

## SELECTED IMPORTANT DATES IN CONNECTICUT'S HISTORY

Prepared by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism

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- 1614** Adriaen Block, representing the Dutch, sails up the Connecticut River.
- 1633** The Dutch erect a fort, the House of (Good) Hope, on the future site of Hartford.
- 1633** John Oldham and others explore and trade along the Connecticut River. Plymouth Colony sends William Holmes to found a trading post at Windsor.
- 1634** Wethersfield founded by people from Massachusetts.
- 1634** First English arrive in Windsor.
- 1635** Fort erected at Saybrook by Lion Gardiner.
- 1635** Group from Dorchester, Massachusetts join Windsor settlement.
- 1636** Thomas Hooker and company journey from Newtown (Cambridge), Massachusetts to found Hartford.
- 1637** Pequot War. Captain John Mason leads colonists to decisive victory.
- 1638** New Haven Colony established by John Davenport and Theophilus Eaton.
- 1639** Fundamental Orders of Connecticut adopted by Freemen of Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor; John Haynes chosen first Governor.
- 1643** Connecticut joins in forming the New England Confederation.
- 1646** New London founded by John Winthrop, Jr.
- 1650** "Code of Laws" drawn up by Roger Ludlow and adopted by legislature.
- 1662** John Winthrop, Jr. obtains a Charter for Connecticut.
- 1665** Union of New Haven and Connecticut Colonies completed.
- 1665** The first division of any Connecticut town: Lyme's separation from Saybrook.
- 1675-76** Connecticut participates in King Philip's War which was fought in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.
- 1687** Andros assumes rule over Connecticut; Charter Oak episode occurs.
- 1689** Connecticut resumes government under charter.
- 1701** Collegiate School authorized by General Assembly.

<b>1708</b>	Saybrook Platform permits churches to join regional consociations.
<b>1717</b>	New Haven State House erected on the Green.
<b>1717</b>	Collegiate School moves to New Haven; renamed "Yale" the next year.
<b>1740</b>	Manufacture of tin ware begun at Berlin by Edward and William Pattison.
<b>1740's</b>	Height of religious "Great Awakening".
<b>1745</b>	Connecticut troops under Roger Wolcott help capture Louisburg.
<b>1755</b>	Connecticut Gazette of New Haven, the Colony's first newspaper, printed by James Parker at New Haven.
<b>1763</b>	Brick State House erected on New Haven Green.
<b>1764</b>	Connecticut Courant, the oldest American newspaper in continuous existence to the present, launched at Hartford by Thomas Green.
<b>1765</b>	Sharp opposition to Stamp Act.
<b>1766</b>	Governor Thomas Fitch who refused to reject the Stamp Act defeated by William Pitkin.
<b>1767</b>	Thomas and Samuel Green launch newspaper which after many changes becomes New Haven Journal-Courier.
<b>1774</b>	Connecticut officially extends jurisdiction over Susquehanna Company area in Northern Pennsylvania.
<b>1774</b>	Silas Deane, Eliphalet Dyer, and Roger Sherman represent Connecticut at First Continental Congress.
<b>1775</b>	Several thousand militia rush to Massachusetts in "Lexington Alarm."
<b>1775</b>	Connecticut men help plan and carry out seizure of Ft. Ticonderoga.
<b>1775</b>	First gun powder mill in Connecticut started in East Hartford.
<b>1776</b>	Samuel Huntington, Roger Sherman, William Williams and Oliver Wolcott sign the Declaration of Independence; large majority of Connecticut people under Governor Jonathan Trumbull support the Declaration.
<b>1777</b>	British troops under General Tryon raid Danbury.
<b>1779</b>	British troops under General Tryon raid New Haven, Fairfield and Norwalk.
<b>1781</b>	Benedict Arnold's attack upon New London and Groton involves massacre at Ft. Griswold.
<b>1781</b>	Washington and Rochambeau confer at Webb House in Wethersfield.

