



State Capitol Building, Hartford, CT

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State Library Budget Rundown

by Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian

The regular and special session of the Legislature ended with some bad and some good news for libraries statewide. The State Library's budget is better than that proposed by the Governor in February, but it still reduces funding for all library programs. The capital budget provides new funding for public library construction and high speed Internet connections to the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) for the remaining 90 plus public libraries that do not have fiber connections.

The budget proposed by the Governor eliminated the Connecticard program, all state funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC, budgeted as Support Cooperating Library Service Units), and state aid (budgeted as Grants to Public Libraries). Additionally, the proposed budget eliminated state funding for the Connecticut Humanities Council and the Computer Access program - a program that provides refurbished computers, training, and Internet access to low-income families in four cities. The Governor's proposed budget also carried forward previous reductions to funding for iCONN and reQuest (budgeted as State-Wide Digital Library), the State Library's book budget, and operating expenses. The magnitude of the proposed budget reductions put in jeopardy over a half million dollars in federal Library Services and Technology Act funds (LSTA) because of the state funds needed to meet the maintenance of effort requirements to receive federal library funds.

The library community rallied and the Legislature restored some, but not all, of the proposed cuts in State Library programs. Subsequently, in the special session a further reduction was made to the State Library's operating expenses, but there were no further cuts to statewide programs. In the end, enough statewide library funding was restored to sustain our maintenance of effort and avoid losing any federal funds. However, the funding reduction for the CLC was disproportionately deep. For anyone who thinks that these budget cuts are really decreases in the rate of built-in spending increases, let me assure you that these are real reductions and unfortunately are part of a pattern of reductions that has been going on for years. It is true that the salary accounts have risen, but this is not because of new employees. In point of fact, overall staffing at the State Library has dropped 6% since FY2009 and 22% in the past 15 years. Some units have seen much higher staff losses and the current hiring freeze is adding to the staff shortage.

I have provided a chart that shows the evolution of the current biennial budget and a chart showing the funding since 2009. You will note that the amount we have actually been allotted for FY2016 varies from the amount appropriated to reflect savings that were factored into the state budget.

The impact of these cuts is already being felt. The State Library is working on a new platform for reQuest that will effect needed savings. Municipalities will see reductions in their CCARD and State Grant checks, even as CCARD use continues to grow. The CLC will be raising dues and looking for additional savings and other revenue.

In the good news category, \$12 million was appropriated for public library construction grants (\$5 million in FY2016 and \$7 million in FY2017). More than 90 public libraries do not have what are considered today to be high speed connections to the CEN. This is greatly affecting library service in these communities. The capital budget appropriates \$3.6 million to provide fiber connections to the CEN for all of these libraries.

State Library Budget FY 2016/FY2017 With Comparison to FY15

State Library	FY 2015 Appropriated	FY 2015 Adjusted	FY 2016 Appropriated	FY 2016 Adjusted	FY 2017 Appropriated
Personal Services	5,180,303	5,151,336	5,374,203	5,263,627	5,444,676
Other Expenses	687,069	650,239	644,128	632,538	652,716
State-Wide Digital Library	1,989,860	1,890,367	1,865,494	1,865,494	1,890,367
Interlibrary Loan Delivery Service	267,029	267,029	282,393	280,546	286,621
Legal/Legislative Library Materials	786,592	747,263	737,431	737,431	747,263
Computer Access	180,000	171,475	169,219	169,219	171,475
Support Cooperating Library Service Units	332,500	315,875	185,844	185,844	190,000
Grants To Public Libraries	203,569	193,391	190,846	190,846	193,391
Connecticard Payments	1,000,000	950,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Connecticut Humanities Council	2,049,752	1,947,265	1,921,643	1,921,643	1,947,265
AGENCY TOTAL	12,677,175	12,299,458	12,271,201	12,147,188	12,423,774

Nine Year Budget Comparison - Selected Line Items

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Total Appropriation¹	13,226,651	11,146,878	12,124,313	11,749,815	10,578,047	10,089,833	10,703,891	10,225,545	10,476,509
Statewide Digital Library²	2,638,807	2,140,156	2,621,212	2,204,832	2,094,590	1,989,860	1,989,860	1,865,494	1,890,367
Library Materials	1,140,000	931,512	1,083,000	1,000,000	827,992	786,592	786,592	737,431	747,263
Computer Access	190,000	132,440	190,000	190,000	190,000	0	180,500	169,219	171,475
CLSUs	332,500	265,611	350,000	350,000	350,000	332,500	332,500	185,844	190,000
Grants in Aid	347,109	347,109	347,109	207,692	214,283	203,569	203,569	190,846	193,391
CCARD	1,226,028	1,226,028	1,226,313	1,000,000	1,000,000	800,000	1,000,000	900,000	900,000

¹Total Budget less Humanities Council Funding

²Digital Library and Statewide Database Program Funding combined (line items were actually combined in 2013)

4/2015

Changes to iCONN and reQuest July 1, 2015

by Eric Hansen, Electronic Resources
Coordinator, Division of Library
Development

On April 16, 2015 State Librarian Kendall Wiggin released a letter to Connecticut libraries announcing his decision to maintain [iCONN] statewide databases and to replace the statewide union catalog and Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service. This action was due to a nearly \$100,000 budget reduction for iCONN and reQuest for this fiscal year and the next two fiscal years. The State Library's Division of Library Development partnered with regional library automation network Bibliomation to co-develop an Open Source replacement for reQuest. On April 21, 2015 Bibliomation Executive Director Carl DeMilia released a message to that effect, and with the extra caveat that Bibliomation would not be providing a statewide Integrated Library System (ILS).

