

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

...Preserving the Past, Informing the Future www.ctstatelibrary.org



In This Issue

[Legislative Update](#)

by Kendall Wiggin, Page 2

[Statewide E-Books](#)

[Symposium](#)

by Eric Hansen, Page 3

[Connecticut Versus the U.S.](#)

[Government: The Militia](#)

[Controversy of 1812](#)

by William Anderson, Pages 4-5

[The Many Faces of Abraham](#)

[Lincoln](#) by Robert Kinney

Page 6

[Newspaper Digitization](#)

[Project to Illuminate Social](#)

[History of WWI Era Home](#)

[Front](#)

by Christine Gauvreau, Pages 7-9

[The Conversational Reading](#)

[Project](#) by Susan Cormier

Page 10

[Governor Malloy Kicks Off](#)

[Annual Summer Reading](#)

[Program](#) by Susan Cormier

and Robert W. Kinney

Page 11

[New & Noteworthy at CSL](#)

Pages 12-18

[Third Thursdays at CSL](#)

Page 19

[In Memoriam](#), Page 20



[SEE](#)

[SARGEANT](#)

[STUBBY](#)

[PAGE 13](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian

When the Legislature adjourned on May 7 they had enacted a major advancement in statewide library resources sharing by passing House Bill 5477 (Public Act 14-82) *An Act Concerning A State-Wide Platform For The Distribution Of Electronic Books*. The Public Act authorizes the State Library Board to create and maintain a state-wide platform for the distribution of electronic books to public library patrons. The legislation resulted from a series of recommendations made by the



State Librarian Kendall Wiggin

Department of Consumer Protection in their *Report to the General Assembly's General Law Committee pursuant to Special Act 13-10, "An Act Concerning a Study Regarding the Availability of Electronic Books to Users of Public Libraries"* which was issued on January 30, 2014. Additionally, Public Act 14-98 authorizes \$2.2 million dollars for the development of the eBook platform and an initial selection of eBooks. Eric Hansen, Electronic Resources Coordinator with the Division of Library Development, will be heading up the project. At their regular meeting in May, the State Library Board established a committee to oversee and advise the State Librarian on the development of the eBook Platform. The Connecticut Library Association, through its Legislative Committee, played a major role in securing passage of the Act and the subsequent funding.

The State Library was not as successful with two other pieces of legislation. Senate Bill 246 *An Act Concerning The Protection Of State And Municipal Essential Records And The Preservation Of Electronic Records* would have made several changes in the statutes affecting state and municipal record preservation. Among other things, state, municipal, and probate district officials with custody of permanent electronic records would be required to maintain them in accordance with authentication and preservation standards for electronic documents issued by the Public Records Administrator; agencies would be required to designate and maintain, for each public record, an official record copy as the

legally recognized copy for record retention, preservation, and authentication purposes; executive branch agencies and municipalities would be required to identify and protect essential records; it established an essential records program. The bill cleared the Government Administration and Elections Committee, but died in the Appropriations Committee. This was the final piece of legislation needed to implement the recommendations that the

State Librarian made in 2012 concerning the preservation and authentication of electronic records. The State Library will pursue these changes in the 2015 Legislative session.

The other legislation sought by the State Library was House Bill 5124 *An Act Concerning The Preservation Of Historical Records And Access To Restricted Records In The State Archives*. The bill would have opened to the public, 75 years after their creation, government records (excluding medical records) deemed confidential, classified, or private, regardless of any prohibition or state law. And it would have opened medical records housed in the state archives 50 years after the death of the person who is the subject of those records, regardless of any prohibition or state law. The bill had strong support from the history community, but was strongly opposed by those wanting to protect the privacy of mental health patients who had been under state care. The bill passed out of the Government Administration and Elections Committee with a requirement that the person's name, address, and social security number be obscured or removed from the records before they are released. This change was not acceptable to the State Library and the bill was never called by either house. The State Library will continue in its efforts to strike a reasonable balance between access to historic records and an individual's privacy.

Statewide E-BOOKS SYMPOSIUM

by Eric Hansen, Electronic Resources Coordinator

The State Library sponsored a state-wide e-Book symposium at the University of Hartford on the morning of February 28, 2014. ACLPD (Advisory Council for Library Planning and Development) eBook Task Force members Ernie DiMattia (Chair), Mary Anne Mendola Franco, Kate Sheehan and I organized the event, with substantial local assistance by Randi Asthon-Pritting, Director of Libraries at the University. iCONN ILL (Interlibrary Loan) Coordinator Steve Cauffman assisted with setup and registration. Representative Brian Sear and State Librarian Kendall Wiggin were among the 104 who attended.

The symposium featured a keynote address by Alan Inouye, Director of the American Library Association's Office for Information Technology Policy. He provided a national view of library e-Book challenges in recent years, particularly problems of high prices to libraries and the lack of availability of titles to libraries and consortia, among other concerns.

A panel discussion moderated by Kate Sheehan that included Skip Dye, Vice President of Library and Academic Sales, Random House, and Adam Silverman, Director of Digital Business Development, Harper Collins followed. Some in attendance pointedly questioned publisher representatives on the panel about high e-Book prices for libraries.

Deputy Commissioner for Consumer Protection Michelle Seagull presented her report on e-Books, Connecticut libraries and the publishing industry, which was the direct result of Special Act 13-10, *An Act Concerning a Study Regarding the Availability of Electronic Books to Users of Public Libraries*. Seagull found that e-Books are treated differently under U.S. Copyright law than physical books, which affects libraries' ability to make them available to



Left to right: Adam Silverman, Eric Hansen, Michelle Seagull, Rep. Brian Sear, Skip Dye, Ernie DiMattia

patrons. Her report concluded with three recommendations to Connecticut libraries: wait and see, increase library funding, or develop a state-owned e-Book platform.

