



CT State Library

Preserving the Past. Informing the Future.

OCTOBER is American Archives Month

Archivists bring the past to the present. They're records collectors and protectors, keepers of memory. They organize unique, historical materials, making them available for current and future research. — Lisa Lewis

Official Statement
By His Excellency Daniel P. Malach, Governor, as Official Statement

Connecticut Archives Month—October 2012
Protect our cultural heritage. Don't let our history go up in smoke!
October is Fire Prevention Month

CONNECTICUT ARCHIVES MONTH | OCTOBER 2014
Connecticut Answers the Call

Discover The Blueprint Of Your History In Connecticut's Archives!
Celebrate Connecticut Archives Month, October 2010!

Connecticut Archives Month | October 2013
Connecticut at Work

State Library Receives New Newspaper Digitization Award!

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From the State Librarian

I have been watching "The Brain" with David Eagleman on PBS. In a recent episode, Dr. Eagleman explored memory as an important pillar of self and said that rather than being a faithful record of our past, memory is fallible and often unreliable, making our life of memories more personal mythology than digital recording. Those made me stop and realize how important the archives of our lives are. The baby book in which our parents recorded vital facts about our early lives, the family photo album, those early stories we wrote and they saved, report cards, flyers from events and places we have traveled — these artifacts are important records of our past.

As we come to the end of Archives Month, it is also important to recognize the important role the State Archives plays in documenting the history of our state and our government. Our collective memory is as fallible as our individual memories. But the State Archives — as well as local archival collections and institutional archival collections — do provide that "faithful record of our past." The mythology that may develop around an individual or an event can be fact checked against the historical record only because the historical record exists. As it becomes increasingly digital the challenges of collecting and maintaining the historical record become more difficult, but no less important. If we don't treat archives and records management as essential services, then we open the door to a time when we may not know who we really are or what our history really is. We will have no reliable memory.

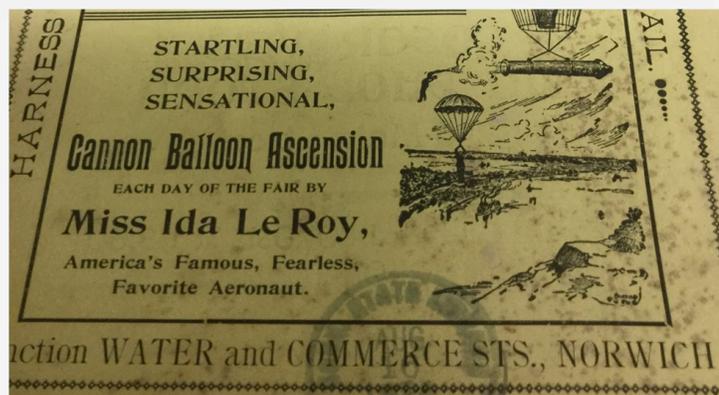
Cover: The State Library celebrates Archives Month with a display of posters from past years. Bulletin board created by Yasemin Agis, Preservation Department, CT State Library.

Agricultural Follies in Connecticut

It is sometimes from the most prosaic of publications that the most vivid sense of life and personalities of the past arises. Case in point: agricultural fair premium lists. Premium lists are chiefly lists of the prizes ("premiums") given for wide variety of agricultural produce, animals, and items determined to be "best in fair." The lists are often appended with rules and regulations on the submissions and judging these submissions. Agricultural fairs have been a part of the Connecticut landscape for over two hundred years. The famous Brooklyn Fair has been held since 1809 by the Windham County Agricultural Society.ⁱ I have chosen New London County Agricultural Society's annual fair premium list in Norwich as my example.

Along with the concerns of livestock and lima beans were judging contests for manufactured goods from the dress making arts to a category for the fine arts (including photography). People also came to the fair for a little fun. In 1860 at the New London County Agricultural Society's 6th annual fair, entertainment options were simple. The slim volume lists a foot race and a plowing competition. A growing consumer culture is reflected in the early 1870s lists. The 19th New London County fair in 1873 begins to slip advertisements for local businesses such as carriage makers, clothiers, photographers, and dentists, at the beginning and end of the yearly premium list. The booklets gradually fatten with further advertisements through the 1880s and early 1890s.

It is the 45th annual fair of 1899 that first really sparked my interest in the premium lists with this "startling" volume cover advertising the act of aeronaut Miss Ida Le Roy:

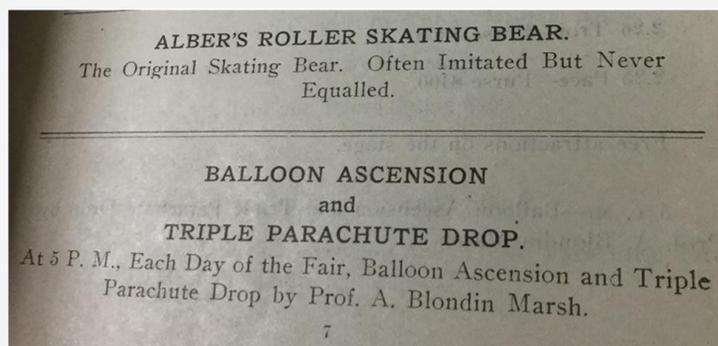


From the Cataloger's Desk:

The ascension and descent of "America's Famous, Fearless, Favorite Aeronaut" were undoubtedly successful as she graces the cover of 1901 fair. Newspaper articles of the day mention her making the circuit of fairs in the Midwest and South. The fullest account comes from the front page the *Hopkinville Kentuckian* of Oct, 6, 1899:

Miss Ida Le Roy the aeronaut gives the star performance of the day. She goes up at 2:30 each day and descends with a parachute. The little lady had a narrow escape from serious injury Wednesday. She came down on a wire fence near the I. C. turntable and was scratched and bruised in her efforts to avoid it and one ankle was sprained. She soon recovered and was able to go up again yesterday. The ascent today will be her 154th ascension. She has been in the business for five years. In a conversation with a Kentuckian reporter, she declared that there was a fascination in the danger of her business that was the principal attraction to her. She is thoroughly in love with her calling.ⁱⁱ

Firing young women out of balloon suspended cannons was not the only unusual entertainment offered fairgoers in the late 19th and early 20th century. The 63rd annual exhibition in 1917 offered a variety of free(!) vaudeville acts. There are the usual comedy, tumbling, and high wire acts, and the rather more unusual bicycle high dive and roller skating bear.



