



Guide to the Westport History, Events, and Topics Collection RG 4

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Westport Museum for History & Culture

25 Avery Place

Westport, CT 06880

Business Number: (203) 222-1424

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URL: <https://westporthistory.org/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Westport Museum for History & Culture
Title:	Westport History, Events, and Topics Collection
ID:	RG 4
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/36/resources/1221
Date [inclusive]:	1825-2013
Physical Description:	6 Linear Feet (13 boxes; one oversize box)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Westport History, Events, and Topics Collection documents the history of the town of Westport through publications, event documentation, and topical files compiled by the Westport Museum.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], [Box no]., Westport History, Events, and Topics Collection, Westport Museum for History and Culture, Westport, Connecticut

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Biographical / Historical

Like many other towns in New England, Westport's roots are in the Native Americans who frequented the area years ago. The colonial settlers came from three surrounding towns – Norwalk, Fairfield, and Weston, parts of which comprised Westport. The river was the dividing line between Norwalk and Fairfield, and vital to farmers as a pathway to markets for their produce. A small community of wharves, warehouses, stores and a tavern grew up on both sides of the river to become the Village of Saugatuck. The first church built in Westport was the Green's Farms Congregational Church, in 1711, and it served as the focal point of all town activities, from running the schools to collecting the taxes. After the Revolutionary War, the Village of Saugatuck began to grow as a shipping center. In the 1830s, Daniel Nash, a leading resident, together with 130 other villagers made an application to the Connecticut General Assembly to incorporate Westport as a town. The charter was granted May 28, 1835.

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Scope and Contents

This collection gathers together a variety of sources of documentation of Westport and its surrounding area. Some of the documents are purposefully composed writings about various aspects of Westport history while other documents were gathered from events. An alphabetical sequence of topical files contains notes and documents compiled by Westport Museum for History and Culture staff over the years. This file has been kept largely intact despite the fact that some topics would fit into other record groups under the Museum's new archival organization scheme. Similar topical files are also available in various Named Research Collections in Record Group 12.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in six series:

Series 1: Historical Documentation and Narratives

Series 2: Brochures, Directories, Publicity

Series 3: Events and Festivals

Series 4: Anniversaries and Commemorations

Series 5: Topical Files

Series 6: Newspaper Issues and Clippings

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Westport Museum for History & Culture

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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Collection Inventory

Historical Documentation and Narratives

Chronologies

Title/Description	Instances	
Chronology compiled by E. Ruth Adams – 1640-1979	Box 1	Folder 1
Chronology compiled by Eve Potts – 1637-1994	Box 1	Folder 2

Articles, papers, talks

Title/Description	Instances	
Historical Discourse delivered at 150th anniversary of Green's Farms Congregational Church by Rev. B. J. Relyea, 1865	Box 1	Folder 3
"Sketches Historical and Biographical of Westport" from The Norwalk Hour, 1873	Box 1	Folder 4
"History of the Pequot War and Battle of Stonington" by George W. Lewis, 1893	Box 1A	Folder 1
"Homes and People of the 18th Century" by M. Louisa Hyde, 1897	Box 1	Folder 4
"Colonial and Revolutionary Houses in Westport" – papers read before Historical Society, 1900, 1901	Box 1	Folder 4
"Leaves from the Town Records" by Joseph G. Hyatt	Box 1	Folder 4
"The Little Minute Man – When the British Came to Compo in 1777" by Henry Gallup Paine , 1924	Box 1	Folder 5

