

The Litchfield Historical Society is dedicated to presenting the history of the town of Litchfield, Connecticut through dynamic exhibits, diverse programs, growing collections, and innovative research.

Mission Statement

The Litchfield Historical Society illuminates the rich and nationally-significant history of Litchfield, enabling each of us to construct meaning from the past for the present and future.

The Litchfield Historical Society operates:

The Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library

The Library is open year-round to researchers and houses information about Litchfield's 280 years of growth and change as reflected through the papers, publications, photographs, and ephemera of local residents, homes, businesses, institutions and organizations.

The Litchfield History Museum

exhibits the evolution of the town from its settlement in 1719 to today. Through changing exhibits, artifacts and archives, as well as hands-on areas, visitors can explore the diverse history of the town.

The Tapping Reeve House & Litchfield Law School

takes visitors on a journey through the 19th-century life of a real student who came to Litchfield for an education at the Litchfield Law School or the Litchfield Female Academy. The Litchfield Law School was America's first school of law. Through role-playing, hands-on areas, and interpretive exhibits, each visitor explores timeless issues of travel, communication, education, and community.

Litchfield Historical Society

P.O. Box 385
7 South Street
Litchfield, CT 06759
(860) 567-4501
www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Hours of Operation:

Offices and Shop

Monday-Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library

Tuesday-Friday year-round
10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Museums

mid-April through November
Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.



How to Donate to the Collections



Find out how you can contribute to the museum's growing collection of artifacts, rare books, manuscripts and personal papers.



What is important about the Collections?

The Litchfield Historical Society's museum and library collections comprise the backbone of the institution.

Staff and volunteers generate all of the exhibits, research, publications, education and public programs, and special events from the Historical Society's collections. Today, the Historical Society collects items with historical value or meaning significant to the institutional mission, with an emphasis on the history of the town of Litchfield from its founding to the present. The collections document all areas of town: the center village, Bantam, Northfield, East Litchfield, and pre-1850s Morris. They enable us to make direct connections to the past to understand the present and future.

The majority of the museum and library collections were donated as gifts. We are an active collecting institution.

The organization occasionally purchases items from auctions, antique dealers, or private donors but the majority of the collections are given to the museum through the generous donations of local patrons. It is through this continued patronage that the collections are able to grow. By actively acquiring objects and papers from both Litchfield's past and present, the Historical Society maintains a diverse permanent collection for use in exhibits, educational and public programming, and research.

- scrapbooks, photographs, diaries, certificates
- deeds, account books, and records of local businesses
- and any other item that contributes to understanding the town's history, including the present day

What's in the Collections?

Our collections support the Litchfield History Museum, The Tapping Reeve House & Litchfield Law School, and the Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library.

Artifacts include:

- paintings, sculpture, clocks, drawings, furniture, textiles, costumes, personal accessories, ceramic, glass, and metal household items

Archives include:

- rare books of local significance, manuscripts of residents, organizational records of civic and religious groups, family genealogy

And much more!

Why donate to the Collections?

Each donation helps the society grow.

With each donation the Historical Society is able to improve its interpretation of Litchfield's past through exhibits, programs, and research. If you would like to support our efforts to care for and preserve the collections, donations can be made to the Historical Society's **acquisition and preservation funds**.

Your donation will be properly cared for and preserved in perpetuity for future generations.

The Historical Society provides an environmentally-controlled, secure storage and exhibit environment for its collections. The staff of the Society is professionally trained with advanced degrees in their fields of study.

The collections are accessible and searchable online.

With staff and volunteers constantly working to input information into the collection databases, the majority of the permanent collections are publicly accessible, helping the Society become a resource for researchers, students, and museum professionals on an international level.

I think I have something to donate....

Contact the Historical Society. Our Curator of Collections and Curator of Library & Archives will discuss with you whether the item is appropriate for our collection. The most direct way to contact our staff is by calling us at (860) 567-4501

Consider an appraisal. The IRS considers donations over a certain value to not-for-profits a deductible action. If the item you are considering donating has a monetary value, you may want to consider having it appraised prior to donation. The Historical Society staff do not conduct appraisals for potential donors. It is the responsibility of the donor to contact an appraiser, set up the appointment, and pay for the service.

Arrange the delivery or pickup. The staff is happy to work with you to arrange either the delivery of the item by the door or have a staff member pick the item up.

To contact the collections staff:

Curator: curator@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Archivist: archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Be sure to visit our website at
www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org

