

*Connecticut League of  
History Organizations*

*presents the*

*2020 & 2021*

*Awards of Merit*

## About CLHO

**Our Mission:** To strengthen the work of those who preserve and share the stories and objects of Connecticut's past.

**Our Vision:** CLHO is the support network and advocate for history in Connecticut. We are a hub for learning, a source for ideas and assistance, and a catalyst for the history community.



### **Our Core Values**

**Best Practices:** Promoting and demonstrating excellence in the history field

**Community Impact:** Making history meaningful for everyone in Connecticut

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:** Encouraging a wider range of stories about Connecticut's past and welcoming a broader group of people into that work

**Knowledge:** Providing opportunities to learn and exchange ideas

**Responsiveness:** Listening to and meeting the needs of our community

**Stewardship:** Strengthening shared responsibility for Connecticut's heritage

## Awards of Merit Program

For more than 70 years, CLHO has recognized exemplary projects and achievements in the public history field to showcase the important work happening throughout the state. Every year, organizations and individuals are invited to nominate exhibitions, publications, educational programs, and exceptional accomplishments. Museums, historical societies, libraries, archives, heritage organizations, and individuals – professionals and volunteers – are represented among those who have received Awards of Merit.

Applicants must demonstrate thoughtful project planning, implementation, relevance and successful engagement with audiences. Standards in the field must be met, and for individual achievements, exemplify service “above and beyond.” As a formal recognition of merit, each award’s achievement lies in the positive impacts these projects make on communities and individuals, by sharing and illuminating cultural heritage and history. These outstanding projects often serve as models, inspiring other organizations to develop their own award-winning projects.

CLHO applauds all of the applicants for their dedication and willingness to share their projects and achievements! We are proud that many Awards of Merit recipients have also received recognition by the American Association for State and Local History. Our awards program is aligned with AASLH’s and that helps Connecticut’s achievers reach the national stage, shining a spotlight on our state.

We offer our sincere thanks for your ongoing support of CLHO and the Awards of Merit, and we look forward to seeing you next year – *in person!*

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## *Message from the President*

On behalf of CLHO's Board of Directors and staff, I congratulate the 2020 and 2021 recipients of our Awards of Merit, who come from across Connecticut's history community. During a time that posed so many challenges, we are especially proud to recognize the creative and excellent work that has continued to enrich history in our state. Please take some time to read about the award recipients and join me in saluting their accomplishments. I would also like to thank the Awards of Merit committee for their considerable time and energy spent reviewing nominations; the Annual Business Meeting and Awards Event committee for their efforts planning our virtual recognition event; and to the CLHO Board of Directors for their dedication throughout the year.

Many thanks to our Nutmeg Sponsor for the Annual Business Meeting and Awards of Merit, Charter Oak Scanning, and to our Acorn level sponsors, Anonymous, the Northeast Document Conservation Center and Dorfman Museum Figures.

Now more than 70 years old, CLHO wouldn't be the organization it is without loyal members who care deeply about Connecticut history—we are most grateful for your ongoing support as members, and thank you for your enthusiasm! Once again, congratulations to this year's Awards of Merit recipients!

Sincerely,

*Beth*

Elizabeth Rose

President, CLHO Board of Directors



*Thank you to our strategic partners*

**CT Humanities  
&  
Central Connecticut State University**

## 2020 Projects

### *Uncovering Their History: African, African American, and Native American Burials in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground, 1640 - 1815*

#### **Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc.**

This research project and resulting website and database provide profiles that act as "virtual headstones" for the 500 individuals interred in this Hartford cemetery. Designed to be easy to navigate and downloadable, this comprehensive directory is a useful tool for researchers, and includes a platform for names to be added to the database. An excellent example of a digital humanities project, [africanativeburialsct.org](http://africanativeburialsct.org) demonstrates what good historical research can achieve to illuminate aspects of the past that have been hidden or unexplored. The recovery of African, African American and Native American history deepens understanding of the site and early Hartford, and is a compelling model for cemeteries around the state.\*

