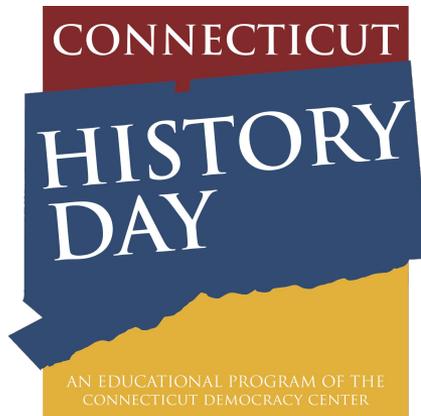
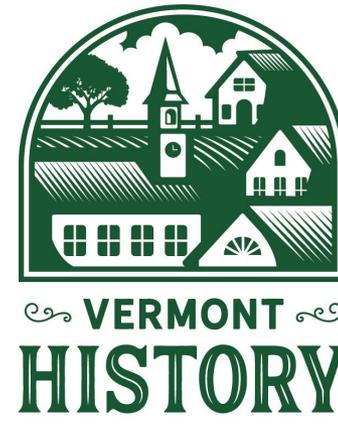
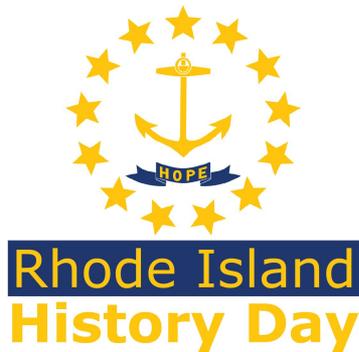


Exploring Local History



National History Day
Massachusetts



Why Choose a Local Topic?

- Easier to research
- Lots of resources
- Learn something new
- It happened here!



Why local history?

- A local topic shows how your state is connected to the wider world.
- Any national topic can be found locally.
- Can connect to international topics.
- Exploring local topics helps develop a sense of civic pride.
- Studying local history helps provide context for issues we face today.
- Great sources.

Unanticipated Benefits

- Starts family conversations
 - Family history
 - Process of doing project
 - How families view the place where they live
- Creates relationship between school and historical organization
 - Many historical organizations want students to visit and use resources
 - Lead to opportunities for students to present or share work.

Examples



My "Radium Girls" project was my tribute to Mae. She was so proud of my exhibit. Her story was so unique, but very few people knew about the suffering that the Radium Girls endured. I wanted to share her memories with the public; her stories were too precious to keep them just between us.

Tim Cohn



Waterbury Radium Girls

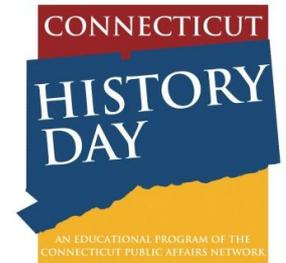
Waterbury Clock Company. To meet increased demand for watches after WWI, women “lip-dip” putting paint brush into their mouths and then dip into radium-laced paint to pain the dials and numbers.

Mae Kaene was the last living Waterbury CT Radium Girl. Faced numerous battles with cancer and lost all her teeth by 30.

Miss Kaene was employed as a dial painter for only a few months. Died at age 107 in 2014.

Connecticut History Day & local history

- [List of CT Topics](#) relating to the annual National History Day theme.
- Topic Suggestions & Background Information
 - Connecticut Humanities' Connecticuthistory.org
 - [Connecticut Explored](#), the magazine of CT History
 - Connecticut History Journal
 - [Today in Connecticut History – Big Things Happened. In This State. On This Date.](#)
- Many local resources available – libraries, museums, archives, historical societies and people.
- Contact the Connecticut League of History Organizations for help in locating resources. WWW.Clho.org



Chronicling American History

- Nicole Besseghir, Project Coordinator
Connecticut State Library
Nicole.Besseghir@ct.gov