<b>1783</b>	Meeting of 10 Anglican clergy at Glebe House, Woodbury, leads to consecration of Bishop Samuel Seabury: Start of Protestant Episcopal Church in United States.
<b>1784</b>	Tapping Reeve established the first law school in the United States in Litchfield.
<b>1784</b>	Earliest Connecticut cities incorporated: Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, New London and Norwich.
<b>1784</b>	Governor Trumbull retires from governorship.
<b>1784</b>	Connecticut relinquishes Westmoreland area to Pennsylvania.
<b>1784</b>	Act passed providing for emancipation at age of twenty-five of all Negroes born after March 1784.
<b>1785</b>	First Register and Manual published.
<b>1787</b>	Oliver Ellsworth, William Samuel Johnson and Roger Sherman serve as Connecticut's representatives at Philadelphia Constitutional Convention.
<b>1788</b>	Convention at Hartford approves Federal Constitution by 128-40 vote.
<b>1789</b>	Oliver Ellsworth and William Samuel Johnson begin service as first United States Senators from Connecticut.
<b>1792</b>	First turnpike road company, New London to Norwich, incorporated.
<b>1792</b>	First banks established at Hartford, New London and New Haven.
<b>1793-96</b>	Old State House, Hartford, erected; designed by Charles Bulfinch.
<b>1795</b>	Connecticut Western Reserve lands (now Northeastern Ohio) sold for \$1,200,000 and the proceeds were used to establish the School Fund.
<b>1795</b>	First insurance company incorporated as the Mutual Assurance Company of the City of Norwich.
<b>1796</b>	Thomas Hubbard starts Courier at Norwich. In 1860 paper merges with the Morning Bulletin and continues as Norwich Bulletin to present.
<b>1799</b>	Eli Whitney procures his first Federal musket contract; within next decade develops a system of interchangeable parts, applicable to industries.
<b>1802</b>	Brass industry begun at Waterbury by Abel Porter and associates.
<b>1806</b>	First important English dictionary in United States published by Noah Webster.
<b>1810</b>	Hartford Fire Insurance Company incorporated.
<b>1812</b>	Joseph Barber starts <i>Columbian Register</i> at New Haven. In 1911 combined with <i>New Haven Register</i> and continues as <i>Register</i> to present.
<b>1812-14</b>	War of 1812 unpopular in Connecticut; new manufactures, especially textiles, boom.

<b>1814</b>	Hartford Convention held in Old State House.
<b>1815</b>	First steamboat voyage up the Connecticut River to Hartford.
<b>1817</b>	Federalists defeated by reformers in political revolution.
<b>1817</b>	Thomas Gallaudet found School for the Deaf in Hartford.
<b>1817</b>	<i>Hartford Times</i> founded by Frederick D. Bolles and John M. Niles.
<b>1818</b>	New Constitution adopted by convention in Hartford and approved by voters; ends system of established church.
<b>1820</b>	Captain Nathaniel Palmer of Stonington discovers the continent of Antarctica.
<b>1822</b>	Captain John Davis of New Haven becomes first man to set foot on the Antarctic Continent.
<b>1823</b>	Washington College (now Trinity) founded in Hartford.
<b>1827</b>	"New" State House erected in New Haven; Ithiel Town, architect.
<b>1828</b>	Farmington Canal opened.
<b>1831</b>	Wesleyan University founded in Middletown.
<b>1831</b>	Mutual Insurance Company of Hartford founded.
<b>1832</b>	First Connecticut railroad incorporated as the Boston, Norwich and New London.
<b>1835</b>	Revolver patented by Colt.
<b>1835</b>	Music Vale Seminary, first American music school, founded at Salem by Oramel Whittlesey.
<b>1838</b>	Railroad completed between New Haven and Hartford.
<b>1839-41</b>	The Amistad affair.
<b>1840's - 1850's</b>	Peak of whaling from Connecticut ports and especially from New London.
<b>1842</b>	Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, first public art museum, established.
<b>1843</b>	Charles Goodyear develops vulcanizing process for rubber.
<b>1843</b>	Civil rights of Jews protected through act guaranteeing equal privileges with Christians in forming religious societies.
<b>1844</b>	Dr. Horace Wells uses anesthesia at Hartford.

