



Conflict and Compromise in History

*A selection of topic
suggestions for the 2017-
2018 Connecticut History
Day*

Contributions from:
ConnecticutHistory.org, Connecticut
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Connecticut history, one good story after another.

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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 Forlorn Soldier

The c. 1860s Forlorn Soldier is a weather-beaten brownstone statue depicting a Union soldier. For years he stood, truly forlorn, by the side of Airport Road in Hartford. Yet he is a unique representative of both Hartford and Connecticut, their connection to the Civil War and especially the Battle of Antietam, and to one of the city's and nation's most prominent businessmen, James G. Batterson, the founder of Travelers Insurance and builder of monuments, including the state capitol.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/the-forlorn-soldier/>

The Genius of Connecticut: Give Her Wings!

Randolph Roger's *Genius of Connecticut* statue once stood at the pinnacle of the state's capitol building in Hartford. Today, historian Matt Warshauer is leading an effort to have the statue returned to its rightful place on top of the capitol dome.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Capitol

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/the-genius-of-connecticut-give-her-wings/>

The Cheney Company Housing Auction of 1937

Mill towns were often owned by a single company, which would build and manage housing, stores, schools, parks, libraries, social halls, banks, and utilities. For more than 100 years, these industries thrived, but in the Great Depression of the 1930s, dozens of companies across the state were forced to shed their non-industrial real estate in order to receive federal bankruptcy protection and loan assistance. For the Cheney Brothers Silk Company of South Manchester, Connecticut, that meant selling 245 residential properties in a three-day auction in September 1937.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/the-cheney-company-housing-auction-of-1937/>

Saving Mark Twain's House

In 1920, the grand old Clemens home was on the brink of demolition, and citizens of Hartford—including the sensation-minded young editor of *The Hartford Courant*—mobilized to save it. But they didn't reckon with Hartford's steady habit of long-held grudges.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/sample-article-saving-mark-twains-house/>

Arts

Fighting Conflict through Photography: Jane Hamilton-Merritt

Jane Hamilton-Merritt was a Vietnam-era photojournalist who not only documented the conflict of the era but also has devoted her life to pursuing justice for the Hmong people of Laos who she encountered during that time.

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/writers-journalists/jane-hamilton-merritt#.WZNKOIWGO70>

Photographing Conflict: Margaret Bourke-White

Photographer, journalist, writer, and social activist, Margaret Bourke-White was a woman of many firsts: first female photographer for *Life* magazine, first female war correspondent, first Western photographer allowed into the Soviet Union. The tough-minded and talented Bourke-White was driven by more than mere ambition. She had a deep-rooted belief in an artist's duty to change the world. Known to her *Life* colleagues as "Maggie the Indestructible," Bourke-White documented some of the most pivotal moments of the 20th century.

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/arts-humanities/margaret-bourke-white#.Wab4q7KGO70>

Schism in the Congregational Church- The Old Lights and New Lights

During the 1740s, a religious revival called the First Great Awakening was sweeping through the colonies. It brought sweeping religious, social, intellectual, and political changes and caused great tension between the "Old Lights" and the "New Lights." The "New Lights", as well as such Protestant missionary groups as the Moravians and the missionaries of various smaller non-Congregationalist denominations, were gaining in acceptance all over Europe, Britain and the American colonies. New Lights preached a more individual relationship with God. The Old Lights believed that the minister interpreted God's will for His people and the church body was the stabilizing influence in the community.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden
Kent Historical Society

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-origins-shape-new-light-luminary-jonathan-edwards>

<https://connecticuthistory.org/hidden-nearby-bethlehems-joseph-bellamy-monument>

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/>

Expulsion of Abel Wright from Congregational Church

Abel Wright was one of the most wealthy and powerful men in colonial Kent, Connecticut. However, he was expelled from the Congregational Church and the town government in 1745. He was a supporter of New Light preacher, James Davenport, and he had invited three New Light preachers to his home. He also was working with the Schaghticoke Indians and the Moravian Missionaries. This was in direct conflict with the Puritan principles of the town and church. Abel moved away to Southeast, New York, but returned to Kent in 1760 once the town and church leaders softened their strict stance, probably as the result of mounting need to compromise with more open minded settlers. In spite of most likely having become a Quaker, he ran a successful general store, with some of his former accusers as customers.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Kent Historical Society
Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://www.genealogybank.com>

www.ancestry.com - search for Abel Wright, born 22 Aug 1695, Springfield, MA; died 07 June 1770, Kent, CT

