

Minutes
Larimer County Genealogical Society
September 22, 2005
Ft. Collins Public Library
Ben Delatour Room

President Ken Goldsberry called the meeting to order with his trusty cowbell at 6:35 pm. He began the meeting by explaining what a “Genealogy Gem” is. It is an outstanding fact or experience that a genealogist has found out that he or she wants to share with the Society.

Ken then discussed the recent Cemetery Crawl held at Grandview Cemetery. One of our members, Jean Anderson, portrayed one of the featured Larimer County pioneers. Ken mentioned that this year was the 10th performance; the Crawl has researched and portrayed 70 local characters.

Next, Ken presented some research tips that Jim Willard had passed along to him. Jim suggested that, if you can't find who you are looking for in a directory, it is important to check the end of the book. Often listed at the back are records received too late to be included in the main body of the work. Jim also suggested that genealogists look for autograph books in their family papers. Another, often overlooked, source for old photos is postcards. Decades ago, most towns and even organizations, such as churches, printed postcards. These can fill in blanks in a family pictorial record.

Finally, Ken wondered if members would purchase a bumper sticker advertising the Society. Only a few members responded that they would place such a bumper sticker on their car.

Committee Reports

By-Laws

Ken reported that By-laws Chairperson Gerri Becher and the rest of the committee are working on updating the Society by-laws.

Education and Outreach

Dolores Ray, Education and Outreach Committee Chairperson, was out of town. Jim Willard reported on upcoming workshops.

Lady Teviot will present a workshop on English research on October 15. Spaces are still available for that workshop.

On October 29 a workshop will be presented on “Preservation of Documents and Photos”. A “Restoration of Photos” workshop will be presented on November 8. Both workshops will be held at the Harmony Library. Some spaces are still available for these workshops. A “Genealogy on the Internet” workshop will be held on October 8 at the Harmony Library. This workshop is full, but a waiting list for next year's workshops has been started.

Jim further stated that several subcommittees are being formed to implement proposed programs in oral history, girl scout merit badges and introductory genealogy programs for elementary schools. Volunteers are needed for these committees. The Education and Outreach Committee handout is attached.

After Jim's report, Ken congratulated the committee on the quantity and quality of workshops that have been presented this year.

Historical

Paul Smith has agreed to be our new Historical Committee chairman.

Hospitality

Marge Abrames reported that she will need three volunteers to help provide snacks for next month's meeting. Volunteers should contact her during the break.

Membership

Chairperson Jean Anderson reported that the Society now has 138 members – the most ever! Jean reported briefly on her experience at the Cemetery Crawl. She stated that it was very interesting to research and then portray a character from Larimer County's past. The event was well attended and great fun for everyone involved.

Newsletter

Bob Larson reported on the recent meeting held by his committee. He briefly discussed the "Event Planner" feature of the newsletter. This feature lists genealogical events being held around the area. He mentioned that members might notice that some of our members, Ceil Damschroder and Pat Johnson, for example, are giving presentations to other area societies.

Bob also mentioned that Ceil Damschroder's classes, held in Loveland and Ft. Collins, are a great way to start doing genealogy. They are very informative and very inexpensive. He finally suggested that members join some of the Society's committees. It's a great way to get involved.

Publicity

The Society still needs a Publicity Chairperson. Bob Larson has lined up some publicity for the Society's new publications. The November "North Forty News" will be running an article about the Wellington Cemetery book. In addition, the "Coloradoan" may also publish a story.

Webmaster

Dolores Ray, webmaster, is out of town. Ken stated that she reports that she has been having some difficulty accessing jymis. She will be checking other alternatives and will report back to the Society. She also reported that the website is getting lots of hits.

Publications

Carolyn Jones, Publications Chairperson, reported that she has copies of all three of the Society's new books available, if anyone wants to purchase them.

Ken also stated that copies of last month's speaker's notes are available. These notes involved dating and identifying old photographs. Ken requested that members donate \$1.00 per copy to cover duplicating costs.

