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APRIL 1998 MINUTES

Data entry by Dianne Bordeaux Lenti. Edited by Donna Holt Siemiatkoski

WE ARE OPEN TO ALL THOSE WHO PROVIDE GENEALOGY FOR OTHERS OR MANAGE COLLECTIONS OF RECORDS

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

THURS, May 7, 1998- 10:00 a.m. - GODFREY MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 134 Newfield St, Middletown, CT. **Subject: Tour of library and overview of holdings by Susan Field-Burguiere, Assistant Director.** Plan the day for research at this wonderful repository. Sandwiches provided! If planning to attend, please e-mail Susan@godfrey.org or phone her at 860-346-4375 (fax 347-9874). Directions enclosed.

May 2, 1998 - Genealogy & Gravestone Seminar, Asnuntuck Comm College, Enfield CT. Information enclosed.

May 16, 1998 - All Day Conference - Migration Patterns from Great Britain to America. Speaker Bill Dollarhide. Sponsored by Godfrey Memorial Library. Held at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.

May 16, 1998 - CSG Annual Meeting. Speaker: Arthur W. Sniffen. Genealogy in the 21st Century, Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT.

May 17, 1998 - Connecticut Ancestry Annual meeting. Main speaker will be Anita Lustenburger "Land Platting."

June 4, 1998 - Speaker: Fred Hart C.G. Subject: Connecticut Ancestry Society & Resources in Fairfield County. Location: Polish National Home,

July 11, 1998 - CSG Bus trip to New England Historic Genealogical Society [NEHGS], Boston, MA.

July 17-18, 1998 - Summer Genealogy Conference, NEHGS, held at Marriott Hotel, Farmington, CT.

October 21-25, 1998 - New England Regional Genealogical Conference - Portland, Maine.

PROGRAM, March 5, 1998: Patricia Owens, Interim State Librarian (POwens@csl.ctstateu.edu) spoke at length regarding the need for a centralized state of the art facility encompassing the entire State Library and State Archives. She has viewed various state owned facilities throughout the state, finding that they are not archivally correct for the needs of the library/archives. She feels there is a definite need to review and update the comprehensive facilities plan of 1991 and to address the long term needs of the state's records. (See "Summary of Space Crisis.....," enclosed.) Persons interested in helping with this issue should address their letters to the Governor's office: The Honorable John G. Rowland, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106.

CPGC MINUTES - THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1998. **Attending:** Donna Siemiatkoski, Fred Hart, Jack Kuras, Dianne Lenti, Susan Field-Burguiere, Robert Storm, Harlan Jessup, Helen Ullmann, Kathryn Black, Barbara Mathews.

BUSINESS MEETING was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by President, Donna Siemiatkoski.

Secretary's report of March 5, 1998 was read and accepted with four corrections/additions (see below). (1) Harlan Jessup (2) Kathryn Black. **CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS:** (1) Under "Program," *CONSULS* is the consortium of the four Connecticut State University libraries (Eastern, Western, Southern, and Central) - NOT the University of Connecticut as suggested by the minutes - and the Connecticut State Library. The catalog can be scoped to show the holdings of all members of the consortium or one individual library. (2) Under OLD business, "Government Relations," "Center for Archives" is a misleading subject title. It should have reflected the need of additional space for the ENTIRE STATE LIBRARY, because the book stacks as well as archival vaults are filled to capacity and members of the administrative staff have had to move to off-site offices. The entire agency as a whole needs space to grow for the next twenty years or so. The end of the last sentence [under Old Business] should read ".....regarding lack of FUNDS FOR proper archival preservation and storage." (3) Under NEW business, "Government Relations," Senator Upson's bill should be listed as proposed bill No. 150, An Act Concerning an Additional Recording Fee and the Preservation of State Archives and Historical Documents. This is a SENATE bill proposing a ten dollar recording fee. The bill discussed at the March 5, 1998 meeting was

Raised Bill No. 460, which was introduced by the Government, Administration, and Elections Committee. This is an entirely separate bill from the Upson bill. The second sentence should have read ".....city directory collection is crumbling and many of the materials ARE IN need OF [strike "correct"] FUNDING for NECESSARY preservation and repair. The real concerns are that there is currently insufficient adequate space for proper storage and that the library needs funding for preservation staff and the State Archives needs additional processing staff. (4) Under New Business "Incorporation," should read, "ROBERT RAFFORD [not Jack Kuras] reported on the feasibility of CPGC becoming incorporated. He, along with ROB STORM [not Bob Bamford]....."

