

MINUTES

CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS COUNCIL

5 January 1995

Meeting held at Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford CT

Present: Donna Siemiatkoski, Jack Kuras, Dianne Lenti, Dr. Robert Rafford, Kathryn Black, Ronald Cormier, Tom Langdon, Harlan Jessup, Neil Sundt, Helen Ullmann and guest John N. Boccaccio.

Our guest John N. Boccaccio, Registrar of Vital Records, with the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services presented concerns, thoughts and comments regarding the vital records and professional genealogists. Some of the points covered were:

1. Jean Bushey, Assistant Registrar of Vital Records, will be the liason between the Department of Health and CT Professional Genealogists Council.
2. The CT Department of Health will be moving to a new address on Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT by the end of 1995.
3. If possible, he is hoping to develop a vault with a "library" atmosphere at the new facility, where existing indices of vital records will be available to researchers. "Imaging" of vital records, via computer (C.D.Rom), may also be feasible in the future.
4. Mr. Boccaccio expects to meet with the State Attorney General in an effort to get current written verification of the law's interpretation regarding vital record restrictions.
5. Any professional researcher may call Jean Bushey at the Registrar's office, (203-566-6545) or request a Town Clerk to do the same if there is any question regarding access to the town's vital records.
6. He suggested that we contact the President of the Town Clerk's Assn, offering to have a liason from our group attend their meetings, or vice versa.

We thank Mr. Boccaccio for his time and expertise in meeting with our group to discuss our concerns regarding access to, and the preservation of, Connecticut's vital records.

Meeting Called to Order at 11:45 a.m. by President Donna Siemiatkoski.
Minutes of previous meeting were accepted by members present. Motion by Jack Kuras (2) seconded by Kathryn Black. CPGC currently has 51 members.

President Donna Siemiatkoski reported that Helen Hodge has resigned as office manager of the CT Society of Genealogists. The personnel committee is currently conducting a job search for a new office manager at their East Hartford location. We thank Helen for her dedication to CSG.

Sr. Theresa McQueeney is no longer serving as the Archivist for the Hartford CT Roman

Catholic Archdiocese. She announced this in a letter to the President canceling her presentation in April 1995.

Jack Kuras reported that the LDS Family History Center has opened at Woodside Street in Manchester CT. The hours are Weds 6-8, Thurs 1-4 and Sat 9-1; phone: 203-643-4003.

Judith Johnson introduced Kelly A. Nolin, new librarian for the CT Historical Society. We wish her well in her new position with CHS.

Tom Langdon reported for the CPGC Legislative committee. He has written a bill, to come before the CT Legislature, for conformity in the \$5.00 fee charged for birth certificates. A motion was made and accepted to endorse the proposed bill for conformity in the \$5.00 charge for birth certificates. Motion by Kathryn Black seconded by Neil Sundt.

Tom further noted that New York state currently adds a \$5.00 charge to all land transactions. The proceeds are used for archival purposes --- microfilming and preservation. Ron Cormier moved that Tom draft a bill with similar intent, stating that "a land record fee which would be dedicated to archival usage". Motion withdrawn pending review of written copies of Tom's proposal by members.

Ongoing volunteer efforts of CPGC at the CT Historical Society was discussed. The group will be meeting on Monday January 23 at 10:00 a.m. at CHS. Anyone interested is welcome to attend and help with archival preservation of manuscripts.

Donna Siemiatkoski received a call from Dr. Christopher Collier, State Historian, suggesting that CPGC might like to "network" with his group of historians and archivists and vice versa, especially in regard to legislation and support of the Connecticut State Library. He is in touch with town historians and all persons agreed that this was very positive and would like to see same.

Ron Cormier announced that Eastern Connecticut University is now breaking ground for a new library which is expected to house the archival material on Canadian Studies currently at Columbia University. Dr. Irene Glasser is now in charge of Canadian studies at Eastern Connecticut University.

Dr. Rafford asked if anyone is doing feminist genealogy. It was acknowledged that there are now mitochondrial DNA studies and matrilineal lines being published.

CPGC future meeting agenda includes:

Feb 2, 1995, Update on Vital Records, State Library Budget, New Legislation.
Mar 2, 1995, Fr. Caroon, at the Episcopal Archives, Hartford CT

NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1995, 10:00 A.M. AT THE CT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1 ELIZABETH ST, HARTFORD, CT. Free parking available.

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 12:45 p.m. Motion by Kathryn Black seconded by Ron Cormier.

Dianne B. Lenti, Associate Secretary