

Report to the State Library Board

March 25, 2024

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State Librarian

This report is prepared bi-monthly in conjunction with the regular meetings of the Connecticut State Library Board. The report, which will be included in the minutes of the March 25, 2024 meeting of the Board, covers the period of January 23, 2023 through March 15, 2024.

Office of the State Librarian

The legislative session is in full swing. To date, the agency has had several productive formal and informal exchanges with the Appropriations and Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committees as well as individual legislators. Recognition of and support for the State Library's work, as well as for libraries more generally, has continued to be expressed this session. Although our budget request for this adjustment is modest, we are also using these conversations as an opportunity to prepare for more significant requests next session. The agency is also participating in conversations about several specific bills, most notably on ebook and eaudiobook pricing; these discussions remain ongoing. Dawn La Valle and I also recently traveled to Washington DC as Connecticut's representatives for the Chief Officers of State Library Agency's Voices for Libraries event. We visited all seven of our federal delegates' offices, speaking with staffers on the impact and use of Library Services and Technology Act funds, as administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and state library agencies. Here too, support and appreciation for the State Library and public libraries was expressed throughout the day.

Jay Yasensky has joined the State Library and the Office of the State Librarian as the agency's first Director of Operations. In this role, he oversees day-to-day fiscal and facilities-related matters as well as providing in-depth counsel on long-range operational matters. Jay joins us from the Department of Administrative Services and brings a wealth of experience to the agency. With the addition of this new role, the agency is moving forward on plans for several capital projects and other long-standing matters.

The agency continues to develop its strategic framework document. Dawn La Valle and Gail Hurley have conducted three Empathy Mapping Sessions with staff and conversations with stakeholders will begin soon.

Unit Activities

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Dawn La Valle is serving as an advisory board member, and Ashley Sklar is serving as a facilitator and member of the CT team for the University of Maryland's IMLS National Leadership grant **Ready NOW: Supporting Youth and Families During Crisis** initiative, along with three staff from the Ferguson Library in Stamford. The training sessions began in January alongside each team engaging in the resources and tools to craft their specific project based on the [Library Staff as Public Servants: A Field Guide for Preparing to Serve Communities in Times of Crisis](#). Ferguson Library staff have identified their project as Supporting Early Grade

Literacy, described as: “The Ferguson Library sees the dropping reading levels of the last four years as a crisis in Stamford, and working with our partner agencies in the city we would like to provide support in any way we can to improve them.” Thus far, the CT team is working to build strategies for working with community partners in support of historically marginalized youth and families to gain knowledge of how to prepare, with community partners, for crisis situations.

The **Connecticut State Colleges & Universities System (CSCU)** now has access to eGO CT and the Palace Project. There are a total of 163 sites sharing content from the Connecticut State Library through the Palace app in addition to school sites participating in the eGO CT Community Sharing Program. The [press release can be found on the Division of Library Development \(DLD\) Libguide](#).

The Connecticut State Library (CSL) was one of five state libraries invited to participate in year one of the **Building Equity-Based Summers Through Libraries & Communities (BEBS)** co-design initiative. At the end of January, Kym Powe finished taking seven libraries through year-two of BEBS. [Through their website](#), BEBS “empowers libraries to create summer services that are built on a foundation of equity and designed with the community to ensure systemically marginalized groups engage in library services in a new way.” The five participating libraries were Ansonia Library, Hagan Memorial Library, Killingly Public Library, Southbury Public Library, and Windsor Locks Public Library.

With the conclusion of the year-long initiative with **Libraries Without Borders US (LWB)**, Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar have been conducting Impact and Sustainability meetings with the six participating libraries, which include overviews of their work with LWB, impact and output data, and toolkits designed for continuous work. February also brought two program launch events: the [launch of an outreach van](#) at the West Haven Public Library, and the launch of the [Village Voices Community Storytelling Pathway](#) at the [David M. Hunt Library](#). The participating libraries in the LWB initiative included David M. Hunt, East Hartford Public Library, Norwalk Public Library, Otis Library, West Haven Public Library, and the Willimantic Public Library.

