

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council
Post Office Box 4273, Hartford, Connecticut 06147-4273

MINUTES - THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 1996

Meeting held at Trinity United Methodist Church

180 Park Avenue, Windsor Connecticut

Attending: Donna Siemiatkoski, Dianne B. Lenti, Robert Bamford, Jack Kuras, Lucille Shea, Robert Rafford, Warren Buchanan, Judy Plummer, Gail Frey, Neil Sundt, Edwin Ledogar, Kathryn Black, Harlan Jessup, Betty Chapman and Bonnie Norman.

Business Meeting: was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by President Donna Siemiatkoski.

Secretary's report was read and accepted. (1) Kathryn Black (2) Bob Bamford. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report was read by Bob Bamford and placed on file for audit with cash on hand of \$417.92.

New Members: Bonnie Norman of Manchester CT has been working on her family's ancestry for some time and is starting her own research business. Betty Chapman of Groton CT is active in the Fort Griswold Defenders and does research in the Groton, New London, Stonington area as well as Charlestown and Westerly RI.

General Member Update & Introductions: Warren Buchanan has recently returned from a two week vacation in Wales, Scotland and England. He reports that many British [government] offices no longer furnish a list of area researchers, but are doing research for a fee; approximately \$23.00-\$25.00 per hour (U.S. Funds). Neil Sundt and his wife recently returned from an "excellent" tour of Ireland with Connecticut Heritage Tours (Donna Siemiatkoski). Ed Ledogar, past president of the French-Canadian Genealogical Society and current executive director of the new Killingly Historical Center reported that the center has had over 6,000 visitors in the past 6 months. Ed is also a consumer advocate. Kathryn Black has been appointed the new second assistant of the National Family History Center in Nashua New Hampshire. The Nashua center has a lot of English and French Canadian materials in addition to the IGI and expected materials found at all centers world wide. Kathryn also volunteers at the CT Historical Society on a project to sort and catalog Jacobus correspondence. Helen Ullmann is currently in Chicago speaking at the Newbury Library. Robert Rafford, a Middlebury CT resident and Chaplain at the

Waterbury Hospital, does genealogical research in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, including New York City. He also teaches genealogy at a local college. Warren Buchanan is currently working on a book of the "Jelliff" family. He does genealogical research in Connecticut and New York; plus some of New Jersey. Donna Siemiatkoski, specializes in Colonial CT, especially Windsor. She has authored various publications and is currently working on four books. Jack Kuras conducts research under the name of "Search East", specializing in Connecticut records. He also volunteers at the City of Hartford CT Vital Records Department. Dianne Lenti searches Connecticut records particularly post 1840 immigrants. Harlan Jessup of Newtown CT will search Connecticut's early records including the Bethel Congregational Church Records. Harlan has published articles. Lucille Shea researches all of New England; predominantly Connecticut, all time periods. Gail Frey recently received her associates degree in Business Administration and Accounting. She specializes in Southern Maine and some Massachusetts research.

Committee Reports:

Federation of Genealogical Societies representative Kathryn Black will not be able to attend the August 1996 conference at Rochester NY. Jack Kuras moved that Donna Siemiatkoski be appointed as our representative at the conference; seconded by Judy Plummer. Motion carried.

New England Regional Conference delegate Gail Frey reported on the recent meeting in Waltham MA. Contracts for the conference are expected out by June 3, 1996. The conference committee has planned three tours to six sites plus two sight-seeing trips in conjunction with the conference April 25-27, 1997 in Cromwell CT. Brochures will be printed and sent to each society for duplication and distribution to their membership. Each member organization will receive one page in the syllabus in which they can advertise their society, etc. Organizations and/or interested persons can list queries in a conference bulletin at the rate of \$5.00 for 50 words (prior to January 15, 1997) or \$10.00 for 50 words (after January 15, 1997). The rates for the rooms at the Radison Hotel in Cromwell CT will be \$77.00 per night. Member Gail Frey will be our representative in addition to our President. Motion carried. (1) Bob Bamford (2) Dianne Lenti.

Legislative Update: Legislative Committee members are Warren Buchanan, Donna Siemiatkoski and Judy Plummer. Donna Siemiatkoski spoke with Bernadette Dillon on Wednesday June 5, 1996 regarding the recent vital records legislation passed by the General Assembly in S.B.301. Bernadette agreed that the new legislation opens up all records to more people and clarifies that birth records more than 100 years old will now open (which was previously a point in question by many). Member Ed Ledogar stated that he did not like the wording of the new legislation and feels that all records should be open to everyone. He had sent a letter, dated April 22, 1996, to the Attorney General asking for a ruling on the law in regard to access of vital records, but had agreed not to contact the Governor (regarding same) until after today's meeting. It was pointed out that CPGC members had strived to gain the cooperation of the town clerks in a "consensus building" way and the resulting new bill is indeed an improvement over the old legislation. A lengthy discussion ensued with all members present debating the advantages and possible disadvantages of the new legislation, with Ed Ledogar being the most adamant objector. [Robert Rafford called point of order. The President ruled him out of order. Kathryn Black moved to close debate; Gail Frey seconded. 9 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain. Bonnie Norman called ruling of the Chair.] Judy Plummer then moved that we table discussion until the

