

**MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM AND
RESEARCH CENTER**
Archives & Special Collections

**Bibliography of
Local History Sources**

Introduction

Although the human history of southeastern Connecticut extends back one hundred centuries, only the past four have received significant attention from historians. Most "survey" accounts have begun with English settlement of the region, starting in the 1630s, and continued through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Often, individual monographs examined specific events or individuals. Primary sources such as maps and family papers have added valuable additional information. Until recently, studies of the area's Native history seldom treated their subject as an intrinsic phenomenon; rather, they depicted Natives as English allies or antagonists.

This bibliography contains items in Archives & Special Collections that address this area's political, economic, military, economic, and natural history. (JA)

NEW LONDON COUNTY

Avery Family. Papers, 1811-1975. Accession Number 1999-0091.

The majority of the items in this collection pertain to the ministerial career of Timothy Tuttle (1781-1864), who served as pastor of Ledyard's Congregational Church from 1811 to his death in 1864. Among these are the ordination sermon preached on 14 August 1811, the sermons that he preached at the fortieth and fiftieth anniversaries of his ordination, and the sermon preached at his funeral on 9 June 1864. In addition, there are several copies of Tuttle's *Sketches of History of the Congregational Church and Society in Ledyard* (1859) and a biography of Tuttle (1876). Other items in this collection include the Constitution of the Ledyard Washington Temperance Society (1842), an "Historical Discourse" delivered at the re-dedication of the Second Congregational Church in Preston (1889), and a history of Ledyard's Congregational Church (1975). (JA)

Barber, John Warner (1798-1885). *Connecticut Historical Collections*. New Haven: John Warner Barber, 1836. LHRARE F99 .B365 1836.

This book provides brief historical sketches of each of Connecticut's towns, including those of New London County. It frequently mentions the original indigenous inhabitants and their relations with English colonists. (JA)

Beers, F.W. (Frederick W.) (fl. 1858-1929). *Atlas of New London County, Connecticut*, 1868. MSS 138.

Beers came from a family of surveyors, cartographers and publishers originally from Newtown, Connecticut. He began work as a surveyor, but later set up on his own as a publisher, becoming partner in Beers, Ellis & Soule. Still later, the firm became F.W. Beers & Company based in New York City, where for a while he was associated with his father, James Botsford Beers. The Beers family is noted for its contribution to the publication of county and state atlases of the United States. (EC)

Hurd, D. Hamilton (Duane Hamilton) (ed). *History of New London County, Connecticut, with Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men.* Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1882. LHRARE F102 .N4 H87 1882.

The first section of this book (one of many county histories that Hurd wrote for regions in the northeastern United States) summarizes New London County's history from its inception to what was then the present day. Most of the book's subsequent chapters address the pasts of individual towns within the county, and also provides brief biographical sketches of prominent residents. (JA)

Lester, William, Jr. (1794-1867). *Map of New London and Windham Counties in Connecticut, From Actual Survey,* 1833. MSS 250.

William Lester, Jr.'s 1833 map of New London and Windham Counties shows the easternmost section of the state of Connecticut, indicating its socio-economic development at the time. The main portion of the map depicts the various towns of the region and the roads linking them. A section of the railroad connecting New London and Boston also appears. Numerous schools, factories, foundries, and mills (paper, saw, and grist) dot the landscape. One inset map denotes the region's mineral resources and quarries. Several other inset maps portray individual towns, and accompanying legends locate each town's schools, houses of worship (Protestant denominations only), jails, banks, and factories. Also represented is the site in Montville of the first woolen factory in Connecticut, built in 1798 by the Englishman John Scolfield. (JA)

New London County Historical Society. *Records and Papers.* New London: Published by the New London County Historical Society, 1895-1906 (incomplete). LHRARE F102 .N4 N48 1906 v.3, pt.1; Accession Numbers 2003-0075 through 2003-0080.

These volumes feature essays on such topics as the early whaling industry in New London, the history of the schools of New London from 1645 to 1895, and highways and landmarks in Lyme. Much of the writing in Volume 3, Part 1 (published in 1906) concerns the unveiling of a statue of John Winthrop (1606-1676) in the town of New London in 1905. The cornerstone of this monument to the man who had founded the town in 1646 had been laid in 1896. (The editors hasten to note that, although the statue is located in the town which Winthrop established, it primarily commemorates him as the governor who successfully obtained a liberal charter for the colony of Connecticut from Charles II in 1662.) (JA)

Walling, Henry Francis (1825-1888). *Map of New London County, Connecticut,* 1854 (photographs of map taken in 1996). Accession Number 1997-0147.

