

The CONNector

Fall 2017



Volume 19, No. 4

Fall 2017



CT State Library

Preserving the Past. Informing the Future.

Whats Inside?

- ◆ **From the State Librarian** -----Page 2-3
 - ◇ [Connecticut Finally has a Budget](#)
 - ◇ [State Library Board Update](#)
- ◆ **Library Development**
[Futures Conference 2017](#) -----Page 4-5
- ◆ **State Archives**
[Visitors get a Clearer View of Constitutional Documents](#) -----Page 6-7
- ◆ **Museum of CT History**
[Gun Making Firsts](#) ----- Page 8-10
- ◆ **Museum of Ct History**
[Recent WWI Acquisitions](#) ----- Page 11-13
- ◆ **CT Digital Newspaper Project**
[Free Access to More Historic CT Newspapers](#) ----- Page 14
- ◆ **History & Genealogy**
[CT Nurses Census 1917](#) -----Page 15
- ◆ **New and Noteworthy** ----- Page 16-21
 - ◇ [Library Events](#)
 - ◇ [Godard's Family Visits the Library](#)
 - ◇ [New Books](#)
- ◆ **Government Information Services**
[CHRO History](#) ----- Page 22

State Library Board

John N. Barry, Chair
Matthew Poland, Vice Chair
Honorable Andrew J. McDonald
Honorable Michael R. Sheldon
Commissioner Dianna Wentzell
Alison Clemens
Mary Etter
Robert D. Harris, Jr.
Allen Hoffman
James Johnston
Sandy Ruoff



Editorial Board

Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian
Lizette Pelletier, State Archivist
David Corrigan, Museum Curator
Robert Kinney, Outreach Services Librarian
Ursula Hunt, Editor
Eric Hansen, Copy Editor
Bill Anderson, Catalog Librarian
Jackie Bagwell, IT Analyst
Steve Rice, Reference Librarian
Christine Pittsley, Digital Imaging
Mel Smith, Reference Librarian

Connecticut Finally Has a Budget— Kendall F. Wiggin, State Librarian

The budget that was signed into law by Governor Malloy on October 31, ending four months of operating under an Executive Order, was initially good news for libraries - basically level funding all library programs. However, on November 17th the Office of Policy and Management implemented a series of holdbacks and budget adjustments to balance the budget. The State Library budget had an overall cut of 7%. The reductions affected every line item in the budget.



The budget reductions mean that the State Library will not meet its federal match and maintenance of effort which means we will lose a portion of our federal library funding beginning in October 2018. The State Library is considering seeking a waiver given the state's fiscal situation, but waivers are not easy to get so there is no guarantee we will be successful. With these latest budget cuts, the State Library's budget is now operating with 36% less funding than it had in 2009.

There was a bit of good news in the budget.

\$2.5 million capital funding was appropriated in each year of the biennium for public library construction grants.

	FY18 Appropriated	FY18 Allotments after OPM Holdbacks
Personal Services	5,019,931	4,815,759
Other Expenses	426,673	405,339
State-Wide Digital Library	1,750,193	1,575,174
Interlibrary Loan Delivery Service	276,232	244,853
Legal/Legislative Library Materials	638,378	574,540
Support Cooperating Library Service Units	184,300	124,402
Connecticard Payments	781,820	703,638
AGENCY TOTAL	9,077,527	8,443,705

The State Library administers the Historic Document Preservation grant program which is funded by a \$3.00 filing fee on land recordings. The budget increased the fee to \$10.00, of which \$6.00 will be for the Historic Documents Preservation program and \$4.00 will go into the general fund. This fee increase comes at a time when towns and the state are facing new challenges with electronic records. In addition to increasing the grants to municipalities, the added revenue will help support the work that the Office of the Public Records Administrator and the State Archives do with the management and preservation of electronic records.

It will be years before the state budget situation improves and we can realistically expect to see a significant change in funding for statewide library programs. But we will continue to leverage resources by looking for opportunities to partner with other agencies; apply for grants; and seek private support.

I want to thank the Connecticut Library Association, the Association of Connecticut Library Boards, the Friends of Connecticut Libraries, and all of you for your great advocacy for libraries throughout the budget process.

State Library Board Elects New Officers—Kendall F. Wiggin

John N. Barry was re-elected unanimously to serve another one-year term as Chairman of the Connecticut State Library Board on September 18th. Having served on the Board since 2005, this will be his seventh term as Chairman. Mr. Barry presently serves on the Southington Town Council. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Heritage Foundation, and a member of the Regional Local Health District. Commenting on his re-election, Mr. Barry said, "I am excited to continue to serve as Chairman of the Connecticut State Library Board. Libraries have become an important hub in our communities where people come together and share information." State Librarian Kendall Wiggin noted that Mr. Barry's re-election provides stable leadership during these challenging times. Matt Poland was unanimously voted Vice-Chair. Mr. Poland succeeds Bob Harris who stepped down as Vice-Chair after serving in that position for the past 13 years. The Board thanked Mr. Harris for his service as Vice-Chair. Mr. Poland recently retired as the Director of the Russell Library in Middletown and had previously served as Chief Executive Officer of the Hartford Public Library.



John N. Barry

The State Library Board determines policy for the State Library and provides for the supervision of the State Library by the State Librarian, who is appointed by the Board.

State Library Board meetings are held bimonthly on the last Monday of the month, in the main Reading Room, unless otherwise noted. Meeting dates, agendas, minutes and reports can be accessed on the [State Library website](#).



*Reading Room, Connecticut State Library
231 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT*

“How do you predict the Future? Create It” – Abraham Lincoln

In May of 2007, a partnership between the New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Delaware state libraries presented the first Mid-Atlantic Library Futures Conference. Planning for the conference not only focused on the future of libraries but on the future of the world.

Futurists often ponder the inevitable questions of what will the world look like? What will everyday life be like? What will people need to function in the future?