### *Emerging from the Shadows: Colchester's School for Colored Children, 1803 - 1840*

*Recipient of the 2020 AASLH Leadership in History Award*

#### **Colchester Historical Society**

Prompted by construction of a replica of this school in 2016, the almost forgotten one-room schoolhouse that operated in Colchester was explored in this thoughtful exhibition. Using considerable supportive documentation, the little known story of black education in early 19th-century Connecticut was brought to light. This comprehensive project incorporated the story of an underrepresented population into the town's history. It developed a picture of the school, its teachers, and its pupils, and connected the story to the larger struggles of African Americans for access to education and civil rights.\*

## 2020 Projects

### *Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art*

#### **Florence Griswold Museum**

Continuing the tradition of Florence Griswold herself, who welcomed artists to her boarding house, this groundbreaking exhibition embraced the talents of contemporary artists to engage visitors with natural history and the museum's landscape. Interweaving the historic with the contemporary enticed contemplation of the continuing thread of how American artists have considered the natural world, and also humans' significant impact on the environment. The reimagining of Miss Griswold's home radically reshaped how a historic interior and domestic setting can be experienced by museum visitors through the lens of contemporary art, and is a model for other house museums.

### *Washington, Connecticut: An American Story* *Recipient of the 2020 AASLH Leadership in History Award*

#### **Gunn Historical Museum**

This community-curated exhibit, thoughtfully executed and beautifully designed by a three-year planning and research process, traced centuries of Washington's history while incorporating it all in the confines of an 18th century house. Donations of artifacts, photographs, and documents resulted from the "Help Us Plan" pre-exhibit. With so much content, an expandable digital exhibit layer was created using several touch screens. A Washington History curriculum was also developed for the schools. Demonstrating the power of history as a catalyst for civic engagement, it serves as an exemplary model for other organizations to engage their communities in meaningful ways.

# 2020 Projects

## *Daylo and Napalm*

### **George Jacobi and UConn Archives and Special Collections**

This visually stunning exhibition captured the radicalism and activism of UConn students during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Personal essays from outreach to alumni vividly expressed the sentiments students were grappling with during this period of Vietnam War-generated unrest. Materials from the archival collections of the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center examined perspectives of this war throughout the campus and town. Both the exhibition and programming illuminated strong connections between that era and present day issues. It brought together alumni and current students, and created an intergenerational bridge highlighting a moment of national significance through a local story.

## *From Corsets to Suffrage: Victorian Women Trailblazers*

### **Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum**

Marking the centennial of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women's right to vote, this exhibition illuminated activities and contributions of Norwalk suffragists, and the local traction that impacted regional and national messages of the suffrage movement. Extensive research and loans from institutions and private collections around the state uncovered information, artifacts, and ephemera identifying faces, actions, and words of pivotal women and men. Costumes conveyed symbolism of suffragists' clothing and the restrictive fashions that paralleled the fight for women's rights as well as freedom of movement. The first Connecticut exhibition dedicated to this milestone in women's history, it set an inspiring example.\*

## 2020 Projects

### *Sharon Cures: Centuries of Medicine in One Small Town*

#### **Sharon Historical Society**

A subject often overlooked by local historical societies, this exhibition delved into the evolving world of health care drawing connections to contemporary medical issues. Featuring three local doctors' stories, Sharon was the site of advancements in vaccinations, immunotherapy, and physician gender equality. Inoculations to treat 18th century diseases and people's resistance to vaccination resonate with the current anti-vax movement. Exhibit text and handouts stimulated thought about social responsibility for public health. The comprehensive original research and willingness to tackle medical history represent an important contribution to both Connecticut and medical history with compelling relevance to today.\*

### *Just Like Grandma Used to Make: A Hands-On Experience of 300 Years of Kitchen History*

#### **Wilton Historical Society**

Using a "please touch" model of interpretation, this hands-on exhibition fosters a highly interactive and multisensory museum experience that engages audiences of all ages. A low-cost, high-reward reboot of a kitchen period room, this project demonstrates how historic house rooms can successfully move away from static displays and traditional methods to enhance the visitor experience. This innovative reframing of a domestic setting provides inviting, stimulating, and immersive activities that allow direct and personal connection resulting in more impactful learning about history.