Puritanism and Religious Tolerance

Puritans believed the reforms of the Church of England initiated by Henry VIII in 1533 had not gone nearly far enough. To their minds, the Anglican Church remained encumbered with liturgies and rituals that cast a Catholic shadow over God's Protestant glory. Puritans rejected these practices and pushed hard for further English reformation. As Connecticut grew, people squabbled over the details of Puritan practice while clashing with Catholics, Jews, and numerous Christian denominations over their rights to practice.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/whats-a-puritan-and-why-didnt-they-stay-in-massachusetts/>

Faith Congregational Church

What role has the church in the African American community played in ameliorating conflict and seeking compromise? 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:

Faith Congregational Church, Hartford CT

Links:

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

Making Their Presence Known

Jews appear to have been scarce in colonial Hartford : The earliest recorded mention of a Jew in the city, "David the Jew," occurred in 1659, and vital records from 1667 note the presence of "Jacob the Jew," a horse dealer. They continued to be a tiny minority in Hartford until the about the second quarter of the 19th century and were not permitted to openly worship, even after Congregationalism's reign as the official religion of Connecticut ended in 1818.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/making-their-presence-known/>

Business and Industry

Vivien Kellems Takes On the IRS

Vivien Kellems, an advocate for female equality and women's suffrage, was best known for a decades long battle with the IRS, throughout which she refused to pay income taxes as a protest against the IRS's graduated income tax rate.

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/vivien-kellems-takes-on-the-irs/>

The Ill-Fated Farmington Canal

It was the largest single transportation project in Connecticut's history. It would extend from New Haven to Northampton, Massachusetts, and give New Haven a trade connection to northern New England that the city badly needed to compete with its sister capital in Hartford. (Connecticut had

two state capitals until 1876.) It brought in the first tidal wave of immigrants from Ireland to dig. Yet, tragically, it failed 20 years after completion.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/the-ill-fated-farmington-canal/>

Traveling Hartford-Area Turnpikes—Then, Now, or Never?

Close observation as you drive the highways in and around Hartford, particularly while sitting in rush-hour traffic on I-84 or I-91, will undoubtedly raise questions about why the highways are configured the way they are.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/traveling-hartford-area-turnpikes-then-now-or-never-plans-for-a-beltway-around-hartford-hit-a-dead-end/>

Labor vs. Management

During the era of industrial expansion in New England at the start of the 19th century, many individual mills were established alongside rivers or streams in existing rural towns. When workers' housing, mercantile buildings, and churches were constructed, a mill village was born. These industrial communities were given names by local residents to distinguish them as a location within an existing town. However, in 1919 and in the early 1950s many strikes occurred at the woolen mills in Vernon and the major textile employer closed the mills in 1951.

Links:

<https://vernonhistoricalsoc.org/vhs-archives/mills-towns-and-farms/>

Advancing the Labor Movement

Betty Tianti dedicated her life to the advancement of the labor movement. In doing so, she made history in 1985 when she was elected president of the AFL-CIO in Connecticut, becoming the nation's first woman to head a labor federation. Tianti further made history three years later when she was appointed to be the state's first female Commissioner of Labor—a position that had been filled by men since its inception in 1873.

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/business-labor/betty-tianti#.WagwBLKGO70>

A Compromise for Labor: Augusta Lewis Troup

Before women even had the right to vote, Augusta Lewis Troup was a pioneering labor leader and education activist. She founded the Women's Typographical Union of New York and was the first woman to hold office in the all-male International Typographical Union. When she moved to New Haven, she helped found a newspaper through which she advocated for women and the minority population and also became a teacher and a member of the Board of Education.

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/reformers/augusta-lewis-troup#.WagwbbKGO70>

Keeping the Country Informed During Conflict: Hannah Bunce Watson

Hannah Bunce Watson became the publisher of *The Connecticut Courant* at a remarkable moment in American history. The year was 1777, George Washington was not yet President, and Jonathan Trumbull was governor of Connecticut. A fledgling nation was emerging, and its patriots needed to know what was going on in the world. Boston papers had been shut down by the British, and in New York only Tory papers were being published. *The Courant*, then the oldest and largest newspaper in the colonies (8,000 circulation), was the only one that could keep them informed.

