Research Guide to Native American Resources at the Connecticut State Library

This research guide summarizes some of the Library’s most important historical and genealogical holdings relating to Native Americans. To find the materials most relevant to your research, please consult the categories below.

*Please Note:* An Archives Pass is required to use most of the materials described below. Please refer to the “Rules and Procedures for Researchers Using Archival Records and Secured Collections,” for information regarding retrieval times. Some materials may be located at an off-site storage facility and may not be available on a same day basis.

**New England Native American Resources**
- Books & Articles

**Connecticut Native Americans – Historical & Genealogical Resources, Various Tribes**
- Books & articles
- Genealogical Indexes and Census Records
- Deeds
- Maps
- Place Names
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**Connecticut Native Americans - Specific Resources by Tribe**
- Mohegan and Pequot
- Niantic
- Paugussett
- Schaghticoke

**Connecticut Native Americans – Legal Resources**
- The Law and Legislative Reference Unit’s Guide to Native American Legal Resources at the Connecticut State Library, and the Permanent Bill File.
New England Native American Resources

Books & Articles

Selected items of interest are listed below. Researchers should also check our catalog for additional titles. Try a subject search for “Indians of North America,” or “Indians of North America - New England.”

*American Indian Report.* Springfield, VA: Dartmouth Institute [CSL call number E 75 .A64].


Schoolcraft, Henry R. *Historical and Statistical Information Respecting the History, Condition and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States* [CSL call number E 77 .S381 1975]. Subject access to this set is through the separate *Index to Schoolcraft's Indian Tribes of the United States* compiled by Frances S. Nichols (Washington, DC: GPO, 1954) [CSL call number Special Collections E 77 .S381 Index]. Headings of note include Eliot, John; King Philip; Mohegans; Occum, Sampson; Pequots; Uncas.


Williams, Roger. *A Key into the Language of America: or an Help to the Language of the Natives.* Providence: Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Tercentenary Committee, Inc., 1936 [CSL call number E 99 .N16 W7].

Connecticut Native Americans – Historical & Genealogical Resources

Books & Articles

Selected items of interest are listed below. Researchers should also check our catalog for additional titles. Try a subject search for “Indians of North America Connecticut,” as well as under the names of specific tribes.


Guilette, Mary E. American Indians in Connecticut, Past to Present. Connecticut Indian Affairs Council, 1979 [CSL call number ConnDoc In15 guam]. Deals with the historical background of Connecticut tribes, the separation of Native Americans from their original tribal lands, and the recent trend toward their regaining ownership and control of their tribal lands and resources.


Vertical File Resources. See specifically the folders in the History and Genealogy Unit's local history vertical file entitled:

Connecticut - Indians - Bibliographies, maps, brochures
Connecticut - Indians - General articles and internal affairs
Connecticut - Indians - Museums, artifacts, powwows
Connecticut - Indians - Relations with whites

Genealogical Indexes and Census Records

The History and Genealogy Unit of the Connecticut State Library holds a number of genealogical indexes to births, marriages, deaths, and burials; microfilmed federal census records for Connecticut; and microfilmed early land records for all of Connecticut's 169 towns.

The 1900 and 1910 federal censuses for Connecticut contain special enumeration schedules that list Native Americans living as a group. These entries are found after the regular census for the town in which the group was living. Connecticut census records are available on microfilm here at the State Library or through LDS Family History Centers, and online through Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest.

Deeds

The selected items listed below are materials from the Manuscripts and Archives catalog that can be found under the subjects "Indian deeds." Researchers should also check the Manuscripts and Archives catalog under the headings "Indians of Connecticut" and "Indians of North America -- Connecticut," as well as under the names of individuals and towns.

- Collection of certified copies of documents relating to the Colony of Connecticut, and deeds relating to the towns of Fairfield and New Fairfield, Connecticut, 1662-1767. 8 Docs. [CSL call number Main Vault 974.6 C762m].

