

## Report to the State Library Board

March 24, 2025

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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 24, 2025 meeting of the Board, covers the period of January 18, 2025 through March 10, 2025.

### Office of the State Librarian

The State Library met with the Appropriations Committee on February 20, 2025 and with its Education Subcommittee on March 3, 2025 to discuss its three proposals to support the State Library: 1) reinstating some money for the legal materials collection, 2) one-time funds to support an inventory of the museum collections, and 3) a proposal to utilize existing funding to increase staff. Agency staff also met with the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee's Bonding Subcommittee on March 20 to discuss bond-related projects. Conversations and negotiations regarding the state's **FY 26-27 biennial budget** will continue through the end of session in June.

The agency is also undergoing its **biannual state audit**, which is anticipated to conclude in early summer.

The State Library celebrated the return of the **1662 Royal Charter of Connecticut** on February 4, 2025 in Memorial Hall. The original document was on public display in its fire-rated mobile vault from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Firelock, which designed and constructed the vault, returned to Hartford to move the vault into Memorial Hall and prepare it for public display. In addition to the original Charter, visitors could view a slide show documenting the construction of the mobile vault, the transport to the New England Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), the document treatment process, and the return trip. In preparation for the event, museum staff renovated and reinvigorated a 25-year old Charter Oak exhibit, now titled *Rooted in Liberty: The Charter of 1662 and the Legend of the Charter Oak*. A line of people formed outside the building waiting to pass through security well before 11 am. State Archivist Lizette Pelletier gave an impromptu gallery talk to guests upon the initial unveiling of the Charter. Museum staff was present in Memorial Hall throughout the day to interact with the 263 persons who visited the museum during the public hours. Later in the afternoon, an invitation-only event for state dignitaries, other honored guests, and the press attracted an audience of about 100. State Librarian Deborah Schander served as Master of Ceremonies. Event speakers included Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, State Archivist Lizette Pelletier, and State Historian Andy Horowitz. The Charter and the event received extensive press coverage. The Hartford Courant ran a front-page image of the Charter and the vault; WFSB Channel 3 and [Fox 61](#) broadcast their reports on the mid-day and evening news; and [CT-N broadcast](#) the event live and rebroadcast it between live coverage of General Assembly hearings later in the week. WNPR ran a [pre-event story](#) that was picked up by several of the other news outlets the day of the event. WNPR produced a [mini documentary](#) on the Charter with segments of interviews of State Archivist Lizette Pelletier and Parchment Conservator Katie Boodle from NEDCC.

On February 20, 2025, the CT State Library & Supreme Court building was evacuated after Museum of CT History staff found suspicious **World War I items** in a collections storage area. The museum has an extensive collection of historic military objects, including items collected by former State Librarian George Godard immediately following WWI, the latter of which have been stored in file cabinets for the past 100 years. Museum team members were examining items in the file cabinets as part of an inventory and rehousing project when they identified multiple items they suspected may contain live explosives. Items included some shells from the Spanish American War, German hand stick grenades from WWI, and French cartridges. The CT State Police arrived on the scene to investigate the questionable items. After an extensive x-raying of the objects and consultation with a specialist in Maryland the police determined two items – the German hand stick grenades known as “potato mashers” – still had live explosives in them and were consequently confiscated. The rest of the items were deemed safe. It is current museum best practice to accept into the collection only ammunition that has been deemed inert. As work on collections inventorying progresses, the Museum team will be paying particular attention to any additional ammunition it encounters and which entered the collections long ago. The evacuation showcased outstanding coordination between staffs of the State Library, Judicial Branch, and State Police, and the agency expresses its gratitude to all those involved.

## Unit Activities

### Partnerships and Community Engagement

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Acting Director Cynthia Landrum invited Dawn La Valle in her capacity as a Certified Foresight Practitioner in the field of librarianship to participate in the development and design of three inaugural **IMLS regional futures convenings**. These one-day regional convenings will bring together a cross-section of individuals from the Library and Information Services ecosystem to engage in strategic foresight/futures thinking.