# 2020 Educational Programs

## *The History of Rose Hill*

### **Christina Volpe and Mattatuck Museum**

This educational program presented a detailed interpretation of Waterbury history through stories of three prominent manufacturing families who resided at Rose Hill, the c. 1852 Gothic Revival house built by brass, from the 1850s to the 1970s. Thoughtful research of the museum's collections uncovered letters, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, and objects which were brought to life in exhibit panels and a popular illustrated lecture series in the setting of Rose Hill. By connecting themes of manufacturing, women's history, immigration, and historic preservation, this program explored the vital economic and cultural role this house has played in the city's history.\*

## 2020 Publications

### *Glaciers to Greenhouses: Cheshire Then and Now*

**Jeanné R. Stewart Chesanow**

This publication captures broad research on Cheshire's history with an emphasis on the environment, and connections between the land and people. It sets a new standard for local history books by weaving together a rich combination of geology, geography, and archeology, including more research about Indigenous Peoples than typically found. Using an ecological approach to the town's development, it examines how the natural environment played a role in shaping early settlement to the greenhouse operations today. This town-focused study of environmental history, and its place in Connecticut's ecological and geographical framework, furthers our understanding of the state's history.

### *Forever Seeing New Beauties: The Forgotten Impressionist Mary Rogers Williams, 1857 - 1907*

**Eve Kahn and Wesleyan University Press**

Ms. Kahn's discovery of 100 paintings and pastels along with a trove of letters resulted in an extraordinary portrait of Hartford native Mary Rogers Williams. This book features surviving artworks and reveals the artist and her accomplishments during the Gilded Age's male-dominated art world. Researching thousands of vivid letters unveiled a fiercely independent woman dedicated to painting, teaching in the art department at Smith College, and traveling throughout Europe while contending with obstacles to gaining professional respect and support as a woman artist. Kahn, a "resurrectionist," has rescued Williams from obscurity, adding to the perspective of women's history in Connecticut and the larger story of American art.

## 2020 Publications

### *The Early Gravestones of a Colonial Town: Killingworth, Connecticut*

#### **Thomas Lenz and Killingworth Historical Society**

Images of more than 450 gravestones form an impressive catalogue that is also a field guide to Connecticut cemeteries more generally, replete with information about changing styles, iconography, symbolism, causes of death, widespread maladies, and meanings of burial practices. After photographing 18th-century gravestones in the oldest cemetery, the project was extended to all seven town cemeteries and a private one; many gravestones were cleaned, repaired, and reset. This book is an invaluable documentation of the gravestones, which inevitably wear over time, and an important historical record of the area's early residents.

### *A Remarkable Legacy: The Photographs of Marie Hartig Kendall*

#### **Norfolk Historical Society**

Selected works by late 19th and early 20th century Norfolk photographer Marie Kendall are beautifully showcased in this impressive volume. An exhibition accompanied the publication of this book, which is enriched by essays from three residents. Kendall's striking images demonstrate a broad range of skills, an adventurous spirit, and a high level of artistry that won her considerable recognition including medals at two international expositions. During this era, she was a role model for photography as a woman's profession to produce both art and income. Her work recorded Norfolk's transformation from a charcoal village into a stylish summer resort, providing an important window into the town's history.

## 2020 Individual Achievement

### *William Hosley*

For over 40 years, Bill Hosley has been a dedicated advocate for the importance of local history. During tenures at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, and New Haven Museum and Historical Society, he blazed a trail as a prolific speaker promoting place, past, and community. His passion for Connecticut history resulted in acclaimed exhibitions including *The Great River: Art and Society of the Connecticut Valley* for the state's 350th celebration, and *Sam & Elizabeth: The Legend and Legacy of Colt's Empire*, which inspired a preservation initiative for Coltsville to become a National Park. He founded Terra Firma Northeast to serve the needs of small organizations rich in historic resources and continues his popular lectures. The heritage community is indebted to Bill's lifetime commitment to Connecticut history.

### *Edwin Parry*

As an expert on Colonial armaments, Ed Parry of Black Hart Long Arms has been making custom reproductions for 30 years. Noted for his master craftsmanship and historical accuracy, he receives commissions nationwide, and he won the Discovery Channel's "Master of Arms" competition. A founding member of the 1775 Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia, he participates in encampments and battle re-enactments throughout New England as an educator about the Revolutionary War. For Eastford Conservation and Historical Preservation Commission, he has dedicated himself to the restoration, preservation, and cataloguing of the town's 12 historic cemeteries. Ed's exemplary achievements have greatly contributed to the understanding of Connecticut history.

