



The CONNector

Connecticut State Library Newsletter

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The State Librarian's Column

Kendall F. Wiggin
Connecticut State Librarian



This year marks the Sesquicentennial of the Connecticut State Library. What is the best way to commemorate this great milestone? Have a banquet in Memorial Hall? Commission a written history for publication? Install an exhibit in the Museum of Connecticut History? Give interviews to the news media? All of these are appropriate and some may be carried out. Another way, however, to commemorate is to ask where the Connecticut State Library has been over the past 150 years in order to speculate about its future changes. What were the origins of the State Library? What constituencies has it served and does it serve now? How has its mission and scope changed over time? What changes can we expect in the next fifty years when the bicentennial of the State Library is celebrated?

In each issue of this year's *CONNector* you will find an article, *150 Years of the Connecticut State Library* that addresses some of these questions. Drawing on our own rich photo archives, we will illustrate the history of this great institution and the evolution of the Library's public service philosophy.

Connecticut was not the first to establish a state library despite the long list of firsts attributed to the state. Eighteen states had established state libraries by the time Connecticut formally established the State Library. Still the Connecticut State Library has a distinguished history of library service to state government and the people of the state. Connecticut is also one of a handful of states that incorporates a library role, public records and archives, a museum and library development into one agency.

The Sesquicentennial is an opportunity to commemorate the founding of the State Library in 1854; celebrate the State Library's heritage and accomplishments; and educate the state about the State Library's past, its present, and its future potential.

I hope that you will join the State Library staff, the State Library Board and me as we celebrate this special anniversary.

The More Things Change....

Richard J. Kingston, Director, Administrative Services

“As gumption, adaptability, preparation and enthusiasm are essential to the success of any library staff, it is a pleasure for me at this time to express my appreciation of the work which has been accomplished through the interested cooperation of the several members of my staff.”



Shipping Room 1930...The mail will get out!

These words were written in 1922 by George Seymour Godard, the Connecticut State Librarian from 1900 to 1936 but could just as easily have been written by the current State Librarian, Kendall Wiggin, about the present day State Library staff.

I have been looking through a number of the State Library Annual Reports. The first one was written in 1855. The second in 1900. So much for the word annual! I’ve discovered some pretty interesting information about our little piece of the world. Did you know that the State Library had a space problem in 1854? Or maybe you weren’t aware that in 1900 we needed restoration of our funding to buy books! The hottest topic in 1914 was the anticipated

impact of a new fangled management device called the merit system. George Godard wondered how the Library would ever survive if he couldn’t hand pick all of his staff. What were the politicians thinking?!?

I was especially impressed by the way the State Library accounted for its holdings in 1900, “as to the number of books and pamphlets contained in the Library I am unable to state...they are stored in four different rooms often with two or more rows upon a shelf *or in heaps* (emphasis added).” Of course this was before the construction of the current State Library building in 1909. Mr. Godard had heard about a card catalog but seemed a little hesitant to catalog the collection, but soon knew he could no longer resist the future and would have to start cataloging the Library’s books.

When you read the early reports you find that when George Godard wrote something good, it was worth repeating. He was not above cutting and pasting parts of his 1922 report into his 1931 submission. How much easier he would have

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The More Things Change....



War Records, 1917...Will the computers get here soon?

found it with computers on practically everyone's desk. Speaking of computers, the State Library was very proud in 1970 of its efforts to produce punch cards to use in generating a printed list of its Union List of Serials.

A common complaint today is that we never have enough money to do the things that need to be done. I bet George never felt that way; he had all of \$47,237.48 to throw around in 1923 and a whopping \$81,976.62 in 1930! They weren't buying that many more books between 1923 and 1930, but staff costs had risen. He had 26 co-workers in 1923, all but one of which was a woman. In 1930 he had expanded his staff to 31, all but three being female. From the rates of pay indicated, the State Library had more than one glass ceiling!