Rhode Island-born cartographer Henry Francis Walling produced many atlases containing maps of the northern states of the United States and also of the provinces of Canada between 1849 and 1867. In 1867, he was named the Chair of Lafayette College's Civil Engineering Department, in which capacity he served for three years. In subsequent years, he was involved in the United States coastal and geological surveys. At the time of his death in 1888, he was developing Massachusetts state maps for that state's geodetic survey.

Walling created this wall-size map of New London County the year before the state of Connecticut sold eight hundred of the one thousand acres that had been allotted to the Mashantucket Pequots since 1761. In the northeastern corner of the region of Ledyard is a label identifying "Groton Indian Town, Pequots." As a whole, the map denotes the locations of businesses, residences, educational institutions, and houses of worship throughout the area. Text insets provide business directories for New London and Norwich. Various statistical tables appear in the lower left corner, giving data about agricultural production, population levels (for "White" and "Free Colored" individuals), education, and religious affiliations. Many illustrations, several of which depict local municipal buildings, adorn the border. One illustration shows a Native, armed with a tomahawk, hunting a small animal.

This holding consists of twenty photographs showing selected sections of a copy of this map, and one

photograph showing approximately the top half of the entire map. In addition, there is a CD-ROM containing digitized images of the various towns. (JA)

GROTON

Brainard, William F. (William Fowler) (1784-1844). *An Address in Commemoration of the Sixth of September, 1781, Spoken on Groton Heights, September 6, 1825.* New London: Printed under the direction of the Committee, 1825. LHRARE E241 .G8 B83 1825.

New London-born lawyer William F. Brainard delivered this address on the forty-fourth anniversary of the Battle of Fort Griswold (see *The Battle of Groton Heights* below). Very much a product of the Era of Good Feelings and the period's residual Anglophobia (the War of 1812 was still a recent memory), this oration trumpets the virtues of the American people and the corresponding shortcomings of the peoples across the Atlantic. In addition to retelling the history of the 1781 battle, Brainard accuses the Old World of abusing the New, "from the first." Particularly in New England, settled by religious refugees, had the European yoke weighed heavily: "They never meant to own a dependence on the British crown... These strange protectors of ours, did for us, what? They taxed us, worked us, fought us, and belied us." Fortunately, however, the tide was finally starting to flow in the opposite direction: "Europe has felt the influence of the New World, and is feeling it more and more. The next revolution there (and they will have another) will be unlike the last one; it will be milder in its progress, and happier in its end."

Brainard also salutes the area's Native populations, and urges better treatment of them. He is appalled that a society which sends missionaries abroad to tend to the spiritual welfare of far-flung populations could simultaneously neglect the material welfare of neighboring populations:

You are arraying all your charities to civilize the heathen, the Lord knows where, whose wretchedness comes to you through the long alembic of a missionary report, in terms to flatter your piety, without shocking your nerves; while the poor, the ragged, and may be the drunken Indian is turned from your door, an object of not half so much disgust as the eastern wretches that they tell of.

Lest these "silent but noble" people be exterminated, "now that they are your friends," Brainard implores his audience to "send not away nor withhold your charities; but, bring them together, and direct your friendly aim, as you once did your hostile fire, so that it will *tell*." (JA)

Harris, William Wallace (19th cent.). *The Battle of Groton Heights: A Collection of Narratives, Official Reports, Records, etc., of the Storming of Fort Griswold... on the Sixth of September, 1781.* New London: Charles Allyn, 1882. LHRARE E241 .G8 H32 1882.

During the Revolutionary War, the harbor of New London served as a base of operations for American privateers that preyed on British commercial ships. By the summer of 1781, seized loot filled the town's warehouses, presenting a tempting target for British retaliation. The opportunity came in early September. As the Continental Army was preparing for its march from New York City to Yorktown, Virginia, the British Commander-in-Chief, Sir Henry Clinton, decided to attack New London to create a diversion. The planned assault would also eliminate the "Rebel pirate ships" and cripple a major supply center. Commanding the attack was Norwich native and erstwhile American war hero Benedict Arnold. On 6 September 1781, Arnold's force of British regulars burned the warehouses in New London (along with much of the rest of the town). Subsequently, another large force of British and Loyalist troops landed on the east side of the Thames River and attacked the small American garrison at Fort Griswold. The British overwhelmed the defenders, and (at least, according to American accounts) massacred them and their commander, Colonel William Ledyard. At the end of the day, the British forces withdrew. (This information was obtained from the pamphlet available at the Fort that was written by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.)

