

CONNECTICUT

HISTORY
DAY

Connecticut Topic List

2021-22 School Year

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2022

Debate & Diplomacy in History

SUCCESSES, FAILURES,
CONSEQUENCES

Contents

Using this Guide	1
First Encounters and the Colonial Era (pre-1775)	2
Revolutionary War and a New Nation (1775-1815)	4
The Era of Reform (1815-1859)	5
Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1877)	7
Rise of Industrial America (1878-1900)	8
Progressive to New Eras (1900-1929)	8
Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)	11
Post War United States (1945-1968)	11
Contemporary United States (1969-present)	14

Using this Guide

Connecticut History Day has developed this guide to help assist students and teachers in researching Connecticut topics for the upcoming National History Day season. This guide catalogues topics and chronological order with tags to help students find themes. To search tags, hold CTRL+F and search for the following tags:

#abolition	#military
#agriculture	#nature
#art	#nauticalhistory
#blackhistory	#preservation
#civilwar	#religion
#commerce	#revolutionarywar
#education	#slavery
#health	#socialreform
#indigenouspeoples	#suffrage
#innovation	#technology
#journalism	#travel
#labor	#voting
#latinahistory	#womenshistory
#latinohistory	#worldwar1
#latinxhistory	#worldwar2
#law	

First Encounters and the Colonial Era (pre-1775)

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 and relocated to New York, where they joined Christian Mohawks to found the Brotherton Indian Nation.

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

Tags: #indigenouspeoples #education #religion

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.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/venture-smith-from-slavery-to-freedom/>

Tags: #slavery #blackhistory

The Southwick Jog Creates Debate and Diplomacy Between Connecticut and Massachusetts

From the time of Connecticut's charter in 1662 to the present, the state's boundaries have posed many challenges for those who survey them. The original charter received from King Charles II described Connecticut's boundaries as including all lands west of Narragansett Bay, "south by the sea," north by Massachusetts Plantation, and west by the Pacific Ocean and adjoining islands. For various reasons, the present map of Connecticut bears no resemblance to that description. Southwick was a section of the older Massachusetts town of Westfield, though its limits fell south of the true colony line. Westfield had been settled long before Connecticut's charter, and boundaries in this lightly settled western region of Massachusetts remained poorly defined. In 1801 Connecticut and Massachusetts came to an agreement: The portion of Southwick east of the Congamond Lakes went to Connecticut and became part of Suffield, and the western portion, still known as Southwick, went to Massachusetts.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/surveying-connecticuts-borders/>

Tags: #nature #preservation

The Pequot War

At the time of the war, the Pequot resided in what is now southeastern Connecticut. The conflict drew in numerous Native American tribes who fought on both sides of the conflict that took place in the Connecticut Colony and in parts of Rhode Island. The war culminated with the 1638 Treaty of Hartford, which outlawed the Pequot language and name, seized tribal lands, and disbanded the surviving Pequot, who were given to the victors as spoils of war or sold into slavery. Today, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation in southeastern Connecticut is proof of a people's endurance and a collaborative project funded by the National Park Service is under way to identify and preserve sites associated with the Pequot War.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/topics-page/pequot-war/>

Tags: #indigenouspeoples #law #military

Common Land in Connecticut

The town green remains a quintessential and unique part of the New England landscape, and for those towns lucky enough to have one still, the green may be one of the only extant artifacts from colonial times. As English settlers laid out Connecticut's earliest towns in the 17th century, they reserved the best land for planting and for animals to graze, then plotted land close by on which to build their homes, often on equal-sized plots. In the middle of their settlement they reserved a common area for public use and as a place to erect a meetinghouse. While some planned settlements were regular in arrangement, more often they were irregular tracts shaped by topography and burgeoning town development.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-connecticut-town-green/>

Tags: #agriculture #commerce #education #innovation #labor #nature #preservation #socialreform

Connecticut's Black Governors

For approximately one hundred years, from the middle of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century, there was a black governor in Connecticut. Selection of a leader was an African tradition brought by black slaves to the British colonies and the practice became formally established in Connecticut in the 1750s. Despite its democratic origins, powerful whites usurped the position and used governors largely to help "maintain order" within the black population.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/connecticuts-black-governors/>

Tags: #blackhistory #law #revolutionarywar #slavery #suffrage #voting

The Great Awakening

In the Great Awakening, a religious revival of the 1740s, impassioned evangelical ministers like George Whitfield attracted crowds of thousands. Convinced the colony had strayed dangerously from its early religious principles, they cried out for a return to the strict Puritanism of the 17th century. Whitfield's popularity threatened traditional church leaders, and the General Assembly promptly banned traveling preachers and even deported one.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/an-orderly-decent-government-searching-for-the-common-good-1634-1776/>

Tags: #education #law #religion #travel

Revolutionary War and a New Nation (1775-1815)

The "Conference" State

France's decision to assist the struggling Continental Army was predicated on the belief that helping the Americans win their independence was a way to cripple Great Britain. But the French Army would have to cross Connecticut to achieve that goal. For its role as a central location for plotting how and where the French and Americans would confront the British, the Constitution State could well have been called "The Conference State."