## 2020 Individual Achievement

### *Judith Robison*

Founder and long-time President of the Stony Creek Museum, Judith Robison was the instrumental driving force that resulted in its creation and 2011 opening. With passionate leadership, vision, and inspiration, she raised funds and worked with the town to convert an old church into a local history museum. She continues to be a steward of the museum, dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of this unique Branford village with its residents as well as the wider public. Ms. Robison's work has profoundly impacted the Stony Creek community, and brought its rich history into the Connecticut story.

### *Kendall F. Wiggin*

During his 21-year tenure as State Librarian, Ken Wiggin championed collaborations among libraries, archives, and museums on numerous initiatives to benefit Connecticut's cultural heritage community. Ken's leadership and mentoring have been instrumental to the success of such projects as the Connecticut Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration, the World War I Centennial, the Connecticut Digital Archive, Connecticut History Online, Conservation ConneCTion, the Historic Documents Preservation Program, and many more. His tireless advocacy, inspiring counsel, and devoted work to ensure increased access to historical resources for researchers, scholars, and Connecticut citizens have made him an icon in our state's historical community.

# 2020 Awards of Merit Recipients

## **Ancient Burying Ground Association, Inc.**

*Uncovering Their History: African, African American, and Native American Burials in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground, 1640 - 1815\**

## **Colchester Historical Society**

*Emerging from the Shadows: Colchester's School for Colored Children, 1803 - 1840\**

## **Florence Griswold Museum**

*Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art*

## **Gunn Historical Museum**

*Washington, Connecticut: An American Story*

## **George Jacobi and UConn Archives and Special Collections**

*Daylo and Napalm*

## **Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum**

*From Corsets to Suffrage: Victorian Women Trailblazers\**

## **Sharon Historical Society**

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# 2020 Awards of Merit Recipients

**Christina Volpe and Mattatuck Museum**

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**William Hosley**

*Individual Achievement*

**Edwin Parry**

*Individual Achievement*

**Judith Robison**

*Individual Achievement*

**Kendall F. Wiggin**

*Individual Achievement*

\* Project supported by a grant from CT Humanities

# 2021 Projects

## *Connecticut History Day Virtual State Contest*

### **Connecticut Democracy Center at Connecticut's Old State House**

For this annual March competition, thousands of students from across the state conduct historical research projects and present their learning in a variety of formats - research paper, exhibit, performance, documentary, or website. Half-way through the regional contest, Covid-19 struck, making the in-person state contest impossible. The event was quickly reimagined, pivoted online, and the 448 regional winners shared their work during a week in early May. This extended virtual event enabled even more people to present, judge, and cheer - a silver lining. A reviewer noted, "It is much more than a program...most important is the life-long love of exploration, the camaraderie, and...sharing that is developed by this one remarkable day."\*

Lila Gillon and William Zhang of Mansfield Middle School were the winners of CLHO's Outstanding Entry for Use of Materials and/or Collections Held in a CT Archive, Museum, or Historical Society tied to a CT Historic Site.

## *The Work Must be Done: Women of Color and the Right to Vote*

### **Connecticut Historical Society**

This project was conceptualized to work toward a truer picture and more inclusive history of the suffrage movement in Connecticut. Despite restricted access to archives of historical organizations due to Covid-19 closures, extensive research was conducted beyond suffrage to issues of racism and segregation, and resulted in 25 biographies of women of color that are available at [chs.org/WOCvotes](http://chs.org/WOCvotes). In partnership with five other history museums, six virtual presentations reached people from 41 towns throughout the state and expanded understanding about the marginalized roles of African American and Indigenous women who participated in the suffrage fight. The project team demonstrated an active role in educating the public on how to research under-documented lives and history. \*

# 2021 Projects

## *Digging into History: WWI and French Restoration in Seicheprey, France* *Recipient of the 2021 AASLH Leadership in History Award*

### **Connecticut State Library**

Fifteen high school students from around the state lived and worked with sixteen French students in Seicheprey - the site of the first clash in France involving American troops - to restore a trench section once occupied by Connecticut soldiers. To prepare for the 2019 three-week trip, students researched a soldier from their community who was at this battle; they also learned the Great War's history, French customs, and engaged with soldiers' descendants. After returning, students shared their research and experiences at numerous venues culminating with a Veterans Day event at the State Armory. This immersive, hands-on approach to history is an exemplary program demonstrating history's unifying power and capacity to intersect and impact lives today.

