records. Electronic recording can help town clerk offices reduce costs and processing time. It can also help them to receive payments more quickly and accurately. It is the preferred submission method for many submitters, as it provides a secure method for sending documents and minimizes the turnaround time for recordings.

As mandated by Chapter 92a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act [<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/pub/chap092a.htm>], the regulation was drafted by State Librarian Kendall Wiggin in consultation with the Real Property Electronic Recording Advisory [Committee](#). The committee included three town clerks; three attorneys experienced in real estate law; a designee of the Secretary of the State; the Public Records Administrator; an individual experienced in mortgage banking; an individual experienced in the business of title insurance; a notary public; an individual with experience performing title searches of real property; and a licensed real estate broker. The committee worked to draft the regulation over seven meetings held from November 2009 through early 2012.

The proposed regulation was submitted for a series of reviews and approvals as required by statute beginning in May 2012. The State Library received final approval from the Legislative Regulation Review Committee on March 26, 2013. The regulation has been adopted as *Conn. Agencies Regs. Sections 7-35ee-1 through 7-35ee-10* [<http://www.cslib.org/publicrecords/eRecordReg.htm>], with an effective date of April 1, 2013.

Thank you to the dedicated members of the Real Property Electronic Recording Advisory Committee, State Librarian Kendall Wiggin, and the staff of the Office of the Public Records Administrator for their time, efforts, and important contributions throughout the drafting process.

For further information on the regulation, please contact the Office of the Public Records Administrator at 860-757-6540 or email leann.power@ct.gov.

"The Editorial Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Jones for his excellent work as Editor of this Newsletter for the past four years and for his dedication and leadership as State Archivist for the past 30 years! Thank you Mark, for sharing your knowledge, experience, and interesting stories, and thank you for the encouragement you have given us to continue to publish this newsletter. We will miss you. Best wishes for a long and healthy retirement!"



2013 Third Thursdays at the Connecticut State Library

231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

12:00-12:45 PM

Memorial Hall

May 16 - Jon Purmont, Professor of History at Southern Connecticut State University - ***Ella Grasso: Connecticut's Pioneering Governor***



June 20 - Kevin Johnson, Connecticut State Library, portrays - ***William Webb, an African American Civil War Soldier from Connecticut***



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