Mary Anne Mendola Franco presented the results of her statewide survey of eBooks in Connecticut libraries. Responses to her survey were primarily from public libraries (70%). Most patrons use dedicated e-Readers or tablets

for reading e-Books. Most of the libraries that responded lend e-Readers preloaded with content and do not plan to acquire more e-Readers in the next year. In the past year, demand for e-Books has increased, slightly or greatly, to a total of 84% of responding libraries. This is expected to impact library budgets going forward.

I presented results of my surveys of e-Book costs to libraries and of book sales as a source of revenue to Connecticut friends of libraries. From my survey results, I found that libraries that responded pay an average \$5,398.55 per annum on e-Book platform fees, with a mean price per title of \$56.45 per year for content. I also found that Friends of Connecticut Libraries book sales result in an average of \$3,721.53 per year per library; that is, every library in Connecticut. It would amount to a significant revenue loss to small and medium-sized libraries in the state if hardcopy books give way to all e-Book publishing.

Of the 104 who attended the symposium, about 55 stayed for lunch at the 1877 Club buffet at the University. In all, the symposium served to lay the groundwork for a successful dialogue between Connecticut libraries and eBook vendors, with the eventual goal of a statewide e-Book platform. PowerPoint presentations from the symposium are available on [SlideShare](#).

CONNECTICUT VERSUS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:
THE MILITIA CONTROVERSY OF 1812

by William Anderson, Cataloging Librarian

The War of 1812 was deeply unpopular in the states of New England, particularly in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The interruption of trade, already squeezed by the Napoleonic Wars in Europe and by the United States' own short lived (14 months) Embargo Act of 1807, only worsened with the start of the war. The damage to New England's mercantile economy antagonized the strongly mercantilist Federalist Party, a major force in the politics and government of New England. This led to political clashes between the New England states and the U.S. Government. (*Rocket's Red Glare*, 12, 14).

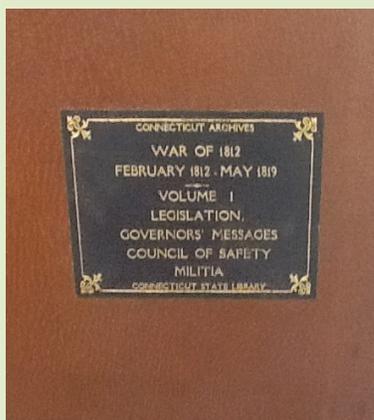
The story of one particular clash between Connecticut and the United States can be found in a collection of letters and legislative resolves preserved in the *Connecticut Archives* series, a confusingly named title given by tradition, which does not constitute anything close to the whole archives of the state of Connecticut, but refers to a set of government documents covering Connecticut history from 1636-1820 that were arranged and bound into large volumes in the 19th century.

The militia controversy of 1812 that occurred at the start of the War of 1812 illustrates both the tug of war between state and federal authority and the controversial nature of the war in Connecticut. The controversy started with an order from Secretary of War William Eustis for the detachment of five companies of the Connecticut Militia for the defense of the seacoast, when so demanded by Major General Dearborn, commander in charge of the defense of the Northeast. Authority for the order had been granted by an act of Congress of April 10, 1812. (*Connecticut Archives*. War of 1812, vol.1, document 85). Governor Griswold readily communicated his agreement to the order (*Connecticut Archives*. War of 1812, vol.1, document 86) . Then, affairs started to unravel.

It became clear to Griswold and his Lieutenant Governor, John Cotton Smith, from Dearborn's predicted requisition order issued June 22, that the detached militia were to be placed under Federal officers, including the commanding officer at Fort Trumbull (*Connecticut Archives*. War of 1812, vol.1, document 87). Smith would handle much of the correspondence during the affair due to Griswold's health and would become Governor on the death of Griswold in October 1812 (Sherman). The Governor, through the Lieutenant Governor, immediately protested on July 2, 1812 to Secretary of War Eustis that the request was unconstitutional, as state control of the militia was "so sacred, guaranteed by the Constitution for the several states" as to forbid absorption into federal forces, except in very specific conditions; that is, enforcing laws, suppressing insurrection, and repelling invasion. The Governor saw none of these conditions as existing, and notes that he was unaware of any Presidential declaration that the United States was "in imminent danger of invasion" (*Connecticut Archives*. War of 1812, v.1, document 91) . Eustis' reply of July 14th expressed considerable surprise at the assertion that no such danger of invasion existed "in the circumstances of a declaration of war against a nation possessed of a powerful and numerous fleet, a part of which was actually on our coast" (*Connecticut Archives*. War of 1812, vol.1, document 93). The surviving replies (July 17 and August 13) of Griswold/Smith to Eustis continue to maintain the non-existence of any constitutionally valid justifications for federal control of the militia, and reiterate their refusal to comply with the order. (*Connecticut Archives*. War of 1812, vol.1, document 95, 102). The exchange makes interesting reading, both sides in the politely formal language of the age insisting on the absurdity of the other side's position.

Amidst the above exchange , Connecticut's governing council and the General Assembly joined the discussion, issuing several reports and resolves fully backing the Governor as Commander and Chief of the Connecticut Militia,

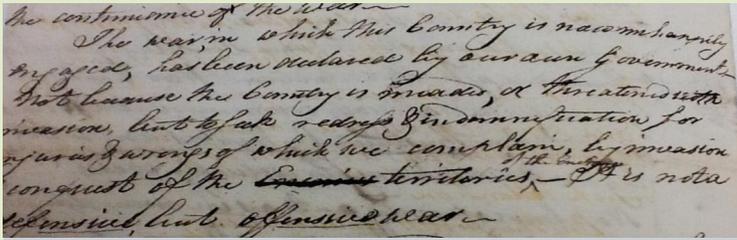
Continued on page 5



Volume of the Connecticut Archives containing the documents cited in this article. Microfilm copies are also kept in the State Library's History & Genealogy area. The index is available [online](#) .

reiterating his arguments, and taking the opportunity to comment on the war in general. "It is not a defensive but offensive war." (*Connecticut Archives. War of 1812, vol.1, document 98*). "The people of this state view this war as unnecessary." (*Connecticut Archives. War of 1812, vol.1, document 100*).