To Mr. Godard's credit he was well aware of the position that the State Library held in state government, "libraries have become an element of sound public policy, and demand the same careful, intelligent, and interested official supervision and assistance as is given by the state to any other branch of its public economy." More than seventy years later we are still pressing state government to recognize the fundamental necessity of this institution and the invaluable service it provides to the state's citizens.

I have observed that the constancy of mission is what the State Library has been all about the last 150 years. When one looks at the pictures of Mail Room staff in 1930; reads about the new Photostat process adopted in 1912; learns that in 1949 the Library purchased one of the first gas engines manufactured in Hartford; or reviews the pictures taken when the existing State Library was built in 1909, the perception of great continuity of purpose impresses.

How many agencies in Connecticut government can state that they have continuously served the public since 1854? As a matter of fact, how many states can say that! I see pictures of library staff working with War Records in 1917 and I can imagine many of my colleagues in this setting. I know we're sitting at computers and reading material that was written yesterday on the other side of the world. I also know that I arrived at work after driving 55 miles an hour on the highway where my predecessors arrived by horse cart, bicycle or even, on foot! But when I get to work I know I am doing what others have done for generations before me and generations will do after me.

The continuity of our mission is especially apparent when one reviews the information that the State Library has on hand about its own history. In an effort to honor that history the agency's Intranet site for staff use has been named CSL Echo, the name of the State Library's Ex Libris Club newsletter produced from 1912 to 1951. In the Cafeteria you can view pictures of staff who worked at the Library in the 1980s, many of whom are still on the staff.

What a privilege to work in an institution that has a place in history. I know from reading about the past and working with my colleagues today, that we serve a valuable purpose of which we can all be proud. I can just see someone 50 years from now looking at a collection of State Library Halloween pictures and saying, "Hey, they weren't so different from us, although they did dress pretty funny."

*The Association of Connecticut Library Boards
Recognizes Two Connecticut State Library Employees*

At the 38th Annual Awards Dinner the Association of Connecticut Library Boards (ACLB) presented awards to Sharon Brettschneider, Connecticut State Library Director of Library Development, and Kevin Johnson a member of the History and Genealogy Unit.

Sharon Brettschneider...

received an Award of Appreciation. She serves as the State Library Liaison to ACLB. She administers the federal Library Services and Technology Act Grant which has supported the Annual Library Leadership Conferences for four years. She also works with local library boards on their roles in planning and policy development. She was honored for a “rare and supportive relationship” with the ACLB and its 2,200 trustees.



*Sharon Brettschneider,
Director of Library Development*

Kevin Johnson...

received a Citation for Contribution to Library Development and Services. In over 210 performances in schools and community organizations, Kevin has brought the William Webb, African-American Civil War Soldier to life. Beginning in 1863, the Connecticut native Webb served in the 29th (Colored) Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Kevin’s re-enactment has brought attention to the important role libraries and archives play in preserving and showcasing Connecticut’s diverse history. Most recently Connecticut Public Television’s *Positively Connecticut* had a story on Kevin and his portrayal of William Webb.



*Kevin Johnson as Private William
Webb, an African- American soldier
in the Civil War.*

