

Perspectives of the Past: Exploring Connecticut's Revolutionary War Era History

Written by Candi Sterling, Librarian

This month is the time for ice cream, beach days and Fourth of July celebrations. It's also the perfect time to stop by the Norwalk History Room and discover Connecticut's role in the nation's independence. History can be learned from many viewpoints and each one contributes to building a comprehensive picture of the past. To truly experience history, one must look at the nuanced details that surrounded the major outcomes... these are the details that the History Room is full of!

When seeking to understand Connecticut life during the American Revolution, there are several resources that give unique insights from distinct perspectives. One example of this is [*From Puritan to Yankee, Character and the Social Order in Connecticut, 1690-1765*](#) by Richard L. Bushman. A book that examines colonial society from political and economic perspectives, this resource provides an introductory backdrop of daily life and the surrounding circumstances that existed at the dawn of the Revolutionary period.

[*Connecticut Education in the Revolutionary Era*](#) by J. William Frost is another informative, history filled gem. Focused on the years 1763 - 1800, this resource gives insight into how education was part of the social fabric of colonial life. It also presents the notion (among others) that an educated colonial population was a driving force of the Revolutionary War.

[*In Connecticut's Black Soldiers 1775 - 1783*](#), David O. White highlights the contributions and impact of black Americans during the years surrounding the war. Through this work, the author studies and curates research and historical accounts that illuminate black participation in the Revolution in the midst of eighteenth century colonial society.

As Norwalk is situated along Connecticut's coastline, the city has its merit as being part of Revolutionary maritime history. In [*History of Maritime Connecticut During the American Revolution, 1775 - 1783, Volume One*](#), author Louis F. Middlebrook guides readers through the harbors, ships and expeditions that are unique to Connecticut and Norwalk during this period. Volume two focuses on Revolutionary era Congressional records and Connecticut privateers.

Interestingly enough, some of the Revolutionary War history continues to have relevance today. Norwalk's documented Yankee Doodle controversy is one such example. At the center of this matter is the debate on how Yankee Doodle's mysterious origin has been connected to Norwalk by some yet regarded as legendary folklore by other history experts. The Yankee Doodle files within the History Room reveal much about the long-standing local issue!

Like the Yankee Doodle files, all of the Revolutionary War resources above (and more!) accessible at the Norwalk Public Library/History Room. If you wish to find out more about the Norwalk History Room, please go to our [webpage](http://www.norwalkpl.org/162/Norwalk-History-Room) on the NPL website: <http://www.norwalkpl.org/162/Norwalk-History-Room>