

**BIRTHDAY OF THE STATE OF  
CONNECTICUT: CELEBRATION OF THE  
TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE  
FIRST CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF  
CONNECTICUT. JANUARY 24TH, 1889**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649427260

Birthday of the State of Connecticut: Celebration of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the First Constitution of the State of Connecticut. January 24th, 1889 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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Birthday of the State of Connecticut.

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CELEBRATION

OF THE

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Adoption of the First Constitution

OF THE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT,

BY THE

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE TOWNS OF WINDSOR,  
HARTFORD, AND WETHERSFIELD,

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24TH, A. D. 1889.

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HARTFORD, CONN.:

PUBLISHED BY THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

1889.

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## PRELIMINARY PROCEEDINGS.

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The first action of the Connecticut Historical Society with reference to the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the first Constitution of the State of Connecticut was taken on the third day of January, 1888, when, upon motion of J. F. Morris, it was

*Voted*, That a committee be appointed to prepare a plan looking to the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the first Constitution in the Connecticut Colony; which anniversary will occur in January, 1889 — and that the committee shall report at a future meeting.

The following were appointed members of the committee: J. H. Trumbull, J. F. Morris, and C. J. Hoadly.

At a meeting of the Society on the third of April, 1888,

The committee appointed to consider the matter of a celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Constitution of Connecticut, reported through Mr. J. F. Morris, but suggested no definite plan. After discussion by the president, Messrs. Morris, Hoadly, Stedman, and Adams, on motion, it was

*Voted*, That S. W. Adams, and Jabez H. Hayden, Esq., of Windsor, be added to the committee, and that it be instructed to prepare an address to the people of the three towns, Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford, calling their attention to the matter, and asking their co-operation, the same to be published before the next meeting.



On motion, it was

*Voted*, That the committee be requested to report a plan for the appointment of committees to make arrangements for the celebration.

At a meeting of the Society on the first of May, 1888,

Mr. J. F. Morris reported for the committee on the celebration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Constitution in Connecticut colony; and said that so far as he could find out, the towns of Windsor and Wethersfield would be willing to co-operate with Hartford in such a celebration; but in what way or to what extent, he was not prepared to say. The committee were considering as the first, perhaps, and very necessary thing to be done, the selection of an orator; no one had been chosen. The day settled upon is January 24, 1889.

The report was accepted, the committee continued, and asked to report progress at a future meeting.

At a meeting of the Society on the eighth of January, 1889, the following matter was brought forward in some remarks by J. F. Morris. John W. Stedman presented this resolution:

WHEREAS, It is deemed proper by the Connecticut Historical Society, acting in its corporate capacity, to celebrate in a becoming manner the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of a State Constitution, in the town of Hartford, by the settlers in the Valley of the Connecticut, therefore

*Resolved*, That \_\_\_\_\_ be appointed a committee of this society, empowered to make all the necessary arrangements for such a celebration as in their judgment may be appropriate, and advertise the same in the public press of the State.

Mr. Morris offered a verbal report from the committee appointed at the January meeting, 1888. He said they had eventually agreed to have a quiet celebration consisting of literary exercises, with an address by Rev. Joseph H. Twichell, in some church or public hall on the 24th inst.

The resolution was passed, and on motion the President appointed the following committee :

Messrs. John W. Stedman (Chairman), Jonathan F. Morris, Charles J. Hoadly, Jabez H. Hayden (of Windsor Locks), Sherman W. Adams, Charles Hopkins Clark, and Edward D. Robbins (of Wethersfield), with power to add to their number.

At the first meeting, Mr. Frank B. Gay was chosen Secretary, and Mr. C. H. Clark desiring to be excused, Mr. Stephen A. Hubbard was appointed in his place.

The general committee had frequent sessions. At their third meeting they were joined by the following committee, appointed to co-operate with the Society, by the General Assembly of the State :

Hon. S. E. Merwin, Lieut.-Governor; Hons. John M. Hall and E. S. Cleveland, on the part of the Senate; Hon. John H. Perry, Speaker; Hons. W. B. Glover and Frank E. Hyde, on the part of the House of Representatives.

The following committees were assigned to carry out the detailed plans of the celebration, after the time and place for holding the same had been fixed upon, and the orator selected :

*On Invitation.* — J. Hammond Trumbull and John W. Stedman.

*On Programme of Exercises.* — J. Hammond Trumbull, J. F. Morris, S. A. Hubbard, and S. W. Adams.

*On Co-operation with the Towns.* — J. H. Hayden, J. F. Morris, S. W. Adams, and C. J. Hoadly.

*On Reception.* — Dr. W. A. M. Wainwright, Dr. Gurdon W. Russell, Rev. Francis Goodwin, James G. Batterson, Samuel Hart, D.D., Dr. E. K. Hunt, Rowland Swift, Charles B. Whiting, W. H. Gross, Stephen Terry, Charles R. Chapman, and Charles H. Clark.

*On Seating the Guests.* — J. G. Rathbun, with power to appoint his assistants.

*Representatives of the Magistrates and Deputies of the first General Court.* — John Hooker, Rev. Francis Goodwin, Thomas

W. Loomis, Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Pyncheon, Henry C. Robinson, Dr. Pinckney W. Ellsworth, Timothy S. Phelps, Roger Welles, Jonathan F. Morris, James C. Pratt, Charles J. Hoadly, Alfred E. Burr, Jabez H. Hayden, H. Sidney Hayden, Horace Bower, John A. Stoughton, Silas W. Robbins, Sherman W. Adams, Stephen A. Hubbard, Elizur S. Goodrich, Winthrop Buck.

*Selectmen.*—Horace H. Ellsworth, George W. Hodge, Fredus M. Case, for *Windsor*; George W. Fowler, Thomas J. Blake, W. Westphal, William Berry, Ralph Foster, for *Hartford*; Josiah G. Adams, Edwin F. Griswold, Willis W. Standish, for *Wethersfield*.