Correspondence: No correspondence received at meeting.

Treasurer's report: No report. There is cash on hand of \$1500.00. [As reported by Robert Rafford to Donna Siemiatkoski.]

OLD BUSINESS: Program Committee, Jack Kuras passed out a list of possible program topics, stating that he needs direction as to which programs to line up for future meetings. Incorporation Committee (Ad Hoc), no report. Government Relations, Donna Siemiatkoski reported that the two bills pending on vital records are no longer viable. Public Service, there was general discussion in regard to doing genealogy "pro bono" for legislators. This needs to be looked into further, as it is understood that there is a limit on value of gifts that a legislator can receive. Further discussion was tabled. Member Brochure; members present agreed that it is important to get our new member list/brochure printed soon and out to various repositories, plus have sufficient copies for the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in October.

NEW BUSINESS: New England Regional Genealogical Conference, Kathryn Black moved that we authorize for Donna Siemiatkoski to arrange for a booth and that members be allowed to display their brochures and/or business cards for a fee of \$5.00. Seconded by Barbara Mathews. Motion carried. Donna Siemiatkoski will be picking up brochures at the April 4, 1998 meeting of NERGC in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Genealogy and Gravestones Seminar; Harlan Jessup moved that CPGC co-sponsor the Genealogy and Gravestones Seminar being presented at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield CT on May 2, 1998. Seconded by Rob Storm. Motion carried. (Check out the web page at <http://members.aol.com/ctgravenet.htm>)

discussion was tabled to the next meeting. Brochure and Member List, Robert Rafford presented a copy of this update member list to be included with a new printing our the CPGC brochure. This was passed around so that everyone present could proofread their entry.

Adjourned: 11:55 a.m.

Dianna B. Lenti, Recording Secretary

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President's Message; written by Donna Siemiatkoski:

Pat Owens extends a big thank you to the genealogical community for the large outpouring of support, unparalleled in her twenty years on the scene. Because of the interest of the public, a suitable home for the records at 80 Washington Street has nearly been identified and may be known before our May meeting and the space problem at the State Library building is also being addressed. Also, Warren Buchanan is back to the library, good as new, and is very grateful for the support of his friends in the CPGC.

## **DIRECTIONS TO GODFREY MEMORIAL LIBRARY:**

From I-91, exit 22S onto Route 9 South. Exit 15 onto Route 66 West (also Washington Street). At fifth traffic light turn right onto Route 3 North (also Newfield Street). The library is approximately 1/4 mile on the right. [Sits back from road on knoll.] Phone 860-346-4375.

## SUMMARY OF SPACE CRISIS AT THE STATE LIBRARY

The Connecticut State Library's **Information Services Division** provides all library services in the main building at 231 Capitol Avenue. In 1997, over 145,000 onsite visitors used the library's 500,000 title collection.

The Division is the largest public law library in Connecticut; is the primary provider of legislative and legal information to the public; provides access to the State Archives; maintains a collection of library materials in many formats in support of its subject specialties, including public policy and administration, and Connecticut history and genealogy; collects and preserves Connecticut government publications and Connecticut newspapers; and is the Federal Regional Depository for U.S. government publications.

The last addition to the library building in 1968 was intended to provide twenty years of growth in the collection. Since the 1980's, the staff and administration have been working to address the problem of limited space for further development.

- In 1987, the Library requested and received offsite storage space at 90 (later 80) Washington St.
- In 1991, a space needs analysis calling for a \$42 million combined renovation and expansion program was completed for the State Library at a cost of \$80,000.
- In 1993, a redefinition of the Collection Policy was completed, and extensive weeding has been conducted to reduce the collection to the defined subject areas.
- Space saving formats such as microform and electronic resources have been purchased as replacements where budget and use appropriateness have allowed.
- In 1996, staff not associated with the daily operation of the Library were relocated to other buildings in order to utilize the last available space for collections.