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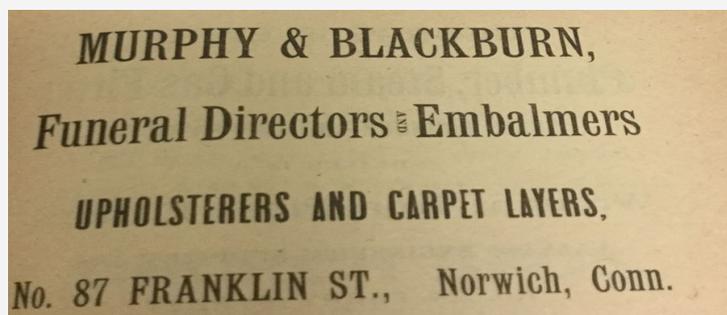


One cannot help but think that Prof. A. Blondin Marsh's balloon and parachute act must have seemed anticlimactic to those who had seen Miss Le Roy and her cannon.

Just as evocative, and sometimes nearly as amusing as the entertainment, are the advertisements. It is possible to trace the evolution from horse and carriage to the automobile from advertisements for businesses serving these modes of transport, such as carriage makers and taxi cab companies.



Our ancestors also know how to diversify in business! Caring for your dearly departed and interior decoration all in one place!



There are many more examples throughout Connecticut's agricultural society publications that provide a vivid sense of the moving, vibrant past of our ancestors that space does not permit me to share. Nevertheless, it is hoped that this brief essay conveys the richness of our state's past to be found in even the most commonplace publications found at the State Library. The library's staff works hard to preserve these treasures and make them accessible to the public. 🐾

Bill Anderson, Cataloger,
CT State Library

Bibliography

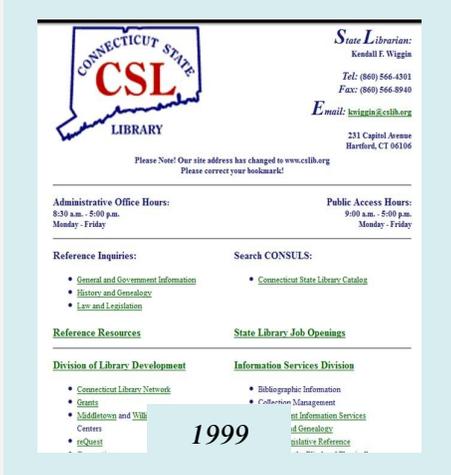
New-London County Agricultural Society. *Premium list of the New London County Agricultural Society with Regulations for the ... Annual Fair*. Norwich, Conn. : Press of the Bulletin Company, 1870s-1916

Notes

http://connecticuthistory.org/a-fair-to-remember-in-brooklyn/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=a-fair-to-remember-in-brooklyn
Connecticut Historical Society, *A Fair to Remember in Brooklyn*, accessed October 2015

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86069395/1899-10-06/ed-1/seq-1/>
Chronicling America *Hopkinsville Kentuckian*, October 06, 1899, *Image 1*, accessed October 2015

A New Website for the Connecticut State Library

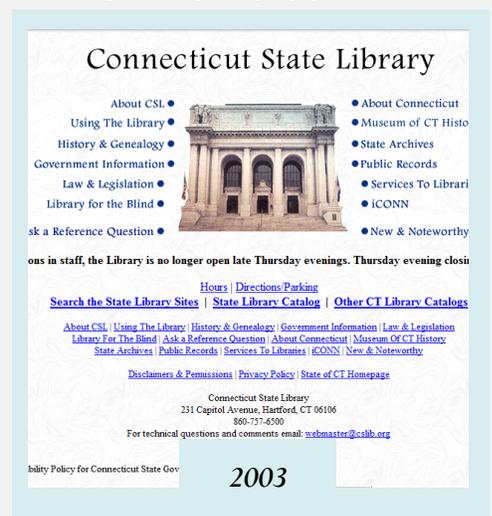


The State Library's first foray into the World Wide Web took place in the mid-1990s when the "Web Page Committee" first met to determine how the State Library could take advantage of this new medium. Using the singular "Web Page" in the Committee name gives us a clue about how limited those first efforts really were. There weren't a lot of pages then and, as was typical of the time, the pages were all text. HTML coding was of course all done by hand and for many years all the pages were created and updated using none of the HTML editor tools we use today. The expertise needed to do HTML coding meant only a handful of people participated in the process of creating the actual web content.

By 2006 it was clear that websites were becoming much more robust and the tools for creating websites much more sophisticated. It was at this time that the Web Page Committee was re-envisioned as the Web Presence Committee. Over the next few years the Committee went through a very lengthy process of

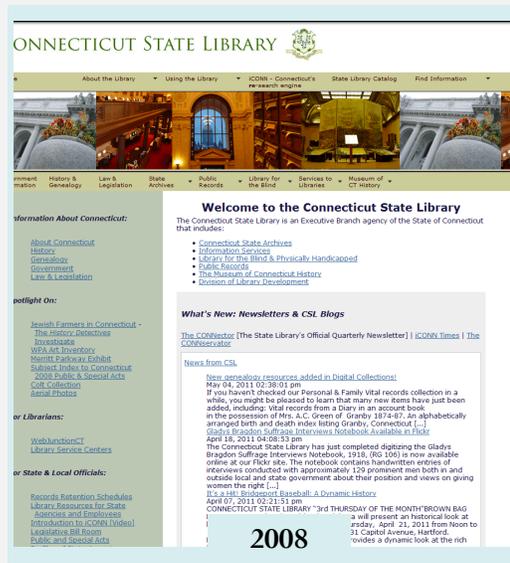
evaluating the existing and potential content which the State Library could deliver via the web. Additionally, the Committee began to assess the Content Management Systems (CMS) available at the time. As other organizations had found, CMS would allow content to be posted much more efficiently, with a consistent look and with the participation of many content creators. The Drupal CMS, an open source program, seemed to provide the most potential for the State Library and over the next few years staff made plans for the eventual migration of most current web content to a new Drupal-powered website.

The emphasis was on providing a website where users could find what they needed quickly and without confusion. By 2012, the onsite Drupal web server had been set up and much of the migration of content had been completed. A soft launch of the new website took place at the end of that year using the new State Library URL of www.ctstatelibrary.org. This was the first State Library website that allowed a variety of State Library staff to work directly on a Content Management

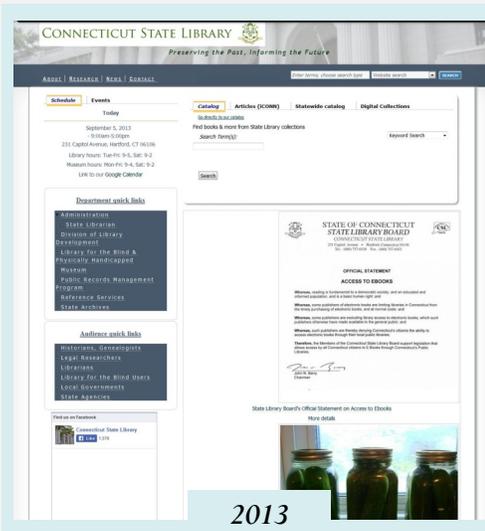


System to deliver content. At the same time, the State Library had begun taking advantage of Social Media, with new State Library Facebook and Twitter accounts.