This book, assembled for the centennial observance of the battle, brings together contemporary accounts of it from various participants (including members of the Hempstead family, and Brigadier-General Arnold), as well as articles from the *Connecticut Gazette* that first appeared in September 1781. (JA)

Rathbun, Jonathan (b. 1765). *Narrative of Jonathan Rathbun, with Accurate Accounts of the Capture of Groton Fort, the Massacre that Followed, and the Sacking and Burning of New London, September 6, 1781, by the British Forces Under the Command of the Traitor Benedict Arnold.* [Hartford, CT: Tyler and Porter, 1842. RARE E241 .G8 1842.

This monograph contains three separate accounts of the events of 6 September 1781. At the age of sixteen, Rathbun joined a militia company in his home town of Colchester, Connecticut, on 7 September 1781. He and his comrades-in-arms soon saw the devastation which Arnold's troops had inflicted on New London, which Rathbun describes in detail. "Led by the spirit which the scenes (he) had witnessed in New London had fanned into a flame," Rathbun enlisted as a private in a Connecticut regiment in 1782, and was stationed at Fort Stanwich in Stamford, Connecticut, until the end of the war. Orderly Sergeant Rufus Avery provides the second narrative, focusing on the battle for Fort Griswold. The final narrative comes from Stephen Hempstead, who had served in the Continental Army since 1775, and was one of the casualties of the fighting on 6 September. Several appendices follow. One recounts Arnold's attempt to turn West Point over to the British in 1780. Another honors a Mrs. Bailey of Groton (still living when this book was published), who had donated a blanket and her petticoat to the American defenders of the fort, who needed flannel for cartridge shells. Lists of the American dead and wounded from the battle appear in other appendices. Also included here is a verse that had been written by a sixteen-year-old "Female Whig," named Rosanna Sizer after the British assault on Danbury, Connecticut, on 26 April 1777 (which, ironically, Arnold had repulsed). (JA)

Stark, Charles Rathbone (b. 1848). *Groton, Conn., 1705-1905.* Stonington, CT: Printed for the Author by the Palmer Press, 1922. LHRARE F104 .G8 S73 1922.

Groton native Charles R. Stark wrote this history of the first two centuries of his home town's existence. Thematic rather than strictly chronological in its approach, it discusses the town's religious, political, economic, and military history. Two early chapters provide a history of the Pequot War and an account of the Tribe's subsequent history to 1901, by which time, Stark states, there were only eighteen members left. In addition, this book features brief biographical sketches of "distinguished citizens" who resided there. (JA)

LEDYARD

Bill, Ledyard (1836-1907) (ed.). *History of the Bill Family.* New York: [s.n.], 1867. LHRARE CS71 .B626 1867.

Originally among the earliest settlers in the city of Boston, the Bill family emigrated southward to what is now the town of Ledyard in the mid-seventeenth century. This book traces eight generations of this New England family, dating from the early colonial period to the Civil War era. Brief biographical sketches describe each family member. (JA)

MYSTIC

Collier, Thomas S. (Thomas Stephens) (1842-1893). *A History of the Statue Erected to Commemorate the Heroic Achievement of Maj. John Mason and his Comrades, with an Account of the Unveiling Ceremonies.* [New London?]: The Commission, 1889. LHRARE F104 .M9 H57 1889.

This booklet commemorates the 1889 unveiling of a statue of Major John Mason, commander of the English forces during the Pequot War. Originally located in Mystic, it was relocated to the Palisado Green in Windsor, Connecticut in 1996. (JA)

NEW LONDON

Caulkins, Frances Manwaring (1795-1869). *History of New London, Connecticut, from the First Survey of the Coast in 1612, to 1852.* New London: Published by the Author, 1852. LHRARE F104 .N7 C28 1852.

