



# Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council

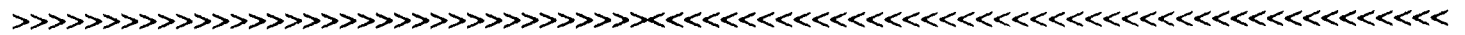
southeastern Connecticut and the islands and moved to Brotherton New York (Oneida area) from the 1770's to 1830's. Later they moved on the Wisconsin.

Whaling; many employed or taken on whaling ships. A researcher should consider checking the ship lists and the Seaman's Protection Papers; available at the National Archives.

**Main source materials to consider when researching Indians.**

1. Barbara W. Brown, James M. Rose. *Black Roots in Southeastern Connecticut*. Detroit, Mich.: Gale Research Co., c1980.
2. Overseer papers at the Connecticut State Library (1800-1900, some late 1700's)
3. Indian papers (1640-1850) at the Connecticut State Library; compiled by Sylvester Judd. The Forbes Library in Northampton Massachusetts has his original notes.
4. De-tribilization papers at the Connecticut State Library, for the Narragansetts of Rhode Island and the Mohegan Pequots.
5. Obituaries; check all local, state and historical libraries.
6. Town histories.
7. Census records. There is an 1890 "Eleventh Census" which consists of a list of Indians that were taxed or not taxed.
8. Scholar papers
9. 19th century journals and account books.
10. Civil War records
11. *A Man called Samson* (citation not available at meeting)
12. Land records and county changes.
13. 17th Century; land records, Roger William's papers and John Winthrop papers.
14. Court records of the United Colonies; manuscript in CT and published in MA.

Note: Researchers who are interested in conducting Native American research for clients may have their name listed at the Mashantucket Tribal Nation research office by calling 1-860-572-6807.



**BUSINESS MEETING** was called to order at 12:00 a.m. by President Donna Siemiatkoski. Secretary's report of January 2 1997 was read and accepted. (1) Jack Kuras (2) Kathryn Black. Treasurer's report was read and placed on file for audit with cash on hand of \$903.43. We have 46 paid members and 6 members who have not renewed. The members voted to drop these people from the mailing list. (1) Jack Kuras (2) Warren Buchanan.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Donna Siemiatkoski has been appointed by Connecticut Governor John Rowland to serve on the Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, filling the chair for the genealogical community. Donna attended a meeting of the Federation of Genealogical Societies Committee on Access and Preservation in January at Salt Lake City Utah. They asked about Connecticut's laws regarding record access.

**OLD BUSINESS: Brochure:** Dianne Lenti moved, Bob Bamford seconded that the new CPGC brochure be printed in same weight stock on colored paper. Motion carried. Kathryn Black moved, Ted Wohlson seconded that 2000 brochures be printed with 1000 of the member list. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Donna discussed pending legislation. (See other pages of this newsletter.)

Adjourned: 1:05 p.m.  
*Dianne B. Lenti, Recording Secretary*



**BILLS CONCERNING GENEALOGY BEFORE THE 1997 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
(Information on this page compiled and submitted by Donna Siemiatkoski)

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Appropriations

Sen. Crisco--Chair, 17th  
Sen. Toni Harp--vice chair, 10th  
Rep. Dyson--Chair, 94th  
Rep. Backer--vice chair, 121  
Rep. Terrie Concannon--vice chair, 34th

Sen. Genuario--Min., 25th  
Rep. Metze--Min., 101st

Sens: Aniskovich -12, Bozek-6, Cook-18, Freedman-26, McDermott-34, Williams-29.

Reps (D): Boukus-22, Cardin-53, Carter-7, Clemons-56, Currey-10, Diamantis-79, Diaz-130, Dillon-92, Donovan-84, Fleischmann-18, Fontana-87, Geragosian-25, Jarmoc-59, Johnston-51, Lawlor-99, Merrill-54, Michele-77, O'Rourke-32, Roy-119, Ryan-139, Scalettar-114, Stillman-38, Thompson-13, Truglia-145, Tulisano-29.

Reps (R): Cleary-80, D;Amelio-71, Fahrbach-61, Farr-19, Flaherty-68, Googins-31, Herlihy-16, San Angelo-131, Simmons-43, Stripp-135, Stone-134, Tymniak-133, Veltri-9, Wasserman-106.

