

Larimer County Genealogical Society
Minutes
February 16, 2006
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Ken Goldsberry clapped the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He proposed the following agenda (see attached for more detailed agenda):

- A. Welcome
- B. Business Meeting
- C. Q & A and Genealogy Gems
- D. Program – Pat Johnson “First Coins of America”

Welcome

President Goldsberry welcomed members to the meeting and announced that, as of today’s date, the Society has 92 paid members. He encouraged those who have not done so to renew their memberships. He then introduced several visitors including Bob Babbs and Rocky Martinez who were present because of their interest in coin collecting and genealogy. Also, David Patrick (Kathy Patrick’s husband) and Howard Stetser (Carol Stetser’s husband) were guests.

Business Meeting

Minutes of Last Meeting

Carol Stetser, Recording Secretary, announced that minutes of last month’s meeting are available on the Society website. In addition, paper copies are available at each meeting, if members care to read them.

Treasurer’s Report

Mary Joy Hauk, Treasurer, reported that the Society bank balance is presently \$2342.30. Many members have recently renewed, which has resulted in a healthy bank balance.

Corresponding Secretary’s Report

Corresponding Secretary, Sareta Carmody, reported that she has sent a get-well card to member Jack Long, who has been hospitalized.

Committee Reports

Genealogical Society Representative

Marilyn Rudd, Society representative to the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, stated that the Society membership in the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies is up for renewal. She wondered if members had any input as to whether the Society should renew or not. The Society needs to decide if the CCGS is a worthwhile expenditure at \$.50 per member in dues. It may serve newer societies better than

those who are more established, such as ours.

Education and Outreach

Committee Chairperson, Dolores Ray, reported on the upcoming Girl Scout Merit Badge Program which the Society is sponsoring as part of its outreach to the community. The program is scheduled for March 25, 2006. At this program, the girl scouts will learn about genealogy and even do some research on their own families. About 20 volunteers to help with this program are needed. Dolores circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers. On March 1, there will be an informational meeting for volunteers.

Dolores then asked any members, who had not done so in January, to fill out a survey listing the countries in which they are researching. This will facilitate creation of possible workshops on specific countries of interest to members.

Finally, Dolores reported that she had met with librarians from the Loveland Library, and she is enthused to report that they are very willing to sponsor some of the Society's workshops. Since the Ft. Collins libraries are so busy, they have limited the number of workshop times available to the Society. With Loveland's participation, the Society will be able to present more workshops during the year. At this point Ken mentioned that the Society has long had a good relationship with the Loveland Library. In fact, the Society donated a small library of genealogical books to the Loveland Library a number of years ago.

Webmaster

Dolores Ray, Webmaster, explained an obituary project the Society is undertaking. The Society has inherited a series of boxes containing clipped obituaries from the *Fort Collins Coloradoan*. Volunteers are needed to scan these obits and create databases. The information will then be published on the Society webpage where researchers can access it. The scanning and database creation can be done at home on volunteers' own schedules. Dolores circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers for this project.

Publications

Publications Chairperson, Carolyn Jones, stated that the Society has already sold 15 books this year. Carolyn believes this is due to the Society's increased presence online. Potential purchasers are able to find information on our publications on the Society website.

Historical

President Goldsberry reminded committee chairpersons that they should submit 2005 materials to the Historical Committee for archiving.

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor, Bob Larson, stated that he will be sending out a survey email to members to see how many would like an electronic version of the newsletter. To receive the newsletter electronically, members will require Adobe Reader. Those with a fast connection (broadband, DSL, satellite connection) will be able to download Adobe relatively quickly. Those with slower connections will require a CD in order to install Adobe. For those with slower connections, the newsletter may take 15 minutes to download. These issues, as well as willingness to receive an electronic version, will be addressed in the survey email.

Bob reported that there have been some delivery problems with the post office, which is one reason for the possible electronic delivery of the newsletter. In addition, at least at the present time, electronic delivery

will be cheaper. Some members expressed concerns about reading long documents on a computer screen. Bob responded that members could easily print out the newsletter themselves once they had received it. Also, some concerns were expressed about privacy when large emailings are sent. Bob reported that blind carbons are used, which protect members' privacy.

