

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Introduction

In September, 1975 the Connecticut Room of the Ruth A. Haas Library was designated as the permanent location of the college archives of historical material. With the cooperation of the library director Robert Blaisdell; the encouragement of Drs. Truman Warner and Herbert Janick, the Chairman of the History Department; and under the direction of Doris Bourke, librarian and archivist, a large segment of the historical records collected over the years by the college has been readied for research use. Classification and organization of papers, in particular those pertaining to the history of Danbury and of the college itself, was begun in the fall semester by library work-study students Ellen Steinitz, Noel MacCarry and Linda Lovallo. During the spring 1976 semester, college credit was offered for the first time to upper level undergraduate history majors and to Master of Arts in history students for participation in an Archival Internship. This program had three goals: 1) to provide practical experience in working with primary source materials, 2) to open up career possibilities for the participants, and 3) to make the research sources owned by the college accessible to historians. Undergraduates Judith Anderson and Marianne Wierenga, and graduate student Randolph Potter took advantage of this opportunity. Building on the work of the first semester they catalogued, classified and arranged the material that is described in the following pages.

The materials now available for research represent a beginning. It is anticipated that the Archival Internship will continue, and that each year our catalog of processed records will expand and benefit more segments of the college and the community. It is hoped that members of the Wesconn and Danbury communities will donate any records in their possession that pertain to the social, cultural, political, economic history of the state, city or college. Materials of all types (letters, diaries, maps, pictures, newspapers, for example) and in large or small amounts will be welcome. Contact Doris Bourke (ext. 345), Robert Blaisdell (ext. 343), or Dr. Herbert Janick (ext. 348) to discuss possible donations.

Guide to the Use of the Archives

This Register has been designed to acquaint researchers with the variety and quantity of material now available at the College Archives. More detailed information on a given subject is contained in the Archival Register, a note book of worksheets located outside the Connecticut Room on the third floor of the Ruth A. Haas Library. While much of the material is complete there are certain areas where material has not yet been processed. Therefore, it is important to consult the archivist when using these collections to learn of important uncatalogued holdings.

The Archives has utilized a modified Records Group approach similar to that set up by the Connecticut State Library. Each major segment of our holdings have been assigned a Record Group number and the basic divisions of each record group are designated by an accession number that corresponds to the work sheets in the Archival Register.

RECORD GROUP I
WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE RECORDS

In 1904 the Connecticut General Assembly established the Normal School at Danbury to train female teachers for the state's public schools. In 1936 the name of the school was changed to Danbury Teachers College. During World War II male students were admitted, the curriculum was expanded to include a liberal arts component, and a summer session was added. In 1947 Dr. Ruth Haas, who had been Dean since 1931, became President, a position she held until her retirement in 1975. A Masters program was inaugurated in 1955. In 1957 the college was officially designated as Western Connecticut State College and its scope was expanded to include a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs.

The College records are divided into three series. Series A pertains to Educational material, primarily a series of scrapbooks dealing with college history, construction, and academic matters. Series B deals with college publications both student and alumni. Series C includes pictures, student government minutes, dormitory rules, reports of field trips and other social events of college life.

Series A - Education

		Acession Number
1.	Class Reunion 1911 1 Vol.--includes questionnaire for biographical information.	1932 CE1
2.	Health Education 1 Vol.--pamphlets and literature	1946-47 CE2
3.	Newspaper Clippings 1 Vol.--deals with funding and facilities	1941 CE3
4.	Forum Club 1 Vol.--founded by Dr. Sutton, Professor of History and Government. Membership lists, annual banquets, summaries of topics discussed.	1928-45 CE141
5.	Newspaper Clippings 1 Vol.--construction of Berkshire Gym, Student Union and Dorms.	1954-57 CE149
6.	Newspaper Clippings 1 Vol.--extension of campus, wedding announcements, and accompanying photos of students, "Interim Program", discussion of the addition of a Liberal Arts Program.	1957-59 CE150
7.	Newspaper Clippings 1. Vol.- chronology of college growth 1950-1960, needs and goals of college, 60th anniversary of college, picketing by black students.	1948-70 CE151