Rather than looking inward to libraries, the partnership looked beyond walls to seek visionaries from all aspects of life to bring them together with librarians to discuss what changes in the future will impact libraries over the next decade. The resulting conference was groundbreaking, touted as the one conference to attend. Librarians walked away with ideas and plans to help them navigate through the possibilities and challenges of the future of public libraries.

Fast forward to 2017: A new, expansive collaborative partnership has been formed between New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia with support from COSLINE (Council of State Libraries in New England) and LibraryLinkNJ to offer a retrospective of libraries in the last decade and to look forward to the new future with futurists, innovators, and demographers from corporate, technology, and education fields.

The Connecticut State Library was proud to partner with our Northeast state library colleagues in presenting the 2017 Futures Conference held at the Borgata Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ on September 25th and 26th, 2017. Over 365 librarians from the Northeast and from around the country descended on Atlantic City to hear notable futurists share their vision of the future:

Kevin Mitnick, the world’s most famous hacker, gave insight on privacy, the real threat and capabilities of hackers to compromise the information of our systems, our staff and our patrons, and what can be done to strengthen security and patron privacy.

David Pescovitz, Institute for the Future, spoke about the future of technology, science, innovation, and media. In August of 2016 Pescovitz told Business Insider, “libraries are poised to become all-in-one spaces for learning, consuming, sharing, creating, and experiencing — to the extent that enormous banks of data will allow people to ‘check out’ brand-new realities, whether that’s scaling Mt. Everest or living out an afternoon as a dog.”

Dr. James Hughes, is Dean of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and a distinguished professor and a nationally-



Futures Conference — Continued

recognized academic expert on demographics, housing, and regional economics. He is also the Director of the Rutgers Regional Report, which has produced over 40 major economic, demographic, and real estate studies on New Jersey and the broader metropolitan region. Dr. Hughes provided his predictions for the demographics of the future.

Phil Bowermaster, Acceleration Strategist, focused on the convergence of information and society that is driving disruption and accelerating change. Phil shared his insights to help librarians understand the drivers behind business and technology change and shape strategies for leveraging these changes.

Rakia Reynolds, Founder and CEO of Skai Blue Media, the face of DELL's current media campaign, is an influencer in the creative business industry, and shared her expertise in creative development, branding, and strategic communications.

Cindy Ball, Oculus Rift, enlightened the crowd on virtual reality and its increasing impact on how organizations including libraries deliver services, educate, and engage communities.

Anthony Iovino, Arcari & Iovino Architects, focused on non-profit and public sector projects with a keen focus on libraries. Anthony's presentation focused on the critical role of architecture in the future.

The Futures School with Nicole Baker Rosa offered hands on training in forecasting the future with a vision for a brand new approach to Strategic Foresight. Their approach has been years in the making and emerged from a realization that a gap exists between our increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world and the antiquated leadership and business development approaches we have depended on for so long.



Conference attendees began a discussion on how libraries need to change in order to thrive in the next decade, exploring a morphing of imagination, inspiration, and information that will transform the way libraries and librarians look at the future. Librarians also engaged in small group discussions where everyone walked away with a plan to navigate the future through newly envisioned possibilities. The Futures Conference partners have decided to continue the Futures conversation with our speakers and attendees to encourage libraries to engage their communities with the mindset "**Why should we wait for the future? Let's start now.**" Libraries and librarians can begin by unlocking their futurist mindsets to understand the need for empathy, to engagement with their community along with the need to provide immersive, experiential opportunities to accommodate future library patrons. Awareness of rapidly changing technology and patrons' needs and changing demographics have prompted us to explore another Futures Conference sooner rather than later.

The future is happening now and the Connecticut State Library, Division of Library Development's goal is to prepare libraries to meet it head on.

Visitors get a Clearer View of Constitutional Documents—

Lizette Pelletier, State Archivist



The constitutional documents on display in Memorial Hall, c. 1980. PG 220, Box 6



Ken Jeski of K Glassworks checks the placement of the new glass on the case for the Fundamental Orders



The Fundamental Orders and the accompanying transcription clearly visible for the first time in decades

An important part of the State Library's mission is to make records in its collections accessible to the public, especially the state's keystone documents: the Fundamental Orders, the Royal Charter, the Constitution of 1818, and the Constitution of 1965. According to Museum Curator Dave Corrigan, "When I got here in 1982, the Fundamental Orders and the 1965 Constitution were in wall cases, flanking the Charter vault. The 1818 Constitution was in a large, heavy, metal frame attached to the inside of the right-hand door of the Charter vault."

In 1989, the State Library and the Old State House co-sponsored an exhibition at the Old State House commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Fundamental Orders. The Fundamental Orders and the State Constitutions of 1818 and 1965, along with the Charter of 1662 in its oak frame, were loaned to the Old State House for the exhibition. The exhibit display cases were designed to be used in the Museum of Connecticut History after the exhibition closed. The materials were selected with the intent of matching the décor in Memorial Hall. The cases are no higher than the wainscoting around the room and at an angle so the documents are visible to visitors but prevent glare from the overhead lights. The documents were viewed through a special "sandwich" of 1/4 inch plate glass with an ultraviolet filter and a solid 1/8 inch sheet of transparent acrylic (also referred to by its brand name, Plexiglas™).

These "new" cases have been in place almost 30 years. Over that time the acrylic became scratched and foggy, making the documents difficult to see and nearly impossible to read.



K Glassworks' installation team members place the glass over the Fundamental Orders.



Plant Facilities Manager Greg Ennis and Assistant State Archivist Allen Ramsey watch the installation crew from K Glassworks move a sheet of safety glass to Memorial Hall. (photos - State Archives)

Constitutional Documents—Continued



Museum Curator Dave Corrigan looks on as the glass is installed for the 1818 Constitution.

Museum staff made a number of attempts to replace the "sandwich," but finding a local source for the large custom sized pieces proved problematic. Staff also considered replacing the cases altogether. One custom designed version retained the original legs of the "new" cases, but had a new "deck" for holding stainless steel trays for the documents. Commercially designed cases were also explored but, as usual, the cost was prohibitive.

