

BENTLEY BOOKS & BITS

Bentley Memorial Library
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town.boltonct.org/library

What do you get when you mix Long Island Sound, a slippery boat deck, and a dog named Prince?

If you're Paul Sperry from New Haven, you get the idea for the boat shoe! Sperry's motivating and unintentional dip in the Sound along with some thorough investigating of the pads of his lovable – and dry – four-footed boating companion led to the design. His patent for the Sperry Top-Sider, aka "boat shoe," was issued November 14, 1939.



Get daily Connecticut history tidbits like this from the **Today in CT History** website, created by Connecticut State Historian Walter Woodward. These quick reads are a great way to start (or end) your day. Be sure to take their weekly online Trivia Challenge, too. todayincthistory.com

Looking to delve deeper into Connecticut history? Here are a few titles from Bentley's collection:

"The Circus Fire," by Steward O'Nan

O'Nan uses his narrative skills to create a riveting account of the 1944 Hartford Circus Fire. He brings to light the psychological, emotional and physical reactions of those who were there that fateful July day.

"Connecticut Coast: A Town-by-Town Illustrated History," by Diana Ross McCain

A rich history of our 24 coastal towns, beautifully illustrated with photographs from The Connecticut Historical Society. Learn what happened when Block Island's cattle were shipped to Stonington to avoid British foragers, how women in these coastal towns contributed to the Revolutionary War efforts, and so much more.

"Connecticut Firsts," by Wilson H. Faude & Joan W. Friedland

Trivia lovers, this book is for you. Filled with an entertaining and interesting group of Connecticut facts, such as the first American road surveyed in 1670 for the Norwich to New London turnpike, the 1905 invention of the "Mechanical Brain" which could add, subtract, total and print, and the culinary milestone in 1895 when Louise's Lunch in New Haven served up the first hamburger.

"Connecticut Valley Tobacco," by Brianna E. Dunlap

This book is worth a look for the photographs alone. Explore the surprising and long history of tobacco in Connecticut from Native American uses through to the effects of the Cuban market opening in 2015. "It is a story of the people – the farmers and field hands – who made tobacco the soul of the valley."

"Mills and Meadows - A Pictorial History of Northeast Connecticut," by Bruce Stave and Michele Palmer

The people, industries, and all aspects of life are captured in this history of Connecticut's "quiet corner." Richly illustrated, this book brings you back in time with over 300 photographs documenting 150 years of history.

"The Miracle of Connecticut," by Ellsworth S. Grant

A "compilation of Connecticut's most important achievements as seen through the lives of persons whom I consider its most representative citizens. I have attempted to discover and explain why, for Count Alexis de Tocqueville, the "little state you call Connecticut" was one very great miracle. The answer lies not in its physical advantages but, as Tocqueville shrewdly observed, in the people he came to know here – dreamers and doers of differing ethnic backgrounds in every field of endeavor." --- excerpt from Preface by Ellsworth Grant

Interested in one of these titles? Call, email or reserve your book today for curbside pickup – or make an appointment to come in to browse. You can reach us at 860-646-7349, or reserve through bmlcirculation@biblio.org or bentley@biblio.org.

Thanksgiving on [hoopla](#)

Hoopla has special collections to help with [Fall Cooking Inspiration](#) and [Thanksgiving treats!](#) These cookbooks are perfect for those looking for the right side to make for the big meal, or for those looking for a smaller-scale dinner option if they are opting for a smaller gathering this year. Hoopla is also a great resource for children to learn more about the history and traditions of Thanksgiving. With audiobook, ebooks, and film selections, there is plenty of content about Thanksgiving customs.

Check out the special [children's section](#), with fun children stories such as "How to Catch a Turkey" and "The Berenstain Bears Give Thanks" that are perfect for families to enjoy together.

Don't Forget... Tie Blanket How-To ZOOM Session: Monday, Nov. 30, at 7:00 p.m.

In conjunction with our first annual 'Oh So Cozy Blanket Drive,' learn how to make a tie blanket. Call or email us for the ZOOM link. The video will be available on [our website](#) beginning December 1. See [our flier](#) for more information.

Adult ZOOM Book Discussion Series: "THE FUTURE IS HERE"

We will feature a three-part online dystopian book discussion series this winter. Please contact the library to reserve a copy of the books and to receive the ZOOM link. John Valeri of Portland, Conn., will be the discussion facilitator. Join us for this thought-provoking series.

Thursday, Dec. 3, 7:00 p.m.: "Fahrenheit 451," by Ray Bradbury

Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:00 p.m.: "1984," by George Orwell

Thursday, Feb. 18, 7:00 p.m.: "Brave New World," by Aldous Huxley

LIBRARY HOURS: Open to Come In and Browse by Appointment or Pick Up Materials Outside

Mon, Tue, Thu 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wed 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



**Thanksgiving Holiday Closing:
We will be CLOSED Thursday, Nov. 26, and Saturday, Nov. 28.**