

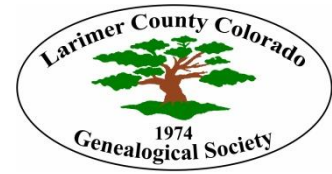
Larimer County Genealogical Society



2012 LCGS Annual Report

by Robert Larson, President

January 19, 2012



The 2012 Annual Report provides an overall summary of our society regarding projects, programs, classes, workshops, and external society events throughout the past year. As you read this report, you'll find that we are truly a very active society! Last year was even better economically for our society and more members joined our society.

Our society sponsored or attended three major events last year: Colorado Family History Expo, Amazing in Aging Fair, and Victorian Sunday Festival, all during last June. In addition, we had 68 people attend our annual Holiday dinner party last December and received \$229 from our raffle drawings and another \$78 in raffle drawings last January with over \$750 worth of prizes.

My third year as President gave us several more opportunities for our society. We sponsored the third annual Colorado Family History Expo in Loveland, where 500 genealogists and family historians attended 88 classes with 50 exhibitors. We also attended the sixth annual Amazing in Aging Fair, which had over 350 attendees. With the initial help of Vice President **Kathy Patrick**, we've written a monthly genealogy column for three years in the popular 50 Plus Marketplace News. It's distributed to over 110 locations in Larimer County, so it gives us lots of publicity.

The Board approved several major projects in 2010 including a new cemetery publication to include Timnath and Estes Park cemeteries. Unfortunately, the past project chair returned to work full time, so we need a new project chair to finish this project. Both cemetery projects started in 2010 and should hopefully be completed by next fall. Thanks to **Sharon Akers** for starting the project!

The other project is our society produced the **Genealogy Quest™** TV show that started broadcasting last January on Fort Collins cable channel 97. We've recorded 15 programs with the last four programs to be completed by June. We now sell DVDs (a full set includes four DVDs with 16 programs) to our members and genealogists across the United States and have sold \$170 worth of DVDs last year. We plan on marketing our DVDs to many libraries and other similar institutions in the U.S. starting next month, and we expect even more revenue. Thanks to host **Ken Goldsberry** and our many guests for producing the TV series!

We joined our Colorado Council in 2010 to help index the 1885 Colorado Census. We have 14 active and 16 backup indexers from across the county to complete this project and hopefully other future Colorado projects. Publications librarian and our 2011 Volunteer of the Year **Pat Johnson** is our society coordinator for this project. Pat has done an impressive job in making this happen. The Council president indicated we are still number one with the most active indexers (14) and number

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one with the largest indexed and arbitrated records completed (329,908) since December 2010, compared to other Colorado societies. Thanks to Pat and our indexers and arbitrators!

We obtained library agreements with Poudre River Public Library District and Loveland Public Library early last year. The agreements give us preference on meeting space for our Board and general meetings plus space for our 20 classes and workshops every year. In return, we plan on providing volunteers for the two library systems in Fort Collins and Loveland for one or two days a week on helping library patrons with their genealogy research.

Our Board approved a social marketing web service called **Facebook** in 2010. Facebook had over 800 million worldwide users of all ages to date. It's not for the younger generations anymore as the two largest growth areas on Facebook are baby boomers and seniors in the U.S. This gives our society a new marketing tool to attract all generations from age 30 through retirement ages. The public or any member can view our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lcgsco.

The Board approved new affiliate programs last year that included Flip-Pal (mobile scanners), Genealogical Publishing Company (largest genealogy book supplier), and TYT Publishing (Boyd & Gwen Johnson's 'Write Now' book). We receive donations or commissions up to 15% from these different affiliate programs. As Paul mentioned in his annual report, we have received over \$134 in commissions from these affiliates since starting last September. In addition, Cartridge World in Fort Collins and Loveland gives us 10% discount on their recycled cartridges. See our website for details!

Kathy Patrick became our **Vice President** in 2011. Kathy scheduled many great programs during last year and also coordinated the Junior Girl Scout Heritage Badge program. She has scheduled all speakers for 2012 with many new exciting speakers and programs including our members **Carol Stetser** and **Pat Johnson**. This year's Junior Girl Scout program is scheduled in May. Thank you Kathy for your outstanding programs and coordinating the Junior Girl Scout program!

