



## November 30, 2010-100th Anniversary of the Opening of the State Library & Supreme Court Building

**Editors note: On November 30, 2010, the Supreme Court and the State Library commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the State Library and Supreme Court Building with a series of activities. Prior to the opening of the 3:00 p.m. session of the Supreme Court, State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin delivered the following remarks to the audience of students and visitors gathered in the Supreme Court room.**

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We are here today not to celebrate the history of the Supreme Court or the State Library – both of which have long and distinguished histories – but rather to commemorate when this magnificent building was put into service for the people of Connecticut 100 years ago this week.

Prior to moving into this building, the State Library and the Supreme Court were housed first in the Old State House and then in the State Capitol.

So the move to this building symbolized an actual separation of the Judicial branch from the other two branches of government. The separation of the administration of justice, as Simeon E Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court put it, from the department which proposes and the department which approves our statutes.

At the groundbreaking in the Spring of 1909, Chief Justice Baldwin said that: "It is the dead from whom Connecticut has inherited most of that body of jurisprudence which her courts sit to administer."

He went on to describe the building thus: "One side of the stately structure which is henceforth to face the Capitol, is to be given to the dead, given to the books in which they still live to us. One side is to be given to our highest court. And fitly uniting them, in a central hall, will be gathered the historic memorials, that

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## Welcoming Remarks at 100th Commemoration

by Kendall Wiggin (continued)

speak to the eye, of what Connecticut has done to show from a small territory great things may come."

Today that central hall is referred to as Memorial Hall and is flanked by the Supreme Court and the State Library.

This building, built with the safety of the historical record it was to contain in mind – much of what you take for wood in the library is actually metal - allowed state librarian George Godard and his staff to begin to amass the records of the state that today provide scholars, genealogists, and the curious with the firsthand accounts of our state government and its people. The building spawned both the State Archives and the Museum of Connecticut History.

Let me share with you one example that illustrates how significant this building has been in the establishment of our state archives.

In the 1790s, the family of the late governor of Connecticut during the Revolution, Jonathan Trumbull, gave early public records generated by the colony and the state to the Massachusetts Historical Society. In 1845 Connecticut tried to get the Society to return the papers, but this did not happen until 1921. In what must be called a state occasion held in Memorial Hall on September 17, 1921, former Senator Henry Cabot Lodge officially turned the papers over to the State of Connecticut.

Today the State Library houses the Royal Charter, the Fundamental Orders, the state's constitutions, the records of state agencies, the papers of the governors – we are a regional federal depository and a state documents repository. Our museum collections represent the state's political, military and industrial history. The portraits of the governors, the Colt firearms collection, and one of the most complete collections of American coins in the world. We also have extensive genealogical collections, Connecticut history, legislative history, Connecticut newspapers and so, so much more. Without this building it would be hard to imagine bringing together such a marvelous collection.

Every detail of this building was carefully planned and it was truly a state of the art building. The iconography used in the

building is a study unto itself. The beautiful murals that adorn this chamber are also purposeful in their symbolism.

In his cornerstone laying address, Baldwin said that:

"The memories of the Past are the inspiration of the Present"

100 years later these words still ring true, but I would add that the historical record that is in the care of the State Library and the decisions rendered from this bench inform and shape the future.\*

*Every detail of this building was carefully planned and it was truly a state of the art building. The iconography used in the building is a study unto itself. The beautiful murals that adorn this chamber are also purposeful in their symbolism.*



## Photos of the 100th Commemoration in Memorial Hall November 30, 2010, by Dave Corrigan, Museum Curator



**Photo Credits: David Corrigan, Museum Curator, Museum of Connecticut History and Virginia Apple, Manager, IT Communications and Web Content Editor, CT Judicial Branch.**

## Photograph Exhibit on the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building Opens, by Dave Corrigan

As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building, a new exhibition of nearly eighty captioned images, depicting the construction of the building, the history of the site and its surrounding neighborhood, opened in the cafeteria on 30 November. One wall of the cafeteria is almost wholly taken up by 8 large format photographs showing early phases of the construction of the building, from excavation to the installation of the exterior granite trim. These photographs are part of a series taken with a camera mounted in the dome of the State Capitol, located directly across the street. Other images include views of the State Library when it was located in the Capitol, from 1878 to 1910, views of factories that lined Capitol Avenue just west of the State Library and several post card views of the building.

