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A Renewed Interest In Our Special Collections.

State Librarian Kendall F. Wiggin

This issue of the CONNector has an article about a project that is improving access to a collection of pamphlets from the Enfield Shaker community. This is but one of many interesting collections of books, pamphlets, magazines, and other material given to the State Library by individuals and organizations in the early part of the twentieth Century. There is only partial cataloging for many of these materials, so scholarly access has been limited. The current budget situation is preventing us from purchasing many new titles, so we are focusing on what we have and creating better access to these hidden treasures. I have convened a team from various units of the library to examine and evaluate these materials and to prioritize them for cataloging, conservation, and in some cases digitization. This sometimes means researching whether there are any special conditions surrounding the gift, or checking the Hartford Courant to see if there were any news stories surrounding a gift - and indeed we have found some such articles. All of this is particularly important when materials are out of the scope of the collection or we have multiple copies of a title. We are asking ourselves: Why do we have this book? Is it significant to the history of Connecticut or New England? Is it a seminal law book or treatise? With many of these titles available in reprinted form or digitally on the Internet, one of the more challenging considerations is whether we are more concerned about the content and its availability or the artifact. We are also taking this opportunity to define just what would constitute a State Library Rare Book Collection. And while old doesn't necessarily make a book rare, the oldest, and we think rarest book in the collections, is the *Abridgement of Cases to the End of Henry VI*. Published in Rouen, France in 1490, the work is attributed to Nicholas Stratham of Lincoln’s Inn, England. It is the first abridgment of English law and one of the few English books printed before 1501, which technically makes it an incunabulum.

In addition to making these books more discoverable through our online catalog, we are also looking at ways to make them more visible. To that end we are considering special shelving in public areas where the books can be displayed.
The U.S. General Land Office exhibit at the Centennial International Exhibition of 1876 (the first official World's Fair in the United States) held in Philadelphia included a 12' by 16' "Centennial Map of the United States." The New York Times referred it as "remarkable" and of "unequaled dimension." The map was the work of Colonel W. L. Wood, Clerk of the U.S. House Committee on Public Lands. Following the Centennial Wood set about to revise and correct the map. C. Roeser was the Chief Draftsmen. The map was published in 17 atlas sheets (the 17th being an index) or as a whole map. The map was produced by Julius Bien Lithographers in New York City. Bien established his business in 1850. His first work for the U.S. government was lithographing maps from the Pacific Railroad Surveys. By the time of the Civil War the lithographing firm of Julius Bien and Company was the outstanding one for map work.

Recently a long wooden box addressed to the "Governor of Connecticut Hartford Conn" was found in one of the library's special collection areas. Rolled up in the box was a copy of the revised Centennial Map of the United States dated 1878. When unrolled the map measured nearly 12' x 8', a slightly smaller version of the original 1876 map. On April 13, 1877 the Harford Daily Courant reported the map had been forwarded from the Interior Department to Governor Hubbard "for use in the state." The article went on to say that the map was being hung in the Comptroller's Office.

Historical Geographer Bill Keegan has been assisting the Connecticut State Library (CSL) staff in researching the map. At some point before the map was sent to Connecticut, the 16 sheets had been put together an backed forming one large map. While the map appears to be held by several institutions in atlas form, no example of anything similar to what is at CSL been found elsewhere. In order not to damage this amazing map by unrolling and rolling it each time a researcher want to study it, we are exploring options and methods for the long term display of the map.
Division of Library Development: Looking Ahead to 2018 - People, Place and Platform

DLD Staff

The Division of Library Development (DLD) has a very busy, exciting year ahead of us beginning with the launch of our IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program grant EXCITE! Transformation for Libraries. This is an intensive team-based experiential learning program that will teach collaboration and innovation skills, result in programs and services that respond to community input and demonstrated needs, lead to cultural change at libraries, and sustain project impact through extended training to many DLD projects finally coming to fruition in a transformative year.

From the DLD Strategic Focus Plan “For libraries to thrive in the current information-rich, knowledge-based society, the Division of Library Development must concentrate its work in areas that meet the current needs and priorities of libraries and the people they serve.” The Division’s key principle is to work together with our colleagues in the Connecticut library community toward the common goal of making libraries “a trusted community resource and an essential platform for learning, creativity and innovation in the community.” (Aspen Institute Dialogue on Public Libraries, Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries, Washington, D.C.: The Aspen Institute, October 2014, page iv). How do we deliver? We Engage and Empower through PEOPLE, PLACE, and PLATFORM."

PEOPLE

DLD’s number one resource is our people — from our consultants, to our support staff to our deliverIT CT drivers, no DLD initiative, project, program or service can exist without our staff. Key people centered activities DLD will be pursuing and or wrapping up this year are:

Civic Literacy Fair
DLD plans to hold a half-day Civic Literacy Fair in late spring/early summer to introduce this literacy to CT librarians and connect them with potential partners to offer programs in their own communities. The goal of the Fair is to help librarians and their patrons be more informed about their communities and local government, and to facilitate discussions about civic engagement.

Financial Literacy
The DLD is a partner with ALA’s national Money Smart Week @ Your Library campaign. Money Smart Week is April 21-28, 2018 and the State Library provides resources to libraries to help them plan finance related programming during that week and throughout the year. DLD also continues to be a partner in the Connecticut Saves / America Saves coalition led by the UConn Extension. DLD partners with UConn Extension, the State

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Departments of Banking and Labor, and others to promote financial literacy resources to Connecticut’s libraries and citizens. Some upcoming partnership events include the Financial Expo at the Legislative Office Building and the Financial Education Expo at the Hartford Job Corps.

**Newspapers of Connecticut**

Historic Connecticut newspapers in the *Newspapers of Connecticut* digital collection are being added to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) for preservation. To date, 19 of the 90+ titles have been added and continue to be added daily. The *Newspapers of Connecticut* collection has remained one of the top five most popular Connecticut State Library digital collections for the past six years. Information about the collection can be found at: [http://cslib.cdmhost.com/edm/landingpage/collection/p15019coll9](http://cslib.cdmhost.com/edm/landingpage/collection/p15019coll9).

**Connecticut State Library Statistical Profile**

In addition to the usual data visualizations provided by the annual Excel “Chart and Report Creators,” we will be expanding our use of Tableau Public. These web-based data visualizations allow users to create and download customized charts and tables for their library. If you are allergic to Excel, give these a try.

**LSTA Grants, 2018-2019**

The DLD is pleased to announce the availability of approximately $75,000 for LSTA grants in two categories:

1. One-year literacy grants will provide up to $7,500 to assist libraries with creating strategic, sustainable partnerships and lifelong learning programs that address the seven literacies in their communities. The seven literacies are described in the Division’s [2018-2022 LSTA Five-Year Plan](http://cslib.cdmhost.com/edm/landingpage/collection/p15019coll9) as basic, early, civic/social, digital/information, financial, health, and legal literacy.

