

DOCENT ACADEMY

From Colonial Time to Present Eras & Ages of the Thames

by New London Historian Sally Ryan

Colonial Period

- 1614 Adrian Block
- 1620 Pilgrims arrive in Massachusetts
- 1637 Pequot War: Pequot enemy, Mohegan friends
- 1646 John Winthrop, Jr. founded New London
- 1650 Ship building and trade with West Indies (esp. Barbados)
 - Shipped: horses (horse jockeys), pipe stoves, food stuff, etc.
 - Received: sugar, molasses, rum, slaves
- 1705 Town of Groton was established

Revolutionary War

- 1775 Revolutionary War
 - Nathan Hale
 - Privateers
 - September 6, 1781
 - Burning of New London leaves 97 families homeless
 - Attack at Fort Griswold kills 83 American patriots
- 1786 Town of Montville was established
- 1801 Town of Waterford was established.

Whaling Industry

- 1819 Whaling Industry
 - Whale oil for lubricants and illumination
 - Baleen or whalebone for corsets and other products, such as collar stays, buggy whips, and toys
 - Ambergris (solid, waxy, flammable substance from the digestive system of sperm whales) for a fixative, which allowed perfume scents to endure much longer.
 - Wealthy whaling families in SECT: Williams, Lawrence, Allyn families - Williams School, L+M Hospital, Lyman Allyn Art Museum

- 1859 Kerosene refinery in Pennsylvania began to replace whale oil as a lubricant beginning the end of the whaling industry.
- 1906 Last whaling voyage out of New London.

Gilded Age

- 1850 Gilded Age – started with whaling money
 - Pequot Hotel - burned in 1908
 - Pequot Chapel
 - Branford House
 - Eolia at Harkness
 - Lighthouse Inn
- 1833 New London Custom House designed by America's first architect, Robert Mills
- 1836 Amistad revolt by captured and enslaved Africans. Slavery ended in 1848.
- 1887 Union Station New London, designed by famed architect Henry Hobson Richardson, opens
- 1890 Bill Memorial Library designed by Stephen C. Earle of Worcester, Mass.
- 1892 Public Library of New London designed by the firm of Henry Hobson Richardson
- 1895 Mohican Hotel in New London built by Munsey

Transportation

- 1816 Steamboats
- 1849 Trains
- 1881 Union Station in New London designed by Henry Hobson Richardson
- 1892 Trolleys

Business and Industry

- 1850 Sheffield Tube: Silk mills, cotton gins
- 1903 Groton Shipbuilding
 - WWI: engines
 - 1924: submarines
 - WWII: 105 submarines

20th Century

- 1938 Hurricane
- 1960's Redevelopment in New London