## *Saving Land, Saving History*

### **East Haddam Historical Society and Museum**

In collaboration with the East Haddam Land Trust, an exhibit and four short documentaries were produced about three preserves containing remains of mills that played a vital role in the town's past. The ruins of crumbling stone dams, sluiceways, foundations, rusted turbines, and waterworks were captured in these films, which also included interviews, photos, and documents from the Society's collection. Posting the films on YouTube increased reach beyond expectations, and encouraged hiking in the woods and enjoying the natural environment as a safe activity during the pandemic. This impressive partnership demonstrates how limited resources can be maximized by sharing a common vision and purpose.\*

# 2021 Projects

## *Follow the Falls, Centerbrook: Digital Magazine and Virtual Flyover*

### **Essex Historical Society**

The importance of Falls River in Centerbrook, Essex's most overlooked village, was examined in collaboration with Essex Land Trust. When the pandemic shut down public gatherings, plans refocused to two online offerings. A digital magazine was produced with services donated by a local marketing firm that explored geography, industry and commerce, transportation, and social history, from Native American presence to today; and resulted in this village's first comprehensive history. Working with a pro bono architectural firm, a virtual flyover video was created using augmented reality depicting Centerbrook in 1910, based on research and images from the Society's collections. This project demonstrates a unique and immersive interpretation of the area's changing landscape as an exemplary model for cooperative efforts.

## *An Unfinished Revolution: The Woman's Suffrage Centennial*

### **Greenwich Historical Society**

Emphasizing the suffrage movement's unfinished story, this exhibition connected experiences of 19th-century activists and the continued fight for equal rights for all Americans today. Compelling artifacts from the Society's collection and private lenders followed the national struggle through personal stories of tenacious Greenwich women and men from the social elite to marginalized groups. Suffragist symbolism still worn today was highlighted by a State Representative's white dress near a timeline of women's fight for equality, and conveyed how past achievements made today's opportunities possible. In response to the pandemic closure, the exhibition was transitioned online with the addition of videos that examined themes and objects in an intimate experience. This remarkable work is a memorable and valuable resource of Connecticut history.\*

# 2021 Projects

## *The First Congregational Church of Woodbury, Connecticut: 350 Years of Faith, Fellowship, and Service*

### **The First Congregational Church and Ecclesiastical Society of Woodbury, Connecticut**

This comprehensive history was published to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the church's founding. The authors' diligent inquiry into a trove of unused records documents the church as the founding body of Woodbury, and examined the church as an exemplar of the changing theologies and culture through the centuries for communities across the state. The book is organized thematically to reflect this vibrant community anchor's response to local, regional, and national events and values, and to significant trends in society. While the church's future is uncertain, this solid work is a requiem for a venerable institution. It provides an important contribution to the understanding of Connecticut history and will serve as a valuable resource for future historians.

## *October 1920: Celebrating the Centennial of Women's Suffrage*

### **Hartford History Center**

Voter registration cards offered a unique window on women's experiences as newly-eligible voters in 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment. Original research pieced together stories of the racial and cultural diversity among the 15,000+ Hartford women who registered, thus adding a new understanding of women of color and immigrant women in early 20th century Connecticut, and the high value most women placed on claiming and exercising their electoral voices. Addressing pandemic challenges, a virtual exhibit was launched enabling viewers to visit repeatedly and discover new information through layers of resources. These seemingly mundane primary sources, accessible at [ctdigitalarchive.org](http://ctdigitalarchive.org), cast a different perspective on the suffrage centennial, connecting it to current voting issues that encouraged civic participation in 2020 and beyond.