### The Space Crisis

The Division can no longer avoid a space crisis as its collections continue to outgrow all available shelf space. No additional options for collection reduction or other space saving techniques are possible without serious diminishment of the Library's ability to support the information needs of patrons.

- **The State Library shelves are filled to 92% of capacity (95,500 of 104,500 linear feet).**
- **At the current growth rate of 3% a year, the shelves will be completely full in 2001.**
- The explosive growth of court cases, of government activity, and of general information in the last decade show no signs of slowing.
- The Library will soon have no space to house new statutes, court reports, General Assembly records, state publications, federal publications, or any of the other information sources currently collected and maintained for current and future research.

**Short Term Actions**, required to accommodate next five years:

- ◆ **Off site storage** -- Acquire 15,000 square feet of additional space in the Hartford area to house less frequently used collections, and establish a mechanism, including staff and transportation, for retrieving items requested by patrons.

**Long Term Actions**, required to continue providing information services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:

- ◆ **Building program** -- Bond authorization for a capital plan and building program.

## SUMMARY OF SPACE CRISIS AT THE STATE ARCHIVES

The State Archives in the Connecticut State Library acquires, organizes, preserves, and makes available records of Colonial and State government (Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches), local governments, Connecticut public and private organizations, families and individuals. Currently the State Archives contains approximately 34,000 cubic feet of historical records dating from the late sixteenth century to the 1990s. The informational value of the records is extraordinary because Connecticut's history predates that of the United States. Moreover, a recent appraisal put a fair-market value of the State Archives at \$101 million.

However, for over two decades, lack of sufficient space has remained a chief obstacle to the acquisition of historical records. Since 1983, the quantity of State Archival records has increased from 19,000 cu. ft. to approximately 34,000 cu. ft., or an average annual intake of 1,000 cu. ft. As State government has been "downsized," the demands on the State Archives to acquire previously unknown historical records in State agencies have increased with **no corresponding increase in suitable space** to store the records. **The State Archives is in a crisis! Currently the program is not accepting new transfers, thus endangering historical records still in state agencies and the other two branches of state government.**

Since 1983, the State Library has relied on "temporary" storage for its State Archives in Hartford, Rocky Hill, and Willimantic. This piecemeal approach has failed to provide a long-term solution for the State Archives. Currently the State Archives stores records at the following sites:

- Approximately 23,875 cu. ft. at 231 Capitol Ave., State Library and Supreme Court Building filled to capacity in seven secured areas. According to a recent survey of the nation's state archival programs, the main facility for storage of the Connecticut State Archives, the State Library and Supreme Court Building in Hartford, is the oldest such structure among the fifty state archives.
- 887 cu. ft. in the basement of the State Library's Willimantic Library Service Center.
- Approximately 9,000 cu. ft. on the ground floor, 80 Washington St., Hartford, a block away from the 231 Capitol Ave. facility. Two years ago the State Archives was evicted from 90 Washington St. and moved to this location. Currently the Library is in the process of being evicted from 80 Washington St. and to date, a suitable facility has not been found.
- Approximately 10,000 cubic feet of records evaluated as "archival" currently are stored at the State Library's State Records Center in Rocky Hill. The State Archives has had no space to acquire and store these records. Since the Records Center contains state agency records designated for legal destruction, storage of permanent/archival records at the Center impedes its records management operations.
- The State Archives currently is negotiating with a major Connecticut city to temporarily store 400 cubic feet of historical court records designated by the Judicial Department for destruction.

Fragmentation of the State Archives into several storage facilities raises the issue of **confidentiality** of records such as state hospital patient files and Correctional Department inmate files. Moreover, dispersal further limits the Library's ability to provide **timely access** to researchers. Two years ago, the State Library requested additional space through the budget process and continues to wait for action.

# Genealogy and Gravestones

Presented by Connecticut Professional Society of Genealogists Council and Connecticut Gravestone Network  
Sponsored by PHI THETA KAPPA of Asnuntuck College

**Have you been wanting to get started on your family tree and just don't know where to start ?**

**Here's the place to find out.**

We are devoting a day to helping those with an interest in their history.