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| 8. Newspaper Clippings | 1971 | CE152 |
| 1 Vol.- new campus proposal, map, finances. | | |
| 9. Newspaper Clippings | 1947-49 | CE158 |
| 1 Vol.- inauguration of Dr. Haas, college "Do-Day". | | |
| 10. Newspaper Clippings | 1949-54 | CE159 |
| 1 Vol.- construction of Higgins Science Building, accusations of Communist influence at the college, photos and news about the 1955 flood. | | |

Series B - College Publications

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| 1. "Echo", Nov. 23, 1955 up to date | CP* |
| 6 bound volumes and 13 manilla envelopes - current weekly student newspaper. | |
| 2. "Supplement", April 13, 1953-Nov. 8, 1955. | CP* |
| 6 bound volumes - student newspaper. | |
| 3. "Courier", Nov. 1948 - June, 1954 | CP* |
| 3 bound volumes - campus newspaper and literary journal. | |
| 4. "Dee T Cee", Sept. 3, 1936 - Dec., 1939 | CP* |
| 3 bound volumes, student newspaper of Danbury Teachers College. Coverage of news and literary accomplishments. | |
| 5. "Dee N Ess", 1931 - 1936 | CP* |
| 1 Volume (together with Dee T Cee) and 1 envelope. literary journal. | |
| 6. "Inkling", 1944 - 1947 | CP* |
| 1 bound volume, 1 manilla folder - newspaper and literary journal. | |
| 7. "Campus Crier", 1941 - 1942 | CP* |
| 4 copies in manilla folder, monthly newspaper. | |
| 8. "Alumni News", 1944 - 1968 | CP* |
| manilla folders - supplied information about and for graduate students. | |

* accession numbers not assigned yet.

Series C - Social Activities

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| 1. Field Trip | 1952 | CS1 |
| 1 Vol.- compiled by Lilly George, snapshots, post cards, and other memorabilia of the group trip. | | |
| 2. Newspaper Clippings | 1934-38 | CS2 |
| 1 Vol.- Normal School Activities. | | |
| *1936 - Became Danbury Teachers College. | | |

3. Newspaper Clippings 1939-40 CS3
1 Vol.- articles from New Times pertaining to DTC; field trips, visitors, social and athletic activities.
4. Newspaper Clippings 1938-39 CS4
1 Vol.- special interest articles, alumni reunion, possible closing of DTC and/or Southern and Eastern, Aug. 1939 - reorganization of state colleges and addition of two year liberal art program.
5. Newspaper Clippings 1940-41 CS5
1 Vol.- 11th annual Forum Dinner.
6. Newspaper Clippings 1941-44 CS6
1 Vol.- School project - Child Care by sophmores in Child Psychology, DTS students register for draft.
7. Dorm Records "Roll Books" 1953-61 CS153
8 Vol.- sign out procedures, names of residents, responsibilities of duty girl, etc.
8. Dorm Records 1948-50 CS154
2 envelopes- minutes of meetings concerning dorm life, i.e. discipline, social activities, elections, fund raising.
9. Dorm Records 1930-62 CS155
1 box- inventory sheets, receipts, notes, bills, health records, dorm songs, etc.
10. Student Government 1926-44 CS166
9 Vol.- weekly minutes - academic and social matters elections, clubs, committees, library rules, etc.
11. Pictures 1908-60 CS170 CS170
1 Box- class pictures, do day pictures, campus pictures, pictures of college personnel.

RECORD GROUP 2
CITY AND TOWN OF DANBURY RECORDS

These records were salvaged in the early 1970's by the Wesconn History-Social Science Department only days before the demolition of the old city hall. Because of the haste and chaos of the rescue operation many valuable records were lost. The careless preservation practices of city authorities also contributed to the destruction of significant portions of the data on which the history of Danbury must be based.

Records for Danbury have been catalogued under city and/or town to be consistent with the changes in urban political organization that have taken place over the years. In 1822, because of the rapid growth in population, the central portion of Danbury was incorporated as a "borough", and the outlying region was designated as the "town" each having an independent government. Up to 1853 Bethel was included as a part of Danbury. In 1889 the designation of "borough" was changed to that of "city". In 1963 the city and town of Danbury again merged into a single administrative unit.

