

Report to the State Library Board

July 28, 2025

Deborah Schander
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 July 28, 2025 meeting of the Board, covers the period of May 10, 2025 through July 18, 2025.

Office of the State Librarian

The Connecticut General Assembly concluded its session on June 7. The State Library's budget requests to support law materials out of the general fund rather than capital funds and partial support for a Museum inventory were included in the final budget. Unfortunately, requests to support new positions and adjust existing staffing did not proceed. We will continue to pursue these options in future sessions. The Federal funding situation remains uncertain, and we anticipate a Special Session this Fall for the state to begin addressing the many recent federal changes and cuts.

The agency's biennial audit for Fiscal Years 23 and 24 has concluded. Draft findings included four repeated recommendations and one new recommendation which relate to the Museum, grant monitoring, and accounts receivable practices undertaken on our behalf by the Department of Administrative Services. The agency concurred with each of the recommendations and continues to develop and refine procedures to ensure best practices are being met. The findings also, again, underscored known funding and support needs in multiple areas: a Museum inventory, updated collections appraisals, and a dedicated grants specialist. The final audit report will be released later in the year.

On July 17, Deborah Schander joined State Historian Andy Horowitz for a special conversation in Memorial Hall to discuss the State Library's unique role in government throughout time, the significance of its non-partisan mission, the uncertainty of humanities funding, and why libraries and museums still matter in the digital age. Staff also shared some Revolutionary War-era items from the State Library's rich collection of documents and artifacts that have resurfaced as the Museum of Connecticut History prepares for an exhibit to commemorate the Semiquincentennial of the United States. The conversation was broadcast live on CT-N and is available for [on-demand](#) viewing. In the lead up to the event, Deborah and Andy were guests on NBC's CT LIVE with host Abbey Carnivale to promote the program; a video of the interview is available [on-demand](#). Deborah also spoke in-depth with Morgan Cunningham of WTIC 1080, which will be available on demand soon.

Unit Activities

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Suzanne Kiss and Cathy Potter brought the CT State Library's Outreach Van to the **Summer Reading Kick-Off Party** at East Hartford Public Library on June 18. Cathy and Suzanne shared fun, family-friendly activities with event attendees including a "Decorate A Bookmark" station, book discussion Jenga, book cover trivia, Ozobots, and, of course, puppets. Dozens of families stopped over to say hello and learn about the State Library's programs and services.

Suzanne Kiss represented the CT State Library at the second annual **Barnum Festival Community Health Fair** in Bridgeport on June 28. Approximately 200 people attended this event. Kym Powe provided an entire library cart (over five bins) of books to give away at the event, which is geared towards lower-income individuals and families. Every last book was taken, along with information about State Library programs including Storywalks®, The Governor's Reading Program, the Palace app, and EBSCO's Workforce Solutions.

Chris Gauvreau, project manager for the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS)-funded **Regional Navigator Sharing Project**, collaborated with the Hamden Public Library sub awardee to assess the impact of the disruption caused by the unexpected termination of the grant and to embrace the challenge of restarting and envisioning a satisfying completion of the now-renewed project. As part of the restart, three navigator contractors were re-employed and seven participating library directors met to come up with a strategy for the final months of navigation and assessment. An update of the data collected thus far revealed that in approximately nine months, navigators have assisted 467 residents in 1281 appointments and meaningfully distributed approximately 300 large screen devices to those in need. While most appointments occurred in participating libraries, navigators were also able to accommodate residents with meetings at the Keefe Community Center, the Davenport-Dunbar Residence, Gateway Community College, Rays of Health Center, the Valley Regional Adult Center, and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. The latter significantly advanced community awareness of library support for closing the digital divide.

As a member of **CT's Access to Justice Commission**, Dawn La Valle is working with three committees (Pro Bono, Self Represented Access/Issues, and Legal Aid) to assist in disseminating the resources, information, and opportunities to public libraries.

Dawn met with TFSX to develop a plan to complete the reinstated IMLS-funded **Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School** grant. The two remaining Cohorts will be combined into one open Cohort, and TFSX will create additional resources that can be shared with the Futures School alumni network to use to navigate the uncertainty of the future of libraries going forward.