2003-2004 State Public Library Construction Grant Award

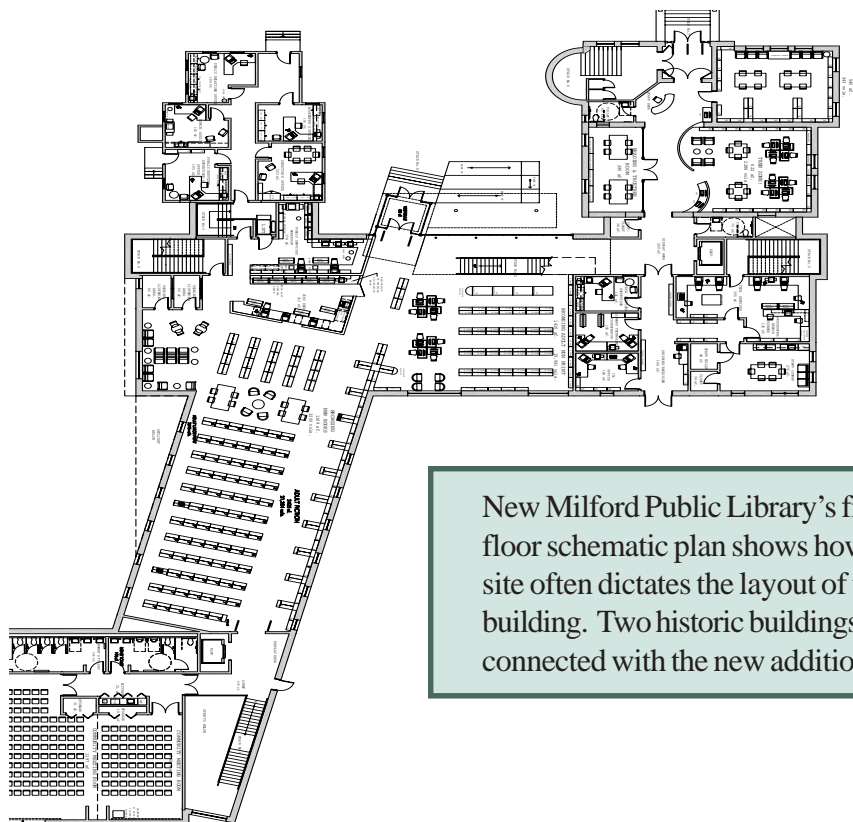
Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant

Public library construction grants are funded by state bond funds and administered by the Connecticut State Library as authorized by *Connecticut General Statutes* Section 11-24c. On November 24, 2003, the Connecticut State Library Board approved a \$500,000 State Public Library Construction Grant for the New Milford Public Library for a \$9,953,500 addition and renovation project. This grant was made from funds returned by another library. New Milford's grant is now awaiting State Bond Commission approval. Windsor Public Library's, Westbrook Public Library's, and Essex Library Association's applications have been placed on a waiting list pending additional funding.

In the past, the State budgeted \$2,500,000 annually for public library construction; however, the Governor's budget zeroed out funding for FY03 and for the next two years (FY04 and 05). The state bonding package has not been passed for FY04, and the State Library and CLA are requesting that funding for this program be restored. Some new construction grants may be awarded with returned funds.

State Public Library Construction grant awards may fund one-third (1/3) of the total cost of a project with a maximum grant of \$500,000. Funding for the grant program is divided into two categories. Category #1 projects create additional usable space (new buildings, additions, and renovations). Category #2 projects improve existing space. In priority order category # 2 projects (1) make buildings handicapped accessible (including projects for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990), (2) correct building and fire code violations (including installation of fireproof bookdrops), (3) remodel to accommodate new technologies or to improve the design of existing space, and (4) install energy conservation measures.

The State Library will be accepting applications in 2004. If there is no funding, these applicants will be put on a waiting list. Next year's grant applications are due on September 1, 2004. If you would like more information about this grant program, contact Mary Louise Jensen, Building Consultant, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106, phone: 860-566-2712 or e-mail: mjensen@cslib.org.



New Milford Public Library's first floor schematic plan shows how the site often dictates the layout of the building. Two historic buildings will be connected with the new addition.

150 Years of the Connecticut State Library

Mark H. Jones, State Archivist

This year we are celebrating the 150th year of the Connecticut State Library. There is no single date on which the Library was formed. In May 1854, the Connecticut General Assembly passed a law creating a committee (Governor, Secretary of the Library State, and Comptroller) and authorizing it to hire a State Librarian. At that time there were two capitols of Connecticut; New Haven and Hartford. This law allowed for consolidation of the two law libraries into one location. Prior to this some of them were housed in the New Haven State House. Government was not large but something had to be done. As Dr. James Hammond Trumbull, the first State Librarian, observed in his May 1855 report to legislators, there were 3,000 books and pamphlets at the State House in Hartford (now call the Old State House). Most were Congressional



