

Minutes

First Thursday
2 Sep 1993

In all, 16 people assembled for the second professional genealogists' roundtable in the lunchroom of the Connecticut State Library. Donna Siemiatkoski was elected to chair the discussion and Barbara Mathews was elected to take notes.

The meeting began with an announcement made by Barbara Mathews:

On behalf of myself and other members of the board of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, I want to announce that we are not here on behalf of CSG or to represent CSG or for the purpose of using our positions with CSG for our own personal gain.

Also present and stating their concurrence with this announcement were Donna Siemiatkoski, Judith Plummer, and Jack Kuras.

Please note that Warren Buchanan's company name is Connecticut Coordinated Genesearch (CCG) and not Snackerty, as published in the last minutes.

Due to the illness of Librarian Ted Wohlson, Dick Roberts graciously altered working schedules in order to be available and provide a tour to the group. Dick's tour highlighted little-used resources and exceptions and caveats to general rules and protocols. Dick briefly told us which Library of Congress letters covered which genealogical/local history topics and explained how to determine the transitional status of books during recataloging. Finally, he introduced us to the "purple" and "orange" books.

In our general meeting, we agreed to form a Steering Committee composed of volunteers to look into name, purpose, and organizational issues. Warren Buchanan moved and Ted Little seconded that our first discussion be on the purpose of the group. This was supported unanimously. Barbara Mathews began by stating that she had been thinking along the lines of "to support and maintain high quality genealogical work in Connecticut." To this, Donna Siemiatkoski added the idea "working for others" and Ted Little noted that this distinction was also made in a recent APG quarterly article by Marcia Hoffman Rising. Warren Buchanan suggested "foster high quality work".

We also discussed several goals related to these purposes. Helen Ullman pointed out that the group could provide a forum for discussing issues in client relations. Warren suggested that we state that we will support CSL both as volunteers and by meeting with legislators. He noted that the current recataloging is taking place with only 1 staff member who is a certified cataloger. As a group we offered several ideas about areas that needed advocates with the Assembly. Two members have previously testified before committees of the Assembly on genealogy-related issues. On Judy Plummer's motion with Kathryn Black's second, we unanimously agreed to move further refinement to the Steering Committee.

We had a general discussion involving whether to hold a formal meeting on the fifth Saturday of October. We agreed on consensus to skip this October but to have further discussions on Saturday meetings.

The next discussion involved a name for the organization. Our consensus was that the name include the three words: Professional, Genealogical, and Connecticut. On a motion by Judy Plummer seconded by Kathleen Ely, we agreed to refer this matter to the Steering Committee for further refinement.

Our next discussion was begun by Helen Ullman who asked how we would be organized. It was her suggestion that the structure be simple and not require excessive administrative overhead. There was a general agreement with this point of view, so, on a motion by Sylvia Guerin seconded by Barbara Mathews, we agreed unanimously to refer this to the Steering Committee.

We agreed by consensus to send one more notice to all on the initial mailing list, then to limit mailings to those who have contributed \$5. Sylvia Guerin suggested adding to the mailing list those professionals from Connecticut advertising in the September issue of "The Genealogical Helper."

We discussed whether there were areas where we could begin refining our projects and volunteer efforts. Warren Buchanan agreed to chair a group to refine and articulate ways we could work to support CSL. We then exchanged business cards, brochures and resumes.

Finally we agreed by consensus to set our next First Thursday meeting for coffee break time, i.e., Thursday, October 7th, 2:15-3:15. The interim mailing to be sent by Barbara Mathews will include the minutes of this meeting and an agenda for the next.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Mathews

Accepted: DRAFT

Attendees
2 Sep 1993

Donna Siemiatkoski of Windsor has 10 years of professional experience and is a member of CSG and the DAR. She has published the Welles and Ellsworth genealogies and researches colonial Connecticut, notable Connecticut people, the Welles and Ellsworth families and Windsor. She was founding President of the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor (DFAW).

Diane Lenti of Manchester researches all areas and periods in Connecticut. She especially enjoys working on post-1850 families, and ethnic immigrants and she researches at the French Canadian Library in Tolland.

Helen Ullman of Acton, MA, is currently working on the genealogy of Peter Mills of Windsor. Helen is a certified genealogist with specialty areas in all of Southern New England and Norway; she especially enjoys Norwegian work. She sits on the Board of Trustees of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Judy Plummer of Woodbury is a genealogist returning to professional work after a brief hiatus due to family needs. She does all areas and periods of Connecticut research (particularly pre-1850), but her own family research takes her into Pennsylvania. She is a DAR member.

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

Ted Little of Old Saybrook is a Certified American Lineage Specialist who does general research and missing heir work. He especially enjoys lineage work and getting to know the individuals and their biographies. He is a past winner of the CSG book award.

Tom Langdon of Southington does research work on Connecticut and Long Island families.

Kathryn Black of Acton, MA, is a librarian at an LDS Family History Center, a volunteer at NEHGS, and is currently researching Western New York state, and New Jersey.

Jonathan Shea of New Britain teaches languages at CCSU and specializes in Eastern European and Irish research. He is founding President of the Polish American Genealogical Society of Connecticut.

Barbara Mathews of Lexington, MA, researches all areas and periods in Connecticut and Massachusetts. She is staff genealogist with the Massachusetts chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames.

Warren Buchanan of Watertown does all types of research in Connecticut and New York State. He is CCG, that is, Connecticut Coordinated Genesearch, and advertises in every issue of "The Genealogical Helper." Warren has decades of experience in genealogy but only became a professional 15 years ago.

Sylvia Guerin of Meriden has 6 years of professional experience. She teaches adult education classes and Boy Scout merit badges in genealogy and researches all periods in Connecticut. Her special interests include French-Canadian and Cajun research. She recently stepped down as President of the Southington Genealogical Society.

Barbara Ferris of Wethersfield has been a genealogist since 1935. She specializes in Connecticut research before 1850 and has published with co-author Grace Knox three reference books, two volumes on divorces and one book called *Nutmeggers Who Migrated*.

Kathleen Ely of Haddam researches house histories, diaries, and local genealogy.

Jack Kuras of East Hartford does genealogical record searches and title searches and has a company called Search East.

Dick Roberts of Storrs is a staff member of the CSL History and Genealogy Reading Room.