CSL continues to partner with the **Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Education and Public Outreach Division (DEEP)** for their Summer No Child Left Inside events. For the first time, CSL also participated in **Winter Fest** and shared information about various resources provided by the State Library such as a virtual library card and the eGO CT Program, All CT Reads, using your library card at any library in the state through the borrowIT program, and other helpful library information. Over 1,500 people attended the event.

The Statistical Profile for CT Public Libraries was released on January 19, 2024. 178 libraries provided their data. In addition, chart makers for FY2023 and historical data from 1996 were made available for libraries to download and customize to their needs. The **Statistical Trends Report**, reflecting on the data over FY2023, was released in the Division of Library Development (DLD) March Newsletter on March 1st. Barbara Ghilardi also provided access to a fact flyer template for libraries to customize. Libraries are invited to contact CSL to access and customize the template provided in Canva. Thus far, 17 libraries have requested the template.

CT Library for Accessible Books (CTLAB) staff conducted six outreach sessions between November 2023 and January 2024. These outreach visits reached 104 people. Outreach sessions included a presentation at the National Federation of the Blind of Connecticut's Annual Convention and visits to two low-vision support groups and three libraries.

CTLAB and the Connecticut State Library continue to work with [Perkins Access](#) on the pilot program **Transforming Libraries and Museums: Collaboration for Accessible Exhibitions, Collections, and Programs**, which centers around making library and museum exhibits accessible to visitors who are blind or visually impaired. Planning is in progress to offer the Image Description workshop, offered in September 2023, to a second cohort of staff from libraries and museums. An additional workshop (Wayfinding) is being developed that will be offered to cohorts one and two of the pilot program.

Gail Hurley began meeting with [Connecticut Saves](#) to plan activities for **Financial Literacy Month** this April, including participating once again in the annual financial expo hosted by the CT Department of Banking at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford and an annual financial education event at Hartford Job Corps.

DLD hosted an information session for librarians in January on the **Lieutenant Governor's Computing Challenge** with Connecticut State Department of Education's Education Consultant, Jennifer Michalek.

An [interview](#) with **Kevin Johnson** appeared in the January 10 issue of the *Record-Journal* highlighting his William Webb presentations and how they began with research in the History & Genealogy unit. This is the sixth *Record-Journal* article to focus on Kevin's historical portrayals.

Kevin Johnson has completed his initial research and created a narrative for his James Williams or "**Professor Jim**", **historic portrayal**. Working with the staff of the History & Genealogy Unit, along with members from the State Archives and the Museum of Connecticut History, Kevin has outfitted and brought this new character to life with two performances in February. His recent portrayals:

- January 29, William Webb, Cheshire Public Library, Cheshire, Connecticut
- January 31, Jordan Freeman, Department of Administrative Services, Hartford, Connecticut
- February 7, Professor Jim, Department of Transportation, Newington, Connecticut, 1st presentation!
- February 21, William Webb, St. Mary/St. Michael School, Derby, Connecticut
- February 24, William Webb, Seventh-day Adventist Faith School, Hartford, Connecticut
- February 27, Professor Jim, Shiloh Baptist Church, New London, Connecticut

On February 27, Stephen Slovasky met with a group of librarians from the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) in a teleconference with representatives from ExLibris, our library management system and discovery service provider. ExLibris outlined the measures required for CSCU to migrate to **Primo VE**, a new discovery service. Discussions as to the wisdom of migrating, the processes of migration, are ongoing with CSCU.

Nicole Besseghir has been working with towns **on vault construction and renovation projects**, including projects for the Town of Avon, Town of East Hartford, the Town of Farmington, Town of Ledyard, the Town of Lebanon, the Town of Pomfret, the Town of South Windsor, the Town of Stafford, the Town of Windsor Locks, the Town of Bethany, the Town of Plainfield, and the Town of Stonington.

