

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

President Ken Goldsberry cowbelled the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. He proposed the following agenda (see attached for more detailed agenda):

- A. Welcome
- B. Reports
- C. Program

Welcome

President Goldsberry welcomed members and guests to the meeting and made the following reports.

Question and Answer Bucket and Genealogy Gems

Ken reported that orange question and answer forms are available on the table near the entry. Members can submit a question on these forms. Hopefully, other members will have answers to share. In addition, Ken requested members to be thinking of genealogy gems to share later in the program.

Illness Notification

Ken asked if any members know of other members who are ill. Marge Abrames and Betty Wickam were mentioned as recuperating from surgery and illness. In addition, Mary Joy Hauk reported that Boyd and Gwen Johnson are recuperating from carbon monoxide poisoning which occurred when they accidentally left their car running.

Responses Needed

President Goldsberry reported that the Board is creating a master calendar for the rest of the year. In order to do so, the Board would like an idea of members' interest in various possible programs. An informal show-of-hands was taken on the following programs and projects.

Amazon.com Affiliate Program

President Goldsberry explained that the Society has an opportunity to participate in a program with Amazon.com. This would entail placing a link to Amazon on the Society website. The Society would receive a percent of the proceeds from any purchases made from Amazon through the link. Members seemed very interested in the program, and most indicated that they would use it.

Pioneer Association

President Goldsberry thanked those members who attended the recent Pioneer Birthday Bash at the Northern Hotel. He passed around a notebook with pictures from the event at the Northern Hotel. Also included are

historical pictures of Fort Collins.

Homecoming Parade

October 7 is the date of the community Homecoming Parade. The theme of the parade is “Rooted in our Past, Growing toward our Future.” This theme is applicable to the Society and President Goldsberry suggested that the Society might be interested in making a float for the parade. President Goldsberry knows of a small trailer that could be used, and he suggested the possibility of having a float building/cookout event prior to the parade. When asked for a show-of-hands indicating interest in a float, several people raised their hands.

Alternate Meeting Location

Vice President Len Ray announced an alternate meeting location for the April meeting (see attached map). The meeting will still be in the Harmony Library/Front Range Community College complex, but in a different building. The directions are also posted on the Society website.

Genealogy Magazines

Len Ray further announced that copies of four different genealogy magazines are available for members. These magazines include: *Family Chronicle*, *Ancestry*, *Family Tree Magazine* and *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. Len stated that these magazines are being distributed so that members may read them and decide which they may want to subscribe to. In addition, the Fort Collins Main Library would like some input as to which magazines they should subscribe to. After members have had a chance to read the various magazines, the Society will do a survey, later in the spring, to help the library make its decisions.

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Joy Hauk stated that several programs are being considered to help the Society keep dues low. The Amazon.com program, previously mentioned, is one such program that may be able to generate revenue for the Society. In addition, sending the newsletter electronically may also be a money-saving program.

Mary Joy reported that the Society bank balance is currently \$2400.71. January and February Treasurer's Reports are attached.

Finally, Mary Joy asked for more volunteers to help with the Society project to scan and then place on the Society website fifteen years of *Coloradoan* obituaries. The scanning process is somewhat slow, but it can be done on a member's own schedule, from his/her own home.

Recording Secretary

Recording Secretary Carol Stetser reported that last month's minutes are available on the Society website. In addition, they are available at each meeting, if members wish to read them.

Committee Reports

Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Representative

Representative Marilyn Rudd reported that there will be a meeting in about two weeks of the Council. If our Society intends to continue membership, the dues need to be paid. They are approximately \$75. The Board is determining whether continued membership is beneficial to the Society.

Education and Outreach

Chairperson Dolores Ray reported on recent activities of the Education and Outreach Committee (see attached reports). She stated that the Society is now affiliated with the Loveland Library. The Library and the Society are co-sponsoring a workshop on May 13. The workshop will focus on “Investigating New Dimensions in Publishing” and “How to Use Ancestry.com”. Dolores mentioned that the Loveland Library now has a subscription to Ancestry.com. Fort Collins residents can obtain a Loveland Library card and access the program at the Loveland Library.

Dolores further reported that there will be another “Researching Your Genealogy on the Internet” workshop at the Harmony Library on April 22. Volunteers are needed to help with this program.

Finally, Dolores stated that the Girl Scout Program will be on March 25 at the Harmony Library. Gwen Kelly, Louise Mosnik and Kathy Patrick have been responsible for developing this program.