<b>1846</b>	Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, the first life insurance company, chartered in Connecticut.
<b>1847</b>	First American agricultural experiment station created at Yale.
<b>1848</b>	Slavery abolished in Connecticut.
<b>1849</b>	First teachers' college founded at New Britain (now Central Connecticut State University).
<b>1851</b>	Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company started (under another name) in Hartford.
<b>1853</b>	Aetna Life Insurance Company started in Hartford.
<b>1860</b>	Lincoln speaks in several Connecticut cities.
<b>1861-65</b>	Approximately 55,000 men serve in Union Army; William Buckingham wartime governor.
<b>1864</b>	Travelers Insurance issues its first policy.
<b>1865</b>	Connecticut General Life Insurance Company founded.
<b>1868</b>	Land at Groton given by Connecticut to U.S. Navy for a naval station; in April.
<b>1875</b>	Hartford made sole capital city.
<b>1877</b>	First telephone exchange in world opened in New Haven.
<b>1879</b>	New Capitol building in Hartford completed; Richard Upjohn, architect.
<b>1881</b>	Storrs Agricultural College founded (became University of Connecticut in 1939).
<b>1890</b>	Disputed election causes Morgan Bulkeley to continue two extra years as governor (1891-93).
<b>1897</b>	Manufacture of automobiles begun by Pope Manufacturing Company of Hartford.
<b>1900</b>	First United States Navy submarine, Holland, constructed by Electric Boat Co.
<b>1901</b>	First American state law regulating automobile speeds.
<b>1902</b>	Constitutional Convention held; proposed new constitution defeated in a statewide referendum.
<b>1905</b>	General Assembly adopted public accommodations act ordering full and equal service in all places of public accommodation.
<b>1907</b>	The first Boy Scout Troop in Connecticut (Troop 1) was established in East Hartford.
<b>1910</b>	U.S. Coast Guard Academy moves to New London.
<b>1911</b>	Connecticut College for Women founded at New London.

<b>1917</b>	U.S. Navy Submarine School formally established at New London Naval Base, Groton.
<b>1917-18</b>	Approximately 67,000 Connecticut men serve in World War 1.
<b>1920</b>	University of New Haven founded.
<b>1927</b>	University of Bridgeport founded.
<b>1932</b>	St. Joseph College founded in West Hartford.
<b>1936</b>	Floods cause enormous damage in Connecticut River Valley.
<b>1938</b>	Hurricane and floods produce heavy loss of life and property.
<b>1938</b>	First section of Merritt Parkway opened.
<b>1939</b>	First section of Wilbur Cross Parkway opened.
<b>1941-45</b>	Approximately 210,000 Connecticut men serve in World War II.
<b>1943</b>	General Assembly established Inter-Racial Commission, recognized as the nation's first statutory civil rights agency.
<b>1944</b>	Ringling Brothers Circus tent fire in Hartford took 168 lives.
<b>1947</b>	Fair Employment Practices Act adopted, outlawing job discrimination.
<b>1950-52</b>	Approximately 52,000 Connecticut men serve in Korean War
<b>1954</b>	Nautilus, world's first atomic-Powered submarine, launched at Groton.
<b>1955</b>	Serious floods cause heavy damage and loss of life.
<b>1955</b>	Shakespeare Memorial Theater opened at Stratford.
<b>1957</b>	University of Hartford founded.
<b>1957</b>	Ground broken for first building in New Haven's Oak Street redevelopment area.
<b>1958</b>	129-mile Connecticut Turnpike opened.
<b>1959</b>	General Assembly votes to abolish county government (effective 1960); also to abolish local justice courts and establish district courts.
<b>1960</b>	Ground broken for first building in Hartford's Front Street redevelopment area; now known as Constitution plaza.
<b>1961</b>	New state circuit court system goes into effect.
<b>1962-75</b>	Approximately 104,000 Connecticut men and women served in the armed forces during the Vietnam War era.

- 1964** General Assembly creates six Congressional districts reasonably equal in population.
- 1965** Constitutional Convention held. New Constitution approved by voters.
- 1966** First elections held for reapportioned General Assembly under new Constitution.
- 1972** Under constitutional amendment adopted in 1970, General Assembly held first annual session since 1886.
- 1974** Ella Grasso, first woman elected Governor in Connecticut.
- 1978** Common pleas and juvenile courts become part of the superior court.
- 1982** Appellate Court created by Constitutional Amendment (Effective July 1, 1983).
- 1990** Eunice S. Groark, first woman elected lieutenant governor in Connecticut.
- 2001** Reapportionment Commission creates five Congressional districts due to national population shifts identified in the 2000 census.