In time, however, the technical demands placed on staff by a Drupal CMS were not sustainable for a State Library staff shrinking in size and with so few skilled in Drupal management. By 2014 it had become clear that the State Library would need to migrate to a new CMS and one hosted off-site. The new "Web Committee" was formed to coordinate the migration to a new CMS. The obvious choice for this CMS was WordPress, a program first designed as blog software but eventually enhanced to handle even the most sophisticated websites. The advantage of WordPress (the majority of CMS websites throughout the Internet are WordPress sites) was its ease of use and the variety of upgrade plug-ins available from the WordPress community. At the same time, the Division of Library Development had begun a pilot project using a CMS especially designed as a platform to deliver library



Continued from Page 6



research guides. This CMS, called LibGuides (a product of Springshare) worked well enough that State Library staff could begin moving content to both CMSs with the object of having the systems working together. By sharing menus and header images the systems complement each other and users are often unaware of which CMS the content is drawn from.

The migration process itself allowed State Library staff to re-evaluate our content, to weed out dated, duplicate, and redundant content, and to re-think the optimum ways of delivering content to our users. The Web Committee developed Best Practices so that all content creation would follow specific outlines, naming conventions, and accepted web creation guidelines. There were thousands of content items in the Drupal CMS, and staff would need to make decisions on nearly each item.

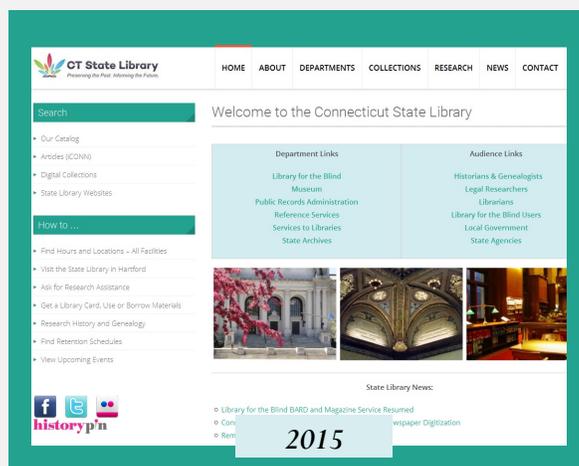
The State Library’s goal was to make the website look and work better for both users and staff. Staff based the organization of the site on the earlier

Drupal website, but menus became more manageable and access points more frequent. The WordPress theme chosen for the State Library site looks clean and uncomplicated, and the vital home page tries to provide a clear gateway to the varied content of the State Library. After a great deal of work by many staff, the new WordPress website went live on July 1, 2015.

So on July 1, 2015, after the migration phase of the project was completed, CSL librarians and staff began the ongoing management of the site’s extensive content. The new site’s WordPress platform is designed to make editing, adding, and deleting content a simple process. Technology support personnel maintain the latest version updates for site security and integrity.

CSL’s online presence provides a multitude of information that can be downloaded by patrons as documents, images, and video. The site has links to CSL projects and partnering organizations’ websites, for example: WPA – Art, Remembering World War I, Museum of Connecticut History, Connecticut Heritage Foundation, and Connecticut Digital Archive, to name but a few.

<http://trends.builtwith.com/cms>



Written by Data Specialist Tom Newman, and IT Specialist Jackie Bagwell, with editorial support from Public Records Archivist Sara Cheeseman, and Fiscal Administrative Manager Mark Smith

LBPB Donates Braille Books to Kenya

September 12, 2015 saw the conversion of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPB) into an international shipping center, at least for a few hours. A tractor-trailer from New Jersey came carrying an empty overseas shipping container which soon became filled with excess braille books destined for the African nation of Kenya. With the strenuous efforts of volunteers from the non-profit American Friends of Kenya (AFK), about 1400 cubic feet of braille was loaded along with an assortment of bicycles, handicapped walkers, wheel chairs, and even porta-potties. Braille books by count totaled 2,396. Once the container doors were jammed shut, the truck departed on the first leg of the container's long journey to Kenya via a container ship out of New Jersey.

This day was the culmination of over a year's worth of planning, sorting, and packing of juvenile and young adult braille books by AFK. Vice-President Audra Zimmerman organized this shipment with the African Braille Centre in Nairobi. The Centre will use these



L-R: Eric Williamson, Kimberlee Powe, Wayne Silver, Colleen Collins, Audra Zimmermann, Russ Niederwerfer, and Wendy Woods.

books in Kenyan schools with blind learners and the Kenya National Library Services. The AFK has been collecting small numbers of our excess braille titles for several years, but this is the first time that they were able to handle such a large quantity. They usually ship one container per year from Connecticut containing a broad assortment of library and other materials, but the AFK made a special effort this year, at considerable

expense, to send a second container specifically with our braille books. They have plans to continue selecting braille books and, if all goes well, to ship another container next year.

The AFK is non-profit 501(c)(3) charity based in Norwich, Connecticut; it has contacts and branches in 25 U.S. states and several foreign countries. Their purpose is to help the people of Kenya by sending shipments of books, library materials, school supplies, and medical supplies, as well as supporting an orphan sponsorship program, expanding opportunities for Kenyans with disabilities, and sustaining collaborative partnerships with like-minded groups around the world. The [AFK](#) is very appreciative of any support they receive. LBPB is greatly pleased to be of some help in this worthy cause. ♻️

Gordon Reddick, Director, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped



CDNP Grant Award/Ten Million Milestone State Library Receives New Newspaper Digitization Award

In August, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded the Connecticut State Library a supplemental grant of \$250,000 to continue to digitize historically significant state newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. The digitized newspapers will be included in the Library of Congress's free *Chronicling America* database, which just reached the milestone of 10 million pages online.

The Advisory Board of the Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project (CDNP) is in the process of selecting these titles based on their research value, and more specifically, based on a judgment regarding their usefulness to social studies teachers, local historians, and family historians. Scanning will begin in 2016.