Next, Bob reported on the Family Tree Maker Group. The next meeting will be March 13. Schedules of meetings are posted on the website, and Bob also sends reminder emails to those who indicate an interest. Bob invited members to attend even if they use a program other than Family Tree Maker. The topics of the meetings are usually of general interest.

Finally, Bob indicated that the new membership directory will be published in March. He requested any members that have not done so to renew their membership to ensure that they are included in the directory.

Hospitality

Louise Holzman, Jessica Kistler and Sonny Hygh are filling in for Marge Abrames while she recovers from surgery.

DAR Project

Society Liaison to the Family History Center, Pat Johnson, discussed a project of the local Daughters of the American Revolution. The local chapter will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2008. As a part of that celebration, the chapter is attempting to locate descendants of its charter members. If anyone in the Society knows of any of them, Pat requests they contact the local DAR chapter.

Policy and Procedures Manual

Vice President Len Ray explained the new Policy and Procedures Manual to the members. This manual contains a list of all Society committees and details each committee's responsibilities. It also details the responsibilities of each officer and contains information about the Society's registration with the State as well as a copy of the Society's by-laws. Each officer and committee chairperson will receive a copy of the Manual, which will be passed on to successive chair and office holders.

In addition, a copy of the Policy and Procedures Manual will be available at each Society meeting so that members may consult it for information about the Society. For example, a potential committee volunteer may wish to consult the Manual to determine exactly what a specific committee's responsibilities are.

Genealogy Gems

President Goldsberry inquired if anyone had a "genealogy gem" to share. Several members responded.

"Hap" Hazard reported that he had thought he was the first of his family to live in Ft. Collins. However, in the process of his research, he has found that he is related to someone who lived in Ft. Collins over a hundred years ago. It has opened up new avenues of research for him.

Pat Johnson stated that she'd discovered a feature on the Denver Public Library site called "Ask a Librarian". Through this service she was able to avoid a trip to Denver. A librarian in Denver copied and emailed her several pages from a book unavailable anywhere else. She stated that other libraries have similar features and that researchers should be persistent. Begging doesn't hurt either!

Sareta Carmody reported that she had recently found a purse belonging to her grandmother among her mother's things. The purse contained an address book listing many relatives, but the real treasures were photos of three generations of her family.

Ken Goldsberry reported that he has been reading electronic versions of old Fort Collins newspapers. In the process he discovered a reference to some articles in another newspaper, one not online. He recently found that the CSU Library has those publications in storage. He'll be spending some time perusing those old papers!

Finally, Dolores Ray mentioned that she has copies of last month's handouts about the year's upcoming Education and Outreach projects, if anyone wants copies.

Ken congratulated Jean Anderson on the article and picture in today's *Coloradoan* concerning her work at the Ft. Collins Public Library.

A break was taken for refreshments and conversation. After the break, Sharon Koleber reported that longtime Society member Betty Wickum is very ill and is in the hospital in Loveland.

History of America's First Coins

Vice President Len Ray introduced Pat Johnson, the featured speaker. Pat is a longtime genealogist who is the Society liaison to the Family History Center in Ft. Collins. She is also active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, a time period she is very interested in.

Pat began her presentation by stating that coins are an artifact of an era in which our ancestors may have lived. They are a tangible link to our ancestors. An old coin may have been in the pocket of an ancestor. Coins can help genealogists put their ancestors in a specific time and place. Attached is an outline of Pat's talk.

After the presentation, Len reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on March 16. That meeting will include a presentation on "Using the Family History Center" by Gloria Palmer. In addition, Len will bring copies of various genealogy magazines for members to sample. Each member will receive a copy of each magazine so that they can contrast and compare them. Hopefully, this will help members make more informed subscription choices. Also, after reading the various magazines, Society members may be better able to advise the Ft. Collins Library as to which magazines it should subscribe to. Ginny Feagler, Society liaison to the library, stated that the library would welcome suggestions and would need them by June in order to make timely subscription changes.

Ken Goldsberry reported on his ongoing saga concerning his great aunt and her Greek/Italian husband. He recently received over a hundred pages of probate documents for Demetrio Papageorgopulo and his son. His next project is to discover a divorce record for Papageorgopulo and Ken's great aunt.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Stetser