2. Planning grants will provide up to $5,000 to assist libraries with planning initiatives to explore new services, assess and address the needs of changing population and patron bases, develop partnerships and collaboration, or write new strategic plans or long-range master plans, Libraries must have completed both the Best Practices for CT Public Libraries self-assessment and the Aspen Action Guide and must submit the results with their grant applications. Projects must include a community needs assessment component, such as a survey, focus groups, interviews, etc.

**Young Adults and Children**

Planning is in the early stages for an all-day diversity program about getting diversity into children’s and teen book collections and programs.

High demand summer reading lists for the Department of Education are currently being prepared on the theme of music. To enhance the summer reading support program DLD will begin circulating toy musical instruments to libraries in January of 2018.

The ever popular Nutmeg Award season is in full swing with publicity going out soon as well as all the online discussion guides for the 45 new Nutmeg nominees.

**PLACE**

Place can be bricks and mortar or a virtual place where librarians meet; collections are kept; programs take place or place can refer to renovations, repairs to library buildings and in some cases new library buildings that State Library construction grants help make happen.

**Middletown Library Service Center (MLSC) Update**

We will continue the new hours for 2018. MLSC will be open until 8 p.m. the first Thursday of the month and from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of the month for 2018. These new hours help librarians who aren’t available

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to visit and use our collections during our regularly scheduled 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekday hours. MLSC staff members adjust their schedules to cover these new hours so they are being provided at no extra cost to the state. The Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL) Board is taking advantage of our new hours and will be using our meeting room on the first Thursday evening of the month. For more information on MLSC, visit [http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/servicecenters](http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/servicecenters).

**Construction Grants**
The State Library expects to have at least $5 million for library construction grants this year and will announce the availability of these grants in April. Notice of Intent forms will be due by the end of June and applications will be due September 1. This is the most grant money that has been available for several years and libraries are encouraged to apply for grants for large and small projects.

**PLATFORM**
Platform is how DLD connects services and resources to libraries and their patrons.

**eGO Moves Ahead**
In late 2017 the State Library partnered with two organizations to get eGO up and running.

LYRASIS has begun development of the middleware necessary for Connecticut regional library systems to authenticate their libraries’ users to eBook collections by way of the systems’ integrated library systems. The middleware is called a circulation manager. This work will continue on in 2018 at least until member libraries in Library Connection, Bibliomation, and Libraries Online are functioning in eGO.

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) is integrating an eBook acquisitions service based on Feedbooks with the middleware LYRASIS is developing for eGO. The acquisitions service is called the Content Exchange, and it will enable participating library representatives to select eBook titles in the Feedbooks platform that will then appear in eGO.

**Fiber to the Library Communications Grant Program**
Thanks to grants from the CT State Library and funding from the federal E-rate program, 55 public libraries have installed new high-speed fiber connections in 2017 or will install them in 2018. The libraries will transition from their old DSL connections at 3 or 6 Mbps to fiber that supports speeds up to 10 Gbps. We hope to extend the program to more libraries over Years 3 and 4.

Partial funding for the new connections was provided by an authorization of $3.6 million in state bond funds. Additional funding is provided by the Federal Communications Commission through the Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as E-rate. Libraries were asked to apply for E-rate discounts to help offset the full cost of the new dark fiber IRUs and let the bond dollars stretch further. Libraries do not need to filter their computers or be CIPA compliant in order to get new fiber through this project.

The new connections will be made from the library to the nearest access point on the network owned by CEN, Connecticut's broadband network provider for educational institutions and libraries.

- Year 1 = connections to 46 library branches
- Year 2 = connections to nine library branches
- Year 3 = eight libraries have expressed interest in participating. In January 2018 they will have the option to proceed and apply for E-rate funding, with new fiber connections likely completed in winter/spring 2019.
- Year 4 will be the final opportunity for libraries to participate in the project.

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findIT CT & requestIT CT Update
DLD will continue updating holdings in findIT CT, the statewide library catalog, which currently contains the holdings of 290 libraries in Connecticut. Library holdings of the three large networks were updated in the fall. The holdings of the new State Library, State Universities, and Community Colleges consortium are being configured and added to the findIT catalog this winter. New libraries will continue to be added to the findIT catalog on an ongoing basis. For more info on findIT CT, visit http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/finditct

Rollout of requestIT, the statewide ILL system will continue. As of December 2017, 141 libraries participate in requestIT and that number will continue to grow when requestIT training resumes this spring. DLD will begin investigating ‘connectors’ in Fulfillment. Connectors allow findIT and requestIT to interoperate with a library’s Integrated Library System (ILS). Connectors will allow for patron placed ILL requests and will streamline the ILL workflow for staff members. Connectors are used to keep library holdings up to date in the findIT catalog. Participation in requestIT will remain free through June 2018. DLD will begin charging for participation in July 2018; the fees will be used to implement enhancements and to build connectors. For more information on requestIT CT, visit http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/dld/requestitct

Projects/Developments for FY2018:

Oculus
Some DLD staff attended a Futures Conference in September where they heard from experts in various fields. One was Cindy Ball, Program Manager for Oculus in charge of education, who spoke of and demonstrated the potential uses of the Oculus on education and learning. Cindy said the mission of Oculus is "to enable people to experience anything, anywhere, with anyone." DLD purchased an Oculus Rift, staff is being trained on its use, and the library community will be able to try this new technology and develop ways to incorporate it into their own offerings and develop new experiences for their users.

DLD staff is very excited about the upcoming year and looking forward to working with all our libraries and strategic partners to make 2018 yet another success for the Division.

researchIT CT Focus Groups

By Eric Hansen, eGO and researchIT CT Coordinator

On January 22 the Division of Library Development sent an e-mail message out to Connecticut schools, libraries, and academic institutions inviting locations to host one hour focus group sessions. The sessions will take place in February and March and will be the second step in an online resource assessment process that began with a statewide online survey of researchIT CT resources. The process will end later this year with an RFP to go out to eResource vendors. Focus groups will be one hour in length and will be aimed at librarians and users in public and academic libraries throughout the six CLA regions of the state. The sessions will be one hour in length. Where feasible, some sessions will be devoted to observation of K12 students at work with researchIT CT resources. The final schedule of locations and times will appear here:

http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/researchIT_CT/about-researchIT_CT/focus_groups

Factory View Post Card Digitization Project

David Corrigan, Museum Curator and Jackie Bagwell, Information Technology Analyst

Thanks to a generous grant from the Connecticut Post Card Club, the Museum of Connecticut History’s factory view post card collection has been scanned and is in process of being added to the Museum’s web site. The collection consists of over 1,100 views of Connecticut mills and factories and spans nearly a century—from the early 20th century until 2003—the date of two post cards showing the disastrous fire which destroyed the former Atwood Machine Co. in Stonington.