Through July and August, Major General Dearborn also sent his own requests inquiring



Portion of the governing council's report criticizing the war. The first quote above is visible in the last sentence of the photograph.

letter was somehow lost in the shuffle, as executive refusals and legislative resolves continued to be issued into August of 1812, the last refusal currently preserved being from Griswold to Eustis on August 13 tartly asserting "I assure you that I neither intended nor expected to be understood by the general language of my letter or any expression it contained to give the smallest assurance that I would execute an order, which I judged repugnant to the Constitution from whatever source it might emanate." (*Connecticut Archives. War of 1812, vol.1, document 102*). Griswold belatedly wrote to Dearborn on August 22, and apologized that Dearborn's letter had been "left in Hartford without being acknowledged," and "expressed my satisfaction of the readiness with which you proposed to give the command of the companies ... to a Major of our own." (*Connecticut Archives. War of 1812, v.1, document 103*).

Connecticut's first controversy of the war was over, but two months later, in October 1812, the General Assembly issued an angry resolve protesting a bill in the U.S. Congress authorizing the use of the militia in the invasion of Canada, and levying a tax on the people of the state to finance this new measure. Should the bill enter into law, the General Assembly pointedly threatened to ask the Governor to convene a "special session" of the Assembly to consider measures "to secure and preserve the rights & liberties of the people of the state & freedom & sovereign independence of the same." (*Connecticut Archives. War of 1812, vol.1, document 104*).

Here the author must stop for space considerations, but the above example is given to show that Connecticut's difficulties were far from over. The following years would prove trying to the state with British Raids in 1813-1814 and continuing political conflict culminating in the Hartford Convention of 1814, a protest by representatives of most of the New England states, which was soon made moot by the arrival of peace in early 1815. The stories of these continuing struggles during a perilous time for Connecticut and the young United States, seen through the participants' eyes, are still available to us through the documents stored in the *Connecticut Archives* series.

References

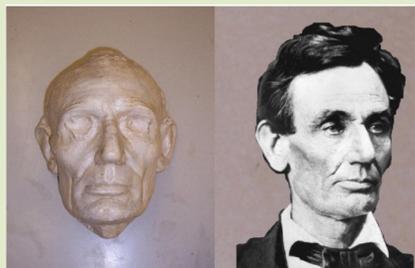
Connecticut Archives. War of 1812, v.1, documents 83-104.

Sherman, Jeannie. [John Cotton Smith, Governor of Connecticut, 1812-1817.](#)

[The rockets' red glare: the War of 1812 and Connecticut.](#) New London, Conn., New London County Historical Society, 2012.



Portrait of John Cotton Smith in his later years from the Museum of Connecticut History (No known portrait exists of Roger Griswold). Photo by author.

THE MANY FACES OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN*by Robert Kinney, Outreach Services Librarian*

Leonard Wells Volk was an American sculptor who made several large sculptures and statues of American civil war figures. He is most famous for making one of only two life masks of President Abraham Lincoln. A genuine replica of the life mask has been housed in the Connecticut State Library since the early 1900s. The question is, where is the original mold of the life mask?

Many believed the original cast of the Lincoln life mask and hands were lost in the great fire of 1871 in Chicago, in which Volk's studio was destroyed. There are no

known reproductions of the mask and hands from before that time. However, Volk claimed that all items in his studio were destroyed with the exception of the mask and hands. Specifically, he claimed that when the fire occurred, the original mold of the Lincoln mask and hands were with him in Rome. Before Volk's death in 1895, his son, Stephen Douglas Volk, claimed that he obtained the actual mold of the mask and hands.

In 1886, Stephen Douglas Volk sold what was said to be the original mold of Lincoln's face and hands to American sculptor Saint-Gaudens, journalist Richard Watson Gilder, and collectors Thomas B. Clarke and Erwin Davis. To finance the \$1,500 purchase, the men made replicas and sold them to thirteen individuals and three institutions. Bronze copies sold for \$85 and plaster copies sold for \$50. In 1888, the original plasters and a set of bronze replicas were donated to the U.S. government and ended up at the Smithsonian Museum.

There is another twist to this story. A friend of Leonard Volk named Jules Berchem also claimed to have the original mold of Lincoln's face and hands. According to Berchem, Volk had given the original set to him, and in 1906 he made reproductions for the upcoming 1908 Lincoln centennial.

So today the question remains, who has the original mold of the Lincoln life mask and hands? The mask and hands purchased by Saint-Gaudens, Gilder, and Clarke and Davis were given to the National Museum of American History. But were they the original mold, or were the originals destroyed in the 1871 Chicago fire? Did Leonard Volk pass the original castings down to his son, or did he give them to his dear friend Berchem?

The Smithsonian copy has a small "m" behind the left ear. Berchem's mold of the mask has remained in the Berchem family and has "A. Lincoln.1860. L.W.Volk fecit," inscribed under the chin.

In 1971, Mrs. Estella Lord, museum director of the Connecticut State Library, wrote to the Smithsonian inquiring about a copy of a Leonard Wells Volk Lincoln life mask at the library. She believed the mask belonged to one of the thirteen individuals and three institutions who purchased replica sets of the mask and hands back in the 1880s. Apparently, there was no clear answer to her question. It's not clear to this day how the library came into possession of this mask or its origin.

