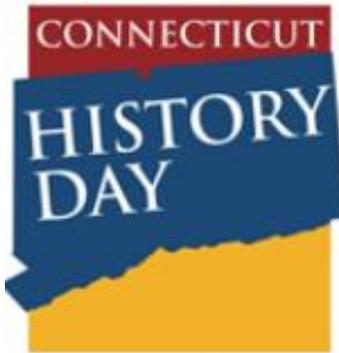




A selection of topic suggestions for the 2018-19 Connecticut History Day season



Contributions from: ConnecticutHistory.org, Connecticut Explored, New Haven Museum, Central Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University, Sacred Heart University, Connecticut State Library, Manchester Community College, Old Saybrook Historical Society, Danbury Museum and Historical Society, Avon Historical Society, Hartford History Center, Connecticut Landmarks, and others



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Agriculture

Literacy Tests and the Right to Vote

In 1855, Connecticut became the first state to require a literacy test to vote, with the goal of preventing Irish immigrants from voting. The test was later used to keep Puerto Rican laborers and other groups of people from voting, until civil rights activists made the literacy tests illegal.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Windsor Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/literacy-tests-and-the-right-to-vote/>

Architecture & Preservation

Emily Holcombe: Preserving Connecticut's Colonial Past

Emily Seymour Goodwin Holcombe was an activist and preservationist who took pride in the state's history, particularly its colonial past. From the 1890s through the early 20th century, Holcombe organized numerous preservation efforts, including the restoration of Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground and the preservation of Connecticut's Old State House.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut's Old State House

Ancient Burying Ground (Hartford)

Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/emily-holcombe-pioneered-to-preserve-connecticuts-colonial-past/>

Saving Hartford's Amos Bull House

The first building in Connecticut nominated to the National Register was the endangered Amos Bull House at 350 Main Street, the oldest brick house in downtown Hartford. The story of its survival and transformation has many twists and turns, and the involvement of many committed individuals.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Amos Bull House

Butler-McCook House

Connecticut Landmarks

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/saving-hartfords-amos-bull-house/>

The Collapse of L'Ambiance Plaza

On April 23, 1987, twenty-eight workers lost their lives during a collapse at the L'Ambiance Plaza construction site in Bridgeport. The fallout from the L'Ambiance Plaza tragedy did bring greater focus to issues of public safety and led to a moratorium on "lift-slab" construction until 1994, when the government unveiled new federal safety regulations surrounding the process.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Bridgeport Public Library

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/the-collapse-of-the-lambiance-plaza/>

Redevelopment

In the early 1950s cities across America had to rethink what to do about outdated factories and other structures. They wanted to create "curb appeal" in some of the "run-down" neighborhoods. New Haven was one of the earliest cities to receive federal money to rebuild or re-development pockets of the city. It had an impact on housing, employment, and heritage. Was this a triumph or tragedy?

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum

The Good Works of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Have you ever hiked the scenic trails in Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth, taken a swim on a hot day at Day Pond State Park in Colchester, or climbed the breathtaking trail along the falls at Kent Falls State Park? If you have you owe it to the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Connecticut's state parks and forests from 1933 to 1942. During the Depression, this federal program paid thousands of young men all over the state to build campsites, cut trails in the forests, plant trees, and perform a hundred other conservation jobs.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Connecticut State Parks

Links:

<https://www.ctexplored.org/the-good-works-of-the-civilian-conservation-corps/>

Arts

Art Young, Radical Cartoonist

Art Young was a political cartoonist whose criticisms of U.S. involvement in WWI resulted in a trial for espionage -- punishable by 20 years in prison.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Art Young Gallery, Bethel

Bethel Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/art-young-radical-cartoonist/>

Ellis Ruley: Art that Celebrated Life

African American artist Ellis Ruley is better known today than in his lifetime. His astonishing story is an integral part of Norwich's history. After working in the town's industrial economy, Ruley's narrative swerved dramatically during the Great Depression. That story bucked and pulled on Norwich's social mores, resulting in tragedy. More questions than answers puncture the account, just as the artist leaves behind enigmatic, enchanting paintings.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Slater Memorial Museum

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/ellis-ruley-art-that-celebrated-life/>

Marian Anderson Triumphs Over Racial Discrimination

Marian Anderson, throughout her long career, moved the civil rights platform in a positive direction for herself and for aspiring African American musical artists. Ms. Anderson faced discriminatory practices in the wider world of music, throughout her career, but despite this, triumphantly emerged as an American music icon, noted for her civil rights efforts and her amazing, gorgeous contralto voice with tremendous vocal range. Ms. Anderson chose to make Danbury, CT her home for more than 50 years, impacting the local community, the nation and the world with her vision and her voice.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Danbury Museum & Historical Society, Marian Anderson Studio

UPENN online Marian Anderson Exhibit

USPS online Marian Anderson stamp exhibit

Smithsonian Museum of African American Culture

Aviation

The Lafayette Escadrille

Named after the Frenchman who helped the United States earn its independence from Great Britain during the American Revolution, this French squadron was composed of American pilots who helped the French fight the Germans before the United States entered World War I in 1917.

Field trip and research possibilities:

New England Air Museum

Links:

<http://www.neam.org/lafayette-escadrille/americansinfas.html>

The Kosciusko Squadron

This unit was made up of American volunteer pilots who helped the Polish fight for their independence from the Soviet Union between 1919-1921. The unit was named after a Polish patriot who helped the Americans during the Revolutionary War.

Field trip and research possibilities:

New England Air Museum

Links:

<http://web.ccsu.edu/kosciuszko/history.htm>

The Flying Tigers

Officially known as the American Volunteer Group, these American aviators went to China to help the Chinese fight the Japanese before the United States declared war on Japan after its attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Field trip and research possibilities:

New England Air Museum

Links:

<http://www.historynet.com/american-volunteer-group-claire-l-chennault-and-the-flying-tigers.htm>

Belief

Reverend James Pennington: A Voice for Freedom

After growing up as a slave in Maryland, James Pennington escaped to the north and became a pastor, educator, and political activist in Hartford. He became a strong advocate for African American education, black suffrage, and the abolition of slavery, and believed that educating his students would give them the skills to become truly free.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Faith Congregational Church in Hartford
Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/reverend-james-pennington-a-voice-for-freedom/>

Hartford's First African American Church

In 1819, a group of African Americans in Hartford grew weary of being assigned seats in the galleries and in the rear of churches and decided to begin worshipping on their own in the conference room of the First Church of Christ, now Center Church, in Hartford. This would become the first black Congregational Church in Connecticut, the third oldest in the nation.

