

First Thursday

5 Aug 1993

In all, ten people assembled at the initial professional genealogists' roundtable in the lunchroom of the Connecticut State Library. Donna Siemiatkoski, who sat at the head of the table, chaired the informal discussion.

We went around the table to introduce ourselves.

Barbara Mathews of Lexington researches all periods in Connecticut and Massachusetts. She sits on the CSG Board of Governors and has published *Philo Hodge of Roxbury, CT*.

Diane Lenti of Manchester works on post-1850 families, researches at the French Canadian Library in Tolland, and enjoys immigration research.

Gerry Caruthers of Norwich specializes in Connecticut, Rhode Island and eastern Massachusetts and is a member of SAR.

Connecticut
Coordinated
Gene search

Warren Buchanan of Watertown does all types of research in Connecticut and New York State; he is ~~Snackerty Enterprises~~ and advertises in every issue of "The Genealogical Helper."

Donna Siemiatkoski of Windsor researches colonial Connecticut, notable Connecticut people, the Welles and Ellsworth families and Windsor. She is in the DAR and sits on the CSG Board of Governors.

Jack Kuras of East Hartford does title searches and land and general research. He volunteers with CSG.

Lucille Shea of West Hartford does record searching for all aspects of Connecticut.

Judy Plummer of Woodbury researches land and probate records and for Pennsylvania-tax records. She is a DAR member and sits on the CSG Board of Governors.

Ted Wohlson of West Hartford is Librarian in the Genealogy and History Unit of the Connecticut State Library.

[Dick Roberts, who joined us later, is a staff member of the CSL History and Genealogy Reading Room and resides in Storrs.]

Questions raised by the assembled genealogists:

1. How can we preserve the information we have put together? Can it be donated to libraries?
2. What can we do with material collected for clients? What are the ethics issues in sharing this material?
3. How can we make people aware of newly discovered material, such as recently uncovered marriage vital records of Woodbury?
4. What can we do to make some records more available, for example, the Catholic parish records are microfilmed, but the diocesan archives does not have a microfilm reader?

5. Can we produce a list of who we are and what areas we research and what organizations list us?
6. Can we keep abreast of happenings in the state legislature which impact our work? what about issues of adoptees and their access?

Topics cited by individuals for future activities:

- a. tours of the collections of the state library and historical society or other significant holdings
- b. publish a "journal of record"
- c. meet quarterly - fifth Saturdays were suggested - for formal presentations
- d. ethics - could we get someone like Gordon Remington to make a Saturday presentation? how about end of October?
- e. write or help produce the fact sheets used by the Connecticut State Library
- f. help in developing finding aids for the library
- g. for a fee provide classes on genealogy that go into depth and are of good quality
- h. meet to communicate and to avoid the isolation of a solitary research job
- i. provide volunteers to staff the library's information desk
- j. volunteer to donate the fees from one or two hour's a month of research time on projects that come through the library's listing to a book fund that can be used, for example, to renew subscriptions that the library has had to give up to such journals as Tree Talks
- k. use members as a sounding board for CSL policies and changes to the researchers' test
- l. register with each other the families/projects we are working on

We agreed to each put \$5 in a kitty Barbara would maintain to cover the mailings over the course of a year. In addition, Barbara agreed to send out the following material before September 2nd: list of professionals she has compiled, notes on the roundtable, and copies of the ethics codes presented in Baltimore.

We agreed to meet next at 11:45 AM on Thursday, September 2nd, in the CSL lunchroom. People will bring business cards+/resumes+/brochures to share. The earlier time will help those who have afternoon commitments. Ted Wohlson agreed to provide a tour of the library's holdings.

Hope to see you there!