With an earlier NEH grant that just ended, the Newspaper Project scanned the *Norwich Bulletin* and the *Bridgeport Evening Farmer* from 1909 through 1922. The initial response from historians and teachers has demonstrated just how important this digitization effort has been for those interested in Connecticut history. Donald Rogers, who is compiling a bibliography of Progressive Era Connecticut and who lectures in history at the Central Connecticut State



Norwich bulletin. (Norwich, Conn.) 1895-2011, February 05, 1912, Image 1 <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82014086/1912-02-05/ed-1/seq-1/>



The Bridgeport evening farmer. (Bridgeport, Conn.) 1866-1917, January 03, 1914, Image 1 <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84022472/1914-01-03/ed-1/seq-1/>

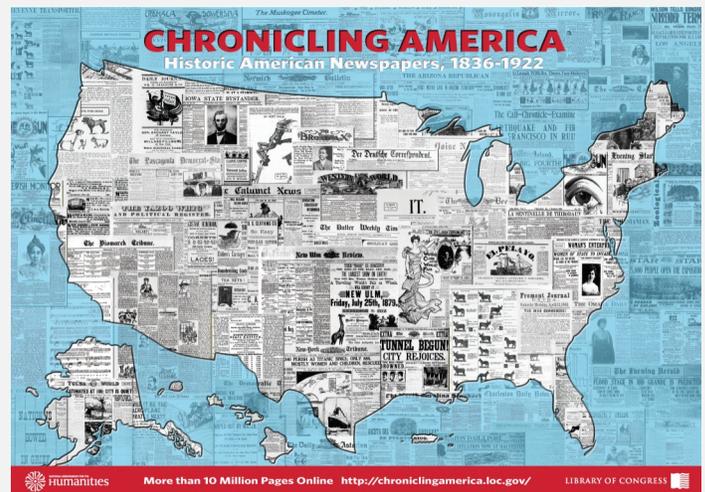
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University (CCSU) and other schools, wrote upon receiving a summer email blast about availability of the titles, “This is great stuff. I’ll be steering students to use these resources as I can, and will use them myself.”

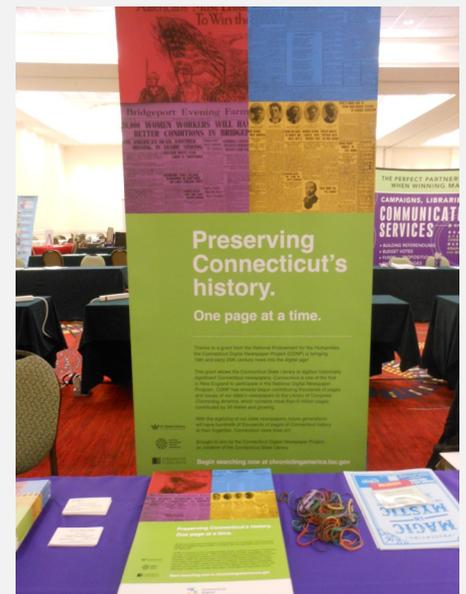
Carolyn Ivanoff, an educator from Shelton and an independent scholar, wrote to speak about “the research doors it [CDNP] is opening for me in understanding the effects of the First World War on Connecticut and a city to which I have many career and family ties.” Ivanoff is presenting a paper at the November Association for the Study of Connecticut History conference whose theme, “Bridgeport’s Striking Summer of 1915,” she first read about in the online *Bridgeport Evening Farmer*. Regarding the value of the digitized papers to teachers, Ivanoff wrote, “With the emphasis in Social Studies education on inquiry and primary source document research, the newly digitized Connecticut papers can give students some compelling insights into the events of the Great War and Connecticut. For educators the papers provide instructionally valuable research artifacts that can be used in teaching a myriad of topics in many ways.” The newspaper project is working hard to introduce more educators and historians to this resource in October, with a recent presentation at History Day and future presentations to the History Department at Ellington High School and to high school teachers gathered at the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies conference. Outreach to local historians and school librarians will take place in October as well.

The upload of the last batch of the *Bridgeport Evening Farmer* to *Chronicling America* coincides with an important milestone. On October 7, the Library of Congress and the NEH are marking the ten millionth page added to the free historic newspaper database. Launched in 2007, the National Digital Newspaper Project (NDNP) has developed partners in 40 states and territories, and supported them with grants totaling over \$30 million. In order to convey the wide appeal of the project, the NDNP is releasing some interesting statistics about its work. Between January and December of 2014, for example, the *Chronicling America* site logged 3.8 million visits and 41.7 million page views. An effort to include non-English newspapers published in the United States has so far digitized over 100 titles in French, German, Italian, or Spanish.

Librarians are urged to introduce their patrons to *Chronicling America* by means of several special efforts. On each Thursday for the next ten weeks, the Library of Congress will be releasing blogs created by department specialists who have been asked to explore the newspapers in the database. They are also issuing blasts to social media for those who choose to follow @librarycongress, @nehgov, #ChronAm, and #10Million. 🐼



Poster created by the Library of Congress to mark the uploading of the 10 millionth page to the *Chronicling America* database.



By Chris Gauvreau, Project Coordinator, CT Newspaper Project

Public Records of the State of Connecticut Series

by Lizette Pelletier, State Archivist

Volume XXI of the *Public Records of the State of Connecticut*, which covers the Connecticut legislative session years of 1821 and 1822, is on schedule to be published by the end of 2015.

This volume reveals a return to more routine legislative activity by the General Assembly after the upheavals that resulted from the Constitutional Convention of 1818 as the Federalist Party faded from influence and the Republican Party became the dominant party. Despite this normalcy, the legislative sessions of 1821 and 1822 witnessed many significant developments: the compilation of a new state legal code, militia reorganization, the reduction of the state's Congressional delegation from seven to six, and the ending of a tax exemption on the property of clergymen. Fiscal conservatism at the state level continued as a central theme.

The state's developing commercial economy took center stage during these years. The easing of the economic recession triggered by the Panic of 1819 released economic energy, which was manifested in a variety of legislative actions: the passage of a retaliatory act against New York's steamboat monopoly, the incorporation of the state's first canal companies, and a vigorous renewal of business incorporations in 1822. An 1822 act on "limited partnerships" provided a mechanism for entrepreneurs to generate more capital for their enterprises.

The *Public Records of the State of Connecticut* series starting with the 1776 legislative session began publication in 1894 with funding from the General Assembly. Charles J. Hoadley, State Librarian at the time, served as editor for the first three volumes. The State Historian's Office assumed responsibility for the series after Mr. Hoadley's death in 1900. That office published 14 volumes ending with the 1814-1815 session. Due to budget constraints, there was a gap in publication from 2000 until 2007, when the State Library again assumed the role of publisher with funding through the Historic Documents Preservation Program of the Office of the Public Records Administrator.

Copies of previously published volumes 17 through 20 are available for purchase from the Connecticut State Library. For the current price list and order form, contact State Archivist Lizette Pelletier at lizette.pelletier@ct.gov. Online versions of all 20 issues are available through the [State Library Catalog](#).

Adventure Awaits at the CT State Library & Archives

Kristen Noble Keegan, Ph.D. and William F. Keegan

Connecticut towns are rich with historic houses, shops, and factories; most have at least one church, old town hall, post office, or venerable school building. And of course every town, itself, has a history. All of these can be researched as thoroughly as people – and you can follow up on the people associated with them as well. The Connecticut State Library and Archives have many of the resources you need for such projects.

Consider, for example, the former site of the Charter Oak School in Hartford. Lodged in the State Library stacks is a rich collection of information about municipal schools. One of them is a commemorative pamphlet about the grand opening of this school in 1871, replete with floor plans, photographs, a line drawing of the building, and even an epic poem describing its materials and construction. Annual school district reports contain lists of the teachers, changes to the buildings, standard curricula, and commentary on activities ranging from the introduction



[Charter Oak School](#) State Archives , PG 460

of kindergarten classes to photographs of summer school activities in the city. The State Library's newspaper collection (on microfilm and original paper) holds dramatic reports of the school's destruction by fire in 1910.