The plan at this writing is to discontinue the reQuest catalog and ILL service effective July 1. The new system will be based on Fulfillment and is expected to replace the older system sometime during the Fall of 2015, but the exact launch is not known. From July 1 until that new system launch date, there will be no statewide union catalog, but statewide library delivery services will continue on CCAR. It will be up to libraries to cooperate among themselves if they wish to continue ILL during the service lacuna. The first service to be restored will be the statewide union catalog (reQuest), with the statewide Interlibrary Loan system to follow. Steve Cauffman will be the Division of Library Development project manager overseeing the transition to Fulfillment.

The transition will have effects beyond the statewide online union catalog. The previous vendor hosted iCONN's domain name as well as several of iCONN's top-level web pages, and maintained user authentication to iCONN's resources. With the termination of that relationship, hosting of the iCONN domain name and selected top-level web pages will move to a web hosting company named BlueHost. The web



pages that will migrate to BlueHost will include: the iCONN landing page (www.iconn.org) and landing pages for academic, public, high school, middle school, and elementary school libraries; the iCONN newspapers page; the Resources for Colleges & Universities, the Public, High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools pages; and the popular magazines for Public, High School, Middle School, and Elementary School libraries.

On July 1, database links beginning with rqst-agent will cease to function; instead, libraries will either access databases via the web pages listed just above, or by database vendor direct links. Those database vendor direct links are stored here:

<http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/iconninfo/changes#s-lg-box-wrapper-6569849>

The source of all information related to this change to statewide services and databases is here:

<http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/iconninfo/changes>

In this guide you will find information about shutting down reQuest cataloging and ILL, changes to database links, and changes to the ways libraries and their users can access the iCONN databases and reQuest.

For help with this process in terms of individual libraries, contact the following at the State Library:

Project Manager & Interlibrary Loan and CCAR service

Steve Cauffman
806-704-2223
Stephen.Cauffman@ct.gov

reQuest and catalog records

Gail Hurley
860-704-2222
Gail.Hurley@ct.gov

Databases and login

Eric Hansen
806-704-2224
Eric.A.Hansen@ct.gov



'Remembering World War One' Project Launch

On May 27th the Connecticut State Library launched *Remembering World War One: Sharing History/Preserving Memories*, a commemorative World War One project. A press conference was held at noon on the grounds of the State Capitol and followed by a reception in the Museum of Connecticut History.



State Librarian Kendall Wiggin and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill



Back row L-R: Senator Joe Markley, Rep. Lezlye Zupkus, Christine Pittsley, Dr. Robert G. Carroon, Edwin Fountain, Kendall Wiggin; Front row L-R: Anna Nichols, Molly Nichols, and Lexi Landrigan.

Kendall Wiggin, Connecticut State Librarian, opened the conference. Next came remarks from Edwin Fountain, Vice Chairman of the United States World War One Centennial Commission, Christine Pittsley, Project Manager of *Remembering World War One*, Dr. Robert G. Carroon, National Sr. Vice Commander, Order of the First World War, and Anna Nichols, 5th grade student from Prospect, CT.

Representative Lezlye Zupkus, Senator Joe Markley, and Secretary of the State Denise Merrill were also in attendance.

In his remarks, Commissioner Fountain commended Connecticut's efforts to educate and commemorate WWI around the state and hoped that other states will follow Connecticut's lead.

Dr. Carroon presented a medal from the Order to Commissioner Fountain and the State Library. The conference closed with Ms. Nichols, a 5th grader from Community School in Prospect, CT reciting John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Field."



Anna Nichols of Prospect, CT reciting "In Flanders Field"
[Watch the video on YouTube.](#)

continued

'Remembering World War One' Project Launch ' continued

Exhibitors at the reception included the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society, Gunn Memorial Library and Museum, the Butler McCook House and Garden, the Museum of CT History, the personal collection of Peter Tragni from Waterbury, CT, the Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project, Hartford WW1 Memorial Project, and the Connecticut Digital Archive. The reception was catered by La Petite France in West Hartford.