Collaboratively lead by Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar, the **All CT Reads 2026** cycle is underway behind the scenes. In the spring, the Kids, Teens, and Adult Committee members were finalized and included both returning and newly recruited CT library staff. Having compiled the reading list for 2026, the Adult Committee of CT librarians met in May to officially kick off this year's reading period. The Committee will read and review the titles through the summer months and come together again in September for final decisions making.

The Division of Library Development (DLD) hosted the monthly meetup with **The GIANT Room** and participating libraries to wrap up plans for their final community engagement activities including an in-person program attended by Gail Hurley at the Windsor Locks Public Library.

DLD staff and four CT public library directors (Brenda McKinley, Ridgefield; Keira Parrot, Darien; Madhu Gupta, New London; and Melissa Canham-Clyne, Hamden) began the work of developing a process to assist CT principal public libraries drafting new policies that meet the **new bill concerning school and public libraries statutory requirements**. A [comprehensive LibGuide was created with an overview of the requirements, sample policies, requirements checklist, best practice, and FAQs](#). An information session was held on July 15 to provide details of the new requirements and the opportunity for library directors and board members to ask specific questions. The session was attended by 70 library directors. Sessions will also be offered in August and September.

Kym Powe and Ashley Sklar have established a relationship with the **CT Juvenile Residential Services**. They will be holding an informational meeting at the Middletown Library Service Center in August where they'll share the various free offerings from the State Library. CT Juvenile Residential Services are a new location to accept deselected middle grade and young adult fiction and nonfiction titles from MLSC.

Staff of the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books (CT LAB) **conducted ten outreach sessions** during the period of late May through early July 2025. These outreach visits reached over 120 individuals. Highlights included a presentation to the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) Children's Services team, an exhibit table at the UR Community Cares Eye Health Fair in New Britain, presentations at two senior living communities, an exhibit table at the annual meeting of the CT Society of Eye Physicians, and the Survivors of Stroke support Group at the Backus Hospital in Norwich.

Matt Geeza and Ashley Sklar attended a Human Guide Training led by facilitators from the **Helen Keller National Center**. The training was organized by the Southeast Connecticut Community Center of the Blind and was held at the Groton Public Library on June 24. Attendees learned how to properly serve as human guides for people who are blind or deafblind. Training scenarios included dining in a restaurant, safely navigating through doorways, and moving through busy settings with people and furniture.

The current issue of the **CT LAB newsletter** is the July and August 2025 edition. The newsletter is available in the following formats: email, PDF (link on CT LAB website), HTML (CT LAB website), audio, hard copy large print, and hard copy braille.

DLD continues to recruit sites to participate in the **Palace Project**. There are a total of 184 sites sharing content from the Connecticut State Library through the Palace app in addition to the 200 school sites participating in the eGO CT Community Sharing Program. All school sites in Connecticut are now eligible to join this program.

eGO CT continues to support 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 interfaces for each site. Through the end of May, there have been 565 checkouts of All CT Reads 2025 titles.

To support Summer Reading, a **CT State Library Suggested Summer Reading List/Lane** was added to Palace for all participating libraries to share with their patrons.

Over the last two months, **visitation to the Museum of CT History** included 980 school children and 98 adults as part of school and adult groups. Patrick Smith delivered outreach programs to 50 students at a school in Waterford.

Patrick Smith led a total of 40 guests on two **Hiking Through History** programs: Bluff Point State Park (Groton) on May 16 and Topsmead State Forest (Litchfield) on June 20. Sign-ups for the rest of the series are at capacity, with 20-25 attendees per hike. Upcoming dates / locations are: 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 and library staff gave **tours** to the following groups:

- May 21 – a group from Colt Manufacturing and guns.com requested a special tour to gather content for a feature article on the museum’s Colt Collection.
- June 5 – Trinity College’s Public Humanities Collaborative, a summer internship program, visited the State Library for a tour of both the museum and the library.
- June 9 – State Representative Tina Courpas brought three Greenwich High School students for a tour of the museum. The students are serving as interns in her office this summer.
- June 17 – The Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council brought members to the State Library for a tour of the museum and library.
- June 24 – Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas visited the State Library with members of her staff. Accompanied by State Librarian Deborah Schander, the group toured both the museum and the library.