The New Haven State House being demolished

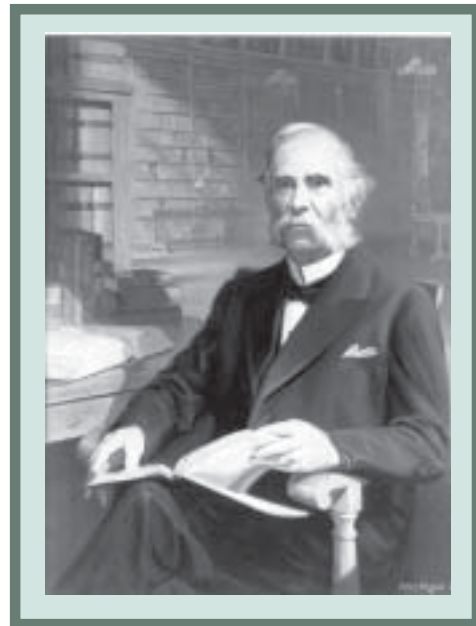
Documents and Reports, Statute Laws of the United States and several states, State Documents and Reports, Reports of Judicial Decisions, and similar materials from foreign countries. At the State House in New Haven, Trumbull wrote, there were around 1,500 volumes, most of which were duplicates.



The Old State House in Hartford



*Dr. James Hammond Trumbull,
First Connecticut State Librarian*



*Charles J. Hoadly,
Second Connecticut State Librarian* continued

150 Years of the Connecticut State Library

Sounding a theme that future State Librarians would repeat, Trumbull described the inadequate storage space in Hartford. When he took his post in the autumn of 1854, he found the following:

“The rooms in the upper story of the State House in Hartford, which were then, and formerly, appropriated to the Library, were small, badly lighted, inconvenient, of difficult access, and required extensive alterations and repairs, involving considerable expense, to provide for even the temporary accommodation of the books, their security from damp; while any provision for the anticipated increase of the library seemed impossible, without change of location.” (*Report of the State Librarian*, 1855, p. 3)

The State Library Committee agreed upon adequate quarters and oversaw the construction of a room for the Library.

“As yet,” Trumbull observed, “Connecticut has only the *beginning* of a Library, not entirely complete in any of its departments, in some, very deficient - far from being adequate to supply necessary books of reference to the legislators, judges, State officers and others who have occasion to resort to it.” (*Report of the State Librarian*, 1855, p. 5)

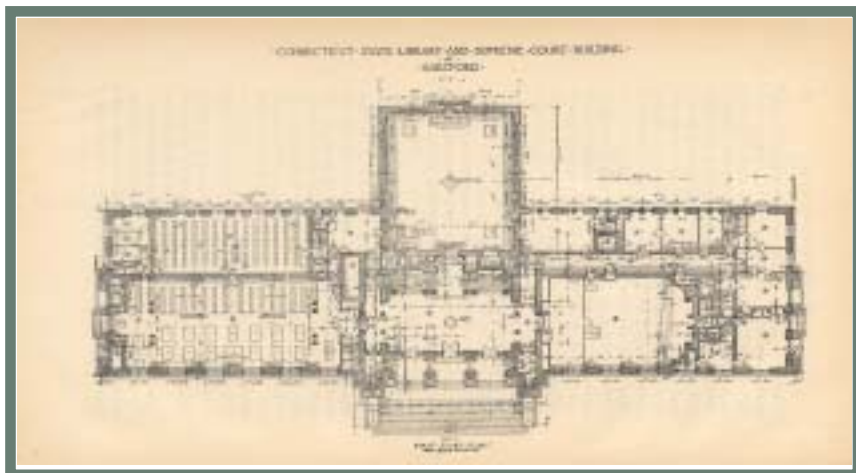
By 1954 the State Library had expanded from a modest collection of law books to a modern research library. Its quarters had changed twice. In 1878 the Library moved from the Bullfinch statehouse to the new state capitol bordering Bushnell Park in Hartford. It occupied what now are the Senate chambers. However, under the third State Librarian, George Seymour Godard, the activities and collections expanded. By the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, the State of Connecticut was building a massive structure across the street on Capitol Avnue to house both the State Library and Supreme Court. In November 1910 Godard and staff occupied the new, imposing beaux arte style building. Since there was enough room for storage and work areas, the Library began to specialize into different departments. Godard frequently published a small pamphlet of activities citing the various collections that different constituencies used. By its 100th anniversary, however, this building was filled to capacity with ever increasing amounts of multiple resources ranging from law books to artifacts to seventeenth and eighteenth century archives.