Field trip and research possibilities:

First Congregational Church
Center Church

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/faith-congregational-church-185-years-same-people-same-purpose/>

Jews in Early Connecticut

By the early 1840s, Connecticut's Jews, a group that was predominantly German before the 1880s, had successfully established themselves in the social and business life of both Hartford and New Haven but were not allowed full religious equality in Connecticut.

Field trip and research possibilities:

ACES Educational Center for the Arts
Charter Oak Cultural Center

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/site-lines-gaining-religious-equality/>

Business and Industry

The Danbury Shakes: Mercury Poisoning and Workers Rights

Danbury's hat-making business had the negative consequence of causing the "Danbury Shakes" (mercury poisoning) in people who worked in the felt-making factories. Medical professionals and a local labor union worked to end the use of mercury in the felt-making process, as well as to protect the individuals and families affected by the "Danbury Shakes."

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society
Danbury Museum & Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/ending-the-danbury-shakes-a-story-of-workers-rights-and-corporate-responsibility/>

The Hartford Circus Fire

In a field on Barbour Street in Hartford, between six- and eight-thousand patrons sought distraction from the summer heat by attending a performance of the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus which caught fire. The fire, once in contact with the tent canvas, rapidly spread, due largely to the waterproofing of the canvas through the application of paraffin wax thinned with gasoline. By the time firefighters put out the flames, nearly 170 people lay dead. Most died from exposure to the fire and smoke, but a significant number were also trampled.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford History Center

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/the-hartford-circus-fire/>

The Radium Girls

The Waterbury Clock Company experienced an increased demand for watches after the First World War, and to turn a profit, they hired women at low wages to work seven days a week. The company called for women with "nimble fingers" to paint the dials and numbers onto watches in assembly-line fashion. To speed up the process, women would "lip-dip," meaning that they placed the

paintbrush into their mouths and then dipped the brush into the radium-laced paint. Repeating this process caused the radium to linger in their mouths. Initially, the women did not know the risks of radium and even enjoyed painting it onto their nails and clothing to glow in the dark, but exposure to radium later led to over 30 deaths in the company.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Mattatuck Museum

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/waterburys-radium-girls/>

The Rise and Fall of the Brass City

The brass industry in Waterbury began in the mid-18th century and provided an alternative for people struggling to make a living off the rocky, exhausted soil. In 1802, Southington brothers Abel and Levi Porter moved to Waterbury and joined pewter button makers Henry, Silas, and Samuel Grilley to form Abel Porter and Company, the first rolling brass mill in the US. After reaching unprecedented heights of production during World War II, the brass industry in Waterbury began a steady decline in the 1950s. Plastic, zinc, and aluminum replaced brass in household products. In addition, mono-industrial regions began a sharp decline as the age of large, national corporations took shape. The troubled US economy of the 1970s only exacerbated the local brass industry's problems, as did cheap labor and new technologies found overseas. Eventually, the Big Three ceased operations rather than incur the prohibitive expenses of trying to refurbish their operations.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Mattatuck Museum

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/birth-of-the-brass-valley/>

The Farmington Canal

The advent of the Farmington Canal foretold coming prosperity for towns along its route. In fact, the Canal came through early Avon (then Northington) in 1828 and spurred town fathers to break off from the 'mother town' of Farmington to incorporate into a separate town in 1830. The Canal was an engineering marvel of its time going from New Haven, CT to Northampton, MA. Canal barges moved massive amounts of freight (coal, molasses, lumber, farm produce, dairy products as well as passengers) but met with financial difficulties. In addition, it was a seasonal operation (frozen canal was skated on in winter) and fraught with problems of sabotage, freshets, and muskrats! So while the Canal was a great triumph in its ingenuity and early success, it met with the tragedy of failure and was replaced by the year-round operating, faster, less expensive railroad.

Field trip and research possibilities:

The Avon Historical Society

Stanley Whitman House

Connecticut Historical Society Waterman Research Center

Plainville Historical Society

Simsbury Historical Society

New Haven Historical Society Whitney Library

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/the-farmington-canal/>

Horace Wells and the Discovery of Anesthesia

In the early 19th century Hartford dentists Horace Wells and William Morton played instrumental roles in the development of anesthesia for dental and other medical applications.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford Medical Society – UCONN Farmington

Hartford History Center

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/horace-wells-discovers-pain-free-dentistry/>

Voyage of the Neptune

In the world of globalization today, what was it like to trade between nations in the 18th century? The Neptune was the most successful trading voyage to ever leave the port of New Haven, sailing to China and back between a three year period, 1796-99.

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum

Charles Goodyear-Inventor

Charles Goodyear was on a mission to make rubber a viable material. If the temperature was too cold, the substance would harden and shatter, but it was too hot outside, it would melt. Goodyear dedicated his life to figuring out the vulcanization process, how has that impacted us today? Was his time a triumph or a tragedy?

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum

National Archives

Library of Congress

US Patent and Trade Office

Immigration and Factory Life

Connecticut was home to many people from other countries. New Haven had a large population of Irish, Italian, and German immigrants. Was their move to America a triumph or tragedy? How did working in the factories in and around Wooster Square and Westville impact their life?