Treasurer Paul Smith kept up the financial responsibilities and gave us greater reporting capabilities. Our ending account balance for December 31, 2011 was \$4,412, up from \$3,455 since December 2010. Paul reported an income of \$4,592 with annual expenses of \$3,658. Extra income came from increased memberships, publication sales, DVDs, affiliate programs, and our recycled table. Paul's last term will be completed this month. Thank you Paul for your great service!

Barbara Bonilla has been our **Recording Secretary** since 2009. Barbara records our Board meeting minutes and has volunteered for several events at our society. Barbara's first term expires in January and has decided not to run again. Thank you Barbara for your very valuable service!

Corresponding Secretary Gordon "Hap" Hazard sends our speakers and visitors "Thank You" letters for attending our many meetings and classes or workshops. In addition, Hap annually sends "Thank You" letters to our Board members and chairs for their great volunteerism in making this a great society. Besides that, he monitors our mail services and operates as chair for the Publications

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Committee. He is also President of the Fort Collins Historical Society. Hap has been on our Board for four years and serving his last year as Corresponding Secretary. Thank You Hap!

Board Director Dale Eriksen stepped down due to health issues last spring and member **Nancy Abrahams** replaced Dale last October. Nancy recommended starting a new **Book Committee**, making recommendations to both Fort Collins and Loveland libraries and the Board approved her request. Please welcome Nancy to our Board!

Board Director Jackie Kietzmann stepped down last September due to other commitments. Member and Poudre River PLD librarian **Ginny Feagler** was appointed to replace Jackie and works with us on Fort Collins and Loveland library issues. Ginny also teaches several genealogy classes for us and helps Nancy on the Book Committee. Please welcome Ginny to our Board!

Sonny Hygh has been our **Archival Chair** for several years and has kept our important society documents and newsletters in storage. Sonny has been storing or digitizing important society documents, such as newsletters and Board meeting minutes that have been digitized to CDs, which requires less space. Thank you Sonny as always!

Budget & Finance Chair Len Ray and his committee review important financial issues for our society. They have reviewed and made several recommendations on financial and legal aspects to the Board that saved us time and money last year. Len has stepped down as chair after four years and member **Michael Werner** has agreed to take over the committee this year. Thank you Len for your great services!

Our **Colorado Council Delegates John & Ruth Rinne** have been attending the quarterly meetings, promoting our society's accomplishments to our Council member societies and obtaining their accomplishments. Our society hosted the Council meeting last October in Fort Collins. Over twenty five Council members attended to learn about our affiliate program with Flip-Pal. More sales resulted for Flip-Pal and our society! Thank you John & Rudi for your great efforts as delegates!

George & Hildy Morgan have been our **Education Committee** Co-chairs since 2009. George and Hildy have increased our classes and workshops to twenty this year. Both Loveland and Windsor requested more genealogy classes and we accommodated them. Class attendance from members and visitors has steadily increased since then. We actually have increased our membership from these classes and meetings. Thank you George and Hildy for the great classes and workshops!

Every year, the education committee nominates an outstanding volunteer. A certificate for **Volunteer of the Year** and a magazine subscription is awarded to a society member, who does an outstanding job for our society. Last month, we presented **Pat Johnson** with our prestigious Volunteer of the Year award at our holiday dinner party and also at our January meeting. Congratulations, Pat!

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Our **Family Tree Maker Users Group** has grown with over 100 genealogists attending this popular software class since it began in 2004. I continue teaching nine classes annually at three local libraries in Fort Collins and Loveland with an average attendance of 15 people. The group has grown to over 40 people at certain classes from our members and new genealogists in the area.

Our **Hospitality Committee Chair Carol Diaczun** took over in 2010. She coordinated the December holiday dinner at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Collins and the great culinary services from Canino's Italian Restaurant. We had the highest attendance with over 65 members, guests, and spouses. **McDonald's franchise restaurants** in Fort Collins donates their premium coffee for our events, so please stop by their Timberline at Horsetooth, 2401 S. College Ave, or I-25 at Mulberry locations and please thank them accordingly. Carol, nice job as always and thank you for making our meetings really sociable with all the help from our members bringing those tasty desserts!

