CONNECTICUT

For general Connecticut history information and a collaborative catalog of the holdings of several historical organizations, including some of those listed below, see the website Connecticut History Online: http://www.cthistoryonline.org/cdm-cho/index.html.

Bloomfield, CT

22. CIGNA Corporation

Corporate Archives, L9  
900 Cottage Grove Road  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone: (860) 226-3844  
E-mail: archive99@cigna.com  
Website: http://www.cigna.com/about_us/company_history.html (historical timeline)  
Hours: M-F 9 am-4 pm; appt. and approved research application required. Records available at the discretion of the Corporate Archivist.

Contact person:  
Sarah A. Polirer, Corporate Archivist: (860) 226-3844; sarah.polirer@cigna.com

Overview:  
Business and related records of CIGNA Corporation, its subsidiaries, affiliated organizations, and predecessor companies. Included are records of one of CIGNA’s oldest predecessor companies, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, organized in Hartford, CT, in 1865. Inclusive dates: Late eighteenth century-present, primarily since 1865.

Hartford, CT

23. Connecticut Historical Society

1 Elizabeth Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

Phone: (860) 236-5621 (see specific extensions below)  
Fax: (860) 236-2664  
Website: www.chs.org  
Hours: Tu-F 12 pm-5 pm; Sat 9 am-5 pm
Contact persons:
Richard Malley, Director of Collections Access: x235; rich_malley@chs.org
Cyndi Harbeson, Ref. Librarian and Asst. Archivist: x212; cynthia_harbeson@chs.org
Judith Ellen Johnson, Genealogist: x228; judith_e_johnson@chs.org
Barbara Austen, Archivist: x251; barbara_austen@chs.org

Research Center: Connecticut Historical Society

Fellowships and grants: Member of the New England Research Fellowship Consortium

Publications: Membership newsletter

Finding aids: EAD finding aids on our website. Large collections have word-processed finding aids available only in the library.

Published information on archival holdings: NUCMC, OCLC

Overview:
Established in Hartford in 1825, the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) is one of the oldest historical societies in the nation and houses one of the most distinguished collections in New England. The library portion of the Research Center contains over 100,000 printed volumes and 5,000 lin. ft. of manuscripts as well as microfilm, newspapers, broadsides, maps, and ephemera. Subject strengths include Connecticut and New England history, early 17th century to present; Americana; Connecticut and New England genealogy. Special collections comprise Connecticut imprints, local histories, city directories, trade catalogs, Connecticut almanacs, sermons, early American children’s books, periodicals, extensive holdings of Connecticut newspapers, broadsides, maps and atlases; historical manuscripts including personal and business papers, town records, tax records, account books, and diaries; genealogical reference books, published genealogies, genealogical periodicals and indexes; microform collections including Connecticut census records, Barbour Index of Connecticut vital records, Hale Headstone Inscriptions Index, Massachusetts vital records; manuscript abstracts of church, town and public records grouped by town and manuscript genealogical data grouped by surname.
Noteworthy collections:

  Tax records, correspondence, minutes of meetings, financial
  Brook Co. in the manufacture of textiles, especially for car up-
  holstery.

  It includes minutes of Board of Directors and Stockholders
  meetings, patents filed by Joseph M. Merrow, financial journals,
  1942–1954, inventories and insurance appraisals listing equip-
  ment and supplies, catalogs of products sold, samples of stitches,
  information about the forced relocation of the plant from Hartford
  to Newington in the 1970s, and records of union negotiations
  earlier form of the company is represented by an account book
  and inventories of the “factory business” of J. B. Merrow & Son,
  1841–1847. Papers of a more personal nature include Mansfi eld
  town records maintained by Joseph M. Merrow, who served as
  town selectman, records of the settlement of Nathan Merrow’s
  estate, 1845–1865, and correspondence of Harriet Millard Merrow,
  Joseph B. Merrow, Joseph M. Merrow and Salmon Millard. Joseph
  M. Merrow evidently had an interest in Connecticut industry, and
  his research notebooks also form part of the collection.