State Archivist Mark Jones, Access Services Group Leader Nancy Peluso and Museum Curator David Corrigan collaborated on the project, selecting and researching the images. All the images used are from the State Archives and Museum of Connecticut History collections. The cafeteria is a public area, available for use by both staff and patrons.\*



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## Photograph Exhibit on the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building Opens (continued)



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## Hartford Courant Articles from the 1900s

compiled by Nancy Peluso, Access Services Group Head

The Hartford Courant followed the news of the State Library very closely; here are just a few articles from the early 1900s.

### UMBRELLAS SAFE AT STATE LIBRARY

A new umbrella stand, which requires no attendant and automatically locks the umbrella in the rack, has been placed in the entrance hall of the State Library. The stand is in old mission style, with a polished copper water pan. The umbrella is placed in the rack, the handle fitting into a "U" shaped arm, and, on withdrawing the numbered check from its slot at the end of the groove, the lock is released and the umbrella is secure until the proper check is again inserted into the slot. This prevents the taking of some other person's umbrella, and protects one from loss in the event of forgetting to take the umbrella when leaving, as the lock cannot be opened without inserting the right check.

Hartford Courant, Nov. 5, 1912, p. 6

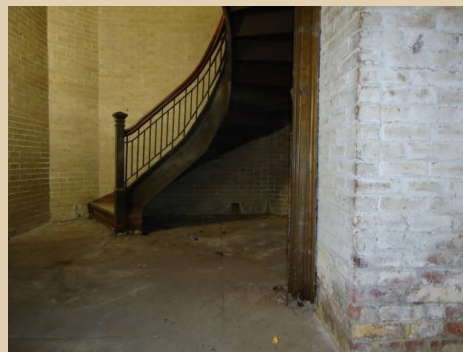
### STONE MISSED TARGET, WENT THROUGH WINDOW – Then Cops Chased Fugitive to Sub-Cellar of the State Library

Timothy Horrigan, an iron worker, went to Samuel B. Donchian's new building on Pearl street yesterday afternoon and asked for a job. He did not get it, but got into an argument with the foreman. To emphasize his argument he threw a stone at the foreman's head. It is alleged it missed the foreman and went through a large plate glass window which had just been put in place. Horrigan did not wait to see what would happen

but disappeared down an alleyway. When the patrol wagon arrived with a batch of policemen in it, they started a serpentine chase through alleyways and backyards to catch up with him, and emerged on Jewell street in time to see Mr. Horrigan doing a hot foot race around the Capitol toward Capitol avenue.

With a chug-chug the wagon started around, but when it got to the avenue Horrigan was again out of sight. Somebody had seen him go towards the new State Library, on the Oak street side, so the cops went there, too. There the workmen had seen him disappear into the library. The cops called a meeting of the strategy board, and decided to attack the stronghold from all four sides and cut off escape. They did not see any one trying to escape, however, and they did not find Horrigan. Finally they concentrated their efforts on the sub-cellar, and found the fugitive in a remote corner of it. He was locked up for assault and battery and injury to private property. The window was worth several hundred dollars.

Hartford Courant, April 14, 1910, p. 3



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## Hartford Courant Articles from the 1900s (continued)

### WORKMEN ON STATE LIBRARY HURT

Three workmen on the State Library building were hurt yesterday noon when a heavy steel girder fell from a floor above. The men were Denis Connors, Frank Moore and Douglass Hiven, all of this city. Connors and Hiven had severe scalp wounds and Moore a compound fracture of the right leg. All were taken to the Hartford Hospital.

Hartford Courant Jan. 4, 1910, p. 10



Connecticut State Archives, RG 60

### PLASTERERS ENTER INTO FIGHT FOR SUPREMACY

#### Work Crippled on New Library and Insurance Building

As a result of trouble that has arisen between the Operative Plasterers' International Association and the Bricklayers, Masons & Plasterers' International Union, about thirty workmen, all members of or affiliated with the latter union, laid down their tools indefinitely on the new supreme court and state library building and the new National Fire Insurance Company building. Although the strike has not tied up the work completely on these buildings it has served to cripple the work temporarily, and just what can be done to relieve the situation is a matter for conjecture. Those in touch with affairs are reluctant to give out the details of the controversy...

Hartford Courant, Feb. 22, 1910, p. 5



Connecticut State Archives RG 60

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## Hartford Courant Articles from the 1900s (continued)

### GOVERNOR BALDWIN HOLDS RECEPTION.

FORMER ASSOCIATE, CHIEF JUSTICE HALL, IN THE LINE,

Legislators Meet Executives in Memorial Hall.

EVENING FUNCTION SHOWS FULL BEAUTIES OF PLACE.