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/business-labor/hannah-bunce-watson#.Wagw0rKGO70>

Civil War

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 Peace Movement in Litchfield

While most northerners supported the Civil War, some people in Connecticut opposed it. Numerous families in and around Litchfield showed their opposition to the war, standing up for what they believed in even when it was unpopular to do so.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Litchfield Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-peace-movement-in-litchfield/>

Civil War: Heroes on the Homefront

With the advent of the Civil War, the roles of women were significantly altered as new and monumental responsibilities took precedence over those that were considered the normal female domain. The security of the traditional family structure and community cohesion was suddenly assaulted by the loss of so many husbands, fathers, and sons to the battlefield, and the overwhelming need to supply the continually demanding war machine with food, arms, uniforms, and medical supplies.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/civil-war-heroes-of-the-home-front/>

Ruth Hovey, Hartford Hero

Ruth Hovey Allison, a Hartford hero of the First World War, never fired a shot, but her bravery under fire in France was recognized by those at the highest echelons. She was among thousands of American women who, in the military services or as volunteers with service organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, risked their lives in Europe. A young nurse with a front-line surgical unit, Hovey showed her mettle treating patients nearly non-stop for days, as German shells crashed overhead, during the heavy fighting in July 1918.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/ruth-hovey-hartford-hero/>

The 20th Regiment of Southington

Captain Andrew Upton of Southington, Connecticut, served on the side of the Union during the Civil War from August 1862 to February 19, 1864 when he died of wounds received in battle. During his service he wrote over 140 letters to his wife, Elizabeth and their children.

Links:

<https://barnesmuseum.wordpress.com/captain-upton-civil-war-letters/>

Cold War

The United States versus the USSR

From the late 1940s until the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1991, the United States was embattled in a political, economic, and military conflict with the Soviet Union known as the Cold War. Aviation and aerospace technology, much of which was developed in Connecticut played a vital role in the following Cold War events...

U-2 Spyplane Incident

The Cuban Missile Crisis

The Berlin Airlift

Strategic Defense Initiative

The Space Race

Field trip and research possibilities:

New England Air Museum

Crime and Punishment

Capital Punishment in Connecticut: Changing Views

Starting in the 1600s, people who committed serious crimes in Connecticut were put to death, first by hanging, and later by electric chair and lethal injection. Citizens argued against capital punishment numerous times throughout the state's history, but the death penalty was not abolished until 2012.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Wethersfield Historical Society

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/capital-punishment-in-connecticut-changing-views/>

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/>
<https://connecticuthistory.org/prudence-crandall-fights-for-equal-access-to-education/>
<http://cwhf.org/inductees/education-preservation/prudence-crandall#.WZNHDVWGO70>

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/>

Foreign Mission School

A Christian revival movement emerged in the early 1800s and many who embraced it saw religion—especially through the work of missionaries—as a tool for civilizing “heathen” peoples. The introduction of students from so many diverse cultures into an environment with a rich Anglo-Saxon and Puritan history was not without its controversies. Local residents were wary of having largely dark-skinned, non-Christian individuals living among them. Many of these concerns involved fears of miscegenation. Romances that evolved between two students and two local residents provided a ready outlet for a violent expression of these fears.

Links:

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

To Work or to School: Educating Children in 19th Century Connecticut

The story of the compulsory education movement in Connecticut is one that exemplifies broader concerns facing the nation in the late 19th century. While its primary focus was to get children off the streets, out of the factories, and into the schools, what was really at stake was the responsibility for socializing the state's children and determining the age at which they were ready to cross the symbolic threshold into adulthood.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/to-work-or-to-school-educating-children-in-19th-century-connecticut/>
<https://ctexplored.org/child-labor>

Environment

Conservation vs Development

Conservation and development seem like opposing inclinations, but Connecticut residents have redefined this complex relationship over time and influenced our nation's perception of it as well.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Simsbury Historical Society

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/dynamic-tensions-conservation-and-development-up-to-the-1920s/>

Daylight Savings Time

In 1923, Connecticut passed a law officially maintaining Standard Time all year round and prohibiting the "willful public display of daylight saving time." Eastern Standard Time was to remain the official time throughout the state. Many businesses simply ignored the rule. Between the end of April and the end of October, the clocks in church steeples and courthouse cupolas and on the sidewalks of Hartford might show Eastern Standard Time, but the moment you stepped through a door into a bank, store, or restaurant, the clocks all displayed Daylight Saving Time.