- N. N. Hill Company Records (1893–1917). 4 lin. ft. (4 boxes, 15
  vols.)
  Cash books, sales records, labor accounts, ledgers, invoice books,
  factory order slips, factory inventories, credit reports on other
  companies, and correspondence of an East Hampton, Con-
  necticut, bell manufacturer. Sales included gongs, rattles, scales,
  chimes, and tea, call, and door bells, among other products. Their
  customers were located throughout the east. Correspondence
  with A. Mugford, a Hartford engraver, concerned the printing
  of a catalog for N. N. Hill, 1902–1906. In 1906, Muller, Maclean
  & Co., New York City merchants, were trying to make a contact
  to sell bells overseas. A long correspondence, 1902–1912, with
  the Wm. L. Gilbert Clock Co. of Winsted, Connecticut, included
  orders, requests for delivery, and complaints about the quality of
  products. The letterhead for Gilbert Clock illustrates the factory
  building. Found with these materials are two ledgers, numbered
  7 and 8, with entries for customers, most from East Hampton,
  Connecticut, for such items as cheese, overalls, bacon, oil, beef,
oats, and “merchandise,” 1896–1908. These may be the records of the company store, or of an independent merchant in town. There is no identification.

  Correspondence, contracts, credit reports on other companies, sales records, order books, ledgers, cash books, iron and other invoices, cost estimates, workmen’s and production accounts, claims, stock inventories, and quotation books of a manufacturer of carriage, tire, machine and plow bolts, coach screws, nuts, washers and rivets, located in the Milldale section of Southington, Connecticut. Also includes a record of weekly Liberty Bond collections and deposits, 1917, printed standards for screws and bolts, a scrapbook of advertisements, and O.G. Knapp’s notebook of screw and other hardware tolerances, correspondence and reports with the American Institute of Bolt, Nut and Rivet Manufacturers, the Supplementary Code Authority for the Cap Screw Manufacturing Industry (part of the National Recovery Act), the Bolt, Nut and Rivet Manufacturers Association, and his records as Secretary of the Southington Community Chest, 1922–1939.

  Order books, financial journals, bank books, credit and debit journals, payroll accounts, petty cash books, stock journals, records of merchandise made and sold, inventories, trial balances, ledgers, day books and other financial records of a Southington, Connecticut, manufacturer of tinsmith and sheet metal workers’ tools and machines, braces, wrenches, and general hardware. Also includes three volumes from the Hart, Bliven & Mead Manufacturing Company, and one ledger and an invoice book that belonged to Roys & Wilcox Company.

  Primarily correspondence between a Springfield, Massachusetts, publishing company and the individuals who helped revise and update Noah Webster’s *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. The firm was founded by George and Charles Merriam. Significant participants in the revisions of the dictionary included Chauncey Allen Goodrich, husband of Frances Juliana Webster, Chauncey Goodrich, William Webster, William Wolcott Ellsworth, Noah Porter, Chester Smith Lyman, and William A. Wheeler. The collection also includes a few family letters, memo books, financial records, legal
documents, including those related to several publishing disputes, proof sheets and documents relating specifically to revisions of the dictionaries.

  Records of the Moodus, Connecticut, manufacturing company Neptune Twine and Cord Mills. One of several cotton and twine mills in the area, Neptune was originally known as Higgins and Card. It later became Card and Company, and finally Neptune Twine and Cord Mills. The business was handed down from Stanton Card to his son-in-law, Emory Johnson, and then to his grandson, E. Emory Johnson. The company consisted of two mills, the upper and lower. The lower was built by Card and later renamed the Neptune. Johnson built the upper in 1862. Following E. Emory Johnson’s death in 1905, the company was sold out of the family. Most recently the land on which the mills operated has become a Connecticut State Park (Machimoodus State Park). Business records, primarily from the 1960s when the firm was owned by Raymond Schmitt, can be found in the boxes. The 155 volumes consist of Account Books, Blotters, Daybooks, Journals, Ledgers, Production Records, and Time Books. The volumes date from 1814 to 1956. The collection also includes some miscellaneous items, including the shipping account book of James Cone, likely a neighbor of the Card-Johnson family.

  A collection of letters, patents, drawings, maps, and other items relating to Colonel Samuel Colt. Colt is well known for his invention of a repeating firearm, but also experimented with tin foil cartridges, submarine batteries, and the magnetic telegram. Samples of tin foil were included with some of the letters. Colt died in Hartford, Connecticut in 1862. Papers relating to his estate can also be found within the collection. Additionally, the collection houses the papers of Colt’s wife, Elizabeth. There are also two photographs, possibly of Elizabeth Colt. Colt’s correspondence was, among others, with family, friends, and members of the government. Colt’s repeating firearm earned him a contract with the United States government during the Mexican American War. He was also issued patents for his inventions. The library has an index of Colt’s correspondence, sorted by writer, recipient, and date.