- Contemporary copy of Indian deed for Quinebaug lands, Apr. 28, 1659, with supporting affidavits re bounds, etc. [CSL call number Main Vault 970.1 C76q]. Copy on parchment made May 28, 1659. See Robert C. Winthrop Collection, Doc. 110 [CSL call number Main Vault 974.6 W73].

- Cottepesed (Cattepeset), sachem. Deed given to Mrs. Anna Stanton & her sons, John, Joseph and Daniel Stanton, May 6, 1679 [CSL call number Main Vault 970.1 C].

- Fitch, James, Jr. Indenture between Capt. James Fitch of Norwich and William Stoughton, Samuel Shrimpton, and Wait Winthrop, for Indian lands in eastern Connecticut and adjoining parts of Massachusetts, dated May 7, 1686 [CSL call number Main Vault 970.1 C76f]. Mentioned in the Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Fifth Series, vol. VIII, Pg 460 [CSL call number F 61 .M41 1885].

- Haddam, Connecticut. Deed given by the Indians to Matthew Allyn and Samuel Willis, for land that became the town of Haddam, May 20, 1662 [CSL call number Main Vault 974.62 H11d 1662]. Photostatic copy of original deed found on page 129 of Town Records No. 1, Town of Haddam.

- Hartford, Connecticut. Extracts of records including ... records of the proprietors, Indian deeds, and patent relating to Hartford, Connecticut, 1635-1760. 48 docs. [CSL call number Main Vault 974.62 H25te]. Mostly
copies of original documents.

- Norwich, Connecticut. Miscellaneous town papers including land papers, 1659-1813, and legal papers, 1743-1790. 38 docs. [CSL call number Main Vault 974.62 N84mtp].

- Springfield, Massachusetts. Indian deed signed by Menis, Machetuhood, and others, given to William Pynchon, Henry Smith and Jehu Burr for land on east and west side of the Connecticut River, which comprised the town of Springfield, Massachusetts. Dated Agawam, July 15, 1636 [CSL call number Main Vault 974.62 Sp84d 1636]. This item has been microfilmed. See L. H. film number 4428 in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room. It is also available through LDS Family History Centers (LDS film # 0002085).

- Windsor, Connecticut. Indian deeds. [CSL call number Main Vault 974.62 W76in].
  - Wotshimin (or Spanniumppe) to John Bissell, Jr., Sept. 20, 1660
  - James Eno & John Moses. Release of Nessahagen to purchase town of Windsor, Dec. 1699
  - Arramamatt & Repequam. Resale or confirmation of land previously sold to Plymouth Company, July 4, 1670
  - Quashabuck, widow of Coggerynosset, and her son Ousqua, to Capt. Benjamin Newbury, Daniel Clark, Simon Wolcott, Henry Wolcott and Return Strong, May 19, 1687
  - Toto, grandson of Nessacowen, deed for land between Namerack Brook & Scantic River, Sept. 26, 1687

- Wyllys, George, Jr. Letter written by George Wyllys, Jr. while Secretary of State, at Hartford, Connecticut to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull, concerning the Indian deeds given by Capt. John Mason, especially those given to the towns of Norwich, Lyme, Colchester and Lebanon. Aug. 27, 1770 [CSL call number Main Vault 974.6W96].

Maps
Researchers will also want to consult our online catalog and the map card catalog located in the History and Genealogy Reading Room for additional materials.


**Place Names**

General sources on Native American place names are listed below. See also the Robert C. Winthrop Collection.


**Archival Record Group (RG) Materials**

*RG 000, Classified Archives*. Access to the Classified Archives is through the Manuscripts and Archives Card Catalog in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room. Specific headings include:

Indian deeds (see the listing for Deeds above).
Indian wars
Indians
Indians of Connecticut
Indians of North America - Connecticut

*Samuel Wyllys Papers* [CSL call number Main Vault 974.6 fW97]. An amazing group of 88 court documents from 1600s Connecticut, including two documents relating to Indian land transfers. The Samuel Wyllys Papers have been digitized and made available on-line through the State Library's Digital Collections page.

