

**Larimer County Genealogical Society**  
**Minutes**  
**April 18, 2006**  
**Longs Peak Student Center**  
**Front Range Community College**  
**Harmony and Shields Street**  
**Fort Collins**  
**West Conference Center**

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

- I. Welcome  
Q & A Bucket  
Genealogy Gems  
Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Family Recognition Program  
Clipboard
- II. Program
- III. Introduction of Guests
- IV. Key Announcements
- V. Genealogy Gems

**Welcome**

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

**Question and Answer Period**

President Goldsberry reminded members that forms are available at every meeting on which members may write any genealogical questions they have. One question that was raised is how to find naturalization records. A short discussion ensued about various ways to find information, depending on location and time period.

**Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Family Recognition Program**

President Goldsberry explained the Family Recognition Program sponsored by CCGS. This is a program honoring early settlers of Colorado. Various certificates are available for descendants of pioneers who settled in Colorado at different times in its history. President Goldsberry recommended the CCGS website for further information.

**Clipboard**

President Goldsberry informed members that the Society needs volunteers to fill several positions. These include: Corresponding Secretary, Publicity Committee members and a Membership Chairperson. Also, volunteers are needed to bring treats to various meetings. Clipboards were circulated for signatures. In addition, a clipboard was circulated for members to sign to keep track of attendance.

**Program**

## **Identifying Ancestors in Wills and Probate Records**

Vice President Len Ray introduced the speaker, Carol Darrow, who gave a presentation on wills and probate records (see attached).

Ms Darrow's program focused on using wills and probate records to identify ancestors. She indicated that persons who died before the 1850 census are often difficult to identify. However, she stated that wills and probate records give many valuable clues in identifying these early ancestors.

She encouraged everyone to look for these documents and order copies of them. Sometimes the copies are expensive, but they are usually well worth the cost. They can contain information about family relationships that is found nowhere else.

### **Introduction of Guests**

At the conclusion of the program, President Goldsberry introduced new members and guests. Nina Montgomery and Jeanne Harson are new members. Ron Spanackle, Carolyn Hayes and Hugh Metcalf were introduced as guests.

After the introductions, a short break was taken.

### **Key Announcements**

#### **Upcoming Programs**

Carol Darrow reported that the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies is sponsoring a class on April 29 on Missouri Research. It will be held at the Denver Public Library from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. No pre-registration is required; the class is free.

Nancy Abrahams reported that, also on April 29, there will be a "Palatines to America" seminar from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. The cost is \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members. Contact Nancy for further information.

Nancy Abrahams further reported that the National Genealogy Society Conference will be held in Chicago on June 7-10. Nancy will be attending, and she would be willing to share a room if any members (females only, please) are interested.

President Ken Goldsberry announced that a workshop sponsored by the Society and the Loveland Library will be held on May 13 at the Loveland Library. The topic will be "Searching for Your Ancestors" (see attached).

#### **Vice President's Announcements**

Vice President Len Ray made several announcements. First, he indicated that, if members had not done so last month, copies of various genealogical magazines are available for them to read and compare and contrast.

Next, Len stated that the Society needs a Corresponding Secretary. This is a particularly important position because the Corresponding Secretary is a member of the Board. His/her input to the Board is crucial.

Finally, Len indicated that a long range goal of the Society is to find a space for a mini library and a

permanent meeting location. He asked any members who had contacts or information about possible venues to let him know.

### **President's Announcements**

President Ken Goldsberry announced that all Board meetings are open to any members who care to attend. He further reported that the Board is working on obtaining 501(c)(3) status for the Society. This would allow the Society to receive donations, and donors could get a tax write-off on them. Other announcements included the fact that General Meeting Minutes are always available at all meetings and a recommendation that members should bring guests to future Society meetings.

### **Education and Outreach Committee Report**

Education and Outreach Committee Chairperson Dolores Ray reported on a recently held program for Girls Scouts to earn their Heritage Badge. Pictures of the workshop were available for viewing. The Committee plans future workshops for Girl Scouts in Estes Park and Loveland.

Dolores also reported that there will be a "Genealogy on the Internet" workshop held on Saturday, April 22 at the Harmony Library. Volunteers are needed for the workshop, and members are encouraged to sign up (see attached).

The Education and Outreach Committee is proceeding with plans for an Oral History Project. The project would use volunteers to record local histories. Several such projects have already been done such as the Livermore Project and the CSU Germans from Russia Project. The Society does not wish to duplicate these projects and would like suggestions for additional projects. A questionnaire (see attached) was handed out to members for their input on possible projects.

### **Webmaster Report**

Webmaster Dolores Ray reported that the Society website now has a link to Amazon.com. If members use this link to access Amazon.com, the Society will receive a commission on all purchases made (see attached).

### **Newsletter**

Newsletter Editor, Bob Larson requested that members submit book reviews of books they have found useful. These will be published in the newsletter in the "Basement bookshelf" column.

### **Genealogy Gems**

President Goldsberry reported that many Colorado newspapers are digitized and available online, including several from Fort Collins. These newspapers are a wonderful resource for family historians. Other states have similar newspaper digitization projects, which members should watch for.

Finally, President Goldsberry explained the Fort Collins Heritage network. This group is comprised of all historical/genealogical type societies in this area. The Fort Collins Museum will probably be building a new facility. The Local History Archives from the Fort Collins Library may be included in this facility. A possible site for the new museum is the site of the present library and museum. It is hoped that the new facility may be a chance to bring all of the historical organizations together.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Carol Stetser  
Recording Secretary