Governor Simeon E. Baldwin and his former associate and successor, Chief Justice Frederick B. Hall, received the officers and members of the General Assembly and a few invited guests, last evening in Memorial Hall in the new State Library building. This was the first evening function to be held in the hall, and as the entire building was thrown open to the visitors, many legislators were able to really appreciate, for the first time, the splendor of this building, and the glory of its illumination, when every light in the building is ablaze...

...After the reception, all the guests were invited into the hall to see the simulated sunrise and sunset light effects for which Memorial Hall is unique. The light operator is concealed in an adjacent room, and while visitors to the hall are still talking among themselves, or admiring the portraits of former governors on the wall, the bright light gradually and almost imperceptibly fades away to twilight, and then all is darkness, until the sunlight slowly creeps back, and dawn bursts into full splendor.

Hartford Courant, March 8, 1911, p. 10

### *See how far we have come. Read articles about the building from Past CONNectors:*

April 1999, [George Seymour Godard \(1865-1936\)](#) , Page 10

July 1999, [The "Trumbull Papers"](#) , Page 11

November 1999, [Memorial Hall Decorated for the 1939 Holidays](#), Page 9

January 2000, [Godard Looks Ahead](#)

January 2001, [Rae M. Jones and "History"](#)

January 2004, [150 Years of the Connecticut State Library](#), Page 6

April 2004, [Message in the Wall](#), Page 3

July 2004, [Connecticut's State Librarians: A Short History](#), Page 8

November 2004, [Yesterday's Technology](#), Page 3

January 2009, [Lincoln Vault Memorial Hall, ca. 1915](#), Page 7

January/April 2010, [Pillar Placed on its Pedestal by Moonlight](#), Page 14



## **The Connecticut State Library in 1910: A Depository for Library of Congress Printed Catalog Cards,** by Stephen Slovasky, Cataloging Unit Head

An interior photograph from 1910 of the new State Library building shows an expanse of catalog card cabinets ranged against the wall of the main reading room west balcony. Most likely the photo depicts the State Library's

depository cardset describing books cataloged by and available at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The Library of Congress's catalog card depository program was an early endeavor at

distributing the work of LC's catalogers nationwide. The program did achieve its ends, and is now seen as the precursor of book-form catalogs of card images, and of online bibliographic distribution systems such as OCLC.

State Librarian George S. Godard's success in having the State Library designated an LC catalog card depository, which he considered "a matter of congratulation", was reported in the July 21 and 24 issues of the *Hartford Courant* in 1906. LC had stated its goals for the program in its 1902 *Handbook of Card Distribution*: "1. To enable students and investigators to ascertain whether certain works are in the Library of Congress without

making a trip to Washington or submitting lists of books. 2. To promote bibliographical work. 3. To promote uniformity and accuracy in cataloguing. 4. To enable the depository library and other libraries in its vicinity to order cards for

their catalogues with the minimum expenditure of labor by submitting lists of serial numbers taken from the depository cards." The *Courant* published the official agreement between the State Library and the Library of

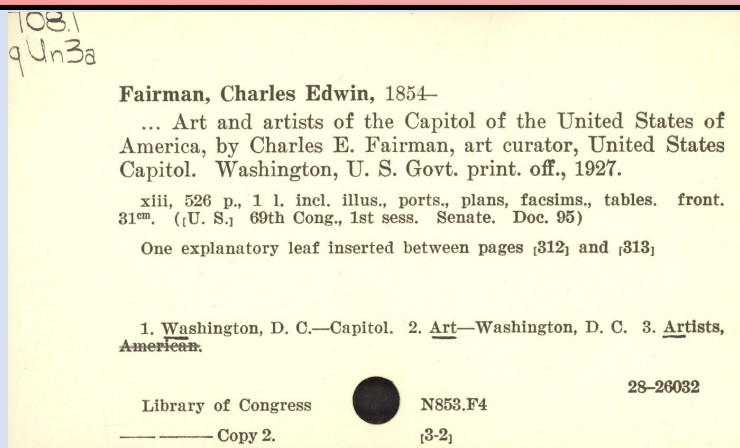


Congress, whereby the State Library agreed to accommodate the cards in suitable cases, to arrange them alphabetically, and to make them accessible to the public.

The Library of Congress's program for distributing copies of catalog cards to selected libraries began in 1902 with twenty-one depositories "so dispersed as to be within easy traveling distance from any part of the country." The state libraries of Massachusetts and New York were included, but Connecticut's was not. Aware of the merits of the program, State Librarian Godard very soon after 1902 pursued admission to this select group—perhaps to avoid being outshone by our "sister libraries" (Godard's phrase). But

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## **The Connecticut State Library in 1910: A Depository for Library of Congress Printed Catalog Cards (continued)**



surely Godard was encouraged by the evident service opportunities, especially for facilitating Connecticut libraries' efficient ordering of catalog cards by copying off the serial numbers of the desired items from their surrogates in Hartford.