So today, tucked safely away behind the closed doors of the Connecticut State Library, is one of the Leonard Volk reproduction life masks of Abraham Lincoln, surrounded by mystery and frozen in time.

Bibliography

["The Civil War in Art: Teaching and Learning through Chicago collections"](#) Accessed May 14, 2014.

"Statues of Abraham Lincoln: Leonard Wells Volk Lincoln's face and hands." Milwaukee, Wis. C. Hennecke Co.,1891

"Statues of Abraham Lincoln, Leonard Wells Volk Lincoln's face and hands excerpts from newspapers and other sources." State of Indiana through the Indiana State Library, 1941.

"Augustus Saint-Gaudens in the Metropolitan Museum of Art." Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Thayer Tolles. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2009.

**NEWSPAPER DIGITIZATION PROJECT TO ILLUMINATE
SOCIAL HISTORY OF WWI ERA HOME FRONT**

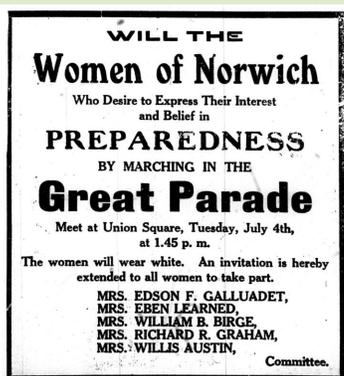
by Christine Gauvreau, Project Coordinator Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project

Readers of the *Hartford Courant* (February 16, 2014) recently learned that the centenary of World War I in Britain is accompanied by great controversy about how best to remember it. Some fear that a revival of Germanophobia will contribute politically to undermining the bonds of the contemporary European Union. Others worry that too many revisions to the traditional commemorative approach will undermine patriotic feeling. In fact, recognition of the competing memories and meanings attached to the war is central to the field of First World War studies today (International Society). The digitization of 100,000 pages of World War I era Connecticut newspapers, made possible by a \$274,000 grant to the Connecticut State Library by the National Endowment of the Humanities, is expected to contribute greatly to this kind of scholarship. The 1910-1922 runs of *Norwich Bulletin*, the *Bridgeport Evening Farmer*, and the *Bridgeport Times* that were selected for inclusion in the [Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project](#) (CDNP) by a board composed of historians, librarians, and educators will also be very useful for teaching, as the facilitation of student engagement with primary sources that document counter-posed points of view is currently a favored approach. Historians and students will be able to read, in the journalistic context in which they occurred, some of the great Connecticut debates on the nature of the European war, the wisdom of U.S. involvement, the civil measures enacted to control domestic dissent, and the postwar crackdown on immigrant and labor radicalism.

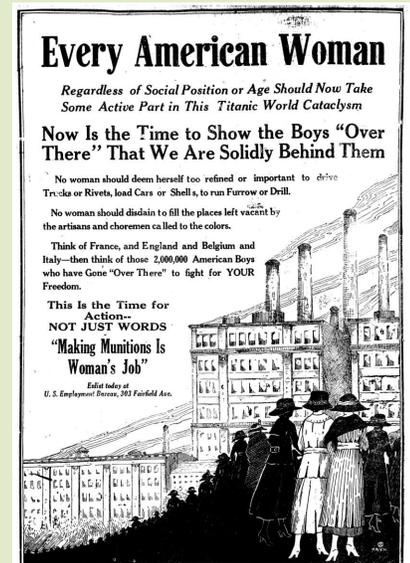
Preparedness vs. Pacifism

One angle from which the newspapers might be explored is the long public debate over whether or not the U.S. should enter the European war. It is evident from a cursory review of these publications that some Connecticut residents were preparedness advocates when a majority was still firmly opposed to U.S. intervention and that others were pacifists when the majority of opinion makers had been won over to Woodrow Wilson's military efforts. Connecticut cities like Bridgeport were made up of immigrant families who originated in European empires

on both sides of the major fault lines of the conflict, as well as from oppressed nations within those empires that were seeking independence from one or other of the belligerents. Textile men lost money when the British first embargoed German dyestuffs but made big profits when tasked with production for the U.S. war effort. The Connecticut labor movement was deeply divided between those who thought that striking during wartime was akin to desertion on the battlefield and others who believed that it



*"Norwich Bulletin"
July 3, 1916, p.8*



*"Bridgeport Times"
Sept. 20, 1918, p. 12*

Continued on page 8

was the special duty of workingmen to oppose a war among economic elites contending for markets. The African American civil rights and women’s suffrage movements split over which stance to the war would most effectively advance their causes. In short, the experience and memory of World War 1 in Connecticut was necessarily contingent and contradictory. The [Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project](#) is creating an easily searchable historical resource for mining it in all its richness and complexity.

James L. Abrahamson, writing about the World War I home front for his students at the National Defense University, said that the American government declared war in April 1917 “with some reason to believe that perhaps 15 percent of the population would oppose the sacrifices necessary for an Allied victory” (Abrahamson , p. 114). Acutely aware of antiwar sentiment, President Wilson was moved to create America’s first wartime

propaganda agency, the Committee on Public Information. It

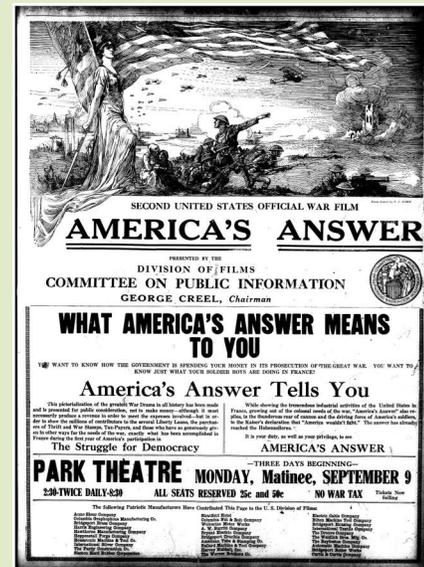
was headed by George Creel, who organized both the public