Primarily accounts kept by the iron manufacturing firm Forbes & Adam of East Canaan, Connecticut, along with accounts kept by the principals, Samuel Forbes and John Adam, before the partnership. The firm made nails and anchors among other items. Of particular note is a real estate volume that records land purchases for the iron manufactory and iron mines. Collection includes John Adam Sr. accounts from Taunton, Massachusetts, an account book kept by Ratcliffe Hellon, shipbuilder of Taunton, and the accounts of Samuel F. Adam. Businesses represented include the Kent Ore Hill mine, Washington Slitting Mill, and Forbes & Adam’s general store, paper mill, and saw mill. Many volumes contain diary-type and financial entries made by Charles S. Adam from 1854–1875. He notes not only local births and deaths but also comments on national events such as the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

  Articles of association, minutes of meetings, correspondence, journals and accounts of nickel plating and manufacturing company in South Windham, CT.

- **J. & E. Stevens Company Patent Collection (1865–1913).** 2.5 lin. ft. (4.5 boxes).
  Collection of patents issued by the United States Patent Office between the years 1865 and 1913 for toy savings banks.

- **Hartford Woolen Manufactory Records (1788–1796).** 2.5 lin. ft. (4 boxes, 4 vols.).
  Organizational documents, inventories, sales records, and bills of the Hartford Woolen Manufactory. Includes accounts of Daniel Hinsdale and Peter Colt. Papers regarding the Hartford Woolen Manufactory Lottery were originally part of the Andrew Kingsbury Papers. Company is best known for having produced the suit worn by President George Washington at his first inauguration. Bound volumes are a ledger and a daybook kept by Peter Cook, an invoice book of goods made by the company, and a book of sales made by Daniel Hinsdale.

- **Merriam Family Papers (1831–1945).** 4.5 lin. ft. (9 boxes).
  Papers relating to the Merriam family of Rocky Hill, Connecticut. The bulk of the material concerns the carriage making business of Neff and Merriam, including bills, correspondence and accounts. Other material includes many business cards from New York merchants, wedding invitations, diaries, and personal correspondence. Among the correspondents are Edmund and
Caroline (Robbins) Merriam, Horace and Jennie (Arnold) Merriam, and Peter Griswold. Peter Griswold’s correspondence is to his aunts while he was serving in the military during World War II. The collection also contains printed material by several Hartford publishers. Some material related to the Justus Candee family, including an estate inventory, is also among the papers.

  Herman Maercklein operated an upholstery and cabinet work business in Hartford, Connecticut. The collection contains several account books, daybooks, inventory listings, sketches of furniture, sample books, and business correspondence. Some of the correspondence is in German. In the 1860s, he partnered with Ulrich Mole. A later business card lists Rudolph Mueller. A book used by agents of the Germania Life Insurance Company, including William Erdtman and L. Weitzel is also included.

  Incoming and outgoing correspondence, bills, invoices, receipts, daybooks, ledgers, cash accounts, order books and ledgers of a Hartford, CT, dealer in flour, hay, straw, grain, mill feed, meal salt and fertilizer. The company conducted business with firms in Boston, MA, New York State, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Illinois, and Minnesota. Correspondence primarily discussed the availability of products, the cost, information on shipping, and requests for payment. The companies included the American Cereal Company, the Minneapolis Flour Manufacturing Company, New York State-based Hay Trade Journal and Directory, George C. Cain (straw and hay dealers), Metropolitan Bag Co., Pacific Guano Company, Oscar Smith & Son, the Central Kansas Mill Co. (with an office in Boston), and Meech & Stoddard of Middletown, CT.

  Articles of incorporation, bylaws, minutes of meetings, correspondence, advertising, financial records, patents and trademarks of manufacturer of horse nails, saws, hammers and parachute hardware in Hartford, CT; records include those of the American Car Company, manufacturers of railroad cars in Seymour, CT, in 1852 and the Fowler & Union Horse Nail Company in New Haven and Hartford, CT, between 1920 and 1946.