In 1909, Godard commented on the depository catalog's status: "These cards, which on October 1, 1908, numbered about 335,000, have been alphabetically arranged in a special cabinet of six units of seventy-two drawers each, made for their accommodation."

Connecticut's participation continued through the next three decades, but by 1940 the Library of Congress printed cardset had grown to a quarter-million titles, causing insurmountable filing arrearages and space problems at the depositories. By mid-decade, many librarians still continued to order cards from the depository catalogs, even though the 200-plus-volume *Catalog of Books Represented by Library of Congress Printed Cards* had already superseded the large card catalogs as the principal source for locating LC serial numbers. A decade later the Connecticut State Library had relinquished its depository status, probably having returned to LC hundreds of thousands of cards from its catalog—and also from its unfiled backlog.

The Connecticut State Library's involvement in nationwide bibliographic cooperation began with the founding of a new building 100 years ago. That same spirit has informed the State Library's 40-year history of developmental cooperation with OCLC, its participation in the CONSULS consortium, and its development of *reQuest*, Connecticut's statewide library catalog.\*

### **SOURCES:**

- Library of Congress. Card Division. *Handbook of Card Distribution*. 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1902.
- Library of Congress. Card Division. *Handbook of Card Distribution*. 8th ed. 1954.
- "The State Library is to be a Depository". *Hartford Courant*, July 21, 1906.
- "Conditions of Library being Depository". *Hartford Courant*, July 24, 1906.
- Connecticut State Library. *Report of the State Librarian to the Governor for the Two Years Ended September 30, 1908*.
- Connecticut State Library. *Report of the State Librarian to the Governor for the Two Years Ended September 30, 1910*.



## Frances Davenport.....1907-1998

by Carol Ganz, History & Genealogy Librarian



Mr. Allen C. Smith, representative of the Conn. Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America, makes a presentation to the Connecticut State Library collection. Receiving the presentation are State Librarian Charles E. Funk, Jr. and Chief of Reader Services Frances Davenport. February 1976

When Frances Davenport took something on, she stayed with it, from her volunteer activities to her forty-four year tenure at the Connecticut State Library. She came from a family that respected education and community involvement, and she was the oldest of the five younger siblings in a moderately affluent West Virginia family. Perhaps it is not surprising that she was comfortable taking on challenges and being involved in the world around her.

Arthur Davenport had managed a

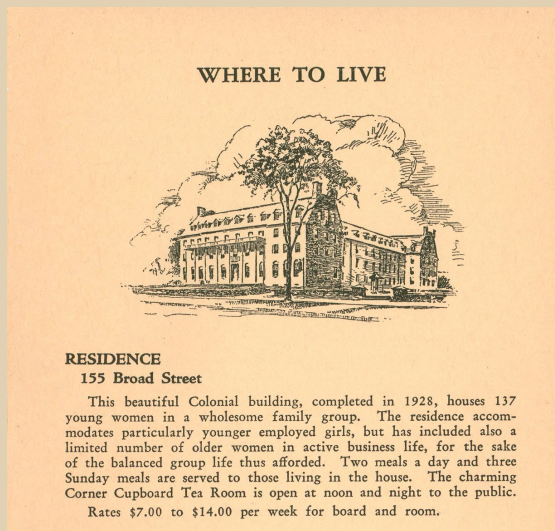
substantial farm of 384 acres in England by age twenty-three, apparently employing nine workers and supporting his older sister Cecilia and also his brother John, who was studying at Oxford. Another brother had studied architecture. Arthur arrived in the United States from his native England in 1873, settling in Virginia, marrying and starting a family. By 1900 his wife had died and he was in Charles Town, West Virginia, raising three school-age children with the help of a mother and daughter team of housekeepers, and working as a land agent. In 1906 he

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## Frances Davenport.....1907-1998

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married Eliza Sappington Gallaher, a West Virginia woman twenty-eight years younger. The next summer he took his bride (and daughter Cecilia) on a trip home to England for a visit. Three months after their return, daughter Frances was born in Charles Town, West Virginia, first of a new



crop of children. When she was almost four years old, her half sister Cecilia married an Army officer and moved away, leaving Frances the oldest of the three (eventually five) young children in the home. It was a prosperous home. Arthur owned the house and business, and Eliza (according to her obituary) was "an active eastern panhandle civic worker."

