



Creating Community: 400 Years of Fairfield Stories

Reading List for Adults

Special Thanks to the Fairfield Public Library



This reading list features resources from the Fairfield Public Library, organized around different themes and topics explored in the Fairfield Museum and History Center’s flagship exhibition *Creating Community: 400 Years of Fairfield Stories*. [Visit the Fairfield Public Library](#) to explore these resources to complement your experience in the exhibition. Additional resources can be found at the Research Library at the Fairfield Museum and History Center ([make an appointment to learn more](#)).

About the Exhibition

Many people have called Fairfield home. The land and its resources supported Indigenous communities for thousands of years, and over the past four centuries, people with different traditions, religions, and backgrounds have overcome obstacles, crossed paths, and worked together to build the extraordinary Fairfield community we know today.

Creating Community celebrates the fascinating stories and people unique to Fairfield, from early Native American settlement into the 21st century. The exhibit features new research and archaeological discoveries on the 1637 Pequot War, Fairfield’s role in global trade, its destruction during the American Revolution, and the growth of 20th-century industries and immigration that shaped today’s diverse community. Rare artifacts from the Fairfield Museum’s unparalleled collection deepen our understanding of New England’s past and give voice to the people who have called Fairfield home.

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Indigenous Communities in Connecticut and the Region

- *Eastern Indians: An Annotated Bibliography with Emphasis on Indigenous Tribes of Connecticut* by Connecticut Indian Education Council (970.1 CONN.)
- *A History of Connecticut's Golden Hill Paugussetts* by Charles W. Brilvitch (974.69 B)
- *The Pequot Indians: An Historical Sketch* by Richard Anson Wheeler (970.4 WH)
- *Quarter-acre of Heartache* by Claude Clayton Smith (974.6 Smith)
- *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History* by Ned Blackhawk (973.049 Blackhawk)
- *The Extermination of a People: An Analysis of the Pequot War* by Adam Jay Hirsch (974 H)
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (970.004 D)
- *Indigenous Continent: The Epic Contest for North America* by Pekka Hämäläinen (970.004 HAMALAINEN)
- *This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving* by David J. Silverman (974.402 S)

Native Plants/Local Ecology and Landscapes

- *Easy Care Native Plants* by Patricia A. Taylor (GARDEN 635.9517 T)
- *Gardening in Connecticut* by Jeanne R. Chesanow (Q635.04 Chesanow)
- *Native Plants for New England Gardens* by Mark Richardson (635.9517 R)
- *The Three Sisters Quick and Easy Indian Cookbook: Delicious, Authentic recipes to Make at Home* by Sereena Kaul (COOKBOOKS 641.5954K)
- *Top 10 New England* by Patricia Harris Travel (917.4 H 2022)
- *Recipes to Make at Home* by Sereena Kaul (641.5954K)
- *Whereby We Thrive: A History of American Farming* by John T. Schlebecker (630.973 SC)

Colonial Artisans/Craftspeople

- *Connecticut Made* by Cynthia Parzych (745.5 P)
- *Hearts and Crowns: Folk Chairs of the Connecticut Coast, 1720-1840, as Viewed in the Light of Henry Focillon's Introduction to Art Populaire* by Robert Trent (Q749.31 OVERSIZE)
- *Some Notes on Early Connecticut Architecture* by Elmer D. Keith (R974.6K)

Witch Trials in Connecticut

- *Connecticut Witch Trials: The First Panic in the New World* by Cynthia Wolfe Boynton (133.43 B)
- *“Elizabeth Clawson ... thou deseruest to dye”: An Account of the Trial in 1692 of a Woman from Stamford, Connecticut Who Was Accused of Being a Witch* by Ronald Marcus (133.3 Marcus)
- *Escaping Salem: The Other Witch Hunt of 1692* by Richard Godbeer (133.43 G)
- *Spooky Trails and Tall Tales Connecticut: Hiking the State’s Legends, Hauntings, and History* by Stephen Olbrys Gencarella (Travel 917.46 G)
- *The Witchcraft Delusion: The Story of Witchcraft Persecutions in Seventeenth-Century New England, Including Original Trial Transcripts* by John M. Taylor (133.43 Taylor)

Burning of Fairfield & American Revolution

- *Connecticut’s Revolutionary War Leaders* by North Callahan (974.603 C)
- *Washington’s Eyes: The Continental Light Dragoons* by Burt Garfield Loescher (357 Loescher)
- *Connecticut’s Black Soldiers, 1775-1783* by David Oliver White (974.603W)