![Document Image]

*Jonathan Trumbull Papers* [CSL call number Main Vault 974.6 fT76]. This collection of Connecticut colonial and early state official papers ca. 1631-1784 was collected by Governor Jonathan Trumbull, Sr. at the direction of the General Assembly. The papers were arranged into 30 volumes; volume 19 burned in 1825. The alphabetical index (by subject and surname) includes headings for:

- Indian atrocities
- Indian deeds
- Indian land titles
- Indian school at Farmington

For many years this collection was housed at the Massachusetts Historical Society, which published selected items in its *Collections*, Fifth Series, vols. IX and X and Seventh Series, vols. II and III. Researchers dealing with Native American issues should consult the Fifth Series, vol. IX [CSL call number F 61 .M41 1885]. This volume contains material from volume 22 of the Trumbull Papers manuscript (Narragansett Country, 1659-1699). The volume also includes letters of Dr. William Samuell Johnson relating to the "Mohegan Case" tried in the Privy Council in London ca. 1771. Spelling was modernized for publication. The preface to this volume lists items from volume 22 that were not included as they were previously published elsewhere.

*Robert C. Winthrop Collection of Connecticut Manuscripts*, 1631-1794, 4 vols. [CSL call number Main Vault 974.6 W73]. Consists of papers from the Winthrop Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society pertaining to the early history of Connecticut. See the index (volume 4) under the headings "Indians," "Cassasynomon," "Owaneco," "Uncas," and the names of specific tribes. See also the separate indexes of Indian Personal Names (p. 35) and Indian Place Names (p. 42).
RG 001, Early General Records, *Connecticut Archives: Indians, Series I and Series II*. Early General Court papers pertaining to Native Americans, including land disputes, the Mohegan land controversy, and other Indian affairs. The indexes to *Series I* and *Series II* are available online. The original documents have been microfilmed and are located in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room. The second copy of the *Connecticut Archives Indians,* *Series I,* and *Series II* microfilms are available through Interlibrary loan. Ask at your local public library for more information.

In addition to these specific *Indians* series, researchers should check the general indexes to *Connecticut Archives,* *Series I and Series II*, located in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room, under the names of specific individuals, tribes, and towns, and under the following headings:

- Five Nations
- French and Indian hostilities
- Frontier defense
- Indian affairs
- Indian conspiracy
- Indian deeds
- Indian reservations
- Indian roads
- Indian reservations
- Indian roads
- Indian scalps
- Indian schools
- Indian surrenders
- Indian titles
- Indians
- Six Nations

The original Connecticut Archives volumes are available for use only if the microfilm is not legible or is not available. For more information on this collection, please see "*Connecticut Archives," 1629 - 1820.*


The volumes in these series through the year 1818 have been published and are held by major research libraries throughout the country. Check the indexes for each volume under the heading "Indians" as well as under the names of specific individuals and tribes. Note that in some of the early volumes of the *Public Records* that Native Americans are listed in the general index rather than in the name index. [CSL call number History Reference Conn Doc G 25].

RG 002, Records of the General Assembly. Files of the General Assembly, including public acts, special laws, resolves, and rejected bills from 1821 to 1983 are included in State Archives Record Group 002. Though not indexed, the papers are arranged by session. Files for the nineteenth century may contain petitions and reports of committees on the disposition of the bills. The published *Finding Aid to African Americans and Native Americans, 1808-1869*, is available for reference at the History and Genealogy Unit information desk. Additional copies of this title may be available through Interlibrary Loan. Ask at your local public library for more information.

RG 003, Records of the Judicial Department. In addition to the regular court files and record books, researchers should consult the 'Papers by Subject' for each court under 'Indians.' This is a collection of materials removed from the main court files by library staff in the early 20th century.
For example:

New Haven Superior Court, Papers by Subject, Indians

- Box 303: Contains documents relating to the Turkey Hill Indian Tribe of Derby.