Public Records staff inspected William B. Meyer, a records storage facility in Windsor, CT, on February 29 to renew certification to provide **off-site records storage** for State of Connecticut records. Nicole Besseghir managed the review and inspection, which was also attended by

LeAnn Power and Elise Marzik. All off-site storage facilities must meet the requirements of Public Records Policy 03 and receive a certificate of approval to store state agency records.

Work is progressing on the federally funded **Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project**. The redaction web application project completed user acceptance testing, and knowledge transfer sessions conducted by Slalom developer Rui Calado for the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS) developer team. Slalom also completed several enhancements including the ability to manually apply redactions on digital records when needed and to automatically upload files into the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) through the application. The redaction application went live on March 5. Additional work by Slalom on user authentication into the application will begin later this month. Mark Conrad, Information Management Consultant, issued a Request for Information (RFI) through the federal General Services Administration (GSA) in late February. The RFI working group will review the responses and determine next steps. Mark also has been meeting with other state archives to gather information that will be useful for our final report with recommendations.

Part-time Temporary Digital Technician Dan MacNeil is ahead of schedule scanning and preparing metadata for the **New England's Hidden Histories: Colonial-Era Church Records Project**. Our original estimate was for six months to scan and prepare the required metadata for 34 volumes of Congregational Church Records. As of the end of February, he had completed 28 volumes for a total of 5,572 pages and will complete the remaining volumes by mid-March. Congregational Library and Archives project director Tricia Peone visited on March 15 to identify additional Congregational Church records for scanning. She estimates that the project could complete an additional 3,500-4,000 pages for the National Endowment for the Humanities funded project by May when Dan's contract expires.

Lizette Pelletier continues to resolve the remaining insurance, risk management, and transportation issues for the **1662 Charter**. One of the remaining issues is insurance coverage during transport to and from the conservation facility. Fine arts movers require the State Library to pay for property insurance at a rate that would be more than twice the cost of conservation. Because the greatest risk to the Charter during transportation would be a vehicle fire after an accident, staff determined that a 3-to-4-hour fire rated case would be more cost effective. Currently, none of the fine arts transporters staff have this capability. Firelock, a division of Ultra Modem Industries, that installs modular fire resistive vaults in Connecticut town clerk offices met with Archives and Museum staff on January 26 to view the Charter, and examine the Charter vault, the Mitchelson Coin vault, and the Emancipation vault. They submitted an initial design which has gone through several iterations. Once the plans are finalized, fabrication is expected to take 4-6 weeks.

State Archives and Office of the Public Records Administration staff met with BITS Customer Success Manager Beth Lehn to develop a **project charter for an Email Retention Project** in collaboration with DAS BITS and Human Resources. State Archives and Public Records staff have been involved off and on with BITS and its predecessor agencies concerning email management and preservation since 2014. Currently, there are over 50,000 inactive state employee accounts being maintained by BITS on the Microsoft 365 cloud. Adoption of a project charter is a first significant step in creating and implementing a statewide protocol to ensure proper disposition of state employee emails and preserve those related to the development of state and agency policy and programs.

Meg Phillips, the External Affairs Liaison at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), visited the State Library on the second stop of her tour of State Archives on March 6. Meg met with State Archives and the Public Records staff to discuss the status of the of the archives and records management programs, the progress of the **Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project**, and how the National Archives can assist the State Archives and Public Records.

Jennifer Matos and Beth Burgess gave a special tour to a group from the **Town & County Club** on February 1. Jennifer Matos delivered a presentation about the museum and its history at the Town & County Club afterward.

Patrick Smith delivered **educational Outreach Programs** to four classes in Madison, CT on the topic of the Charter Oak and early Connecticut history. Patrick Smith and Kevin Johnson delivered a presentation to a CREC school in Rocky Hill, CT that focused on African American history and how historians and museums preserve and teach about Connecticut's past. Patrick also delivered a presentation about **Connecticut Inventors and Inventions** at the annual members' meeting of the Glastonbury Historical Society on February 20.