George S. Godard, third State Librarian with assistant in State Library in the State Capitol building



George S. Godard, April 1917
continued



Schematic: Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building



Stonemasons at the ceremony marking the start of construction of the State Library and Supreme Court



A Connecticut State Library pamphlet

Echoing Trumbull's assessment, the *Hartford Courant* noted in 1954 that the "library is again growing out of its trousers." The range of activities was impressive. The Library served as the "Supreme Court Law Library, legislative reference department, war records department," the State Archives, depository for Federal and state publications, a library of sources about genealogy and local history, and records of several military organizations.



Mingling of the Waters for the christening of the U.S.S. Manhattan:

In this picture, water from all over Connecticut's historical sites was co-mingled under the direction of Governor Wilbur Cross in Memorial Hall of the State Library Building on November 9, 1931. All of the other forty-seven states were preparing water bottles that would be used in the christening of the "Manahatten," a commercial ship yet to be built.

continued

150 Years of the Connecticut State Library

During the next fifty years, the State Library has undergone significantly rapid change driven by additions in collections and services, new technologies, and a professional staff consisting of archivists, museum curators, and records managers as well as librarians. Today it is much more than its permutation in 1954 and has far outstripped the one room law library of 1854.

Further change is inevitable and as we celebrate 150 years of service, users and staff will speculate on what the library will look like in 2054.



Connecticut State Library Centennial Dinner - Hotel Statler, Hartford, October 25, 1954: William M. Maltbie, Adella M. Green, Fourth State Librarian James Brewster, Helen Coffin and Allyn L. Brown



November 28, 1961 - 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the building at 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

From the State Archives: Black History Month

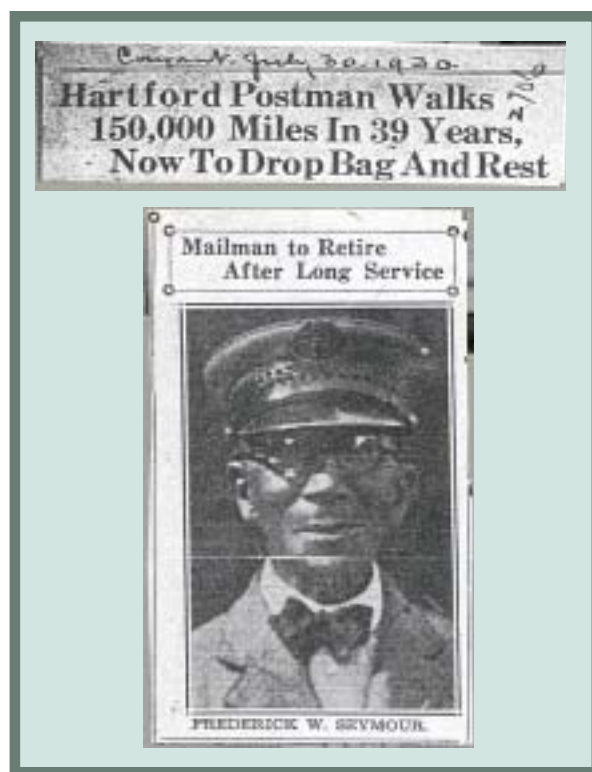
Mark H. Jones, State Archivist

On a spring day in March 1932, an elderly African American man climbed the steps in front of the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building to the revolving door entrance. His name was Frederick Seymour. In spite of his age he took the stairs at a spry pace. Two years earlier he had retired from a job as a mail carrier in Hartford, a post he had held since June 17, 1891, and according to articles in the *Hartford Courant* and *Times*, Seymour estimated that he had walked 4,000 miles a year or a grand total of 160,000 miles in fifty years.