Staff of the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CT LAB) conducted **three outreach sessions** during the period of January and the end of February 2025. These outreach visits reached 100 individuals. Visits included a presentation at the Community Cares Eye Health Fair in Manchester, a presentation at the Division of Library Development's (DLD) Summer Symposium, and a presentation to the residents of Whitney Center.

As a member of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) Ad Hoc Committee on Construction Grant Making, Dawn and other members of the committee developed a **Construction Grant Making Toolkit** that was presented as a webinar on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

DLD continues to recruit academic sites to participate in the **Palace Project**. The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities System (CSCU) already has access to eGO CT and the Palace Project. In February we added one additional academic site: Quinnipiac University. There are a total of 180 sites sharing content from the Connecticut State Library through the Palace app in addition to the 179 school sites participating in the **eGO CT Community Sharing Program**. All school sites in Connecticut are now eligible to join this program.

eGO CT is once again supporting the **All CT Reads** program. Each of this year's titles have been added to the Palace app and an All CT Reads 2025 lane has been made available to all in the Palace Manager interface for each site.

The **All CT Reads 2025** cycle has begun. In February, DLD announced the upcoming [\*\*All CT Reads Adult Author Talk with Monica Wood\*\*](#), author of *How to Read a Book*, this year's primary adult title, to take place on Thursday, March 27.

Spearheaded by Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar, the **Libraries Without Borders US (LWB)** Reimagining Library Outreach to Increase Community Access series continued with Session 8: Optimizing Community/ Library Partnerships and Session 9: Models for Expanding Access through Community Partnerships.

This past Fall, DLD launched the brand-new **Growing Equitable Library Services (GELS)** Grant. The GELS Grant is a six-month grant initiative to support libraries on their journey to providing equitable services in their community by offering up to \$3,500 to principal public libraries. The inaugural grant awards were officially announced in January and include the following libraries and projects: Hagaman Memorial Library (East Haven) – A Safe Space; North Haven Memorial Library – Self-Care Station; and Stratford Library Association – Leveling Up Programming and Engagement for People with Autism

Over the last two months, **visitation to the Museum of CT History** included 798 school children and 26 adults as part of school and adult groups. Beth Burgess and Christine Pittsley gave a guided tour of the museum to a group of students from Hartford's Bulkeley High School, in conjunction with Reference Services. Patrick Smith and Kevin Johnson collaborated on an outreach program about how museums teach and preserve history and a performance of Professor Jim to 60 students at CREC Academy of Aerospace & Engineering in Rocky Hill. The Museum served 413 visitors through two public events: 50 at an event honoring the anniversary of Ella Grasso's inauguration on January 22 and 363 at the event honoring the return of the Charter of 1662 on February 4.

Patrick Smith will teach a **Connecticut in World War 1 class** for 8-weeks to a home school co-operative beginning in mid-March. This is a once a week, hour-long class for middle school age students.

Patrick Smith will lead the 2025 **Hiking Through History** program from April through October. Patrick has researched and prepared informative walks that showcase various regions and histories of the state. Out of the seven hikes offered, four are never-before-offered locations. April 11: Windsor Locks Canal (Suffield); May 16: Bluff Point State Park (Groton); June 20: Topsmead State Forest (Litchfield); July 18: Cotton Hollow Preserve and Glastonbury Historical Society; August 8: East Hartford/Hartford Riverfront; September 19: Old Connecticut Path (Willington); October 17: Penwood State Park (Blomfield/Simsbury).

Museum of CT History, Office of the Public Records Administrator, Reference Services, and State Archives staff helped operate a CT State Library table at a **Job Fair held at the University of Hartford** on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. The CT State Library was represented at the event alongside other State agencies at the invitation of the Dept. of Administrative Services.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator released the **Historic Documents Preservation Program** FY2026 Grant Guidelines on February 1. Nicole Besseghir prepared and updated the guidelines with final approval from LeAnn Power. The guidelines provide eligibility and administrative requirements for applying for a grant, as well as other useful information for municipalities. FY2026 Cycle applications are due by April 30.

