

PO Box 4273, Hartford CT 06147-4273 E - M a i l : [cpge@aol.com](mailto:cpge@aol.com)  
 Web Page: <http://www.ancestry.com/societyhall/pages/sochall-732/main.htm>

## MAY 1999 - NEWS & MINUTES

*Dianne B. Lenti, Secretary / Editor*

---

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

---

### NOTICES AND UPDATES OF INTEREST

**National Archives** Issues New Regulations on Researcher Registration and Research Room Procedures -- The April 23 Federal Register includes on pages 19899 to 19906 a notice from the National Archives on a final rule as well as an interim rule on "Researcher Registration and Research Room Procedures." The new rule clarifies research room procedures and updates the types of equipment that researchers can bring into the research room. The rule provides, for example, detailed information on copying procedures and on conditions for securing approval of requests to microfilm records. The "Interim Final Rule Changes" deals only with misconduct issues such as the grounds on which a researcher identification card may be revoked and clarification of what consists of unacceptable behavior in the research rooms. The Rule changes go into effect on May 24. Comments on the Interim Rule must be received by June 22. NCC invites you to redistribute the NCC Washington Updates. A complete backfile of these reports is maintained by H-Net at <<http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~ncc>> To subscribe to the "NCC Washington Update," send an e-mail message to [listserv@h-net.msu.edu](mailto:listserv@h-net.msu.edu) according to the following model: SUBSCRIBE H-NCC firstname lastname, institution.

**New Web Page for NEHGS:** <http://jump.altavista.com/rns.go?New+England+Historic+Genealogical+Society>

**Connecticut Historical Society** - New Library Director: Richard Frieder has been named the Library Director at the Connecticut Historical Society. Mr. Frieder spoke briefly with our group and will consider our comments and concerns regarding the library collection and hours open to the public.

**Heritage Quest:** Will soon be releasing CDs containing indexed, digitized, 1870 U.S. Federal Census records. It is believed that they will be copying all U.S. census records to CDs; 1790-1920.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### CPGC MINUTES - THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999

**Attending:** Warren Buchanan, Dianne Lenti, Thomas Howard, Gerald Cruthers, Barbara Mathews, Betsy Butts, Donna Siemiatkoski, Virginia Howard, Fred Hart, Jack Kuras, Jean Perreault, Kathryn Black, Harlan Jessup, Marge Cox, Rob Rafford, Betty Chapman, Bea Thomson, Judith Johnson, Priscilla Chatfield.

**MEETING** called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Warren Buchanan.

**Secretary's report** of April 1, 1999 was read and accepted with correction.\* (1) Jack Kuras (2) Barbara Mathews. (\*Omitted from April minutes: At the request of Joseph Camposeo, Manchester, CT Town Clerk, we discussed the idea of condensing the present VR access rules into "plain language". Possibly a wallet size card. If this could be done in a way as to help the clerk's offices to do their job better and/or more efficiently, it would probably be appreciated and enhance the relationships between our groups. The concept was that it should be a joint project (with Town Clerks) and each group designating a subcommittee. Fred Hart and Barbara Mathews indicated that they would be willing to work on such a project. No timetable set. in the future.)

**Treasurer's report** was read and placed on file for audit with a balance of \$920.28.

**Correspondence:** General mail plus incoming queries. The later created a discussion. (See new business, below).

**Government Relations (Warren Buchanan):**

- Legis. Bill # 156 continues to appear positive with regard to a fee, now reduced to \$3.00, on all real estate filings with proceeds going to the preservation of historical documents.
- Part of the space in the Connecticut State Library building, previously occupied by the Connecticut Museum of History has been taken over by Judiciary [Supreme Court].
- Adoption legislation is "alive and well" - If passed, it will provide the right of an adult adoptee to see their original birth certificate. It would enable them to request the Probate Judge to allow them to see the material. The birth parent(s) may object. The bill appears to be on the side of the adoptee. LCO No. 5349, Raised Bill No. 1274. Substitute Senate Bill 1274, File No. 365.

**Membership (Robert Rafford):**

New Members: Betsy Butts, Salem, CT. Betsy does research at the CT State Library and in her geographic area.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**New England Regional Genealogical Conference:** Donna Siemiakoski has received \$900.00 from the NERGC and will forward it to the CPGC Treasurer within the week.

**Brochures:** Motion made that the membership chair update the member list and reprint 500 brochures by the June meeting. (1) Harlan Jessup (2) Tom Howard. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Queries Received:** Motion made that requests for service, including those with documentation, be referred back to the requested with our brochure and member list, and that we [CPGC] not ourselves assign the task to a member. (1) Barbara Mathews (2) Fred Hart. Motion carried.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:05 a.m. (1) Barbara Mathews (2) Betty Chapman  
*Dianne B. Lenti, Recording Secretary*

**Following the meeting,** Judith Johnson conducted a "behind the scenes" tour of the CT Historical Society library. It was very informative and members attending learned about various manuscript materials and photograph collections. The photograph may be accessed by making an appointment to view them.