While it is impossible to know if the Museum has “the complete set” of Connecticut factory view post cards, the collection chronicles the changing nature of Connecticut’s factory architecture and reflects demographic and societal changes that influenced decisions as to where to build factories. The post cards capture the origins of the state's industrial base in small, wooden, water-powered mills, many of which still existed in the early 1900s and were depicted in their rural, somewhat bucolic settings, and follows the course of development through multi-story brick and stone factories powered by steam and leather belting, to mid-20th century, single-story, suburban factories run by electricity. The size of the factories depicted in the post cards reflects the changing complexities of scale—from a single building run by one man or family to sprawling establishments requiring trained managers and employing a diverse work force, often numbering in the thousands. Workers' housing, built by factory owners, is also depicted in many of the cards in the collection. An appreciation for the incredible range of products manufactured in Connecticut’s factories also emerges from a study of the collection. A few of the cards provide glimpses of the interiors of factories and the workers who ran and tended the machinery. In many cases, post cards in the collection provide the only as-built view or views of the many factories that were abandoned and later demolished, were destroyed by fire, fell to the wrecking ball during the heyday of urban renewal, or have been rehabbed into commercial or residential complexes.

In addition, the factory view post card collection spans the history of American post cards, including examples of each type of post card identified and now avidly sought by collectors. Cards with “undivided backs” from the early 1900s and with the “white borders” of the 1920s as well as “photochroms,” that first appeared in the 1950s, are to be found in the collection.

In January 2017 the State Library hired Christina Nhean, a recent Central Connecticut State University graduate with a B.A. in History, who has worked extensively on all aspects of the State Library’s Remembering World War I project, to scan the factory view post cards, which she completed in July.

The process of converting a postcard to an electronic image starts with a high resolution scan of both sides of the image. Once-scanned files are created in Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) with a resolution of around 4000 pixels on the long side, which conforms to Connecticut State Library archive standards. The TIFF is then color corrected in Adobe® Lightroom® and metadata (Continued on page 9)
added. A jpg is produced from the TIFF file which is used in the Museum’s website postcard collection.

Currently about 10% of the collection are published to the Museum of Connecticut History’s website. http://www.museumofcthistory.org/connecticut-postcards. The full set should be available by spring 2018. The website depicts a variety of Connecticut’s manufacturing and commerce as seen in this example of the American Paper Goods Factory, Kensington, Conn. Many of the postcards have been addressed, although in this example of the American Paper Goods Factory here is no postage stamp.

Some of the postcards are black and white photographs, others colored as can be seen in the ruins of Adams Mill, Manchester. Often the mill or factory workers would send postcards of where they work. The Adams Mill postcard was sent from South Manchester Connecticut, on May 6th 1916 to Rockville Connecticut. The postcard had a divided back, with a section for the address and place to put the postage stamp, the other half is hand written. This example was made in Germany, published for W.H. Grant Estate. The postage stamp is a 1 cent Washington green. The front of the card shows the mill, and has an effect of hand coloring. A transcription from the back of the postcard reads: Dear Agnes Glad to hear that you are better, thought I should see you before this, may see you or talk with you around Sunday. With Love to all, B.

Another example from the collection is known as the White Border Era type. This example is from the Museum’s collection and is a postcard of the American Chain Company, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The white border around the edge of the front of the postcard provided a place to tag the card as well as reducing the amount of ink needed to print the image. The card was published by W.I. Allen, Bridgeport, Conn. Click on each image to see an enlarged version.

For more information about the history of postcards click on the links below.

The Metro Postcard site is mostly text but has good historical information about each era;

A Smithsonian site—uses cards depicting Washington, D.C. and area as examples of types of cards—good bibliography at the end.

The Collection of postcards is now large enough to need an index with keyword search options on each column, for example town or county, even type of manufacturing i.e. silk as in silk mill. The index is on the main postcard page: http://museumofcthistory.org/connecticut-postcards/ and is a work in progress. When complete the index will contain over 1000 links to postcard images including world war memorials from the towns of Connecticut.
Museum of CT History

Voices of WWI at the Museum of CT History
Jackie Bagwell, Information Technology Analyst

History comes alive with spoken narration. The Connecticut servicemen who went to war during World War 1 left a legacy of documented memories that are on display in the Museum of Connecticut History.

Many of those documents were collected during Connecticut State Library digitization days held in local public libraries throughout the state. Families donated artifacts such as letters, diaries, and photos, some of which can be seen in the museum’s exhibit.

With a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the funding branch of the National Archives, the three partners: Connecticut State Library, CRIS Radio, and the IDEAL Group, Inc. turned archival records and historical documents from the World War 1 exhibit into audio narrations. The enhancement makes the exhibit more accessible to individuals with disabilities or those who like to enhance their viewing experience.

Attached to display cases in the Museum’s main Hall are QR (Quick Response) codes that can be scanned by a smart phone or tablet (with a QR App) and play audio narration. The codes, provided by the CRISAccess™, program integrate QR Code technology with these types of mobile devices to instantly “link and play” audio recordings for people who are blind or print-challenged.

Another way to listen is to access the CRIS Radio’s website. CRIS Radio is a nonprofit radio service, that provides audio versions of print materials; it is located in Windsor, Connecticut. IDEAL Group, Inc., is a spin-off from NCR Corp. that through the use of low/no-cost technology enhances the independence and quality-of-life of individuals with disabilities.

Charles F. Watrous Papers 1917 – 1942

Corporal Charles F. Watrous served in Company F of the 102nd infantry in the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War 1. He enlisted in the National Guard on July 16, 1917 in New Haven, Connecticut. He saw combat in 1918; fought in the Chateau Thierry and Meuse-Argonne offensives; was wounded in the arm by gun fire on July 25, 1918; and received a Purple Heart. Corporal Watrous received an honorable discharge from the United States Army on April 29, 1919.


A sample of the narrated diary can be heard at this link: https://listen.crisradio.org/wire/wwidiaries/00372_NAWATROUSDIARYGRAYBLUE.mp3

Military Questionnaires 1919 – 1920

The military questionnaires were filled out by Connecticut soldiers (or their families) who served in World War 1. The first page of the questionnaire states: “Compiled by the Department of Historical Records of the Connecticut State Council of Defense, State Library, Hartford, where it will be filed, as a permanent memorial of the deeds of Connecticut soldiers and sailors in the service of the federal, state and allied governments during the American participation in the World War.”


A sample of the narrated questionnaire can be heard at this link: https://listen.crisradio.org/wire/ww1servrec/01669_NAMSRHOVEY.mp3.

