

# Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council

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## MARCH 1998 MINUTES

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

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, April 2, 1998- 10:00 a.m.** - POLISH NATIONAL HOME, 60 Charter Oak Avenue, Hartford, CT.

**Subject: Discussion of the Connecticut State Library, by Patricia Owens, Interim State Librarian.**

**SAT, April 18, 1998- CSG Ethnic Workshop - 1:30 p.m.** - Northeast Utilities - Berlin - Speakers: Dianne Lenti,

French-Canadian; Kay Sheldon, Swedish; Barbara Louis Bush-James, African-American; Dr. Robert Fitzsimmons, Irish.

**THURS, May 7, 1998- 10:00 a.m.** - CPGC Mtg: Tour of Godfrey Library, 134 Newfield St, Middletown, CT

**SAT, 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.

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

**SAT, July 11, 1998** - CSG Bus trip to NEHGS.

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

**PROGRAM, March 5, 1998:** Richard Roberts, Head of History & Genealogy Unit, CT State Library, 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. *Consuls* is available as a link from the CT State Library website at <http://csulib.ctstateu.edu>. Once you access the catalog, you will be able to see if there are books available for inter-library loan; listed as "copy 2."

Dick also spoke about the Reference Shelf and it's importance to everyone using the library. He focused on periodical and journal indexes, specifically:

Boyer, Carl, 3rd, *Donald Lines Jacobus' Index to Genealogical Periodicals*. Revised Edition. Newhall, CA: The author, 1983;

Clegg, Michael B. and Curt B. Witcher. *PERiodical Source Index*;

Sperry, Kip. *Index to Genealogical Periodical Literature, 1960-1977*;

Towle, Leslie K. and Laird C. Towle. *General Periodical Annual Index: Key to the Genealogical Literature*;

Warden, Jean. *The American Genealogist: Index to Subjects in Volumes 1-60*. Franklin, OH: The author, 1985;

Ullmann, Helen S. *Nutmegger Index: An Index to Non-Alphabetical Articles and A Subject Index to the Connecticut Nutmegger, Volumes 1-29, 1968-1996*. Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1996;

Connecticut Society of Genealogists. *Index to New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vols. 1-27 [H&G card catalog, drawer 24]*;

Rayne, Josephine Elizabeth et. al. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register Index of Persons, Index of Subjects, Index of Places, Volumes 1-50*. Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1989;

Fiske, Jane Fletcher. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register Index of Persons, Volumes 51-148*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1995;

Worden, Jean D. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Subject Index for Volumes 51 to 142, 1897-1988*. San Dimas, CA: The author, 1989;

Warden Jean D. *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record: Master Index, 113 Years, 1870-1982*. Franklin, OH: The author, 1983.

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CPGC MINUTES - THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1998. Attending: Donna Siemiatkoski, Warren Buchanan, Dianne Lenti, Robert Rafford, Richard Roberts, Michael Castroll, Betty Chapman, Gerald Cruthers, Ken Buckbee, Barbara Ferris, Jack Kuras, Susan Field-Burguiere, Robert Storm, Harlan Jessup, Helen Ullmann, Kathryn Black, Barbara Mathews.

BUSINESS MEETING was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by President, Donna Siemiatkoski.

Secretary's report of February 5 was read and accepted. (1) Kathryn Black (2) Betty Chapman.

Correspondence: General correspondence was reviewed. A letter from member Roger Joslyn addressed additions and corrections to the minutes of January 1998 specifically concerning vital record requests from California, Massachusetts and New York. His comments are appreciated and are as follows: California, "while and ID may be required for in-person requests, he has not been requested for such for mail requests to the DOH in Sacramento (using Tom Kemp's *Vital Records Handbook*)." Massachusetts, he "was once denied seeing an (early Massachusetts vital record because the mother's name was not included (this record would now be in the state archives and no longer 'impounded'). Other birth certificates that cannot be seen are stillbirths and those of indeterminate sex. Also, all amended birth certificates, for whatever reason, are restricted; at least they were when I lived in the Boston area about fifteen years ago." In Massachusetts the watchdog group regarding vital records access is: Massachusetts Genealogical Council, PO Box 5393, Cochituate, MA 01778. New York (State), "birth certificates are restricted under 75 (not 70) years. There are almost no pre-1882 records. The law was passed in 1880 and a handful of records date from that year, with just a few more recorded for 1881. 'Full' compliance probably did not occur until around the 1920s. Requests to the state archives can only be made for a search of indexes (also available at the National Archives-Northeast Region in New York City); requests for the actual certificates go to the DOH, where the turn-around has been as much as eighteen months. Requests to local registrars can usually take only a few weeks, but the record is often a third generation copy."

Treasurer's report was read and placed on file for audit with cash on hand of \$1821.06.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Hours and fees have changed at the Connecticut Historical Society. The library is now open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday each week. Non-member fee for use of library is \$6.00. Note: Volunteers can report in as early as 9 a.m. Monday - Saturday.