Earlier this year, Archives and Museum staff

renewed efforts to get new exhibit cases for the documents. Given the state's fiscal situation, replacing the glass in each was determined to be a more cost effective approach. Furthermore, money was available in the Historical Documents Preservation Fund.

Working with the vendor K Glassworks, LLC of South Windsor, staff determined that a laminated safety glass would be more secure and would avoid the layered and bubbled look of the acrylic over plate glass. However, the safety glass was thicker and heavier. Using the safety glass required a modification of the cases to prevent the glass sheets from sagging.

In order for the modification work to be done, the documents needed to be removed from the cases. Originally, staff were going to place reproductions of the Fundamental Orders within the case, but opted instead for a note stating that the originals were temporarily removed to allow repairs/modifications to the exhibit case. Staff took advantage of having the documents out of the cases to obtain high resolution digital images of the Fundamental Orders and the 1818 and 1965 Constitutions. The images will soon be available in the State Library Digital Collections.



Ken Jeski and crew place the new glass on the case for the 1965 Constitution.

After a few scheduling hiccups including a weather delay, the new safety glass was installed on June 6th. The installation team mounted the oversize sheets with great expertise. The installation team was extremely conscientious about cleaning the glass to ensure that these important historical documents are viewed in just the right light.



The first, fifth and sixth pages of the 1818 constitution and wax seals



The 1965 Constitution on display under the portrait of the governor at that time, John Dempsey

Gun Making Firsts-The Harpers Ferry and Middletown Connections— Dean Nelson, Director Museum of Connecticut History



Shoulder Arms

Top: U.S. Model 1819 Hall Rifle, Simeon North Contract of 1831, dated 1831; (Accession # 2017.369; purchase)

Below: U.S. Model 1843 Hall/North Carbine, dated 1848

The year 2017 has been particularly benevolent to the Museum's collections development program, providing closely-timed opportunities to acquire several interrelated early military rifles that embody key "firsts" in the evolution of precision



Hall-North Contract Breech Block, Opened

The ammunition consisted of .52 caliber (52/100ths of an inch) round lead ball and measured, granulated black powder, either wrapped together in a paper roll, or with powder dispensed from a metal flask with a spring activated nozzle. With the flint hammer at half cock/safety, priming powder was trickled into the pan and the sparking frizzen snapped closed. The main powder charge got poured into the round chamber (slightly tapered) bored into the face of the block and the ball friction-fitted in by a finger!?! An ignition mishap at this stage could fire the gun, with predictable injury to the marksman. After loading, the ball might dislodge within the closed breech block, loosing powder into the nooks and crannies of the stock inletting. This spillage, unnoticed, could, and did, blow out the thin stock cheeks when the gun was fired. Black powder fouling (water soluble but plaster-hard) on the breech block face routinely froze the mechanism shut.

metalworking production. Massachusetts Institute of Technology scholar Merritt Roe Smith in the 1970s identified the historic and technological significances of John Hall's U. S. Model 1819 Flintlock Breech-loading Rifle — produced at the federal government's Harpers Ferry, Virginia, Armory — and exacting copies made by Connecticut private arms contractor Simeon North, 308 miles away.

"...components of the rifles made by North not only exchanged well with each other 'but equally well with those' under [Hall's] immediate supervision at Harper's Ferry. For the first time fully interchangeable weapons were being made at two widely separated arms factories...No two individuals played a more important role in this development or as machine-tool innovators in general during the early nineteenth century than did North and Hall."

The Hall 1819 breech loader was made to arm Regular Army rifle units and infantry companies protecting the left and right flanks of linear regimental battle formations. Hall made some 20,000 between 1823 and 1829. Rank and file infantry in the Hall rifle era carried traditional flintlock smooth bore muzzle-loaders, of the latest pattern, U.S. Model 1816 Muskets. The Halls could be loaded and fired three times more rapidly than the muzzle loaders, with this added advantage:

Gun Making Firsts—Continued



Flintlock Breech Blocks

Left: "U.S./S. NORTH/MIDDLETON/CONN./1831"; the "crown over V" stamp is an English viewer's mark. It was struck into the block before the block received its final grayish-color case hardened finish. This suggests that an English gun manufacturer, unidentified, viewed and marked this gun at North's Middletown, CT, factory in order to comply with English inspection laws to take home and perhaps evaluate prospects for commercial or military sales in England. The barrel also bears this viewer's stamp.

Above: "J. H. HALL/H. FERRY/US/1838"

"being a breechloader, has a merit few arms of its adaptability of being loaded by the soldier--on the ground, beneath log, or behind a tree or other protection without exposure of person to the mark of a rifleman."

The U.S. Model 1817 "Common Rifle," a muzzle loader (but with a rifled bore for long range accuracy far superior to that of a smooth-bore musket), was produced under War Department contract in this period with four private arms manufacturers (three in Middletown, CT) for distribution to state militias under provisions of the 1808 Militia Act.