Museum of CT History Museum staff tabled at the **Arts, Culture & Tourism Advocacy Day** at the State Capitol on May 7. The museum brought two historic powder horns from the collection, as well as 3D scans of them that guests could interact with utilizing Merge Cube technology. Through their table, the team was able to gain visibility for the museum and the State Library, and interact with members of the public, state legislators, and State employees.

The Museum of CT History team brought the Outreach Van to Central Connecticut State University for the **Connecticut League of Museums conference** on June 2. Items from the museum and archives collection were displayed, including two powder horns from the Revolutionary War period. These items were used to help discuss Connecticut’s early response to British aggression leading up to the Revolutionary War.

Christine Pittsley represented the Museum of CT History and the State Library at an event in Washington D.C. on July 1 to celebrate **Comte de Rochambeau’s 300th birthday**. The event was hosted by the National Park Service Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail and the American Revolution Institute at the Society of Cincinnati’s Larz Anderson House. Christine and State Archaeologist Dr. Sarah Sportman had a table in which they displayed facsimiles of Rochambeau-related collections from the museum and archives and finds from the 2023 archeological dig in Bolton, CT, conducted as part of the Digging Into History program. Among the attendees were French Ambassador M. Laurent Bili, French Consul General Caroline Monvoisin, and Museum of the American Revolution CEO and Executive Director Scott Stephenson. Christine also met with Thomas Lannon, Library Director of the American Revolution Institute about their Connecticut-related collections and potential loans for the *Connecticut’s Revolution* exhibit.

On July 2, the State Library awarded a total of \$641,000 in FY2026 Cycle 1 **Historic Documents Preservation Program** grants to 108 municipalities in the amounts of \$5,000, \$7,000, and \$10,000. Nicole Besseghir completed the processing of the grant applications, and the grants were then approved by Public Records Administrator LeAnn Power. Nicole then prepared the award letters and grant contracts, which were emailed to municipalities; the contracts are currently being executed and processed for fund disbursement.

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 Windsor Locks, the Town of Plainfield, the Town of East Windsor, the Town of Darien, the Town of Scotland, the Town of Meriden, the Town of Bridgewater, the Town of Stonington, the City of Norwich, the Town of Portland, The Town of Hamden, The Town of Vernon, and the Ellington/Vernon Probate Court. Vaults provide a high level of fire protection and security for towns' permanent and essential records.

In May and June, Kevin Johnson presented his **Jordan Freeman portrayal** to a variety of audiences, including a school, public library, senior center, and genealogist society. A previous portrayal of **Professor Jim**, Kevin's newest historical persona, so moved one audience member that he painted a portrait of Professor Jim and presented it to Kevin in May.

The **New England Historic & Genealogical Society** returned this year for a three-day research trip to the library. Seventeen individuals from across the country spent time utilizing the History & Genealogy reading room and State Archives conducting extensive family and historical research, and several genealogical brick walls were broken down by the attendees.

Kris Aberly set up a **library displays** in May for Older Americans Month with free resources from various federal agencies and in June with Connecticut farming and agricultural material from the library's collection.

A new display in the History & Genealogy Reading Room created by Susan Bigelow honors the legacy of **Connecticut State Senator Betty Hudson**, who was a long-time equal rights champion. Using papers donated to the Connecticut State Library in 2014, the display highlights her work to protect women from violence and promote equality for all. The display is very timely as June marks LGBTQ Pride Month. A complementary display spearheaded by Nora Sawyer was placed in the Law Reading Room, featuring a colorful selection of LGBTQ books from the Middletown Library Service Center.

Work is progressing on the federally funded **Planning to Preserve Connecticut's Digital Government History Project**. Mark Conrad, Information Management Consultant, along with the Project Team finalized and released the [request for information \(RFI\) report](#) with recommendations for a secure digital preservation repository (SDPR). Mark and Allen Ramsey presented about the project and report at the National Association of Government Archivists and Records Administrators (NAGARA) Annual Conference in Oklahoma City on July 16.