speaking circuit and the motion picture industry for the cause (Abrahamson, p. 120). Due to

his efforts, the better entertainment pages of Connecticut newspapers in October of 1918 urged residents to rush to the local theater and see the first “official” war film, “My Four Years in Germany.” Full page spreads paid for by local industrial firms advertised the second U.S. propaganda film, “America’s Answer” (See inserts). In addition, the advocates of “preparedness” ideologically countered social-gospel clergymen and other religious advocates of world peace initiatives by speaking in Connecticut churches. The *Norwich Bulletin* of March 11, 1916 ran the entire pro-preparedness speech presented by General W. A. Aiken to the men of the Norwich Park Church. To whom was Aiken speaking? How did the General motivate preparedness among Connecticut residents? Aiken told his audience, seemingly men with an interest in trade, that obstacles to U.S. militarization, including a huge shortage of labor, a possible repeat of the Civil War-era draft riots, the prohibition of participation in the national guard by certain labor organizations, and President Wilson’s too modest proposals for enlarging the U.S. Navy, must be overcome if the U.S. were to be militarily capable of stopping European and Japanese encroachment in Latin America. Preparedness marches were organized in all the major cities and news coverage of the parades often emphasized the enthusiastic participation of a multitude of immigrant groups whose communities were thought to be divided in their opinion of the war (*Norwich Bulletin*, July 5, 1916). In at least one instance, however, it was reported that a preparedness parade was marred by “South End rowdies” jeering and insulting the National Guard (*Bridgeport Evening Farmer*, April 2, 1917). The South End, home of the Warner Corset factory, was a neighborhood of immigrants from many warring European countries.

Others not deemed “rowdies” also made the front pages when vocal in opposition to the war. On September 16, 1917, Mrs. Annie R. Hale and Alfred E. Whitehead of the Connecticut chapter of the People’s Council of America for Democracy and Peace were arrested and dramatically removed from a stage in Hartford. The police reportedly took action just after Mrs. Hale had reached a part in her speech where she

Others not deemed “rowdies” also made the front pages when vocal in opposition to the war. On September 16, 1917, Mrs. Annie R. Hale and Alfred E. Whitehead of the Connecticut chapter of the People’s Council of America for Democracy and Peace were arrested and dramatically removed from a stage in Hartford. The police reportedly took action just after Mrs. Hale had reached a part in her speech where she



“Bridgeport Times”
Sept. 7, 1918 p. 9

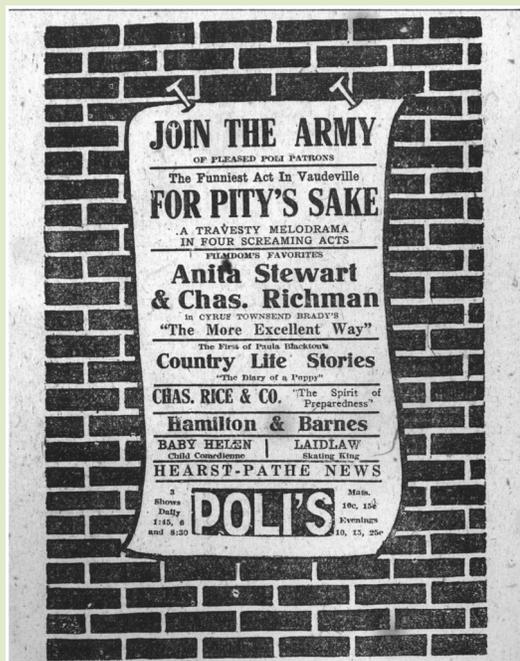


“Bridgeport Times”
Oct. 4, 1918
p. 22

Continued on page 9

“criticized the president and the war, condemned conscription, and declared that the U.S. had no right to go abroad to fight Germany because of a belief that ‘fifty years hence,’ Germany might make war on this country” (*Norwich Bulletin*, September 17, 1917). Similarly, Wallingford businessman Martin Plunkett and his associate John McCarthy – sometime Socialist Party candidates for governor and state treasurer, respectively – were arrested under the Espionage Act of 1917 for opposing the war (*Norwich Bulletin*, June 15, 1918). John

Hurnick of Waterbury, “who said he was a Russian, was bound over to the superior court in bond’s of [sic] \$1000” for “insulting the American flag” (*Bridgeport Evening Farmer*, April 7, 1917). The *Bridgeport Farmer* editors, themselves, were initially quite hostile to the idea of the U.S. joining the European war and suggested that “American professors of the jingo school” should be the first to put themselves in the European trenches (*Bridgeport Evening Farmer*, June 3, 1915). Over time, the *Farmer* editors grew to support the war, believing that it could destroy European autocracy. They then worked to woo possibly skeptical working class readers by reprinting a national story with the headline “Burden of War Expense to be Placed on the Rich” (April 6, 1917). A review of these newspapers suggests that the debate over U.S. involvement was prolonged and carried out in every sphere of Connecticut public life. It is likely that hundreds of thousands of Connecticut families had a relative engaged in some way in this epic contest over war and peace, as no civic, community, commercial, church, or labor organization could remain aloof from this battle for hearts and minds.



Bridgeport Evening Farmer, April 2, 1917

These contestations on the World War I home front are just some of the many experiences that can soon be fruitfully explored because of the [Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project](#). The digitized titles will be available to the general public and searchable by keyword via the Library of Congress’s [Chronicling America](#) online archive of historical newspapers in late 2014 or early 2015. According to Jane Cullinane of the Connecticut State Library Preservation Department, the hope is that the CDNP will inspire further local efforts at historic newspaper digitization and that these titles can be incorporated into the State Library-hosted [Newspapers of Connecticut Online Collection](#).