Government Administration and Elections

Sen. LeBeau--chair, 3rd  
Sen. Penn--vice chair, 23rd  
Rep. Bysiewicz--chair, 100th  
Rep. Beals--vice chair, 88th

Sen. Lovegrove--min., 28th  
Rep. San Angelo--min., 131st

Senators: Crisco (17), Nielson (24).

Reps (D): Fleischmann-18, Gerratana-23, Knopp-137, Landino-35, Panaroni-102, Sauer-36, Stratton-17, Wallace-109.

Reps (R): Dickman-132, Hammers-123, Mazzoccoli-27, Powers-151.

Public Health

Sen. Toni Harp--chair, 10  
Sen. Peters--vice chair, 20th  
Rep. McDonald--chair, 148  
Rep. Gerratana--vice chair, 23

Sen. George Gunther--min., 21  
Rep. Gyle, min--108

Senators: Edith Prague, 19, Cook, 18

Reps (D): Terrie Concannon--34, Donovan--84, Fleischmann-18, Malone--47, Martinez--95, McGrattan--42, Nardello-89, Orange-46, Pudlin-24, Ryan-139.

Reps (R): Cleary-80, Dickman-132, Fahrbach-61, Stone-134, Winkler-41.

(Information on this page compiled and submitted by Donna Siemiatkoski)

Government Administration and Elections

1. An act concerning the State Museum.

Sponsor: Sen. Thomas (Tim) Upson.

Purpose: To move the State Museum from its site with the State Library and State Supreme Court to a building to be erected across Oak Street on Capitol Avenue.

Effect: 1) Create new and larger State Museum; 2) free up space within the existing building (which could be used for the State Library).

Comment: Will require the expenditure of new monies.

Status: Hearing not yet scheduled.

2. An act concerning the State Industrial Museum

Sponsor: Sen. Thomas (Tim) Upson

Purpose: To upgrade the Industrial Museum collection with the State Museum.

Status: Hearing not yet scheduled.

3. Proposed Bill # 867--"An act concerning the preservation of state archives and historical documents with funds from an additional ten dollar recording fee."

Sponsor: Sen. Thomas (Tim) Upson, 15 (Waterbury)

Purpose: "To provide a funding mechanism for the preservation of state archives and historical documents."

Effect: Adds a flat fee (\$10) to land conveyances, half to be used to conserve state documents, half to be dispersed to the towns through grants administered by the state archivist to conserve documents of municipalities.

Status: Hearing not yet scheduled.

Comment: Supported by the State Archivist and the Town Clerks Association.

Replaces bill #226 which inadvertently send all existing land conveyance fees to the state.

Public Health Committee

1. Bill #5250--"An act concerning access by to vital statistics by genealogical societies.

Sponsor: Rep. Richard Belden, Shelton, #113.

Purpose: "To make privileges regarding access to records of vital statistics currently available to members of genealogical societies available to the public."

Effect: Anyone can have access to birth records for any reason.

Comment: The bill worked out last year by the Town Clerks Association and members of genealogical societies provides access to the public to all marriage and death records and to all birth records over 100 years old; birth records under 100 years old may be obtained by certain people, including members of genealogical societies. The law was crafted to balance the needs of researchers with protection of the public. The Town Clerks Association will oppose this bill.

Status: Hearing not yet scheduled.

2. Bill # 5246- "An act concerning restrictions on the examination of birth certificates and records", by Rep. Simmons, 43rd District (Stonington).

Purpose: "To provide access to birth records to any member of a person's immediate family."

Effect: Siblings and grandchildren would be able to access birth records.

Comment: The town clerks and genealogists had both these relationships in their original draft of the bill; enroute to the committee they were taken out by vital records.

Vital Records and the Town Clerks support this bill. Town clerks maintain the right to ask for identification of people seeking birth records for relatives.

Status: Hearing not yet scheduled.

## BILLS CONCERNING GENEALOGY BEFORE THE 1997 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Information on this page compiled and submitted by Donna Siemiatkoski)

### 3. Raised Bill #914 "An act concerning divorce and marriage records."

Sponsor: Department of Public Health and Addiction Services

Purpose: "To eliminate unnecessary reporting of marriage and divorce data."

Effect: Marriages will continue to be recorded in the town of occurrence, but copies will not longer be sent to the Public Health Department; names of parties to a divorce will no longer be sent from the court to the Public Health Department; marriage, birth, and death records will continue to be available to genealogists in the town of occurrence, birth and death, but not marriage records, will be available to generalist (and the public) at the Health Department; marriage records will no longer be certified by the health department.