When Frances was about eighteen, she headed off to Virginia, where she began studies at Hollis College, a liberal arts women's college, but before she was able to graduate, history intervened. The stock market crash of 1929 changed the financial picture and Frances had to leave Hollis and find work. Sister Cecilia and her husband Paul Larned had been living for a few years in the Hartford area where he was a district manager for Equitable Life Assurance Society. On a visit to Hartford, Frances found employment as a teaching assistant at the new Children's Museum of Hartford on Farmington Avenue and moved to the city.

Soon she was living at the new YWCA residence building on Broad Street, with over one hundred women from eighteen states and six foreign countries. Many were in their twenties and all were employed. The largest number were clerks, stenographers, teachers and secretaries, but there were also librarians, nurses, food service managers, social workers and others. It must have been a lively environment and provided opportunity to meet young working women from many places and backgrounds. The "Y" encouraged a wide variety of enrichment activities – lectures, book discussions, trips to the country, sports and social events at the main

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## Frances Davenport.....1907-1998

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building on Ann Street. Young women could study subjects from crafts and homemaking skills to practical law and investments. There were Trinity College extension courses for both graduate and undergraduate work. At the same time, women in Hartford were beginning to be taken seriously in endeavors of all sorts. A Business and Professional Women's Club was thriving, with Club Rooms on Pratt Street. The Connecticut Order of Women Legislators had recently formed, and many Hartford women had leadership positions in state and national organizations. Frances must have found much to do and to inspire her, with such a wide choice of activities and organizations. She also had Cecilia and Paul nearby, living in their West Hartford home with two teen-aged daughters, who were not much younger than their Aunt Frances.

At the Children's Museum, Frances found herself teaching natural history, supervising the nature study of school groups and directing the Junior Stamp Club. The museum, dependent as it was on donations, began to struggle in the difficult economy and had to lay off its teaching assistant in 1932, but the Director was supportive as Frances searched for a new job. She heard through friends of an opening at the State Library, and decided to apply.

I went to see Mr. Godard and he was receptive and very, very nice. He kept me coming back for two or three interviews. I soon found that he was a real character, as it were, but I enjoyed my visits with him. He asked me a great many strange questions and the final time that I went into the office, he asked me to take off my hat. I didn't really think this was unusual because people do look different with or without a hat, and I took it off, and then he looked at me for a minute and he said, "Do you have any trouble keeping your hair up?" and I said "no." "Now I know you think that this is a very strange question to ask anybody, but the only other person I ever hired from West Virginia spent all her time fixing her hair."

He was apparently satisfied with her response and told her, "Well yes, if you will do anything I ask you to do you can come here to work. Now, go away and be happy." She began in June, hoping to learn about the library by doing a variety of tasks, but her assignments were not what she pictured. Nevertheless, she quickly became part of the library family. "Frankie" was friendly and easy to get

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## Frances Davenport.....1907-1998

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to know and her southern accent fascinated the rest of the staff. She entered into library activities immediately. The June 1932 *State Library Echo* announced "Miss Frances Davenport has joined the library staff." By December she was the editor of the *Echo*.

During that fall she also joined the "Ex Libris Club," a group formed years earlier "for the purpose of the encouragement of social life in the library." The annual initiation for new members was on October 31 that year and apparently involved Halloween costumes. Over the years, she filled many roles in the group, including President, Vice President, Secretary and Chairman of the Cheer Committee. For a while in 1934-5 her sister Betty came to the Library and worked in the Probate Department, until she found a job in New Haven.

Frustrated at first by the lack of a clear job description, Frances later acknowledged that her early assignments had been extremely worthwhile, especially the opportunity to fill in for Mr. Godard's secretary on occasion, where she could observe firsthand his many influential visitors and learn the workings of the agency. She had apparently impressed Mr. Godard with her abilities and good judgment, because he immediately set her to work organizing his collected materials in an upstairs office, under the supervision of his

secretary. Papers covered several tables as well as "an enormous roll-top desk."

Many of them were photostat copies but there were carbons, and there was correspondence, there was just a little bit of everything in the world, and I was just told to sort it and put it in any kind of order that I thought was right and to make lists of it and to let him know when I ran out of things to do. I got a very good idea almost at once of the wide range of his interests, of all the things he was involved in. Of what the State Library meant in the outside library world....

In a humorous article in the *Echo* (June 1933), in which the Probate Department made bequests to the other staff members (giving them colonial style names), we find, "To Desire DAVENPORT we give, devise and bequeath a cage in which she may keep the live stock found in the old papers now being sorted; said animals to be trained for library pets."