It is hoped to expand the number of narrated exhibits on display in the Museum of Connecticut History in the future.
The U.S. Model 1842 Pistol Gauges: Aston and Johnson Contract Arms

Dean Nelson, Director, Museum of CT History

Scholars of early American technology and innovation praise three New England gun makers for mastery of identical parts interchangeability; laurels and accolades go to: Eli Whitney (New Haven, Connecticut) for Model 1798 contract muskets, Simeon North (Berlin and Middletown, Connecticut) for 1812-era contract pistols and John H. Hall (Portland, Maine and Harpers Ferry, Virginia) for Model 1819 Hall patent rifles. Interchangeability fostered manufacturing efficiencies and ease of repair to broken guns, especially the intricacies of the lock mechanism. For obvious reasons, the U.S. War Department had the keenest interests in ensuring firearms parts interchangeability, initially in its own National Armories at Springfield, Massachusetts and Harpers Ferry, Virginia and subsequently with private arms contractors gaining government orders for military firearms. Firearms authority Peter A. Schmidt, in his indispensable U.S. Military Flintlock Muskets, the Later Years (2007) quotes an 1819 Ordnance Department report "On the subject of uniformity of arms....it will be necessary to have a set of original patterns and gauges of each and every part...sealed and kept in the Ordnance Department at Washington, and to cause those [gauges] of the superintendent of each factory to be sent occasionally to that office, to be compared with them and fitted anew, if required."

Few gauge sets (or even stand-out individual keepsake gauges) for American flint and percussion firearms have survived discard and loss, once they were rendered obsolete by newer models of guns. The earliest is a partial set for Harper's Ferry Model 1816 Muskets, dated 1826, sold at auction a decade or so ago. Schmidt's book features a remarkable complete set for the 1816 musket stamped "USM1/1832/Ay." Two sets exist for the U.S. Model 1841 Rifle, with guns produced at Harper Ferry Armory and by 5 private contractors, including Eli Whitney, Jr., (New Haven, CT). The Smithsonian Institution's set was installed in a long-running exhibit Engines of Change and graces the accompanying book of the same name. Harper's Ferry National Historical Park's set is regularly an educational display at the Maryland Antique Arms Collectors' annual Baltimore Gun Show. There is a partial 1841 gauge set in a private collection. So, military gauge sets, as crucially important as they were at the time, are today very few and far between.

With this backdrop, the Museum was electrified to be the successful bidder on one complete gauge set and three incomplete sets, to inspect the U.S. Model 1842 Pistol, which was manufactured exclusively under government contracts in Middletown, CT, first by Henry Aston, then Henry Aston & Company, and third by his business partner, Ira N. Johnson. Our study of these has only just begun; we have been in contact with a researcher working towards a publication about single-shot American military pistols who has conducted exhaustive research in the National Archives. He is planning a visit and we warmly welcome his alliance.
The CONNector

**Figure 1:** The U.S. Model 1836 Pistol (top) was superseded by the U.S. Model 1842 Pistol, below. The salient differences included substitution of the new War Department-wide percussion ignition system, far more reliable than the old flint and steel ignition, and brass, rather than iron, hardware for the walnut stock. Generally, both the '36s and '42s were issued in pairs to dragoons (mounted troops) and carried in two connected heavy leather flapped holsters slung in front of the saddle. The loading ramrod, for seating the round bullet on the main powder charge, was held in a swivel to prevent its loss.

The internet phenomena YouTube hosts videos of these military pistols being fired; be aware that dangerous loading practices, especially a hand in front of loaded barrels, are alarmingly common.

**Above:** U.S. Model 1836 Pistol by R. Johnson, *MCH accession #TG1324:* Robert Johnson contracted for and delivered some 18,000 flintlock, single-shot, .54 caliber (54/100ths of an inch) pistol firing a round lead ball. His pistol works were in the Pameacha Factories complex in Middletown, CT, sited on the Pameacha River at the South Main Street bridge, the south part of town.

**Below:** Model 1842 Pistol by H. Aston, *MCH accession #2017.505.2;* Henry Aston produced 24,000 for his first contract (1846-51), and an additional 6,000 as H. Aston & Co. (1851-52). The firm sold its factory and all its assets to business partner Ira N. Johnson (distinguished from flintlock pistol maker Robert Johnson, of uncertain kinship) in 1852. I. N. Johnson, awarded a third and final contract, delivered 10,000 from 1853-55. Most pistols in the three contracts went to the U. S. War Department, though perhaps a limited number with imperfections that failed government inspection were sold commercially or to state militias.

**Figure 2:** Model 1836 Pistol lock marking detail: "US/R. JOHNSON, MIDDn CONN/1842." The black powder priming charge, poured into the brass pan, ignited (usually) when the piece of flint held in the hammer (i.e. cock) struck white hot sparks off the hardened steel of the spring-tensioned pan cover (i.e. frizzen or battery). The mini-explosion flashed through the touch hole to the main charge in the barrel. (Refer to figure 1)

**Figure 3:** Model 1842: Pistol lock marking detail: "US/H. ASTON." Percussion ignition employed a small thin cup of brass holding a dab of mercury fulminate, which exploded when struck; hence "percussion." The cap was set on the cone at the breech and the flame communicated down through the seating bolster to the main charge. The percussion system worked very well even in downpours. (Refer to figure 1)
Figure 4: Aston Model 1842 lock marking detail: "MIDDtn/CONN/1846," the first year of Aston’s deliveries to the Ordnance Department.

Figure 5: Gauge Set "C" MCH accession #2017.504.1 et al: complete complement of 47 gauges; the beam scale and heavy bronze weight "Apparatus for testing lock springs."

Figure 6: The gauges with most obvious purpose include #26: "Receiving gauge for lock," and #8: "Receiving gauge for barrel, with pin for cone seat." Each part would have undergone gauging before assembly and near-final testing in these more complex fixtures. Earlier collector(s) possessing the gauge sets added four .42 pistols (three H. Astons and one I.N. Johnson) to disassemble and match-up parts with associated gauges to illustrate their function.

Figure 7: Working shop gauges, unmarked, likely made by Aston/Johnson’s highly skilled gunsmiths/pattern makers, for testing of parts under production to avoid unnecessary wear of the Springfield Armory-made master gauge set provided to them. They are much less finely finished than the Springfield gauges. Interchangeability requires precision tolerances of .002 inch (two-thousandths of an inch).
Figure 8: The Ordnance Manual for the Use of Officers of the United State Army, 1850 owned by John Sedgwick, Bvt. Major, U. S. A. Fort McHenry Baltimore April 13th 1850;

Figure 9: Numbered nomenclature index of the Model 1842 pistol gauges from the 1850 Ordnance Manual.

Figure 10: US Ordnance Department Inspector Stamps; “WAT” for Captain William A. Thornton, chief inspector of contract arms; “NWP” for Nahum W. Patch, civilian inspector of contract arms. These were hand stamped on the stock flat opposite the lock and warranted that the completed arm fully met all contract requirements. Thornton and Patch, at the factory, applied these before crating pistols for shipment.