The **Hiking Through History** program will return for its fourth year with walking tours led by Patrick Smith taking place on the following dates and locations: April 19, Windsor Locks Canal; May 24, Dismal Brook Preserve in Granby; June 21, Downtown Hartford; July 12, Enfield Historic District; August 2, Downtown Hartford; September 6, Barn Island Preserve in Stonington; October 18, Lovers Leap State Park in New Milford.

In honor of **Civics Learning Week**, Deborah Schander, Jennifer Matos, and Patrick Smith created short videos for the Connecticut Democracy Center's week-long social media campaign. Deborah and Jennifer also participated in a panel discussion on March 11, *From the Classroom to the Capital City: Place-Based Civic Learning in Hartford*, that streamed live on the Democracy Center's Youtube channel.

The Museum of Connecticut History has been accepted into **Trinity College's Public Humanities Collaborative**, which offers paid summer internships to Trinity students. The museum will work with two students from May 20 to July 26 on the project "Re-writing the Narrative: Connecticut Governors' Connections to Slavery & Freedom."

Programs and Training

The **CTLAB book club** met in January to discuss *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, with ten patrons participating. The next meeting will take place in April 2024.

Gail Hurley created and distributed an **Annual Professional Development Survey** to library staff in Connecticut to find out the current training needs. The results of the survey are helping to inform DLD training offerings for 2024.

DLD kicked off the year offering the workshop, **How to Stop Burnout and Re-Energize Your Work for Your Best Year Ever**. Staff added an additional **in-person Book Repair class** at ECSU and continued to offer the very popular **Intro to Canva** class. The special **Augmented Reality (AR) series** continued with a workshop on AR Scavenger Hunts, and the new **Readers Advisory series** began with two workshops on Readers Advisory and Booktalking. Sessions on **Crisis Communications** and **Strategies for Budgets** were held early in the year as part of our strategic communications offerings.

DLD is beginning a new series this month under the **Lead Your Library** umbrella called Practical Management of Public Libraries, which offers brief introductory workshops for public library administrators dealing with “hands on” issues they deal with each day. Included in this series are workshops on facilities management, administration basics, supervision and HR basics, and budgeting and financial reporting.

Kym Powe and Brad Bullis conducted a **Weeding in the Garden of Good and Evil** workshop, which teaches librarians the tools required to assess their collection and make decisions on what materials should be weeded out of it. The workshop covered the purpose of weeding, the criteria for making weeding decisions, the mechanics of weeding, developing a weeding policy, and provided a list of resources for disposal of weeded material.

Brad Bullis presented at **ACES Regional Library Media Council** on January 20th. An overview of digital resources from the Connecticut State Library (researchIT CT, and eGO CT) was provided.

Jenny Groome presented on the topic of LibGuides Best Practices to the Government Information for Children & Teachers Committee at the **Government Documents Roundtable Midwinter Conference**.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator continued the new **State Records Management Webinar Training Series**, with a session on February 21. Nicole Marino presented Session 4: Electronic Records Management, an overview of best practices and state requirements for managing electronic records to approximately 180 state employees representing a majority of Executive Branch state agencies. Elise Marzik is developing the ongoing training series, with each session covering a different state records management topic.

Lizette Pelletier and Damon Munz presented on the State Archives and its functions to newly appointed or elected Town Clerks at the **Connecticut Town Clerks Association’s annual orientation session** on January 26.

Allen Ramsey presented on **Connecticut Historical Patient Records: Privacy versus Access** as part of a Council of State Archivists (CoSA) monthly member webinar on February 22 along with David Ware, Arkansas State Archives Director and State Historian, and Chuck Hardin, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Officer with the Arkansas Department of Health.

