

# Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council

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## FEBRUARY 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

NOTE: WEATHER CANCELLATION IS DETERMINED BY CLOSING OF HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ANNOUNCED ON LOCAL RADIO.

**THURS, March 5, 1998- 10:00 a.m.-CT STATE LIBRARY, 231 CAPITOL AVE, HARTFORD, CT.**

**Subject: The General Reference Shelf and the *Consuls* Public Access Catalog.** (Because of the ice storm in February, only four people were able to attend. While the legislative issues before us are serious, we will not need to spend much time deliberating a response. This will leave time for Dick Roberts to present the program most of us missed in February.)

**THURS, April 2, 1998- 10:00 a.m. - CT Historical Society, Hartford CT. Program: Open.**

CPGC MINUTES - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1998. Attending: Dianne Lenti, Robert Rafford, Fred Hart and Richard Roberts. (Limited attendance due to weather conditions.)

PROGRAM: Richard Roberts presented a thorough overview of *Consuls Public Access Catalog*; the Connecticut State Library catalog. This is accessible, not only at the Connecticut State Library and University of Connecticut libraries, but also over the internet. Dick gave us pointers on how to better use the program and handed out written exercises which will enable "hands on" practice. Due to the small attendance he graciously agreed to reschedule for a later program [March 5]. Dick noted that *Consuls* is more up to date than bound printouts that are behind the reference desk in the library. *Consuls* is available as a link from the CT State Library website at: <http://csulib.ctstateu.edu>. If one looks carefully at the beginning of the catalog screens you will see that you a search can be limited to the Connecticut State Library holdings by placing an "x" in the appropriate spot. Once you access the catalog, you will be able to see if are copies of books at Connecticut State Library that are available for loan. These are listed as "copy 2." Such books cannot be loaned directly from the library, but are accessible via interlibrary loan at your local library.

BUSINESS MEETING was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Recording Secretary, Dianne Lenti.

Secretary's report of January 8, 1998 was read and accepted. (1) Fred Hart (2) Robert Rafford.

Correspondence: All correspondence will be reviewed at next meeting.

Treasurer's report was read and placed on file for audit with cash on hand of \$1746.06.

OLD BUSINESS: CT Archival Storage: (See notice enclosed.)

NEW BUSINESS: Bill No. 43 to eliminate unnecessary reporting of marriage data. (See report from President Donna Siemiatkoski; below.)

Adjourned: 10:35 a.m. *Dianne B. Lenti, Recording Secretary*

Report from President, Donna Siemiatkoski regarding Bill No. 43 to eliminate reporting of marriage data.

A public hearing was held on this bill on February 10. Testimony was given by Eunice DiBella, State Public Records Administrator, Edward Friedeburg, Town Clerk of Glastonbury, and Donna Siemiatkoski, CPGC President. The bill would provide for an index as discussed by Dan Savino and Christine Farrelly at our November meeting. However, duplicate copies of marriage records would no longer be stored at the Department of Public Health. All three parties opposed the idea of not having backup copies of the marriage records themselves. In addition Mr. Friedeburg testified about the social security reporting provisions which are

unworkable. In a discussion with the Committee's drafting attorney after the testimony he proposed a method of collecting the social security numbers without making them part of the permanent record, which appeared to be a good compromise between conflicting federal and state requirements. As of this writing the status of the bill is unknown. Those testifying prefer to keep the system as it is, until we can move toward the system envisioned by Savino and Farrelly in which data is collected in a digital format and made available at linked computer terminals throughout the state. If this technology will be viable in three to five years, we would prefer to move from the current system to that one directly without the index system in the middle. We hope to have more information on the status of the bill before the March meeting. The town clerks have a lobbyist who will help them to oppose and/or re-work the bill..... *Donna Siemiatkowski, President*

## CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY RESEARCHER'S EXAM OFFERED

The Connecticut State Library's History and Genealogy Unit will be offering its Researchers' Exam in March. Passing the exam with a score of 80% or better entitles genealogists to be added to our list of Professional Genealogists Familiar With Connecticut State Library Collections, which is distributed in response to mail requests, and optionally to have their names posted in response to e-mail requests and on our Internet Home Page.

Having one's name added to our researcher list does entail certain responsibilities. We expect that all researchers currently on our list or wishing to have their names added to our list are willing and able to take on clients and are willing and able to undertake research at the State Library on a regular basis.