Mr. Godard considered the staff his family and he was the patriarch. "He made all the decisions, he chose all the books...." He did almost all of the correspondence, including detailed genealogical research. Frances was dismayed to find that only two members of the staff had library training. She was anxious to continue

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## Frances Davenport.....1907-1998

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her education, but when she mentioned this, he responded, "What do you want to do that for, do you want more money?" He preferred to train staff his own way, and confined them to their specific duties. George Godard died in 1936, and by October of that year Frances was enrolled at Simmons College in Boston.

When she returned from Simmons, she found things were very different. No longer were financial decisions or personnel issues handled by just one person. She had a variety of assignments. For a few years, she was the Gift and Exchange Librarian, then assisted the Legislative Reference Librarian. She served as head of the Probate Department and in the 1960s was head of History and Genealogy. There had been a great emphasis on genealogy, a personal interest of George Godard, and Frances witnessed the birth of the Barbour Collection as well as the gathering of many Connecticut church records. Her activities would seem familiar to History and Genealogy staff today – speaking to a group about the resources of the library, chasing down the facts about a mysterious pair of tombstones, and dealing with access to archival photos.

*Her activities would seem familiar to History and Genealogy staff today – speaking to a group about the resources of the library, chasing down the facts about a mysterious pair of tombstones, and dealing with access to archival photos. A more unusual assignment was to verify the "lineage" of the Charter Oak offspring seedlings that were to be presented to the 1965 Constitutional Convention delegates.*

A more unusual assignment was to verify the "lineage" of the Charter Oak offspring seedlings that were to be presented to the 1965 Constitutional Convention delegates. Perhaps she was chosen due to her natural history talks thirty years earlier, "How Well Do You Know the Trees?" By the time she retired in 1977 Frances Davenport was Chief of Public Services.

In her personal life, Frances stayed busy. Vacations in West Virginia (and weekend trips to New Hampshire) were common in the 1930s. Arthur died in West Virginia in 1937 at the age of 89, and Eliza followed two years later. With the start of World War II, Frances plunged into the war effort. When a Nurse's Aide Corps was proposed by the Red Cross in 1941 to help relieve the wartime nursing shortage, Frances was one of the first to sign up when the program at Hartford Hospital began in January of 1942. Nurse's aide volunteers were obligated to train for eighty hours, then to serve for at least 150 hours per year for three years. They were assigned in the hospital "in three shifts around the clock." By May 1945 Frances had logged over 1000 hours, but she did not stop there. When Hartford

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Hospital honored its volunteers in 1962, twenty-three individuals received their red star awards for twenty years' service. One was Frances Davenport, still contributing as a volunteer nurse's aide.

Her Red Cross work associations found her ushering at a war rally at the Bushnell in 1945 and member of a local "soliciting team" in 1946. Radio station WTIC ran a regular contest with cash prizes at the time, called "Quiz of Two Cities." Teams from Hartford competed with teams from Springfield, and in many cases the prize money was then donated to a charity. The March 8, 1946, program pitted the Hartford Red Cross Fund Committee against the Springfield Red Cross Fund Committee and Frances was one of the four Hartford team members. Unfortunately, we do not have the results.

Her siblings were involved in the war, as well. Betty served as an Ensign in the WAVES. A brother stationed in Austria wrote home about the needs of the school children he saw, and inspired Frances and her friend Muriel Naylor to collect and send 400 boxes of clothing and shoes gathered from state employees and friends (and a generous shoe factory).

During and after the war, Frances found time for other interests. She became active in CLA and was for a time the Archivist. She was elected a corporate member of the Hartford Tuberculosis and Public Health Society, perhaps because of her work at the hospital. At the First Unitarian Society, she sometimes served on the Church Council and the Parsonage Committee.

The Hartford League of Women Voters became a long-term commitment. As usual, Frances was not content to simply join, but became an active participant. By 1948 she was leading discussion groups and soon served on the International Relations Committee. She represented the organization at a UNESCO meeting about United Nations Day and at other events, served as President in 1951-2, and frequently hosted meetings in her home, as the group took

stands on the need for a new Hartford Public Library or the suggested changes to Hartford's Charter.