Nicole Besseghir has been working with towns on **vault construction and renovation projects**, including projects for the Town of East Hartford, the Town of Farmington, the Town of Pomfret, the Town of Windsor Locks, the Town of Plainfield, Town of East Windsor, Town of Ledyard, Town of Darien, Town of Scotland, Town of Meriden, the Town of Bridgewater, the Town of Stonington, the Town of Preston, the City of Norwich, and the Ellington/Vernon Probate Court. Vaults provide a high level of fire protection and security for towns' permanent and essential records.

Museum and Reference Services staff provided a tour to a group of 25 **English-language learners** from Bulkeley High School on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The chaperones translated the information shared by staff and the group stayed in the library for an extended time learning about our unique resources.

Since the relaunch of **The Nutmeg Navigator** in November, the History & Genealogy blog has been viewed 327 times. In January and February, posts highlighted the following: the WPA Artist Inventory Index on the website, complete with links and screenshots of the index by artist's last name; National Squirrel Day, a fun post featuring pictures of small toy squirrels around the History & Genealogy Reading Room demonstrating searching the card catalog, using microfilm, and other technologies found in the unit; and finally, the history of why Douglass Day is named after Frederick Douglass, prompted by a letter written in January of 1865 to the Reverend S.J. May that the History & Genealogy staff recently rediscovered in the Sara A. Thompson-Kinney Collection. The post included digital images of the original letter along with a transcription of the letter and a link to the archival collection in ArchivesSpace.

In January, Kris Abery set up a Martin Luther King Jr. **display** on the balcony in the Government Information & Reference Services area. Coinciding with the start of our legislative session, Nora Sawyer created a display in Law & Legislation outlining the legislative process in Connecticut. Each was followed in February by a display celebrating Black History month, highlighting documents in our collection and leaders in our state government.

Work is progressing on the federally funded **Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project**. Mark Conrad is continuing to work on analyzing responses received from the request for information into a report with recommendations for a secure digital preservation repository. Mark also submitted a session proposal which was accepted to present about the project along with Allen Ramsey at the National Association for Government Archivists and Records Administrators conference.

## **Programs and Training**

Erin Shapland presented "**A Demonstration of Chronicling America: Library of Congress's Digital Newspaper Database**" at the Connecticut Digital Humanities Conference on Saturday, February 22.

CT LAB hosted its **quarterly virtual book club** on January 15, 2025. The book discussed was *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark T. Sullivan.

On February 27, 2025, the Middletown Library Service Center hosted an **Image Description and Accessible Multimedia workshop** for 16 staff members from nine Connecticut libraries and museums. The full-day workshop was led by Geoff Freed of Perkins Access. This workshop was part of DLD's ongoing *Transforming Libraries and Museums* project that aims to make gallery spaces within libraries and museums more accessible and inclusive for visitors who are

blind or have low vision. Institutions that participated in the February 2025 workshop included: The Institute for American Indian Studies, The Mark Twain House and Museum, the American Mural Project, Bartlett Arboretum and Gardens, Talking Books CT/Connecticut Volunteer Services for the Blind and Handicapped, Inc., Hartford Public Library, Farmington Public Libraries, Florence Griswold Museum, and the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. In addition to the CT State Library and Perkins Access, the Connecticut Office of the Arts and Connecticut Humanities are project partners.

Kym Powe launched a new Summer Symposium. Summer library programs are often designed to cater to the needs of a community and the capacity of a library. The Summer Symposium provided an opportunity for information gathering and communication around summer reading, summer services, and how libraries serve their communities. Session included Equitable Summers, Connecting to Youth with the why and traditions of summer programming, End Hunger CT's presentation on food security and the summer meals program, and building accessible summer programming.