Links: <https://connecticuthistory.org/playing-with-time-the-introduction-of-daylight-saving-time-in-connecticut/>

Immigration

Jewish Immigration

In its earliest years, Connecticut did not welcome Jews or, indeed, most Christians other than members of the Congregational Church. For nearly two centuries the Congregationalists controlled much of region's religious, political, and social life and the few Jews who settled in Connecticut did

not form either a cohesive group nor establish permanent Jewish communities. Rather, they blended into the mainstream, frequently leaving their Jewish heritage behind.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County

Links: <https://connecticuthistory.org/tradition-and-transformation-define-hartfords-jewish-community/>

Western European Immigration to Connecticut

As early as 1860, the Germans of Rockville were beginning to emerge as a distinctive ethnic group. The Census of 1860 lists 58 single individuals and 96 families of German birth residing in Vernon. A large number of single men and women lived in boarding houses, and families, while not residentially segregated, did appear to cluster in small groups throughout the village of Rockville.

Links: <https://vernonhistoricalsoc.org/vhs-archives/civic-social-groups/>

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/>

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>

Connecticut Ratifies the U.S. Constitution

On January 9, 1788, Connecticut became the fifth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In addition to ratifying the Constitution, the state also contributed a significant component of the Constitution: the Connecticut Compromise. The Connecticut Compromise dictated that there should be two houses within the legislative branch, one with a variable number of representatives based on population (House of Representatives), and the other with a fixed and equal number of representatives for each state (Senate).

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut's Old State House

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-ratifies-us-constitution-today-in-history/>

Breaking the Legal Barrier

Mary Hall was the first woman in the state to be admitted to the bar. Her success was not an isolated victory for women's rights but one of a patchwork of such battles that took place across the United States from 1869 until the passage of the 19th Amendment after World War I. Hall's case was singularly important, however, because, according to women's legal historian Virginia Drachman in *Sisters in Law* (Harvard University Press, 2001), it "represented one of American women's first successes in using the judicial system to change radically their legal status."

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Supreme Court

Richmond Memorial Library

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/mary-hall-breaking-the-legal-barrier/>

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/politics-government-law/mary-hall#.WZNII1WGO70>

The Trailblazing Bessye Bennett

In 1960 there were 142 African American women practicing law in the United States. Yet, when Bessye Bennett entered the University of Connecticut's law school in 1969 there were still no African American women practicing in Connecticut. There were also no other female African American students at the UConn law school.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Supreme Court

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/BENNETT.pdf>

Medical

Emily Dunning Barringer: Fighting to become an Ambulance Surgeon

Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer, a long-time resident of New Canaan, Conn., was an established physician and pioneer for women in medicine when she wrote her autobiography, *Bowery to Bellevue: The Story of New York's First Woman Ambulance Surgeon*, in 1950. The book contained details of Barringer's determination to overcome the barriers that limited female physicians at the turn of the century; her experiences as New York City's first female ambulance surgeon; and her appointment as the first woman to serve on the staff of a general municipal hospital in the city.

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/science-health/emily-dunning-barringer#.WYtavIIUrAU>

Native Americans

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/>

<https://ctexplored.org/exploring-and-uncovering-the-pequot-war/>

Sequin, the Wongunk, and the Connecticut Colony settlers

Hartford (Suckiog) was purchased in 1636 from Sequin, grand sachem of the Wongunk people. In 1637 Sequin (also known as Sowheag) moved his wigwams to Wethersfield to land he still possessed. The settlers there attacked his wigwams, and he was forced to move. In retaliation, he planned an attack on Wethersfield, and the subsequent deaths were one of the reasons for the Pequot War. After the war, the colonists had something to consider: how would they deal with Sequin himself and what would be their relationship with the Wongunk people?