Learn more: <https://www.ctexplored.org/the-conference-state/>

Tags: #revolutionarywar #travel #military

The Rise and Fall of Silas Deane, American Patriot

Silas Deane was an American patriot and 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. His early achievements lost their luster, however, after Deane was recalled to face a protracted, rancorous battle with Congress over his financial dealings. He returned to Europe bitter and disillusioned, publicly questioning the wisdom of colonial independence and the break with Great Britain.

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

Tags: #revolutionarywar #military

The Connecticut Compromise

On July 16, 1787, a plan proposed by Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, Connecticut's delegates to the Constitutional Convention, established a two-house legislature. The Great Compromise, or Connecticut Compromise as it is often called, proposed a solution to the heated debate between larger and smaller states over their representation in the newly proposed Senate.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-connecticut-compromise/>

Tags: #revolutionarywar #law #voting

The Hartford Convention

On December 15, 1814, delegates to the Hartford Convention met in secret at the Old State House in Hartford. The Massachusetts legislature had requested the conference in October and delegates from the Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire legislatures met for three weeks to draft a formal protest against the Federal Government's continued involvement in the War of 1812, which allied the United States with France against Great Britain.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-hartford-convention-today-in-history/>

Tags: #revolutionarywar #law #commerce #military

Connecticut's Loyal Subjects: Toryism and the American Revolution

At the outbreak of the war, Connecticut consisted of six counties and 72 townships. According to the census of 1774, throughout these counties and townships, there existed some 25,000 males between the ages of 16 and 50, of whom about 2,000 identified themselves as Tories. Nowhere was the presence of these individuals stronger than in the southwestern portion of the state, particularly in Fairfield County. The presence of Loyalists was such that, by the winter of 1775, the General Assembly passed an "act for restraining and punishing persons who are inimical to the Liberties of this and the rest of the United Colonies."

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/connecticuts-loyal-subjects-toryism-and-the-american-revolution/>

Tags: #revolutionarywar #law #military

New Connecticut on Lake Erie: Connecticut's Western Reserve

When Europeans began settling the Atlantic seaboard of what became the United States, no one knew how far the land extended. As a result, many colonies, including Connecticut, were given vague charters of conveyance that implied they had rights to land far to their west. This led to numerous boundary disputes between the states. The new federal government stepped in to settle these disputes, and on September 13, 1786, Connecticut relinquished its claims except for a 120-mile long strip along Lake Erie, called the Western Reserve.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/new-connecticut-on-lake-erie-connecticuts-western-reserve/>

Tags: #agriculture #commerce #nature #preservation #travel

The Era of Reform (1815-1859)

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.

Learn more: <https://www.courant.com/community/middletown/hc-middletown-beman-family--20190928-pcctbxnngbdvzf5wpeiuncqxpq-story.html>

Tags: #religion #blackhistory #civilwar #slavery #abolition

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 Indigenous Peoples. 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 would 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.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/an-experiment-in-evangelization-cornwalls-foreign-mission-school/>

Tags: #indigenouspeoples #socialreform #education

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.

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

Tags: #blackhistory #abolition #religion #socialreform

Blacksmith Isaac Glasko Challenges the State Constitution

Isaac Glasko was an African American/Native American blacksmith from Griswold who petitioned the CT General Assembly to change the state constitution: in 1823 he argued that since black men and women were not allowed to vote, African American businesses should not have to pay state taxes.

Learn more: <http://connecticuthistory.org/blacksmith-isaac-glasko-challenges-the-state-constitution/>

Tags: #law #blackhistory #indigenouspeoples #socialreform #commerce

Ebenezer Bassett

Ebenezer Bassett became the first African American student to graduate from the New Britain Normal School – now Central Connecticut State University, in 1853. After graduating, Bassett became a noted educator, abolitionist, and the first African American ambassador to a foreign nation for the United States when he was stationed in Haiti.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/ebenezer-bassetts-historic-journey/>

Tags: #education #blackhistory #abolition

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.