Our Researchers Exam is not a test of general genealogical knowledge but is designed to determine whether researcher's are, in fact, "familiar with Connecticut State Library collections". It involves finding very specific answers to specific questions involving use of our catalogs and archival/manuscript/newspaper finding aids, Connecticut genealogical indexes, microfilm collections, reference collections, newspapers, maps/atlasses and electronic resources.

We will be offering tours of H&G for those interested in taking the exam on Monday, March 2 from 10:00 - 12:00 and on Tuesday, March 3 from 2:00-4:00. While we try to cover the types of materials that may be needed to answer the questions on the exam, it should be kept in mind that a two hour tour is not necessarily a good substitute for the experience gained from regular visits to our library over a number of years. Prior to and/or in addition to taking the tour, researchers may wish to review the "fact sheets" and finding aids on our Home Page, <http://www.cslnet.ctstateu.edu/handg.htm> from their home computer or our public access Internet computer in H&G or look through the binder of "fact sheets" at the H&G Information Desk.

Researchers may take the exam any day between Wednesday, March 4 and Friday, March 20, and should allow one complete day (past experience has shown that it takes four to seven hours to complete).  
Researchers may not begin the exam on one day and complete it on a subsequent day.

Those wishing to sign up take the tour and/or take the exam should.....(as soon as possible):

CONTACT:

CAROLYN PICCIANO, SPECIALIST, HISTORY AND GENEALOGY UNIT

860-566-3690 or 860-566-3692

**SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF**  
**CONNECTICUT STATE ARCHIVES STORAGE**  
**AT RISK !!**

The following was recently sent to archives listserve by Christine Weideman, Assistant Head, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, member, Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board:

Actions by State officials are putting at risk a significant portion of the thirty three thousand cubic feet State Archives, Connecticut's most significant repository of Connecticut history. For the second time in two years, the State has ordered the State Archives to vacate an offsite facility in Hartford, Connecticut, which houses approximately 8,000 cubic feet of historical records. The Department of Public Works, however, has not provided a suitable alternative storage site. The eviction notice aggravates an ongoing crisis. The State Archives stores records at two locations in Hartford, one in Rocky Hill, Connecticut and one in Willimantic, Connecticut. All are filled to capacity.

As a member of the State Historical Records Advisory Board, I am asking all individuals and organizations who use, and support the work of, the Connecticut State Archives to respond to this crisis by writing letters to: Governor John G. Rowland and T. R. Hanson, Commissioner, Department of Public Works (addresses listed below).

Please inform these officials of the importance of the Connecticut State Archives. Tell them that a hasty relocation to an inadequate facility will physically endanger records and will make access by taxpayers more difficult. Remind them that this situation is occurring in a year of budget surplus and urge them to provide the State Archives with one facility in Hartford to store all of its holdings.

Thanks to all of you who respond by writing to:

Governor John G. Rowland  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

T. R. Hanson, Commissioner  
Department of Public Works  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Note from CPGC President Donna Siemiatkoski:**

You will notice that the above remarks do not include any reference to the 100 years of birth, marriage, and death records now at 80 Washington Street and also subject to this move and possible loss and/or destruction through the course of time. These records apparently could not be mentioned in her notice as they are still in the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health. However, as a member of the public, we can...and we should ...mention these records in any letter to the governor or public official. I tried to reach Mark Jones to clarify this issue last week but he was away for the day and the Monday holiday and my work have prevented a follow up as of this writing. Again, we will have an update on this issue at the March meeting. However, action in the form of intelligent, concise, informed letters to the Governor is a matter of high urgency. If you do write in the immediate future, please do add the tens of thousands of birth, marriage, and death records...100 years of the primary records of our people...which are also at risk at 80 Washington Street.

Senator Thomas Upson's bill on Archival Preservation has also been re-introduced. As of this writing, no hearing date has been set. At the March meeting we will hear updates on the status of the marriage records bill and the collection at 80 Washington Street. We will then have Richard Roberts give his presentation on the Reference Shelf and then on the Consuls Public Access Catalog; to the extent that time permits.....

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council  
**CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY**  
**RESEARCHERS EXAM**  
**OFFERED**

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**ARCHIVES STORAGE AT RISK.**  
**NEEDS IMMEDIATE ACTION**

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**MARCH 5**  
**THE GENERAL REFERENCE SHELF &**  
**CONSULS PUBLIC ACCESS [LIBRARY] CATALOG**

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**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY**

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.**  
**March 5, 1998**  
**Reference Shelf & CONSULS**  
**CT State Library**  
**231 Capitol Avenue**  
**Hartford CT**

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