Field trip and research possibilities:

Yale Indian Papers Project digital database

Wethersfield Historical Society

CT State Library

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Links:

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

King Philip's War

August 12 is the anniversary of the death of the Wampanoag sachem Metacom, also known as Metacomet or King Philip, the name given to him by the English. His death in 1676 essentially ended King Philip's War, a violent and bloody conflict between the Wampanoag and English colonists. People from Connecticut took part in the many of the battles and had an important influence on the outcome of the war. The underlying cause of the war was the colonists' unrelenting desire for more and more land, but the immediate cause for its outbreak was the trial and execution of three of Metacom's men by the colonists.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Yale Indian Papers Project digital database
CT State Library
Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Links:

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

Turramuggus, Massacump, and King Philip's War

In June, 1675, the Wampanoag sachem (chief) King Philip (also known as Metacom), began a war with Massachusetts Bay Colony. The war grew in scope, spreading to Rhode Island and Connecticut. In September, 1675, a group of Connecticut Indians that included Turramuggus, Nesehegon, and others, went to Springfield, MA to try to help the town against Philip's troops. Later, leaders of the Wongunk, Turramuggus (son of Sequin) and Massacump (son of the late grand sachem Miantonomi of the Narragansett), and others, were held hostage by the Connecticut Colony. Although some Wongunk Indians remained at Middletown throughout the war and were peaceful, their leaders were captive during the war and after the war some Indians were kept in a prisoner/refugee camp at a place called Shetucket (also spelled Showtucket).

Field trip and research possibilities:

Yale Indian Papers Project digital database
Middletown Historical Society
CT State Library
Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

Links:

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

French and Indian War

The war had a profound impact on the colony because it severely taxed economic, political, and manpower resources and set in motion forces that caused Connecticut and Britain's other original North American colonies to rise in rebellion a dozen years after the war ended.

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/connecticut-in-the-french-and-indian-war/>

Politics and Government

Jasper McLevy: Bridgeport Votes for a Change

Jasper McLevy ran for the office of mayor in Bridgeport as a third party candidate. McLevy, a socialist, exposed the corrupt dealings of both of the major political parties he ran against and, once elected, helped many unemployed city residents find work.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Bridgeport Historical Center at Bridgeport Public Library

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/bridgeport-votes-for-a-change/>

The Great Compromise

A number of conflicts and compromises arose in the making of the U.S. Constitution; one of the most severe was between larger and smaller states over their representation in the newly proposed Senate. Connecticut's Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth proposed a solution whereby all states would have the same number of seats in the Senate and the number of members of the House of Representatives would be based on total white population and three-fifths of the black population.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Oliver Ellsworth House

Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

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

<https://connecticuthistory.org/people/oliver-ellsworth>

<https://connecticuthistory.org/people/roger-sherman>

State Borders

From the time of Connecticut's charter in 1662 to the present, the state's boundaries have posed many challenges. The troubles started with an errant survey of the state's northern border performed by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Saffery of Massachusetts in 1642. Connecticut resurveyed the line in 1695. This more accurate survey was confirmed by surveyors from both colonies in 1702, yet Massachusetts denied the surveyors' authority and insisted on maintaining the 1642 borders. In 1713, however, Massachusetts and Connecticut, to avoid England's scrutiny, came to an agreement.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

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

Connecticut's Two Capital Cities

At one time, Connecticut had two state capitol buildings and two capital cities: New Haven and Hartford. The General Assembly conducted business in both cities on a rotating schedule until 1875. From their origins during the colonial era, a sense of rivalry existed between the settlements at Hartford and New Haven. A debate began toward the end of the 1860s in Connecticut regarding the condition of the two statehouses and the rivalry intensified, ultimately settled by a vote.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut's Old State House
New Haven Museum

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/a-tale-of-two-capitals/>

Reflections on the 1965 Constitutional Convention

Why did it take so long for Connecticut to move to one person-one vote? Beginning with the Fundamental Orders of 1639, Connecticut never lost or surrendered her charter of liberties. A state constitutional revision in 1818 made some substantive changes, but the same basic principles of self-government guided Connecticut from 1639 to 1965. Then, in the turbulent 1960s, the Supreme Court opened the door to change.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/reflections-on-the-1965-constitutional-convention/>

No Taxation Without Representation

The right to vote is an expression of political participation, human dignity, and control of one's destiny. For the majority of people of African descent in Connecticut in the 1700s emancipation from slavery, the rights of citizenship, and voting rights were linked. Connecticut legislators passed a Gradual Emancipation Act in 1784 that eliminated hereditary enslavement (freeing only those born into slavery after March 1, 1784 at age 25, that age was lowered to 21 in 1797), and finally abolished slavery in 1848. Numbers of African Americans in Connecticut obtained their freedom, purchased property, organized churches and other institutions, and attained education. Despite these achievements, the state of Connecticut limited the full rights of citizenship even for the free African Americans who fought for the independence of the United States from England.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/no-taxation-without-representation-voting-petitions-in-connecticut/>

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, Gov. 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 political demonstration in the state's history—the October 5th 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.