Figure 11: Johnson Model 1836 Pistol internal lock parts: The workman of this lock deeply struck a "V" on visible surfaces of most parts...lock plate, brass pan, tumbler, bridle, sear and screws...to verify that this group of components had been properly hand fitted to one another. This marking was done while the parts were "soft," i.e., still workable by milling cutters and files and before they underwent special heat treatment to harden the pieces. After hardening, a file glances off; only abrasive stones can now remove metal. The process reduced prospects of wear and deformation and imparted a brilliant fire-blue to the surfaces. Hardening was tricky to do, given the variables of metal alloy, furnace temperature, and heating time. The internals sometimes were overly brittle and thus susceptible to breakage, underscoring the decided virtue of interchangeable parts in manufacturing and repair. It is a coincidence if parts from one Johnson 1836 pistol lock happen to fit in a second one.

Figure 12: Aston Model 1842 Pistol internal parts. In stark contrast to the "V" marks on the non-interchangeable Johnson flint lock, the Aston internals are devoid of assembler marks. The gauging system guaranteed that each and every part that passed gauge would fully, freely, and decidedly fit mating parts that had also passed gauge. Like the 1836 parts, they were soft during the metal-removing phases of their making and then completed by hardening. The springs of the '36s and '42s were made of "spring steel" that underwent a different heat tempering process and were polished bright.
The CONNector

Museum of CT History

Figure 13: Broken U.S. Military Musket Lock Parts, 1817-1865: Hardened internal lock parts were prone to fracture. The *Ordnance Manual*, 1850, featured a list titled “Spare parts required for the repair of 1000 Percussion Rifles, Musketoons, and Pistols, during one year, in the field.” The Manual noted that for non-interchangeable guns “The spare parts furnished from the armories are in general *filed and finished*, except hardening and tempering.” The fully interchangeable parts of the Aston & Johnson Model 1842 pistols were issued pre-fitted and hardened and effortlessly replaced the broken part.

The factory buildings there are gone; the site is now the natural attraction’s parking lot. The river was variously known as the Coginchaug, the Little River, and the West River in the 19th century, a source of research befuddlement until that is understood. The map does not hint at the area’s actual topography of steep banks, today moderately wooded. From *County Atlas of Middlesex, Connecticut*, F. W. Beers, 1874.

Figure 14: Map detail of Rockfalls, Conn.: The green arrow locates the Aston & Johnson pistol factory. Local historian (and neighbor!) Thomas Atkins in 1883 wrote “This building was built of brick with a stone basement, 80 feet long by 30 feet wide, and two stories high above the basement.” Here it is titled Savage and Smith Pistol Factory. It burned in 1879, five years after this map. Inventor Otis Smith, who did "quite an extensive business there" before the conflagration, bought the property and in 1881 "erected thereon a three-story brick building, 100 feet long by 30 feet wide." Smith made commercial rim-fire metallic cartridge pocket pistols. That second factory survives and underwent extensive renovation as a private residence not long ago. The red arrow designates Wadsworth Falls, part of the state park of the same name.

Figure 15: Toy "Pop Gun," circa 1850s. *MCH accession #2017.490*: Using Model 1842 production components—a walnut stock blank, brass butt cap, back strap and trigger guard, and an iron ram rod...a Mr. "Ashton" (not Aston), stamped his last name atop the brass tube which housed a coil spring and air chamber for this parlor gun. The iron forepart of the barrel was first loaded, using the ram rod to push a 1/2" diameter cork ball to the bottom. The iron tube was then pulled forward, and held forward by the trigger mechanism. Under stretched-tension by the coil spring, the iron barrel snapped backward by the pull of the trigger. The air in the brass chamber compressed through the iron barrel and propelled the cork ball towards its target. A Peter Ashton was Henry Aston's main gunsmith and *likely* this is his creation. In a remarkably humorous touch, the script initials "WAT"-in-an-oval is struck in the left side of the stock near the breech, as on the full-blown government '42s. The stamp is that of William A. Thornton, U. S. inspector of contract arms, who seemingly was amenable to light-hearted vignettes; (or perhaps his stamp got applied by a prankster?)
The Enfield Shaker Collection at the Connecticut State Library

William Anderson, Catalog Librarian

In 1915, State Librarian George Goddard accepted a collection of books and pamphlets amounting to several hundred individual pieces from Eldress M. Catherine Allen of the Mt. Lebanon, NY Shaker community and Elder Walter Shepherd, head of the Enfield family of Shakers. The collection had been accumulated by the Enfield Shakers over the course of its existence.

The donation of the Enfield Shaker Collection to the Connecticut State Library signaled the end of an era for the Shaker presence in Connecticut. The Enfield Shaker community would eventually fold in 1917 with the property sold off and the last three Shakers departing for other communities, but it had been clear for some time that the population was declining with sections of the community closing down during the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century.

The Shaker Community in Enfield, Connecticut (not to be confused with the Shakers in Enfield, New Hampshire) had its origin in a small group of Shakers who met at David Meacham’s home. Despite distrust and even violence from the locals, the group continued to attract new members. In 1792 the Enfield Shaker Community was officially founded on land donated by David Meacham.

The titles in the Enfield Shaker Collection reflect the spiritual and earthly concerns of the Community. These include spiritual works for members of the community as well as tracts clearly aimed at outsiders that seek to explain Shakerism to the wider world. On the more earthly side are advertising pamphlets for various products produced by the Shakers such as honey and seeds.

The Connecticut State Library Preservation and Cataloging staff have begun and continue to work on the pamphlet part of the Collection. This consists of 221 titles, bound into volumes in 1915 as shown on the right.

And since unbound by Preservation staff, the collection is now housed in boxes with individual pamphlets placed in acid free folders as seen in the picture on the left.

Each pamphlet also received a catalog record with title state for the Collection enabling searches to pull up all titles under the collection. The Collection will be housed together in the Connecticut State Library Special Collections area.

References: https://connecticuthistory.org/enfields-shaker-legacy/

Watch a video of Library Technician Glenn Sherman dismantling bound volumes of the Shaker Collection:
https://youtu.be/BDdgXTS2tJo
In addition to the extensive book, map, and manuscript collections found at the Connecticut State Library, there are over 80,000 photographic images as well. These images will be found in the pictorial collections stored and preserved as part of archival record group #64 of the Connecticut State Archives. These picture collections are arranged in approximately 70 individual picture groups and contain a wide range of topics and Connecticut related subject matter, along with identified images of individuals and places. The images are also found in a wide range of formats and sizes. Images found in the picture collections may include miniature cartes de visite or giant posters from World War I, along with all manner of portraits, glass plate negatives, bookplates, postcards, and other vintage photography.

Many of the picture collections depict images of Connecticut in the mid-19th to early-20th century when photography was really becoming increasingly popular, readily available and affordable. One such picture collection is Picture Group #320, **The Clark Photograph Collection of Connecticut Houses**. Donated to the Connecticut State Library in October 1946 by Mrs. Delphina Hammer Clark of Suffield, Connecticut, the collection consists of four boxes of photographs containing 2,788 images taken by the Homestead View Company of Springfield, Massachusetts. It is unknown how Mrs. Clark obtained the images, but it is clear that she was a very active member of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society of Connecticut and Colonial Dames, and assisted in several colonial home restorations throughout Connecticut.