See also the separate finding aids for Litchfield County Court Minorities Collection, 1753-1854 and New London County Court Native Americans Collection, 1698-1855

**RG 005, Records of the Governors of Connecticut.** There is much information pertaining to Native American affairs within the papers of Connecticut's governors. Many 20th century governor's records are filed alphabetically by subject. Individual finding aids for these records are available on-line (see Subgroup 25. John H. Trumbull, 1925-1931, through Subgroup 38. Lowell P. Weicker, 1990-1994). Researchers should check under a variety of different subjects. Suggestions include: "Indians," "Indian Affairs," "Environment," "Environmental Protection Department," "DEP," and "Welfare Department." In addition, researchers should check the papers of earlier governors in RG 005 as well as the Jonathan Trumbull Papers and the Robert C. Winthrop Collection.

Indian related materials in RG 005, William A. O'Neill records, were identified while processing this collection. These materials are listed below:

**Series 001 Constituent Letters**

- Box 21, Folder 16: Attorney General
- Box 81, Folders 191 - 198: DEP - Indian and Indian Affairs
- Box 87, Folders 16 - 17: Federal - Matters
- Box 188, Folder 22: OPM (Office of Policy and Management)
- Box 200, Folder 19: Public Safety
- Box 255, Folder 10 and 142: Washington Office and Women

**Series 002 Legal Counsel Records**

- Box 266, Folders 8 and Folder 6: Indian Reservations and Indian Land Claims Settlement Act

**RG 079, Records of the Department of Environmental Protection.** Two Series within RG 079 specifically contain Indian related materials:

**RG 079:018, Office of Indian Affairs, 1836-1995 (Bulk: 1976-1995).**

**RG 079:001, Department of Environmental Protection: Central Office, 1944-2004.** Within RG 079:001, see in particular:

**Series 001, Commissioner, 1957-2004, Subject Files of Rita L. Bowlby, Executive Assistant to Commissioner Dan W. Lufkin, 1973-1975**

- Box 16-2: Indian Affairs Council, Indian Affairs (Annual Reports), Indian Affairs (Welfare Department), Indian Affairs (Historical Data), Indian Affairs (General)
- Box 16-4: Indian Reservations Acquisition 1988-027

**Series 001, Commissioner, 1957-2004, Subject Files of Commissioner Douglas M. Costle, 1973-1975**
• Box 18-7: Indian Affairs Council
  Accession 1988-027

**Series 001, Commissioner, 1957-2004, Subject Files of Commissioner Stanley Pac, 1973-1980**

  Accession 1988-024

**Series 001, Commissioner, 1957-2004, Subject Files of Commissioner Stanley Pac, 1977-1987**

• Box 17: Indian Affairs
  Accession 1988-018

**Series 006, Staff Services, 1972-1985, Subject Files of Director of Administrative and Staff Services, George S. Russell, under Commissioners Gill and Pac, ca. 1975-1979**

• Box 3: Indian Affairs
  Accession 1988-022

**Connecticut Native Americans - Specific Resources by Tribe**

**Mohegan and Pequot**

Additional materials are located under the heading Connecticut Native Americans – Historical & Genealogical Resources, Various Tribes

**Mohegan & Pequot, Books & Articles**

Selected items of interest are listed below. Check our catalog for additional titles. Try a subject search for “Mohegan Indians” or “Pequot Indians”


**Mohegan & Pequot, Deeds**

The selected items listed below are materials from the Manuscripts and Archives catalog that can be found under the subjects "Indian deeds" and "Uncas."

- Lyme, Connecticut. Lyme Land Records, 1735-1739, on which are recorded deed from Oneco to Mr. Selden and deed from Ben Uncas to town of Lyme [CSL call number Main Vault 974.62 L89d1]. Photostatic copies. This item is also available on microfilm. See Lyme Land Records, Volume 6, pages 229, 244, and 245, film # 2020 in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room. It is also available through LDS Family History Centers (LDS film # 0004680).


- Uncas, chief of the Mohegans. Uncas deed of 1665, Old Saybrook, Connecticut [CSL call number Main Vault 974.62 OL2u].

- Uncas, sachem of the Mohegans. Articles of agreement made between Uncas, sachem of Mohegans, with the Colony of Connecticut. May 18, 1681 [CSL call number Main Vault 970.1 C76u]. A copy of agreement appears on page 309 in *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, Vol. 3, 1678-1689*.