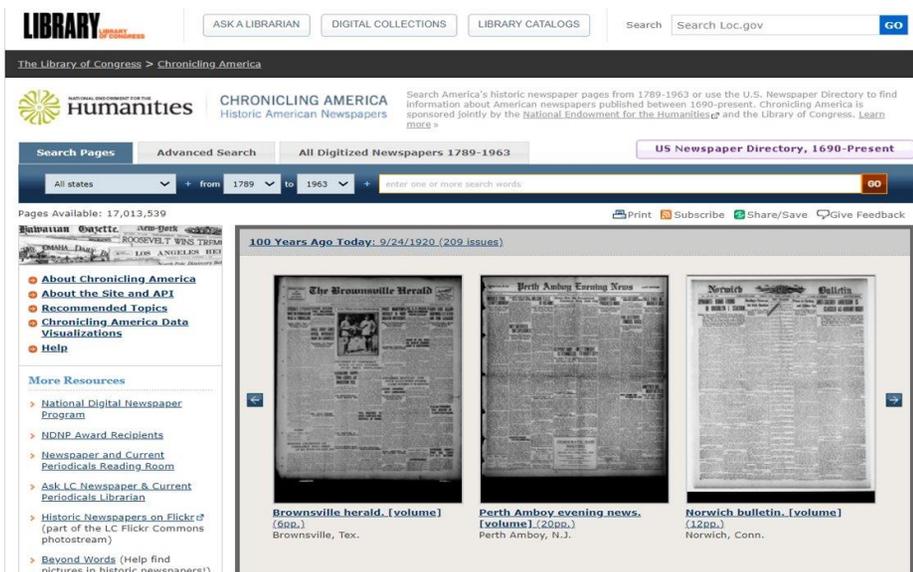
Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project
<https://ctdigitalnewspaperproject.org/>

Chronicling America
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

CT State Library – CT Digital Newspaper Project and Other Digital Resources

CT Digital Newspaper Project

- ◆ URL – <https://ctdigitalnewspaperproject.org/>
- ◆ List of all titles digitized in past grant cycles, as well as titles that are currently being digitized
- ◆ Links to all our digitized newspapers on Chronicling America, as well as other resources we've created, including:
 - Guides to Newspaper Content – include suggested search terms, sample results, timelines and bibliographies
 - Links to the Inquiry Based Teaching Tools we created for Teach IT (Resources -> Resources for Teachers)
- ◆ CDNP Blog with posts that utilize our newspapers and cover a variety of topics in CT history, such as women's history, labor, immigrants, holidays, African American history, and more
 - Also includes posts discussing history and background of some of our digitized newspapers



Chronicling America

- ◆ URL – <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- ◆ Newspaper database will over 18 million pages of digitized historic newspapers (and counting!)
- ◆ Basic Search (Search Pages tab) – allows you to filter by state and years, and enter search term(s)
- ◆ Advanced Search – allows you to filter by state, newspaper title, years, dates, and enter search terms in a variety of ways
- ◆ All Digitized Newspapers – gives a full list of all newspapers currently in Chronicling America, which can be filtered by state, ethnic group, and language
- ◆ Also has 'Recommend Topics' page, which contains background information, a timeline, search strategies, and selected articles on a variety of topics

Questions? Please contact Nicole Besseghir, CDNP Project Coordinator – Nicole.Besseghir@ct.gov

Some Tips Using for Chronicling America

When selecting search terms remember to:

- ◆ Use historical terms as opposed to modern or current day terms (i.e. Great War instead of World War I)
- ◆ Try different variations of spelling (i.e. Katharine Hepburn and Katherine Hepburn)
- ◆ When searching for married women also run a search using Mrs. with husband's name (i.e. Mrs. Thomas M. Hepburn)
- ◆ Enter the words in the order that they're most likely to appear

When viewing results and individual pages you can:

- ◆ Sort results by relevance, state, title and date; select how many results you see per page
- ◆ Zoom in and out on parts of the page using the + and – buttons at the top left corner of the page viewing box (in the gray bar)
- ◆ Look at the newspaper page in full page view using the Toggle Full Page button (looks like a square with a diagonal line through it), to the right of the Zoom and Go Home (looks like a house) buttons
- ◆ Go back to the original page view if you've been zooming in and out using the Go Home button (looks like a house), next to the Zoom buttons
- ◆ Download a newspaper page by clicking on PDF in the gray bar and then going to File -> Save As to save to your computer; you can also download the page as an image file by clicking on JP2 in the gray bar
- ◆ Save a permanent link to individual newspaper pages by copying the link at the very bottom of page viewing box

Other Digital Resources at CT State Library

CSL Digital Collections in CT Digital Archive (CTDA) – <http://hdl.handle.net/11134/30002:csl>