From the personal collection of Peter Tragni of Waterbury



Stephen Bartkus, Curator
Gunn Memorial Library and Museum



Kristina Oschmann & Olivia Sayah
from the Butler McCook
House and Garden

Right: Noah
Webster House
and West
Hartford
Historical
Society exhibit



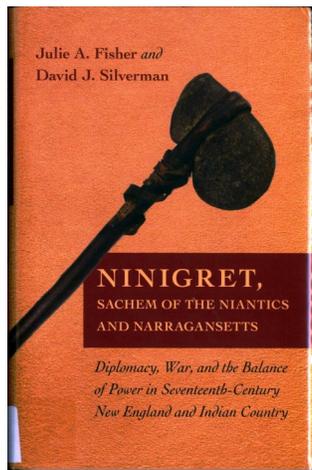
Other Resources for the project:

Listen **Live to NPR** "[Connecticut Residents: World War I Project Needs You](#)

CSL Collections can be seen on the *Remembering World War One: Sharing History/Preserving Memories* website: <http://ctinworldwar1.org/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CTinWorldWar1>

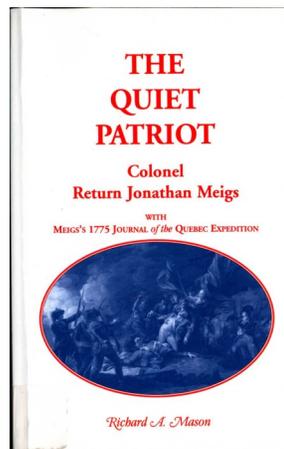
New and Noteworthy



Ninigret, Sachem of the Niantics and Narragansetts: Diplomacy, War, and the Balance of Power in Seventeenth-Century New England and Indian Country

Julie A. Fisher and David J. Silverman

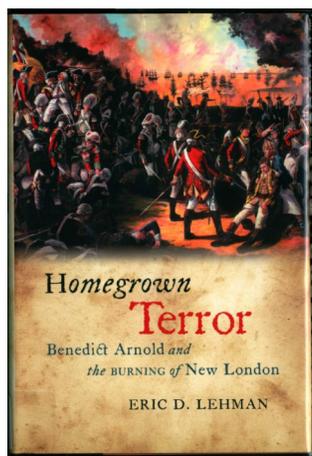
[E99.N6 F57 2014](#)



The Quiet Patriot: Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs: with Meigs's 1775 Journal of the Quebec Expedition

Richard A. Mason

[E207.M45 M37 2010](#)



Homegrown Terror: Benedict Arnold and the Burning of New London

Eric D. Lehman

[E278.A7 L417 2014](#)

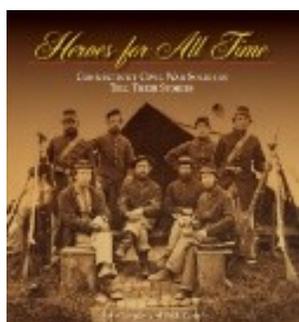
[EBook also available remotely](#)



Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

Department of Veterans Affairs

[VA 1.19:80- Available online](#)

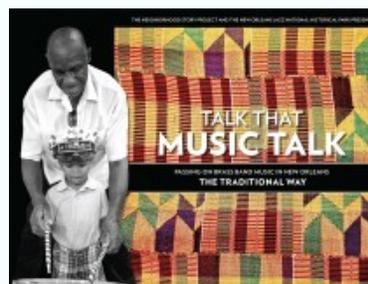


Heroes for All Time: Connecticut Civil War Soldiers Tell Their Stories

Dione Longley and Buck Zaidel

[E499 .L66 2015](#)

[EBook also available remotely](#)



Talk That Music Talk: Passing On Brass Band Music In New Orleans The Traditional Way: A Collaborative Ethnography

Bruce Sunpie Barnes & Rachel Breunlin

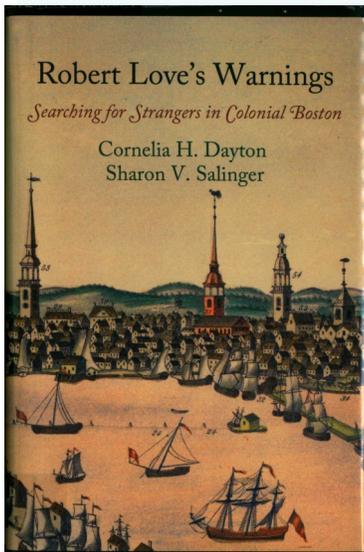
[I 29.2:M 97/3 StLib Federal Documents oversize](#)

[Neighborhood Story Project](#) and The [New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park Present](#) Talk That Music Talk: Passing on Brass Band Music in New Orleans the Traditional Way, A Collaborative Men of Labor Social Aid & Pleasure Club."

