



January 18, 2021

Ms Deborah E. Schander, JD, MLIS
Connecticut State Librarian
231 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms Schander,

Welcome to Connecticut and our favorite institution, the Connecticut State Library. If these times were normal times, a trip to the History and Genealogy Reading Room would find patrons bent over books, analyzing microfilm images on scanning machines, and carefully examining original materials hundreds of years old in the archives area. These are the genealogists and historians, the patrons most likely to be found in the library using its resources.

The Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council came together in 1993 as a lunch group of researchers working in the History and Genealogy Reading Room at CSL. The group formalized over concerns about issues such as cutbacks in library hours. CPGC continues to support the State Library mission to preserve and make accessible Connecticut's history and heritage.

Our members include genealogical researchers, writers, publishers, instructors, lecturers, managers of genealogical records, librarians, and genealogists. The genealogists in CPGC serve their clients, heritage and lineage societies, or perform forensic research for the US Department of Defense's repatriation system, attorneys, or probate courts. Each year sees about 60 hardworking professional genealogists working on Connecticut families, and thousands more hobbyists working personally on their own families.

CPGC's mission is to foster excellence in genealogical work in Connecticut by supporting those researching professionally and those Connecticut repositories which serve as their primary resources, most notably the State Library. One way we support repositories is through the Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Acquisition Fund, established in memory of the first CPGC president, a nationally-recognized specialist in the families of ancient Windsor, Connecticut. The Donna fund carries a 501 (c) 3 designation. Every year it donates \$1,000 or more in books to libraires in Connecticut. Often CSL is the sole beneficiary, rightfully considering its central place for Connecticut historical research. Two of the microfilm scanners were donated by CPGC. In most years, the Unit Head of History and Genealogy provides a wish list that the organization seeks to supply. During the past 20 years, CPGC

donated to CSL in 2019, 2018, 2017, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, and 2003. In fact, our first ever presentation of books was made in the H&G unit on March 18, 2003, to your predecessor Kendall F. Wiggin.

On behalf of our members CPGC also advocates for open records and records access. We write to legislators regarding the need to support the library, its collections, its staff, and its public hours. We testify at hearings when needed.

You are undoubtedly extremely busy now but the Board of CPGC would be pleased to schedule a time for you to meet with us to share your plans and dreams for the State Library and discuss how we might be able to support you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Zinck".

Jennifer Zinck

President, CPGC

president@ctprogen.org