

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council

Thursday, 5 October 1995
Connecticut State Library

Attending: Bob Bamford, Kathryn S. Black, Harlan Jessup, Dianne B. Lenti, Barbara J. Mathews, Bob Rafford, Richard C. Roberts, Lucille Shea, Donna Siemiatkoski, Helen Ullmann.

Business Meeting:

We met in the Conference Room at the Connecticut State Library, just across the hallway from the Lunch Room.

On a motion by Dianne Lenti seconded by Harlan Jessup, the minutes were accepted with the following six changes:

1. Append to first paragraph: We voted to send a note of congratulations to Dick Roberts.
2. Fourth paragraph, second line, change to "records, with particular..."
3. Fifth paragraph: "Richard Ackroyd"
4. Seventh paragraph: "Mrs. Robertson"
5. Page 2, first paragraph: omit "CPGC"
6. Page 2, fourth paragraph: change the paragraph to show that Donna Siemiatkoski will escort the NERC-sponsored bus.

Barbara Mathews presented the Treasurer's Report. The group has \$283 in its kitty, but almost all of that is earmarked for the next printing of the Member List. On a motion by Harlan Jessup seconded by Kathryn Black, the group voted to set the dues for next year at \$15. For the Secretary's Report, Barbara passed out copies of the current mailing list. Right now, we have 52 members, 1 honorary member, and four complementary copies of our mailings, for a total of 57 on the mailing list.

On behalf of Warren Buchanan, Barbara reported that work is progressing on the next Member List. Warren has completed his rework, but there has been a suggestion to wait on reprinting until after the November meeting, when new officers will be elected.

Barbara Mathews gave a report on the New England Regional Conference Committee and requirements for participating societies. Requirements include a fee of \$150 and sponsoring a speaker at each conference. Some risks are involved, for example, should a conference come out in the red, member societies have to chip in to cover the costs. Societies can also share in proceeds when conferences are successful. The next conference is said to be planned for Cromwell, Connecticut, and will probably take place late in April, 1997. A handful of societies from Connecticut participate in conference planning. It was decided that further study and discussion was needed and we agreed to take this subject up again at our next meeting.

Members of the Nominating Committee appointed during the past month are Harlan Jessup, Bob Bamford and Judy Plummer. They have worked hard to put together a slate of officers for the upcoming year. The slate is:

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| President | Donna Siemiatkoski |
| Vice President | Warren Buchanan |
| Secretary | Dianne Lenti |
| Treasurer | Bob Bamford |
| Member-At-Large | Harlan Jessup |

Harlan Jessup discussed the difficulties the Nominating Committee had in finding people to run for office. The committee suggested changes to the bylaws to break the job of Secretary/Treasurer up into two offices. Recording and corresponding tasks would remain with the Secretary while financial and membership tasks would remain with the Treasurer. On a motion by Bob Bamford seconded by Barbara Mathews, we agreed to recommend these changes to the membership at the Annual Meeting in November. The changes are:

- Article 6, Officers, change first sentence to read: “The officers of the council shall consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Member-at-Large.”
- Article 6, Duties of the Officers, change the first sentence of the last paragraph to: “The Secretary shall keep a careful record...” Change the second sentence to “The Treasurer shall receive all money from dues and other sources, keep membership records, and disburse such sums as are directed by the Executive Committee.”

Barbara Mathews took the gavel for a discussion of recognitions we wish to make at our next meeting, which will include our Annual Meeting. On a motion by Harlan Jessup seconded by Kathryn Black, we decided unanimously to commend Donna Siemiatkoski for her work on behalf of all genealogists in establishing communication with the Town Clerks Association. The gavel was then returned to President Siemiatkoski.

On a motion by Kathryn Black seconded by Dianne Lenti, we determined that we wish to commend John Boccacio and his Staff for enhancing communications with genealogists and for establishing the volunteer program for research in vital records.

Kathryn Black announced the latest mailing from the Federation of Genealogical Societies. It is a directory of member societies. Anyone wishing information can contact Kathryn.

On a motion by Bob Bamford seconded by Kathryn Black, we set our next meeting time. It will be at 9:30 AM, on Thursday, November 2nd, at the Connecticut Historical Society. On a motion by Harlan Jessup seconded by Bob Bamford, we adjourned the business portion of the meeting.

Speaker:

Dick Roberts, Unit Head of History and Genealogy at the Connecticut State Library, spoke on the topic, “What’s New at the State Library (Besides the New Unit Head).” He brought us up-to-date on staffing, acquisition, cataloguing, space-planning computerization efforts, and on plans for the future.

The library is now searching internally within the state’s library system to fill one full-time position and one part-time position, both to be held by trained librarians. It is hoped that these positions will be filled soon after Thanksgiving. During the summer, with the extreme shortage of staff, the library has had to give up answering queries for information from the card indexes. New staff might well mean the chance to resume this activity.

The library was privileged to receive the collection of French-Canadian and Acadian genealogical materials bequeathed to them by Robert R. Bisailon of Waterbury. These works are now being catalogued and added to the collection.

During 1994, the library added a Family Search computer and many CD ROM databases. Among the new CD ROM databases are census indexes. During this year, the library is placing a focus on adding what are called the “scattered ports” microfilms. These are from the National Archives and represent passenger lists for smaller ports of entry, including a few in Connecticut. The library has:

- Miscellaneous ports: 1820-1874 index (188 rolls); passenger lists (16 rolls)
- Boston: 1848-1891 index (282 rolls), 1820-1891 passenger lists - note no index 1820-1847
- New York: 1820-1846 index (103 rolls) - CSL plans to add the passenger lists covered by this index

In summation, Dick suggested we check out the library’s web homepage:
<http://www.csu.ctstateu.edu/state.html>
 or send him e-mail at: rroberts@csunet.ctstateu.edu