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum

Ethnic Heritage Center

Ireland's Great Hunger Museum

National Archives

CT Historical Society

Civil War

29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers: CT's First Black Regiment

Midway through the Civil War, Connecticut created the state's first African American regiment, the 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers. The regiment won many important battles and became one of the first Union regiments to march through the Confederate capital of Richmond.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
29th Colored Regiment Monument in New Haven

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-29th-regiment-connecticut-volunteers-fought-more-than-one-war/>
<http://connecticuthistory.org/connecticuts-black-civil-war-regiment/>

John Brown: A Portrait of Violent Abolitionism

John Brown, born in Torrington, was an abolitionist known for his role in Bleeding Kansas (the struggle to determine whether Kansas and Nebraska territories should be free or slave states) and for leading the slave revolt and raid on Harpers Ferry.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society
John Brown Birthplace
Torrington Historical Society
Amistad Center at Wadsworth Atheneum

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/john-brown-a-portrait-of-violent-abolitionism/>

The First Battle of Bull Run: Connecticut Troops Stand Firm

Three Connecticut regiments took part in the First Battle of Bull Run. While the battle was a disaster for the North in general, Connecticut's troops fared relatively well, and were later praised for their poise and bravery.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-first-battle-of-bull-run-connecticut-troops-stand-firm-when-the-battle-turns-against-them/>

Dorence Atwater

Born and raised in Terryville, Dorence Atwater joined the Union army at age 16. Atwater was captured during the war and spent time at the notorious prison camp, Andersonville. He kept a list of the dead and defied the Department of War regarding publication of the list of Union Soldiers buried at Andersonville

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/death-and-mourning-in-the-civil-war-era>

https://www.nps.gov/ande/learn/historyculture/dorence_atwater.htm

African Americans Take a Stand During the Civil War

Joseph O. Cross was one of many African Americans to fight for the Connecticut and the North in the Civil War. Connecticut took longer than Massachusetts to accept the idea of recruiting African American soldiers, but men like Cross eagerly took up arms to defend the Union and provide for their families.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/fighting-for-freedom-joseph-o-cross/>

Crime and Punishment

Connecticut Lawyer Prosecutes Nazi War Criminals at Nuremberg

Thomas Joseph Dodd was the 2nd highest-ranking U.S. attorney in the Nuremberg Trials that held Nazi war criminals responsible for the atrocities of WWII. Dodd was key in accumulating evidence of Nazi war crimes.

Field trip and research possibilities:

UConn Library Archives and Special Collections

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-lawyer-prosecutes-nazi-war-criminals-at-nuremberg/>

John Dixwell, Regicide

New Haven was a haven to many people over its 300+ years, but one of the most interesting people to take refuge there was a judge who signed the death warrant of King Charles I. He, along with others, didn't agree with what the King was doing at the time. When they lost power, many of the judges escaped from England, three making their way to New Haven. Some hid in a cave, but Dixwell blended right into society. Was this a triumph or a tragedy?

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum

Education

The Ill-Fated Campaign to Found an African American College in New Haven

In 1831, a group of black and white abolitionists from across the eastern seaboard launched a campaign to build the nation's first black college.

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/cast-down-on-every-side-the-ill-fated-campaign-to-found-an-african-college-in-new-haven/>

The Black Law in Connecticut

Prudence Crandall made the controversial decision in 1833 to allow African American students to attend her school. She faced community backlash and the Connecticut General Assembly passed a law that forbid out-of-state black students from moving to Connecticut -- an attempt to shut down Crandall's school. Prudence refused to close her school, and instead fought for the education and equality of African Americans.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Prudence Crandall Museum

Connecticut's Old State House

Connecticut State Capitol

Links:

<http://teachitct.org/grade-8-the-black-law-in-connecticut/>

Connecticut Education Reform: Project Concern

In 1966, Connecticut launched "Project Concern," a student busing plan that placed randomly-selected Hartford Public School students in surrounding suburban schools in an effort to desegregate schools in and around Hartford. The project was met with mixed reviews -- while some students who participated achieved higher success than their peers, critics argued that it did little to actually end segregation.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-takes-the-wheel-on-education-reform-project-concern/>

Simon Bernstein and the 1965 Conn. Education Amendment

Until 1965, Connecticut did not guarantee its citizens a constitutional right to an education. Legislator Simon Bernstein was given only five minutes to write an amendment that would guarantee an education for CT's students. The amendment he wrote passed through the legislature and became a law, leading to significant changes in Connecticut's education system.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library Archives
Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/five-minutes-that-changed-connecticut-simon-bernstein-and-the-1965-connecticut-education-amendment/>

Maria Sánchez, State Representative and Community Advocate

Maria Sánchez successfully advocated for bilingual education in Hartford schools and served on the Hartford Board of Education. She founded the Puerto Rican Parade Committee in 1964 (a parade that the Latino community still celebrates each year in Hartford), and in 1988 she became the first Latina elected to the Connecticut General Assembly.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/maria-sanchez-state-representative-and-community-advocate/>

The Northern Student Movement

The Northern Student Movement was a civil rights group founded by Yale students in the early 1960s. The group soon grew and spread across the northeast. The organization advocated for African American equality and worked to tutor thousands of grade school students throughout the region.

Field trip and research possibilities:

CCSU Library Special Collections

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-northern-student-movement/>

Sheff v. O'Neill Settlements Target Educational Segregation in Hartford

In 1989, Milo Sheff -- a fourth grade student from Hartford -- and his parents, along with 17 other students and their parents, filed a lawsuit against the State of Connecticut, arguing that Hartford students did not have equal access to quality public education. This group of students and parents won their lawsuit, resulting in the establishment of the Open Choice program that created more magnet schools and encouraged suburban students to attend Hartford schools, and vice versa.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/sheff-v-oneill-settlements-target-educational-segregation-in-hartford/>

Environment

Morton Biskind Warned the World About DDT

Physician Morton Biskind was one of the first medical professionals to discover the negative impact of the pesticide DDT in human patients. Along with a colleague, he published an article warning the public about the dangers of DDT. While his work was originally ignored, researchers eventually determined that Biskind was right, and the U.S. banned DDT in 1972.