References

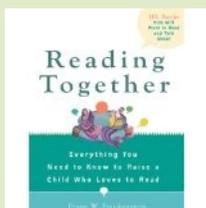
- Abrahamson, James L. *The American Home Front: Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II*. Washington, D. C.: National Defense University, 1983. <<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a261754.pdf>>, Accessed June 5, 2014.
- International Society for First World War Studies, <<http://www.firstworldwarstudies.org/>>, Accessed June 4, 2014.

The CONVERSATIONAL READING PROJECT

"Read a book - ask a question - start a conversation"

by Susan Cormier, Children's Services Consultant

"Everyone likes stories, but not everyone likes to read." Educator [Diane Frankenstein](#) proposes a solution to this problem in her book *Reading Together: Everything You*



Need to Know to Raise a Child Who Loves to Read. Children who love to read, read easily, understand the story, and connect with the meaning in the text. Reluctant readers need books that allow them to grasp the story without a struggle, that speak to their level of emotional maturity and

comprehension. Parents can help their children find what to read and through conversation, discover meaning and pleasure in books.

"Read a book - ask a question - start a conversation." Finding meaning in a story calls for guessing, speculation, and pondering; it's less about what you *know* and more about what you *think*.

Conversational reading is making comments and asking questions - it is talking with children about the stories they read. The purpose is to make talking about a story a habit - talk is essential and the more meaningful the better." (Diane Frankenstein, <http://www.dianefrankenstein.com/reading-together>)

The *Conversational Reading Project* brought librarians from all over Connecticut together for a daylong seminar, designed to provide both the research base and the practical tools to implement local Conversational Reading programs. One hundred and two librarians from seventy three libraries attended this workshop that included an introduction and welcome from Department of Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor, a keynote address from educator Diane Frankenstein, and collaborative group work among all the participants. Each participant and library received a copy of *Reading Together: Everything You Need to Know to Raise a Child*

Who Loves to Read by Diane Frankenstein and all 73 libraries received a \$500.00 stipend to implement a Conversational Reading project of their choice.

Libraries who sent staff to the workshop were eligible to submit grant applications for more extensive projects. Seventeen libraries applied and three \$3,000.00 grants were awarded. Press releases from the three award winners follow.

Conversational Reading is Grand!

The Edith Wheeler Memorial Library will present four workshops to help to increase grandparent and older adult care giver skills around conversational reading. Two of these programs will take place at the library and two will be held at the Monroe Senior Center. We will model reading aloud to small children and book talk some of the books Diane Frankenstein recommends in her book, *Reading Together*. We will also discuss some of the newer ways one might have a conversation about books with older children who are into technology or with grandchildren who live far away, such as with Skype, Google Hangouts, and Facetime.

No Mom's Allowed! A Dad's Only Workshop about Conversational Reading

The Youth Services Department of the Trumbull Public Library would like to offer a Conversational Reading Workshop to fathers in the community. In order to reach the target audience we will partner with the Father's Clubs of the elementary schools in town. We will work with them on times that are the most convenient and provide refreshments. This would require at least six large events since the town is home to six public elementary schools with their own active Father's Clubs.



Reading Together in Ridgefield

The Ridgefield Library proposes to hold four workshop sessions for parents and their early elementary grade children to introduce the

Continued on page 11

Conversational Reading concept outlined by children's reading and literature expert Diane Frankenstein in her book *Reading Together*. The objective is to inspire Ridgefield parents to apply Conversational Reading principles at home and to equip them with tools to assist in this effort. Two sessions will target picture book readers (grades K-2) and two will be aimed at chapter book readers (3rd and 4th graders), along with one or both parents.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr. Andrew Eder, businessman and philanthropist, of Guilford Connecticut who provided the funding for this project. Mr. Eder has been extensively involved in early literacy programs in the New Haven area. He serves on the board of directors of the United Way of Greater New Haven, is a founder of the New Haven Neighbor to Neighbor Lifeline program, and is the recipient of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy 2013 John H. Filer Award for his leadership in promoting private action for the public good.



**GOVERNOR MALLOY KICKS OFF
ANNUAL SUMMER READING PROGRAM
AND HONORS READING
ACHIEVEMENTS OF TOP PERFORMING
SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS**

*by Robert W. Kinney, Outreach Services Librarian and
Susan Cormier, Children's Services Consultant*

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor, and State Librarian Kendall Wiggin kicked off the annual summer reading program at the Connecticut State Library on May 9, 2014. State Librarian Kendall Wiggin recognized top-performing schools from the 2013 Summer Reading Challenge and encouraged young readers to continue to read throughout the summer. "The State Library is proud to partner with the Department of Education in promoting the Governor's summer reading challenge," State Librarian Wiggin said. "Public libraries throughout our state are ready to welcome students, offering them endless opportunities to have a great summer with a great book."

"Reading is the most important skill for students to



learn and one that requires constant practice," said Governor Malloy. "Students who maintain their reading habits over the summer are doing well to ensure their success."

"I am proud to recognize all the teachers, principals, and parents who help foster a love of reading in children," Commissioner Pryor said. "Creating a lifelong habit of reading opens the gateway to learning. It is vital that we support and enhance efforts to help every student become a proficient and confident reader."

The Governor's Summer Reading Challenge is a statewide program coordinated by the Connecticut State Department of Education in conjunction with the Connecticut State Library. The State Library creates [reading lists](#) and displays the GSRC logo on the online summer reading program, made available to public libraries. Schools compete based on student population and grade level. The theme for this year's summer reading challenge is "Fizz, Boom, Read."