Whole neighborhoods can also be researched here. Norwich's historic center is documented in historic maps, postcards, and photographs. Prior researchers documented the buildings in the National Register of Historic Places, state historic resource inventories, the Historic American Building Survey, and studies by the Works Progress Administration and Colonial Dames of America; many of their reports are in the library or archives. Old guidebooks speak of the sights to be seen here and across the state. The town history collection includes a commemorative volume of Norwich from the 1890s, with photographs, commentary, and local sponsors' advertisements.



[Norwich circ. 1830 : a boyish remembrance](#) [by] Donald G. Mitchell. Map removed from Mary E. Perkins's *Old houses of the antient town of Norwich, 1660-1800* published in 1895. State Library call no.: History Ref Map Case F104 .N93 P47 1895.

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Municipal reports contain a dizzying array of potential sources. Local cemeteries are often discussed in town reports, as are the adoption (or abandonment) of local roads, poor house expenses (often with the inmates' names and other details), library board reports, lists of individual checks written for town expenses, and mandated activities from reporting on the incidence of tuberculosis to the testing of milk for pathogens. Special reports cover significant incidents, such as the great floods, or town anniversary celebrations. The archives hold records of legislative reports and actions about towns going back to the colonial era. Debates over the location of meeting houses, fishing rights and oyster beds, responses to wars from the Pequot War to the Vietnam War, factory strikes, water rights and sewer systems, and any other activity that has affected our towns.

The World War I collection's material ranges from Connecticut to overseas. The archivists of the era collected maps the soldiers brought back from the trenches; journals, letters, and photographs; pamphlets of all kinds (one is a songbook prepared for prisoners of war in New Jersey); and investigations of suspected German sympathizers in the state. The federal government documents collection has official reports from this war and others – and so does the Connecticut government documents section. Shelved there is the 1918 report of the Council of Defense, with items from the Department of Food Supply, the Industrial Survey Committee, the Women's Division, the Americanization Department, and so on. Based on these summaries, a researcher could launch an expedition into the Council's archived records to determine whether the French Army Band visited their town in 1918, and from there look up newspaper accounts of the event; and likewise find out when and where the official "Liberty Choruses" appeared and perhaps even who was in them, or look into the showings of the official U.S. "Moving Pictures" about the war effort.

The key to making the best use of the Connecticut State Library and Archives is to be aware of, or ask about, the array of different sources that are available. The collections were established generations before computers were invented, and many indices were compiled on paper and still remain in that format. One source leads to another, from the library stacks to the newspaper room to the law library to the archive reading room. It's an adventure to follow a research question, and you never know what you'll find. 🐉



[Fighting in France for freedom! : are you helping at home?](#) [by the] Connecticut State Council of Defense, 1917 or 1918. State Library call no.: ConnDoc St291p fi no.2

Electronic Records Day, October 10, 2015

by Assistant State Archivist Allen Ramsey



October 10 was Electronic Records Day which is sponsored by the Council of State Archivists. The purpose of the celebration, now in its fourth year, is to raise awareness of electronic records and the need to manage and preserve them. In recognition of Electronic Records Day 2015, below are some tips from the Council of State Archivists that can help you better preserve your personal digital collections.

Survival Strategies for Personal Digital Records

Personal Files:

- Focus on your most important files. These files may include: resumes, school papers, financial spreadsheets, letters, maps, and family histories.
- Decide which documents have long-term value for you and focus your efforts there.
- Print out your most critical files to protect them against loss. Doing so increases the chances that your documents and images will remain accessible and allows you to focus upon backing up and copying/migrating files that cannot easily be printed out (e.g., databases, video files).
- Create multiple copies of the files and keep them in different places. Doing so will keep your information safe even if your computer crashes.
- Make at least two copies of your files – more copies are better.
- Organize your files by giving individual documents descriptive file names. Creating a directory/folder structure on your computer will help you organize your files. Write a brief description of the directory structure and the documents stored there for future reference.
- Check your files at least once a year to make sure you can read them. Every 3 – 5 years you will need to copy and migrate your files to a newer media. Storage media have limited life spans, and hardware and software changes can keep you from accessing files stored on media that hasn't deteriorated.
- Use new, high-quality storage media. Avoid unknown or inexpensive brands.
- Convert important files to a universal output format such as plain text (.txt), [Rich Text Format](#) (.rtf), or [PDF/A](#) (a form of PDF designed to support long-term preservation).

- ◊ Files created with obsolete software should be converted to newer formats to avoid losing access.

Digital Images:

- Back up and copy/migrate your images as outlined above.
- Organize them as you create them. It is much harder to identify thousands of images as time passes.
- In addition to facing the threats outlined above, image files are often [compressed](#), which reduces file size but can permanently remove some visual information. Save important images either uncompressed or with lossless compression. Good format choices include TIFF (.tif), and JPEG2000 (.jp2).
- The resulting files are often quite large, so treat them as “master copies” and create GIF (.gif) or JPEG (.jpg) “use copies” to share via e-mail or the Web.
- You can also print out your images. To ensure that your images last for decades, order prints from a lab that will print them using archival quality ink and paper.

Additional Resources:

The Library of Congress is a great resource for information on personal digital archiving, found at:

<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/records.html>

Key resources include:

Why Digital Preservation is Important to Everyone:

<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/multimedia/videos/digipres.html>

Preserving Your Digital Memories:

http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/documents/PA_All_brochure.pdf

The University of Michigan Library publication entitled *Preserving Personal Digital Files* is also a great resource. It contains a wealth of suggestions for further reading as well. This publication can be found at:

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/files/services/preservation/PreservingPersonalDigitalFilesGuide.pdf>

New & Noteworthy E-Resources

Recently Scanned and Added to State Library Digital Collections



[**West Rock to the Barndoor Hills: The Traprock Ridges of Connecticut**](#) (1985) by Cara Lee; State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut.



[**Hartford Little Suburban Directory**](#) (1915)



[**An Address of the General Association of Connecticut: To the Congregational Ministers and Churches of the State; on the Importance of United Endeavours to Revive Gospel Discipline**](#) (1808) by Azel Backus; General Association of Connecticut.



[**Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources**](#) (1959-1961) by Connecticut. Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources,



[**The Grower: Vegetable and Small Fruit Newsletter**](#) (1995:Jan.-Dec.)



[**The Sound Beach and Riverside, Connecticut Directory**](#) (1922/1923)



[**Report of the Temporary Commission Appointed to Consider the Needs of the Various Functions of Government Carried on in, or in Connection With, the State Library and Supreme Court Building to Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff**](#) (1955) by Connecticut. General Assembly. Temporary Commission to Consider the State Library and Supreme Court Building.