OLD BUSINESS: Government Relations, Donna Siemiatkoski recommended that the Department of Health continue retaining records as they are currently doing until Connecticut is at the electronic data stage. Warren Buchanan attended a recent hearing of the Joint Committee on Public Health, where they discussed the possibility of having an uncertified copy of a birth record, which would contain only the name of the person, when and where born. Parents names would not be listed. Members present felt that this was a not a suitable alternative to the accessibility of birth records now. Center for Archives, there is a need for a state archival center to be established. Everyone is urged to contact that legislator regarding the crucial issues now before the state's libraries and archivist. It was noted that the Governor's office will "red flag" any issue that they receive more than five letters on. Letters to our current Governor, John Rowland, who is a member of the SAR, will especially be noticed if all of us write with our concerns regarding the lack of proper archival preservation and storage.

NEW BUSINESS: Government Relations, Dick Roberts stated that Senator Upson's bill for any extra fee to be tacked onto to land transactions would give funding to the archives for use by towns only, unlike last year's bill, no funds would go to the state. Members who use the library regularly noted that the city directory collection is crumbling and many of the materials need correct preservation and repair. Our letters need to address the entire library system as well as the archives. If anyone writes to a legislator or pertinent committee of the current general assembly, please send a copy to Patricia Owens, Acting State Librarian. New Web Site, there is now a Connecticut Bulletin Board for anyone with on-line accessibility to stay up to date with current issues that affect our libraries, archives, vital records, etc. It is located at [www.knic.com/ctgen](http://www.knic.com/ctgen). New England Regional Genealogical Conference, Motion was made and passed to have a booth at the New England Regional Conference in Portland, ME in September of 1998. (1) Jack Kuras (2) Kathryn Black. Incorporation, Jack Kuras reported on the feasibility of CPGC becoming incorporated. He, along with Bob Bamford and Robert Rafford, looked into all of the requirements for incorporating. It would cost \$85.00 initially, then \$25.00 per year with annual report. Once we were incorporated, our members would be recognized by the town clerks. Further

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 of the CPGC brochure. This was passed around so that everyone present could proofread their entry.

Adjourned: 11:10 a.m. *Dianne B. Lent, Recording Secretary*

#### Report from President, Donna Siemiatkoski:

Report from President, Donna Siemiatkoski regarding the status of records at 80 Washington Street. As of this writing, no home for the records has been found. No vacant state owned building meets archival standards. There is no money in the budget for rent money; a state law may mandate that only a state-owned facility be used. In the long-term, an overall facility is needed to house historic records which are under the jurisdiction of several state agencies: state library, state archives, department of public health. Many other states have a Hall of Records. After our last CPGC meeting Warren requested that Dick Roberts arrange for a meeting with Warren and Donna with the State Librarian. The meeting was held on Monday, March 9 with Lynne Newell and Dick Roberts also in attendance. Ms. Owens will serve as interim librarian through the end of June, she cannot succeed as state librarian. Her goal is to focus on a unified solution to the space crisis at the State Library and to solve the current crisis of the records at 80 Washington Street. She reported that letters to the Governor and the Commissioner of Public Works had resulted in their delaying their order to remove the records. She said that the Connecticut Library Association was planning a March on the Capitol on March 18...would the genealogists care to join them? As many genealogists as possible were notified in a short space of time with the result that 30 genealogists and 10 librarians assembled in the rain to march to the State Capitol where we proceeded to the Senate Gallery, where we were recognized and introduced officially. Some marchers continued on to the Legislative Office Building where they left off letters to their legislators. At this point, no new bills can be introduced. Action on the historic records will likely come before the Appropriations, Education, and/or Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committees. A goal has been set of making sure that each legislator hears from a genealogist. Names of the members of the three committees will be available at the CPGC meeting, and will be posted on the Connecticut Genealogy website. Because CPGC is not a non-profit organization, we are free to lobby and to pay to influence public opinion.

Vice-president Warren Buchanan underwent 11 hours of surgery for throat cancer on March 20. His wife reports that the surgery was successful, all the cancer was removed. She said that all the prayers and good wishes were greatly appreciated. Warren will spend about a week in the hospital. He participated in the March on the 18th and left, promising to return to his microfilm reader and his bridge game in about two months.

#### DIRECTIONS TO POLISH NATIONAL HOME:

From I-91, north or south, Exit 29A, (Capitol area), onto the Connland highway, take the very first exit to Columbus Boulevard. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Columbus Boulevard, at the second light, turn right onto Charter Oak Avenue. At the first light turn right into the Polish National Home parking lot.

From I-84 West, take Exit 54 (downtown Hartford), stay left. At the first light, turn left onto Columbus Boulevard. At the fifth light take a right onto Charter Oak Avenue. At the first light turn right into the Polish National Home parking lot.

From I-84 East, Take Exit 48B (Capitol Avenue), at the end of the ramp, take a left onto Capitol Avenue, (pass the State Library). At the fourth light Capitol Avenue meets Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street, go one block and turn left onto Charter Oak Avenue (opposite South Congregational Church.) At the second light turn left into the Polish National Home parking lot.

If you get lost: The phone number there is 860-247-1784. Ask for Gene Siemiatkoski, manager.

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council  
CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY  
AND ARCHIVES IN NEED OF AN  
ARCHIVAL CENTER

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**SEND LETTERS TO YOUR LEGISLATOR TODAY**

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**!! IMPORTANT !!**

**NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD AT**  
**POLISH NATIONAL HOME**  
**HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

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.**  
**April 2, 1998**  
*Legislative Issues*  
**Polish National Home**  
**60 Charter Oak Ave**  
**Hartford CT**

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