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/morton-biskind-warned-the-world-about-ddt/>

When Disaster Struck Connecticut: The Flood of 1955

The Flood of 1955 was one of the worst floods in Connecticut's history. Two back-to-back hurricanes saturated the land and several river valleys in the state, causing severe flooding in August 1955.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/video-when-disaster-struck-connecticut-the-flood-of-1955/>

The Hurricane of 1938

At 4:00 p.m. on September 21, the great Hurricane of 1938 made landfall just east of New Haven. There was little warning. Winds and storm surge flattened cottages and other buildings all along the shore. Nearly 5,000 buildings were completely destroyed and 25,000 additional homes were damaged. It was the deadliest and costliest storm in Connecticut's 350-year history. Fallen trees and damaged buildings were still visible 20 years later, and every Connecticut family had stories to tell of their experiences.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/hurricane-of-1938-connecticuts-worst-disaster/>

Law

Taking on the State: Griswold v. Connecticut

The Barnum Act of 1879 banned the use of birth control in Connecticut. Estelle Griswold, a women's rights advocate and Executive Director of the Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut, helped women leave the state to get information on contraceptives, defied Connecticut law by providing women with birth control, and successfully argued in U.S. Supreme Court that the Barnum Act was unconstitutional.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Supreme Court

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/taking-on-the-state-griswold-v-connecticut/>

Connecticut and the Comstock Law

In 1879, Connecticut legislators passed a law that banned the use of contraceptives. This followed a national movement restricting the sale and advertisement of birth control, exemplified by the 1873 federal Comstock Law. Men feared that women choosing to delay childbirth to pursue their careers would take jobs away from men and decay the moral fiber of the country. Connecticut's anti-contraceptive laws were by far the strictest in the country, and were not repealed until 1965.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Capitol
Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-and-the-comstock-law/>

Thomas J. Dodd and the Gun Control Act of 1968

Thomas Dodd was one of the strongest advocates for gun control in the history of the U.S. legislature. He proposed numerous bills restricting access to firearms for minors, criminals, and the "mentally impaired." While many of his proposals did not pass, his Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1968 regulated the sale of firearms more stringently than any previous law. Dodd was committed to culling violent crime in the U.S.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Archives & Special Collections of the University of Connecticut Libraries

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/thomas-j-dodd-and-the-gun-control-act-of-1968/>

The Connecticut Constitution of 1818

Connecticut did not adopt a modern constitution until 1818 after a torturous political debate. The constitution is important for, among other things, establishing the three-branch system and disestablishing the Congregational Church.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut's Old State House
Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/law/connecticut-constitutional-history/1818>

Native Americans

King Phillip's War

This 17th century conflict took place between the English colonists and the Wampanoag, led by Metacom (King Phillip). The Pequot and Mohegan sided with the colonists. Much of the fighting took place in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, although Simsbury was attacked in 1676. Connecticut troops participated in the conflict, including the Great Swamp Fight that resulted in the massacre of almost 1,000 Native American men, women, and children. The conflict arose over the colonist's insatiable wish for more land and the execution of three of Metacom's men. The war ended with Metacom's death.

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/americas-most-devastating-conflict-king-philips-war/>

Medicine Woman Gladys Tantaquidgeon and Mohegan Cultural Renewal

Gladys Tantaquidgeon, a Mohegan medicine woman and anthropologist, dedicated her life to preserving and promoting indigenous cultural practices, as well as advocating for women. Her efforts to document Mohegan births, marriages, and deaths ensured that the Mohegan tribe received federal recognition. Her commitment to maintaining Mohegan cultural traditions have allowed tribal members to carry on their traditional practices and customs today.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Tantaquidgeon Museum
Mashantucket Pequot Museum

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/gladys-tantaquidgeon-preserves-the-states-native-past/>

Samson Occom and the Brotherton Indians

Samson Occom was a Mohegan educator and Presbyterian minister who advocated for indigenous education reform. Traditional practices were important to indigenous cultures, and Occom argued that Mohegan students should learn from indigenous teachers, rather than Anglo-American teachers who saw Native traditions as dangerous. He gathered a group of Christian Indians from across southern New England relocated to New York, where they joined Christian Mohawks to found the Brotherton Indian Nation.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Tantaquidgeon Museum
Connecticut Historical Society
Mashantucket Pequot Museum

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/samson-occom-and-the-brotherton-indians/>

Causes of the Pequot War

In the 1600s, the Pequots -- through war and diplomacy -- built a fragile coalition with neighboring tribes to ensure control of the region's Native-Dutch trade. When the English arrived, tribes began to defect from the Pequot confederacy and ally with the English colonists. While the war is remembered as a conflict between colonists and Indians, it was also a battle between indigenous nations as the Pequots fought to maintain control of the region's other tribes.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/causes-of-the-pequot-war/>

Fidelia Hoscott Fielding: Preserving the Mohegan Language

Fielding stood against racism and modernism. She preserved the Mohegan language and culture despite prejudice against Native American culture and pressure to modernize. She was also a mentor to Gladys Tantaquidgeon.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Tantaquidgeon Museum

Cornell University Archives in Ithaca, NY

Links:

<http://www.cwhf.org/inductees/education-preservation/fidelia-hoscott-fielding/#.V8RLHvkrK70>

The Heathen School of Cornwall

The Heathen School was a school in Cornwall, CT, designed to educate people considered, at that time, to be heathens: people from Hawaii, China, and India as well as Native Americans. There may have been triumphs for teachers who thought they were "civilizing backwards" peoples, and perhaps for some students who were gaining some skills they could use to help their communities navigate the 19th century world but there were also tragedies when teachers realized that many students stubbornly refused to give up all of their cultural ways, and for students who found their cultures under assault.

Field trip and research possibilities:

The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic by John Demos
Cornwall Historical Society

Links:

<https://www.npr.org/2014/03/18/291130318/what-u-s-learned-from-heathen-school-wasnt-part-of-the-lesson-plan>

Quinnipiac Native Americans

The Quinnipiac welcomed the English settlers in 1638, traded with them, signed land deeds, and created the first "reservation" on the Eastern Shore. By the end of the American Revolution, they were no longer in Connecticut and little trace of their tribe is left.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Yale University
New Haven Museum
North Haven Historical Society

Politics and Government

Richard Lee's Urban Renewal in New Haven

Richard Lee, as New Haven's mayor, set out to revitalize the city through urban renewal. While his efforts put 8,000 people out of their homes and lost 2,200 businesses, he was also widely celebrated for turning New Haven into a model city by nearly eliminating slums -- housing without adequate access to running water, electricity, and other vital utilities.