[**Annual Report of the State Board of Health for the Fiscal Year Ending November 30**](#) (1882, 1885, 1911/1912)



[**Annual Reports of the Board of Education of the Blind, to the Governor, for the Years Ending ...**](#) (1909-1910) by Connecticut. Board of Education of the Blind.



[**Public Acts Passed by the General Assembly**](#) (1836-1850, 1851-1862, 1863-1865, 1866-1871)



[**The Public Statute Laws of the State of Connecticut Passed at the ... Session of the General Assembly**](#) 1822-1835) by Connecticut.



[**Notes on the Early History of Coventry**](#) (1948) by John B Porter; Marvin Root; Helen Malone



[**Groups of Palmer families from Walter Palmer of Charlestown and Rehoboth, Mass., Stonington, Conn.**](#) (1901) by Emily Wilder Leavitt; Noyes F Palmer



[**Richmond's directory of Port Chester and Rye, N.Y., and East Port Chester, Greenwich and Cos Cob, Conn.**](#) (1916/1917) by W.L. Richmond (Firm); Richmond Directory Co.;



[**Turner's Directory of Greenwich, Port Chester, Rye, Harrison and Mamaroneck**](#) (1902/1903) by W.L. Richmond (Firm)

New & Noteworthy E-Resources

A Trial Subscription and Collaboration Sparks New Digital Learning Initiative

Each year during Connecticut's legislative session, the Connecticut State Library's Bill Room participates in a cooperative arrangement with the General Assembly's Office of Legislative Management. In exchange for the additional labor the State Library undertakes archiving bill files and other legislative documents produced by the General Assembly, Legislative Management provides us with a sessional legislative aide. Since each aide is with us only temporarily each year, whoever fills the assignment is usually a new person with a different set of skills and experience, yet one who needs a basic understanding of Connecticut's legislative process.



In keeping with the State Library's mission of preserving the past and informing the future, this year's legislative aide, Lauren Ciuksza, majorly advanced "inform the future" by redeveloping our *There*

Ought to be a Law e-learning resource initially created by Bill Room staff seven years ago. We originally used ReadyGo because it's an asynchronous just-in-time tool that makes interactive online course development easy. This time we wanted to assess whether there were technologically better options available and to connect people to relevant resources available at the Library as part of helping them to better understand Connecticut's legislative process.

After looking at many different types of software, including cloud based open source programs like Moodle and Google's Course Builder as well as subscription based programs like Adobe Presenter and Captivate, we assessed each one based on what we considered to be the following three crucial capabilities:

1. The ability to incorporate different types of media into the learning experience, like video clips, sound files, interactive objects, and graphics.
2. The ability for students to test their knowledge via quizzes and tests at each stage of the learning process. Since scores aren't saved for future reference, we considered this capability to be more for knowledge retention rather than creating a pass/fail scenario.
3. The ability to visually distill complexity down to easy-to-understand and presentable chunks of information.

Based on these three criteria as well as developer reviews, we narrowed our list down to Adobe Captivate and Articulate Storyline. Both programs carry high price tags, but Captivate offered a monthly trial subscription that would allow us to incrementally test out and develop our courses without incurring high expenses upfront. Another deciding factor was Adobe's robust support community for getting help with the many issues we encountered while developing these lessons.

Our finished product available via the Connecticut State Library's Law and Legislation Research Guide includes narrated passages from two books in the library's collection, images of and links to relevant legislative documents, and CT-N video clips demonstrating actual legislative actions being discussed. Learning interactions, a cornerstone feature of Adobe Captivate, organize detail oriented information throughout the lessons, such as different bill types and committee deadlines, into visual objects.

In an increasingly mobile and remotely accessible world, we consider this latest version of [There Ought to be a Law](#) as only the beginning of similar projects here at the State Library that can inform and teach the people about our unique resources while making complex and often misunderstood topics easier to understand. Stay tuned!



Steve Mirsky, Law & Legislative Management
Librarian

*New & Noteworthy
E-Resources***Connecticut Probate Records on Ancestry.com**

On September 1, 2015 Ancestry.com started the first phase of their momentous project to offer indexed digital images of probate records for all fifty states. Connecticut probate records, some 323,830 pages worth, were included in this first release of records which will no doubt continue in the coming months and years. The digital images were created from microfilms made by the Genealogical Society of Utah of original records stored in the Connecticut State Archives. These microfilms contain probate records primarily for the 1636-1915 time period and include both types of Connecticut probate records, estate paper packets, the original records submitted and the court, and court record books, which are the official record of the court.

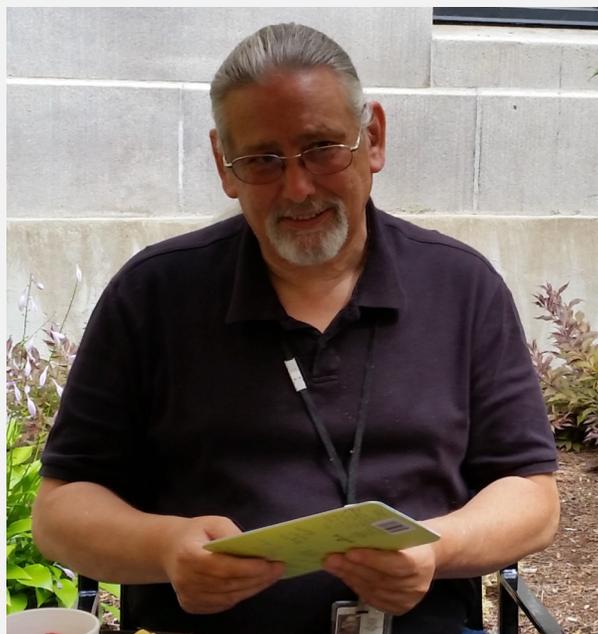
Patrons are able to search the probate records by name, and limit the search by date or location if known, as well as specific keyword. While this indexing is an added improvement, the indexing may contain errors in spelling of names as well providing incorrect dating for records. It may be prudent to disregard the date of probate to investigate whether an estate might have been processed some years later.

Another problematic issue with the Ancestry.com probate index is that Connecticut has a unique probate court district structure that is not based on the usual, one probate court per county, judicial system that is commonly found in the United States. At one point in Connecticut history there were 132 probate districts, servicing 169 Connecticut municipalities. As a result, the Ancestry.com probate site allows for the ability to browse by what they call "district" which is in fact a Connecticut county and may combine several dozen probate districts under one category. As an example, there are over one dozen volumes called Vol. 1 listed in the Fairfield "district" with no outward indication as to what true probate district they belong to unless you search the images.