The Homestead View Company sent out photographers such as John L. Bame of New York who were paid $250 a month, plus expenses, on specific routes throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York from 1885 to 1895 to take pictures within a community. The goal was to sell the images back to the homeowner and other interested individuals for a nice profit. Route lists like the one depicted on the right were used to record the location, resident, and photograph number of where the image was taken. This particular list is numbered #95 and is dated August 16, 1888; it starts at the Seeley & Bryan store in Washington Depot.

**The Clark Photograph Collection of Connecticut Houses** offers a unique glimpse into rural Connecticut during the 1885-1895 time period when the urban areas of Hartford, Waterbury, New Haven and Bridgeport were seeing a great rise in population, and the farms and smaller rural communities were seeing a decline. The images show people as they were, in their natural environment with family, friends, pets, horses, livestock and their homes. Unlike the sometimes stiff, formal, studio portraits of the day, the images caught in John L. Bame's camera were candid and revealing of both the families and the communities they lived in. As a majority

(Continued on page 18)
of the images are identified on the back and are arranged by Connecticut town or location, The Clark Photograph Collection of Connecticut Houses could hold an easy to find image of local interest to the family or local historian. For instance, to the right is an image taken from the Clark Collection (box #29, Tariffville folder) of the Ariel Mitchelson, Jr. family of Tariffville, Connecticut. Ariel Mitchelson was a prosperous farmer in the Connecticut River Valley who helped promote the cultivation of shade tobacco as a major cash crop in the region. Ariel can be seen leaning against the fence in front of his well appointed stately home on Elm Street. His wife Elizabeth is seen at the gate, and it is presumed that the girl to Ariel's right is his daughter, also named Elizabeth. The young man holding the horse, which is a common theme found throughout this picture collection, is likely one of Ariel's three sons. A fine looking New England family indeed!

This image is in marked contrast to another photograph, found in the same folder, seen on the right, taken in front of the Tariffville School. One can easily see the hardship of the times, with several of the children not having shoes. In fact, on the back of the portrait someone even wrote, "poor like hell not a dollar in the neighborhood".

While a great many of the images from The Clark Photograph Collection of Connecticut Houses are in some way identified, over a hundred have not been. There are many unidentified homes, schools, railroads, and other images that have yet to be properly identified and placed in a town box as the others have been. In an attempt to shed some light onto some of these unidentified photographs the following are images of seven unidentified churches with any information as provided on the back of the image. Perhaps you recognize one of these churches as being in your community. If so, we would like to hear from you so that we might properly identify the location of the church and place it in the appropriate town box in The Clark Photograph Collection of Connecticut Houses. If you have any information about any of the churches below and what town they might be in, please e-mail reference librarian Mel Smith at mel.smith@ct.gov. Please include the photo # with your response as well.

(Continued on page 19)
Access Services

It is hoped that in the coming years more unidentified images from The Clark Photograph Collection of Connecticut Houses will be posted on the Connecticut State Library FaceBook page, or on our website, for possible identification. If you wish to view the images of The Clark Photograph Collection of Connecticut Houses at the Connecticut State Library you may do so as a paper copy of this picture collection was created during its processing in 1989 and may be accessed any time during regular library hours. The original photographs may be accessed by patrons who follow the Guidelines on Use of Restricted Original Archival Records.

So stop on by, and see what the Connecticut State Library might have for pictures of Connecticut’s bygone days that might add color to your family or local history!

Recognize any of these photos?

Email Mel Smith!
Access Services

Recognize any of these photos? Please Email Mel Smith!
New Electronic Resources

Conservators & Guardians Index: New Index on the Connecticut State Library Database Page
Mel Smith and Jeannie Sherman, H&G Reference Librarians

Reference Librarians Carolyn Picciano, Jeannie Sherman and Mel Smith of the History & Genealogy Unit, with assistance from Jackie Bagwell of the IT staff, have created and made available an online index to the Conservators & Guardians Series of court records which are part of the Connecticut State Archives Record Group 003, Records of the Judicial Department. The Conservators & Guardians Series is a part of the Papers by Subject collection, an early effort by library staff to organize court records by topic. A conservator was a person appointed by a local court to manage another person’s finances or real estate. A guardian was a person appointed by the court to take care of minor children. The index contains 1,494 entries and may reference files from the Superior or County Courts for Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham counties. The index covers an overall date range of 1699 to 1900, though not all counties are fully represented for that entire time period.

The index includes the following information:
- Last, first, and middle name of the individual
- Whether it is a conservator or guardian file
- Year the file was initially created
- Town where the person is resident
- County, court, and box number where the original document was found
- Any remarks of interest regarding the case

The index can be found at the following address: http://www.ctatatelibrarydata.org/papers-by-subject-conservators-guardians/

Please keep in mind that this index is not comprehensive, and additional information may be found within the un-separated files and records of each court.

People may request a copy of a file by contacting us by telephone (860) 757-6580 or email. Please include the name of the individual, date, and which court. Please understand that some files are extremely fragile and may not be able to be reproduced and/or read with ease.

It is hoped that other topics from the Papers by Subject court records series will be indexed in the near future for our patrons to use and discover more about Connecticut families!
New Electronic Resources

New Connecticut State Library Electronic Resource Available
Hartford County Superior Court Record Indexes for 1836-1951

Mel Smith, H&G Reference Librarian

The Connecticut State Library has within the Connecticut State Archives a unique and extensive collection of original Connecticut court materials which have been stored and preserved within a specific archival record group: (RG) #003, Records of the Judicial Department.

This collection of judicial records covers the years 1636 to 1991 and includes over 5,000 cubic feet of primary source documentation detailing Connecticut’s rich judicial history from the colonial time period, to the end of the twentieth century. Though there are many types of recorded accounts found within the various court systems over the past 375+ years, in general there are two formats of documentation of interest to the historical researcher: court files which are the working papers of a court case, and court record volumes which are the official record and judgment of a court case.

The Connecticut State Library has now made available scanned images of the indexes found in the Hartford County Superior Court record volumes for the years 1836-1951. Both civil (1836-1951), and criminal (1836-1942) record indexes are included, along with two volumes of default/award records (1859-1879) and a single volume of miscellaneous (1875-1944). Volumes 1-7 (1798-1835) of the Hartford Superior Court records are not included as they do not contain individual indexes as later volumes do. Volumes 8-25 (1836-1877) contain both civil and criminal records, whereas later volumes (1877-1951) are separated into civil and criminal categories.

The Hartford County Superior Court Record Indexes are available online at https://ctstatelibrary.org/hartford-superior-court-record-indexes/.