# 2021 Projects

## SISTERS

*Recipient of the 2021 AASLH Leadership in History Award*

### **Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center**

Based on a play of the same name, this program confronted “hard” history head-on using Keeler Tavern’s stories to illustrate national events. It explored the lives of a white woman and a free woman of color raised as “sisters” who ran the Resseguie Hotel, today’s museum site, during the mid 19th century. Respecting Covid restrictions, one performance to a small, socially-distanced audience was live-streamed and recorded for future viewing. A virtual talkback was conducted with play members and launched *Let’s Talk Hard History!* Combining history and theatre harnessed the power of humanities to address difficult history around race, gender, privilege, and enslavement, while connecting the play to online school and public programs for engagement in historical inquiry and critical thinking.\*

## *Turning the Tide: Madison and COVID-19*

### **Madison Historical Society**

Filmed as the crisis unfolded during the statewide shutdown, this documentary captured history as it was happening. Like communities across the country, Madison saw closures of businesses and schools, shortages in grocery stores, restrictions on daily life, and the illness and deaths of beloved members of the community. This film is a time capsule of personal stories, thoughts, and the raw emotions of coping and persevering as people were experiencing the pandemic, adapting to working and learning remotely, sheltering in place, and practicing social distancing. Working with professional film makers, it documented vivid reality beyond the more typical collecting efforts of local museums. It is a poignant and valuable record and resource of how one Connecticut town was impacted, and how it responded to the historic global pandemic.\*

# 2021 Projects

## FACTORY

### **New Haven Museum**

The post-industrial history of the former New Haven Clock Company was brought to life in this exhibition illustrating how its manufacturing heyday was followed by an artistic afterlife of reinventions in the ruins - a succession of visual and performance artists, punk bands, skateboarders, and nightclubs. The building's massive scale was innovatively portrayed within the galleries featuring architectural salvage, film clips, and also ephemera contributed by former occupants, artists, and employees. After a second closure due to a spike in Covid cases, the museum persevered, shifted content online, and launched "FACTORY Weekly" videos showcasing exhibit sections. A changing city was explored through the lens of a single building, bridging architecture, art, culture, and urban history; and documented often-overlooked Connecticut history.

## *Stroll Through Granby History*

### **Salmon Brook Historical Society**

In recognition of the Society's 75th Anniversary, this project was envisioned to provide an outside activity conducive to social distancing during the pandemic. This self-guided walking tour of 44 historic homes and buildings along Granby's main street created a month-long opportunity for the community to explore its history. Incorporating technology in the tour, signs at each property had a QR code for "strollers" to access information by phone, and customize their experience from basic historical information about *This House to A Bit More*, and for those with still more curiosity *Even More*. This low cost, high impact program is a template for increasing community and online engagement in fun and meaningful ways to learn about local history.

# 2021 Projects

## *Wild and Beautiful Creatures: The Life and Work of J. J. Audubon*

### **Sharon Historical Society and Museum**

This multi-site exhibition with accompanying twelve-page guide was a collaboration between three Sharon organizations that showcased the artwork, life, and legacy of 19th-century artist and naturalist John Jay Audubon. The Tremaine Gallery at the Hotchkiss School featured the artist's hand-colored prints; the Sharon Historical Society display explored his career and working methods; while the Sharon Audubon Center held lectures, field walks, workshops, tours, and children's activities. This exhibition initiated and emphasized cooperation and cross-programming among Sharon's cultural and educational institutions, and had the good fortune to be fully enjoyed in person before Covid struck. It brought together environmental and natural history to tell the national story of conservation alongside the history of a local organization.

## *Interactive Map of the Old Warren Center Cemetery*

### **Warren Historical Society**

As a unique document of Warren's history from 1755 to the present, this cemetery was photographed and mapped using a drone. Grave markers were then individually photographed and matched with the map, identifying them using past records compiled and the work of the 1930s Works Progress Administration. Pandemic challenges provided an opportunity for this digitization project that could be completed safely; it resulted in the map and data being available online as a finding aid for specific burials, while also preserving the vital inscriptions rapidly wearing away. The partnership with the Housatonic Valley Association and young history enthusiasts demonstrates how the power of cooperation combined with new technologies makes meaningful resources available to a broad online audience.