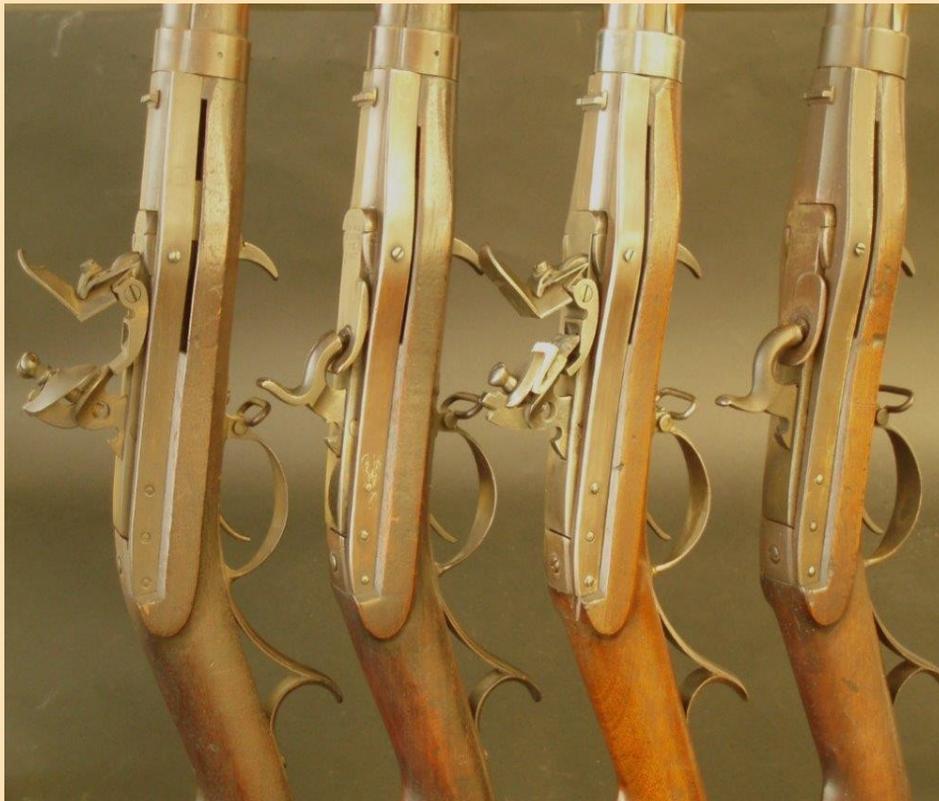
The Act also stipulated that National Armory-made weapons (Harpers Ferry and Springfield) were "reserved solely for the use of U. States troops." Several defense-minded states clamored for this latest and greatest breechloader, leading to an 1828 War Department sole-source contract with North for 5,000 Hall pattern rifles at \$17.50 each, most of which did go in small lots to various militias. North was an easy choice. He had made the second greatest number of private contract firearms for the War Department to that time: 50,000 flintlock pistols in seven different year/model designations and most recently 7,200 of the flintlock Model 1817 "Common Rifles." Whitney, of New Haven, Connecticut, was a close first with

67,000 muskets. The last batch of Hall-North contract rifles was delivered in 1836. North subsequently received federal contracts for 16,000 shorter carbine versions of the Hall, with new percussion ignition and improved gas seal features, in the early 1840s.

The initial infatuation with the Halls dimmed in the 1830s as harsh reports came in from the field listing such serious shortcomings as stock breakage and alarming breech gas leaks upon firing, and burnt powder build-up that locked the breech block closed.

Ordnance Department Lt. Colonel George Talcott observed dispassionately, "But fashions change and what is good today will be cried down to-morrow." The Secretary of War was more direct and blunt in 1840: "I would not have adopted them and shall make little use of them hereafter in the regular service." Muzzle-loading rifles of U.S. model years 1841 (made by Harpers Ferry and several private contractors) and 1855 (Harpers Ferry, exclusively), quickly supplanted the Hall Rifle. Federal arsenals reported in October of 1860 that in excess of 16,000 Hall rifles, flint and percussion, were in storage, most destined to be sold soon at obsolete ordnance public auctions.

Gun Making Firsts-Continued



Hall Rifles: Flintlock and Percussion Ignition Conversions, Paired

The year of production date is stamped on the breech block. Most of the Hall pattern rifles stored in U.S. arsenals in the 1850s were converted to the newer, more reliable percussion ignition system. Flintlock hammers (also termed "cocks"), sparking steel frizzens ("batteries" and, confusingly, "hammers") and pans were removed and striking hammers and percussion cap cones were installed. Note the long, narrow slots to vent hot gases exploding out of the breech with each shot. These slots are on the opposite side, as well.

Left to Right:

"J. H. HALL/H. FERRY/US/1838"; (Accession # 2017.202; purchase)

"J. H. HALL/H. FERRY/US/1831"; (Tag # 33; Gift, Pratt-Whitney Foundation, 1957)

"U.S./S. NORTH/MIDLtn/CONN./1831"; (Accession # 2017.369; purchase)

"U.S./S. NORTH/MIDLtn/CONN./1835"; (Accession #2017.193; purchase)



Hall-North Contract Breech Block, Removed

The spur catch (right) locked shut and released the breech block within the receiver. The block pivoted on a heavy screw set through the hole behind the hammer.

The screw-adjustable trigger (left), which tripped the hammer, could be set to suit the marksman. The frizzen "V" spring and three other lock flat springs required only a screw driver for cleaning removal. Resourceful soldiers sometimes set the mechanism into an improvised wood handle as an off-duty, make-do handgun.

Recent World War I Acquisitions—by David J. Corrigan, Museum Curator



Officer's pistol belt with a snap fastener for attaching an ammunition pouch and a saber loop. Marked "Nov./Russell/1918." (Accession #2017.206) Russell also manufactured cartridge belts worn by enlisted soldiers, which usually had other equipment attached, such as canteens and first aid kits.



The ammunition pouch held 2 magazines for the Colt Model 1911 Automatic Pistol, the standard-issue sidearm. The flap on the ammunition pouch is a separate piece, stitched at the top and bottom where it meets the pouch, creating a slot for the pistol belt to slide through, attaching to the fastener on the back of the pouch. Marked "Oct./Russell/1918." (Accession #2016.456)

With the on-going commemoration of Connecticut's role in World War I, staff of the Museum of Connecticut History has focused its collecting activity on acquiring examples of the myriad products manufactured in the state in support of the war effort. Although perhaps best known for the arms and ammunition made by Colt's in Hartford, Winchester and Marlin in New Haven, and Remington-Union Metallic Cartridge Co. in Bridgeport, and hundreds of smaller companies around the state contributed mightily to the effort to keep the country's soldiers well-equipped for the duration of the war. The Museum is also collecting examples of equipment made elsewhere that was used by Connecticut soldiers.