Resource Updates

eGO CT continues to grow. There is now a total of 296 K12, public, and academic libraries accessing the Connecticut State Library ebook collection. Circulation of the Connecticut State Library collection this fiscal year exceeds 10,863, and we are on track for a total of over 16,000 checkouts in FY24. In January and February, DLD purchased 520 new items for the eGO CT program and the Palace app. So far this year 5,064 items have been purchased for the collection for a total of 33,637 items that are now provided for free to public libraries, academics, and schools. This includes over 18,000 simultaneous use titles provided from the Palace Bookshelf. DLD has added 2,242 new items specifically for the eGO CT Community Sharing program for K12 schools, in addition to the Children & YA content already available from Baker & Taylor.

As of December 6, 2023, **CT Pages** has 29 videos with a total of over 2,200 views. The [CT Pages LibGuide](#) includes all the videos organized by theme or you can browse the [CT Pages YouTube playlist](#). The project is a collaboration between Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar, and they continue to call for public libraries across the state to submit ideas for upcoming CT Pages episodes to be recorded and shared with the library community.

Kris Abery negotiated an agreement with the **Government Publishing Office** regarding the State Library's federal documents collection which will allow the library to continue receiving in print the titles that will be most beneficial for this collection.

After a year of work, an interdepartmental team has finalized testing of the **chatbot project** that will be part of the State Library's new website and provide access to quick answers for website visitors.

To address ongoing **shelf space and storage issues**, Government Information Services staff have processed over 600 duplicate volumes and weeded through over 1,300 donated items. Wafaa Razeq and Kris Abery have added necessary state and federal volumes to the collection while freeing up much needed space.

Jeannie Sherman has begun crafting a new "**Church Records**" **subject page** to outline and highlight the vast Connecticut church records collections at the Connecticut State Library. Once completed, it will be a welcome resource to the History & Genealogy webpage for staff and patrons.

With the beginning of the new legislative session, Steve Mirsky has undertaken the **subject indexing** of new legislation.

In January and February 2024, the **Preservation Office** digitized over 6,800 pages of State Library collection materials. Ten volumes of 1967 historical legislative transcripts were digitized by Griselle Colon and Maritza Pagan; a total of 36 transcript volumes have now been digitized, and the project has crossed its halfway point. Griselle Colon and Maritza Pagan also digitized 22 unique Connecticut state documents published from 1961 to 1969, for the third phase of the Preservation Office's ongoing Connecticut state document digitization project.

In February 2024, Collection Services ordered a new online subscription to **HeritageHub** from Newsbank to support genealogical research. This resource provides access to obituaries and death notices from U.S. newspapers from all 50 states covering 1704 to current. Carol Trinchitella negotiated favorable pricing and terms with Newsbank to include remote access for CT State Library cardholders.

In January and February 2024, staff in Collection Services processed numerous **donations of books and newspapers**. Gertrude Owusu and Elizabeth Esquilin processed history books received from the Prudence Crandall Museum. Tamra Coleman processed magazines and journals received from the Legislative Library and from the Office of the State Archivist. Gratien Meda processed documents donated by other state agencies including DEEP. Kandace Yuen inventoried and boxed donations of original newspaper issues of *New Haven Daily Register*, *New Haven Evening Register*, and *The Evening Register* from 1848 to 1871 and *Hartford Courant* covering significant events from 1969 to 1999.

Collection Services continues to add **Lexis Advance** portfolios, or links, to our library catalog to make these full text legal resources discoverable. During January-February 2024, Kandace

Yuen activated over 900 new portfolios. To date, over 3,000 Lexis Advance portfolios have been added to our catalog.

Collection Services staff continues to **deaccession books** that our Reference staff have identified for weeding. During January-February 2024, they deaccessioned 90 volumes of looseleaf legal treatises. The materials weighed roughly 449 pounds and freed 24.3 linear feet of shelf space in the library Stacks location.

The Reference staff issued **438 new or renewed Connecticut State Library cards** during January-February 2024. These cards provide patrons with 24/7 remote access to many CSL and researchIT CT online databases.