When she was interviewed by Mary Anna Tien close to the time of her retirement, she had seen many changes and worked under several state librarians. Gradually the State Library had become more involved in

*When she was interviewed by Mary Anna Tien close to the time of her retirement, she had seen many changes and worked under several state librarians. Gradually the State Library had become more involved in Library Development, Interlibrary Loan and other outreach activities.*

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## Frances Davenport.....1907-1998

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Library Development, Interlibrary Loan and other outreach activities. Collection policies evolved from George Godard's mainly antiquarian interests to a more balanced approach. The public was encouraged to use the resources and the expanded facilities. There was more professional staff. Creative classification of the past was gradually corrected. The State Library was changing.

"Miss Davenport, of Hartford, said she will continue working, after her retirement, on some cataloging projects she started at the

library." (Hartford Courant, June 9, 1977)\*

### Sources:

"History of the Connecticut State Library," Interview with Frances Davenport, Chief of Public Services, Connecticut State Library, June 9, 1976 (interviewed by Mary Anna Tien at the Middletown Library Service Center) (027.5 C76d transcript). Both long quotes come from this source.

*Historical Hartford Courant* (online database) articles, including obituary, *Hartford Courant*, May 3, 1998.

Ancestry Library Edition (online database) – for U. S. and English census, city directories, passenger lists

Hartford city directories on microfilm and in print

West Virginia Division of Culture and History, West Virginia Archives and History – Vital Research Records Project – [www.wvculture.org/vrr/va\\_select.aspx](http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx)

"Substituting for Mother," and other articles from *Hartford*, Vol. 15, No. 2 [November 1929 issue featuring women]. (CSL Stacks F104 .H3 H32)

*State Library Echo*, 1930-35 (Connecticut State Library Digital Collections)

State Archives Record Group 128. (Ex Libris Club Records, 1912-1951)



*Frances Davenport, left at the renaming of the Museum to the Raymond E. Baldwin Museum of Connecticut History in the early 1980s. Used with Permission of Mark H. Jones.*



## **If Disaster Strikes: COSTEP-CT**

by Jane Cullinane, Preservation Librarian

Would your historic home, museum or cultural organization be in disarray if a disaster hit? How can you work with other cultural organizations and with your local emergency responders to be better prepared to withstand a disaster? How can you help your community if a larger disaster struck?

A group was formed in March 2010 to find ways to help you answer these questions. COSTEP-CT, has representatives from the museum, library, archives and historical society communities in Connecticut. Our mission is to “Encourage communication between cultural resource organizations and emergency responders in order to facilitate the preservation of cultural resources in the event of an emergency and to help cultural resource organizations be of help to the community in the event of an emergency. Create and maintain a statewide disaster framework regarding preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery.”

[COSTEP-CT](#), stands for Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness for Connecticut Cultural Heritage Organizations. Representatives come from the Connecticut Historical Society, Connecticut League of Historical Organizations, Connecticut State Archives, Connecticut State Library, Conservation Connection, Derby Historical Society, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mystic Seaport, Wadsworth Atheneum, and Yale University.

Our efforts are works in progress. Our goals are organized in sections that include working with emergency responders, how cultural organizations can help the community, and disaster preparedness and training.

We have already achieved or started work on some of the goals, sometimes in cooperation with other groups.

- A group met with Tom Romano of the Conn. Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, for ICS 100 training. The Federal Incident Command System is used at all levels of emergency response. Knowing the system and its jargon will help us communicate with our local emergency responders. This class is also available as an interactive web based course.
- In May 2011, an IMLS grant to the Conservation ConneCTion, will encourage the cultural resource community to invite local emergency responders to visit and become familiar with their sites.

Recently, we wrote a statement on the value of cultural heritage resources, hoping this would help cultural heritage organizations realize what they have to give back to the community in the event of a disaster and to take the message of their importance to community leaders and emergency responders.