Effect: 1) The statewide collection of marriage records will no longer be available at the Public Health Department; 2) marriage records will no longer be gathered into a statewide registry.

Effect: 1) Searches will be inefficient or impossible as many towns will have to be searched; 2) no back-up copies of records will exist.

Status: Public Hearing held on February 5. Testimony against the bill presented by two officers of two genealogical societies. The Public Records Administrator contacted the Committee Staff. The State Archivist, as chair of the State Historic Records Advisory Committee wrote to oppose. The Town Clerks Association opposes this bill.

Comment: The two genealogists were well-received by the committee. Rep. Terrie Concannon is Irish and told her colleagues of the difficulty of research in Ireland because of the lack of a centralized records collection. Reaction by the general public to the committee in particular and to legislators in general will re-inforce the idea that the collection of records in the Public Health Department is essential. It is hoped that a large response to the department's proposal will reduce the possibility that this or similar proposals will be made again. Apparently the federal government no longer requires the collection of individual records and will no longer fund their collection in the state. Perhaps a modest increase in fees will help to offset this cost of maintaining records which are now helpful for reasons other than those for which they were created. An informal check of archivists and genealogists in other states finds no other state about to close a statewide collection of marriage records.

Status: Hearing held. Comment by the public may still be made before the committee decides whether to kill the bill or send it to the full house and senate for debate.

### 4. An act concerning access to vital records.

Purpose: To fix up language in Sections 7-41, 7-51, and 7-51a which are unclear or contradictory.

Effect: Smooth out language, reduce inconsistencies, which entered the sections when the bill submitted by the Town Clerks and Genealogists was written into statute form by the bill drafting committee.

Comment: The Town Clerks Association is drafting the bill. Representatives of the genealogical community will have input while the bill is still in draft form. The new bill will not change the intent of the 1996 legislation but will take care of concerns raised by town clerks as a result of the imprecise writing of that legislation.

Status: Not yet submitted.

**BILLS CONCERNING GENEALOGY BEFORE THE 1997 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
(Information on this page compiled and submitted by Donna Siemiatkoski)**Appropriations Committee**

1. Bill # 6702 "An act concerning the State Budget for the Biennium ending June 30, 1999, and making appropriations therefor."

Purpose: To provide \$10 billion to fund of state activities for the next biennium, featuring an income tax cut of \$350 million (which impacts a family of four \$840 per year, or \$16 per week).

Effect: A further position will be cut from the State Library, bringing the total number of funded positions from 166 in 1986 to 94 in 1998, of which only 90 are funded. The library will continue to be closed on Saturdays, as it has been since 1980. The library will continue to open an hour late (9:30 a.m.) as it has since 1992. No conservation of books will be done, an activity stopped in 1995 when budget cuts forced the closing of the Conservation Lab.

Cataloging will continue to lag 7 years behind collections, as the activity was halted while positions were frozen, meaning that 1) 40,000 unique items which are not on the nationwide OCLC database cannot be catalogued and are thus inaccessible to the public; 2) the recataloging of the local history and genealogy will take several more years; 3) efforts to computerize the catalog to make it available online will be years away.

Status: PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24--6:00 P.M.

Comment: At the request of concerned genealogists, the administration of the State Library developed a detailed atement of the funding needed to 1) enable the State Library to open for twelve more hours each week, including the daily 8:30 opening, one evening each week, and several hours on Saturdays, 2) restore the Conservation Lab so that the collection may be saved from further deterioration (ripped pages and broken binders mended, fragile books photocopied, etc.), and 3) enable the catalogers to make the entire collection, including the rare items, accessible to the public both in person and through electronic catalogs. The cost of these additions will be \$360,000, about of the state budget, about .1% of the tax cut, costing the family of four \$.86 a year, or, reducing his tax cut to \$839.14 instead of \$840. In 1988 2 members of the CSG Board testified, 100 members were in attendance at the hearing, and hundreds more wrote letters. As a result the Saturday hours were retained for 2 more years, until 1990, when the fiscal concerns of the state were addressed. Adding \$360,000 to the \$4.6 million now proposed for the Personal Services section of the CSL budget will accomplish these goals.

