

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Arch—dedicated September 17, 1886, on the twenty-fourth anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, where combined casualties of the 8th, 11th, 14th and 16th Connecticut Volunteers made it Connecticut's bloodiest day of the war.

George Keller, architect; Hiram Bissel, stonework; Samuel A. Kitson and Casper Buberl, sculptors, both of New York.

The triumphal arch, widely regarded as the most compelling of all Civil War monuments, commemorates the 4,000 Hartford citizen-soldiers who served in the Union army and navy. One in 10 of them died defending the flag.

Kitson's north frieze, "Story of the War," depicts life-size Union soldiers, sailors and marines overpowering the Confederacy. Buberl's south frieze embodies the "Spirit of Peace" as the female figure "Hartford" welcomes home her victorious heroes.

First Connecticut Heavy Artillery
Monument — dedicated September 25,
1902. Stephen Maslen Monument Works,
Hartford, designed and built the monument.

The memorial, topped by a 13-inch mortar able to lob a 200-pound shell several miles, honors the 3,800 soldiers of the regiment. The First Connecticut Heavy Artillery was among the first Union units to enlist for three-year service and formed the nucleus of the Army of the Potomac's incomparable heavy artillery prominent in the sieges of Yorktown, Fredericksburg and Petersburg, Virginia. Casualties included 31 killed, 23 fatally wounded, 68 wounded, 34 captured; also 160 died from disease and 311 men were discharged for disability.

"Andersonville Boy" Statue—dedicated 1907. Bella Lyon Pratt, sculptor. The statue, a replica of the Connecticut monument at the infamous Confederate prison camp in Andersonville, Georgia, memorializes 290 Connecticut soldiers buried there. Over 12,000 Union prisoners of war died at Andersonville from disease, exposure and starvation.

Gideon Welles Statue — commissioned 1933. Harmon A. McNeil, sculptor. Welles, from Glastonbury, was editor of the Hartford Times and founder of the Connecticut Republican Party. President Abraham Lincoln appointed him Secretary of the Navy. Welles, nicknamed "Neptune" by Lincoln, effectively expanded the U.S. Navy tenfold, from 50 vessels to more than 500, to help ensure a Union triumph.

Major General John Sedgwick Statue
Sedgwick—a West Pointer (1837), Mexican
War veteran, and career army officer—
commanded the Union army's renowned 6th
Corps in the Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and
Wilderness campaigns. For his paternal devotion
to his soldiers' well-being, he was affectionately
dubbed "Uncle John."

A Confederate sharpshooter's bullet killed him May 9, 1864 at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. Sedgwick is buried in his hometown, Cornwall Hollow, Connecticut.

Major General Alfred H. Terry
Statue — New Haven lawyer and militia
officer Terry raised the 7th Connecticut Volunteers
and directed the successful siege of Ft. Pulaski,
Georgia. He gained national attention for leading
the joint naval and land assault that toppled Ft.
Fisher in Wilmington, North Carolina, January 15,
1865.

Governor William A. Buckingham Statue — dedicated June 19, 1884; by Olin C. Warner, New York, New York.

Buckingham, a wealthy Norwich businessman, in 1858 narrowly won the governorship for the new Republican party; he was re-elected annually thereafter till 1866. As war governor, he well focused Connecticut's industrial might and manpower to preserve the Union.

Hall of Flags—On September 17, 1879, the seventeenth anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, over 100,000 spectators viewed the festive transfer of Connecticut's Civil War battle flags from State Armory storage to grand oak

exhibit cases in the State Capitol. "... Ten thousand veterans went by, regiment after regiment, bringing each its colors, faded, shot, torn, fluttering in rags or tied to the staff, carried by the hands that had made them the most honored possession of the state.... Cheers went up and tears dimmed the admiring eyes...."

Today, 116 state and national colors from 31 Connecticut volunteer infantry, artillery and cavalry regiments are in the State Capitol collection.

9 *U.S.S. Hartford* — figurehead and model. The steam sloop was built in the Boston Navy Yard and commissioned November 22, 1858.

As the flagship of Union Rear Admiral David G. Farragut, she saw fighting at New Orleans, Vicksburg, and Mobile Bay where Farragut defiantly ordered: "Damn the torpedoes – Full speed ahead!"

The *U.S.S. Hartford* served the postwar navy and survived, much altered and decayed, until the 1950's.

Connecticut Civil War Relics are featured at the Museum of Connecticut History in its "Connecticut Collections" exhibit. This can be viewed in the State Library/Supreme Court Building, directly across Capitol Avenue from the State Capitol. Free to the public.

Connecticut for the Union: The Role of the State in the Civil War by John Niven (1965) and Connecticut in the American Civil War: Slavery, Sacrifice and Survival by Matthew Warshauer (2011) are heartily recommended readings for overviews of Connecticut in the Civil War.

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