continued

New and Noteworthy, continued

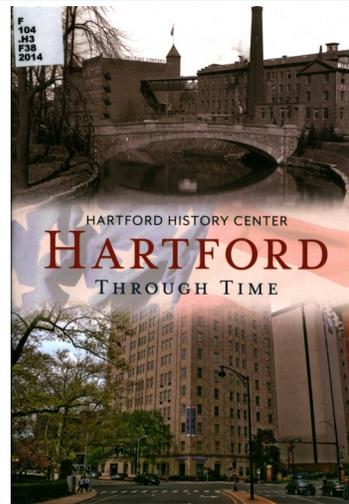
New and Noteworthy



Robert Love's Warnings: Searching for Strangers in Colonial Boston

Cornelia H. Dayton & Sharon V. Salinger

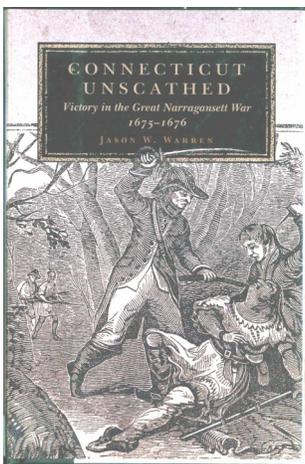
[F73.4 .D39 2014](#)



Hartford Through Time

Wilson H. Faude, Editor/
Andy Hart, Photographer

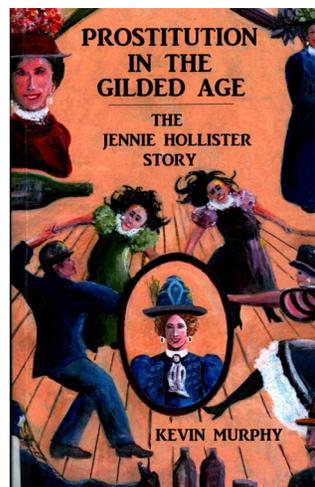
[F104.H3 F38 2014](#)



Connecticut Unscathed: Victory in the Great Narragansett War, 1675-1676

Jason W. Warren

[E8367 .W37 2014](#)



Prostitution in The Gilded Age: The Jennie Hollister Story

Kevin Murphy

[E664.H757 M87 2015](#)

US Army Psychiatry in the Vietnam War: New Challenges in Extended Counterinsurgency Warfare

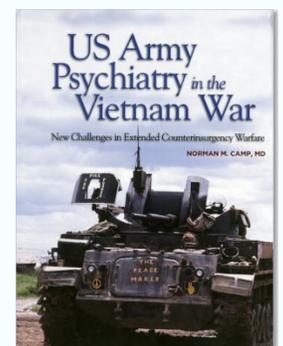
Norman M. Camp

[STLib Fed Docs D 104.2:P 95](#)

[Available Online](#)

GPO Bookstore Review: During Vietnam War (1965-1973), the US Army suffered a severe breakdown in soldier morale and discipline in Vietnam -- matters that are not only at the heart of military leadership, but also ones that overlap with the mission of Army psychiatry. The psychosocial strain on deployed soldiers and their leaders in Vietnam, especially during the second half of the war, produced a wide array of individual and group symptoms that thoroughly tested Army psychiatrists and mental health colleagues there.

This book seeks to consolidate a history of the military psychiatric experience in Vietnam through assembling and synthesizing extant information from a wide variety of sources documenting the success and failure of Army's psychiatry in responding to the psychiatric and behavioral problems that changed and expanded as the war became protracted and bitterly controversial.

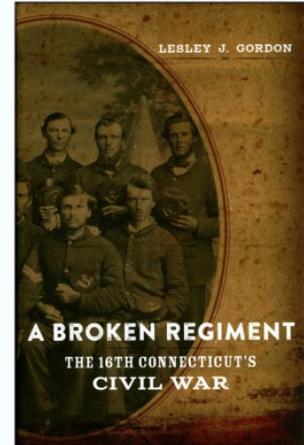


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New and Noteworthy, continued

Book Review by Mel Smith, History & Genealogy Reference Librarian

A Broken Regiment by Dr. Lesley J. Gordon is a thorough account of the noted Sixteenth Connecticut Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. The Sixteenth was noted not necessarily for great deeds of valor on the battlefield but rather for the regiment's actions on September 17, 1862 at the Battle of Antietam when the newly formed, raw unit was thrust into the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. Under withering fire the poorly trained unit broke and fled as it tried to advance towards the Confederate line. It was a complete rout, and is depicted by the author in full, agonizing detail.



Things only became more difficult for the Sixteenth after the debacle at the Battle of Antietam. The regiment's morale was at low ebb as it was sent from one post to another, never again to contribute to the war on the field of battle. In late January 1864 the Sixteenth Regiment was sent to a new camp in Plymouth, North Carolina; it would seem that they were destined to serve only on the periphery of the war in a back-water town in North Carolina. However, on Sunday April 17th, the Confederates attacked the encampment at Plymouth, and after a three day battle and siege of the fort, captured nearly all of the regiment with the exception of Company H.

The captured Connecticut Yankees were rounded up and sent to the infamous Confederate prison Andersonville located deep in rural Georgia. In *A Broken Regiment*, Dr. Gordon relates what soldier Robert Kellogg's first impression of Andersonville was as taken from his diary upon arrival at the prison: "As we entered the place a spectacle met our gaze which almost froze our blood - our hearts failed us as we saw what used to be men now nothing but mere skeletons covered with filth & vermin. God protect us!" (Gordon, p. 145). A third of all prisoners at Andersonville died. In the coming months the captured men of the Sixteenth were to suffer similar fates. It is this narrative of captured suffering soldiers that the Sixteenth Connecticut Regiment is primarily known for today.

Dr. Gordon follows the regiment and many of its members after their parole or release from Andersonville Prison in mid to late 1864 as the war turned towards a Union victory. She conveys how members of the Sixteenth felt about their military service, and how they felt they were viewed by others in the postwar period, even into the 20th century.

A Broken Regiment is a fascinating read which easily combines official military records and documents with many first person accounts to create an easy to follow narrative of the trials and tribulations of this Connecticut Civil War infantry regiment. Dr. Gordon conducted years of research at the Connecticut State Library and many other historical libraries and institutions throughout the country, using many unique archival collections and photographs as a major contributor to this well-crafted regimental history. *A Broken Regiment* also has an extensive bibliography and excellent notes on sources, which will prove invaluable to future historians wishing to utilize the sources used. This book is a must for anyone interested in the human reality of a Connecticut infantry unit during the Civil War.

New and Noteworthy**Staff News**

**Bill Sullivan with State Librarian
Kendall Wiggin June 30, 2015**

***iCONN Administrator Bill Sullivan Retires
June 30, 2015***

From State Library Board Resolution

William Sullivan has served the Division of Library Development at the Connecticut State Library for 23 years, 14 of them as the iCONN Administrator.

Bill first served as the Administrator for the Connecticut Library Network (CLN) which was formed in 1995 to provide telecommunications grants to schools and principal public libraries. Bill rolled out versions of the reQuest statewide library catalog on CD in 1990, followed by reQuest on the Web in 1999, and iCONN licensed databases in 2000.

In April of 2001, Bill became the Administrator for the state's new digital library known as iCONN, unveiled by Lt. Governor M. Jodi Rell and State Librarian Kendall Wiggin. In October of 2002, due to Bill's hard work and determination, the Connecticut Digital Library was awarded a Certificate of Commendation from the Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association. The Certificate was awarded "in recognition of valuable contributions to the field of school librarianship." The accompanying [letter](#) further stated: "By providing an online database of reference materials and journals free to every school and home in the state, you are giving everyone equal access to a wealth of materials. With school districts struggling with budget constraints, this service means that no matter the socioeconomic status of a locality, quality information is available to all".

Bill's leadership, well-spoken thoughtfulness, and sense of humor will be missed by his co-workers at the Connecticut State Library and by library colleagues throughout the state.



Moon Rocks at the Museum of CT History at the State Library**by Robert Kinney, Outreach Services Librarian**

On December 7, 1972, the final mission of NASA's Apollo program exploring the moon was launched. Approximately 500,000 people observed the launch in the immediate vicinity of Kennedy Space Center in the early morning hours. The Apollo 17 mission consisted of three crew members: Commander Eugene Cernan, Command Module Pilot Ronald Evans, and Lunar Module Pilot Harrison Schmitt.

Three days after the launch on December 10, the astronauts prepared for their arrival on the moon. The crew made preparations for landing in an area of the moon called the Taurus-Littrow valley. This area of the moon is located near a mountain range that was formed by the impact of an asteroid. It was chosen as a landing spot to collect volcanic rocks in the region.

Astronauts Cernan and Schmitt began to make preparations for landing, while Evans remained in orbit to take observations and perform experiments and await the return of his crewmates a few days later.

On December 11 at 2:55 pm EST, the two astronauts touched down on the lunar surface. They stayed in the capsule for approximately two hours prior to their Moonwalk. They completed a total of three walks. The first walk was to offload the Lunar Roving Vehicle and other equipment from the Lunar Module. The next assignment, on the following day, was to repair the right-rear fender on the rover, the rearward extension of which had been broken off the previous day.

The third and final Moonwalk took place three days later. On this excursion, on the surface of the Moon, the astronauts drove the rover north and east of the landing site and collected 146 lbs. of lunar rocks and took gravimeter measurements. The crew dedicated the rock samples to nations that were represented at the Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas.

There was one particular rock that caught the attention of the astronauts. Astronaut Eugene Cernan described it as:

"a rock composed of many fragments, of many sizes, and many shapes, probably from all parts of the Moon, perhaps billions of years old. But fragments of all sizes and shapes-and even colors-that have grown together to become a cohesive rock, outlasting the nature of space, sort of living together in a very coherent, very peaceful manner. When we return this rock or some of the others like it to Houston, we'd like to share a piece of this rock with so many of the countries throughout the world. We hope that this will be a symbol of what our feelings are, what the feelings of the Apollo Program are, and a symbol of mankind: that we can live in peace and harmony in the future."

continued

Moon Rocks at the State Library Museum of CT History, continued

Three months after Apollo 17 returned, then U.S. President Richard Nixon ordered the distribution of fragments from the rock that Cernan and Schmitt collected to 135 foreign heads of state and to the 50 U.S. states and provinces. Each rock, encased in an acrylic button, was mounted to a plaque with the intended recipient's flag, also flown to the Moon.