Danbury Finance

Accession
Number

CITY

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| 1. Municipal Service Expenditures | 1880-1883 | DF171 |
| 1 Vol.- Dept of parks, roads, lights, police, fire, misc. | | |
| 2. Certificates of Attachment | 1924-1935 | DF186 |
| 1 box- made against property for indebtedness - names, dates, and time recorded. | | |
| 3. Payroll Sheets and Receipted Bills | 1919- | DF189 |
| 1 box- 10 items per folder, numbered chronologically | | |

TOWN

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| 4. Orders to be Paid | 1878-1904 | DF160 |
| 5 Vol.- chronological list of orders to be paid to Town services. | | |
| 5. Orders Paid | 1892-1913 | DF161 |
| 5 Vol. - indexed and alphabetized operation and maintenance of town services and facilities. | | |
| 6. Receipts and Disbursements | 1878-1909 | DF163 |
| 5 Vol.- chronological, bonds, coupons, taxes, percentages, fines, etc. | | |
| 7. Financial Reports | 1923-45 incom. | DF178 |
| 1 box- papers of Joseph E. Sauer, bidding information. | | |

8. Folders - by Fiscal year 1949-58 DF177
1 box- appropriations, estimates for municipal facilities.
9. Chronological 1911-1962 DF187
1 box- appropriations and tax rates recommended by Board of Finance.

Danbury Government

Taxes

1. Grand Lists 1826-1946 DG103
111 Volumes - Bethel included through 1853.
2. Grand Lists 1899-1906, 1909, 1931-1932 DG112
10 Volumes - real estate taxes.
3. Taxable Property 1900, 1904, 1910, 1912, 1930, 1933, DG113
8 Volumes- Town and City, assessed valuation 1934 DG114
4. Personal (Poll) Tax 1911, 1914 DG115
2 volumes- alphabetical list of men in Danbury between 21-60 years of age.
5. Tax Receipts - Town 1953-1959 DG116
1 volume - real estate, personal tax, automobiles.
6. Delinquent Taxes 1918-1932 DG117
1 Vol.- included report from tax collector, 1933
7. Real Estate Taxes - Town 1931 DG118
1 Vol.- alphabetical schedule of Real Estate Taxes levied by Town of Danbury.
8. Tax Anticipation Notes 1933 DG119
6 volumes
9. Tax Liens 1888-1906 DG120
7 volumes
10. Town Tax 1902-07, 1911-15 DG126
2 volumes
11. Board of Estimates and Taxation-City 1911-19 DG130
1 vol.- annual budget estimates of various departments, minutes of the meeting, appropriations, recommended taxation.
12. Property Tax - Town 1895-99, 1899-02 DG146
2 Vol.- payments of taxes and rebates.
13. List of Taxpayers - Town 1878-1905 DG147
1 Vol.- dog, poll, commutation taxes.
14. Personal Property Tax 1897-1901, 1903-05, 1922 DG165
8 Volumes (incomplete) - tax reassessments, by Danbury Board of Relief on personal property holdings.

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| 15. Tax Receipts | 1902-1903 | DG167 |
| 2 volumes - City and Poll tax. | | |
| 16. Tax Receipts | 1901 | DG168 |
| 1 Vol.- receipts for Center School District. | | |
| 17. Tax Liens - Town | 1935-1937 | DG176 |
| 1 box. | | |
| 18. Old Age Tax Assistance | 1939-1948 | DG182 |
| 1 box- Enrollment cards. | | |
| 19. Tax Receipts | 1946-1965 | DG190 |
| Microfilm - 1 box- auto, personal property, and real taxes. | | |
| 1. Automobile - Town | 1943-51 | DG143 |
| 4 Vol.- alphabetical listing of car owners, addresses, assessed value, etc. | | |
| 2. Automobile - City | 1942-1953 | DG144 |
| 7 Vol.- alphabetical listing of car owners, addresses, assessed value etc. | | |
| **Make and model not listed. | | |
| 1. Registration - Physicians | 1893-1937 | DG133 |
| 1 Vol.- dates of registration, name, age, birth-place, residence, college, etc. **some certificates in volume. | | |
| 2. Registration - Legal Writs | 1889-1920 | DG148 |
| 16 Vol.- name, date, time and type of process, i.e. warrant, mortgage, quick claim, etc. | | |
| 1. Grantors Index | 1850-1917 | DG121 |
| 23 Vol.- general index to land records - buying, selling, name of street, date and type of purchase. | | |
| 2. Real Estate Exchange | (no date) | DG175 |
| 1 Vol.- part I - location, size, condition, etc.
part II - index to transfers, name of grantor. | | |
| 1. Council Meetings - City | 1889-1904 | DG162 |
| 2 Vol.- motions passed by city council - paving, sewers, zoning, appointments and special meetings recorded by City Clerks (names listed). | | |
| 2. Correspondence - City Clerk | 1897-1906 | DG180 |
| 1 file- re: municipal services, i.e. water, fire, alarms, sewer, licences, annual reports, etc. | | |