- Uncas, sachem of the Mohegans. Deed to Richard Houghton of neck of land called Massapeage, Aug. 16, 1658 [CSL call number Main Vault 974.6 Un2]. This item has been microfilmed. See L. H. film number 4428 in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room. It is also available through LDS Family History Centers (LDS film # 0002085).

**Mohegan and Pequot, Maps**


• "Map of Part of Land in Montville Sequestered by the State for use of Mohegan Tribe of Indians." (n.p.), 1861? [CSL call number History Reference Map Case 912.7462 M76].
• Morgan, Daniel, Jr. "Boundary Line around the Pequot Reservation in Groton, April, 1793." (n.p.) [CSL call number History Reference Map Case 912.7462 G91b]. Photostatic copy.

**Mohegan & Pequot, Archival Record Group (RG) Materials**

**RG 000, Classified Archives**

Hebard, Leonard. Papers relating to Mohegan Indians, 1699-1861 [CSL call number Main Vault 970.3 H37]. Thirty-one documents including observations on claims of Samuel and John Mason, lists of Mohegan Indians, 1774 and 1861; petitions asking that Indians and Negroes with no right to Mohegan land be removed, etc. A bound photocopy of this collection is kept at the History and Genealogy information desk.

Pequot Indian Papers. Consisting of account book kept by William Williams and Enos Morgan, overseers to the Pequot tribe of Indians in Groton, Connecticut, 1813-1820 [CSL call number Main Vault 970.1 P31]. This item has been microfilmed. See L. H. film number 4425 in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room. It is also available through LDS Family History Centers (LDS film # 0003627) on the same film as Miscellaneous French and Indian War records.

Pequot Indian Papers. Consisting of accounts of Leonard C. Williams of Stonington, Connecticut, overseer of the Pequot tribe of Indians of North Stonington, 1868-1875 [CSL call number Main Vault 970.1 P32w]. Includes list of names of Indians in the tribe ca. 1868-1869.

**RG 003, Records of the Judicial Department**

New London County Superior Court, Papers by Subject, Indians Accession 2001-035

- Box 1: Eastern Pequot, 1856 - 1877
- Box 2: Mashantucket Pequot, 1758 - 1887
- Box 3: Mohegan, 1743
- Box 5: Other Indian Papers, 1826 - 1907. Includes overseer reports for the Mashantucket Pequot and Eastern Pequot Tribes.

New London County County Court, Papers by Subject, Indians Accession 2001-034

- Box 1: Eastern Pequot, 1822 - 1855
- Box 2: Mashantucket Pequot, 1758 - 1855
- Box 3: Mohegan, 1715 – 1854
- Box 5: Other Indian Papers, 1760 - 1851

New London County Court Native Americans Collection, 1698 - 1855. A database of records to the 396 cases involving Native Americans has been created. Accession 2004-036

RG 006:30, Records of the Secretary of the State
- Box 15: Indian Overseers' reports, 1881 - 1884. Includes reports on Mohegens, 1861, 1881; Pequots (Groton, Ledyard) 1878.


RG 069:018, Records of Norwich Free Academy. Note: This collection is presently on indefinite loan to the State Archives from Norwich Free Academy.
- Box 3: Use copies of documents pertaining to Native Americans. Includes:
  
  Series 12: Deeds and related documents
  No. 232: Onkos, Owaneco, and Attawanhood, sachems of Mohegans, deed to the town of Norwich, 1659 [Printed copy].
  No. 233: Owonoco to Joseph Stanton, 1710

  Series 13: Indians
  No. 236: List of Mohegan Indians, 1827-1830, as taken by new overseer
  No. 237: Statement concerning Mohegan Tribe of Indians, May 1860
  No. 238: Appointment of Joseph Williams as overseer to Mohegan Indians residing in New London County, Mar. 1827

  Series 21: Miscellaneous Books


RG 079, Records of the Department of Environmental Protection

See in particular: RG 079:018, Office of Indian Affairs.