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum
Church Street in New Haven

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/richard-lees-urban-renewal-in-new-haven/>

Revolutionary War

Caleb Brewster and the Culper Spy Ring

Caleb Brewster joined Nathan Hale, Benjamin Tallmadge, and others in the Culper Spy Ring. As a Long Island whale ship captain, he transported vital information from New York City to Tallmadge in the Bridgeport and Fairfield areas of Connecticut. The British discovered that Brewster was a spy, but he managed to evade capture and continued the important work of transporting information between Connecticut and NYC.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Brewster Street in Bridgeport
Benjamin Tallmadge House in Litchfield - private home

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/caleb-brewster-and-the-culper-spy-ring/>

The Rise and Fall of Silas Deane, American Patriot

Silas Deane was a prominent member of the Continental Congress at the dawn of the American Revolution. On a diplomatic mission to France, Deane played a key role in obtaining the military supplies that made possible the victory at Saratoga in October 1777, leading to an alliance with the French the following year. However, he quickly fell out of public favor as his questionable financial dealings and criticisms of American independence earned him the reputation of a traitor.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield
Yale University Art Gallery
Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-rise-and-fall-of-silas-deane-american-patriot/>

The Battle of Groton Heights

East of the Thames River, on Groton Heights, Fort Griswold stands commanding the New London Harbor and the surrounding countryside. In the midst of the Revolutionary War, the fort was in good condition and the magazine was full, but trouble was not far away. On September 6 of 1781, the British forces, commanded by Benedict Arnold, attacked New London and burned the city.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park
New London Historical Society
Fort Trumbull State Park
Groton Historical Society
Ledyard Historical Society

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/fort-griswold-and-the-battle-of-groton-heights-1781/>

1779 Invasion of New Haven

During the American Revolution, the British decided to plan a coordinated summer attack of the south eastern coast of Connecticut, hoping to draw out George Washington's troops . They started their attack in New Haven on July 5th, 1779. Was this a triumph for the British, the Colonies, or a tragedy for the citizens of the area?

Field trip and research possibilities:

Yale University
New Haven Museum
Fairfield Museum and History Center
Fort Wooster
East Haven Historical Society

Benedict Arnold

Arnold was a businessman, soldier, patriot, friend, husband, and brilliant strategist. What made him become a traitor? Born and raised in Connecticut, Arnold led the first troops outside of Massachusetts to help reinforce the Patriots during the American Revolution, but in the end, he changed sides. Was this a triumph or tragedy? For who?

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum
National Archives
Sons of the American Revolution

Slavery and Abolition

The Amistad

In 1839, U.S. naval forces found the schooner Amistad floating in Long Island Sound, with a large number of Africans seen walking around the deck of the ship. Two Cuban men aboard the ship told the U.S. ship's crew that the Africans were slaves who had taken over the Amistad and killed its captain. The Africans were arrested and charged them with murder and mutiny. This led to a complicated court case that eventually determined that the Africans aboard the ship had been kidnapped from their homeland and should be allowed to return to Africa.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Freedom Schooner Amistad at Mystic Seaport
Connecticut's Old State House
Connecticut Historical Society
Riverside Cemetery in Farmington
New Haven Museum
New London Custom House

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-amistad/>

Jackson v. Bulloch and the End of Slavery in Connecticut

Nancy Jackson, a woman enslaved by James Bulloch of Georgia, asked Connecticut's courts to grant her freedom in 1837. Bulloch split his time between homes in Georgia and Connecticut, and had left Jackson enslaved in Connecticut for two years while he travelled. Connecticut law forbade slave owners from "leaving" slaves in the state, and ruled that Jackson should, indeed, be free.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Yale Libraries -- Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Loomis Chaffee School Archives
Connecticut's Old State House

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/jackson-v-bulloch-and-the-end-of-slavery-in-connecticut/>

Isaac Glasko

Isaac C. Glasko (1776-1861), a man of mixed Native American and African American heritage, purchased land in 1806 and established a blacksmith shop in what is now the center of Glasgo. When the whaling industry was at its height, Glasko specialized in whaling implements for which he held several patents. Glasko and his friend Pero Moody refused to pay taxes in 1823. They unsuccessfully petitioned the Connecticut General Assembly for an exemption from state taxation due to the fact that, as blacks, they were barred from voting.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Kinne Cemetery

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/blacksmith-isaac-glasko-challenges-the-state-constitution>

James Mars' Words Illuminate the Cruelty of Slavery in New England

James Mars was born into slavery in Connecticut during gradual emancipation. When he turned 21 he successfully petitioned the state for his freedom, becoming an advocate for free men and women in Connecticut. In his later years, he wrote a memoir of his experiences because he wanted to make sure that people remembered that slavery had once existed in Connecticut.

Field trip and research possibilities:

James Mars Gravesite in Norfolk

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/james-mars-words-illuminate-the-cruelty-of-slavery-in-new-england/>

The Life of Venture Smith

Venture Smith was kidnapped from a royal family in Africa and placed in slavery in Connecticut. He had many horrible interactions with slave owners, but he eventually persevered, purchasing his and his family's freedom, and acquiring property and the respect of his local community. Venture Smith was able to pass on his story so that generations of Connecticutans and American readers can learn the horrors that he endured.