In a letter signed by President Nixon that accompanied the samples that were transferred to foreign heads of state, these samples of moon rock were called, Goodwill Rocks. Nixon said in his letter:



“If people of many nations can act together to achieve the dreams of humanity in space, then surely we can act together to accomplish humanity's dream of peace here on earth. It was in this spirit that the United States of America went to the moon, and it is in this spirit that we look forward to sharing what we have done and what we have learned with all mankind.”

Today, the Connecticut State Library is home to the Goodwill Rocks and the flag from the Apollo 17 Mission that was given to the State of Connecticut.

A New Way to Digitize!

by Mel Smith, History & Genealogy Reference Librarian

The Connecticut State Library has made great strides in the past decade to improve its digital presence. Through the excellent work done by Yasemin Agis, Asaf Aliev, Lara Day, Maritza Pagan, Christine Pittsley, Glenn Sherman, and others, photographic and textual materials have been scanned and metadata has been created for each item. The result has been the creation of dozens of online digital collections containing tens of thousands of images for public access. In addition, the Photo-Duplication Unit staff Andre Bascom, Wilfred Esquilin, and Claudia Joseph have been filling staff and patron driven digital requests for several years as well.

Conventional flatbed scanners, while extremely useful for digitizing single images such as photographs, small maps and broadsides, and books with stable binding and paper, do not allow for easy scanning of oversized books, maps, newspapers, as well as fragile or bound printed or manuscript items, which is often the case with materials at the Connecticut State Library.

Under the leadership of Jane Cullinane of the Preservation and Digital Projects Office and Diane Pizzo of Collection Services, with assistance from the state Department of Administrative Services (DAS) staff, a plan was drawn up for the purchase of an overhead digital scanner. This plan was created after very careful consideration of potential staff and patron digital uses, and the specifications that would be needed to meet those requirements.



In September of 2014, the Connecticut State Library obtained the Bookeye 3, R-2 version from Image Access. This powerful overhead digital scanner uses a CCD-Camera (22,800 pixels) to capture images in 36 bit color (12 bit grayscale). The Bookeye scanner will allow for the scanning of items up to 25.2" x 20.5" in size and will scan images up to 600 dpi; however, Jane Cullinane indicates that 300 dpi is the norm for scanning most library materials.

Jane commented that the Bookeye cradle is very adaptable for those items that are bound with thick binding as well as large flat items such as newspapers or maps. The cradle has a left and right side with either having the ability to be raised or lowered depending upon the requirements of the object (book, manuscript) to make it flat for scanning. The Bookeye even has a laser that is used to ensure that the pages on either side of the book are level during the scanning process, which is very important.

While the Connecticut State Library staff is still learning many of the features available on the Bookeye, results have been very positive so far. Since the Bookeye went into operation last September, almost 30,000 pages have been digitized and made available online via our automated catalog!

continued

Examples of the wide range of the materials that have been digitized and are now available via the State Library catalog include the following materials:

[*New London County Directory & Business Advertiser, 1873*](#)

[*The Jewish Ledger*](#), 5 issues from 1935 and 1938

[*Souvenir History of Derby and Shelton, Connecticut. Issued by the Evening transcript, January, 1896....*](#)
by C. B. Gillespie

[*The Impact of Mute Swans on Waterfowl and Waterfowl Habitat*](#): final report, by Gregory G. Chasko (CT DEP)

[*Annual Report of the Connecticut Railroad Commissioners*](#), 1860

[*26th's Fighting Record: Brilliant Achievements of Yankee Division at Chateau Thierry, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel, full story of Connecticut's Part in Great War*](#), by Daniel D. Bidwell

[*Historical Sketches of the town of Groton*](#), Published by the Groton Tercentenary Committee

[*An Engineering Report on Estimated Cost for Greenwich-Killingly Expressway*](#)

[*List of Connecticut Manufacturers and their Products*](#) Various years from 1922-1930/31

[*Annual report of the State Board of Health for the fiscal year ending November 30 \[1911/1912\]*](#)

[*Connecticut manpower goes to war: an informal history of the War Manpower Commission in Connecticut*](#)

This is a small sampling of the eighty-two individual items which have been scanned and loaded into our digital collection for access online by our library patrons.

With the Bookeye and other new technologies, the Connecticut State Library continues to strive to fulfill its motto of "Preserving the Past, Informing the Future."