3. Council Meetings - Town 1919-1949 DG188
1 box- town meetings, special sessions, appropriations.
 4. Annual Reports - Town 1894-1961 DG191
1 box- School Committee, Plan of Development, Airport, Board of Selectman, Audits.
 1. Voter List 1875-1963 DG101
857 Vol.- name and address of registered voters listed by district for state elections, wards for town elections. **Women voted 1893-4 on education matter.
 2. Voter List 1943-69 DG131
21 Vol.- name, address of voters receiving absentee ballots. Red check indicates receipt.
 3. Voting 1912-49 DG185
2 boxes- materials related to voting and elections. machine tallies, list of jurors, new voters, registrars, etc.
- Danbury Judicial: This record group includes detailed information re: cases and case numbers, names of Justices, defendants and plaintiffs, charges and costs.
1. City Court 1884-1964 DJ183
16 boxes- chronological record of Court Cases, for the City of Danbury. ** Depression years had greater proportion of court cases.
 2. Justice Court 1892-1922 DJ184
1 box- chronological list of Justice Court cases for the Town of Danbury. ** Court Costs indicative.
- Danbury - Military Records: This record group includes names of male citizens between 21 and 45, men in military 1918-19, termination of services, regiment and/or company or vessel.
1. Military Enrollment 1891-1923 DM140
9 vol.- list of male citizens 21-45 years of age.
 2. Armed Forces 1918-1919 DM164
1 Vol.- record of Danbury men in Military and naval forces of the U.S. in 1918-19.
 3. Supplement to Connecticut Men in War of Rebellion DM169
Pamphlet, Jan. 1936 - lists Conn. men who served in American Civil War, Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and China Relief Expedition.

Danbury - Public Welfare: This record group includes applications, investigation case histories and expenditures of various social welfare departments.

1. Expenditures 1892-1902 DPW173
2 Vol.- family, date, amounts, purpose, brief description of family circumstance
2. Old Age Assistance 1935-1943 DPW181
1 file- chronological - applications and investigations of families.
3. Surplus Commodity Distribution 1930-45 DPW192
1 box- case name, number and commodity issued, correspondence from ERA, CCC, etc.
4. W.P.A. 1930-45 DPW193
1 box- applications, requisitions, correspondence material relating to specific projects - hot lunch programs, nursery school, airport, etc.
5. Selectman's Correspondence 1910-50 DPW194
2 boxes- from social workers - work relief programs, public relief cases, names of families and amounts disbursed.
6. Welfare Records 1920-1940 DPW196
2 boxes- alphabetical case histories, applications, financial statements, health reports.

Danbury - Selectman Correspondence: This record group includes a wide variety of correspondence to and from Selectman's office.

1. Alphabetical Order 1920's-1950's DS179
3 boxes - A-F, G-S, S-Z- ads, insurances, bids, quotes, inventories of municipal equipment, rationing, Red Cross, Social Security and multitude of correspondence coming under the jurisdiction of Selectmen.

Danbury - School Boards: This record group includes appropriations and expenditures, schools, instructors, wages, teacher certification.

1. School Board-Committee 1904-1910 DSch
2 Vol.- appropriations and expenditures. 172
2. Minutes of School Board Meetings 1892-1908, 1908-11 DSch
2 Vol.- minutes and lost articles. Note - prior 174
1904 School Board called Board of School Visitors.