Our **Publicity Chair, Rosamary Weinmeister** is responsible for emailing our society general meeting programs to our members and sending flyers to many libraries and other institutions on a monthly basis. Thanks Rosamary for your great efforts in getting the message to everyone!

Jan Hygh is our **Membership Committee Chair**. Jan and her staff have greeted visitors and new members at our general meetings and provides the membership statistics every month to the Board. Below are several of the stats from the last two years. I predict we'll have about 200 members by the end of 2012, which is about normal growth with other societies in our area. I believe we are still the fourth largest society in Colorado. Thank you Jan as always, even after recovering from your stroke!

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Membership</u> | <u>New Members</u> | <u>Visitors</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2011 | 182 | 32 | 105 including speakers |
| 2010 | 172 | 30 | 82 including speakers |

The **Newsletter Committee** has continued to update the newsletter content and layout design to keep it fresh and exciting to read. We deliver over 250 newsletters to members, visitors, other societies, and libraries across the U.S by mail or email every other month. We receive many nice comments from our members, other societies, and distant genealogists about our newsletter. I'm stepping down and new member **Stacey Rehbein** takes over as newsletter chair and editor this month. **Sherri Schloss**, our publisher, along with **Julia Hillen** and **Nadine Gates** continue to deliver the newsletter on a very timely basis every other month. Ladies, nice job as always and thank you for your outstanding services!

Nominations Committee Chair Dora Hildebrand and **Barbara Sullivan** have nominated **Kathy Patrick** as first term Vice President, **Bruce Harshberger** for first term Treasurer, **Nancy Neville** for first term Recording Secretary, and new Board member **Nancy Abrahams** as first term Director for

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2012-2013. We look forward to working with these new Board members. Thank you Dora and Barbara for your wonderful nominations and services!

Publications Chair Hap Hazard continues to do an outstanding job. Through Hap's great efforts, we received \$361 for our society publications and lapel pins. However, we're receiving less revenue each year for our publications, but the additional DVD sales should improve our income in 2012.

Treasurer Paul Smith temporarily ran the **Recycle Goods table** last year. We need a person to take over the table. If you're interested, please let Paul or me know. We only received \$23 last year and gave away many magazines at our past events to encourage visitors into this fun hobby and joining our society. The Board again thanks Paul for promoting the recycled table!

Loveland Support Group Chairs Boyd & Gwen Johnson started this group in 2010. It became very successful with monthly small group meetings in Loveland to discuss the genealogy needs of society members. We need a member or couple to start a similar group in Fort Collins. If you're interested, please let me know. Thank you Boyd and Gwen for your time and excellent teaching methods!

We have two new **Webmasters Kim Freeman** and **Larry Doyle**, who have transformed our website into an exciting marketing and information tool. Last year after Board approval, we created a website committee of six former and current webmasters, who recommended replacing our website with a new look using the popular Wordpress Content Management System, adding many new and easier to use features, new marketing concepts, and adding 12 new webpages last year. We now have 165 webpages for our members and visitors to explore our society information, society photos, genealogy databases, even a new events calendar as of this week, and many genealogy resources. We updated our registration page with more features to improve our events.

We even have a program to track our members and visitors viewing our website. For example, last year we received over 7,000 visits looking at over 30,000 webpages from members and visitors in 30 different countries. This new website cost us less than \$250 in donations to Wordpress developers for a world class website that would have cost us over \$6,500 by a private developer. Thanks to all past website committee members and our two webmasters for developing a world class genealogy website! Please visit our website at www.lcgsc.org to see all the new changes!

We plan on continuing our membership expansion and attending new events in line with our publicity efforts of our society and continue with our education programs to help our members and visitors on genealogy and family history research. Don't forget to bring a relative or friend who is interested in genealogy or family history. But don't tell them that we're really addicting!

Happy Trails,

Robert (Bob) Larson

Your President & Retiring Newsletter Editor