



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

**MINUTES - THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 1996**  
**Meeting held at the Connecticut Historical Society**

**Attending:** Donna Siemiatkoski, Dianne B. Lenti, Warren Buchanan, Kenneth Buckbee, Harlan Jessup, Judith Johnson, Robert Bamford, Jack Kuras, Robert Rafford.

**Special Guest:** Connecticut State Senator Thomas Upson speaking in reference to Connecticut State Statute 7-41A.

**Business Meeting:** The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President Donna Siemiatkoski. An important legislative matter regarding Connecticut State Statute 7-41A became known to the executive committee of CPGC within the past few days. There was not time to notify all members and it was felt that this meeting needed to be turned over to discussion of same. The originally scheduled agenda was tabled to the April 4 1996 meeting. President Donna Siemiatkoski suggested that we adopt a working document to change and improve the statutes currently in effect.

Warren Buchanan moved that we act on composing a working document to be presented to the Connecticut State Legislature regarding the correct statute language needed to address vital statistics records available for genealogical research. Motion carried.

Members present reviewed various items which the negotiators could amend without further consultation. Motion to strike "who produce identification" from Section 2 was denied. Vote was 2 for, 6 against. Motion to strike last part of sentence after "identification", Section 2; vote was 2 for, 6 against.

Question arose as to whether or not CPGC should add a penalty clause, at this time, to Statute 7-41A if persons did not comply with the proposed law as written. Vote was 1 "yes", 6 "no", 1 abstention. Suggestion regarding same was that it may be worthwhile to have a statement regarding "fraudulent use of records" by any person(s).

Harlan Jessup moved that Donna Siemiatkoski and Warren Buchanan present this working document to the Town Clerk's Association and Connecticut General Assembly, with minor amendments without further approval by CPGC. Motion carried unanimously.

*Dianne B. Lenti, Recording Secretary*

Note: Copy enclosed of proposed act concerning access to Connecticut Vital Records shows strikeouts and underlines representing additions and deletions in the negotiating process and is the proposal submitted to the Judiciary Committee on 3/19/96 by Donna Siemiatkoski and Warren Buchanan; Legislative Committee.

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 4th; SEE NOTICE ON PAGE 2.**



**Upcoming Events of Interest to the Genealogical Community:**

1. April 4 - CPGC Meeting; "Things that were missed in Barbour"
2. March 30 - Polish Genealogy Workshop, New Britain CT.
3. April 13 - Roots 12 Conference at Huntington , Long Island
4. July 12-13 - NEHGS Conference at Farmington CT
5. August 16-17 - FGS Conference at Rochester NY
6. April 24-27 1997 - New England Regional Gen. Conf at Cromwell CT



**UPDATE: VITAL RECORDS SECTION OF THE CT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS CLOSED TO ALL REQUESTS FOLLOWING MARCH 15, 1996.**

The latest update on the move of the CT Department of Health to 410 Capitol Avenue, states the bureau is closed to the public for an indefinite amount of time after March 15, 1996. Please remember that volunteers will be needed for quality assurance of microfilmed records in the future. Original copies of births, deaths and marriages will continue to be available in the town or city of occurrence and of residence.

*Donna Siemiatkoski, President.*

<b>NEXT MEETING:</b>	<b>THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1996.</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>10:00 A.M.</b>
<b>AT:</b>	<b>CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>1 ELIZABETH ST (CORNER OF ASYLUM)</b>
<b>PRESENTATION:</b>	<b>"THINGS THAT WERE MISSED IN BARBOUR"; a study of Newtown &amp; Windsor CT records, by Harlan Jessup.</b>

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO CONNECTICUT VITAL RECORDS  
CPGC approval--3\7\96; as submitted to Judiciary Committee on 3/19  
after review by State V.R. Registrar and Town Clerks Association

Title 7, Sections 7-41a, 7-51, and 7-51a shall be repealed and the  
following substituted:

Section X-YZ

1. Persons over the age of 18 may purchase copies of marriage and  
death records in the custody of the Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital  
Records regardless of the age of the record.  
[this is the law currently].

2. a. Persons over the age of 18 may purchase copies of records of  
births in the custody of the Town Clerk which occurred more than 72  
100 years before the date of the request.  
~~[this age is consistent with the federal guidelines for re-  
lease of the federal census which also shows age and parents vir-  
tually all persons of this age are deceased; all records before  
1900 were filmed under 7-51a and are now available worldwide].~~

b. Access to records of births occurring less than 72 years ago  
is restricted to the individual, his or her legal guardian, his or  
her parents, grandparents, children, or ~~grandchildren~~ spouse, the  
chief executive officer of the town, title searchers, attorneys,  
officials of state and federal agencies, and members of genealog-  
ical societies incorporated to do business in Connecticut who  
produce identification.

[access limited as now, except that some family members are  
included and the phrase "incorporated to do business in CT" is  
added, from the 1975 AG opinion]

3. Access to vital records to members of genealogical societies de-  
fined in paragraph 2 shall include: a) ~~physical~~ full access to all  
vital records in the custody of the Town Clerk/Registrar of Vital  
Records including certificates, ledgers, record books, card files,  
indexes, database printouts, and so forth except confidential files  
on adoptions; b) making notes from such records; and c) obtaining  
copies of such records for a fee as determined by state statute.

[defines access as noted in the 1975 AG opinion--insures that  
genealogists may search the records in context and not be limited  
to having the Clerk search and bring an individual record, assures  
Clerks that our intent is not to interfere with adoption law]

4. Access to and purchase of vital records shall be permitted  
during all normal business hours.

[by this provision we hope to expand situations ~~like New Haven~~  
where access to records is permitted ~~Wednesday mornings~~ only on a  
limited basis]

The only difference from existing law is 1) the opening up of  
older birth records and 2) the opening of access to family members.