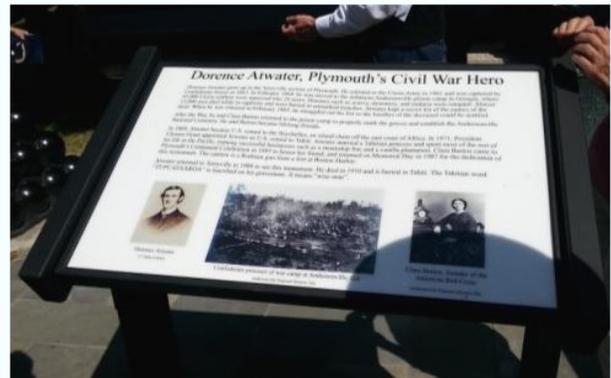


CSL staff member Asaf Aliev using the Bookeye 3 to scan an oversized item.

Dorence Atwater and the List of the Union Soldiers Buried at Andersonville

by Lizette Pelletier, State Archivist

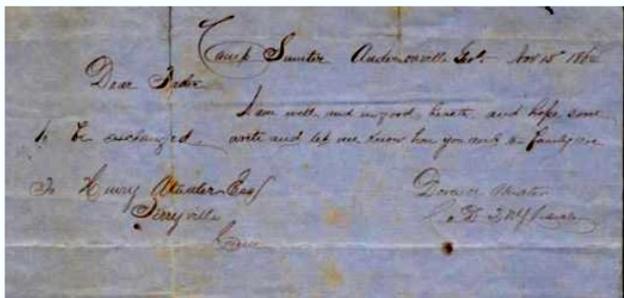
On May 30, 2015, the Town of Plymouth held A *Tribute to Dorence Atwater*, a native son, on the 150th anniversary of Atwater’s return home from the Civil War. The program included a rededication of the town monument to him including a cannon, memorial plaque, and two new interpretive signs. The event, sponsored by the Plymouth Historical Society, also had historical interpreters and displays in Baldwin Park where the monument is located. An exhibit of materials related to Dorence Atwater, including reproductions of items from the State Archives, was on display at the Plymouth Historical Society for *Open House Day* on June 13th.



One of two new interpretive signs on display at the monument to Dorence Atwater in Baldwin Park, Terryville, CT (Photo courtesy of State Archivist Lizette Pelletier)

The monument honors Dorence Atwater not for his heroics during the war, but after its conclusion. Atwater left his family home in the Terryville section of Plymouth as a 16 year-old boy and lied about his age in order to enlist in the Union Army. He served as a private in the Harris Light Cavalry (2nd New York). In July 1863, he was captured near Hagerstown, Maryland after the Battle of Gettysburg. He was ultimately sent to the Camp Sumter prison stockade at Andersonville where he remained until a prisoner exchange in February 1865.

At Andersonville, he accepted a parole and was made a "Clerk of the Dead" in the camp hospital. After witnessing the mismanagement of prisoner resources by the bureaucracy at a previous camp, Atwater feared that the list of daily deaths and burials he was working on would be lost or destroyed and family members would never know what happened to their loved ones. He made a secret second copy containing an estimated 13,000 names which he smuggled out. The list was later used as evidence in the war crimes trial of the prison's commander, Captain Henry Wirz.



Letter from Dorence Atwater to his father from Andersonville, Nov. 15, 1864. Dorence Atwater Papers, RG069:177

Officials in the War Department, thinking that Atwater intended to publish the list for personal gain, confiscated it from him. He was able to regain possession of it after returning to Andersonville during the summer of 1865 with a team that included Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, to identify and mark the graves of the Union prisoners. Because of Atwater’s list, most of the prisoner graves at Andersonville are identified compared to only half or less at other prisoner of war camps.

Continued

When the team's work was done, Atwater refused to return the list, still hoping that it would be published. He was arrested, court-martialed, dishonorably discharged, and sentenced to 18 months of hard labor in the Auburn Penitentiary in New York. Clara Barton led the petition for his release by the federal government. He received a general pardon from Secretary of War Edwin Stanton after two months. The list was finally published by *New York Tribune* publisher Horace Greely as [A List of the Union soldiers buried at Andersonville](#) on February 14, 1866.

After his release, Atwater toured the country with Clara Barton lecturing on Andersonville to help raise money for her Missing Soldiers Office in Washington, D.C. The office worked to provide information on the 60,000 soldiers missing in action after the war.

In 1868, he was appointed United States Consul to the Seychelles Islands. Speculation is that he was given the post to remove the embarrassing situation of his treatment from public view. He was later reassigned to Tahiti, where he became a respected businessman and married the daughter of a successful English businessman with ties to the Tahitian royal family. He lived his final years in San Francisco, California.

On Memorial Day, 1907, Plymouth dedicated its monument to Dorence Atwater. The monument was not without controversy. Some members of the Grand Army of the Republic's Bristol Post believed that Atwater should not be honored with a monument because he had accepted a parole from the prison administration in order to take the clerk's position and had been dishonorably discharged from the General Service of the United States Army as a result of his court martial conviction for refusing to return the list.