Programs and Training

DLD offered two in-person **Basic Book Repair** and **Advanced Book Repair** classes at Eastern Connecticut State University in July and hosted a **Digital Media Labs & Production Studios** webinar.

Kym Powe and Brad Bullis presented a **“Weeding in the Garden of Good and Evil” workshop**, which provides tools and encourages the enthusiasm needed to assess collections and make the decisions necessary to maintain a robust collection.

Chris Gauvreau assisted public libraries who needed to respond to USAC Review Inquiries and Program Integrity Assurance reviews of their **E-Rate applications** for a discount. Public libraries were informed of the availability of help for the July filings of start service forms, and two workshops on E-Rate eligibility and workflow were developed and scheduled for new library directors and staff.

DLD continued the series **Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community** with author, librarian, and ASL interpreter Kathy MacMillan. On May 21, Kathy presented Welcoming Deaf Kids and Families to Your Library and on June 18, she presented Little Hands Signing in Storytime. More information and resources are available on the [Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community LibGuide](#).

CT LAB hosted its quarterly virtual book club on July 23. The book discussed was *How to Read a Book: A Novel* by Monica Wood.

A **requestIT Open Office Hours** session was held on June 5. The next session is scheduled for September 18.

Ivoryton Library staff will be provided with **requestIT/fulfillment training** on July 10.

Beth Burgess co-presented two sessions at the Connecticut League of Museums Annual Conference at CT Central State University. **Tabletop Disasters: Are you ready for an Emergency?** was an emergency preparedness presentation led by Kathy Craughwell-Varda, geared towards helping museums and historical societies be ready for hazards to historic collections, such as fire, water, and other environmental threats. **Open Culture, Creative Commons, and YOU!** provided information about Open Culture, Creative Commons, and how museums are making their collections digitally accessible for free, presented alongside Jodi Polsgrove of the State Historic Preservation Office and Charlotte Lefland of the Housatonic Art Museum.

Christine Pittsley was part of a panel presentation, alongside Tara Kennedy of Yale Libraries and Alex MacKenzie from Springfield Armory, called **“Curating Caution: When Your Collections Can Kill You”** at the Connecticut League of Museums (CLM) Annual Conference on June 2, 2025. Christine’s portion of the presentation focused on WWI munitions in the museum’s collections. As a CLM Board Member, Christine also served as co-chair of the Annual Conference Committee.

The Office of the Public Records Administrator concluded the second annual **State Records Management Webinar Training Series**, with a session presented by State Archives staff on May 21. Lizette Pelletier and Damon Munz presented Session 7: Records Preservation & Disaster Preparedness, overview of best practices for preservation of records and how to prepare for potential records disasters to approximately 80 state employees representing most Executive Branch state agencies. Elise Marzik coordinated this ongoing monthly training series, with each session covering a different state records management topic.

Kris Abery served as a panel member on May 9 for the **Evidence-Based Data Preservation State Response to Data Erasure** event sponsored by the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity.

Resource Updates

In May and June 2025, the Digitization and Digital Collection Services Unit **digitized over 5,700 pages of State Library collection materials**, including six volumes of historical Connecticut General Assembly (CGA) proceedings transcripts from 1963 and 1965, 32 Connecticut state documents, and 24 issues of prison newspapers. Seven volumes of CGA proceedings and 135 serial issues of digitized state documents were added to the Connecticut Digital Archive for digital preservation and public access.

The Connecticut State Colleges and Universities PRIMO VE implementation group, of which Stephen Slovasky was a member, concluded its work on June 30 with a successful partners-wide implementation of PRIMO VE, our discovery tool. PRIMO VE allows for real-time updating of additions and updates to our catalog and eliminates the problem of false duplicate detections in its predecessor tool.

Jack Bednar resumed the cataloging of the unprocessed items from the State Library' collection of materials related to the historical, communal, and ecclesiastical history of **Connecticut municipalities**. Included here are annual programs from the Stafford Springs agricultural fairs from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century and the annual report of the Simsbury Bank and Trust Company from 1961 to 1966.

