

# Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council

8 September 1994  
Connecticut Historical Society

Attending: Kathryn S. Black, Warren D. Buchanan, Gerald M. Cruthers, Kathleen S. Ely, Sylvia M. Guerin, Lorrie Hamblin, Judith Ellen Johnson, Jack E. Kuras, Diane Lenti, Barbara J. Mathews, Judy Plummer, Jonathan Shea, Donna Siemiatkoski, Neil Sundt, and Helen Ullmann.

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Siemiatkoski at 10 AM. Because our expected speaker, Mrs. Dillon, was unable to appear, Council member Helen Ullmann took the podium to present "Beyond the Obvious in LDS Records." Mrs. Ullmann discussed the resources to be found at all LDS Family History Centers. In particular, she explained many fine details in finding source/correction information in the various elements of the Family Search computer system. Materials were distributed to explain the types of sources for the IGI and how to obtain the documentation behind the computer record.

Donna Siemiatkoski resumed the business portion of the meeting at 11 AM. On a motion by Jack Kuras seconded by Warren Buchanan, the minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved without change.

Barbara Mathews presented the Treasurer's Report. She showed that, while the Council is in the black by \$9.78, this is due primarily to remaining funds from the anonymously donated seed money by which the organization was started. When viewing expenses and income over the past year only, the Council has lost money. After a brief discussion and review of the financial reports, on a motion by Kathryn Black seconded by Jack Kuras, the members voted unanimously to set the dues for 1994-5 at \$10 per person.

Mrs. Mathews also presented the costs of producing enamel pins of the Council's logo for members. The silkscreening company priced these pins at 95 cents each with a one-time artwork fee of \$22.50. For 40 pins, this would average about \$1.50 per pin. It is possible to have a subset of the pins also carry the words "charter member". On a motion by Kathryn Black seconded by Judith Plummer, the group unanimously authorized Barbara Mathews to obtain pin samples.

Lorrie Hamblin reported on the response of the state's tourism and economic development bureau to the Council's proposals on genealogy-related tourism. The bureau sent application forms for state matching funds available only to non-profit tourism groups. While the information was helpful, it did not appear to answer the suggestions raised by the Council. Lorrie Hamblin passed this information on to Barbara Mathews, chair of tourism for the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, which is a non-profit organization. In addition, on a motion from Judith Plummer seconded by Diane Lenti, Lorrie Hamblin was authorized to continue her work with the tourism bureau.

Lorrie Hamblin related that her proposal for a Speakers Bureau has been drafted. She agreed to make a full report on her proposal at the next meeting of the Council.

Donna Siemiatkoski discussed the resumption after the summer holidays of the volunteer effort of the Council at the Connecticut Historical Society where Council volunteers are indexing the files of Betty Linsley. People willing to be on this task group should contact Donna Siemiatkoski for the next meeting time. Any Council members working on any project at CHS should contact Judy Johnson to be placed on the historical society's volunteer mailing list.

Various members reported that Jean Bushey, Acting Registrar Vital Records, apparently followed-through on her commitment to the Council to make Town Clerks aware of which societies within Connecticut met the requirements for incorporation under the opinion of the Attorney General on open vital records. Council members have seen the list of five societies posted in several towns. In addition, Council members reported access problems in both Norwalk and Stamford. Warren Buchanan is following through on these problems.

Donna Siemiatkoski presented a three-page listing of issues to be raised in Council to the General Assembly, the state library, and town clerks. On a motion by Jack Kuras seconded by Diane Lenti, the Council members present agreed unanimously to authorize the Government Relations Committee to follow up on these issues, particularly in Council to meetings planned with various official agencies.

Barbara Mathews presented information to the group regarding the course on Eastern European genealogy to be presented by Jonathan Shea at Tunxis Community College.

Donna Siemiatkoski brought up concerns raised by the absence of the LDS microfilm crew from the Connecticut State Library. The group discussed the many benefits of past cooperation between the state archives and the Genealogical Society of Utah whose dedicated volunteers aided the paid microfilm technician in the filming process. Records have been preserved and made accessible to all and the library has benefitted by receiving duplicate copies for free of all films made. Original records are saved wear-and-tear through the use of films. The monetary savings to the state of Connecticut is incalculable. The service to millions of state residents as well as to millions of out-of-state descendants has also been enormous. Council members are particularly concerned that the ongoing efforts to microfilm records of the "missing" probate courts continue unabated.

On a motion by Kathryn Black seconded by Kathleen Ely, the Council unanimously authorized Helen Ullmann to follow up with the genealogical society and the Government Relations Committee to follow up with the state library.

In view of the number of business issues now before the Council, members present agreed to meet again in one month, on October 6th. We will hear the second half of Helen Ullmann's presentation on LDS records and we will continue discussions on the many important business and professional issues raised during this meeting.

On a motion by Barbara Mathews seconded by Gerry Cruthers, we adjourned at 12:15.

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Next Meeting:

Thursday, October 6, 1994

10 AM, Connecticut Historical Society

Helen Ullmann, "Beyond the Obvious in LDS Records," part 2.