If a record of interest is found in any of the Hartford Superior Court Record indexes and a reproduction of the original record is desired, a copy may be requested via E-mail at https://ctstatelibrary.org/contact-us/email-us/ or by contacting the History & Genealogy Unit of the Connecticut State Library at (860) 757-6580.
**The Imprint of Congress**


What kind of job has America's routinely disparaged legislative body actually done? In *The Imprint of Congress*, the distinguished congressional scholar David R. Mayhew gives us an insightful historical analysis of the U.S. Congress's performance from the late eighteenth century to today, exploring what its lasting imprint has been on American politics and society. Mayhew suggests that Congress has balanced the presidency in a surprising variety of ways, and in doing so, it has contributed to the legitimacy of a governing system faced by an often fractious public.

**The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice**


The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice looks at the role the Connecticut Prison Association played in the formation of the state's criminal justice system. Now organized under the name Community Partners in Action (CPA), the Connecticut Prison Association was formed to ameliorate the conditions of criminal defendants and people in prison, improve the discipline and administration of local jails and state prisons, and furnish assistance and encouragement to people returning to their communities after incarceration. The organization took a leading role in prison reform in the state and was instrumental in a number of criminal justice innovations. Gordon S. Bates, former Connecticut Prison Association volunteer and executive director (1980–1998), offers a detailed history of this and similar voluntary associations and their role in fostering a rehabilitative, rather than a retributive, approach to criminal justice. First convened in 1875 as the Friends of Partners of Prisoners Society, then evolving into the Connecticut Prison Association and CPA, the organization has consistently advocated for a humane, rehabilitative approach to prisoner treatment.

**Connecticut Made: Homegrown Products by Local Craftsmen, Artisans, and Purveyors**


A unique guidebook and local resource full of hundreds of things to find and buy, crafts to discover, factories to explore, and history to uncover—all made in Connecticut. Hundreds of the state's top cottage industries—all places that you can shop and/or tour—are showcased. Organized by product type, categories include ceramics/pottery, clothing/accessories, furnishings/furniture, glassware, home décor, jewelry, specialty foods, toys/games, and so much more. Together, these homegrown establishments help make up the identity of the Nutmeg State and are part of the larger fabric of what is distinctively New England.
**New E-Books**

**Connecticut Beer: A History of Nutmeg State Brewing**


The history of the frothy beverage in Connecticut dates back to early colonists, who used it to quench their thirst in the absence of clean drinking water. So integral was beer to daily life in the colony that government officials and militiamen congregated in taverns like the General Wolfe to talk laws and business over pints of ale. Over the next two centuries, the number of breweries rose and then declined, especially after Prohibition. It was not until the 1980s that homebrewers brought this vital Nutmeg State tradition back to life, hatching the likes of New England and Cottrell Brewing Companies, as well as brewpubs including City Steam and Southport Brewing. More recently, small operations with one or two people, such as Relic and Beer’d, are changing the landscape again. Connecticut beer writer Will Siss introduces readers to the hardworking people who keep the breweries and beer bars inviting and the hoppy history alive.

**Vanished Downtown Hartford**


Early nineteenth-century illustrations of Hartford, Connecticut, show church steeples towering over the Victorian homes and brownstone facades of businesses around them. The modern skyline of the town has lost many of these elegant steeples and their quaint and smaller neighbors. Banks have yielded to newer banks, and organizations like the YMCA are now parking lots. In the 1960s, Constitution Plaza replaced an entire neighborhood on Hartford’s east side. The city has evolved in the name of progress, allowing treasured buildings to pass into history. Those buildings that survive have been repurposed--the Old State House, built in 1796, is one of the oldest and has found new life as a museum. Yet the memory of these bygone landmarks and scenes has not been lost. Historian Daniel Sterner recalls the lost face of downtown and preserves the historic landmarks that still remain with this nostalgic exploration of Hartford’s Hopes and Expectations: The Origins of the Black Middle Class in Hartford


Describes in rich detail African American daily life among free blacks in the North in the 1860s.
From an Intern

Interning at the Connecticut State Library: Processing the Daniel W. Strickland Papers

Matthew Rhoades, MLIS Student SCSU; Adjunct Instructor, Elihu Burritt Library/Veterans History Project, CCSU

Before last fall, I had no work experience in libraries. At that point, most of what I learned in library school was theoretical. Getting hands-on experience with library services as well as the eagerness of Connecticut State Library (CSL) staff to share their wisdom with me, were the most valuable and treasured parts of the experience. While I learned enough to fill a small book, I will focus here on the project on which I spent the most time at the CSL: processing the Walter W. Strickland Papers.

Allen Ramsey supervised my work on the Strickland Papers at Van Block Avenue. Captain Daniel W. Strickland commanded a rifle company in the 102nd Infantry. He accumulated the documents to write Connecticut Fights, a history of the 102nd Infantry in France during World War I. Among the papers were transport orders, field orders, special orders, change orders, casualty lists, reports from the sanitary train (medical), and after-battle reports. The documents probably had not been touched since the 1930s, but were in surprisingly good shape. Nonetheless, when writing dispatches in a trench, officers or NCOs used whatever paper they had at hand. Most of the correspondence was typed, but the after-battle reports usually were not. I wrote brief descriptions of each document in the box; there were over 400 items.

The next step was to prepare the collection for storage. In accordance with archival practice, I kept the items in original order for the most part. Fortunately, I had a copy of Strickland’s book to use as a guide, since he quoted liberally from the documents. The layout of his book suggested an organizing principle—group the papers according to the campaign that they described. Once I devised the organizational plan, I removed all rusted paper fasteners. Most of the removed fasteners were, in fact, stick pins. The extant staples in most of the items were in remarkably good shape. The papers then had to be smoothed out, which was simpler than one might expect for century-old documents. Once the items were ready for storage, I prepared six folders to correspond with the sectors of the Western Front in which the 102nd Infantry served. Now that the items are in folders, they will flatten out more and be much easier to use than previously.

(Continued on page 26)
With the physical work done, it was time to compose the finding aid for the Strickland Papers. That entailed a couple of weeks of research on Strickland’s life. He was an interesting character. Before the war, he was a first lieutenant in the Second Connecticut Infantry, U. S. Army National Guard, as well as a foreman at the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in New Haven. When Congress declared war against Germany in April 1917, the First and Second Connecticut Infantry regiments were combined into the 102nd Infantry and assigned to the 26th “Yankee” Division, comprised of National Guard units from across New England. Once in France, Strickland led his troops into action against the Germans at Seicheprey and the Chemin des Dames. On 22 July 1918, as Strickland led his company into the French village of Épieds, a German high-explosive shell landed near him and peppered his right arm with shrapnel. Captured by German infantrymen, Strickland spent most of the rest of the war in a military hospital in Strahlkowo, East Prussia (modern Poland).