Perhaps now that recovery is underway, the budget is balanced and sometimes shows a surplus, the legislature could find a way to allow the working people of Connecticut, who fund the library, to be able to enjoy it on Saturdays and evenings, and find all the books in good repair and easily accessible.

Out of state genealogists are welcome to write to committee members to underscore the importance of this Library nationwide and to remind them of the tourism value to the state because of the tourism value of the library. Tourism is being seen more and more as a way to bring revenue and business to the state.

To check on the status of a bill and hearings call the legislature at 860- 240-6555 or the CSL bill room at 860-566-5736.

**BILLS CONCERNING GENEALOGY BEFORE THE 1997 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(Information on this page compiled by Donna Siemiatkoski; with thanks to the legislative committee.)

**AN ALLOCATION TO RESTORE SERVICES LOST AT THE CT STATE LIBRARY**

The budget hearing on Bill #6702, the budget appropriation for 1997-1998, will take place on Monday evening, February 24 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building on Capitol Avenue in Hartford. The hearing provides the opportunity for the public to express its views on the budgets for state agencies, such as the State Library. Genealogists have not testified before this committee since 1988 at which time the testimony of two genealogists, the presence of over 100, and the letters of hundreds more preserved the Saturday hours for two more years.

Since that time the state set out to trim the size of government. In the process the library staff was cut from 166 to 94. The cuts went from prudent housekeeping to decimation of entire units of service:

- Saturday hours were lost, closing off the State Library to the working people whose tax money supports it, beginning in 1990.
- Budget cuts caused the closing of the Conservation Lab--since 1995 no torn pages or broken bindings have been repaired; the collection has not been maintained intact
- Deep cuts in staffing have caused the cataloging to lag behind by 7 years, resulting in two systems inside the stacks, 40,000 unique titles unavailable through the catalog, and the collection not available to the wider world through electronic catalogs.
- Cuts in funds for acquisitions have totaled over \$2,000,000.
- Inadequate funding has caused the Public Records Management and State Archives to rank 45th or below in all measures of size and budget.

The institution once known as "the gem of the genealogical ocean" has become a source of both embarrassment and frustration to our citizens.

- These problems can begin to be remedied by a relatively small budget allocation.
- Funding of just three of the eight positions which are currently authorized but not funded will cost 188,500 and will restore the Conservation Lab and boost the lagging cataloging program.
- Funding four new positions at \$840 would provide nearly immeasurable benefit to our people through the restoration of the former fine level of service at the State Library.

If enough of our legislators realize 1) how much our library has to offer to our own people and to the nationwide Connecticut family and 2) how much has been lost in recent years, 3) how comparatively little it will take to restore our library, and 4) that we are willing to pay our share to support our library, we can have our Library back!

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IMPORTANT: BUDGET HEARING ON BILL # 6702. CAN YOU BE THERE?

6:00 P.M. ROOM 2 C - LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
CAPITOL AVENUE, HARTFORD CT

PLEASE CALL, WRITE, FAX OR E-MAIL... IF YOU CANNOT BE THERE.  
LEGISLATORS WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR FROM ALL OF US..



*A MESSAGE FROM CPGC PRESIDENT:*

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO GENEALOGICAL RECORDS BECOMES LAW

In the closing hours of the 1996 session of the Connecticut General Assembly our bill, with many others on the "consent calendar", was given final approval by the State Senate, leaving only the Governor's signature to make it into a law, becoming effective on October 1, 1996, the time when most bills take effect.

Your delegates met with Bernadette Dillon of the Town Clerks Association and John Boccaccio, state registrar of vital records, and took the agreed-upon form to Senator Upson's office. The bill was reported favorably out of the Joint Judiciary Committee and sent to the Legislative Commissioner's office for drafting into legal format. When the bill came back, with the irrelevant parts deleted, our ideas inserted, and no penalties, it was found that the commissioners missed a few fine points. Senator Upson then introduced amendments in the Senate to 1) make access to earlier records effective before 100 years ago rather than before 1900 and 2) add "registered to conduct business in Connecticut" along with incorporation as a requirement for a card-issuing genealogical society, to allow societies incorporated elsewhere to register with the Secretary of State for purposes of fulfilling this requirement allowing their card-holders access under Connecticut law. The bill passed unanimously and went to the House. The House Majority leader was advised of the bill and helped to guide it along. However, it shuttled back and forth from the House floor to three committees-- Planning and Development (towns), Public Health, and Appropriations. It was finally scheduled for House action on the day before adjournment, passed that evening, but was amended to give another idea a ride. The other amendment is irrelevant to our concerns, but needed a vehicle. The amendment validates the acts of certain justices of the peace. Without passage some marriages would have been invalid if conducted during a certain time period by justices who received their appointments as members of Weicker's Connecticut Party. Because the idea was not filed in time so needed to be attached to a bill dealing with town clerks and marriages so ours was handy. When the amendment was added the Senate was still in a filibuster. The next morning the filibuster broke and scores of non-controversial bills were added to the "consent calendar" for quick passage by the Senate, which was done somewhere in the last hours of the session. News of the passage was on the online legislative service the next morning.