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

Tags: #education #voting #law #socialreform

The Most Famous American in the World

The massive crowd in Liverpool, England, had been lined up at the dock for hours to get a glimpse of the famous American author. Her name was Harriet Beecher Stowe, and she was internationally famous for her antislavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published in March 1852. A complex work exploring family and home, religion, and justice, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* exposed the immorality of slavery and cried for its demise. Stowe's book, originally run as a 45-part series in an abolitionist newspaper, was a runaway success, selling 10,000 copies in a week and more than 300,000 copies in the United States in its first year, despite being widely banned in the South. It changed public opinion, created characters still talked about, influenced ideas about equity, and fomented revolution from Russia to Cuba.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-most-famous-american-in-the-world/>

Tags: #abolition #art #blackhistory #civilwar #labor #law #slavery #socialreform #travel #womenshistory

John Brown: A Portrait of Violent Abolitionism

John Brown was a staunch abolitionist famous for his beliefs in the equality of African Americans and for his use of violence in opposing the spread of slavery in the decade before the Civil War. Considered by pro-slavery Southerners as "a damned black-hearted villain," abolitionists met Brown's radical exploits with a combination of admiration and revulsion.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/john-brown-a-portrait-of-violent-abolitionism/>

Tags: #abolition #blackhistory #civilwar #law #slavery #socialreform

Civil War and Reconstruction (1860-1877)

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.

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

Tags: #religion #womenshistory #suffrage #abolition

P. T. Barnum: An Entertaining Life

“It always seemed to me,” Barnum once wrote (and is quoted in Wallace’s biography), “that a man who ‘takes no interest in politics’ is unfit to live in a land where the government rests in the hands of people.” Taking this philosophy to heart, Barnum won election to the Connecticut Legislature from the town of Fairfield in 1865. He fought for the citizenship of black men and women as proposed in the Fourteenth Amendment and worked to limit the power of the New York and New Haven Railroad lobby. Barnum’s successes got him reelected a year later. His most satisfying political work came during a one-year stint as mayor of Bridgeport in 1875. While in office, he crusaded to lower utility rates, improve water supplies, and close the city’s houses of prostitution.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/p-t-barnum-an-entertaining-life/>

Tags: #abolition #voting #suffrage

Rise of Industrial America (1878-1900)

Avon’s Educational and Cultural Pioneer

Yung Wing was the first Chinese-born student to graduate from an American college. After earning his degree from Yale, he set up a program that sent Chinese students to American colleges to receive their education and advocated for education reform.

Learn more: <http://connecticuthistory.org/avons-educational-and-cultural-pioneer/>

Tags: #education #socialreform

Rivers of Outrage

Pollution of Connecticut’s waters by industrial waste and sewage in the decades after the Civil War was arguably the state’s first modern environmental crisis. In the end it was the actions of ordinary citizens, operating through the courts, that began a long journey toward waterway restoration by laying its legal foundations.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/rivers-of-outrage/>

Tags: #agriculture #commerce #health #law #nature #socialreform

Progressive to New Eras (1900-1929)

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.

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

Tags: #suffrage #voting #law #socialreform #womenshistory

19th Amendment: The Fight Over 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 lawmakers blocked their efforts, these women wrote to President Woodrow Wilson and protested which eventually won them right to vote in 1919.

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

Tags: #suffrage #womenshistory #voting #law #socialreform

Anti-Suffrage in Connecticut

Not all women supported women's right to vote. In 1910 the Connecticut Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage was formed to preserve women's non-political role in society. Led by Grace G. Markham of Hartford, these anti-suffragists also appeared before legislative committees, distributed leaflets and pamphlets, and hosted meetings and debates. Susan Marshall, in *Splintered Sisterhood: Gender and Class in the Campaign Against Woman Suffrage* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1997), notes that the "Antis," as they were known, did not believe that women were physically or temperamentally fit to vote. They argued that men were capable of conducting government for both sexes, that women suffered from no injustice that the vote would fix, and that their having the right to vote was simply unnecessary.