He was too ill at the time to attend, but Clara Barton was present. Atwater returned to Terryville in 1908 one last time to view the monument erected in his honor.

His original list was destroyed when he lost his house after the 1909 San Francisco earthquake. The authorities dynamited the homes in the Atwaters' neighborhood in order to create a firebreak to save the rest of the city from fires caused by broken gas lines. He died in 1910 in San Francisco and is buried in Tahiti.

The State Archives holds the *Dorence Atwater Papers, 1860-1914* (RG069:177) which focuses on Atwater's efforts to preserve and publish the names of soldiers who died in Andersonville prison. The papers were collected by State Librarian George Godard with the assistance of Dorence Atwater's younger brother Richard between 1909-1914.

The *Papers* include original correspondence of Dorence, Richard and Moetia Atwater, Dorence's wife, as well as Clara Barton, Hiram Buckingham, General Edward W. Whittaker, and others regarding events surrounding the death list and Atwater's court martial. Also included are a copy of the published list, transcripts from his court martial, his honorable discharge from the Harris Light Cavalry Unit, and the dishonorable discharge from the General Service of the United States Army in which he re-enlisted to be able to work on identifying the graves at Andersonville after the war. There are a number of biographical sketches written by Richard about Dorence and other family members and contemporaries as well as photographs.

Betty Hudson Donates Legislative and Political Papers

by Allen Ramsey, Assistant State Archivist



Betty Hudson, a Madison Selectwoman and State Senator of the 33rd District from 1971-1979, donated her legislative and political papers to the Connecticut State Library on December 19, 2014. She was

one of the first women elected to the State Senate. Betty's political career began in 1972 when she staged a protest in Madison after having teetered "on the edge of a [bus] seat while chaperoning her son's class trip to a Shakespeare play in Stratford." (RG69:174 Betty Hudson Papers) The protest brought media attention and led to her successfully getting the school bus seating capacity for secondary school students reduced from 66 to 44.

Betty served on the Madison Board of First Selectmen from 1971-1975. Betty believed that gender titles should match the gender of the office holder and persuaded State Representative Bruce Morris to introduce a bill on the issue. She then organized supporters and testified in public hearings on the Gender Title Bill which was passed in 1972. Betty continued this fight for many years beyond persuading local, state, and federal elected officials to use gender titles that match the gender of the office holder.

In 1974 Betty Hudson received the Democratic

nomination to run for State Senate from the 33rd District. She won against her Republican opponent in an overwhelmingly Republican senatorial district. As a State Senator from 1975-1979 she served as chairwoman of the Human Services Committee and Human Rights and Opportunities Committee and as a member of the Appropriations Committee, Regulations Review Committee, and Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. During her four years in office she helped "rewrite the state's rape laws, expand the powers of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, enlarge state day care services and establish an office of advocacy for the handicapped." (RG69:174 Betty Hudson Papers) In 1975 she introduced a first in the nation bill guaranteeing equal rights to gay people. The Senate passed the bill, making it the first state legislative chamber to pass such a bill in the United States. However, it did not pass in the House. Equal rights for gays did not become law in Connecticut until 1991.



State Senator Betty Hudson in the Senate chamber at her desk, circa 1975-1979

Betty decided not to seek re-election in 1978 for another term. Governor Ella Grasso appointed her in January 1979 as the governor's first Special Assistant for Human Services. In this role she was the liaison between the Governor's Office and state human services departments and agencies such as the Department of Human Resources, Department of Income Maintenance, Department of Children and Youth Services, Department of Mental Health, and many others.

continued

Betty Hudson Donates Legislative and Political Papers, continued

Betty served both Governors Grasso and O'Neill in this capacity. In 1985 she left the Governor's Office to take a position with the Department of Human Resources, first as the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner and later as the Director of the Bureau of Field Operations.

The Betty Hudson Papers (circa 1961-2006) consist of legislative and political papers, bill files, clippings, editorials, photographs, publications, campaign files, and artifacts. The papers document Hudson's career as a local and state politician and human services employee. The collection also documents her views on feminist and social issues such as gender titles, sexual assault, domestic violence, child support, gay rights, disabled rights, and equal rights.



Betty Hudson's papers being delivered to the Connecticut State Library by her daughter Leigh Hudson on December 19, 2014.

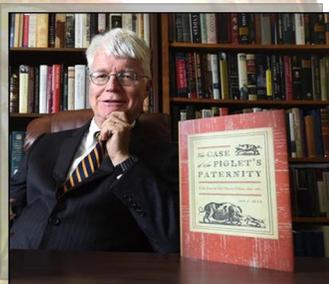


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**"The Case of the Piglet's Paternity:
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**"Doughboys on the Great War"
Book discussion with author Edward A Gutierrez**

October 15, 2015



**Vietnam War Veteran Dennis Mannion discusses
The Battle of KHE SANH**

November 19, 2015

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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.

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