As he entered the lobby with its ornate ceiling, he undoubtedly looked into the State Library's Memorial Hall that housed portraits of Connecticut governors, the Fundamental Orders, Charter of 1662, and Constitution of 1818. On the opposite wall above the metal cabinet in which the parchment Charter resided hung the impressive portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart. In 1932 the nation was celebrating the bicentennial of Washington's birth. That celebration was on Seymour's mind that day.

From the lobby he entered the library wing, and proceeded to the State Librarian's office. It was not the first time he had been there. In 1926 George Godard, the State Librarian, had directed his staff to conduct a genealogical search of Seymour's family. The completed document signed by Godard traced Seymour's ancestors back to Dudley Hayes, a white soldier who served in the American Revolution. Seymour had appended the document to his application for admission into the all-white Connecticut Jeremiah Wadsworth chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Since Seymour had fulfilled qualifications for membership, he became the first, and at the time only, African American in the Connecticut chapter.

He was calling on Godard, who was serving as the Secretary of the State George Washington Bicentennial Commission, to discuss the white celebration of the birth of George Washington. Seymour knew that American black history remained "hidden" from official historical remembrances, school history books, and history curricula. In December 1931, Dr. Carter Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History and editor of the *Journal of Negro History*, had sounded a



warning about this conscious exclusion by the national George Washington Bicentennial Commission. In an article in the *New York Age* entitled, "Traducing the Negro to Honor George Washington," Dr. Woodson questioned whether organizers would use the bicentennial to wipe out any memory of the contributions made by Colonial blacks to the Revolution.¹

Seymour saw and agreed with Woodson. That he shared these views was not unusual. His family was among several African American families in Hartford that could trace their family trees back to the Colonial period. He was proud of Dudley Hayes' military service in the Revolution. His father, Lloyd Garrison Seymour, had served in the Civil War in the Black 29th Volunteer Infantry Regiment. In 1917, his wife Mary and he had helped to found the Hartford chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Family pride, racial pride, and daily experience with the discrimination and demeaning stereotypes motivated him to write a letter to the *Hartford Courant* that was published in the "Forum" on February 6, 1932.

continued

Seymour referred to Carter Woodson's article in the *New York Age*, and noted that the role of Crispus Attucks, a black man and first person killed by the British in the Boston Massacre, would be diminished if the celebration did not include the fact that 5,000 African Americans had fought with whites for liberty. "Crispus Attucks," he exclaimed, "made possible the career of George Washington." Asserting that God had ordained the partnership of white and black men in the Revolution, he stated, "Our Anglo-Saxon brother has repudiated this omnipotent command, in his striving for a white Utopia." ("Forum," *Hartford Courant*, February 6, 1932)

Ten days later Seymour rose at a meeting of Hartford's George Washington Bicentennial Committee to urge the body to include a black man on the committee in order to honor those descendants who fought in the Revolution. "You ought to lift this race embargo," he was quoted, "Because of its foolishness." An embarrassed committee assured Seymour that there was no "intentional slight to Negroes as a racial group," and the chair, D. George C.F. Williams, "assured Mr. Seymour that his plea would be considered." ("Asks Negro Vote on Bi-centennial City Committee," *Hartford Courant*, February 16, 1932)

Now he was sitting near George Godard's large desk to discuss the statewide celebration. Seymour reminded the librarian of the role of Connecticut blacks in the revolution and recommended that the "State Commission" add an additional member to represent the "Colonial Negro." Godard, Seymour would later write, was "unreservedly in favor of such an appointment" but stated that Governor Wilbur Cross would have to make the appointment.

On March 15 Seymour wrote to Kenneth Wynne, the Governor's Executive Secretary, with his proposal. He included newspaper clippings of his letter to the *Courant* and the article of his role at the city committee's meeting. On March 22 Wynne answered Seymour that the governor was interested in what he had to say but the number of committee members was "fixed by the legislature."