Culper Spy Ring

- *George Washington’s Secret Spy War: The Making of America’s First Spymaster* by John A. Nagy (973.385 N)
- *George Washington’s Secret Six: The Spy Ring that Saved the American Revolution* by Brian Kilmeade (973.41 K)
- *The Burning of Fairfield, July 7-8, 1779* by Lynne Perrigo (Q974.67 Burning)

Maritime Trade/Black Rock Harbor & Southport Harbor

- *Connecticut Waters: Celebrating Our Coastline and Waterways* by Caryn B. Davis (974.6 D)
- *Enterprise* by James P. Baughman (387.5 Baughman)
- *Rescue of the Bounty: Disaster and Survival in Superstorm Sandy* by Mike Tougias (910.9163 T)
- *The Lighthouses of Connecticut* by Jeremy D’Entremont (387.155 D)
- *The Mallorys of Mystic: Six Generations in American Maritime* (387.5 Baughman)
- *The Southport (formerly Mill River) Harbor* by John H. Perry (974.67 PE)

Enslavement in the Region

- *For Adam's Sake: A Family Saga in Colonial New England* by Allegra Di Bonaventura (974.6 D)
- *Making Freedom: The Extraordinary Life of Venture Smith* by Chandler B. Saint (B SMITH)
- *Racisms: From the Crusades to the Twentieth Century* by Francisco Bethencourt (305.8 Bethencourt)
- *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black People in America from the Civil War to World War II* by Douglas A. Blackmon (305.896 B)
- *Venture Smith: "My Freedom is a Privilege Which Nothing Else Can Equal"* by Chandler B. Saint (B SMITH, V)
- *The Slaves of Central Fairfield County: The Journey from Slave to Freeman in Nineteenth-Century Connecticut* by Daniel Cruson (306.362 C)

Bridgeport History

- *Bridgeport: A Pictorial History* by David W. Palmquist (974.69P)
- *Only in Bridgeport: An Illustrated History of the Park City* by Lennie Grimaldi (974.69 G)
- *Black Rock: A Bicentennial Picture Book: A Visual History of the Old Seaport of Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1644 to 1976* by Dick Jones (974.69 B)
- *Bridgeport Baseball* by Michael J. Bielawa (796.357B)
- *Home of Happy Dancers: The Story of Bridgeport Connecticut's Ritz Ballroom* by Jeffrey C. Williams (974.692 W)

Local Businesses and Inventions

- *Lights Out: Pride, Delusion, and the Fall of General Electric* by Thomas Gryta (338.762 G)
- *More Than Petticoats: Remarkable Connecticut Women* by Antonia Petrash (920.72 P)
- *The Label: The Story of Columbia Records* by Gary Marmorstein (781.64 M)
- *The Margaret Rudkin Pepperidge Farm Cookbook* by Margaret Rudkin (641.5 Rudkin)
- *The New GE: How Jack Welch Revived an American Institution* by Robert Slater (338.7 Slater)

Migration/Immigration in the Region

- *Connecticut Speaks for Itself: Firsthand Accounts of Life in the Nutmeg State from Colonial Times to the Present Day* by David Philip Shuldiner (974.6 C)
- *The Italian American experience in New Haven* by Anthony V. Riccio (974.68 R)
- *Making Our Way Home: The Great Migration and the Black American Dream* by Blai Imani (973.049I)
- *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson (325.73 W)

Post & Old Post Roads

- *The Old Boston Post Road* by Stephen Jenkins (917.4 JENKINS)
- *The Old Post Road: The Story of the Boston Post Road* by Stewart Hall Holbrook (917 H)
- *The King's Best Highway: The Lost History of the Boston Post Road, the Route That Made America* by Eric Jaffe (974 J)

Food & Culture

- *A History of Connecticut Food: A Proud Tradition of Puddings, Clambakes and Steamed Cheeseburgers* by Eric D. Lehman (LOCAL 641.59746 L)
- *From Hardtack to Home Fries: An Uncommon History of American Cooks and Meals* by Barbara Haber (394.1 HABER)
- *High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America* by Jessica B. Harris (641.59 HARRIS)
- *National Dish: Around the World in Search of Food, History, and the Meaning of Home* by Anya Von Bremzen (394.12 V)
- *Precious Cargo: How Foods from the Americas Changed the World* by Dave DeWitt (306.349 DEWITT)
- *Tasting History: Explore the Past through 4,000 Years of Recipes* by Max Miller and Ann Volkwein (641.509 M)
- *Did You Eat Yet? Craveable Recipes from an All-American Asian Chef* by Ronnie Woo (641.595 WOO)
- *A Common Table: 80 Recipes and Stories from My Shared Cultures* by Cynthia Chen McTernan (641.595 M)