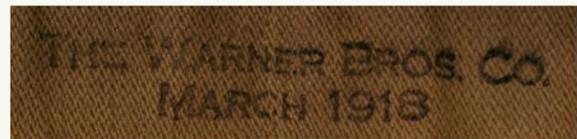
These recent acquisitions augment the large World War I collection assembled by State Librarian George Godard, who convinced dozens of Connecticut World War veterans to donate their collections of war souvenirs to the State Library in the 1920s and 1930s. These collections consisted primarily of artifacts such as battlefield pick-ups, French post cards, and German Pickelhaube helmets, but virtually no Connecticut-made military equipment.

Recent World War I Acquisitions—Continued

The Russell Manufacturing Co. of Middletown was one of the major producers of the webbed and canvas equipment worn and carried by American Expeditionary Forces soldiers.



The Warner Brothers Co. of Bridgeport produced grenade vests which held eleven grenades. The top strap went around the soldier's neck, and the vest was held in place by the two straps around the back and waist. The grenades carried in these vests were most often the French-made "VB" fragmentation grenades, first developed around 1916, and named for the inventors Viven and Bessieres. They were fired from a launcher affixed to the barrel of a French Lebel rifle and, upon their arrival in France in early 1917, American soldiers quickly jerry-rigged the launcher to fit their Model 1903 Springfield rifles until an appropriate model was developed for their weapon. Marked "The Warner Bros. Co./March 918." (Accession #2016.459)



This canvas Signal Corps semaphore flag kit carrying case is marked "Mar./Russell/1918." (Accession #2017.203)



Model 1910 suspenders were used to hold up and distribute the weight of the cartridge belt. The hooks on the ends of the straps fit into the grommets on the belt. Marked "Oct./Russell/1918." (Accession 2017.205)

Recent World War I Acquisitions—Continued



Woolen blanket manufactured by the Mianus Manufacturing Co. of CosCob, under a contract awarded on 20 July 1917. The label has the "flaming bomb" logo of the U.S. Ordnance Dept. (Accession #2016.539)



Helmets worn by members of the 26th Division, which included most Connecticut doughboys, had a unique helmet insignia for each of its units. These helmets were decorated post-war with the insignia of (l to r) the 101st Field Signal Battalion (Accession # 2017.209); the 101st Machine Gun Battalion (Accession # 2017.210); and the 101st Sanitary Train (or hospital unit) (Accession # 2017.211). Between America's entry into the war in April 1917 and the fall of 1918, nearly 2 million of these Model 1917 helmets were manufactured.

Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project

*Free Access to More Historic Connecticut Newspapers—
Jane Cullinane, Preservation Librarian*



Over the last year, the Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project (CDNP) has added more newspapers to Chronicling America, including the *New Haven Journal and Courier* (1880-1909), the *Waterbury Democrat* (1887-1908), and the *Newtown Bee* (1877-1906 with 1907-1909 coming soon). The *Norwich Bulletin* and *Bridgeport Evening Farmer/Bridgeport Times* (both 1909-1922) are already online. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Connecticutðnicity=&language=>

The State Library is also pleased to announce that CDNP has won a third grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue scanning historic newspapers to be added to Chronicling America.

The CDNP Advisory Board is considering what titles and time periods we might include in our third round. We are now able to consider titles that were published from 1755 to 1963. However, the later years pose an extra challenge because the newspapers or some part of the content might still be covered by copyright. Even if the newspaper itself isn't covered by copyright, third party content such as comic strips, serialized fiction, and syndicated columns might be. We are investigating whether we can select any CT titles without violating the rights of a copyright holder.

Project Coordinator Chris Gauvreau has been traveling around the state to give her talk "The War At Home: World War I Era Stories from Connecticut Newspapers." Chris has been to Groton (February), Simsbury (May), Friends of Fort Trumbull in New London (August), Lyme (October) and, in December, she'll speak to the Jewish Historical Society in Hartford.

We continue to post monthly blogs at <http://ctdigitalnewspaperproject.org/blogs/>, and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CTStateLibrary/>. Some blogs are on serious topics, and others are more fun but all are written with the intention of raising awareness of the newspapers we have in Chronicling America. For example:

- ◆ "The Sumner League, Connecticut's Forgotten Civil Rights Society" published on the website of the New England Historical Society (April 7, 2017) <http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/sumner-league-connecticuts-forgotten-civil-rights-society/>
- ◆ "A Spooky New England Tale from the 1894 New Haven Daily Morning Journal and Courier" (Oct. 20, 2017) <http://ctdigitalnewspaperproject.org/2017/10/a-spooky-new-england-tale-from-the-1894-new-haven-daily-morning-journal-and-courier/>



Connecticut Nurses Census 1917— Jeannie Sherman, H&G Reference Librarian

I first learned about the 1917 Connecticut Nurses Census in 2001 when I began working in the History & Genealogy Unit at the State Library. I was always especially interested in this unique census because family lore suggested that my Great Aunt Rose Rourke had served as an Army Nurse during World War I. Off and on over the years I tried to figure out how the collection was organized so I might locate her census form and also help people use this valuable resource, but I was never successful. The collection was challenging to use as the forms submitted by the nurses are grouped under 17 different codes. Examples of the codes include whether they were registered nurses, practical nurses, student nurses, etc. and if they would serve in-state, out-of-state, or couldn't serve at all. With the 100th anniversary of Connecticut's participation in World War I War approaching, it was decided to create an overall index to this collection.