After launching in early fall, **Towards Inclusive Accessibility in Libraries (TIAL)** held the last two workshops with Dr. Clayton Copeland in January and February, "Developing an Accessibility Lens and Taking Action with Accessibility". In January, DLD launched a new TIAL series on welcoming the deaf and hard of hearing community with author, librarian, and ASL interpreter Kathy MacMillan. The first workshop was "Welcoming Deaf and Hard of Hearing Patrons to Your Library" followed by "Providing Accommodations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Patrons at Your Library".

DLD hosted **classes and workshops**, including two additional Intro to Canva classes and the newest workshop in the Lead Your Library series on "Your Strategic Plan: What to Do When It Isn't Working", the next workshop in the Technology series entitled "Tools of the Trade: Tech Tools that Make Your Work Easy" and brought back "How to Stop Burnout and Re-energize Your Work for Your Best Year Ever". The first in the series of Construction Grant Information Sessions also began in February and will continue into May.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator continued the second annual **State Records Management Webinar Training Series**, with a session presented by Nicole Marino and Brittney Rankins on February 19. Session 4: Electronic Records Management provided an overview of best practices and state requirements for managing electronic records to approximately 160 state employees representing most Executive Branch state agencies. Elise Marzik is coordinating this ongoing monthly training series, with each session covering a different state records management topic.

Nicole Bessegheir conducted the **Historic Documents Preservation Program webinar** on February 25, which gave an overview of the grant program with a focus on reviewing the Grant Guidelines that are released each year and the application process. There were approximately 100 town clerks and assistant town clerks in attendance. This is the first grant program webinar held by the Office of the Public Records Administrator in an effort to increase understanding of the grant process for both new and seasoned town clerks.

Elise Marzik and Nicole Marino presented Records Management, Data Retention, and Preservation, a session on applying records management policies and principles to data at **Open Data Day** hosted by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in Hartford on March 5. Brittney Rankins contributed information on digital preservation. The development of this presentation constitutes a collaborative effort with OPM stakeholders to empower state Agency

Data Officers (ADOs) to advocate for revisions and updates on agency-specific retention schedules and pursue stronger data management practices that support day-to-day and long-term stewardship of data records. In attendance were approximately 25 ADOs and state employees pursuing digital records projects.

Kevin Johnson provided a “**Professor Jim**” presentation at CREC Elementary School in Rocky Hill along with Patrick Smith to about 50 to 60 second graders and second presentation at the Wethersfield Public Library to a group of 15 to 20 attendees.

Kevin Johnson’s presentation of **Jordan Freeman** was given at the Salem Free Library in Salem, CT to about 25 attendees and also given at St. Mary-St. Michael School in Derby, CT to about 60 students in grades 3 through 8.

Mel Smith gave a remote talk on “**Revolutionary War Resources at the Connecticut State Library**” at the request of the Arizona State Daughters of the American Revolution. The talk focused on access to published as well as manuscript materials that are available on-site and remotely, primarily via the FamilySearch website. There were approximately 60 individuals present from across the country with a large contingent from Connecticut.

Jenny Groome suggested replacing the scheduled subject of the monthly **Government Document Roundtable** meeting with the timely topic of disappearing federal government; the change prompted attendance to skyrocket from less than 50 to about 250 attendees. Jenny also arranged for expert speakers to attend and created a research guide of resources.

## Resource Updates

In January and February 2025, the Digitization and Digital Collection Services Unit **digitized over 6,700 pages of State Library collection materials**, including nine volumes of historical Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) proceedings transcripts from 1965 and 1967 and 19 Connecticut state documents. Twenty-six digitized state documents, ten volumes of CGA proceedings, and 48 issues of prison newspapers were added to the Connecticut Digital Archive for digital preservation and public access.

Additional newspapers digitized by the **Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project** for its sixth National Digital Newspaper Program grant cycle have been made available on the Library of Congress’ Chronicling America database, including the first daily newspaper in Connecticut, [The Daily Herald, 1831-1841/New-Haven Daily Herald, 1841-1848](#), and the first five years of a Polish language newspaper from New Britain, [Przewodnik Katolicki, 1908-1912](#). Also now available is [The New-England Weekly Review, 1828-1832](#), an influential Whig newspaper that published extensive political commentary and literary content, and its successor [The New England Weekly Review, 1839-1843](#).