We are all glad for its passage. Bernadette Dillon is now working on the Town Clerks Handbook which will incorporate the laws as they will be on October 1. A clean copy of the law is not yet available. However, the law states that access to all birth records over 100 years old is available to all adults without card access, certain relatives may now have access, access as defined by the Attorney General in 1975 is made part of the law, and access will be allowed during all normal business hours. The Town Clerks Association and the State Vital Records Bureau will work with the town clerks to be sure that the law is implemented uniformly after it takes effect.

*Donna Siemiakoski, President*



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DATE: April 22, 1996

TO: All Connecticut Town Clerks & Registrars

FROM: John Boccaccio  
State Registrar

Re: CT Incorporation Genealogy Societies

The only Incorporation Genealogy Societies listed with the Connecticut Secretary of State's Office as if April 10, 1996 are as follows:

- Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.
- French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.
- Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.
- Lance Genealogical Research Library Society, Inc. The
- Middlesex Genealogical Society, Inc.
- Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.

It will be our attempt to review this list approximately every six months with the Secretary of State's Office and inform you of any changes.

I hope you find this information helpful.

JB/shc

mIGS



Phone:  
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191  
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # \_\_\_\_\_  
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

BILLS CONCERNING GENEALOGY BEFORE THE 1997 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To the Committee on Appropriations:

I oppose the cutting of one position from the Personal Services section of the State Library and the lack of \$377,000 to fill authorized positions. I support the addition of \$360,000 to the Personal Services budget to restore access to the Library by the public on Saturdays, restoration of the discontinued conservation of books and manuscripts, and the cataloging of 40,000 unique titles in the collection.

Signature Printed Name Voting Address

Total number of signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Appropriations Committee, Room 2700, Legislative Office Building, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 by March 31.

BILLS CONCERNING GENEALOGY BEFORE THE 1997 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To the Committee on Public Health:

I opposed Bill #914, An Act Concerning Marriage and Divorce Records. This bill 1) no longer requires the collection of marriage records by the Public Health Department in one statewide location and 2) closes public access to the existing collection of 100 years of marriage records. This bill will forever eliminate access to a valued source of data used by families, government agencies, attorneys, and many others to determine one's bloodline and inheritance rights and will send the search for such records into the state's many town halls in search of the location of a marriage, shifting the burden of expense to town clerks, state agencies, and individuals, and eliminating a back-up copy of the records. I support the continued collection and maintenance of the statewide marriage records in the public health department as is done in every other state.

Signature Printed Name Voting Address

Total number of signatures on this page: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this document to the Committee on Public Health, Room 3000, Legislative Office Building, Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 by March 31.

# Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council



**IMPORTANT - PENDING LEGISLATION WHICH WILL AFFECT GENEALOGISTS.....**

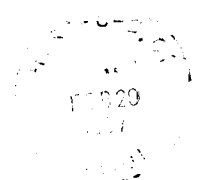
**SEE PAGE 8, 1st PARAGRAPH.....**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 24, 6:00 P.M. BUDGET HEARING... PLEASE ATTEND.....**

**WRITE, PHONE, FAX OR E-MAIL YOUR LEGISLATOR TODAY..**

**VERY IMPORTANT !!!  
PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED PETITION FORMS... GET SIGNATURES !!!**

**FROM:  
Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council  
P. O. Box 4273  
Hartford CT 06147-4273**



**NEXT MEETING  
Open Discussion  
Thursday - 10:00 A.M.  
March 6, 1997  
CT Historical Society  
Hartford CT  
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^**

Barbara J Mathews  
18 Blossom St.  
Lexington MA 02173-8110