*continued on next page*

## **If Disaster Strikes: COSTEP-CT** (continued)

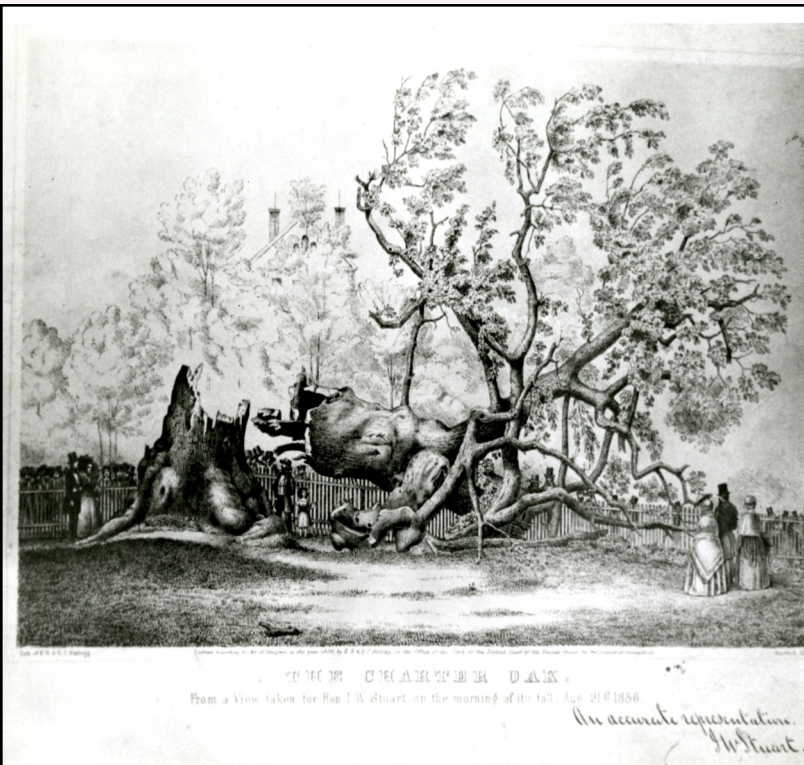
### **VALUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE**

*In a disaster, the first and foremost priority is saving lives.*

*In the aftermath of a disaster, cultural resources can help restore a sense of identity and normalcy, and provide an economic anchor during the long-term recovery of ravaged communities. Cultural resources include irreplaceable artifacts, such as buildings, documents, books, photographs, artwork, furniture, decorative arts and much more. These artifacts are found in a wide range of community locations, from libraries, museums, and archives, to parks, historic sites and public buildings.*

*Just as it is human nature to save our personal history, so too must our communities' cultural and historic resources be preserved, to help rebuild lives and families, to continue to remind us of what we've done and who we are, and to provide inspiration for what we will become.*

COSTEP-CT welcomes new members, especially from the emergency responder community and representatives of other types of cultural heritage organizations and we invite you to get in touch with one of the [Steering Committee](#) members.\*



The Charter Oak from a view taken for Hon. I. W. Stuart on the morning of its fall, Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> 1856. Lithograph by E.B. and E.C. Kellogg. Courtesy of the Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library.

The 1856 loss of the ancient white oak tree known as the "Charter Oak" in a severe storm sparked an outpouring of public grief in the state. The tree is said to have been used by colonists to hide Connecticut's first charter from confiscation by royal authorities in 1687. Whether true or not, the story served as a symbol of Connecticut's struggle for freedom that has resonated through the centuries.

by Carolyn Picciano, History & Genealogy Librarian

This collection, comprising the State Archives Record Group 29: Military Census, 1917-1920, has been used by people researching their families' or Connecticut's history for years. Until now, researchers using the collection would either have to visit the library to use the original records, or use a microfilmed copy that was not always the best quality. Luckily, the State Library has partnered with Ancestry.com to digitize, index and make available these records worldwide. As part of the agreement, Ancestry.com will provide free access to this collection to all Connecticut residents.

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## State Library Partners with Ancestry.com on 1917-1920 Military Census

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digitizing this collection. Over the next six months she will digitize the census sheets and the files will be sent to the Ancestry.com office in Provo, Utah. The census forms will then be indexed and we hope to see them available on the company's website by November of 2011.



This is only the first of several State Archives collections that Ancestry.com will digitize over the next few years. Be sure to check the State Library's website for news of upcoming projects.❄

## State Library Receives Approval for NHPRC Grant

by Mark Jones, State Archivist

In a letter from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to Kendall F. Wiggin, Kathleen Williams, Executive Director, announced the approval of a grant application for \$24,559 for a one year grant to be carried out by the Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board CT (SHRAB) from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

The State Library obtained the grant on behalf of the Board. The Governor appoints the Board and the State Archivist serves as its administrator and chair. The Board assists NHPRC by evaluating records grants from Connecticut and reporting periodically on the status of records programs and the state of manuscripts and public archives through Connecticut.

Under the grant, the CT SHRAB will work with COSTEP-CT (see article in this issue by Jane Cullinane) to hold focus groups across the state in order to assist members of historical societies and museums in learning about application requirements for claims made on FEMA in disasters and assistance, supplies and equipment available in regions of Connecticut.

For more information, contact State Archivist Mark H. Jones at [mjones@cslib.org](mailto:mjones@cslib.org) or (860) 757-6511.\*



*Best wishes to  
Janis Lefkowitz  
for a happy retirement  
beginning  
December 31, 2010*

## **Connecticut State Library CONNector Editorial Board**

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