The Digital Collections Committee completed extensive updates to the [Digital Collections at CSL](#) research guide, which is a comprehensive list of all digital collections with materials from CSL collections. The guide is an important source for patrons wanting to find materials from CSL collections that are accessible online.

Jack Bednar began to catalog a **donation** of approximately fifty nineteenth-century theological, political, and scientific works donated to the State Library by Hartford antiquarian collector Charles T. Wells. Titles of interest include *Discourses on the scriptural basis of ministerial and Christian fellowship* / by Joseph Harvey, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1856; and *Speech of the*

*Hon. Isaac Toucey, in the Senate of Connecticut : on the slavery question : delivered June 11th, 1850, Hartford, 1850.*

The Discovery & Delivery Services Unit has been reviewing all unassigned **digital inventory** of copies of State Library physical resources and, when available in Internet Archive or as a link created by the USGPO (United States Government Publications Office), assigning the resource to the Internet Archive electronic collection or the USGPO electronic collection. During this reporting period staff completed this project with updates to 750 records in the State Library catalog. Examples: *World war issues and ideals; readings in contemporary history and literature* / edited by Morris Edmund Speare and Walter Black Norris, New York, 1918; and *What happened to Europe* / Frank A. Vanderlip. New York, 1919.

The Discovery & Delivery Services Unit contributed forty records to the **Name Authority Cooperative** (NACO) database. Included in this contribution are records for Mitchell College (New London, Conn.) and for Connecticut. Judicial Review Council.

Significant **USGPO titles** cataloged include *The Fed explained : what the central bank does* (an irregularly issued serial publication by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 2021-); and *Agency financial report* (an annual publication of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission).

Significant **Connecticut State Documents** cataloged include *CT LAB newsletter* issued by the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, and *Report to the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly*, annually issued by the Office of the Ombudsperson, Connecticut. Department of Developmental Services.

William Anderson cataloged two **LibGuides** compiled and maintained by Susan Bigelow, *Connecticut town documents : reports and other materials published by municipalities* and *Charters and ordinances : links to charters and ordinances shelf lists by town*.

CT LAB concluded a **patron survey**, related to patrons' communications preferences, on February 28, 2025. This survey was conducted via SurveyMonkey and telephone. The brief survey asked patrons to indicate, besides the telephone, if they wished to receive important updates from CT LAB via email, hard copy Large Print, or hard copy braille. The survey also gave patrons the option to elect to receive the CT LAB newsletter in their preferred format. Survey data will be used by CT LAB staff to update patron records and to send newsletters and other communications to CT LAB patrons in their preferred format.

eGO CT continues to grow. There are now 359 school, public, and academic libraries accessing the **Connecticut State Library ebook collection**. There are currently 8,100 patrons actively using the Palace Project app. In January and February DLD purchased 451 new items for the eGO CT program and the Palace app for a total of over 50,000 items that are now provided for free to public libraries, academics, and schools. The eGO CT program is on track for 35,000 checkouts in FY25.

DLD is working with statewide library catalog **findIT CT** vendor Equinox and Bibliomation on a project to reload the holdings of the libraries in the catalog to be more accurate and current. All the library consortia in the state have been reloaded as well as the majority of standalone public, school, and special libraries who regularly updated their holdings. Work on updating the holdings of the academic libraries and the State Library has also begun. There are currently 336

libraries, 21 million bibliographic records, and close to 19 million items in findIT. In 2024 there were 1.3 million visits and 7.5 million page views.

The Museum of CT History team has updated an old Charter Exhibit that had been on display in the 1910-era oak exhibit cases in Memorial Hall for decades. The refreshed exhibit, ***Rooted in Liberty: The Charter of 1662 and the Legend of the Charter Oak***, includes a new case of documents as selected by Lizette Pelletier to show Connecticut's evolving journey towards democracy. The other three cases have been refreshed and updated with new images, objects, and labels.