Caulkins' survey of New London's history through the mid-nineteenth century examines the town's establishment, its residents' relations with neighboring Native communities, and its economic and religious history. Several chapters discuss notable residents from the colonial and early national periods, as well. (JA)

Hempstead, Joshua (1678-1758). *Diary of Joshua Hempstead of New London, Connecticut, Covering a Period of Forty-Seven Years, from September, 1711 to November, 1758.* Published as Volume I of the *Collections of the New London County Historical Society*, New London: The Society, 1901. LHRARE F104 .N7 H49 1901.

Previously available only in the form of the original manuscript, this diary provides a unique view of everyday life in New London through the first half of the eighteenth century. A resident of New London his entire life, Hempstead pursued a variety of careers as a youth and an adult. The noted historian of New London County Frances Manwaring Caulkins noted that "The diversity of his occupations marks a custom of the day; he was at once farmer, surveyor, house and ship carpenter, attorney, stonecutter, sailor, and trader. He generally held three or four town offices; was justice of the peace, judge of probate, executor of various wills, overseer to widows, guardian to orphans, everybody's helper and advisor, and cousin to half the community." Over a period of more than four and a half decades, Hempstead recorded events major and minor that occurred within his town. (JA)

NORWICH

Caulkins, Frances Manwaring (1795-1869). *History of Norwich, Connecticut, from its Possession by the Indians, to the Year 1866.* [Hartford, CT?]: Published by the Author, 1866. LHRARE F104 .N8 C38 1866.

Caulkins' survey of Norwich's history encompasses the time frame from the town's founding to the end of the Civil War. As she did in her history of New London (see above), Caulkins devotes chapters to this town's political, economic, and religious history. The second chapter outlines the "Aboriginal History of the Nine-Miles Square" (as the area was known prior to the town's establishment). It discusses the Pequot and Mohegan claims to the land prior to the mid-seventeenth century, and details the alliance which the Mohegan sachem Uncas forged with the English against invading Narragansetts in 1645. (JA)

Lester, William, Jr., 1794-1867. *Map of Norwich, From Actual Survey*, 1833.
Accession Number 1997-0158.

Lester's 1833 map of Norwich demonstrates the area's socio-economic status at the time. The main map, encompassing the city of Norwich and the surrounding region, shows the network of roads, as well as a section of the aforementioned railroad. Local efforts to harness water power are evident: two dams appear on the Yantic River, and, on the west bank of the Shetucket River (a branch of the Thames River), sits a "Water Power Company Estate." Several schools, including a "Female Academy," appear, as do several business concerns (including a shipyard, a bobbin factory, a tannery, and a wool factory). An inset map of Norwich City shows the locations of its Town Hall, its churches, its banks, and its hotels. (JA)

Perkins, Mary E. (Mary Elizabeth). *Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich, 1660-1800, with Maps, Illustrations, Portraits, and Genealogies*. Norwich, CT: [Press of the Bulletin Co.], 1895.
LHRARE F104 .N93 P4 1895.

The first of a projected series of volumes on the history of the Connecticut city of Norwich, this book provides an account of its first 140 years, beginning with the land deed obtained from Mohegan leaders Uncas, Owaneco, and Attawanhood in June 1659. It recounts the town's socio-economic history from the colonial era to the early national period, discussing such topics as local businesses, schools, and disease epidemics. One chapter addresses the practice of slavery in the town, its opponents, and its eventual abolition. Accompanying maps depict the historical arrangements of the town's edifices and roads. In addition to being a valuable source on the town's early history, this book also provides useful information about prominent Norwich individuals and families from that time period. In many cases, it offers detailed accounts of the plots of land which these individuals purchased, and the homes and businesses which they built upon them. (JA)

Rogers, Elisha E., Mrs. (1862-1935). *Flora of Norwich and Vicinity*. [Hartford: State Board of Education], 1902. LHRARE QK151 .R64 1902.

Issued by the Connecticut State Board of Education as one of its "Connecticut School Documents," this botanical study lists over eight hundred varieties of plants then located in and around Norwich, Connecticut. Rogers notes that her geographical scope lay within a five-mile radius of the city, and adds that "by far the greater part" of these flora were found within the city itself. (JA)

Stedman, John W. (compiler). *The Norwich Jubilee: A Report of the Celebration at Norwich, Connecticut, on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement of the Town, September 7th and 8th, 1859*. Norwich, CT: [s.n.], 1859.
Copy 1: LHRARE F104 .N8 N87 1859.
Copy 2: RARE F104 .N8 N87 1859.