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"Revolutionary Days in Westport: The Invasion of Connecticut by the British and the Landing at Compo Beach" by William Hanford Burr, 1928	Box 1A	Folder 2
Westport section from History of Fairfield County, 1929	Box 1A	Folder 3
"Evolution – The Town Protoplasm" by Edward Coley Birge	Box 1	Folder 5
History of Westport as compiled by Burton Davis, 1934	Box 1	Folder 6
"Westport in Connecticut History" (CT Tercentenary publication), 1935	Box 1	Folder 7
Articles about Westport in Connecticut Circle – the Magazine of the Constitution State, 1947	Box OV1	
"Westport Canteen" by Susan Bennett Holmes – article in Woman's Day – re. venue for teenagers to gather in Westport, 1957	Box 1	Folder 8
"Westport Grows Up – And How", 1957	Box 1	Folder 9
"The Adams Academy – A History" by Joan L. Ross, 1961	Box 1	Folder 9
"Early Business and Industries in Westport, CT" by Judge Joseph Adams, 1963	Box 1	Folder 10
"Landmarks from the Past – Second Graders Take Historical Tour" – with tour script – by Bessie Jennings, 1963	Box 1	Folder 10
Historical sketch of Westport by Anne M. Poor, 1972	Box 1A	Folder 4
"The Social Growth of Westport" by Tom Capasse (school paper), 1973	Box 1A	Folder 5
"Westport" by Mike McCune	Box 1	Folder 11
"Days of Onion Boats and Resolute Yankees" by Deborah B. Donnelly, 1981	Box 1	Folder 11
"Recollections: Looking Across the Fields to Long Island Sound" by Joanna Foster, 1991	Box 1	Folder 12
"Picture This – a time travel activity book of Westport" by Janet Horowitz and Kathy Faggella	Box 1	Folder 12
"Recollections: Ruth Adams Remembers" by Joanna Foster, 1991	Box 1	Folder 13
"Green's Farms Church" by Ruth Adams, 1995	Box 1	Folder 13
"A History of Westport, CT – It Happened in Westport" prepared by Barbara and Allen Raymond, 1996-1998	Box 1	Folder 14
"The Magic of Main Street" by Woody Klein, 1998	Box 1	Folder 15
Millenium series in Westport News, 1999	Box 1	Folder 15
"From Onions to Industry" by Chandra Niles Folsom, 2001	Box 1	Folder 16

"The Fairfield Swamp Fight" by Jane Edmundson, 2002	Box 1	Folder 16
Reprints of Joanna Foster Coppola articles from 1955 in Westport News, 2009	Box 1	Folder 16

Notes and undated articles

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles by Julie Haggeman (see also Haggeman collection in Record Group 12, Named Research Collections)	Box 1	Folder 17
Anonymous narrative re. Westport	Box 1	Folder 18
Miscellaneous notes and clippings	Box 1	Folder 18

Personal reminiscences

Title/Description	Instances	
Ruth Adams	Box 1	Folder 20
Hubbard Cobb	Box 1	Folder 20
John S. Coleman	Box 1	Folder 20
Louise Crossman	Box 1	Folder 20
Esther Downs	Box 1A	Folder 6
I. Leon Hunt, including re. Westport Sanitarium	Box 1	Folder 21
"Madam Knight's Journal" – account of trip from Boston to New York in 1825	Box 1	Folder 22
Mrs. E. M. Lee	Box 1	Folder 23
Lee Townsend	Box 1	Folder 23

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Brochures, Directories, Publicity

Title/Description	Instances	
Life Magazine issue on Fairfield County, 1949 August 8	Box OV1	
Miscellaneous publications, 1935, 1955, 1967, 1975, 1976	Box 2	Folder 1
Miscellaneous publications, 1985	Box 2	Folder 2
Miscellaneous publications, 1994, 2008, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 3

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Events and Festivals

Title/Description	Instances	
Fireworks display at Compo House, July 4, 1959	Box 2	Folder 3a
Historical Pageant presented by the Women of the Town Improvement Association of Westport, 1921	Box 2	Folder 4
George Washington pilgrimage route in Connecticut; George Washington Bicentennial program, 1914, 1932	Box 2	Folder 4
Yankee Doodle Fair, sponsored by Westport Woman's Club	Box OV1	
All-American City Award celebration, 1959	Box 2	Folder 5
Planting of scion of Charter Oak on Jesup Green, 1966	Box 2	Folder 6
Summer Arts Festivals at Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts, 1978-1981	Box 2	Folder 6a
Martha Stewart's Designer Showcase: Homestyles – Trends and Traditions, 1990	Box 2	Folder 7
Westports of the World (WOW) gatherings, 1991-1996	Box 2	Folder 8
Festival Italiano, including information about Italians in Saugatuck, 1992-2011	Box 2	Folder 9
Memorial Day parade / Veterans Day, 1995	Box 2	Folder 10
Downtown Arts Festival, 1996	Box 2	Folder 10
Olympic Torch in Westport / Olympic Festival, 1996	Box 2	Folder 10
Community Concert, 2000	Box 2	Folder 11
First Night, 1994, 2008	Box 2	Folder 11
June Day, Undated	Box 2	Folder 11
National Volunteer Week, Undated	Box 2	Folder 11
Celebrate Westport, 2006	Box 2	Folder 11
3rd annual Riverfront Arts Festival, Undated	Box 2	Folder 12
Labor Day, Undated	Box 2	Folder 12