In addition, Ken reminded members that the Society has two videos that they may wish to borrow. One involves steps in finding a woman's maiden name. The other explains a method of organizing and filing genealogical documents.

Clipboards

Ken reported that the Society needs a Corresponding Secretary, a Publicity Chair and three people to form a Budget and Finance Committee. He then outlined briefly the duties for each position. The Corresponding Secretary, as the name implies, handles the correspondence for the Society. He/She also collects mail from the Society post box and distributes it. The Publicity Chair handles disseminating information about the Society to the public. The Budget and Finance Committee is a new committee being formed to help prepare the Society's annual budget and to assist in any fundraising efforts the Society may undertake. Three clipboards were circulated for volunteers to sign.

From the Board

Ken stated that the name of our Society has been officially changed with the State from the "Larimer County Genealogy Society" to the "Larimer County Genealogical Society."

A Nominating Committee has been formed to help select new officers for the upcoming year. The committee consists of Ceil Damschroder, Suzanne Enman and Dale Erickson.

At the recent Board meeting, the Board brainstormed five year goals for the Society. These include having 200 active members and having a genealogy library staffed with volunteers. He also reported that Carol Stetser has seven boxes filled with obits from the "Coloradoan" for approximately a 20 year period. The Board discussed ways of making these available to researchers.

Visitors

Ken introduced the following visitors: Doug Wayker, Charles Ralph, Raedene Combs, Leonard Everett and Ellie Ivanoff. Ken encouraged all of them to become members of the Society.

A break for conversation and treats followed. After the break, Ken briefly reported on Historic Atlas CDs which are available from www.historic-atlas-series.com. He passed around some information about this series. In addition, he presented two copies of Upgrading Recent Family Genealogy to two members whose birthdays are this week. Finally, Ken mentioned that Jean Anderson has copies of the Society brochure available. He suggested that members might want to take a few copies to distribute to interested persons.

Princess Red Feather

Ginny Feagler introduced the featured speaker, Sue Ellen Jones. Sue Ellen is a Librarian at the Fort Collins Public Library. She is also a talented musician and is part Choctaw herself. Sue Ellen first researched the life of Princess Red Feather for a group from the Red Feather Lakes area.

Sue Ellen Jones, in the costume of Princess Red Feather, presented a program on the life of Princess Red Feather. For an hour, she became Princess Red Feather.

Florence Evans was a Creek/Cherokee Indian born in Oklahoma before the turn of the 20th Century. As she grew up, it became apparent that she was musically talented, and her family sent her to Denver for more training as a singer. She met a composer there named Charles Wakefield Cadman. Although little known

today, he was famous in the early 20th Century for writing Indian inspired music. Princess Red Feather became Florence Evans' stage name, and she and Mr. Cadman toured the country performing his music. One of the highlights of Sue Ellen's presentation was her singing of "From the Land of Sky Blue Waters", Mr. Cadman's most famous song.

Princess Red Feather went on to describe other highlights of her life. One of her more interesting anecdotes concerned World War I. Princess Red Feather became a member of the American Expeditionary Forces and sailed to Europe to entertain American troops. At that time, very few women were involved in this kind of work.

There is even a local connection with Princess Red Feather. The Red Feather Lakes area was named after her. She never lived there, but the developers of the area were friends of Charles Cadman and thought the name had more cachet than the previous names of House and West and East Lakes.

After her presentation, Sue Ellen took questions about Princess Red Feather and about the research she did to prepare for the role. The library has Princess Red Feather's autobiography, [Where Trails Have Led Me](#), available for those who want to know more about her life.

After the speaker, Ken informed the members that the Society meetings will be held at the Harmony Library starting in January of 2006. The room is larger and will better accommodate our membership. Finally, Ken mentioned the question and answer bucket where members can place questions they may have. Other members will try to help answer these questions. Ken also reminded everyone to think of Genealogy Gems for next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Stetser
Recording Secretary