Learn more: <https://www.ctexplored.org/the-long-road-to-womens-suffrage-in-connecticut/>

Tags: #suffrage #womenshistory #voting #law #socialreform

International Farm Youth Exchange Leads to Diplomacy and Understanding

The 4-H Clubs of Connecticut originated in 1913 with the establishment of the first club in Mansfield, Connecticut. A part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension System, 4-H clubs have aimed to educate Connecticut's youth in agriculture, home economics, and new technologies. The 4-H Clubs of Connecticut also strives to imbue its members with important life skills, building character through the teaching of a variety of practical skills. The exchange program encourages "peace through understanding" and diplomacy by housing students with host families from around the world.

Learn more: https://archivessearch.lib.uconn.edu/repositories/2/archival_objects/206479

Tags: #socialreform #agriculture #education #labor #nature #travel

Hiram Bingham III: Machu Picchu Explorer and Politician

Hiram Bingham III was a distinguished scholar and public servant attached to a line of the Bingham family that has lived in Salem, Connecticut, for generations. After completing his PhD at Harvard University, he became an adjunct professor of Latin American history at Yale University in 1907. Shortly thereafter, Bingham made one of the most famous discoveries in archeological history. In a series of three expeditions from 1911 to 1915, Bingham discovered and excavated the ancient Inca village of Machu Picchu, which was unknown beyond a small number of indigenous people and, possibly, missionaries who had earlier traveled through the area.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/hiram-bingham-iii-machu-picchu-explorer-and-politician/>

Tags: #art #education #indigenouspeoples #latinxhistory #latinahistory #latinohistory #nature #preservation #travel

The Platt Amendment

Raised on a Connecticut farm, Orville Hitchcock Platt started his professional career as a small-town lawyer, but rose to become one of the most powerful Republican senators in Washington, DC. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Platt had the ear of the most influential politicians in the country, including President Theodore Roosevelt, and presented to Congress a groundbreaking piece of legislation that helped shape the country's international relations for more than a century. The amendment (actually authored by Secretary of War Elihu Root) provided a list of stipulations under which the United States agreed to end its occupation of Cuba—an occupation that began in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/orville-platt-helps-define-international-relations-after-the-spanish-american-war/>

Tags: #law #military #voting

The Connecticut National Guard on the Mexican Border

Between June 27 and June 29, 1916 nearly 3,000 Connecticut National Guardsmen left Camp Holcomb in Niantic, bound for the Mexican border. The reasons for their journey are directly related to events stemming from the Mexican Revolution of 1910 and the almost constant state of flux in political and military affairs that followed and to the long history of instability and cross-border incursions that characterized the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Learn more: <https://www.ctexplored.org/the-connecticut-national-guard-on-the-mexican-border/>

Tags: #law #military #latinxhistory #latinohistory #latinahistory

Great Depression and World War II (1929-1945)

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.

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

Tags: #worldwar2 #military #socialreform #law

Connecticut Lawyer Prosecutes Nazi War Criminals at Nuremberg

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, Thomas Joseph Dodd, a Norwich-born lawyer from Connecticut, served on the United States' prosecutorial team as Executive Trial Counsel at the International Military Tribunal (IMT). The tribunal, which the Allied nations assembled in order to try Nazi leaders for war crimes, took place in 1945-46. The IMT, which is often referred to as the Nuremberg trial after the German city in which it and subsequent proceedings took place, was an unprecedented effort to hold leaders of a nation state accountable for their wartime actions while also endeavoring to uphold their rights to a fair trial.

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

Tags: #worldwar2 #military #socialreform #law #religion

Merritt Parkway Creates Scenic Gateway to New England

The first multi-lane, limited-access roadway in Connecticut, the Merritt Parkway, was also one of the first scenic parkways in the nation. Characterized by its landscape design as well as by ornamental Art Deco and Art Moderne bridges, the 37.5-mile parkway improved access to New York City and influenced the development of Fairfield County. It cost \$21 million and was the largest public works project in Connecticut at the time of its opening from 1938-1940. Although its construction employed more than 2,000 laborers and met the goals of relieving congestion, preventing accidental loss of life on Route 1, and contributing to Fairfield County's economic development, the Merritt Parkway did not evolve without problems.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-merritt-parkway/>

Tags: #labor #preservation #travel

Post War United States (1945-1968)

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.

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

Tags: #blackhistory #socialreform #education

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.

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

Tags: #law #womenshistory #health #socialreform

Simon Bernstein and the 1965 Connecticut 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 Connecticut's students. The amendment he wrote passed through the legislature and became a law, leading to significant changes in Connecticut's education system.