The program recognizes the schools with the highest participation rates and the highest number of books read per student. Students have read millions of books since the program began in 1996.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY AT CSL
Third Thursdays in the Museum



From left to right from the top:

March 20— Susan Campbell's biography of Hooker, "Tempest-Tossed: The Spirit of Isabella Beecher Hooker"

April 17— Elizabeth Normen, Publisher of "Connecticut Explored"

April 17— Retired CT State Archivist Mark Jones -Mary Townsend Seymour article, African American Connecticut Explored.

May 15— Gene Leach, Professor of History and American Studies emeritus at Trinity College - West Hartford's Luna Park.

June 19— Kevin Johnson as Jordan Freeman, an African-American servant, Revolutionary War

Continued on page 13

NEW & NOTEWORTHY AT CSL

Connecticut's own WWI war hero, Sergeant Stubby. 102nd Infantry, 26th Yankee Division, 1918

100 Years: Documenting Connecticut's Response to World War I

Connecticut State Library is piloting a public history project together with Historypin, University of Connecticut and the Connecticut Digital Archive to digitize and share WWI collections gathered from Connecticut's cultural heritage organizations as well as the community for research and the common good. We hope to create a national model for local events, digitization and preservation efforts and are excited to work with partners who may be interested.

Please contact Christine Pittsley for further information at Christine.pittsley@ct.gov



The 123rd Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference

The Connecticut Library Association Annual Conference was held on April 28th and April 29th 2014, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, CT.

The State Library had two booths at the Conference. Pictured to the left is the State Library table staffed by Government Documents Librarians Nancy Peluso and Nancy Lieffort.

To the right is the Division of Library Development table staffed by Statewide Library Catalog Coordinator Gail Hurley. Also in the picture is Preservation Librarian Jane Cullinane.



Happy 200th Birthday Samuel Colt!

Samuel Colt was born July 19, 1814, in Hartford, Connecticut. The Connecticut State Library along with the Museum of Connecticut History celebrates the birth of one of the most influential inventors in American history.

The Museum currently has on display, The Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company Factory Collection. The fire arm collection was given to the Museum of Connecticut History in 1957. The collection constitutes one of the finest assemblages of early Colt prototypes, factory models and experimental firearms in the world. Also this summer for the first time ever, Sam Colt's original 1850's Connecticut Militia uniform will be on display at the Museum of Connecticut History.



Continued on page 14

NEW & NOTEWORTHY AT CSL
From Access Services



Barns of Connecticut

Markham Starr

[NA8230 .S73 2013](#)

[Read More](#)

[Endorsements](#)

[The FBI Story Index is Online:](#)

2012 The FBI Story

[J 1.14/2:F 31/7](#)

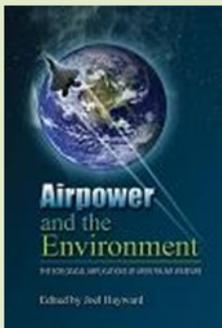
2011 The FBI Story

[J 1.14/2:F 31/6/2011](#)

ebook online

2009 The FBI Story

[J 1.14/2:F 31/6](#)



Airpower and the Environment: The Ecological Implications of Modern Air Warfare edited by Joel Hayward. (Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.: Air University Press, Air Force Research Institute, 2013)

[StLib Federal Document D 301.26/6:AI 7/17](#)

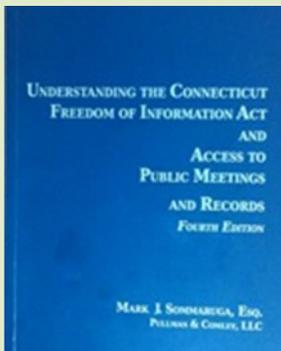
[AU Press](#)



Mastering American Indian Law (Carolina Academic Press, 2013)

Angelique Townsend Eaglewoman & Stacy L. Leeds

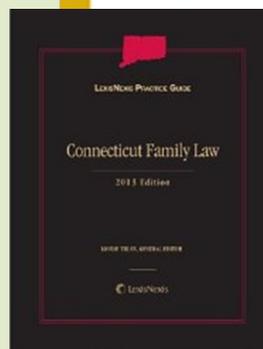
[KF8205 .E238 2013](#)



Understanding the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act and Access to Public Meetings (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, 2013)

Mark J. Sommaruga

[KFC4062.154 U53 2013](#)



Connecticut Family Law (LexisNexis, 2014)

Louise Taux, ed.

[KFC3694.A15 C66](#)

[State Library News](#)

Follow us: [News & Blogs](#) [Facebook](#) [Flickr](#)

Continued on page 15

NEW & NOTEWORTHY AT CSL*From Access Services*

GODFREY EST. 1947
 Memorial Library
ONLINE

**Early American Newspapers,
 Series 10, 1730-1900**

*An indispensable record of America across
 the 18th- and 19th-centuries*



The History and Genealogy Unit is pleased to announce additional material available through one of our subscription databases, as well as a new database subscription. These two items, Series 10 of Early American Newspapers and Godfrey Scholar are available for the public to use at the Connecticut State Library.

The State Library has, for several years, had access to Early American Newspapers (EAN), Series 1-6. Recently EAN has added 3 new series and Series 10 holds numerous Connecticut newspaper titles. Current titles available in Series 10 include The Housatonic Republican, published out of Falls Village, and the New London Weekly Chronicle. Other titles that will become available in the coming months are the Independent Observer, published in Brooklyn, the New Haven Gazette and the Windham County Telegraph. These are just a few of the 20 Connecticut newspaper titles that will be available not to mention titles from other New England States. We have not subscribed to EAN's Series 8 and 9, as these do not include Connecticut titles, but we hope to add these series in the coming years.

