



**DEVOTIONS**

**WORKS**

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## Art, Culture, & Humanities Stories from Connecticut

### Primary Source Workshops for Students and Educators

Christine Jewell | Devotions Works LLC

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Christine Jewell is an educator, consultant, and teaching artist. She has worked in museums and historic sites in Connecticut for 25 years. She brings history to life with real stories developed from historical documents and primary sources that integrate the arts, culture, history, and the humanities.

Christine brings her passion and experience to present workshops for students and teachers. She has taught hundreds of educators and kids about the fascinating stories of this state and its role in history. Christine utilizes manuscripts, paintings, prints, primary documents, posters, and more to promote student inquiry and investigation, reinforcing curricula. Students develop important inquiry visual literacy skills, important tools for our fast-paced, digital, and visual world. These real sources promote deeper connections and foster historical empathy.



Previously Christine has worked at the Fairfield Museum, Westport Public Schools, and the Mattatuck Museum. She researched and designed hundreds of educational programs for diverse audiences throughout Connecticut. She developed a network of teachers, administrators, parents, and scholars to create inquiry-based programs rooted in Connecticut history, primary sources, museum exhibits, and collections. Christine designed Professional Development workshops and online resources for teachers that reached thousands of students. She created field trips and hands-on workshops for students that promote local history in the context of state, national, and global themes.

These tools bring history and the arts to life with real world examples of people, places, and events that resonate throughout the globe.

Education Programs are based on training by the **Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources** (TPS) program, reinforcing inquiry-based thinking. Workshops complement curricula including; Common Core, National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), CT Social Studies Standards (CSSS), English Language Arts (ELA), and Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS).

The CSSS Inquiry Arc established four dimensions of inquiry: (1) developing questions and planning inquiry, (2) applying disciplinary concepts and tools, (3) evaluating sources and using evidence, and (4) communicating conclusions and taking informed action.

**ALL Workshops can be adapted for Professional Development.**



**Becoming Free: Slavery in the North | Grades 5 - 10**

Slavery is often taught within the context of the Civil War, but its history in America begins in 1619, when the first Africans stepped foot onto North American soil in Jamestown, Virginia. As new settlements were established and the population grew, the enslavement of people became an integral part of the economy and society. Trade and farmland produced a rich abundance of commerce, products and economic development – and the Triangle Trade.

Utilizing multi-modal primary sources, investigate Connecticut's role in the Triangle Trade through shipping records, photographs, maps and statistics. Examine slave sale receipts and a petition for freedom to discover how the enslaved struggled for freedom and equality. How did Americans, both free and enslaved, react to an emerging nation fighting for independence?



**Let's Make it Local! Teaching with Primary Sources | Grades 3 +  
Teacher Workshop**

Connecticut's rich history and its online resources offer ample opportunities to support the CT Social Studies Frameworks and CT Core with local content that can enrich national and global themes to make history personal and engaging for our students. Review the CT Social Studies Frameworks, the Inquiry Arc and developing questions with students, with a special emphasis on local history.



**The Emancipation Proclamation | Grades 5 - 10**

Primary and secondary sources are viewed to explore themes based on the Emancipation Proclamation, from slavery through the civil rights period. Prints and political cartoons, many from the Library of Congress, illuminate the public opinion of Lincoln in the 1860s, from an evil instigator to heroic savior. This workshop integrates Visual Thinking Strategies and Teaching with Primary Sources to focus on paintings, prints, and political cartoons. What do these images tell us about life and politics at the time? Learning about history with visual references encourages students to think critically about political events and social history. The activities reinforce Connecticut social studies and language arts curricula, as well as Common Core standards.



### **Monuments, Markers, and Memorials | Grades 3 +**

This program can be adapted for ANY town in Connecticut.

History is all around us, every day, you just need to look! This workshop focuses specifically on the kinds of Triple Ms you may find in your town in Connecticut. What do the towns and cities in this state have in common, and what makes them unique? How does geography affect the roadways, thus the placement of Triple Ms on our roadways? In multi-part programs, students will investigate their own town, researching its history in relation to the state, region, and country. Research projects may also include a digital humanities component. Students document their towns by taking photographs, conducting oral histories, or other projects that could be uploaded to open source sites, thus helping to “put their town on the map.”



### **A More Perfect Union: America at 250**

Cities, states, towns, villages -- everywhere in America will have a celebration on the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was July 4, 1776 when this document was created. Students will learn about the roots of Connecticut as the “The Constitution State.” Find out why in this Primary Source Workshop and view visually stunning primary sources from sources such as the Library of Congress and in the state of Connecticut. Students will investigate images including objects, memorials, paintings, and posters to generate ideas on how we should celebrate and commemorate the 250th birthday of America - land of the free.



### **Witchcraft Trials in Colonial Connecticut | Grades 5 - 10**

Colonists brought a belief in witchcraft from England, where it was rooted in the Bible and reinforced by the Church, laws, and folk traditions. Colonists brought a belief in witchcraft from England, where it was rooted in the Bible and reinforced by the Church, witch-hunting pamphlets, investigation methods, and deep folk traditions. In part I, a visual presentation shows how medieval architecture, history, printing, religion, and iconography developed the traits of a “witch.” Afterwards, students work in groups to read history and testimony related to the 17th century witchcraft trials in Connecticut. How can we draw parallels between colonial New England history, “witch hunts,” and “scapegoating” today? This workshop explores guided questions including:  
How has the interpretation of law changed over the course of US History?  
How has American identity changed over time?  
In what way is tolerance hindered or supported by social beliefs?



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**Bio:** **Christine Jewell**, principal of **Devotions Works, LLC** has 25 years of professional experience in museums and education developing, leading, and promoting educational programs in the arts, history, and the humanities. She has worked with scholars and historians to illuminate exhibition themes and collections to interpret local and state history, making connections with national and global people, places, and events.

She has a BFA from the State University of New York in Purchase and a Master's in Social Policy from Empire State College / SUNY with a concentration in government and the arts. She has pursued further training in Arts Administration, Youth Development, and has a certificate in Teaching with Primary Sources from the Library of Congress. Christine was Director of Programs at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, CT, 2000 - 2008; the Director of Education and Community Programs at the Fairfield Museum in Fairfield, CT from 2008 - 2018; and was the Director of Continuing Education at Westport Continuing Education in Westport, CT from 2018-2022.

Currently Christine is a Teaching Artist and Consultant for non-profit arts and humanities organizations. She is the part-time Director of the Ancient Burying Ground Association in Hartford and teaches fiber arts and sewing classes at Artsplace in Cheshire and Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven.