

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council

6 October 1994
Connecticut Historical Society

Attending: Kathryn S. Black, Warren D. Buchanan, Lorrie Hamblin, Harlan Jessup, Jack E. Kuras, Dianne Lenti, Barbara J. Mathews, Donna Siemiatkoski, and Helen Ullmann.

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Siemiatkoski at 10 AM. New member Harlan Jessup introduced himself. A business consultant for team-based organizations, he has been doing genealogy for two years and is just becoming professional. He lives in Newtown, Connecticut.

On a motion by Jack Kuras, seconded by Kathryn Black, the minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

Barbara Mathews gave the treasurer's report. Fifteen members have paid dues since the last meeting and the Council's finances are now on a stable footing. An income and expenses report for September was distributed.

Membership pins have been obtained. The pins show the Council logo - an outline of Connecticut with the words CPGC. Forty pins in all were received. Twenty bearing the extra motto "Charter Member" are available to all who join by the end of our first year, that is, before 10 Nov 1994. By the end of the day, nearly half of the charter membership pins were sold. On a motion by Warren Buchanan, seconded by Barbara Mathews, prices were unanimously set to \$2 per pin, or \$3 if postage and handling are included. Pins should be ordered from Barbara Mathews, 18 Blossom Street, Lexington, MA 02173-8110.

Lorrie Hamblin provided a report on the activities of the Tourism Committee. She has not received any additional letters from the statewide tourism council. She has decided to take a different approach, by actually writing a few suggested paragraphs for the tourism guide, and showed us the paragraphs and a cover letter. She is also planning to contact the Greater Hartford group for inclusion in their brochures.

Donna Siemiatkoski presented the report of the Legislative Committee. She was able to report a very positive information sharing with Jennie Rasmussen of the Family History Center in Bloomfield. In addition, she reported on an informational meeting with Lynn Newall and Dick Ackroyd of the Connecticut State Library. The library has obtained a Family Search computer, additional microfiche and microfilm, all purchased from a one-time allocation for capital equipment which the library received last year. The library continues to operate with open positions that are unfunded although allocated.

Donna Siemiatkoski also reported on a meeting with Jean Bushey, Acting Registrar for Vital Statistics for the State of Connecticut. Mrs. Bushey reports she soon will be sending a letter to the President of the Town Clerks' Association suggesting that a committee be formed between her staff, the town clerks, and the Council to foster communications. Mrs. Bushey is also researching whether it is within her authority to return the place of birth of parents to the death certificate form used within the state, as the Council requested. She is also checking into making a space in the front area of Vital Records where the public can access the indexes on microfiche. Mrs. Bushey also plans to address an access problem that arose in Norwalk and about which the Council informed her. Many present expressed pleasure about the cooperation of Mrs. Bushey.

Helen Ullmann reported that she has written to Alain Allard of the Genealogical Society of Utah about the reassignment of the CSL microfilmmers to New York City, affirming our concerns that outstanding projects in Connecticut continue to be addressed. Mr. Allard must assess priorities throughout the Northeastern US and Canada when assigning the society's work crews. He had not responded to this letter at the time of our meeting.

Under New Business, and following up on a suggestion and action item, Lorrie Hamblin also presented the Council with a proposal for a Speakers' Bureau. Members present agreed to review the proposal for discussion at the next meeting.

On a motion by Warren Buchanan, seconded by Jack Kuras, we unanimously voted to adjourn the business portion of the meeting.

For the program portion of the meeting, Helen Ullmann presented the second half of her detailed discussion of LDS records.

Please Come!

Our next meeting will be our Annual Meeting

November 10, 1994

10:00 AM

Connecticut Historical Society

There will be two speakers:

Steven R. Leibowitz, Accountant

&

Jean Bushey, Acting Registrar of Vital Records

If you wish to obtain a Member Pin, please send \$3 (\$2 for pin and \$1 for postage and handling) to Barbara Mathews, 18 Blossom Street, Lexington, MA 02173-8110. Again, checks should be made payable to Barbara Mathews.

We have a limited number of Charter Member pins. The first eight members to respond will receive a pin with the phrase Charter Member while others will receive the plain Council logo. Anyone who joins before our Annual Meeting on November 10th qualifies as a Charter Member.

Supplementary thoughts for General Assembly: Tourism

Genealogical research also provides the basis for a significant amount of tourism to Connecticut. Genealogy continues to be America's third most popular avocation, and millions of Americans have Connecticut "roots." Studies by the Council have shown that in 1993 approximately 10,000 out-of-state visitors patronized four Capitol-area research facilities alone. The richness of the State Library's collections is well known nationally in genealogical circles, and last year there were at least 3,000 out-of-state visitors to the State Library, even with the partial closure and in the absence of direct promotion of the facility. The Council has submitted to the Connecticut Department of Economic Development's Tourism Division a detailed proposal for upgrading the state's genealogical records repositories, including the State Library, and marketing Connecticut (particularly the Capitol area) as a destination for both professional and amateur genealogists.