Website

Webmaster Dolores Ray indicated that the first of the obituary databases are now online. She further indicated that many other new items are being placed on the website. One of these is research links; Dolores requested that members let her know of any links they have found that are especially useful. In addition, a list of translators is being added. If members know of any translators, Dolores would like their names for the list. Finally, Dolores is presently updating the surname database.

With all of this activity, Dolores could use some help. Joan Bowen, a new member, has volunteered, but Dolores could still use additional helpers. Volunteers need to know how to use Excel.

Hospitality

The Society appreciates Louise Holzman, Jessica Kistler and Sonny and Jan Hygh, who have substituted for Marge Abrames during her recent illness. In order to avoid duplication, it has been determined that a sign-up sheet for members to bring treats is needed. A clipboard for volunteers to bring treats was sent around. Since many of the volunteers are for meetings far in the future, it will be necessary to send reminder emails to them.

Newsletter and Directory

Newsletter Editor Bob Larson asked if everyone had received the latest newsletter. No one reported not receiving the newsletter. Twenty-four members volunteered to receive the last newsletter electronically. The procedure worked well; everyone reported that it downloaded very quickly. However, if the electronic version is to cut costs of delivering the newsletter; more members will need to receive it instead of the paper version. At the present nearly 80 members still want the paper version, or at least did not respond to Bob’s survey asking if they would be willing to receive the electronic newsletter.

Another option would be to place the newsletter directly on the website. To do this some form of password protection would be necessary to guarantee that only those who have paid their dues could read the current newsletter.

Bob also reported that there was an error in the recent newsletter. It incorrectly reported that the next General Meeting would be on Easter Sunday, instead of the correct date of April 20. Bob thanked Glenda Bell and Barb Fisher for writing an article. He mentioned that they will be giving a presentation on April 12 in Longmont. He also thanked Pat Johnson for writing a "Story of a Lifetime" for the current newsletter.

Bob next reported on the Family Tree Maker Users' Group. He stated that about 30 people attended the last meeting. The next meeting will discuss digital cameras and scanners. He invites everyone to attend, including those who use software other than Family Tree Maker.

Bob also recommended Ceil Damschroder's genealogy classes which are upcoming in Loveland and Fort Collins.

Finally, Bob reported that the new Membership Directory will be out in April. He has postponed the directory to give everyone a chance to renew his/her membership.

Publicity

Chairperson Kathy Patrick handed out a sheet (attached) on an upcoming workshop "Picture Yourself: How to Care for your Family Photographs". In addition, she stated that since she sends out email reminders about upcoming meetings and various other items of interest to members, she needs updated email addresses.

Membership

Several visitors were in attendance. They were introduced and welcomed by President Ken Goldsberry. They are as follows: David and Laurie Craig, Linda Olick, Joan Bolen, Jackie Arnold, Jeanne Larson, Bob and Janice Benedict, Jackie Kietzmann, Merle Moore and Tom Phelan. David and Laurie Craig read about our Society in the newspaper. Joan Bolen heard about the Society at Newcomers. Several of the visitors including Joan Bolen, Jeanne Larson and Merle Moore joined the Society.

President Goldsberry reported that Membership Chairperson Jean Anderson has accepted a new position as Branch Librarian in North Las Vegas. She will be leaving in about two weeks; the Society will be having a dinner to honor her during the next week or two. Jean has been a real asset to the Society and will be missed.

At this point a break was taken for treats and conversation.

Using the Family History Center

After the break Len Ray introduced Pat Johnson, Society member and liaison to the Family History Center (see attached). Pat's topic was "Using the Family History Center".

Pat explained that the Family History Center is a branch of LDS Family History Library. She explained what resources the Fort Collins Family History Center has including microfiche, which are her particular responsibility at the Fort Collins Family History Center. Different Family History Centers have different resources, but the one in Fort Collins has over 850 U.S. titles, 230 surname titles and 500 foreign titles on microfiche. There is also a Family History Center in Loveland.

The second part of Pat's talk involved using Familysearch.org on the internet to access the Family History Library catalog. Pat explained how to find various microfilms to order from Salt Lake. These films can

then be viewed on the readers at the local Family History Center.

At the completion of her talk, Pat took questions from members. Everyone agreed that the Family History Center is an excellent resource for genealogists, and many do not use it effectively, or at all.

Final Reminders

Len reminded the members once again about the alternate location of the April meeting. The topic of the program will be "Wills and Probate".

Dolores Ray requested that any members who have samples of their research which they have published in any format to contact her. She would like to share them with participants at the upcoming publishing workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Carol Stetser
Recording Secretary