**Important:** Enclosed is a form to fill out and return a.s.a.p. -- for correct listing of your name on our brochure and/or web page.

**S C H E D U L E D M E E T I N G S**

**June 3, 1999 - CPGC Meeting, "Client Contracts & Legal Issues,"** CT State Library, Hartford.

**June 5, 1999 - NERGC Annual Meeting,** Sudbury MA.

**August 11-14, 1999 - FGS Conference,** St. Louis, MO.

**May 31- June 3, 2000, NGS Conference, Bridge to America,** host NERGC, Providence RI

**"FAMILY HISTORY DAY" - A FIRST!!**  
**JOSEPH CAMPOSEO, MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT TOWN CLERK**  
**HOLDS PUBLIC GENEALOGICAL EVENT AT TOWN HALL WITH SPEAKERS & EXHIBITORS**

*Written by Dianne B. Lenti, member CT Professional Genealogists Council*

On Saturday, May 15th, 1999 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Manchester's Town Hall was open to the public for a "Family History Day." To my knowledge, this was the first time that a Town Clerk in Connecticut had held such an event. There were a total of thirteen presentations, eight exhibitors, a food vendor and historic trolley rides.

The weather was wonderful. More than 300 people toured the vital records vault, viewed exhibits and talked with exhibitors. They stayed for the following genealogy sessions: "Beginning Genealogy" with Dr. Robert Rafford, "Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors" with Dianne Lenti, and "Oral History" with Dr. John Sutherland. Each presentation was given at two different time slots during the day. Dr. Rafford and Dianne Lenti are both members of CPGC. Dr. Sutherland is Professor emeritus of History and Director emeritus of the Institute of Local History at Manchester Community-Technical College. For years he conducted an oral history project with former workers of the Cheney silk mills.

Other presentations throughout the day included: "William Webb," an African American soldier serving in the American Civil War. His life was interpreted and performed by Kevin Johnson of the History and Genealogy Unity of the Connecticut State Library. Through Mr. Johnson, Webb tells a fascinating tale about the experiences of this private in the 29th Connecticut Volunteers. "Louis R. Cheney," a time-traveling Connecticut State Senator visiting Manchester from his own time of 1915. Researched and portrayed by Manchester Historical Society member Robert B. Laughlin, Senator Cheney told family stories, talked about his own interest in family research and compared the turn of the century he witnessed to the upcoming century change. Cheney's grandfather was one of the founders of Cheney Brothers, the silk manufacturing empire based in Manchester. The "Alleycats," a singing group from Yale University regaled the crowd with great a cappella performances.

The trolley rides consisted of twelve, twenty-five minute guided tours through the heart of Manchester's downtown and historic mill district. Herb Bengtson, town historian and member of the Manchester Historical Society was tour coordinator and high school students helped fill in with additional guide work.

Exhibitors included Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Connecticut Gravestone Network, Manchester Historical Society, Connecticut State Library, Manchester Probate Court, Northeast Professional Genealogy, The Buckland Times (owned, edited and published by Sue Way), CT Prof. Genealogists Council, Town Clerk (a view of the vault area) and LDS Family History Center. The latter had an exhibit which included a computer and microfilm reader, allowing participants a "hands-on" approach to a first time genealogical experience. There was also a contest, with many entries, for family charts, photograph collections, family memorabilia, posters, etc.

All expenses were covered by area business sponsors who gave generous donations. Volunteers helped coordinate events and keep everything running smoothly; graciously gave their time to participate.

CPGC is extremely pleased with this effort and hopes that the initiative of Joe Camposeo might catch on and be duplicated in other towns. Joe says that "record numbers of Americans are discovering the joys of family research. And thanks to technology, information about our past is more accessible than ever before. Our program [of May 15th] showcases what's new about a very old field - genealogy, and offers an entertaining and informative look at our history as a town, a state and a nation."

If you are ever in Manchester, please stop in at the Town Clerk's office and see how receptive they are to genealogists. Their office strives to comply with the current vital records law (effective October 1996) and they are a pleasure to work with. Address: 41 Center Street, Manchester, CT 06040. Ph: 860-647-3037.

CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS COUNCIL

IMPORTANT

**dated material - please complete and return asap !!!**

->(Note: If "Brochure Update / Web Page Listing" was completed at last meeting; notice does not apply)

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



*important !  
dated material enclosed*

10-99

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

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday - 10:00 A.M.

June 3, 1999

*"Client Contracts / Legal Issues"*

CT State Library

231 Capitol Ave

Hartford, Connecticut