# 2021 Projects

## *Outdoor Historic Interpretive Signage*

### **Weston Historical Society**

Five colorful signs provide a self-guided tour that lead visitors through the campus of the former 105-acre farm operated by five generations of a single family from the early 19th to mid 20th century. They feature carefully researched text and historic photographs to tell the history of the Coley Homestead residents and its buildings - the 1840 Coley House, carriage house, barn complex, and outbuildings including one of the remaining bunkhouses in Connecticut. Applying knowledge gained in the StEPs-CT program, these signs were developed to provide an outdoor museum experience. During Covid restrictions, it offered a safe, socially-distanced activity. Other sites with numerous structures will be inspired to follow this model to expand the educational value of outdoor spaces.\*

## *Westport's Suffragists - Our Neighbors, Our Crusaders: The 19th Amendment Turns 100*

### **Westport Public Library**

Illustrating how Westport women engaged in the Votes for Women campaign, this exhibition paid tribute to over 50 local suffragists. Designed as a component of WestportREADS 2019-2020 *Our Vote, Our Future* centennial celebration of the 19th amendment's ratification, it explored issues of voting rights to the present day. A week after the opening, the exhibit closed due to the pandemic restrictions on public gatherings. Undeterred, like the suffragists highlighted, the project team created a virtual exhibit; and lectures became articles and virtual programs. Through these online experiences, visitors engaged with topics of citizens' rights and responsibilities, equality, and social justice that resonate today. As the Library's first foray into historical interpretation, it is an impressive contribution to women's and local history.\*

## 2021 Projects

### *Citizens at Last: Hannah Ambler, Grace Schenck and the Vote*

#### **Wilton Historical Society**

This exhibition commemorated the passage of the 19th Amendment showcasing two Wilton women instrumental in fighting for women's right to vote. Plans shifted to create a digital exhibit with the sudden Covid-19 closure. Working with a researcher, videographer, and actress, seven videos and ten essays featured striking artifacts, costumes, ephemera, poignant family stories and photos, punctuated with narration and period music. As part of the Society's *History is Here* initiative, the local movement was tied to the national one, addressing grassroots action, symbolism in clothing, and also some women's opposition and internal racism as countercurrents. The result is a valuable contribution in exploring and honoring the suffrage movement as a culmination of efforts by local communities throughout the country.

## 2021 Individual Achievement

### *Charles T. Lyle*

Throughout a distinguished career spanning fifty years, Mr. Lyle has led six historical organizations with vision and commitment to elevating these institutions and advancing public history. During his fourteen-year tenure as Executive Director of the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, Charles managed the restoration of its three historic houses and privies, and spearheaded the design and fundraising to build the new Education and Visitor Center. His leadership transformed the museum into a welcoming, thriving, and innovative center of historical learning to become the first Colonial Dames property in the country to receive AAM accreditation. By leading this museum to new levels of programming, community engagement, financial health, preservation excellence, and prominence in the public history field, he has profoundly influenced the Connecticut history community.

### *Myron O. Stachiw*

For more than 45 years, Connecticut native Myron Stachiw has been a strong advocate for historic preservation and local history in multiple capacities: as a museum professional, adjunct professor, archeologist, consultant, and historian. A gifted scholar-educator-consultant, Myron is a sought-after architectural historian with an extraordinary ability to “read” a building; his meticulous research and keen insights often leads to transformative interpretations of historic structures. He has worked on architectural investigations for a lengthy list of organizations, including: Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. House; Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center; Stanton-Davis Homestead; Mark Twain House; Governor Samuel Huntington Trust; and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. His devoted service on national and state boards includes Vernacular Architecture Forum, CT Humanities, Preservation CT, and numerous organizations in his town of Woodstock. Myron’s endless curiosity and infectious passion for history, archaeology, and preservation have had a profound impact on deepening the understanding of Connecticut history.

