

CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS COUNCIL

October 1, 1998

Connecticut State Library, Hartford, CT

10 a.m.

Welcome and introduction of new members and guests

Speaker: Patricia L. Owens, Interim Librarian, Connecticut State Library

Subject: "Where We Are Today and Where We are Going in the Future; with regard to the CT State Library"

Business Meeting - Call to order

Secretary's Remarks (In absence of President and Vice President)

✓ Recording Secretary - Minutes

✓ Corresponding Secretary

✓ Treasurer

✓ Government Relations

Old Business

✓ Packet Design for hand out to Legislators - Tom Howard / ~~Bob Rafford~~

✓ Appointment of Corresponding Secretary to fill vacancy left by resignation of Lucille Shea.

✓ Professional Practice Topics for 1998-1999

New Business

Next Meeting - Annual Meeting - November 5, 1998, (Polish National Home)  
Program - open

Adjournment

Coming Events - October 21-25 NERGC at Portland ME  
November 5, CPGC Meeting - PNH, Hartford  
November 12, CSG bus trip to NEHGS, Boston



OCTOBER 1998

CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS COUNCIL  
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**October Program: Pat Owens, Interim Director, Connecticut State Library** spoke about the coming change at the Connecticut State Library with the arrival of Kendall Wiggin, the new head of the library, but emphasized that there would be continuing emphasis on the building needs of the state library and the state museum. She spoke of her initiatives such as inviting legislators to tours of the library, and suggested that naming 1999 as "The Year of the Library" is too limited, as it will take much more than a year to accomplish what needs to be done. There may be a move to off-site storage for the library, with public service functions maintained at the library in Hartford, since it is considered better to keep the library in the Hartford area. The Advisory Group that has been established will be maintained, and there continues to be a need to inform the many friends of the library on issues, where CGPC plays an important role. Pat Owens said that she might do some consulting work for the Connecticut State Library in the near future. She was thanked by the group for her leadership during this interim period.

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**CPGC Minutes, Thursday, October 1, 1998.**

**Attending:** Jack Keras, Tom Howard, Dianne Lenti, ~~Gerald Cruthers~~, Virginia Howard, Rob Rafford, Priscilla Chatfield, Penny Hartzell, Marge Cox, Harlan Jessup, ~~Helen S. Ullman~~, Fred Hart, Richard C. Roberts, Barbara J. ~~Mathews~~, Michael R. Castroll, Betty Chapman, Lucille Shea, Bea Thomson, Judy Plummer, and Pat Owens, guest. **Jack Kuras, Gerald Cruthers, Helen Ullmann, Barbara Mathews.**

**Meeting** called to order by Dianne Lenti, Acting-President-Pro-Tem.

The agenda was changed so that Pat Owens, who remained as a guest for the first part of the meeting, could hear Tom Howard's presentation.

**Legislative Brochure:** Tom Howard showed a 'Sampler' that he had prepared showing what is available on a family at the Connecticut State Library, with an introduction which sets a pre-disposition toward family history research. He explained that he had not received input from members on this project, and so was presenting this preliminary sample to prime discussion. The important question was, what is the purpose and then, do the contents meet the purpose?

A lively discussion followed, including the need to make this 'marketing tool' readable, noticeable, and attention-getting, perhaps using 'bullit' format as a quicker, user-friendly way of getting the legislators' attention, also stressing the diversity in Connecticut's population. Dick Roberts pointed out the library's home page on the Internet, and the need to get that address out and encourage its use. There was a reminder that the brochure needs to be designed for the legislators not the library users. Jack Keras moved that a small sub-committee work on this as there is some urgency, it being desirable to have the brochure as soon as possible. Tom Howard seconded the motion. Motion carried. Tom Howard, Mike Castroll, and Dick Roberts will work on this beginning next week.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Mail received:

1) Letter from NERGC. Bob Rafford has books to be on the table. For contributing the sum of \$5, members may have their cards or brochures on the CPGC table at the Conference.

2) Information about a new County Longford, Ireland, book.  
3) Heritage Quest on the "road show" programs that they have available.  
4) Complaint from a woman writing to complain that she had not received a report from the researcher she was employing, despite some correspondence about the time and money involved in her request. After some discussion about the role of the CPGC in this situation, it was felt that there should be no public forum on this or similar complaints, that they should be handled discretely, perhaps by the Executive Committee, and there was recognition of the fact that research projects do sometimes take months; furthermore it was felt that the CPGC is a council, not a certifying body or one that can use sanctions in similar situation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bob Rafford reported that \$111 had been received in income, and expenses going out totaled \$136. He reported that this is a typical situation, with income failing to supply the expenses to be covered. The money received from the NERGC Conference may help to make up the difference. The issue can wait a bit to be resolved.

**Old Business:** Dick Roberts reported that the state library home page is simpler, that there are public access terminals at the library in working order but that they have been under-utilized. It is only necessary to sign up for a block of time. Also, there is a new vendor for the photocopiers, there having been some problems with using the vendor cards. The question was raised about selling items in the library, such as census forms, but the policy at the library is that the staff doesn't handle money. It would have to be a different group, such as a "Friends of the Library". Finally, upgrading Kevin Johnson to researching will create a retrieval work need.

Bob Rafford spoke concerning a list of Professional Practice Topics, since the Council had felt that every other month would be a good distribution of time for this. A suggestion was made for Round-Table Topics, and it was agreed that the November meeting in this format would focus on Register formats in computer-generated genealogies. In the matter of the position of Corresponding Secretary, Lucille Shea's resignation from the position was accepted and Ginny Howard was approved by consensus. The proper forms will be filled out.

**New Business:** The need for a genealogical calendar was discussed. Harlan Jessup announced that Connecticut Ancestry Society will be having workshops on south-west state repositories on October 17 at the Bridgeport Public Library, from 10 AM to 2 PM, followed by Thomas J. Kemp, the NEHGS Library Director, as speaker. Also a reminder of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists meeting at the Mashatucket Pequot Museum and Library in Ledyard, on October 17th.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 noon.

Judith Plummer, Acting Secretary

Next Meeting: November 5, 1998, at the Connecticut State Library, to facilitate the Round - Table Professional Topic.