Links:

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

Senator Brandegee Stonewalls Women's Suffrage

Frank B. Brandegee of New London served in the United States Senate from 1905 until his suicide in 1924. During his time in the nation's capital, Brandegee developed close friendships with many national political figures and even some of Washington's more notable residents at the time, including Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the oldest daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt and wife of Congressman Nicholas Longworth. Although Brandegee was relatively quiet politically during his early years in the U.S. Senate, he eventually grew into an outspoken and conservative opponent of the major progressive legislative movements of the 1910s and 1920s. His fights against the League of Nations and the 19th Amendment are the most prominent aspects of his political career.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/senator-brandegee-stonewalls-womens-suffrage/>

<http://ctexplored.org/the-long-road-to-womens-suffrage-in-connecticut/>

Gaining Religious Equality

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.

Until 1818, the Congregationalist Church was the state's established religion, meaning, among other things, that taxes supported it.

Links:

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

Revolutionary War

Loyalists and Patriots

Even before war erupted, Connecticut passed anti-Tory laws. In time, these—and harassment from liberty-minded neighbors—forced many loyal to Britain to flee their homes or suffer imprisonment. When fighting started in 1775, Connecticut patriots earned acclaim, from Benedict Arnold (before he turned traitor) at the seizure of Fort Ticonderoga, to Israel Putnam at Bunker Hill.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Links:

<https://connecticuthistory.org/topics-page/revolutionary-war/>

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.”

Links:

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

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/>

Rev. James Pennington: A Voice for Freedom,

In 1827 James Pembroke, an enslaved man of African descent who would eventually take the name James William Charles (W.C.) Pennington, managed to escape to freedom in the North. Like Fredrick Douglass, Pennington spoke with an authentic and powerful voice against slavery and for the dignity of humanity. Like Douglass, he respected the power of education, self-empowerment, and alliances with white abolitionists. Guided by his religious convictions, he gave a national voice to major local issues of the day and a local voice to the greatest national issues of the day.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/a-voice-for-freedom/>

Social Movements

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/>

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/>
<https://vernonhistoricalsoc.org/>

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/>

Just Like Georgia Except for the Climate: Ann Petry

Best-selling writer Ann Petry explored many facets of the black experience in her fiction. Born in Saybrook (now Old Saybrook), Connecticut just after the turn of the 20th century, she brought to her work the sensibility of someone who grew up as part of a tiny minority and who saw the horrors of ghetto living during the nine years she spent in New York City. Her novel *The Narrows* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1953) offers a commentary on the racial, class, and economic conflicts that lie beneath the surface in mid-century New England.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/JUST-LIKE-GEORGIA.pdf>

An Early Advocate for Gay Rights in Connecticut: Canon Clinton Jones

For decades during the mid-20th century, from his offices at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford and in the field, Canon Clinton Jones worked diligently to help members of Hartford's gay community, including transgendered men and transsexuals seeking gender reassignment surgery, in any way he could, from individual counseling to assistance dealing with employment and housing discrimination. On occasion, he opened his home to people whose sexual identity had left them, literally, with nowhere else to go. In helping those who, in the 1960s, were considered among "the least" of society, Jones was a progressive, even revolutionary figure, yet one who presented himself to the world as a kindly, mild-mannered, and nearly Victorian cleric.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/EARLY-ADVOCATE-FOR-CT-GAY-COMMUNITY.pdf>

Yale's Chaplain Takes on the Vietnam War

Aside from Martin Luther King Jr., William Sloane Coffin Jr. was the most influential voice of liberal Protestantism in the latter half of the 20th century. He became a national figure in 1961 and held a spot on the national and international stage until his death in 2006 at 82. That national reputation was forged in his years as Yale University chaplain from 1958 to 1975.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/YALE-CHAPLAIN.pdf>

Isabelle Kelley's Conflict and Compromise for Food Stamps

Isabelle Kelley dedicated her life to public service and throughout her 33-year career with the United States Department of Agriculture, she worked tirelessly to improve the lives of children and low-income families, giving them increased access to proper nutrition. As the principal author of the Food Stamp Act of 1964 and the Food Stamp Program's first director, Kelley shepherded a revolutionary initiative from its pilot stage into a full-fledged nationwide program that has since grown to serve more than 40 million Americans.