- ◆ Includes materials from the CSL and State Archives, which have been digitized and made available in the CT Digital Archive
- ◆ Of note – State Archives materials, state government publications, books and journals on CT history

Newspapers of CT – <http://hdl.handle.net/11134/30002:newspapers>

- ◆ Historic CT newspapers in the CT Digital Archive (not found in Chronicling America)
- ◆ Includes 19th century, antislavery, Civil War, and temperance newspapers

ResearchIT CT – <https://researchitct.org/>

- ◆ Collection of research databases available for use with CT public library card
- ◆ Includes reference materials, articles, and additional newspaper databases (Hartford Courant, NY Times after 1985)

Questions? Please contact Nicole Besseghir, CDNP Project Coordinator – Nicole.Besseghir@ct.gov

Vermont Historical Society

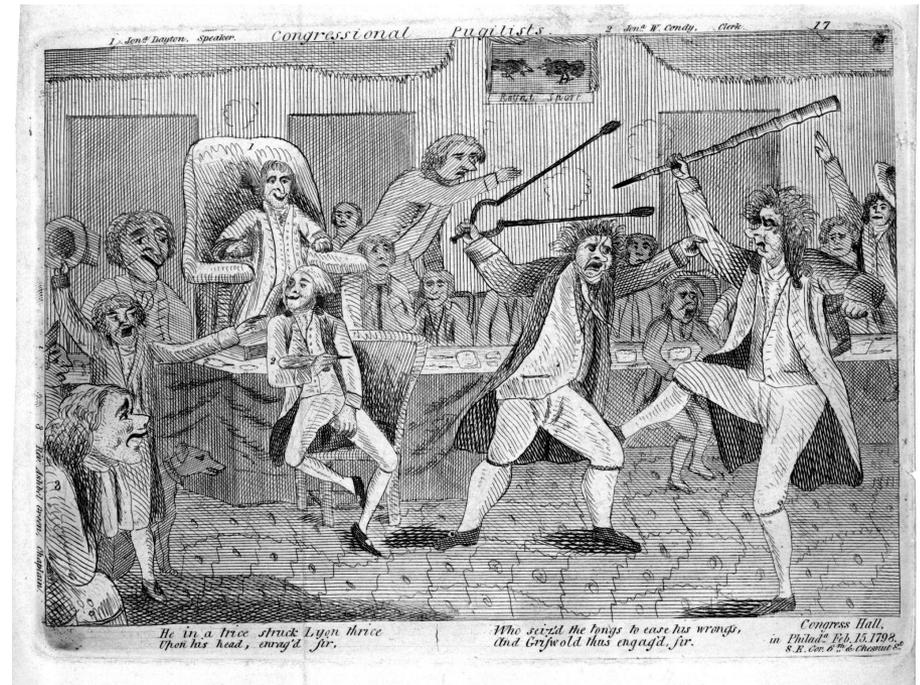
Victoria Hughes, Vermont State Coordinator

Finding your local history topic

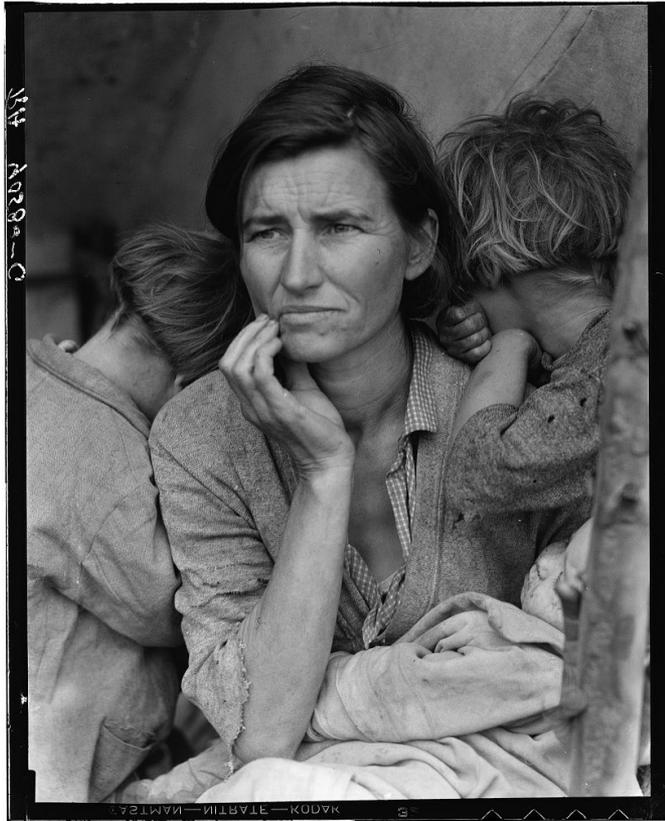
Matthew Lyon (VT)
vs.
Roger Griswold (CT)