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Anniversaries and Commemorations

American Centennial, 1876

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles in The Westporter re. Westport celebration of American Centennial, 1876 June- July	Box 3	Folder 1

Centenary of Westport / Tercentenary of CT, 1935

Title/Description	Instances	
Re. Centenary and Tercentenary Committees, including correspondence of Gladys Mansir	Box 3	Folder 2
Programs and announcements	Box 3	Folder 3
Centennial commemorative stamps	Box 3	Folder 4
Book by Edward Coley Birge: Westport in Connecticut's History	Box 3	Folder 5
Pageant scripts and clippings	Box 3	Folder 6
Photos and artwork	Box 3	Folder 7
Scrapbook	Box 3	Folder 8
American Bicentennial, 1976		
Title/Description	Instances	
Westport Bicentennial Committee – lists, minutes, reports, 1974-1976	Box 4	Folder 1
Committee correspondence, including with Leonard Fisher, Shirley Land, 1974-1977	Box 4	Folder 2
Bicentennial-related material collected by Shirley Land	Box 4	Folder 2a
Arts Subcommittee / Bicentennial Trust for Westport Art, 1974-1979	Box 4	Folder 3
Arts Committee Prism '76 exhibitions: Leonard Everett Fisher; Creative Early America; Stevan Dohano; Westport Illustrators; Celebration of a Quilt; Contemporary Painters and Sculptors of Westport; Inaugural Gowns – Great Ladies of America; A Salute to Harold Von Schmidt; Westport Artists of the Past	Box 4	Folder 4-7
Guest books from exhibitions, 1975	Box 4	Folder 8
Guest books from exhibitions, 1976	Box 5	Folder 1
Newspaper clippings re. Arts Committee events	Box 5	Folder 2
Bicentennial calendar	Box 5	Folder 3
Bicentennial quilt	Box 5	Folder 4
Bicentennial event programs	Box 5	Folder 5
Historical bus tours	Box 5	Folder 6
Time Capsule	Box 5	Folder 7
Westport Schools Bicentennial project	Box 6	Folder 1
Newspaper clippings	Box 6	Folder 2-4
Special issue of The Westport News	Box 6	Folder 5

Bicentennial issue of The Fairfield County Magazine	Box 6	Folder 6
Publications from other organizations	Box 6	Folder 7
Marketing material received by Committee re. Bicentennial commemorative objects	Box 6	Folder 8
Poster for Bicentennial	Drawer Map chest, drawer 3	
Notebook of commemorative certificates presented to Stewart B. McKinney by Colonial Bancorp	Box OV1	
Bicentennial commemorative medal	Box OV1	

Westport 150th Anniversary, 1985

Title/Description	Instances	
The Westporter special issue, brochure	Box 6	Folder 9

Millennium Project, 1999

Title/Description	Instances	
Flyer, pin	Box 6	Folder 10

Westport 175th Anniversary, 2010

Title/Description	Instances	
Script for Re-Enactment at Saugatuck Congregational Church, brochure	Box 6	Folder 11

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Topical Files

Title/Description	Instances	
Actors	Box 7	Folder 1
Architecture	Box 7	Folder 2
Art in the public schools	Box 7	Folder 3
Artists and art awards	Box 7	Folder 4
"The Battle of Compo Beach" by C. W. Owens; "The Alarm: Philip Lester from Saugatuck to Ridgefield 1777" by Emma W. Law Demeritt	Box 7	Folder 5
Boundaries	Box 7	Folder 6
Boy Scouts	Box 7	Folder 7
Bridge Square	Box 7	Folder 8