Seymour was ahead of his time in demanding that bicentennial committees include African Americans. Though he did not succeed, Seymour's argument led to Hartford's recognition of Colonial blacks who fought in the Revolution, even if it was balanced against other ethnic

groups. On November 11, 1932, Armistice Day, the committee participated in the dedication of the statue of LaFayette on a horse that stands at Capitol and Washington in Hartford. Individuals representing nationalities and patriotic groups laid wreaths at the base of the statue. According to the committee's final report dated December 13, 1932, Charles W. Custis, represented "the Negro race in honor of Crispus Attucks, martyr of the Boston Massacre, and in tribute to those of other nationalities who aided Washington and LaFayette.

¹ Currently the organization is known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the journal as *The Journal of African American History*. In 1926, Dr. Woodson began Negro History Week on the week in February in which the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln fell. Today the commemoration is Black History Month and the ASALH continues to produce materials for its celebrations, including a large book of source documents and essays.

New State Library Board Member



Lucy B. Gangone was appointed by Governor John G. Rowland to the Connecticut State Library Board in October 2003 as an experienced librarian. Gangone has been Associate Librarian of the Hartford Public Library since March 1998; prior to that, she was Associate Librarian of the Worcester (MA) Public Library, and Director of the Somers (CT) Public Library. She is past-president and past-Treasurer of the New England Library Association, and currently serves as the coordinator of the New England Library Leadership Symposium, a regional leadership development program for librarians and library workers. Gangone earned her Master of Science in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University, and her Bachelor of Arts from Connecticut College. She resides in Suffield.



[Editor's Note: Linda Williams served on the Connecticut State Department of Education Early Reading Success Panel (2000) which led to the publication of "Connecticut's Blueprint for Reading Achievement" (CSDE, 2000 – online at <http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dtl/curriculum/currabra.htm>). Some of the country's foremost reading researchers made presentations to the panel.]

Connecticut's Blueprint for Reading Achievement identifies "Fostering Motivation" as an "Important Consideration... in a Comprehensive Curriculum." It states that "To keep motivation alive, children need to experience success in reading, so teachers must be able to match books to individual children's instructional and independent reading levels... need access to books involving a variety of genres, topics and themes, including multicultural themes and characters" (*Blueprint*, p.36). However, as I reviewed the research, it struck me that much of what was considered essential for *young* children, seemed not to be considered crucial at the high school level. My experience with my own children in school, my reading on education, and my experience with high school summer reading lists at the Willimantic Library Service Center (WLSC) seemed to bear this out.

Each summer, the Service Centers assist libraries to meet the demand that their town's summer reading lists place on their collections. Libraries send their school lists, and the Service Centers loan available listed materials. Because of this service, I see many summer reading lists. It seemed as though what high school students were required to read in the summer did not match the goals of the *Blueprint*. Did this "important consideration" no longer hold true for students once they reached high school? On the contrary I believed it held true more than ever. But this wasn't

reflected in the reading lists. Research on secondary level reading yielded virtually nothing. In an effort to understand what was actually happening, I used our statewide listservs to ask for as many lists as possible. Did they reflect the conclusions of educators at the early reading level, that books should be matched to children's reading levels, should involve different genres, themes, and cultures?

During the summer of 2000 I looked at over 2000 titles that appeared over 50 lists. I analyzed their content by publication date, cultural background of the author, genres (fiction / nonfiction / YA) and my observations were published in an article in *VOYA* (Voice of Youth Advocates), February 2001.

Interested in schools working with their public libraries to develop their summer lists, Susan Cormier, WLSC Director, and I, wrote two brochures for schools and libraries, entitled "*Creating Summer Reading Lists: Ideas from the Connecticut State Library*," one for high schools, and one for elementary and middle schools. The flyer was mailed to all Connecticut Schools and libraries, with a joint letter of support from Kendall Wiggin, State Librarian, and Theodore Sergi, then Commissioner of Education (available on the State Library website at <http://www.cslib.org/sumread.htm>).