Correspondence between immediate and extended family members of the Cheney family from Manchester, CT, namely Frank W. Cheney, Mary Bushnell Cheney, Emily Cheney Learned and her husband Barrett Learned, Howell Cheney, Ward Cheney, Knight Dexter Cheney, Charles Cheney, Mary Apthorp Bushnell, Horace Bushnell, Horace B. Cheney, Mary B. Howell Saw, and Ednah Dow Littlehale Cheney, among others. A commonplace book kept by Mary Howell (Shaw), her diaries, and a transcript of those diaries are also part of the collection. Also business correspondence of Frank W. and Knight D. Cheney regarding their silk mill in Manchester. Frank’s correspondence includes letters about the 16th Connecticut Volunteers reunions, erecting a statue at the site of Andersonville Prison, erecting a memorial to Joseph R. Hawley, his interests in railroads and insurance companies, his opposition to the Eight Hour movement, and his support of Civil Service Reform and a protective tariff. In planning for the two memorials, Frank corresponded with artists Bela Platt, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Daniel Chester French, and Charles N. Flagg, and with Connecticut Senator Orville H. Platt. The collection also includes several essays Frank wrote to present to the Monday Evening Club. Records of Cheney Brothers Silk Manufacturing Company include trial balances, accounts, publications of the Silk Association of America, drawings of machinery, cargo insurance policies (many for trips from Japan), product information for the Pioneer Parachute Company, reports to the State Library about the company’s war efforts, information on the Mulberry Grove Silk Growing & Manufacturing Company of Ohio, the purchase of Cheney Brothers by J. E. Stevens & Co., and circular letters and advertising material. Letter books include three with copies of Frank W. Cheney’s outgoing correspondence and one with copies of Knight D. Cheney’s letters, plus two volumes with original letters, some written by Ward Cheney while traveling in Europe, and one containing a commonplace book.

  Accounts and inventories of quarry in the Benvenue community of Middletown, CT, owned by William Engeman.
  Examples of letterheads, clock faces, billheads, bonds, checks, product labels, and other items produced for customers primarily
in New York and Connecticut by a Hartford, CT, lithography firm. The samples are arranged in groups with each item in the group bearing the same number. These numbers may refer to the printing stone on which the image and text were inscribed.

- Austin Organ Company Records (1901–1937). 6 boxes, 6 vols. Financial records of manufacturer of organs in Hartford, CT; includes patents held by John Austin, specifications for building the factory by Edward Stone, architect, and tape on the history of the company by Percival Stark.

- Wapping Creamery Financial Records (1900–1921). 43 vols. Daybooks, sales records, cream books, and cash and account books kept by J. M. Williams, Treasurer of the Wapping Creamery. The company was started in the summer of 1883 and prided itself as the only creamery east of the Connecticut River. It closed in the spring of 1930.

- Susquehannah Company Records (1753–1802). 15 vols. Articles of agreement and minutes, 1753–1774, 1782–1802, of a land investment and settlement company founded in Windham, CT; conveyance records, 1754–1798, with an index; and records of deeds and conveyances recorded in Libers A-I, 1753–1802, with indexes for A, B, C, E, and H. Conveyance records contain a summary of land ownership, with the name of the original proprietor, to whom the land was conveyed, when it was conveyed, when the transfer was recorded, the amount of taxes paid, and the township in which the land was located. Liber B includes a copy of the original deed of sale for the land from the Indians. Liber I appears to be the record kept by brothers John and Billa Franklin, clerk and assistant clerk, respectively, for the company. Most of the volumes containing copies of deeds also contain other agreements, receipts, statements of certification, and lists of shareholders.

C. Glaser, J. B. Russell, and Charles E. Dwight, manufacturer of Kreassoter, the great corpse preserver.

- Collins Company Business Correspondence (1890–1913). 16 boxes. Circular letters and advertising fliers sent to axe and edge tool manufacturers in Collinsville, CT; includes illustrations of duplicating devices and fire fighting equipment.

- Connecticut Railroad Collection (1839–1902). 2.25 lin. ft. (5 ½ boxes). Primarily financial records, including bills, receipts, correspondence, and payrolls, produced by 27 railroad companies in Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. These records document the railroad companies’ relationships with foundries, utilities, steamboat companies, other railroads, and businesses that shipped goods by rail and also document the services they purchased, such as construction of rail lines and depots, repair of rail lines, cars and engines, and equipment needed to keep the railroads running. Also included is business correspondence, legal agreements, deeds, inventories, and profit and loss statements. The bulk of the records represent the Hartford & New Haven Railroad, the Housatonic Railroad, the Naugatuck Railroad, and the Norfolk County Railroad. Other companies represented are the Boston, Hartford & Erie; the Boston & New York; the Boston & New York Air Line; the Canal Railroad; the Charles River Railroad; the Hampden Railroad; the Hampshire & Hampden Line; Hartford & Providence; Hartford, Providence & Fishkill Railroad; New York & New Haven; New York & New England; New Haven, Hartford & Springfield; Newburgh, Dutchess & Connecticut; Philadelphia, Reading & New England; and several smaller lines that were predecessors of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad.