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Charities	Box 7	Folder 9
Charter Oak Tree	Box 7	Folder 10
Christmas	Box 7	Folder 11
Citizens' planning associations	Box 7	Folder 12
Coleytown	Box 7	Folder 13
Colonial and Revolutionary Homes – Susan Schultz notes	Box 7	Folder 14
Community Center at Longshore	Box 7	Folder 15
Compo Beach – anniversaries	Box 7	Folder 16
Compo Beach Improvement Association	Box 7	Folder 17
Compo cannons	Box 7	Folder 18
Compo Cove and Mill	Box 7	Folder 19
Compo House	Box 7	Folder 20
Compo Inn	Box 7	Folder 21
Condominiums	Box 7	Folder 22
The Connecticut Bus Company schedule; bus schedule (1924, n.d.)	Box 7	Folder 23
Connecticut Historic Commission	Box 7	Folder 24
Congressional election documents, 1883, 1889	Box 7	Folder 25
Connecticut State records	Box 7	Folder 26
Conservation - Preservation	Box 7	Folder 27
Costumes, 1850-1862	Box 7	Folder 28
Coyotes	Box 7	Folder 29
DAR	Box 7	Folder 30
Democratic Town Committee – Lulu Petric	Box 7	Folder 31
Doughboy statue	Box 7	Folder 32
Emergency Medical Service	Box 7	Folder 33
Ethnohistory / Immigrant groups	Box 7	Folder 34
Fable Building	Box 7	Folder 35
Fairfield	Box 7	Folder 35a
Fairfield County families	Box 7	Folder 36
Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation (Alice Mulligan, Ken Bernard)	Box 7	Folder 37
Fowler Hexagon Houses	Box 7	Folder 38

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Green's Farms	Box 7	Folder 39
Health survey - Town Crier article, including regarding inadequate housing for African Americans in Westport, 1939	Box 7	Folder 40
Highways – See also Roads, and Record Group 3	Box 8	Folder 1-2
Historic buildings	Box 8	Folder 3
Historic districts – Myrtle Ave, Jesup	Box 8	Folder 4
Hoot Owls (singing group)	Box 8	Folder 5
Household appliances	Box 8	Folder 6
Household hints	Box 8	Folder 7
Houses, historic	Box 8	Folder 8
Huskies, storm of 1934	Box 8	Folder 9
Italians in Westport	Box 8	Folder 10
Law	Box 8	Folder 11
Leatherman – DeLuca collection	Box 8	Folder 12
Library, Friends of the	Box 8	Folder 13
Lighthouses	Box 8	Folder 14
Lobstermen	Box 8	Folder 15
Local place names	Box 8	Folder 16
Long Island Sound	Box 8	Folder 17
Loom, Jacquard	Box 8	Folder 18
Main Street	Box 8	Folder 19
McGuffey Reader	Box 8	Folder 20
Minister's letter: From Sylvester M. Foster to "My dear Judge" re. life of minister in 1840	Box 8	Folder 23
Minuteman newspaper	Box 8	Folder 24
The Modern Grocer – June 27, 1903	Box 8	Folder 25
Monuments	Box 8	Folder 26
Murals	Box 8	Folder 27
Movie making	Box 8	Folder 28
Myrtle Ave – sketches by Harry Morgan Ayres #96	Box 8	Folder 29
National Hall	Box 8	Folder 30
Native American tribes of Connecticut		

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	Box 8	Folder 31-32
Nature Center – Mid Fairfield County Youth Museum	Box 9	Folder 1
New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad – see under Transportation		
Nike site – see Record Group 3		
North Kings Highway Historic District	Box 9	Folder 2
North Kings Highway Historic District Study Group	Box 9	Folder 3
Norwalk Islands	Box 9	Folder 4
"Norwalk in the American Revolution" by John Cuneo, 1976	Box 9	Folder 5
Norwalk: Lockwood Mathews Mansion	Box 9	Folder 6
Nyala Farms	Box 9	Folder 7
Open space	Box 9	Folder 8
Pageant of 1921 (History of Fairfield County)	Box 9	Folder 9
Parks	Box 9	Folder 10
Pequot swamp fight	Box 9	Folder 11
Poem – "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse"	Box 9	Folder 12
Police	Box 9	Folder 13
Politics	Box 9	Folder 14
Post Office	Box 9	Folder 15
Popular Plains	Box 9	Folder 16
Project Return	Box 9	Folder 17
Racism in Westport – paper by student	Box 9	Folder 18
Red Cross	Box 9	Folder 19
Representative Town Meetings 1949-1999	Box 9	Folder 20
Representative Town Meetings – articles	Box 9	Folder 21
Revolutionary War, including Revolutionary soldiers – paper read to DAR by Rev. J. E. Coley, 1903	Box 9	Folder 22-24
Roads – "Early Roads in Westport" by Irving Patney and Mrs. Charles Cutler	Box 10	Folder 1
Roosevelt, Eleanor – visit to Westport 1948	Box 10	Folder 2
Saugatuck families	Box 10	Folder 3
Selectmen	Box 10	Folder 4
Ships and boats	Box 10	Folder 5