The Cataloging Unit regularly reviews unassigned **digital inventory** of copies of State Library physical resources and of born-digital titles. Verna Thomas-Green has undertaken to update and correct a set of bibliographic records for which electronic inventory had not migrated accurately to our current software platform. For the current reporting period Verna completed updates for 309 titles, including a 1996 bibliography of works on confidentiality of electronic health data issued by the National Library of Medicine, and the online version of the Department of Justice Tax Division's 1996 Settlement Reference Manual.

Verna imported into our catalog 233 links to State Library books that Digitization and Digital Collection Services scanned and added to the **Connecticut Digital Archive**.

Between them, Laura Diller and William Anderson contributed 54 records to the **Name Authority Cooperative** (NACO) database. Included in this contribution are records for several Connecticut municipal planning agencies.

Significant **USGPO titles** cataloged include the annual and biennial reports of the National Sea Grant College Program beginning in 1990, and an online history of the Philadelphia Campaign, 1777, written by Joseph Seymour and issued by the Center of Military History.

Significant materials cataloged for the **History and Genealogy map collections** include a multi-sheet set of negative photostat map of Ansonia, Birmingham, Derby, Shelton, and West Ansonia, Conn., and a Michelin touring map of Providence, Rhode Island from the 1920s.

CT LAB is participating in the first group of National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) network libraries **migrating to BARD 2.0**. BARD 2.0 is an upgraded version of the Braille and Audio Reading Download Service from NLS and the Library of Congress. CT

LAB staff received training on BARD 2.0 throughout July 2025. NLS plans to transition CT LAB staff and patrons to BARD 2.0 on July 29.

eGO CT continues to grow. There are now 384 school, public, and academic libraries accessing the **Connecticut State Library eBook collection**. There are currently 9,832 patrons actively using the Palace Project app.

In May and June, DLD purchased 513 new items for the **eGO CT** program and the Palace app for a total of over 50,000 items that are provided for free to public libraries, academics, and schools. The eGO CT program has had 35,150 checkouts through the end of May and is on track for over 38,000 checkouts in FY25.

Building on previous years, Ashley Sklar once again utilized [CT's Public Libraries: A Statistical Profile, 2023-2024](#) to create and offer two Canva [Fact Flyer](#) templates, one for the free version and one for those with Canva Pro, for public libraries to customize with their own data and storytelling.

Using knowledge gained through tutorials, workshops and articles, Suzanne Kiss is expanding her understanding of graphic design, AI, and the Canva platform to create engaging digital communications, including **DLD's Weekly Wrap-Up**, [monthly newsletters](#), and **social media posts**. Readership continues to grow with new subscribers added to Conntech and Constant Contact each week.

CCSU Public History senior **Nathaniel Smith completed his spring internship** at the Museum of CT History at the end of May. He finalized the inventory and rehousing of the Museum's early military collections (Spanish-American, Philippines Expedition, and WWI), 300 objects total. In addition, Nate researched the associated donors and their military careers for future interpretive content.

The Museum of CT History is hosting a **summer intern, Molly Frank**, a sophomore Art History student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Molly will work with Beth Burgess to inventory the 73 Governor's portraits in Memorial Hall. Her internship also focuses on writing exhibit text for these artworks that will be used in new signage and on the museum's website.

Access to objects from the Museum of CT History's collection was granted to researchers and scholars: on May 23, a firearms collector viewed Smith & Wesson revolvers.

The Museum of CT History **acquired new collection items**: a group of glass bottles excavated from the Connecticut River at Hartford and a salt shed in Waterbury; a CT sailor's WWI Navy uniform; and a US Army Quartermaster desk used during WWI and WWII.

The Museum of CT History's **fragment of the King George III statue**, on loan to the Greenwich Historical Society since January for their exhibit, *Greenwich During the Revolutionary War: A Frontier Town on the Front Line*, was returned July 9.

Two objects in the Museum of CT History's collection are undergoing stabilization repair and treatment with Fallon & Wilkinson LLC: the **Rampant Colt carved wood statue and a 1760s pocket watch**. The Rampant Colt will be installed into The Colt Legacy exhibit this summer; the 1760s pocket watch will be a part of the *Connecticut Revolution* exhibition.

