

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Redding Vital Records Expansion

Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc. (www.rootsweb.com/~ctcas) commemorates a significant addition to Connecticut Vital Records filling a gap in the Barbour Collection. In a small ceremony, Sunday, September 23, 2007, at 2:00 P.M., in the Mark Twain Library, in Redding, CT, Connecticut Ancestry Society President Richard Roof will present an indexed transcription of early Redding Vital Records to First Selectman Natalie Ketcham, Library officials, and other town officials. This will be followed by a free, educational workshop by Jean Taylor, from the Library, outlining the Margaret Wixted genealogical collection held at the Mark Twain Library. Library personnel and Connecticut Ancestry board members will then help attendees with their personal genealogical research.

Lucius B. Barbour, one of the pillars of Connecticut genealogy, was appointed Connecticut's examiner of public records in June 1911. He directed the creation of over one million slip entries for vital records covering the entire state, with little exception, now stored at the Connecticut State Library. This resource and its subsequent republications are used by genealogists throughout the world researching Connecticut families. Over the last ten years, Connecticut Ancestry Society has endeavored to locate and publish some of the missed records under the direction of our editor, Harlan R. Jessup, considered the preeminent expert on Barbour "errors and omissions."

In some cases, the towns did not maintain the early vital records and we need to turn to any surviving church or minister generated records. Our August issue contains ministerial records of the Rev. Lemuel B. Hull of Connecticut covering Christ Church in Redding and St. James Church in Danbury from 1822 to 1835. We have also transcribed some recently discovered vital records of Redding that were missed by Barbour along with baptisms between 1814-1878 of Christ Church, Episcopal, in Redding.

The host and co-sponsor of this event, the Mark Twain Library, was founded in 1908 by Samuel Clemens, one of Redding's most celebrated residents. The Margaret Wixted Collection represents source material for anyone with ancestors in Redding or many of the surrounding towns. While the program is free, reservations are suggested by calling the Library at 938-2545 or signing up at the Library front desk.

About Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc.

Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc, the oldest genealogical society in Connecticut, was founded in 1954 by a small group of genealogists in southwestern Connecticut. Then known as the Stamford Genealogical Society, the title of its bulletin was changed in 1971 to *Connecticut Ancestry*. Finally, in 1989, the organization's name was officially changed to Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc.

The Society's growing membership now extends across the continent with only about half living in Connecticut. The work of the Society is all done by volunteers, and both professional and amateur genealogists are active participants.