State of Connecticut.
By direction of an act of the Legislature of Connecticut, approved February 20th, 1917, I am required to procure certain information relative to the resources of the state. I therefore call upon you to answer the following questions.
MARCUS H. HOLCOMB, Governor.
INSTRUCTIONS: Return this form properly made out, duly signed, to the Bureau of Military Census, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn., not later than ten days after it is received. Failure to make this return within the specified time will be construed as a refusal. Please PRINT your name, giving your own first name, if married, with your married name following in parentheses. Give your present or professional address. In answering questions No. 10 and No. 11, simply write "Yes" or "No."
CONNECTICUT TOWN or CITY *Meriden Heights* Date *Nov 20 17*
FULL NAME *Patrick Aloysius Grumbly*
STREET ADDRESS AND NUMBER *Soldiers Home* Tel. No. *251-3*
1 Name and permanent address of relative or friend. *Miss Mary Grumbly, Comsewicut Ave., South Norwalk, Conn.*
2 Age *27 years*. Height *5 ft 11 1/2 in*. Weight *220 lbs*.
3 Are you a native of the United States? *yes*. Where were you born? *Norwalk, Ct.*
4 Are you married? *no*. Single *yes*. Widowed _____
5 If married, husband's name _____
6 Have you any permanent physical disability? *slight*. If so, name it *Partial disability of right arm*.
7 For pupil nurse (Name of training school) _____ Date of entering _____ Class _____
8 For practical or undergraduate nurse (Name of training school) _____ Date of entering _____ Class _____
9 For Red Cross Nurse's Aide (Indicate which courses you have taken: Elementary Hygiene and Home Care of the Sick, First Aid, Dietetics, Preparation of Surgical Supplies)
10 Could you respond to an emergency call for nursing service in this state? *yes*
11 Would you volunteer for an emergency call for nursing service outside this state? *yes*
12 Give reason if unable to answer these emergency calls _____
Signed: *Patrick A. Grumbly*

The Connecticut Nurses Census is a part of the [State Archives Record Group 029: Records of the Military Census Department](#). Conducted at the same time as the more well-known Manpower Census, the Nurses Census contains valuable information about the medical profession and individual practitioners in the state prior to the United States entry into World War I. The census forms may give basic details such as birthplace, age, marital status, maiden name, and current residence, as well as more specific information such as the name of the nursing school attended, medical specialty, and year of licensure. This census included the registration of both female and male nurses for potential state or federal service at home or abroad.

The Connecticut Nurses Index that has been created includes the name,

birthplace, age, current residence, form number and box number where the original form is found. It can be searched on our website at <http://www.ctatatelibrarydata.org/connecticut-nurses-census-1917>. If a field is left blank, it is because the person who submitted the form did not answer that question. People may request a copy of a census form by contacting us by telephone at (860) 757-6580 or by [email](#). Please include the name of the individual and form number.

A few examples of what the different forms look like are shown here. Keep in mind though, that for each of the seventeen categories a different form was used, so the questions asked vary from group to group. By the way, I finally found my Great Aunt Rose's form. It's nice when family lore turns out to be true!

State of Connecticut.
By direction of an act of the Legislature of Connecticut, approved February 20th, 1917, I am required to procure certain information relative to the resources of the state. I therefore call upon you to answer the following questions.
MARCUS H. HOLCOMB, Governor.
INSTRUCTIONS: Return this form properly made out, duly signed, to the Bureau of Military Census, Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn., not later than ten days after it is received. Failure to make this return within the specified time will be construed as a refusal. Please PRINT your name, giving your own first name, if married, with your married name following in parentheses. Give your present or professional address. In answering questions No. 10 and No. 11, simply write "Yes" or "No."
CONNECTICUT TOWN or CITY *Meriden* Date *January 23 1917*
FULL NAME *Rose Margaret A. Rourke*
STREET ADDRESS AND NUMBER *12 Sherwood Place* Tel. No. *542-14*
1 Graduate of *General Hospital - Groton, Conn. Date 7/25 1912*
2 Are you a member of your Alumni Association? *yes*
3 Line of work since graduation *Cooking and Private Duty*
4 In what line of professional work are you at present employed? *Nursing*
5 Have you any experience in any other occupation or profession? *No*
6 In what department of nursing are you best qualified for service?
7 What is your age? *32 yrs.* Height *5 ft 6 in* Weight *132 lbs*
8 Are you a registered nurse? *Yes* In what state? _____ Year _____
9 Are you married? *No* Single *Yes* Widowed _____
10 If married, Husband's name _____
11 Have you anyone dependent on you for support? *No* If so, how many?
12 Are you a native of the U. S. *Yes* Where were you born? *Hartford, Conn.*
13 Have you done any Army or Navy Nursing service in this or any other country? *No*
14 Where _____ How long _____ What branch _____
15 Have you any permanent physical disability? *No* If so, name it _____
16 Could you respond promptly to an emergency call for nursing service in this state? *Yes*
17 Would you volunteer for an emergency call for nursing service outside this state? *Yes*
18 Give reasons, if unable to answer these emergency calls _____
19 Name and permanent address of relative or friend? _____
Signed: *Rose M. A. Rourke*

Library Events

September 21, 2017



Alan Crane, President of the New England Great War Living History Association, gave a presentation about Connecticut's 102nd Infantry Regiment

from its birth at the Yale Bowl through their return to Connecticut. Crane is the President of the 26th Yankee Division WWI Living History Group, a historical re-enactment group dedicated to bringing to life the experiences of the foot soldier in the First World War.

[Watch the video on our website.](#)

October 30, 2017

A UK-based documentary production company, Icon Films was here at the State Library to film a story about the vampire panic that took place in the 1800s. Author Michael Bell, author of [Food for the Dead: on the Trail of New England's Vampires](#), was interviewed by biologist Pat Spain. They also accessed old newspapers on microfiche from the State Library. This documentary will be aired on the Travel Channel in March.

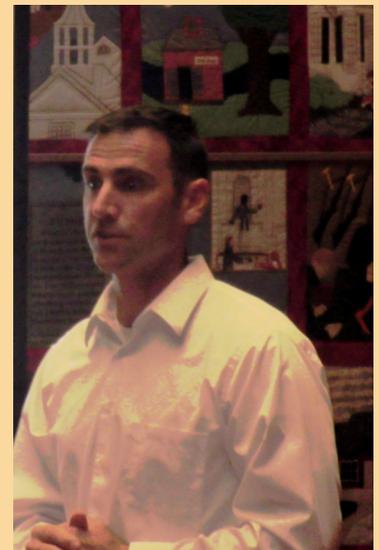


October 19, 2017



Paul Grant-Costa

Paul J. Grant-Costa, Executive Editor and Director of The Yale Indian Papers Project and **Tobias Glaza,** former Senior Researcher at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center gave a presentation titled *Bringing Research on New England Native Communities into the 21st Century*. See materials from the Indian Papers Project at [The Yale Indian Papers Project](#).