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) completed a video about the

conservation of the State Library's Charter of 1662. **Facsimiles in Museum Education: Conserving the Connecticut Royal Charter of 1662** is a behind-the-scenes feature that explores the conservation and digitization of one of Connecticut's most significant historical documents — the Royal Charter of 1662, granted by King Charles II. Lizette Pelletier and Jennifer Matos, as well as the NEDCC's paper conservator and collections photographer, share insights into the preservation of Connecticut's heritage. The video is available on-demand [here](#).

The Museum of CT History received an **Implementation Grant from Connecticut Humanities (CTH)** in the amount of \$32,500 to kick-start the semiquincentennial exhibit it has been planning, *Connecticut's Revolution*. The museum team continues to seek funds from additional sources for exhibit expenses, including grants, sponsorships, and individual donations. The exhibit is scheduled to open on July 4, 2026.

Museum staff continue their efforts to **reorganize collections storage areas**. In May and June, the team continued to inventory and rehome collections items as part of a project to remove all collection items from the Nutmeg Gallery. Construction on the Gallery is slated to begin this summer (old exhibit elements will be removed from the gallery so the space can be used for meetings / programs). Judicial Maintenance staff have assisted by kindly disposing of old equipment and building supplies. This multi-phase project is ongoing.

LeAnn Power and Cherie Miles processed 595 municipal and 189 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 1,385 cubic feet of agency records; deaccessioned 1,009 cubic feet; processed 181 reference requests; and processed 102 re-files and inter-files.

Following a signed memorandum of agreement submitted to and approved by the Government Publishing Office, the Connecticut State Library has agreed to become a **Federal Depository Library Preservation Steward** for the following five titles: Agricultural Statistics A 1.47; Astronomical almanac (bound volumes) D 213.8; Astronomical Phenomena D 213.8/3; Nautical Almanac D 213.11; and Minerals Yearbook I 19:165.

In May and June, 32 **federal government documents** claimed from selective depository libraries in Connecticut and Rhode Island were added to the State Library collection and 713 federal documents within the collection were cataloged and barcoded by Kris Aberly.

Susan Bigelow has created a new landing page on the Connecticut State Library website that highlights [The Governor Jonathan Trumbull Papers](#) collection, which was recently placed in the Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) after a lengthy digitization process by State Library staff. This collection consists of thousands of original letters of correspondence, records and historically valuable documents that pertain to the Colony and early State of Connecticut, which will be an excellent resource as we move towards the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The History & Genealogy Unit staff is also currently producing a **searchable index** to this vast collection using a sixteen-drawer slip index created by the Massachusetts Historical Society, which had previously held ownership until donating the collection to the Connecticut State Library in 1921. The index is intended to become available online later this year to complement access to the digital Trumbull Papers Collection.

Between FY24 and FY25, the number of **confidential institutional and state agency records searches** conducted by State Archives staff increased by 24%, rising from 343 to 424 searches. Each count represents a distinct record group that staff needed to search in response to patron inquiries, many of which involve multiple state and local institutions. The most significant growth occurred in the “Other” category, which includes general inquiries and searches involving the Department of Consumer Protection, Secretary of the State, town assessor offices, and other state and local government entities. Increased activity was also noted for state institutional records such as Mansfield Training School and state mental health hospitals. These numbers provide an important snapshot of the sustained and growing public interest in archival government records and the State Archives role in ensuring public access to them. A major portion of **the increased activity** is attributed to requests from the Division of Scientific Services at the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP). In FY25, Damon Munz retrieved 1,136 files and 292 boxes, digitized 182 files, and temporarily loaned back 954 files and all 292 boxes to the Division. In comparison, FY24 involved the retrieval of 997 files and 95 boxes, with 145 files digitized and 852 files and all 95 boxes temporarily loaned back. Additionally, staff retrieved 28 files and 15 boxes of State Police death investigation records for temporary loan back to the State Police. This work reflects the State Archives continued logistical and operational support to state agencies requiring active use of their historically significant permanent archival records.

In FY25 staff responded to **11 inmate file requests**—5 for State Farm for Women (SFW) records and 6 for Wethersfield State Prison or Department of Correction records. Staff scanned and reviewed 7 files totaling 1,357 pages. These records were carefully reviewed by staff to ensure compliance with federal and state confidentiality and privacy laws and regulations. This process includes redacting sensitive information from a copy of the records before they are disclosed to researchers or family members.