[Congressional Pugilists](#)

[Vermont Theme Sheet](#)



Local connections to national history



California in the
Great Depression



Vermont in the
Great Depression

Debate & Diplomacy in Vermont History

Vermont Historical Society Research Library [Online Catalog](#)

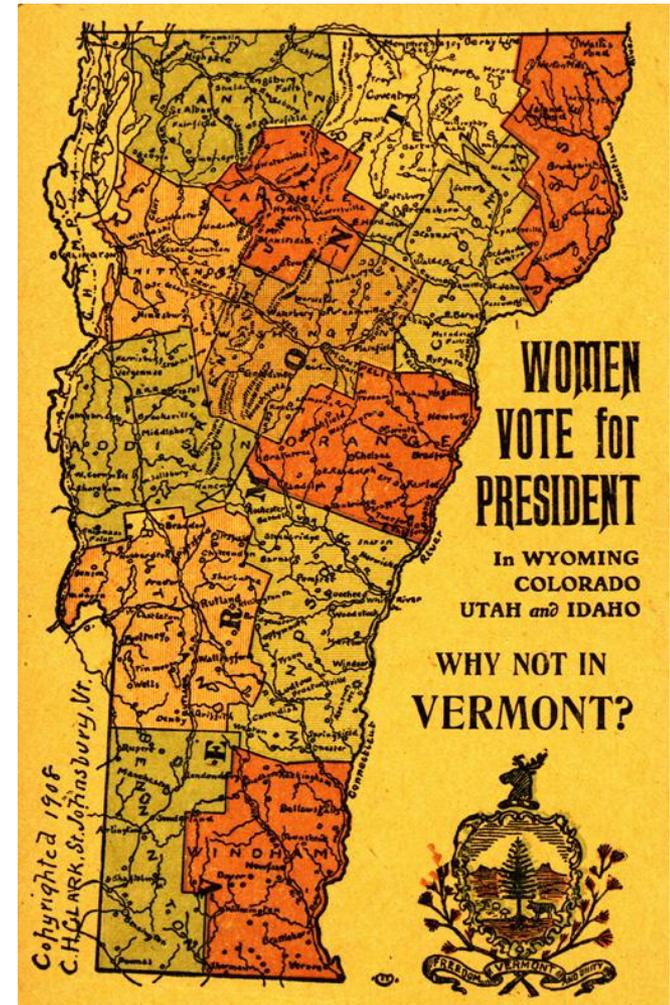
Vermont Equal Suffrage Association Papers

- [Catalog record](#)
- [Finding aid](#)

Annual Report of Vermont Women's Suffrage Association, 1885 - 1906

- [Catalog record](#)

Ask a librarian



Digital Local History Resources

Media: [Women Get the Vote, 1920](#)

Exhibit: [Because of Women Like Her](#)

Article: [The Drive for Women's Municipal Suffrage in Vermont, 1883-1917](#)