The Museum of CT History **acquired new collection items**: 2018 'Sgt. Stubby' movie souvenirs and a 2020 Melissa & Doug toy barn with animals.

On January 25, 2025, the Connecticut League of Women Voters and Capitol Information Tours hosted an event at the Museum of CT History in honor of the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Governor Ella Grasso's inauguration**. Governor Grasso was not only the state's first female governor but is also considered to be the first female governor in the country elected to that office in her own right. At the event, the Museum displayed items from the collection related to Governor Grasso, including campaign items and a sculptural bust.

The Museum of CT History team has now added approximately 1,500 object records to its new collections management system, **Connecticut Collections (CTCo)**. These records comprise the earliest acquisitions, most of which predate 1925. Collections will be added in batches to ensure records are correctly mapped to fields in CTCo. The next collection to be added will be the postcard collection, which includes more than 1,000 digital images of Connecticut factories and mills to accompany the records. Christine Pittsley has been customizing the system with input from Beth Burgess so that each screen and field fits the Museum's needs. Staff must take the time to review the metadata for each record, but the Museum has plans to eventually make all records with images available in the public portal.

Over the last two months, the Museum of CT History has had two contractors review the **1910-era vaults** ("Lincoln" and "Mitchelson") in Memorial Hall. These vaults are extremely difficult to open, the cause of which was determined to simply be many years of deferred maintenance. A plan is being prepared to rehabilitate the vaults over the next months.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator issued one revised agency specific **records retention schedules** for the State Insurance and Risk Management Board (DAS-15, effective 1/24/2025) and one revised **records series** for the Office of the Attorney General (OAG-01, effective 1/14/2025).

LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 481 municipal and 209 state agency authorization forms for **records disposals**.

The **State Records Center** provides off-site inactive records storage for state agencies free of charge. Doug Yaeger and Mike Soltesz accessioned 464 cubic feet of agency records; deaccessioned 1,224 cubic feet; processed 182 reference requests; and processed 100 re-files and inter-files.

As of January 2025, the Depository Coordinator at the University of New Haven has completed a mass weeding project of the **federal documents collection**. Since 2016 their library has discarded approximately 90,000 federal documents, resulting in an increased workload for State

Library staff responsible for checking our federal documents collection and adding items as needed. The discard process could not have been completed without the assistance of Elizabeth Esquelin and Eric Paiva.

The relabeling and standardization of the **Town Documents Collection** is well underway, and since January Susan Bigelow has processed 412 items consisting of materials from fifteen Connecticut towns and one borough. Many items require additional processing such as writing additional descriptions on shelf list and envelope, replacing worn envelopes with new ones, and splitting up multiple items shelved together in the same envelope. Ultimately, these individual tasks will result in a more useable, well-maintained collection.

Elizabeth Swan continues her scanning of the indexes to the **Connecticut Secretary of the State, Articles of Incorporation** record collection. Indexes in boxes 88-121 were scanned in January and February, covering the years 1930-1937. The indexes for volumes 179 - 251 have been scanned and available in Teams for staff use for a total of 34 processed volumes.

Mel Smith, Susan Bigelow and Brittany Rankin met with local Connecticut historian Carl Walter who provided a demonstration of a computer program he created that includes 30 years of his research on the famous **Farmington Canal** that was in operation from 1828 to 1848. Mr. Walter indicated that the program includes some 2,000 images and 2,000 documents and tells the tale of the canal and its role in Connecticut social and transportation history. After the presentation Mr. Walter generously provided the State Library with a donation of his work, which he is providing to many public libraries or historical societies where the canal was located.