The Discovery Services team completed the last 500 records in the project to **upgrade brief records** keyed by Retro-Link Associates.

Verna Thomas-Green and Stephen Slovasky are reviewing all unassigned digital inventory of copies of State Library physical resources and, when available in Internet Archive or as a permanent link created by the United States Government Publications Office (USGPO), assigning the resource to the **Internet Archive** electronic collection or the **USGPO** electronic collection. During this reporting period we completed 5000 updates. Examples: [*Catalogue of the library of the United States Senate. Comp. and printed under the direction of James M. Baker, secretary of the Senate, by Edward C. Goodwin, librarian. USGPO, 1918; Diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Germany : August 1, 1914-April 6, 1917 / edited with introduction and analytical index, by James Brown Scott. Oxford University Press, 1918.*](#)

Laura Diller and William Anderson contributed 61 records to the **Name Authority Cooperative** database. Noteworthy contributions were: Connecticut. General Assembly. Interim Committee on Public Welfare and Humane Institutions. Sub-Committee A, for finding the report [*Problems of children in mental hospitals, Legislative Sub-Committee report. CGA, 1918?*](#); and State Trade School (Hartford, Conn.) for finding [*Dedication of memorials to Hartford industrialists at the State Trade School, Hartford, Connecticut : Wednesday, September 16, 1931 .*](#)

Significant **USGPO** titles cataloged by Laura Diller: [*Freedom's journey \(1619-2123\) Army University Press. 2023.*](#) (YouTube video of Juneteenth celebration poem by COL Dwayne K. Wagner, retired; [*The civil rights implications of algorithms : a briefing report of the Connecticut Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. 2023; Racial discrimination and eviction policies and enforcement in New York : a report of the New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. 2022.*](#)

William Anderson is getting up to speed on **Cooperative Serials Program** recertification, working with Hank Young at the University of Florida. Some General Stacks titles cataloged by William: [*Connecticut military heroes : Medal of Honor recipients : the stories of the life and service of those with a connection to Connecticut who were awarded the Medal of Honor / Jeffrey DeWitt. 2023; Encyclopedia of Connecticut causes of action, 2024 / #c Daniel J. Krisch, Michael S. Taylor.; Transactions of the American Fisheries Society ... Annual Meeting.*](#) Began in 1870. State Library holds 1921 and 1944.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator issued one revised records series for the Public Safety state general schedule and one new series for the Department of Emergency services

and Public Protection agency specific schedule. Elise Marzik is currently working with five agencies on updates to agency-specific retention schedules.

LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 654 municipal and 161 state agency authorization forms for records disposals.

At the **State Records Center**, Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz accessioned 568 cubic feet of agency records; deaccessioned 2,050 cubic feet; processed 283 reference requests; and processed 93 re-files and inter-files.

Sarah Morin, State Library staff, student interns, and volunteers processed 6.25 cubic feet (12.5 boxes) of the **New Haven County Court records**. They completed Superior Court papers by subject categories Costs 1712-1749, Costs 1819-1874, Court Expenses, Insolvents; and County Court papers by subject category Executions 1806-1809, Executions 1831-1836. They scanned 148 cases (648 pages) for ingest to the Connecticut Digital Archive and identified approximately 29 cases involving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Sarah Morin published two blog entries, [Superior Court Finds, Part I: Conspiracy or Intoxication?](#) and [Superior Court Finds, Part II: Cases Involving Black, African American, and Indigenous Persons and Groups](#), as well as two Instagram posts, [John Rogers' petition to be released from gaol](#) and [Sophy Saunderson's divorce petition](#). The State Archivist requested, and the State Librarian approved, an extension of Sarah's Personal Service Agreement (PSA) for this project until May 31, 2025. Staff expects to complete processing and digitization of the remaining New Haven court records within that period.