Information about Strickland’s post-internment life required copious sleuthing. In early November 1918, Strickland escaped Strahlkowo and fled to Warsaw. His flight ended in Padua, Italy, where, in December, he reported to AEF Italy headquarters. During the war, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) maintained a registry of prisoners of war at its headquarters in Geneva. The ICRC recently digitized the records and published them online. I found Strickland’s record, which is somewhat at odds with the story he told about his escape after the war. I doubted the story until I read a war memoir written by a sergeant who served in the 332nd Infantry Regiment, the sole American unit on the Italian front. The sergeant noted that in mid-November a handful of ragged Americans turned up at his company’s billets in Treviso. They claimed to be POWs who had escaped from Germany. Their stories eventually checked out. The following month, the sergeant noted, a captain arrived in Treviso and claimed to be the commander of the men who came through the month before. The timing fits--it might have been Strickland. Upon his return to Connecticut, Strickland entered Yale Divinity School and became a Congregationalist minister. He eventually died in Florida in the early 1960s. Strickland’s interesting story certainly merits further investigation.

Although I worked with Allen and the archival staff for the longest stretch, I am also indebted to Nancy Lieffort, who oversaw my work in the first portion of the internship, and to Diane Pizzo, who kept me busy with the Orange Tape Collection. Ken Wiggin and all of the CSL staff are unparalleled exemplars of expertise and professionalism. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as an intern, and I will heartily recommend the experience to my colleagues in the Library & Information Science program at SCSU.
**Black History Month**

**In Honor of Black History Month —**  
**Robert Kinney, Outreach Services Librarian**

February is Black History month when we honor African Americans who have made contributions and sacrifices for society. January 15, 2018 marked the 86th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On that day I decided to pay a visit to my home town and go into the city to visit the King Memorial.

The memorial is located along Independence Ave SW near the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument, not too far from where Dr. King made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Dr. King is the first African American honored with a memorial on the National Mall, in Washington DC, and the fourth non-president to be remembered in such a way.

The design of the memorial features many entrances and approaches that symbolize the openness of democracy. There is also a stone of hope that features a sculpture of Dr. King.

There are also granite walls that have quotes from some of Dr. King’s speeches. One of my favorite quotes from his book, *Strength to Love* is featured on the wall. The quote reads:

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*

As I stood out in the cold, gazing at this huge massive statue, the thought came to my mind that this is a beautiful representation of Dr. King’s legacy.

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**Library Events**

**Third Thursday Presentation, January 18, 2018**

Diana Ross McCain, author of the new historical novel *Thy Children’s Children*, gave a talk on the Lyman's of Lyman Orchards. Between 1741 and 1871, Lyman men and women established and nurtured a farm and homestead that are owned by descendants to this day. Attendees were welcome to purchase her book at the end of the presentation.

**Third Thursday Presentation, February 15, 2018**

Maisa Tisdale is President of the Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community in Bridgeport, CT. Founded in 2009, the Freeman Center owns and is restoring the Mary & Eliza Freeman Houses, the oldest remaining homes built by African Americans in CT (circa 1848). The Houses are the last original buildings of historic “Ethiope” later called “Liberia or Little Liberia” (circa 1822). The center seeks to establish an African American Historic Site of national importance consisting of a museum, education center, and housing.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.
**Staff Events**

**Staff Day, November 21, 2017-Van Block Facility—Memories**

Highlights of Staff Day 2017 included presentations on customer service; Privacy & Data Security in Connecticut; how to use a fire extinguisher, presented by the Hartford Fire Department; a staff presentation on the Enfield Shaker Community; and an environmental review of the State Library campus given by map specialist and library patron Bill Keegan. Other highlights included longevity awards, a catered lunch, and lots of camaraderie.

**Holiday Luncheon, December 15, 2017 Museum of CT History—Setting Up**

Staff enjoyed a Holiday Luncheon with colleagues and visitors with a catered lunch, festive music, pot luck desserts, and a raffle. A good time was had by all.

**H&G Breakfast, December 21, 2017 Staff Lounge—A Good Time!**

An annual tradition at the State Library is the H&G Breakfast. Staff gather the day before the Christmas break for a breakfast of favorite seasonal treats. Everyone loves this event!
Staff Events

Diane Pizzo Retires – Congratulations!

On January 31, 2018, CSL staff and visitors enjoyed a retirement reception for Diane Pizzo in the CSL Lounge. Diane enjoyed a long, prosperous career at the State Library. The positions she held at the State Library included Library Assistant, General Reference & Government Documents; Library Technician, General Reference & Government Documents; Serials Librarian/Librarian II, Collection Management; Library Specialist, Serials; and her last position as Unit Head in Collection Services. State Librarian Kendall Wiggin read a retirement resolution that will be signed by the State Library Board. Diane ’s family attended. Diane retired as of January 1st and she will definitely be missed.
January 18, 2018

Diana Ross McCain, author of the new historical novel *Thy Children’s Children*, will give a talk on the Lyman’s of Lyman Orchards.

February 15, 2018

Maisa Tisdale, President of the Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community will give a talk on the historic freeman houses of little Liberia, located in Bridgeport, CT.

March 15, 2018

Ph.D. Candidate in History at the University of Connecticut Mary Mahoney will give a talk on *Prescribing from the Bookshelf Louise Sweet and Connecticut’s role in the Library War Service*.

April 19, 2018

Judge Michael Shay will give a talk on the Connecticut’s Yankee Division who fought in World War I at the Battle of Seichepre.

May 17, 2018

Rachel Thomas-Shapiro, Waterfront Supervisor, Interpretation Department, Mystic Seaport Museum will give a talk on the Connecticut oyster industry.

June 21, 2018

Dr. Stoner, Department of Entomology, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will give a talk on developing alternatives to insecticides for managing vegetable insects.
Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero is a feature-length animated film based on the true story of the bond between a stray dog and a soldier, set against the backdrop of America’s entry into World War I. For his valorous actions, Sgt. Stubby is still recognized today as the most decorated canine in history.

With the War to End All Wars looming, a young Army “doughboy” Robert Conroy (Logan Lerman, “Percy Jackson & the Olympians”) has his life forever changed when a little dog with a stubby tail wanders into training camp.

Conroy gives his new friend a name, a family, and a chance to embark on the adventure that would define a century.

Narrated by Robert’s sister, Margaret (Academy Award® nominee Helena Bonham Carter, “Ocean’s 8,” “Harry Potter” series), Stubby and his new best friend quickly find themselves in the trenches of France and on the path to history.

French poilu soldier Gaston Baptiste (Academy Award® nominee Gérard Depardieu, “Cyrano de Bergerac,” “Life of Pi”) befriends the duo and accompanies them along their epic journey through harsh conditions and incredible acts of courage.

Sgt. Stubby’s actions show the world the true meaning of dedication, loyalty, and what it means to be an American Hero.

BOOK YOUR GROUP’S VISIT TO THE WORLD OF SGT. STUBBY
From school field trips to private screenings in your hometown cinema, Sgt. Stubby offers a “dog’s eye view” of American history perfect for groups of all ages:

www.stubbymovie.com/#group-events

groupsales@funacademystudios.com

Marching Into Theaters APRIL 13, 2018
Follow @StubbyMovie on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and Instagram

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