- Hartford Courant Company. Secretary Records (1892–1979). 4 lin. ft. (8 boxes). Minutes of selected directors’ and stockholders’ meetings, appraisals of stocks represented by voting trust certificates owned exclusively by employees, and correspondence relating to the unsolicited purchase offer by Capital Cities Communications, Inc., in 1978; includes references to the Thomas Green Club of employees who worked for the Courant for a quarter of a century.
24. Connecticut State Library

State Archives
231 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Phone: (860) 757-6500
Website: http://www.cslib.org/
Hours: Tu-F 9 am–5 pm; Sat 9 am–2:00 pm

Contact person:
Mark Jones: (860) 757-6511; mjones@cslib.org


Overview:
An Executive Branch agency of the State of Connecticut, the State Library provides a variety of library, information, archival, public records, museum, and administrative services for citizens of Connecticut, as well as for the employees and officials of all three branches of State government. In conjunction with the Department of Higher Education, it administers iCONN.org – Connecticut’s research engine. The State Archives holds numerous records of state agencies, as well as a wide variety of manuscripts and related materials pertaining to specific Connecticut industries.

Mystic, CT

25. Mystic Seaport – The Museum of America and the Sea

75 Greenmanville Avenue
PO Box 6000
Mystic, CT 06355-0990

Phone: (860) 572-5315; 888-973-2767
Website: http://www.mysticseaport.org, http://library.mysticseaport.org/home.cfm
Hours: Th–F 10 am–5 pm

Finding aid: http://library.mysticseaport.org/manuscripts/registers2.cfm
Overview:
Collections include over 1,300 logbooks, 390 collections, more than 800 related volumes, 1720-present. Ships’ logs and journals, ledgers, diaries, and documents from the whaling, fishing, and shipping industries. Business and personal papers of prominent yacht clubs and naval architects, including correspondence, design data, construction information, notes, and photographs. This entire collection is a multiple-perspective, firsthand account of trade patterns, travel routes, shipboard working and living conditions, race relations, politics, and American encounters with other Americans as well as with European and non-Western cultures, given by the people who actually experienced them.

Storrs, CT


Archives and Special Collections at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
405 Babbidge Road, Unit 1205
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06269-1205

Phone: (860) 486-2524 (reference desk)
Fax: (860) 486-4521
E-mail: laura.katz.smith@uconn.edu (Business History Collections curator)
Website: http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/ (Dodd Research Center general site) and http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/dodda2z/subjectarea.cfm?Area=2 (listing of business history collections)

Hours: M 10 am–7 pm; Tu–F 10 am–4 pm; Sat 12–4 pm during semester; otherwise M–F 10 am–4 pm

Research center: Thomas J. Dodd Research Center

Fellowships and grants: All grants listed here: http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/research/travelgrants/index.htm with details and application forms.

Conferences and other programs: Lecture series and awards listed here: http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/events/index.htm

Publications: http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/about/publications/index.htm

Finding aids: http://doddcenter.uconn.edu/dodda2z/subjectarea.cfm?Area=2
Overview:

Collections of original source materials for research, primarily the humanities and social sciences, comprise the foundation upon which the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center is built. Strongest collections include University Archives, specialized collections of Children’s Literature and Illustration, Connecticut History, particularly political; Literary (particularly the poet Charles Olsen), Natural History, Human Rights, Alternative Press, Railroad History (particularly of southern New England). Total volume: over 250,000 books; 38,000 lin. ft. archives; over 100,000 photographic images, dating from 1500 to the present, primarily from the mid-nineteenth to late twentieth centuries.

Noteworthy collections:

- Southern New England Telephone Company Records (1877–1998). 671 lin. ft. Historical photographs of buildings, employees, and equipment; town “telephone” histories; public relations and promotional materials; minutes of board of directors and stockholders’ meetings, including the first meeting of the National Telephone Exchange Association Convention in Niagara Falls in 1880; financial records, including early cash books beginning in 1880; annual reports; audio visual materials; artifacts; and correspondence.
- Cheney Brothers Silk Manufacturing Company Records (1734–1989). 137 lin. ft. Administrative, personnel (in particular, material documenting the relationship of Cheney Brothers with its union, Local 63 of the Textile Workers Union of America), arbitration, and production records, as well as general accounts and blueprints.
- C. H. Dexter Company Records (1829–1999). 113 lin. ft. Materials relevant to the production and sale of paper products, including administrative, property, financial, and legal records, in addition to product samples, advertising, publications, reports and photographs. This collection also includes a small number of administrative and financial documents from water and electric companies in the Windsor Locks, Connecticut, area in which Dexter had interests.