Recent Archives Accessions include:

- **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner** medical records, 1971-2015 (RG 194). The records are not open to the public per CGS 1-210 and CGS 19a-411.
 - *The medical records consist of homicides, court cases, unusual cases, and extra materials.*
- **State Marshal Commission** records, 2001-2022, 5 cubic feet (RG 177)
 - *The records consist of State Marshal Commission meeting agendas and minutes. The records also include a compact disc from 2009 and tape cassette recordings of meetings.*
- **Town of Bridgeport** welfare case files, circa 1904-1961, 297 cubic feet (RG 062:015)
- **Town of Harwinton** land records, 1905-1957, 9 volumes (RG 062:066)
- **Town of Pomfret** records, 1934-1963, 3 cubic feet (RG 062:112)
 - *The records consist of ledgers - general summary of receipts and disbursements, all funds and accounts, July 1, 1934 through June 30, 1935; and school registers including attendance records and biographical information, 1955-1963.*
- **Connecticut General Assembly Portraits collection**, State Senate photograph album, circa 1874-1875 (PG 540)

Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) began accepting the bulk uploads of images and data using spreadsheets after a month of member testing. As a result, Barbara Austen has uploaded all **New Haven County Court Cases** from 1790 through 1809, and all the **County Court Papers by Subject—Loyalists, 1768-1778**.

Barbara Austen also scanned 300+ pages of **Volume 12, Connecticut Superior Court Records, 1745-1748**, and has added them to CTDA.

Family Search scanned the following records between January 12 and March 8:

- Hartford Probate Court files, 1916-1920, 28,382 images
- Veterans Death Index cards, circa 1636-1978, 95,447 images

The Museum of Connecticut History has received its final report from the **Collections Assessment for Preservation program**. Assessors Kathy Craughwell-Varda and Daryn Reyman-Lock prepared the report based on their site visit to the museum on December 11 and 12, 2023. Contained within the report are about 40 discrete recommendations relating to the preservation of the collections. The museum team is reviewing the findings and will create a plan to implement recommended changes.

Administrator Jennifer Matos and Curator Beth Burgess visited Southport, CT on March 5 to pick up several **artifacts donated** to the museum including a top hat owned by Judge J.E. Murphy, a c. 1860 apothecary scale used in Bridgeport, CT, and a wooden golf club also from Bridgeport, CT.

The **Cody Firearms Museum (CFM)** sent a photographer to the Museum of Connecticut History on March 6 to take images of 60+ firearms in the museum's collection. CFM is looking to republish *Armax: the Journal of Contemporary Arms*, which ran from 1987-1996. Several issues during that time featured museum collections, and the CFM needed digital photos of the objects for republishing. CFM will provide the digital files to the museum for its use.

Beth Burgess has been working with the Governor's Office to return multiple Museum of Connecticut History objects that have been on loan there since the 1990s. Included in the list of returned items is a c. 1790s painting of Benjamin Franklin attributed to Joseph Wright and a painting of Abraham Lincoln by Francis B. Carpenter.

The Museum of Connecticut History's **Second Regiment Light Dragoons flag** is now on display at Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution (MoAR) for their exhibit "Witness to Revolution: The Unlikely Travels of Washington's Tent." When that exhibit ends in January 2025, the flag will go into storage for a few months at the MoAR. In the spring 2025, the flag will be featured again at the MoAR in a special exhibit about Revolutionary War-era flags. The flag is scheduled to return to the Museum of Connecticut History in September 2025. The blue silk Second Regiment Light Dragoons flag can be seen on display in the "Witness to Revolution" exhibit center right.

Staff Updates

In January Reference Services welcomed two new employees: **Nicholas Beam**, a Librarian 2 in Law & Legislative Reference, and **Elizabeth Swan**, a Library Technical Assistant in History & Genealogy.

Christine Pittsley was awarded the Civilian Medal of Honor on February 29 by Connecticut's Military Department for her service and dedication to the Militia Heritage Council. Also receiving the medal were former Museum of Connecticut History employees Dean Nelson and Dave Corrigan and former Connecticut State Librarian Kendall Wiggin.