Town Clerk's Association has printed their definitive directions of the new law; seconded by Bonnie Norman. Robert Rafford called point of order. Donna Siemiatkoski ruled that aforesaid motion is in order. Vote was 13 yes, 1 no. Motion carried. Bob Bamford moved that the CPGC Legislative Committee come back to the next CPGC Board meeting, with a copy of the Town Clerk's Association definitive directions which will be issued to the town clerks; Jack Kuras seconded. Motion carried. Donna Siemiatkoski clarified that Ed Ledogar will be pursuing the definition of the new law with the Attorney General's office on his own behalf as he had planned. (Note: A copy of the new law will be available at the next meeting and copies will be included with the next minutes/newsletter.)

Vital Records Update: Warren Buchanan reported that the CT Department of Health (Vital Records Bureau) has not yet signed a contract for the microfilming of the vital records. This, currently, makes the statewide vital record copies (approximately 1897-1994) unavailable to the public for an indefinite period of time. Remember to contact the town of occurrence for copies of any Connecticut vital records.

General News of the Genealogical Community: Connecticut Ancestry is currently re-organizing and will have a new slate of officers. They are anticipating a very positive "rejuvenation" for the future.

The Connecticut Society of Genealogists has elected Stuart Brush as President for the coming term, and two new board members were elected; Robert Bamford and Bud Henley.

Old Business: Newsletters/Minutes. Dianne Lenti reported that it would much simpler and less expensive if the minutes were mailed as folded material with a sticker holding them together, rather than using the envelopes. If this were done, it would save greatly on our stationery costs. By consensus the group agreed to allow the Secretary considerable latitude in mailing the minutes.

New Business: None to report.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:57 a.m. (1) Warren Buchanan (2) Jack Kuras

Dianne B. Lenti, Recording Secretary

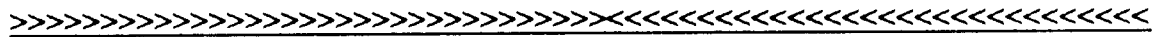
PROGRAM: "Computer Resources for the Genealogist"

Robert Bamford of Bristol CT presented us with many options now available to the genealogist. He gave us tips on the better genealogical programs, on-line services and CDs. He spoke with expertise, but at a level that everyone could understand; which was certainly welcome by those of us that are not as computer literate as he is. Among the many items now available on CD are census, marriage and social security death benefit records, plus phone lists, map programs, registers, Savage "First Settlers of New England", 800 numbers and residents lists. Bob recommends Pro-CD of Danvers MA for the best phone [number] disc. It is possible to search by names or parts of names in the NEHGS Register CD or Savage "First Settlers....". Street atlases are another avenue of resources for the genealogist when wanting to pinpoint the area that your ancestor came from. On Line services offer usenet news groups, e-mail, bulletin boards, internet and world-wide availability of nearly unlimited data. If you have not gotten on-line or are not using a CD

yet; he recommends that you try it. Bob also handed out lists of e-mail sites and new web sites.

COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO THE GENEALOGICAL COMMUNITY

- July 12-13, 1996 - NEHGS Conference at Farmington CT
- August 16-17, 1996 - FGS Conference at Rochester NY
- September 12, 1996 - CPGC Meeting, Hartford CT; "CT Vital Record Access"
- October 10, 1996 - CPGC Meeting, Hartford CT (Program to be announced)
- November 6-9, 1996 - CSG Washington DC trip
- November 14, 1996 - CPGC Annual Meeting, Hartford CT; "Business Concerns for the Genealogist" by Judith M. Plummer, Tax Consultant and Past President of the CT Society of Genealogists.
- December 5, 1996 - CPGC Meeting, Hartford CT (Program to be announced)
- January 12-19, 1997 - CSG Salt Lake City trip
- April 24-27, 1997 - New England Regional Gen. Conf. at Cromwell CT



NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1996 10:00 A.M.

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

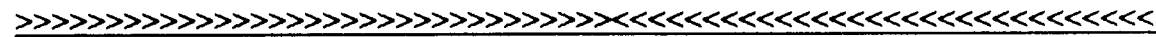
1 ELIZABETH ST (CORNER OF ASYLUM)

HARTFORD CT

PROGRAM: "CONNECTICUT VITAL RECORDS ACCESS"

Speaker: BERNADETTE DILLON

**Legislative Liason Committee Chairman for the [CT] Town Clerks Assn
Immediate Past President of [CT] Town Clerks Assn.**



NOTE: For your convenience we have enclosed a copy of an advertising application blank for anyone wishing to advertise in the "Directory of Professional Genealogists" which will be listed in the September-October 1996 issue of *Everton's Genealogical Helper*.
Deadline is July 15, 1996.