Godfrey Scholar is a collection of databases available for years to members of the Godfrey Library, a genealogical library located in Middletown, Connecticut, and it is now available to libraries and other institutions. Collections include church records from the Middletown and Cromwell areas, digitized genealogies and records of local funeral homes. Another large collection, the Ed Laput Cemetery Collection, is a database of every gravestone in 900 Connecticut cemeteries and 36 in other states. This database includes information from the Hale collection. Mr. Laput and numerous volunteers continue to comb cemeteries throughout Connecticut, updating information from the Hale collection and including, when possible, photographs of the actual headstones.

We welcome the public to come in to the History and Genealogy Unit to try out these great new resources. These databases can be accessed onsite at the Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT.

Continued on page 16

NEW & NOTEWORTHY AT CSLNew Staff***Jacqueline Bagwell– Information Technology Analyst, Connecticut State Library,
May 30, 2014***

Jackie has joined the IT Support team and will be responsible for maintenance of the CSL website and the network, and support use of multi-media for web-based training initiatives. She will also provide help desk coverage and various other duties as required.

Jackie was previously employed as Multi-Media and Technology Specialist and has an extensive experience in design implementation of local/wide area networks, web development and video production.

***Robert Kinney– Outreach Services Librarian, Connecticut State Library,
April 4, 2014***

Robert holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Southern Connecticut State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Virginia State University. Robert has served as a Reference Librarian and Manager and has experience in outreach and programming. Robert will be maintaining and coordinating the Library's web presence, directing and coordinating the agency's external communications, and planning and developing programs and exhibits.

Continued on page 17

NEW & NOTEWORTHY AT CSL
Retirements

Stephen Hill, Ccar Driver since 1994; Retired June 1st with 37 years of State Service!



Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, Office Assistant since 2004; Retired June 1st with 20 years of State Service!



Continued on page 18

NEW & NOTEWORTHY AT CSL
Retirements

*Nancy Peluso, at the State Library since 1978;
Retired June 1st as Head of Access Services after 37 years of State Service!*



Fall 2014

*Third Thursdays
at the
Connecticut State Library*

*12:00-12:45
Memorial Hall
231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106*

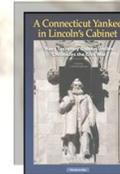
September 18

Dave Corrigan Curator of the Museum of Connecticut History, will discuss Samuel Colt's inventions, the iconic Hartford factory and recent artifact acquisitions by the Museum of Connecticut History.



October 16

Ron Spencer the editor of *A Connecticut Yankee in Lincoln's Cabinet*: Navy Secretary Gideon Welles Chronicles the Civil War, an Acorn Club book published this year and distributed by the Wesleyan University Press.



November 20

Author Bob Steele will discuss his book *The Curse*. During the 1990s, two Connecticut Indian tribes built the world's two biggest gambling casinos in the southeastern corner of the state, resulting in what has been termed a "gambling Chernobyl."



More information is available at www.ctstatelibrary.org or by calling 860-757-6668. Funding for this series is provided by the Connecticut Heritage Foundation.

The State Library and Museum of Connecticut History's Third Thursdays BrownBag Lunchtime speaker series features a variety of speakers on various aspects of Connecticut history. All programs are free and open to the public and attendees should feel free to bring their lunch.

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY



IN MEMORIAM

Ernest A. DiMattia, Jr., State Library Board member died on Thursday, June 26 of cancer at the age of 74. Mr. DiMattia, known as Ernie to his legions of friends, was one of the longest serving library directors in Connecticut. He was also the Ferguson Library president who ushered the library into the digital age, and during his 38-year tenure oversaw the renovation of the Main Library and all three of its branches. Mr. DiMattia came to the Ferguson Library in 1976, when library users still thumbed through card catalogs to look for a book, and library music collections were on vinyl. He saw the promise of the Internet early on, and in 1995, the Ferguson became the first public library in Connecticut to provide public Internet access. He was a fierce champion of the Ferguson and libraries in general, and held a series of leadership positions in the American Library Association, the Connecticut Library Association and other library organizations. In recent years, Mr. DiMattia became committed to ensuring public library access to eBook technology, chairing the Advisory Council on Library Planning and Development eBook Task Force from 2011-2012. He was ever interested in the changing role of libraries, and recognized that to stay relevant they had to reinvent themselves as community spaces and centers of continuing education. Mr. DiMattia was appointed to the State Library Board by Governor Malloy in 2012. Governor Malloy, who as mayor of Stamford, frequently debated with Mr. DiMattia over the library budget, said, "Ernie was a champion and advocate for libraries in a difficult time for libraries. He was the best, the dearest, smartest ...an incredible human being." Ernie was an important voice on the State Library Board; he understood the important role that the State Library plays and was a great advocate. He will be missed.

He is survived by his wife Susan, and children Amy and Brian.

STATE LIBRARY BOARD

John N. Barry, Chair

Linda Anderson

Ellen Cohn

Joy Hostage

Mollie Keller

Robert D. Harris, Jr., Vice Chair

Judge Robert E. Beach

Allen Hoffman

Jay Johnston

Judge Michael R. Sheldon

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY
CONNector EDITORIAL BOARD

State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin

Ursula Hunt, Editor

Bill Anderson, Cataloging Librarian

Dave Corrigan, Museum Curator

Christine Pittsley, Digital Imaging

Mel Smith, Reference Librarian

Robert Kinney, Outreach Services Librarian

Eric Hansen, Copy Editor

Sara Cheeseman, Public Records Archivist

Jenny Groome, Reference Librarian

Mark Smith, Fiscal Administrator

Carol Trinchitella, Serials/E-Resources Librarian

[Connecticut State Library](http://www.ct.gov/csl)

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 757-6500



The Connecticut State Library has entered into a licensing relationship with EBSCO Publishing. The full text of The CONNector is available in LISTA (Library Information Science & Technology) Full Text, one of the EBSCOhost® databases.