Sarah Morin, student interns, and volunteers processed 15 cubic feet (30 boxes) of the **New Haven County Court records**. They completed Superior Court judgments (civil case files), 1820-1839 (M-R), 1820-1839 (S-Y); Superior Court no appearance files 1808-1828; and Superior Court papers by subject category Executions 1848-1857. They identified approximately 10 cases involving African-descended, African American, Black, and Indigenous persons and groups. Now that the new Digital Records Archivist is on board, scanning for ingest to the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) should resume sometime in 2025. Sarah Morin published two blog entries, [Meet Our Student Interns! Part 7](#) and [Retrospective No. 1: Black, African American, and Indigenous History](#), as well as one Instagram post about a law passed by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1777, "[An ACT for raising and compleating the Quota of the Continental Army, to be raised in this State.](#)"

#### **Recent Archives Accessions include:**

- **Extradition files and Waivers of Extradition**, 2019, 1 cubic foot (RG 005)  
*The files are not open to the public per CGS 1-210(b).*
- **Town of Cornwall** rate books, 1910-1975, 4 cubic feet (RG 062:031)

#### **CTDA Digital Records Uploaded:**

- **1965 Keystone Aerial Survey Photographs** – Transportation, Department of, 1894-2003 Digital Collection (RG 089:11c)
- **The Charter of the Colony of Connecticut, 1662** – Early General Records of Connecticut, 1629-1820 Digital Collection (RG 001)

#### **Digital Records Processing Project Updates:**

- The Digital Records Archivist continues to process **Governor Dannel P. Malloy** born-digital records (RG 005:041).

## Staff News

The Discovery & Delivery Services Unit welcomed **John “Jack” R. Bednar** on February 3. Jack received his Master of Information in Library and Information Science from Rutgers University in 2024. He gained practical experience at the Alexander Library at Rutgers and at the Trenton Free Public Library before joining the State Library.

The Museum of CT History has a new intern for the Spring 2025 semester. Central CT State University Public History student **Nathaniel Smith** is working on an inventory project related to World War I collections. The project will include related veteran research to build a finding aid for these early Museum acquisitions. In addition, information will be shared on the Museum’s social media platforms throughout his internship.

On January 30th the History & Genealogy Unit welcomed **Michael “Mike” Sullivan**. Mike received his Master’s in Library and Information Science from Simmons University and has served as a reference Librarian at the Silas Bronson (Waterbury) Public Library where he specialized in their local history and genealogy collections and services area. He also was a reference librarian at both the Welles-Turner (Glastonbury) and Raymond (East Harford) Public Libraries.

The State Archives and CT Humanities through a collaborative effort hired **Jarod Werner** a graduate student intern on January 31 to inventory and process historical CT Humanities records located in the State Archives.

State Archives, History & Genealogy, and the Museum of Connecticut staff co-hosted special student intern **Mariella Satelmajer**, a sophomore at Mount Vernon Westminster School in Atlanta, GA , from March 3-7. Lizette Pelletier, Maria Paxi, and Christine Pittsley supervised the project, with assistance from Damon Munz, Mel Smith, Liz Swan, and the rest of the H&G staff. Because Mariella expressed an interest in the WWII era, she worked on the Peter Partyka Papers, 1942-1945 [OR 1908-1987] (RG069:199). Mr. Partyka was a WWII bombardier who earned the Silver Star after he was hit by shrapnel during a bombing mission but still completed the mission. The collection consists of personal correspondence with his future wife, Lucille, from 1943-1944, but also includes correspondence related to his Silver Star award, his veterans benefits, and photographs. The Career Exploration Program at Mount Vernon requires the student to spend 40 hours learning firsthand about their career. During the week, Mariella learned about archival principles and workflows such as determining archival value, arranging and describing the collection, and cataloging related museum artifacts including his Silver Star, Purple Heart, and other medals. Nicole Besseghir met briefly with her to talk about the connection between records retention and archival appraisal. Finally, Christine arranged for Mariella and her mother to attend the “Honoring Our Woman Warriors” event at the State Capitol on March 7, where more than 80 female veterans were honored by Governor Lamont, LT. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, and Senator Richard Blumenthal. Prior to this event, Mariella was able to meet and talk with Corporal Dorothy “Dottie” Dee, a 102 year-old Marine Corps veteran who served at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in California during World War II.