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

Tags: #socialreform #education #law

Helen Keller: Commutating the Importance of 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.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/helen-keller-in-connecticut-the-last-years-of-a-legendary-crusader/>

Tags: #socialreform #education #law #womenshistory

Governor Chester Bowles Serves as Ambassador to India

Chester Bowles, who served as the 78th Governor of Connecticut and later member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Connecticut, served as the 3rd and 8th United States Ambassador to India under Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Truman and Eisenhower. While serving as Ambassador to India, he helped fight local famines and improve agricultural productivity. Bowles was an advocate of strong relations with India and believed that the two nations shared fundamental democratic values.

Learn more:

https://archives.yale.edu/repositories/12/resources/4557/collection_organization

Tags: #travel #socialreform

Tobacco Valley: Puerto Rican Farm Workers in Connecticut

In 1947, the Department of Labor of Puerto Rico established its Migration Division to arrange contracts between mainland farmers and unemployed Puerto Ricans. Division recruiters traveled the winding island roads in cars with bullhorns, distributed leaflets, and placed ads in newspapers announcing good jobs in the United States. Puerto Rican farm workers labored in many parts of Connecticut. They pruned trees and watered plants in nurseries in Meriden, weeded tomatoes in Cheshire, and picked mushrooms near Willimantic. Most, however, came to work tobacco in the Connecticut River Valley. The region, known as “Tobacco Valley,” once extended from Hartford, Connecticut, to Springfield, Massachusetts, covering an area 30 miles wide and 90 miles long. Just as surely as they had planted and tended the crops in Tobacco Valley, Puerto Rican farm workers began to put down their own roots in Hartford and other cities throughout Connecticut. Together, with other Puerto Rican migrants who had come to labor in factories, these former agricultural workers helped form the nuclei of entirely new communities.

Learn more: <https://www.ctexplored.org/tobacco-valley-puerto-rican-farm-workers-in-connecticut/>

Tags: #agriculture #labor #latinahistory #latinohistory #latinxhistory #nature #socialreform

The Battle for Cockenoe Island

In the middle of the 17th century, a Native American known as Cockenoe or Checkanoe, signed a deed giving an island (now known as Cockenoe Island) to the fledgling town of Norwalk. Just over 180 years later, in 1835, the island became a part of Westport, when that municipality emerged from parts of Norwalk, Fairfield, and Weston. Then, in the mid-1960s, the Bridgeport-based power company United Illuminating (UI) acquired the island. In August of 1967, the company announced plans to build a nuclear power plant on the island. On March 10, 1969, hundreds of Westport residents traveled to the Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford to support a bill giving Connecticut towns priority over utility companies in cases of eminent domain.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-battle-for-cockenoe-island/>

Tags: #agriculture #commerce #law #nature #preservation #technology

The Rise of the Black Panther Party in Connecticut

In Bridgeport, José Rene Gonzalves of California organized the first Black Panther Party chapter in Connecticut. He soon started chapters in New Haven, Waterbury, and Hartford. After establishing local leadership, national figures like Ericka Huggins came to the state to run political education courses and organize Panther programs. “This is a revolution,” Gonzalves told a Stamford crowd. “It’s a revolution against the system that teaches a man to be less than a man. A revolution against ignorance, fear and hate.” The Panthers’ goal, he said, was to “take the strength from the few and give the power to the people.”

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-rise-of-the-black-panther-party-in-connecticut/>

Tags: #blackhistory #education #law #socialreform #voting

Clare Boothe Luce Changed Perceptions about Women in Business and Politics

A resident of Greenwich, Clare Boothe Luce won election to the United States Congress in 1942 as a representative from Connecticut. Her entrance into politics was not her first foray into the public eye, however. By the time of her election, she was already an established author, editor, and playwright. Recognized for her efforts to reshape perceptions of women in the realms of politics and society, Luce later became the United States Ambassador to Italy—the first woman to hold such an appointment to a major European country.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/clare-boothe-luce/>

Tags: #law #art #socialreform #womenshistory #travel

Contemporary United States (1969-present)

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.

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

Tags: #education #blackhistory #socialreform #latinoahistory #latinahistory #latinxhistory #law

The Anti-Income Tax Rally of 1991

With the signing of the state budget passed by the Connecticut General Assembly in the early morning hours of August 22, 1991, Governor Lowell Weicker overturned two of the state's steady habits – political opposition to a state income tax and reliance on the sales tax as the main source of state revenue. His signing of the budget also set in motion events leading to what is regarded as the largest public demonstration in the state's history – the October 5, 1991 Anti-Income Tax Rally on the grounds of the State Capitol. Official estimates placed attendance at 40,000, while rally organizers claimed 70,000 citizens attended.