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/politics-government-law/isabelle-m-kelley#.WagvH7KGO70>

Technology

The Technology of War

Connecticut is home to several major aerospace companies whose technology helped secure victory for the United States and its Allies during the first and second World Wars. These include:

- Pratt and Whitney
- Sikorsky Aircraft
- Kaman Aerospace
- Hamilton Standard (now United Technology Aerospace Systems)

Field trip and research possibilities:

New England Air Museum

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/>
- <http://ctexplored.org/war-of-1812-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. Some say the War of 1812 is not Connecticut's finest hour. We were attacked and valiantly fought off the British in Stonington but suffered defeat in Essex. And we participated in discussions about seceding from the young nation. Was there compromise?

Field trip and research possibilities:

- Stonington Historical Society
- New London County Historical Society
- Stonington Point

Links:

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

<http://ctexplored.org/re-collections-stoningtons-star-spangled-banner/>

The “Notorious” Hartford Convention

From December 15, 1814 through January 5, 1815, delegates from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and representatives from counties in New Hampshire and Vermont, met at the State House in Hartford to discuss the problems the region faced as a result of the ongoing War of 1812. The delegates considered seceding from the United States.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut’s Old State House

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/the-notorious-hartford-convention/>

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

New England’s views on the War of 1812

For most Connecticut residents, the War of 1812 was as much a war mounted by the federal government against New England as it was a conflict with Great Britain. More precisely, they saw it as a politically based and profoundly unconstitutional military campaign waged by the Jeffersonian Republican party (which dominated the South, the West, and the national government) against the Federalist-controlled states of New England

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Fort Trumbull State Park

Links: <https://connecticuthistory.org/the-war-connecticut-hated/>

Women

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*

Links:

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

The Smith Sisters, Their Cows, and Women's Rights in Glastonbury

Abby and Julia Smith of Glastonbury were active in some of the most contentious political debates of their times. Following in the footsteps of their mother, who penned one of the earliest anti-slavery petitions, the Smith sisters fought for slave emancipation until the United States finally abolished the institution. When their parents died, the Smith sisters inherited their family's farm, the most valuable property in Glastonbury. The elderly sisters refused to pay property taxes after town officials raised their taxes, resulting in a three year legal struggle.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut Historical Society

Historical Society of Glastonbury

Kimberly Mansion in Glastonbury*

Links:

<http://connecticuthistory.org/the-smith-sisters-their-cows-and-womens-rights-in-glastonbury/>

Mary Townsend Seymour Takes a Stand

In early 20th-century Hartford, Mary Townsend Seymour helped found the local NAACP chapter and worked for labor rights. She fought battles and formed daring alliances to promote the cause of local African Americans.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/audacious-alliance-mary-townsend-seymour/>

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/>

Marian Anderson: Conflict at Constitution Hall

Marian Anderson triumphed over the legacy of poverty and racial discrimination to become the most famous opera singer of the 20th century, but experienced conflict when the D.A.R. barred her from performing at Constitution Hall.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Marian Anderson's Studio is part of the Danbury Museum and Historical Society and the Connecticut African American Freedom Trail, located at 43 Main Street in Danbury

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/educational-resources/diy-history/marian/#.WYtYoolUrAV>

The Conflict of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

When Harriet Beecher Stowe died in her Hartford home in 1896, she was eulogized and remembered as the most influential writer of the century. The most famous of the Beecher daughters, Stowe was the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, one of the most popular and important novels in American history. Her impact was so great that when she met President Abraham Lincoln, legend has it that he addressed her as "the little lady who started this big war."

Links:

<http://cwhf.org/inductees/writers-journalists/harriet-beecher-stowe#.WagvxLKG070>

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/>

Women in World War I

Before the U.S. entered the war in 1917, many women in Greenwich, as elsewhere in the United States, publicly supported refugee relief and related charities. Once the United States formally joined the conflict, women began to take on a wide range of new roles. The experiences of individual women and girls in Greenwich illustrate the political ramifications of even the most commonplace activities during World War I.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Greenwich Historical Society
Choate Rosemary Hall Archives
Connecticut Historical Society

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/greenwich-women-face-the-great-war/>