Tobias Glaza

[Watch the video on our website.](#)

Library Events

September 23, 2017



On Saturday, September 23, 2017, the Connecticut Map Society sponsored a field trip to the Connecticut State Library to see and learn more about the State Library's extensive map collection. The State Library holds a large collection of cartographic material, including maps, atlases, and gazetteers of Connecticut, its counties, regions, and local political units, New England, and other areas to and from which Connecticut people migrated. Carolyn M. Picciano, head of the Library's History and Genealogy Unit, provided members of the Map Society with an overview of the Map Collection. Members of the Society were able to have an up close look at a number of unique and important maps and atlases that Ms. Picciano had specially selected.

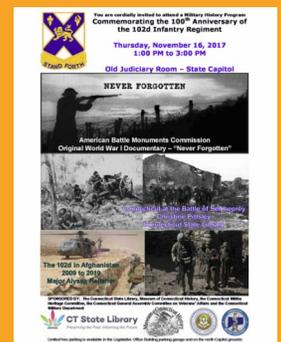
The Connecticut Map Society (<http://ctmapsociety.org/>) was founded this year by three map enthusiasts: Connie Brown, Brian Tims, and Maryann Ott. The purpose of the Connecticut Map Society, a non-profit corporation, is to promote the study of cartography and its history, to encourage map collecting, and to support the preservation of the world's cartographic heritage. Membership is open to everyone and includes collectors, dealers, curators, academics, cartographers, and those who simply enjoy maps.

Kendall F. Wiggin

November 16, 2017

The State Library helped sponsor an event to honor the 100th Anniversary of the 102nd Infantry Regiment on November 16, 2017 in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol. Christine Pittsley, Remembering World War One Project Director, (below right) gave a presentation on the WWI Battle at Seicheprey.

The celebration also included a Presentation of Colors, and introductory remarks by George Ripley, Chair of Connecticut Militia Heritage Committee, and Senator Henri Martin, Co-Chair of the General Assembly's and Veteran's Affairs Committee. State Librarian Kendall Wiggin (below left) also gave opening remarks.



Godard Family Visit

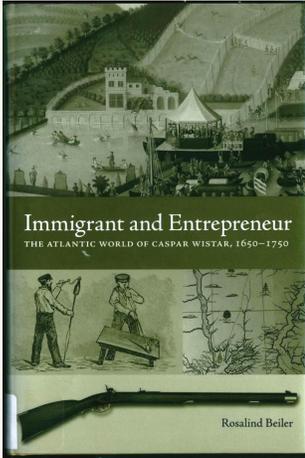


Left to right: Tarah Nichole Dresser, George Godard Hadley, Leslie Marie Dresser, Daniel Godard Dresser

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, staff at the Connecticut State Library were surprised and delighted to be visited by descendants of former State Librarian George Godard. Godard's grandson George Godard Hadley was accompanied by Daniel Godard Dresser, Godard's great grandson, as well as Tarah Nichole Dresser and Leslie Marie Dresser, Godard's great great granddaughters. Nancy Lieffort of Access Services led the family on a tour of the Library and Museum. They graciously posed by the portrait of George Godard which can be seen on the balcony. Nancy also showed the family his former office near the Main Reading Room and the first floor break room, where images of the construction of the State Library are on display. George Godard served as State Librarian from 1900 through 1936. Under his leadership, the current State Library was constructed and opened in 1910.

We wish to thank the Godard family for their visit and for the pictures they shared with us. George Godard's vision and legacy still lives on at the Connecticut State Library.

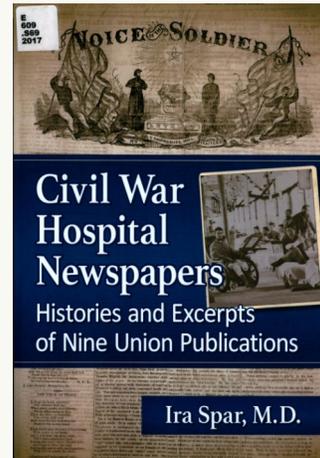
New Books of Interest



Immigrant and Entrepreneur: the Atlantic World of Caspar Wistar, 1650 -1750

By Rosalind J. Beiler

[**F158.9.G3 B45**](#)
[**2008**](#)



Civil War Hospital Newspapers: Histories and Excerpts of Nine Union Publications

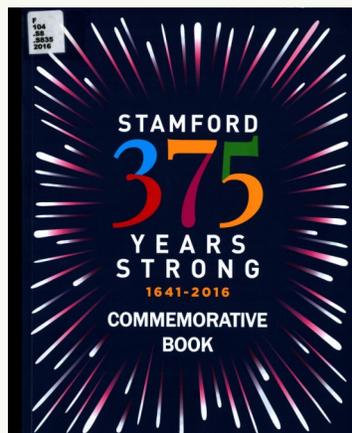
By Ira Spar

[**E609 .S69 2017**](#)

Stamford 375 Years Strong, 1641-2016: Commemorative Book

By Stamford 375 Steering Committee

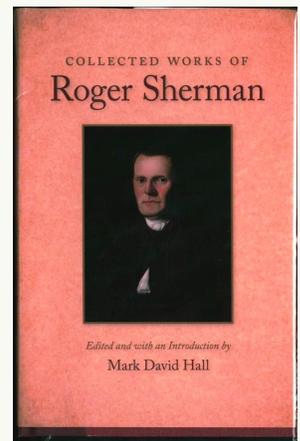
[**F104.S8 S835**](#)
[**2016**](#)