Available will be colleagues with computer searching experience, professional genealogists, state & local genealogists, local historians. We will also have gravestone enthusiasts, who study carving styles, advocate the use of cemetery inventories and practice safe conservation methods. *Do you know how gravestones can be used to help a family detective?*

## Program Schedule

- 8:30 Doors Open - Exhibit Tables for all participating organizations will be available throughout the day.  
9:15 Where to Start -how to get started in planning your searches.  
10:30 How to Explore your family pedigree Primary Genealogical Resources that are available.  
11:30 What is Connecticut Gravestone Network? - highlighting various topics regarding Connecticut Gravestones.  
Speaker: Ruth Shapleigh-Brown, CGN Exec. Director and AGS Trustee  
12:15 to 1:15 Lunch and Socializing  
1:30 The Mystery of Studying Gravestone Carvers :What's involved in learning to identify different artisans & How records genealogists use everyday, can help us probate certain stones.  
Speaker: Dr. James A. Slater - past VP of AGS & author of the book :  
" The Colonial Gravemarkers of Eastern Connecticut and the Men Who Made Them "  
2:30 How to Write Up Your Family Tree - Pulling all your research together to create the final product.

Speaker for all genealogy search presentations by Donna Siemiatkoski, Director of Connecticut Heritage Services and President of Connecticut Professional Genealogy Council

## Exhibits and Organizations Represented

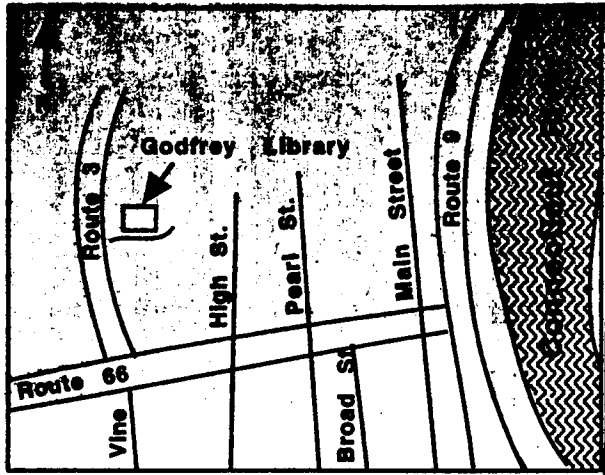
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|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Connecticut Professional Genealogist Council   | The Connecticut State Library            |
| Connecticut Society of Genealogists            | Daughters of the American Revolution     |
| Association for Gravestone Studies             | The Children of the American Revolution  |
| Connecticut Gravestone Network                 | Sons of the American Revolution          |
| Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor | Preston Historical Society               |
| Godfrey Memorial Library                       | Lunette Castings - Artstone by David Oat |

**Asnuntuck College 170 Elm St. Enfield, CT.  
Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 am to 4:00 pm**

Donations are appreciated.

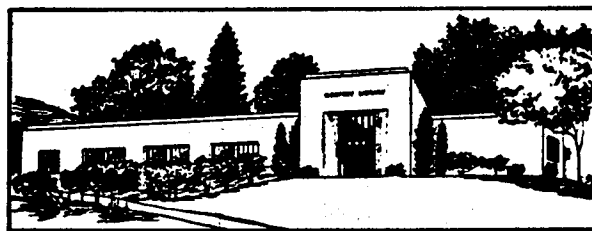
For more information call the college at 860-253-3000 or CT Gravestone Net. at 860-643-5652

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council



**!! IMPORTANT !!**

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD AT  
GODFREY MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
134 NEWFIELD STREET  
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT**



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**Open to Public at 9 a.m.
Parking on premises
No admission fee**
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**PLAN YOUR DAY FOR A TOUR AND RESEARCH  
AT THIS WONDERFUL REPOSITORY**

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



10-98

Barbara J. Mathews CG  
18 Blossom Street  
Lexington MA 02173-8110

**NEXT MEETING  
Thursday - 10:00 A.M.  
May 7, 1998  
Tour and Research  
Godfrey Memorial Library  
134 Newfield Street  
Middletown, Connecticut  
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