# 2021 Awards of Merit Recipients

**Connecticut Democracy Center at Connecticut's Old State House**  
*Connecticut History Day Virtual State Contest\**

**Connecticut Historical Society**  
*The Work Must be Done: Women of Color and the Right to Vote\**

**Connecticut State Library**  
*Digging into History: WWI and Trench Restoration in Seicheprey, France*

**East Haddam Historical Society and Museum**  
*Saving Land, Saving History\**

**Essex Historical Society**  
*Follow the Falls, Centerbrook: Digital Magazine and Virtual Flyover*

**Greenwich Historical Society**  
*An Unfinished Revolution: The Woman's Suffrage Centennial\**

**The First Congregational Church and Ecclesiastical Society of Woodbury, Connecticut**  
*The First Congregational Church of Woodbury, Connecticut: 350 Years of Faith, Fellowship, and Service*

**Hartford History Center**  
*October 1920: Celebrating the Centennial of Women's Suffrage*

**Keeler Tavern Museum and History Center**  
*SISTERS\**

# 2021 Awards of Merit Recipients

## **Madison Historical Society**

*Turning the Tide: Madison and COVID-19\**

## **New Haven Museum**

*FACTORY*

## **Salmon Brook Historical Society**

*Stroll Through Granby History*

## **Sharon Historical Society and Museum**

*Wild and Beautiful Creatures: The Life and Work of  
J. J. Audubon*

## **Warren Historical Society**

*Interactive Map of the Old Warren Center Cemetery*

## **Weston Historical Society**

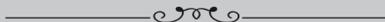
*Outdoor Historic Interpretive Signage\**

## **Westport Public Library**

*Westport's Suffragists - Our Neighbors, Our Crusaders:  
The 19th Amendment Turns 100\**

## **Wilton Historical Society**

*Citizens at Last: Hannah Ambler, Grace Schenck  
and the Vote*



## **Charles T. Lyle**

*Individual Achievement*

## **Myron O. Stachiw**

*Individual Achievement*

\* Project supported by a grant from CT Humanities

# CLHO Membership

**Join us or renew your membership to enjoy great benefits  
and support YOUR LEAGUE!**

## All CLHO members receive the following:

- Discounted registration for all CLHO programs, workshops, and the Annual Conference
- Access to a Members Only section of our website, including the CLHO membership directory
- Voting opportunity at the Annual Business Meeting
- Exclusive members-only emails, including our Member Bulletin Board

### Individual

- Individual Members \$45
- Student Members (CCSU students free with valid ID) \$20

### Organization

- Organizations: Category 1 (budget up to \$50,000) \$70
- Organizations: Category 2 (budget up to \$100,000) \$90
- Organizations: Category 3 (budget up to \$250,000) \$110
- Organizations: Category 4 (budget up to \$500,000) \$140
- Organizations: Category 5 (budget over \$500,00) \$185

### Business

- Business Affiliate: Sole Proprietor Members \$75
- Business Affiliate: Corporate Members \$175

Members are essential to CLHO, and we appreciate your support!



## Connecticut League of History Organizations

Central Connecticut State University  
Department of History  
1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06050  
[www.clho.org](http://www.clho.org)

Visit our website to learn more about membership and to join or renew. Check on your membership status by logging in to your account on our website or contact us at [info@clho.org](mailto:info@clho.org).

# Thank You to our Business Members!

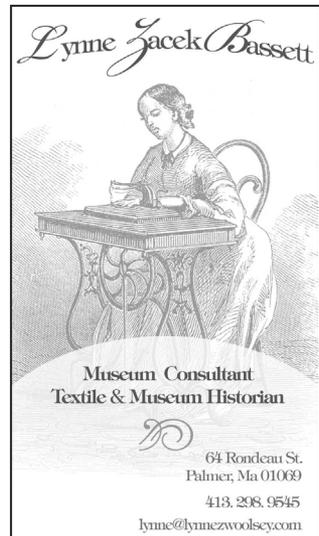
Lynne Zacek Bassett, Costume and Textile Historian	Palmer, MA
Kathy Craughwell-Varda, Museum Consultant	Brookfield, CT
MJ Curling, Curator	North Granby, CT
Sarah K. Griswold, Non-Profit Consultant	Washington Depot, CT
William Hosley, Terra-Firma Northeast	Enfield, CT
SandorMax	Sandy Hook, CT
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**The Connecticut Polish American Archives** contains materials related to the history of the Polish American community in the United States, Connecticut and New England.

**This GLBTQ Archives** holds materials related to the struggle for gay rights, offering comprehensive coverage of local political and cultural history from the 1960s to today.

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# CThumanities

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Award of Merit  
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