Learn more: <https://www.ctexplored.org/sample-article-the-anti-income-tax-rally-of-1991/>

Tags: #law #socialreform #commerce

Capital Punishment in Connecticut: Changing Views

Connecticut's struggles with the issue of capital punishment date back to its earliest days as a colony. Starting in 1636 and ending in 2005, Connecticut witnessed 158 executions. Throughout this period, changing ideas about crime, punishment, and human rights played out in public debates about the effectiveness and morality of capital punishment.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/capital-punishment-in-connecticut-changing-views/>

Tags: #law #socialreform

Breaking the Myth of the Unmanaged Landscape

Descending from the highest point on the Eastern Pequot's Lantern Hill reservation in North Stonington, past the powwow and burial grounds, the remains of old homesteads, and through the dense underbrush topped by oak, beech, and hickory trees, one encounters a terrain so steep it seems impossible that anyone could have cultivated this land. The Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation has successfully managed the lands and natural resources within their reservation since its establishment in 1683, using traditional, but informal, methods. More recently, in light of the potential for community growth, the tribe, wisely, wanted to plan ahead. To that end, it began an inventory of its cultural and natural resources, assessing and mapping when possible, and calling on consultants where needed to help coordinate land management and environmental regulatory concerns.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/breaking-the-myth-of-the-unmanaged-landscape/>
Tags: #agriculture #indigenouspeoples #nature #preservation

Connecticut Yankee and Millstone: 48 Years of Nuclear Power

Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company, Connecticut's first nuclear power plant, began commercial operation, in Haddam Neck, on January 1, 1968. It was a time of high expectations for the economic potential of peaceful nuclear energy. As a competitor with coal, oil, and other fossil fuels, nuclear power in the United States has had mixed success since the 1960s. While Connecticut Yankee operated for nearly 29 years, generating over 110 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, high operational costs led to its closing in 1996. Low oil and natural gas prices; increased safety regulation; periodic plant shutdowns; and public concern about the dangers of radiation leaks and waste were important factors.

Learn more: <https://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-yankee-and-millstone-46-years-of-nuclear-power-2/>
Tags: #agriculture #commerce #innovation #labor #nature #technology

The Supreme Court Case New London Won, and Everybody Lost

In 2000, the New London Development Corporation (NLDC), acting under the city's authority, moved to seize over 100 privately held residential properties in the city's Fort Trumbull neighborhood in order to lay the groundwork for a massive expansion of Pfizer Pharmaceutical's New London campus. Susette Kelo, who owned a now-iconic little pink house in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood, was one of 14 "holdouts" who refused to relinquish their properties and took the NLDC to court. Kelo and her lawyers argued that the government could invoke eminent domain only for purposes of "public use," like building a highway or public building, not for the benefit of private redevelopment. The lawyers for New London countered that economic redevelopment, even in the hands of private corporations, was a valid example of "public use" that would benefit the entire city.

Learn more: <https://todayinhistory.com/2021/06/23/june-23-reasons-the-government-can-take-away-your-home-greatly-expanded-by-new-london-supreme-court-case/>
Tags: #commerce #labor #law #preservation

Finders Not Keepers: Yale Returns Artifacts To Peru

High in the Andes Mountains, Peruvians have been lining up to see a collection of antiquities that have finally returned home. The objects from the Inca site of Machu Picchu spent the past 100 years at Yale University in Connecticut, where they were at the center of a long-running international custody battle. Now, the university is giving back thousands of ceramics, jewelry and human bones from the Peabody Museum in New Haven to the International Center for the Study of Machu Picchu and Inca Culture.

Learn more: <https://www.npr.org/2012/01/01/143653050/finders-not-keepers-yale-returns-artifacts-to-peru>

Tags: #art #education #indigenouspeoples #law #latinxhistory #latinohistory #latinahistory #preservation #socialreform

Charles Tisdale Campaigns for Congress

Best known as the director of ABCD - Action for Bridgeport Community Development – Charles B. Tisdale was a giant in Bridgeport's community. In 1976, he ran a congressional campaign for the House of Representatives, making him the first African-American in Connecticut to win the democratic nomination. While he lost the race, the work done would catch the eye of President Jimmy Carter and see Tisdale serve at a national level within the administration for four years.

Learn more: <https://ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/110002%3A19514>

Tags: #blackhistory #law #voting

Explore ConnecticutHistory.org and [Connecticut Explored](http://ConnecticutExplored) for even more topic ideas!