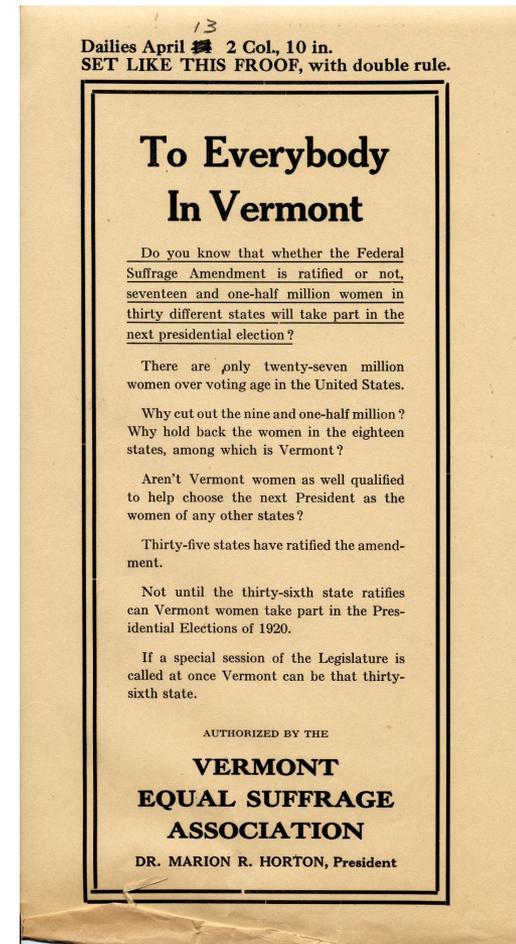
Bibliography: [Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance](#)

Primary Sources: [Women's Suffrage in Vermont Collection](#)

- [Annual Report, 1907](#)

Newspaper: [Landslide for Suffrage in this State](#)

Remember, most collections are not digitized.



Historical Context for Local Topics

Use broad collections to put local history in context

Gilder Lehrman: [This Map Proves It](#)

Where else to look?

[National Archives](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

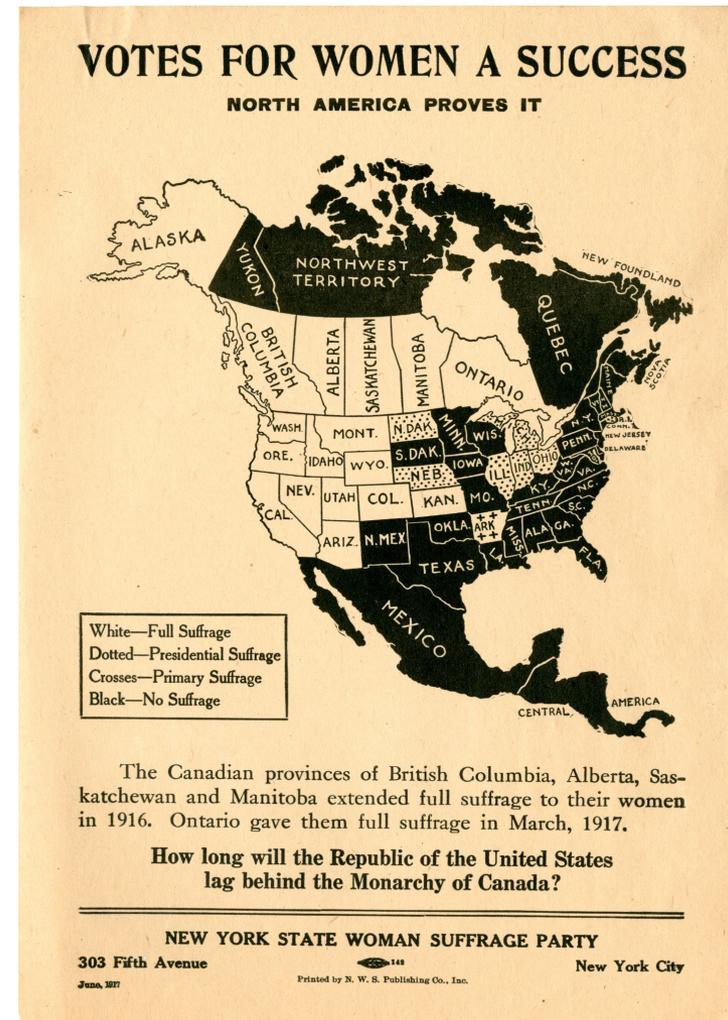
[Internet Archive](#)

[Digital Public Library of America](#)

[HathiTrust Digital Collections](#)

[New York Public Library Digital Collections](#)

[Osher Map Library](#)



New England Resources

[Local Sources](#) for Connecticut History Day

[Local Sources](#) for National History Day in Maine

[Local Sources](#) for National History Day in Massachusetts

[Local Sources](#) for New Hampshire History Day

[Local Sources](#) for Rhode Island History Day

[Local Sources](#) for Vermont History Day (or [digital sources](#))