Danbury - Utilities: Includes information about the initiation and maintenance of water, sewer and paving improvements.

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| 1. Water Rents | 1880-1935 | DUI22 |
| 20 Vol.- names, addresses, amounts received,
number of families, inventory of fixtures.
**Original water Applications 1870-80. | | |
| 2. Street Sprinkling | 1917-19 | DUI23 |
| 1 Vol.- name, address and amount paid for street
sprinkling to settle dust. | | |
| 3. Receipts for Water Rents | 1894-95 | DUI25 |
| 1 Vol.- chronological listing by name. | | |
| 4. Water Commissioner Accounts | 1864-1885 | DUI24 |
| 1 Vol.- names of Commissioners, treasurers,
money received, pipe extensions, stop and waste gates. | | |
| 5. Water Department Disbursements | 1891-92 | DUI42 |
| 1 Vol.- expenses incurred by department re: coal,
telegrams, telephone, printing, lumber, labor. | | |
| 6. Sewers - Paving | 1888-91 | DUI27 |
| 1 Vol. ** receipted bill 7/18/1891 | | |
| 7. Sewage Plant | 1895 | DUI28 |
| 1 Vol.- plant operating procedures, volts and
amperes, depth of flow, supplies, etc. | | |
| 8. Sewer Connection Permits | 1910-14 | DUI29 |
| 1 Vol.- names and addresses of people requesting
sewer connections. | | |

Danbury - Vital Statistics: This record group includes names, dates, ages, marriages, burials of residents of Danbury.

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| 1. Birth and Death Record | 1946-1958, 1963-1968 | DVI |
| 18 volumes. | | 132 |
| 2. Birth, Death, and Marriage Record | 1852-1856 | DVI |
| 1 volume | | 134 |
| 3. Death Record | 1857-1871 | DVI |
| 1 volume | | 135 |
| 4. Index to DVI134 and 135 | 1847-1871 | DVI |
| 1 volume | | 136 |
| 5. Birth Records - Town | 1857-1896 | DVI |
| 2 volumes | | 137 |
| 6. Marriage Records - Town | 1820-47, 1857-70 | DVI |
| 2 Vol.- 1820-47 original certificates | | 138 |

7. Cemetary Records 8 volumes.	1887-1949	DVI 139
8. Dog Registrations] 9 volumes (incomplete)	1878-1929	DVI 156
9. Dog Licenses 1 Vol.-- carbon copies of original licenses.	1910	DVI 157

RECORD GROUP 3
MAPS

Series of maps illustrate the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island from 1804-1895. Counties and major townships are noted. Major roads, railroads, canals, rivers, lakes and mountains are indicated. Some maps on Connecticut include detailed information on population, geography, history, government, manufacturing and education. Maps include publisher, scale and size.

There are also maps of Danbury, Bethel and Fairfield County, in the series. Individual residences, schools, businesses and churches are noted in detail. Illustrations also include major roads, railroads, and rivers.

MAP SIZE: Small (s): 1" - 14" Width/Length
Medium (m) 15" - 22" Width/Length
Large (l) 23" - Width/Length

LIST OF MAPS - CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, BY SUBJECT

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Size/Catalog number</u>
1. Bethel	1858	S-7
2. Connecticut	1804	S-2
3. Connecticut	1805	S-1
4. Connecticut	1822	M-1
5. Connecticut	1824	M-7
6. Connecticut	1838	L-5
7. Connecticut	1839	M-2
8. Connecticut	1855	M-3
9. Connecticut	1857	L-1
10. Connecticut	1862	L-8
11. Connecticut	1873	L-3

12. Connecticut	1895	S-3
13. Danbury	1858	S-4
14. Danbury	1858	S-5
15. Danbury	1867	L-4
16. Danbury	1867	M-4
17. Danbury	1867	M-6
18. Fairfield County	1855	M-5
19. Massachusetts	1857	L-6
20. Massachusetts	1862	L-2
21. Rhode Island	1857	L-7
22. Rhode Island	1862	L-9
23. Rhode Island	1895	S-6

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