Field trip and research possibilities:

East Haddam Historical Society

The Jackson Family and Northern Slavery

John Jackson was given his freedom and eventually his wife Joan received hers although she had to leave her young children behind in slavery. Joan was later returned to slavery and her husband worked to free her and their "free" children.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Hempsted Houses

New London County Historical Society

Social Movements

Gay Rights Bill of 1975

Freshmen state senator, Betty Hudson, from Madison, introduced a gay rights bill in 1975. The bill cleared the Senate, but not the House. The governor at the time, Ella Grasso, indicated she would not sign the bill if it passed. The bill finally passed both the House and Senate in 1991 and was signed into law. It bans discrimination against gays and lesbians in housing, employment, public accommodations and. Sen. Hudson began her career as a selectman in Madison before being elected Connecticut State Senator of the 33rd District. She became Governor Grasso's advisor on

Human Affairs, State Director of Welfare Offices and a member of the state's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

Links:

<http://www.courant.com/courant-250/moments-in-history/hc-250-gay-rights-where-we-are-now-20140628-story.html>

The Black Panther Party in Connecticut: Community Survival Programs

While the Black Panther Party existed in Connecticut for only a short time (1969-1972), their activism did a tremendous amount of good for the people of Connecticut. The party provided free breakfast to school children, successfully advocated for victims of the Park River flooding in Hartford, and protested against racism and police brutality. But the federal and state governments saw the group as a threat to national security and illegally spied on thousands of Black Panthers and their supporters.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library
UConn Library Archives and Special Collections

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-black-panther-party-in-connecticut-community-survival-programs/>

Education/Instrucción Combats Housing Discrimination

Three people from different backgrounds joined together to form Education/Instrucción, Inc. -- a group that investigated unfair real estate practices in Connecticut in the 1970s. The group discovered that real estate insiders were steering minorities away from predominantly white neighborhoods, while encouraging white homeowners to sell their homes when minority neighbors began moving in.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/educationinstruccion-combats-housing-discrimination/>

The Ku Klux Klan in Connecticut

While the KKK's stronghold was always in the South, Connecticut was once home to as many as 18,000 Klan members in the 1920s. The group quickly dwindled, but splinter Klan groups continued to protest in Connecticut. These protests were revived in Meriden in the 1980s when dozens of Klan members and their supporters protested in defense of a police officer who shot and killed an African American man accused of shoplifting.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Meriden City Hall

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-ku-klux-klan-in-connecticut/>

The Language of the Unheard: Racial Unrest in 20th-Century Hartford

Throughout the early- and mid-1900s, racial tensions simmered in Connecticut as African Americans found themselves living in substandard housing, facing high rates of child mortality, and struggling to find work from prejudiced employers. White leaders did little to address these complaints. By the 1960s, these tensions boiled over across the U.S. leading to riots in the streets of Connecticut cities.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-language-of-the-unheard-racial-unrest-in-20th-century-hartford/>

The Bemans: A Family of Reformers

The Beman family rose to prominence in Middletown's African American community, leading the A.M.E. Zion Church and fighting for black rights leading up to the Civil War. The family includes Caesar Beman, who had been a slave in Colchester before being emancipated in 1781, Jehiel Beman, who was a pastor who spoke in favor of abolition and assisted runaway slaves on the underground railroad, and his son Amos, who also fought for abolition alongside his father.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Beman Triangle in Middletown

Links:

<http://beman-triangle.research.wesleyan.edu/2012/05/07/introduction/>

Taking a Stand Against the Evils of Drink

In 1784, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, treasurer of the United States Mint, and nationally recognized physician, published an article titled *An Inquiry into the Effects of Spirituous Liquors on the Human Body and the Mind*. The article was expanded into a book in 1790 and widely published throughout the United States. His findings galvanized local ministers, medical professionals, and ordinary citizens to publicly advocate for the restriction and even complete abolition of the manufacture, sale, and use of alcoholic beverages.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Litchfield Historical Society

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/re-collections-flying-the-banner-for-temperance/>

1790s Yellow Fever Outbreak

After the American Revolution, New Haven was hit with an outbreak of Yellow Fever. It had a devastating toll on the population of the community, and was traced to a ship that brought goods from the West Indies. Out of this tragedy, the first sanitation committee was formed.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Yale University

New Haven Museum

Friends of Grove Street Cemetery

War of 1812

The British Raid on Essex

In 1814, a British naval raiding force consisting of relatively few men in small boats made its way up the Connecticut River and burned 25 ships in Essex. The ships' owners had been using these boats to attack British war ships and capture them for the United States -- a lucrative endeavor called "privateering." The British forces managed to burn the ships and escape with only two deaths, making it one of the most successful small boat raids in military history.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut River Museum
Connecticut Historical Society
UConn Library Archives and Special Collections

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-british-raid-on-essex/>

Stonington Repels the British

During the War of 1812, the local militia banded together to face down the British Imperial Navy and succeeded against all odds.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Stonington Historical Society
New London County Historical Society
Stonington Point

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/war-of-1812-stonington/>

Women

Karen Carpenter

Born in New Haven, Karen Carpenter and her brother, Richard, formed the Carpenters. They became the biggest selling group of the 1970s Hits included "We've Only Just Begun." However, Karen struggled with anorexia and died at age 32 from complications of that disease.

Links:

<http://richardandkarencarpenter.com/index.html>

19th Amendment: The Fight Over Woman Suffrage in Connecticut

Leaders in Connecticut's women's suffrage movement such as Isabella Beecher Hooker and Frances Ellen Burr, along with countless women from across the state, urged state lawmakers to give women the right to vote. When several state lawmakers blocked their efforts, these women wrote to Woodrow Wilson and (along with similar letters from other states) won the right to vote in 1919.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/19th-amendment-the-fight-over-woman-suffrage-in-connecticut/>

Constance Baker Motley: A Warrior for Justice

Motley was born in Connecticut, and became the first black woman to attend the Columbia University School of Law. Throughout her career she worked with civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, and James Meredith. She wrote the first legal brief in *Brown v. the Board of Education*, and represented the "freedom riders" and others from across the South who fought for equality for African Americans.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Constance Baker Motley House in New Haven – private home

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/constance-baker-motley-a-warrior-for-justice/>

Hartford's City Mother, Josephine Bennett

Josephine Bennett was a women's suffragist from Hartford. She helped launch Hartford's local American Labor Party branch in 1919 and fought tirelessly for women's rights and for free speech.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library Archives

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/hartfords-city-mother-josephine-bennett/>

America's First Ordained Woman Minister: Olympia Brown and Bridgeport's Universalist Church

Olympia Brown served as the first female minister for the Universalist Church in Bridgeport. She was active in women's suffrage and abolition, and her sermons were highly acclaimed. Her opponents, however, eventually forced her out of the church in Bridgeport.