John W. Stedman (1820-1896), then the editor of the newspaper *Norwich Aurora*, compiled this record of Norwich's celebration of its two hundredth birthday. It features several historical addresses, sermons, poems, and songs. Among the documents reprinted in this volume is the deed by which Uncas ceded the land for the town on 6 June 1659; Stedman notes that "the original is not known to be in existence." Additional paragraphs in the "Notes to the Historical Discourse" provide biographical sketches of Uncas, Miantonomoh, and commentary on the contemporary state of the Mohegan Tribe. (JA)

PRESTON

First Congregational Church of Preston, Connecticut, 1698-1898, Together with Statistics of the Church, Taken from the Church Records. Preston, CT: Published by the Society [of the First Congregational Church of Preston], 1900. LHRARE F104 .P9 F57 1900.

Published in connection with the bicentennial celebration of Preston's First Congregational Church, this book chronicles the town's religious history, focusing mainly on that particular church. Individual chapters profile the church's various ministers, and also the members of its first congregation. (JA)

STONINGTON

Minor, Thomas (1608-1690). *The Diary of Thomas Minor, Stonington, Connecticut, 1653 to 1684.*

Prepared for publication by Sidney H. Miner and George D. Stanton, Jr. [New London, CT: Press of the Day Publishing Company], 1899. LHRARE F104 .S8 M67 1899.

In 1629, Minor emigrated to the new colony of Massachusetts from England aboard the *Lyon's Whelp* (not the *Arabella*, as had long been supposed). As a resident of the towns of Salem, Charlestown, and Hingham, he became prominent in their religious life. Simultaneously, he frequently led negotiations with area Natives on behalf of the colonial government. In 1645, Minor and his family, along with John Winthrop, Jr. and others, traveled southward and founded the town of New London. Seven years later, Minor then became one of the founders of Stonington, where he lived for the rest of his life. There, he served in many capacities, including Selectman, Treasurer, and Commander of the Militia. He often hired local Natives to work for him, paying them in clothing. In this diary, unpublished until 1899, Minor recorded his everyday activities as a Stonington resident and official. (JA)

Stonington (CT). Court summons, 18 December 1840. Accession Number 2003-0007.

This document summons Christopher Leeds of Stonington, Connecticut and York Noyes of North Stonington, Connecticut to appear in court over a matter of \$13 owed to Noyes by Leeds. (Noyes, identified by the MPMRC's Research Department as a "person of color," may have been an Eastern Pequot or have had familial ties to that tribe). (JA)

Wheeler, Grace Denison (b. 1858). *The Homes of Our Ancestors in Stonington, Connecticut.* Salem, MA: Newcomb & Gauss, Printers, 1903. LHRARE F104 .S85 W35 1903.

This book describes Stonington homes that were built in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and profiles the families that resided in them. (JA)

Wheeler, Richard Anson (b. 1817). *History of the First Congregational Church, Stonington, Connecticut, 1674-1874.* Norwich, CT: T. H. Davis and Company, 1875. LHRARE F104 .S8 W4 1875.

Wheeler, a member of the Connecticut Historical Society, the New London County Historical Society, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, wrote this account of Stonington's First Congregational Church, on the occasion of its bicentennial. A "Statistics" section at the end lists the members of the church, beginning with its first congregation in June 1674. (JA)

----- *History of the Town of Stonington, County of New London, Connecticut, from its First Settlement in 1649 to 1900.* New London, CT: Press of the Day Publishing Company, 1900. LHRARE F103 .S85 W5 1900.

Twenty-five years after the publication of his history of Stonington's First Congregational Church, Wheeler published this overview of the town's history. Individual chapters address such topics as the

town's colonial history and its roles in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Additional chapters focus on the town's economic and religious history. One other section focuses on the history of the Pequot Tribe. Concentrating mainly on the Tribe's seventeenth-century experiences, this chapter also notes its personnel contributions during the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. This book also features an extensive "Genealogical Register" of its prominent families (alphabetized by surname). (JA)

Introduction, annotations, and overview of map collection by Elliott Caldwell (EC), Timothy Spindler (TS), and Jonathan Ault (JA), Assistant Archivist, Reference.

This bibliography was first compiled in February 2002, and will be updated quarterly. Any omissions or errors are deeply regretted by the bibliographers who have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this document.

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