Regardless of the transcription and technical errors, the Connecticut probate collection found on Ancestry.com is a big step in the right direction to allow individuals to easily search for probate records of their ancestors, conduct historical research on a home, or conduct other historical research pertaining to a Connecticut estate. In addition, Connecticut residents may access this material, as well as other Connecticut State Library digitized materials on Ancestry.com for free by conducting a search at: <http://collections.ancestry.com/search/CT/StateLibrary> and registering with no obligation to purchase Ancestry.com. 

Mel Smith, History & Genealogy Reference Librarian

New & Noteworthy Retirements



Alan Ross Retires from the State Library After 10 Years of Service

Before joining the State Library in 2005, Alan Ross had a long history with books and learning. As a young teenager, Alan could be found buried in science fiction novels or poring over anything to do with Egyptology. Later on comic books took center stage, leading him to open his own comic book shop for several years. While mastering grading and pricing techniques, he eventually amassed his own personal collection. For many years, Alan also worked for a binding/print shop. Once at the State Library, Alan concentrated on book repair



in Collection Management before taking a new assignment in Law Reference interfilming the many paper loose leaf titles that still comprise legal collection's core. Since his departure on August 31st, we have every confidence that Alan continues leafing through pages each day, except that now instead of the Federal Tax Reporter, it's the earliest X-Men series. ☺

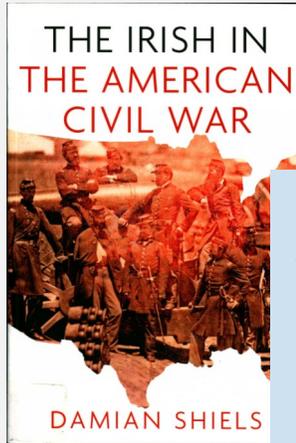
Al DeYorio Retires from the State Library After 32 Years of Service



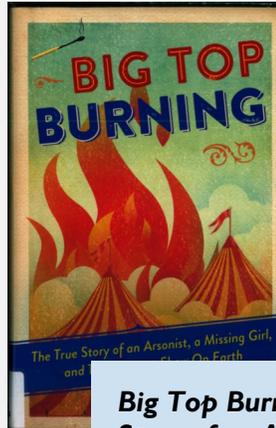
Al DeYorio served Connecticut Libraries on his Connecticut routes with professionalism, an outstanding work ethic and a commitment to service that was truly appreciated. The State Library applauded Al's notable and successful career on September 30, 2015 and wished him the very best for a happy and healthy retirement. ☺



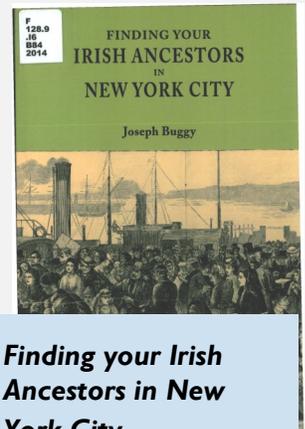
New & Noteworthy
New Books



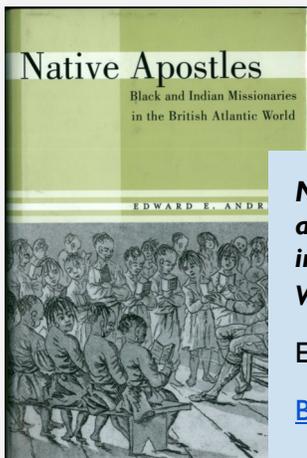
The Irish in the American Civil War
Damian Shiels
[E540.I6 S55 2013](#)



Big Top Burning : The Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and the Greatest Show on Earth
Laura A. Woollett
[F104.H3 W66 2015](#)

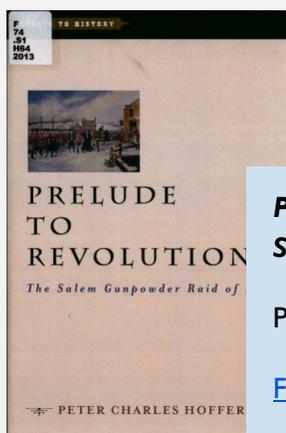
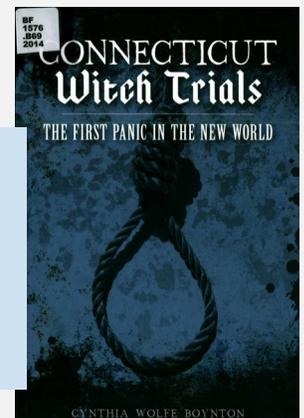


Finding your Irish Ancestors in New York City
Joseph Buggy
[F128.9.I6 B84 2014](#)

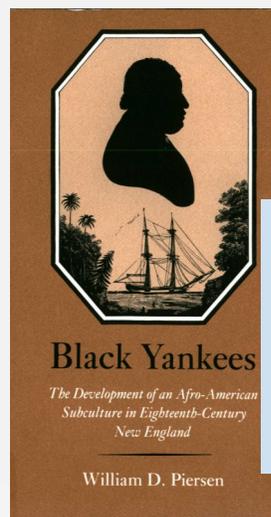


Native Apostles : Black and Indian Missionaries in the British Atlantic World
Edward E. Andrews
[BV2I20 .A53 2013](#)

Connecticut Witch Trials : The First Panic in the New World
Cynthia Wolfe Boynton
[BF1576 .B69 2014](#)



Prelude to Revolution : The Salem Gunpowder Raid of 1775
Peter Charles Hoffer
[F74.S1 H64 2013](#)



Black Yankees : the Development of an Afro-American Subculture in Eighteenth-Century New England
William Dillon Piersen
[E185.9I7 .P54 I988](#)

*New & Noteworthy
New Books*

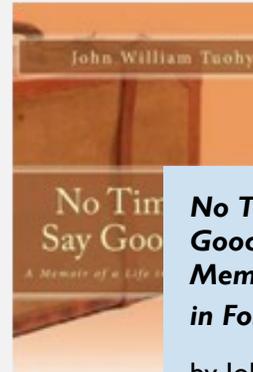


**The Grasping Hand:
Kelo v. City of New London and the
Limits of Eminent
Domain**

Ilya Somin

[KF5599 .S66 2015](#)

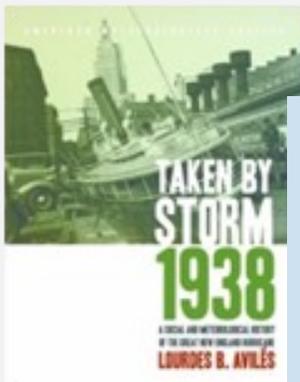
EBook also available with
Connecticut State Library
card



**No Time to Say
Goodbye: A
Memoir of Life
in Foster Care**

by John Tuohy

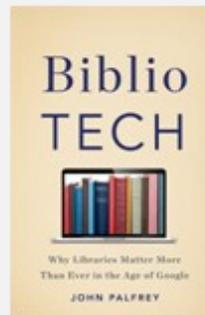
[PS3620.T86 Z46
2014](#)