State Archives staff in FY25 also provided 10 **supervised research visits** (20 individuals total) at our Van Block Facility for a total of 34.5 hours.

Uncovering New Haven Project: Project Archivist Sarah Morin and various volunteers processed 44.25 cubic feet (88.5 boxes) of the New Haven County Court records. They completed Superior Court judgments (civil case files), 1850-1855 (C-Y), and Superior Court no appearance files 1829-1840 [J-Tom], 1841-1846, 1854-1855. They identified approximately 16 cases involving African-descended, African American, Black, and Indigenous persons and groups. Sarah Morin published two blog entries, [Retrospective No. 4: Marriage and Divorce](#) and [Retrospective No. 5: Disease and Death](#). Volunteer Max Spicer published a guest blog entry, [The Sad Case of Silas Mix](#).

Recent Archives Accessions include:

- **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner** toxicology records, 1977-2024, 30 cubic feet (RG 194)
The records are not open to the public per CGS 19a-411.
- **Colt Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company Collection**, gun designs and marketing materials, circa 1836-1984, 17 drawers (RG 103)
The collection consists of the following: Ralph T. sketches, factory modeling, design plans for many types of guns, pamphlet layouts, a page from Colt's 1888 promotional catalogue, engineering blueprint of Colt label, Colt Presidential presentation, handgun designs, federal government contracted pistol the 1847 Colt Walkers, transparencies for Lord and Lady Derringer, gun photographs, The Genuine Colt 1851 Navy handgun advertisement, Colt flare kit and tear gas

pamphlet layouts, as well as 8mm film, video reels, assorted renderings, depictions, delineations, experimental firearms, historic photographs, negatives and art work.

- **Town of Brookfield** election records, 1899-2001 April, 3 cubic feet (RG 062:018)
- **Town of Preston** records, 1965-1985. 1.5 cubic feet (RG 062:114)
The records consist of general assistance case files, 1967-1985; hospital requests and notices, 1973-1979; welfare applications denied, pending, reinstated, 1974-1977; back taxes, 1973-1978; bills and checklists, welfare, 1969-1979; highway form 15-A monthly estimates, 1971-1975; miscellaneous correspondence, welfare, 1969-1981; and monthly and quarterly welfare reports to state, circa 1965-1980. Box 1 of the records are not open to the public per CGS 1-210.

CTDA Digital Records Uploaded:

Items were migrated from the following collections on ContentDM into CTDA:

- 1934 Aerial Photographs (RG 089:011a)
- New London Superior Court Files (RG 003)
- New London County Court, Papers by Subject (RG003_NLCC_PBS)
- New London County Court Files (RG003_NLCC_Files)
- Wethersfield State Prison, Warrants of Commitment, 1856-1860 (RG 017)
- Tolland County Superior Court Files (RG 003)
- Litchfield County Court minorities collection (RG 003)
- Good Hope Log (RG000 - 387fL828)
- Military Service Questionnaires (RG 012)
- Map of the Farmington Canal (RG 000 - 912.74 C72)
- Brady Collection of Civil War Photographs (PG 85)
- Civil War Collection, Photographs of Civil War Flags (PG 80)
- Floods and Hurricanes in Connecticut, Series 3. Flood of 1955 (PG 160)
- Samuel Wyllys Papers (RG000 - 974.6fW97)
- Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company Collection (PG 460)

Digital Records Processing Project Updates:

- Processing continues on **Governor Dannel P. Malloy's** born-digital records (RG 005:041).

Scanning continued of selected probate court files for inclusion in **Family Search** online collections. Family Search contracted with Intelligent Image Management, Inc. (IIMI) to manage this long-term scanning project. Allen and Damon met virtually with Family Search staff on June 26 to discuss the overall project, go over workflows, and provide them with feedback. IIMI is currently scanning approximately 4,000 pages per week with the goal of scanning at least 14,000 pages per week.

Staff News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- Executive Secretary **Jane Beaudoin** retired May 30.
- State Archivist **Lizette Pelletier** retired May 30.
- **Allen Ramsey** appointed State Archivist May 30.