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Slavery and enslaved people – reference material and clippings	Box 10	Folder 6
Slavery and enslaved people – research of Diane Ciccone: Journeys of Freedom – The Bennett, Brunk, Holmes and Parish Family Stories	Box 10	Folder 7-8
Souvenir programs – various performances and events	Box 10	Folder 9
Special Olympics, 1995 – See Photographs Collection		
Sports	Box 10	Folder 10-11
Stagecoach – "Milestone Recalls Olden Days" by E.C. Birge, 1935	Box 10	Folder 12
Stone walls	Box 10	Folder 13
Stores and houses – miscellaneous	Box 10	Folder 14
Storms of August 4, 1931 and November 25, 1950	Box 10	Folder 15
Tavern signs	Box 10	Folder 16
Telephone	Box 10	Folder 17
Tools	Box 10	Folder 18
Tombstones	Box 10	Folder 19
Town Green – adjacent to Wheeler House	Box 10	Folder 20
Transportation: automobile	Box 10	Folder 21
Transportation: ferries	Box 10	Folder 21
Transportation: railroad – general, clippings; New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad	Box 10	Folder 22
Transportation: railroad - history	Box 10	Folder 23
Transportation: railroad – correspondence, telegrams	Box 10	Folder 24
Transportation: railroad – timetables, tickets, manifests, forms	Box 11	Folder 1
Transportation: railroad – Commuter Action Committee – correspondence, reports, clippings, 1972-1974	Box 11	Box 2-3
Transportation: trolley	Box 11	Folder 4
Trout Brook	Box 11	Folder 5
Tyrone's Raid	Box 11	Folder 6-9
Utilities: water and electric - history	Box 11	Folder 10
Victoriana – Peterson's Ladies National Magazine, 1879 – Santa Claus, 1977	Box 11	Folder 11
Weather	Box 11	Folder 12

Western Reserve Historical Society	Box 11	Folder 13
Weston	Box 11	Folder 14
Westport writers and publishers: Robin Moore, John A. Tarrant, Olivia Vlahas, Richard Scarry, Elsie McCormack, John G. Fuller, Roberta Brandes Fuller, Ruth McKenny, Harold Goldsmith	Box 11	Folder 15
Westport-Weston Board of Realtors	Box 11	Folder 16
Westport neighborhoods	Box 11	Folder 17
Westport Sanitarium	Box 11	Folder 18
Witches	Box 11	Folder 19
"The Wonderful World of Westport" – Frank Jacoby film, 150th anniversary	Box 11	Folder 20
World War I info re. Westport	Box 11	Folder 21
World War II info re. Westport	Box 11	Folder 22
World War II memorial, honor roll	Box 11	Folder 23

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Newspaper Issues and Clippings

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs from late 1800s, early 1900s, published in newspaper	Box 12	Folder 1
Issues of The Westport Advertiser (1869), The Westporter (1876)	Box 12	Folder 1a
Westport history, John S. Jones Publications, The Westporter - "Reminiscences", 1876-1903	Box 12	Folder 2
Westporter Herald – "The story of Westport"	Box 12	Folder 3
Republican Sentinel, Evening Sentinel, Norwalk Hour - social columns, 1893-1908	Box 12	Folder 4
Misc. clippings, Jesup Green history, 1924-1998	Box 12	Folder 5
Westporter Herald, 1927	Box 12	Folder 6
Westporter Herald – cyclone/hurricane, tidal wave, 1935-1938	Box 12	Folder 7
Westport downtown, early days, 1900s-1940s	Box 12	Folder 8
Misc. clippings, 1940s-2013	Box 12	Folder 9-11
Town Crier, 1961-1969	Box 12	Folder 12

"Yester year" – photos of old Westport in Westport News, 1964	Box 12	Folder 13
Misc. clippings, 1965	Box 12	Folder 14
Westport News, 1970-1975	Box 12	Folder 15
Westport News, NY Times, Bridgeport Sunday Post, 1971-1978	Box 12	Folder 16
Westport News, 1984-1999	Box 13	Folder 1
Westport News, Westport Minuteman, 1999	Box 13	Folder 2
Misc. clippings, 2000-2004	Box 13	Folder 3
Misc. clippings, 2001-2013	Box 13	Folder 4

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