My interest in summer reading has focused on the high school level, where in my opinion the lifetime reading habits of students really begin to establish themselves. I continue to collect reading lists each summer, and once again analyzed high school lists in 2003. Focusing this time on the tone of the lists, and the assessment of the summer reading assignment I wrote a follow-up article for *VOYA*, December 2003 (available online by going to www.voya.com and clicking on "A Summer Reading List Update and Award.>"). The editor of *VOYA* has suggested that it is time for an annual summer reading list award. I have developed guidelines for such an award. It is also time to focus some of our national research efforts on reading at the secondary level. Until then, I will continue watching summer reading lists for hopeful signs. It will be interesting to report on how the phenomenon of the summer reading assignment changes over the next ten years.



Law/Legislative Reference Unit From a Trunk to Three Floors

Denise Jernigan, Law/Legislative Reference Unit Head

The official origins of the Connecticut State Library point directly back to its fundamental role as a resource to support the legal and legislative business of the State. Mr. J. Hammond Trumbull, the first State Librarian, detailed a move of the Library from extremely cramped and inconvenient quarters in the State House to a larger space closer to the House and Senate Chambers, much more convenient for serving the Library's important clients in the General Assembly. The 150th anniversary of the Connecticut State Library being celebrated this year commemorates Mr. Trumbull's appointment in 1854 as the first State Librarian.

In his first report to the General Assembly after his appointment, Mr. Trumbull was careful to explain that "as yet, Connecticut has only the *beginning* of a Library," asking the Legislature for consideration to continue an exchange arrangement of statute laws and judicial reports from the other American states. This beginning formed the basis of an extensive and impressive collection of law materials still being consulted, cared for, and added to by the Law and Legislative Reference Unit

The very earliest Connecticut lawmakers recognized the importance of a law library to resolve questions relating to the administration of government. As early as 1701, they were carrying a trunk of law books back

and forth between the two state capitols of Hartford and New Haven. In 1832 the General Assembly passed a resolution authorizing the purchase of two copies of the latest revised statutes of every state, one for Hartford and one for New Haven. The official positions of State Librarian and Library Committee were created in 1854. Those modest beginning collections have grown to well over a million volumes in the total Library collection, with an additional million-plus federal documents. The law books take up three floors out of six in the present building, not counting the ones housed offsite for lack of room. Mr. Trumbull's space problem has not been solved yet!

Today the Law and Legislative Reference Unit continues to support the work of the General Assembly, and it also provides service to the Courts, the Executive Branch agencies, attorneys, scholars, historical researchers, and the public. The core collection of law books tended by Mr. Trumbull and his successors moved to the State Capitol building in 1878, and to the present Court building in 1910. The session laws, statutes, and case reporters gathered from all of the U.S. States and the federal government are still the heart of the State Library's law collection.

In 1955 the Legislature passed a law requiring its proceedings and hearings to be transcribed and indexed, estab-

lishing a priceless collection of legislative history documents.

These volumes are consulted on a daily basis by researchers looking for background arguments for judicial briefs or opinions, lessons from the past to guide an impending situation, or historical causes for political and social circumstances.

Contemporary research can range from examining the legislative intent of an act passed by the General Assembly to an investigation of benefits provided to disabled workers, and it can start with a computer search, a printed index, or a manual card file. The formats have expanded and grown, but the need to discover and understand the workings of government has remained constant. The need for skilled and experienced staff to find those starting places for researchers also has not changed, but the size and duties of the staff has expanded in ways not imaginable in 1854. The Law Unit now has six law reference librarians, a professional indexer, three paraprofessionals specializing in legislative bill research and maintenance, and support staff to help with book retrieval, shelving, and office tasks. All of them are aware of their unique position as guardians and guides to a priceless treasure of legal history, accepting the responsibility to preserve and carry forward the knowledge and understanding that underlies Connecticut's system of government and justice.



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This newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, November. The deadline for contributions is the 10th of the month prior to publication. Please send them to Editor, CSL, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT 06106-1537 (bdelaney@cslib.org)

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1854

2004

State Library

Honoring the Past, Supporting the Future