WWI Vets: The Bonus Marchers

When the veterans returned home, most were able to reestablish themselves in the boom times of the 1920s. But for many, financial security was tenuous, especially after the advent of the Great Depression. These veterans had been promised the support of “a grateful nation,” but when they called on that support they found doors closed to them. They asserted themselves aggressively to claim what they considered their rights. The result would be radical changes to the way “a grateful nation” provides for its veterans.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/wwi-vets-the-bonus-marchers/>

Seicheprey: The Conflict Time Forgot

On April 20, 1918, 350 fresh American doughboys from Connecticut who served with the 102d 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 media considered it an American victory, but General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, the Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces thought otherwise. Pershing famously disliked Gen. Clarence Ransom Edwards, the commander of the 26th Division, and he criticized the troops and considered the "melee" a failure. The conflict between Edwards and Pershing ran throughout the war and colored how historians viewed the accomplishments of Edwards and his troops.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America

Compromise for a Greater Cause: Suffrage In a Time of War

The suffrage movement had been gaining some steam in the years before WWI. The election of Jeanette Rankin to the House of Representatives in 1917 was a major victory but many women in the suffrage movement put the needs of the war first. Instead of continued picketing, they came together to work in the Liberty Loan campaigns, Red Cross, and other organizations supporting the war effort. This compromise, setting aside their own goals for the good of the nation, served their cause more than picketing could have. By taking on leadership roles in the war effort and in the workplace, women proved themselves again and again, paving the way for the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America
Connecticut Historical Society
Local Historical Societies

Conflict Without Compromise: General Clarence Ransom Edwards and General John J. Pershing

Gen. Clarence Ransom Edwards was the commander of the 26th "Yankee" Division, made up of New England National Guard units, during WWI. Edwards was beloved by his troops who even called him "Daddy". Yet in the midst of the largest and costliest battle American troops have ever taken part in, he was removed from his command. His removal was due to a long standing conflict with General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, the Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America
Connecticut Historical Society
Local Historical Societies

Compromising One's Identity: German-Americans During the First World War

During WWI there was a fevered Anti-German sentiment that swept the country. Enemy aliens - German citizens who had not naturalized were required to register themselves with the government. They were not allowed within a 1/2 mile of any factory making goods for the government without a special permit and their ability to travel was restricted. Walter Schmidt, a clerk from Hartford, was arrested for leaving the city to travel to New York on business. He was jailed and then interned at Camp Oglethorpe in Georgia as a "dangerous alien" for the duration of the war. Bills were introduced here in Connecticut to outlaw German language in schools, ban the wearing of German colors and there were rumors of an internment camp to be built in Middletown.

Yet many German-American's were able to pledge their allegiance to American ideals while maintaining their traditions and identity.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America
Local Historical Societies

Compromising One's Identity: German-American Soldiers During the First World War

The anti-German sentiment that swept the nation during WWI was largely confined to the home front. Men of German descent who joined the military were seen as true Americans, repudiating the views of their fatherland. Yet in many cases these German-American soldiers faced realities that did not affect his comrades. Edward Schafer, a German-American from New Haven, spoke of hiding the fact that he spoke German, as German speaking soldiers were often chosen for dangerous missions into enemy territory. Other soldiers spoke of the difficulty in engaging in battle against men from their homeland.

Field trip and research possibilities:

Connecticut State Library
Hartford Courant
Chronicling America
Local Historical Societies

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/>

Tuskegee Airman: “I Wanted to Fly.”

With the approach of World War II, however, the black community relentlessly lobbied the War Department through black newspapers, labor organizations, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). A January 1941 lawsuit against the War Department brought by Yancey Williams, a Howard University graduate who had been rejected by the Army Air Corps and backed by the NAACP, was the final straw that forced the Air Corps to open to African Americans. On January 16, 1941, the 99th Pursuit Squadron (later re-designated the 99th Fighter Squadron) was activated, and in July 1941 the “Tuskegee Experiment,” later renamed the Tuskegee Experience, was inaugurated.

Links:

<https://ctexplored.org/tuskegee-airman-i-wanted-to-fly/>

Wartime Relocation Brings Japanese Americans East

On December 7, 1941, a date that would “live in infamy,” the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise military strike against the United States. The bombing of Pearl Harbor signaled the official start of U.S. involvement in World War II. It also marked a profound change in fortunes for Japanese Americans in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Links:

<http://ctexplored.org/wartime-relocation-brings-japanese-americans-east/>