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/americas-first-ordained-woman-minister-olympia-brown-and-bridgeports-universalist-church/>

Suffragettes at War: Standing Up for the Vote with Liberty Loans

The suffrage movement in America had been gaining strength for years, but WWI gave women a unique opportunity to prove their mettle. Women from the suffrage movement found themselves taking on leadership roles in the Liberty Loan campaigns to raise funds for the war effort. Their hard work and proven leadership helped pave the way for the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Local historical societies

Links:

<http://ctstatelibrary.org/RG101.html>

Fannie Briggs Bulkeley: Standing Up for Women Rights

Fannie Briggs Houghton Bulkeley was the wife of Senator and ex-Governor Morgan Bulkeley and one of the most formidable leaders in the war effort in Connecticut. Mrs. Bulkeley led the Liberty Loan campaigns in Connecticut and encouraged women, from socialites to factory girls, to take a stand and support the war effort.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Local historical societies

Before Rosie the Riveter: Factory Girls Stand Up for the War Effort

Rosie the Riveter is the poster girl for women working in factories during World War II, but women took a stand during WWI and entered factories all over Connecticut to help the war effort then.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Local Historical Societies
New Britain Industrial Museum
Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Hello Girls: Taking a Stand for Women in the Army

During WWI a group of women served in the Army as bilingual switchboard operators nicknamed "Hello Girls". These women, some of whom served on the front lines, wore Army uniforms, received Army pay and were even awarded Army medals, but were denied status as veterans upon returning home. The Hello Girls fought for 60 years to have their service recognized. By 1979, when they finally received recognition, only 18 were still alive.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
National Archives (D.C.)

Pauline Sands Lee: Standing Up for the French Wounded

In 1916 New Yorker Pauline Sands Lee traveled to France to work for the American Fund for French Wounded, an aid organization founded and based in Paris. She was a tireless advocate for the soldiers and people of France who demanded access to the front lines and wrote of the plight of the French for American audiences.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://bit.ly/2bvM9D>

Girls Can Play, Too!: Women's Basketball in Connecticut

Basketball was invented by Dr. James Naismith of Springfield, MA in the late 1800s as a sport for boys to promote physical fitness. While women had previously been largely excluded from sports, changing ideas on health and fitness and the growth of physical education classes in schools made sports more accessible to women at the turn of the 20th century. Basketball quickly became a popular women's sport in Connecticut and beyond.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society
Choate Rosemary Hall Archives
J. Robert Donnelly Husky Heritage Sports Museum

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/girls-can-play-too-womens-basketball-in-connecticut/>

Ella Tambussi Grasso: The United States' First Elected Female Governor

Grasso stood against those who said a woman could not and should not be governor. She became the first female governor in the United States elected in her own right.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Capitol
Mount Holyoke College Archive in South Hadley, MA

Links:

<http://www.cwhf.org/inductees/politics-government-law/ella-tambussi-grasso/#.V8RLUPkrK70>

Helen Keller: Taking a Stand for Disability Rights

Helen Keller, who moved to Easton at the age of 56, stood for disability rights. She became the first deaf-blind person to receive a bachelor's degree. She also became an author and advocate for people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act was a direct result of her lifetime of advocacy.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://www.cwhf.org/inductees/reformers/helen-keller#.V8ROjPkrK71>

Maria Miller Stewart

Born to African American parents in Connecticut, Miller stood up and spoke up for the abolition of slavery as well as the in support of the advancement of civil rights and women's rights. She was the first African American woman to address a mixed race and mixed gender audience on abolition.

Links:

<http://www.cwhf.org/inductees/reformers/maria-miller-stewart/#.V8RQ6PkrK72>

Dr. Alice Hamilton

Hamilton pioneered industrial medicine, changing the way industrial waste and chemicals are handled. Her work formed the foundation for OSHA. She took a stand, refusing to believe she was wrong about the connection between workplace hazards and significant health issues in workers.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Radcliffe Institute Archives at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA
Miss Porter's School

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/science-health/alice-hamilton#.V8RTR krK70>

A Woman Who Developed Tolerance: Leila T. Alexander

Leila T. Alexander served as the director of the Pearl Street Neighborhood House (now the Hopkins Street Center) for 20 years. The Waterbury branch of the NAACP was founded in this building while it was under her direction, and she was recognized by state leaders for her work in bringing people from different racial and social backgrounds together.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Hopkins Street Center in Waterbury
Mattatuck Museum

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/a-woman-who-developed-tolerance-leila-t-alexander/>

Work

How the Wobblies Won Free Speech

Through the 1930s, the definition of "free speech" in the United States was fairly limited. Protesters were thrown in jail for speaking about controversial issues, such as communism, in public places. The Industrial Workers of the World (or Wobblies, as they were called) set out to change this. They would gather in large numbers and speak freely, forcing police to arrest them and overrun the local prisons. The cost to arrest and hold these free speech advocates forced the court to widen its interpretation of free speech.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/how-the-wobblies-won-free-speech/>

“Something to Show for Our Work”: Building Brainard Airport

During the Great Depression, the city of Hartford decided to develop Brainard Airport. To keep labor costs low, they hired out-of-work locals to do the work for food and rent vouchers. The city went further, saying that the jobs were compulsory to everyone offered work -- if they turned down this job offer, they would not get any others. This forced labor without monetary compensation angered many city residents, and citizens eventually convinced the mayor to pay employees in cash, rather than vouchers.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Brainard Airport

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/something-to-show-for-our-work-building-brainard-airport/>

The Newsies Strike Back

Newsies -- young boys usually aged 10 and under -- delivered newspapers in Hartford to earn extra money for their families. When competition between two New York papers resulted in a reduction to the Newsies' pay, the children unionized and went on strike. They successfully convinced local businesses to stop carrying the New York papers and created problems for the local newspaper distributor.