PG 180, Lewis Sprague Mills Photograph Collection. Box 2, "Indians", contains rare black and white photographs of the outdoor reconstruction and other "Living History" items of Gladys and Chief Harold Tantaquidgeon. The Tantaquidgeons are direct descendants of Uncas, chief of the Mohegans and also of Samsom Occum, the first Indian Christian missionary.
**Niantic**
Additional materials are located under the heading Connecticut Native Americans – Historical & Genealogical Resources, Various Tribes

**Niantic, Books & Articles**


**Niantic, Archival Record Group (RG) Materials**

**RG 000, Classified Archives**
Warren, Moses. *Papers Connected with Office of Overseer of Niantic Indians, 1822-1826* [CSL call number Main Vault 970.1 W25]. This item has been microfilmed. See L. H. film number 4425 in the History and Genealogy Unit Reading Room. It is also available through LDS Family History Centers (LDS film # 0003627) on the same film as Miscellaneous French and Indian War records. for use only if the microfilm is not legible or is not available.

**RG 003, Records of the Judicial Department**

New London County Superior Court, Papers by Subject, Indians
*Accession 2001-035*

- Box 4: Niantic, 1855 - 1874

New London County County Court, Papers by Subject, Indians
*Accession 2001-034*

- Box 4: Niantic, 1817 - 1854

**New London County Court Native Americans Collection, 1698 - 1855.** A database of records to the 396 cases involving Native Americans has been created. *Accession 2004-036*

**Paugussett**

Additional materials are located under the heading Connecticut Native Americans – Historical & Genealogical Resources, Various Tribes

**Paugussett, Books & Articles**

For additional materials try a subject search for Paugusset Indians in our catalog.


**Paugussett, Archival Record Group (RG) Materials**

**RG 003, Records of the Judicial Department**

Fairfield County County Court, Papers by Subject, Indians

*Accession 1919-033*

- Box 163: Contains documents relating to Smith Tweedy’s bond as overseer of the Golden Hill Paugussetts (1836); Also inventory of the property of the Golden Hill Paugussett tribe logged on file by Smith Tweedy, overseer (1836).

**RG 004, Records of the Probate Courts, Probate Estate Papers.**

Estate Papers of the Golden Hill Indians, Fairfield Probate District, Date: 1769, Case #: 3267, Contains 23 Accounts of Administration, 2 Bonds, and 1 Receipt. Papers date from the 1700s and 1800s. See microfilm roll 320 in the History & Genealogy Unit Reading Room. It is also available through LDS Family History Centers (LDS film # 1018757).

**RG 079, Records of the Department of Environmental Protection**

See in particular: RG 079:018, Office of Indian Affairs.

*Schaghticoke (Scaticook)*

Additional materials are located under the heading Connecticut Native Americans – Historical & Genealogical Resources, Various Tribes

*Schaghticoke, Books & Articles*

For additional materials try a subject search for Scaticook Indians in our catalog.


**Schaghticoke, Record Group (RG) Materials**

**RG 003, Records of the Judicial Department**

Litchfield County Superior Court, Papers by Subject, Indians, 1753 - 1865

*Accession 1927-008*

- Box 343A
Litchfield County County Court, Papers by Subject, 1750 - 1855  
Accession 1927-011

Litchfield County Court Minorities Collection, 1691 - 1774  
Accession 2004-034

**RG 006:30, Records of the Secretary of the State**

- Box 15: Indian Overseers' reports, 1881 - 1884. Includes reports on Schaticokes, 1881-1884.

**Related Collections at other Institutions**

Brotherton Indian Archives, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY  
A keyword search of the library catalog(s) will bring up a listing of their holdings.

Indian and Colonial Research Center  
39 Main Street, Route 27  
Old Mystic, CT 06372

Institute for American Indian Studies  
38 Curtis Road, PO Box 1260  
Washington, CT 06793-0260

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center  
110 Pequot Trail, PO Box 31800  
Ledyard, CT 06339-3180