**Taken by Storm
1938: A Social and
Meteorological
History of the Great
New England
Hurricane**

Lourdes B. Avilés

[QC945 .A95 2013](#)



**BiblioTech: Why
Libraries Matter More
Than Ever in the Age of
Google**

by John Palfrey

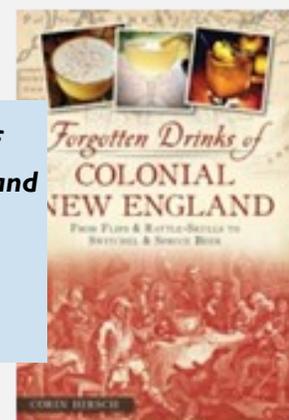
[Z674.75.I58 P38 2015](#)



**For Fear of an
Elective King:
George Washington
and the Presidential
Title Controversy of
1789**

Kathleen Bartoloni-
Tuazon

[JK511 .B39 2014](#)

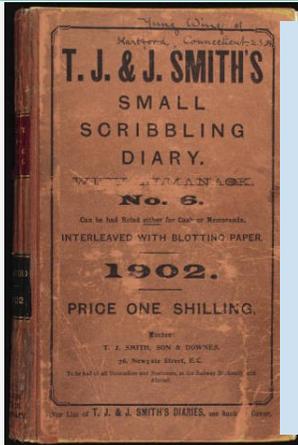


**Forgotten Drinks of
Colonial New England**

by Corin Hirsch

[TX815 .H54 2014](#)

New & Noteworthy Archival Collections



Collection of Yung Wing's Papers in the U.S.

Yixiong Wu and
Wenjie Yun,
editors and
translators

[DS763.Y8 M45](#)

Yung Wing, often called the father of China's foreign-educated students, operated the Chinese Educational Commission School in Hartford from 1872 until the Chinese government disbanded the Educational Mission in 1881. He kept a diary while living in Hartford, Connecticut from January to October 1902. He recorded his accounts, visitors, letters, news about people and events, trips to nearby cities, and observations about the weather. The diary is dated both by the western Gregorian calendar and the Chinese lunar calendar. The [diary](#) can be found in the State Library's digital Collections.

Dr. Yixiong Wu, Professor of History at Sun Yatsen University in Guangzhou, China, and Mr. Wenjie Yun, a Ph.D. candidate under Dr. Wu's direction, translated and published a Chinese transcript of Yung Wing's diary held by the State Archives and his letters held by Yale University. Dr. Wu and Mr. Yun "believe [their] work will be quite helpful for scholars who are interested in Yung Wing." ☞

Allen Ramsey, Assistant State Archivist

New & Noteworthy Staff Kudos

Congratulations to Sara Cheeseman!

Sara Cheeseman began working at the Connecticut State Library as a Librarian I, Public Records Archivist, on January 11, 2013. Sara is taking on a new position with Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington DC as a Records Management Consultant. Her last day with the State Library will be October 16, 2015.

Congratulations to Kris Abery!

Beginning on October 20, Kris Abery will be continuing her career with the State Library as a Library Specialist in the Government Information Reference Services Unit. Kris began working in the Government Information Services Unit in 2001. From there, she went to the State Library's Middletown Library Service Center as the Continuing Education Coordinator. Following that, she became the Deputy Director of the CT State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Rocky Hill. Soon, you will see Kris, once again, at a Reference desk near you!

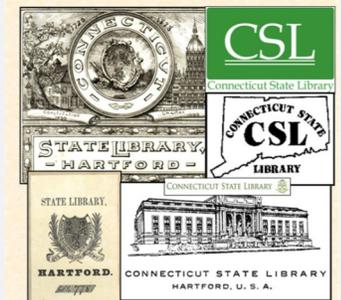
New & Noteworthy New Logo



The Connecticut State Library introduced its new logo earlier this year. The new logo is designed to evoke enlightenment and growth through knowledge, and places emphasis on the belief that knowledge is the foundation of libraries. The phrase, “The Connecticut State Library”, is now abbreviated to CT State Library with a friendly approachable font. The tagline, *Preserving the Past. Informing the Future*, remains the same with the exception that the comma has been replaced by a period. This gives the reader the message to stop and think about where we’ve been... and where we’re headed.

The intention of the new branding is to bring each of the State Library units into one cohesive brand. The name of each unit, division and department, has been incorporated into the new logo. Each department has its own color, taken from the logo’s color palette.

The new State Library logo can be seen on various State Library documents, press releases and the new website. The logo is a representation of the past and the future of the Connecticut State Library. You may remember some of our older logos!



New & Noteworthy New Branding



CT State Library: Rebranding Statewide Library Services

October 2015

Previous Name	New Name and Logo
Connecticar (Ccar) - Statewide Library Delivery System	
Connecticard (Ccard)	
iCONN - Connecticut's re-search engine	
reQuest - Connecticut's Statewide Library Catalog	
reQuest ILL	



CT State Library

Preserving the Past. Informing the Future.

2015 Third Thursdays Schedule

Vietnam War Veteran Dennis
Mannion
discusses the
Battle of Khe Sanh
November 19 at
12:00 pm-12:45 pm

JANUARY 2016

Museum of
Connecticut History
Curator Dave Corrigan
discusses

The Goodwin Brothers Pottery
in West Hartford
1870-1929
January 21 at
12:00 pm-12:45 pm

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

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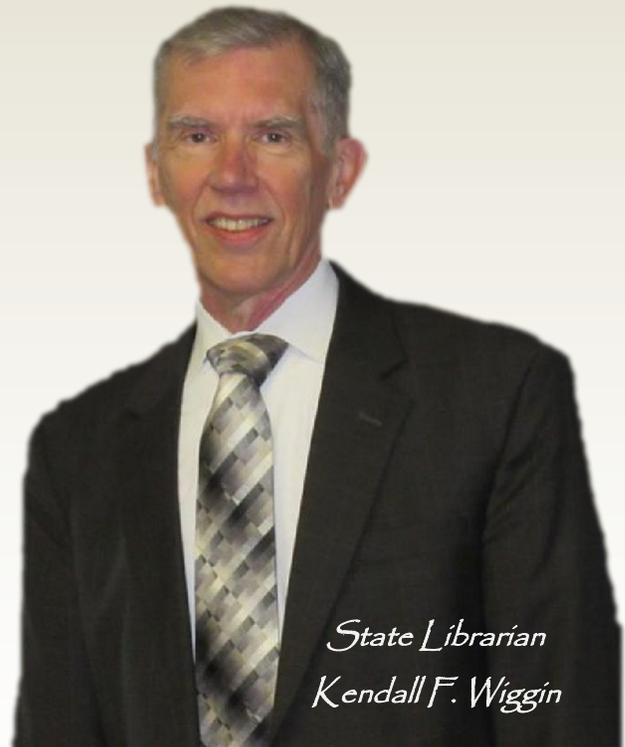
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