Collected Works of Roger Sherman

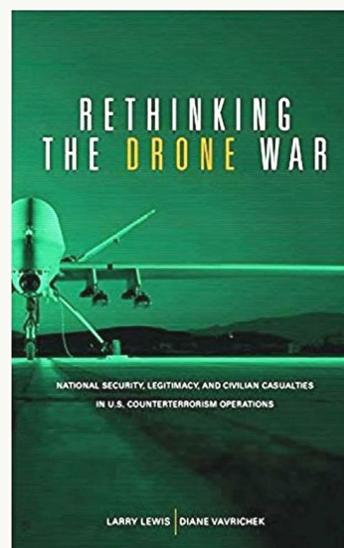
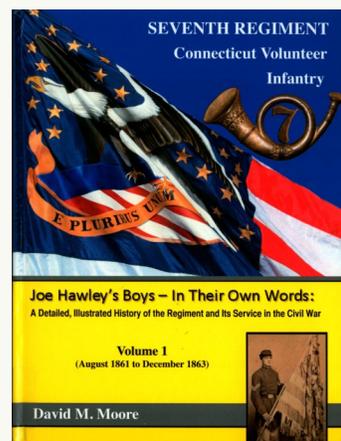
Edited by Mark David Hall

[**E302.6.S5 A4**](#)
[**2016**](#)



Seventh Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry: Joe Hawley's Boys in Their Own Words: a Detailed, Illustrated History of the Regiment and its Service in the Civil War

By David M. Moore



Rethinking the Drone War: National Security, Legitimacy, and Civilian Casualties in U.S. Counterterrorism Operations

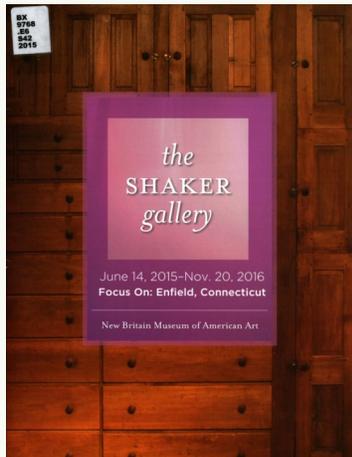
By Larry L. Lewis and Diane M. Vavrichek

New Books of Interest—Continued

***The Shaker
Gallery: June 14,
2015-Nov. 20,
2016: Focus on:
Enfield,
Connecticut***

By M. Stephen Miller

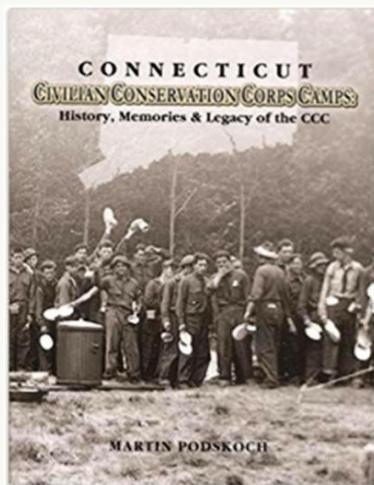
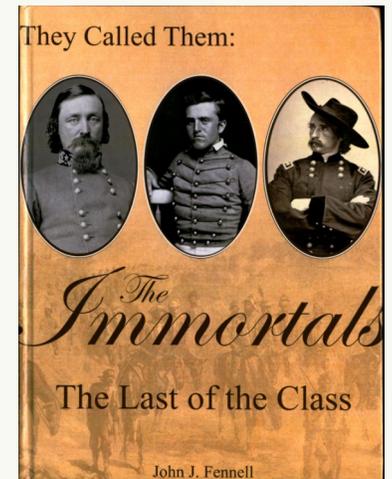
[BX9768.E6 S42
2015](#)



***They Called
Them the
Immortals: the
Last of the
Class***

By John J.
Fennell

[E483.1 .T54
F46 2017](#)



***Connecticut Civilian
Conservation Corps
Camps: History,
Memories & Legacy of
the CCC***

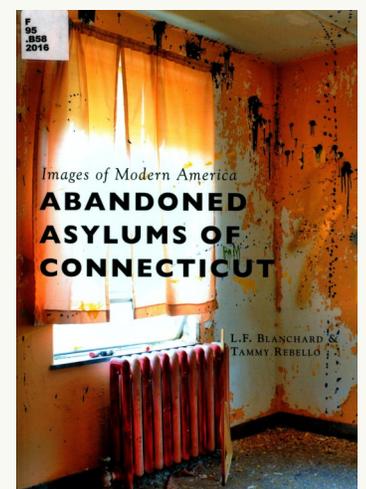
By Martin Podskoch

[SD143 .P63 2016](#)

***Abandoned
Asylums of
Connecticut***

By L. F. Blanchard
and Tammy Rebello

[F95 .B58 2016](#)



Government Information Services

CHRO History—Steve Rice, Government Information Services Librarian

Kevin Johnson's presentation to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities highlights more than seventy-five years of efforts in Connecticut to bring races, ethnicities, religions, and orientations together in the public discussion.

The CHRO predecessor, the Connecticut Inter-racial Commission, was established by Public Act in 1943. At the time, the Commission was mostly concerned with integrating African-Americans. Activities included publicizing laws against discrimination and encouraging equal opportunity in employment and education. See the [Commission's report for 1950](#).

In the 1950s the name changed to the Commission on Civil Rights. The focus expanded to include all minorities. Fair housing was another issue that they addressed.

As civil rights became a heated issue in the 1960s, the Commission actively investigated complaints of discrimination. Under Governor John Dempsey, the Commission changed to its current name and expanded to include regional offices.

From the 1970s to the present the Commission expanded its mandates still further and refined case processing for quicker and more efficient service.

For more information on the CHRO, see their [historical overview page](#).



Kevin Johnson performing as Civil War soldier, William Webb, as part of a Diversity Training session at the State Comptrollers on October 5, 2017.

www.ctstatelibrary.org

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

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



**State Librarian
Kendall F. Wiggin**