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-newsies-strike-back/>

World War I

Health Department Fights Unseen Enemies During World War I

In the early 20th century, polio and Spanish Influenza killed millions of people around the world. Greenwich was one of many Connecticut communities to be struck by both epidemics. Dr. Alvin Klein and the Greenwich Board of Health passed measures and restrictions that helped stop the spread of these diseases.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Greenwich Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/health-department-fights-unseen-enemies-during-world-war-i/>

The “Red Scare” in Connecticut

In November of 1919, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (a new agency at that time) launched the Palmer Raids, with several raids taking place in Connecticut. In these raids, federal agents arrested

Russian immigrants suspected of making bombs and plotting against the United States. Often, those arrested were union organizers and supporters of socialism. Several hundred Russian immigrants were jailed without trial or representation and were deported to Russia.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Lozada Park, Hartford (former site of Seyms Street Jail)

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-red-scare-in-connecticut/>

German Americans: Fighting the Fatherland for America

Despite growing discrimination on the homefront, many German-Americans fought their fatherland for their new home.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://digitalcollections.ctstatelibrary.org/islandora/object/30002%3A533331kwl>

Cristobal Rodriguez Hidalgo: Puerto Ricans Standing up for Citizenship

In 1917 President Wilson signed into law the Jones-Shafroth Act granting U.S. citizenship to Puerto Ricans born after April 25, 1898. With this act came mandatory conscription into the U.S. military just as the U.S. entered WWI. Cristobal Rodriguez Hidalgo, a Bridgeport resident, became the first Puerto Rican soldier to die in the war.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://digitalcollections.ctstatelibrary.org/islandora/object/30002%3A2255>

The Tragedy of War and the Creation of Veterans' Organizations

"War is hell" said General Sherman, a sentiment many soldiers coming out of World War I agreed with. That war was the first technologically modern war and with those advances came horrific injuries of the body and mind. Millions of soldiers worldwide suffered extensive burns from the chemical weapons being used, shrapnel wounds resulted in amputated limbs or disfigured faces, and the constant noise and trench warfare caused men to suffer shell shock, what we now call PTSD. When the war was over the federal government struggled to help veterans, but it did so through several different agencies making the process difficult and frustrating. Even for those veterans who came back unscathed, trying to re-acclimate to civilian life could be difficult, thus the creation of organizations like the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans gave veterans a place in which they could be amongst others who understood the difficulties and a powerful advocate for issues surrounding their cause.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Local historical societies
Local American Legion Posts
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Disabled American Veterans posts

Links:

<http://web.ccsu.edu/vethistoryproject/?redirected>

Gilbert Jerome, WW I Pilot

Gilbert Jerome was born and raised in New Haven. A graduate of Yale, he was the first Boy Scout Master of New Haven, a brilliant academic, and a pilot during World War I. He died in France during the War.

Field trip and research possibilities:

New Haven Museum
New Haven Free Public Library

Triumph and Tragedy at Seicheprey: The First American Battle of World War One

On April 20, 1918, 650 fresh American doughboys from Connecticut who served with the 102nd Infantry, 26th "Yankee" Division faced off against 3500 seasoned German troops. The battle lasted more than 24 hours and both sides endured heavy losses despite the lopsided numbers. The American troops recaptured the town and the media considered it an American triumph. But the loss of American soldiers was the largest yet seen. This battle haunted the troops who had fought and won long after they came home. Connecticut erected a fountain in the town of Seicheprey and the troops held parades to commemorate Seicheprey Day every April 20 into the 1970s.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America
Archive.org

Links:

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/connecticut-doughboys-remember-the-battle-of-seicheprey/>

Sgt. Stubby: The Triumph of a Stray Dog In WWI

In the summer of 1917 a stray mutt wandering the streets of New Haven made his way onto Yale Field where Connecticut National Guard troops were camped. There this pup met J. Robert Conroy and a bond was forged. The pup, now named Stubby accompanied Conroy and the 102nd Infantry across the Atlantic to fight in France during World War One, and there he became a hero. Stubby would warn the soldiers of incoming mustard gas, would sniff out German spies behind American lines, and sit with wounded soldiers until help arrived. When Conroy was wounded and sent to hospital Stubby provided comfort not just to Conroy, but the other wounded soldiers, making him one of the first therapy dogs. He returned in triumph as a hero. He met three presidents, received a

medal from General Pershing and was a mascot for the Georgetown Hoyas, and is now on display at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. This is a dog that, despite being a stray, became a symbol of the triumph and tragedy of war.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Smithsonian Museum of American History
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/a-true-dog-of-war-sergeant-stubby/>

The Triumph of Liberty Bonds: How American Citizens Funded the War

Liberty Bonds were one of the most important factors in helping to win World War I. These bonds, purchased by ordinary citizens, helped fund the war. Using propaganda such as posters, famous speakers, rallies and even films the government appealed to citizens' patriotic duty to sell the bonds. Over the course of 5 campaigns the government raised \$21.5 billion for the war. This triumph of marketing and patriotism helped the Allies finally bring the long war to an end.

Field trip and Research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America

World War II

A Godmother to Ravensbrück Survivors

During World War II, female prisoners who were sent to the Ravensbrück concentration camp were subject to medical experiments. The women who underwent these experiments were called "Lapins" (rabbits). Caroline Ferriday of Bethlehem reached out to these women after the war. With the help of U.S. physicians, she helped the Lapins get surgeries to repair the damage done by the Nazi experiments.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (D.C.)

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/a-godmother-to-ravensbruck-survivors/>

The Debate Over Who Could Occupy World War II Public Housing in West Hartford

During World War II, Hartford drew hundreds of laborers from across the country looking for jobs in the defense industry. The state used federal funding to build Oakwood Acres housing tract to shelter the influx of laborers. However, the people of West Hartford refused to allow African Americans to

move in to the units, finding loopholes in the federal laws that protected minorities from discriminatory housing practices.

Field trip and research possibilities:

UConn Library Archives and Special Collections
Hartford History Center at Hartford Public Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-debate-over-who-could-occupy-world-war-ii-public-housing-in-west-hartford/>

Hiram Bingham IV: A Humanitarian Honored for Saving Lives during WWII

Hiram Bingham IV, whose father has been credited with discovering Machu Picchu, served as vice consul at the U.S. Consulate in Marseilles, France in 1940-41. Jewish individuals and families from across Europe fled to France to escape the Nazis, but France fell to Germany in 1940. Bingham secretly smuggled thousands of refugees out of Europe during this time, going against official U.S. policy.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Bingham Family Papers at Yale University Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/hiram-bingham-iv-a-humanitarian-honored-for-saving-lives-during-wwii/>