

Larimer County Genealogical Society
Minutes
May 18, 2006
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

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

- A. Welcome
- B. Meet the members
- C. Program – Julie Miller “Becoming American: Naturalization Records”
- D. Meet the new members and guests
- E. Business Meeting
- F. Q & A and Genealogy Gems

Welcome

Ken welcomed members and guests to a night of a great program and lots of goodies that will keep people in their seats. Ken’s infamous clipboards were discussed once again. The need for a new Membership Committee Chairperson was discussed. The current committee is in place and doing a great job, but the current members do not have the time to devote to the Chair’s job. The “Goodies” clipboard was sent around asking for volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are good until October, but need some volunteers for Oct. and Nov. The Publicity Committee clipboard was passed around at the April meeting and Debbie Beasley signed up to help. Thank you, Debbie. The Corresponding Secretary Clipboard also was passed around at the April meeting, but no one signed up. Carolyn Jones has volunteered to fill this position for the rest of the current term, until the end of the year. Ken mentioned that Carolyn was approved to fill this position at the most recent Board meeting.

Meet the Members

Ken announced a new idea, which is to have a couple of current society members give a short bio about themselves at the meetings. The first to do so was the new Corresponding Secretary, Carolyn Jones.

Program

Julie Miller, a professional genealogist from Broomfield, Colorado, gave a great presentation about Naturalization records. She discussed the 3 time periods of Naturalization Records: Colonial, 1790-1906 and 1906-present. In the Colonial period, each colony processed their own records. Then in 1790 the first federal naturalization law was enacted. It was a 2-step process; the filing of a Declaration of Intent (or 1st papers) and the filing of a Petition for Citizenship (or 2nd papers). These could be filed in any court and did not have to both be filed in the same court. This is what leads to the quest of finding where your ancestors may have filed. It may have been where they first entered the country, where they finally ended up settling, or even somewhere in between. Then in 1906, naturalization records were centralized under the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and required the court to file a copy of the record with the INS in Washington, DC.

Julie reminded us that not all immigrants became naturalized citizens. There was a cost involved to file for citizenship. Also, prior to 1922 women acquired naturalization automatically when they married a US Citizen, or they were naturalized with their father or husband as they became a naturalized citizen.

Julie informed us of some areas where we might find hints as to naturalization information about our ancestors. They might be found in home records, such as bibles, obituaries, or other newspaper articles. Information about naturalization could be found on Census records from 1870 on, including the year of naturalization on the 1920 Census. Information can also be found in Homestead files, military and pension files, and even passport application files.

Julie also provided a handout, that is attached, that listed some of her favorite book and website resources on naturalization. It was an informative program.

New Members and Guests

Ken welcomed new member, Judy Herman. Judy has been in the Fort Collins area for about 13 years. She is researching the surnames: Stacey, Bux, Reck, Elkins, and Avery. We also had 3 guests at tonight's meeting; Ron Klein, and Gloria and Laura Owen.

Announcements

Hospitality: Marge Abrames is back and is at full speed and wanted to thank everyone who helped out while she was recovering. She brought up the question of whether or not the society wanted to hold a summer picnic again this year, and if so, to start thinking about when it should be held. Ken mentioned that this will be brought up at the next meeting of the full Board.

Education and Outreach (and Webmaster): Len Ray reported that Delores had been under the weather, but is recuperating just fine. He announced that the next Genealogy on the Internet meeting is to be held on Saturday, May 20th from 9-12. The class is full, but additional volunteers are still needed. Len also reported on the class held last week, on Saturday, May 13th at the Loveland Library. It covered the topics of a "New Dimension in Publishing" and also the Ancestry.com website that the Loveland Library has a subscription to. The seminar was very successful with 45 people in attendance. Len reminded us that next month's program, on June 15th, will be to demonstrate and discuss 3 subscription websites; Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest and the New England Genealogical and Historical Society.

Newsletter: Bob Larson announced that the new directory is ready and is being handed out at tonight's meeting. He apologized if anyone found errors, and announced that the next directory would be out in January. He also announced that we currently have 132 paid members in the society. The next Family Tree Maker user's group meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Loveland Library. Bob will be giving a demonstration of the new software package, GenSmarts. He said he has found it to be helpful with some brickwalls that he has had in the past. The software primarily searches both fee and non-fee based databases to come up with possible links with your searches. Bob also enquired whether or not everyone received their newsletters, and it appeared that everyone had received it.

Treasurer: Mary Joy Hauk announced that we have received \$33.35 from the Amazon.com link on our society's website.

Publications: Carolyn Jones reported that we have already filled 7 orders this year for our publications. Ken announced that in the year 2005, had it not been for the society's sales of the publications, our dues would have had to increase.

Clipboards: The refreshment clipboard has been successfully passed around. We have 1 opening in November. The refreshments for June's meeting will be provided by Carol Stetser, Marilyn Rudd, and Barbara Bonilla.

Other: Ken announced that the Fort Collins Museum along with the Pioneer Association will be sponsoring

a Hoedown, the evening of June 2nd. This event will reconstruct activities of the early 1900's. At 5:00 p.m. the Friday First Walk will begin. There will be music, dancing and dancing demos from long ago at the museum. There will also be kids games going on, and Auntie Stone will be walking through her cabin. Later, at 7:00 p.m, the group River Crossing Inc, will be giving dancing demos and inviting the audience to participate. The City of Fort Collins will have their stage set up with some nationally known acts, including fiddlers, dulcimer piano players. Come, watch and have a good time, says Ken.

Genealogy Gems

Marilyn Rudd shared a story about her ancestor who died in Andersonville, Georgia during the last days of the Civil War. She mentioned that most soldiers were buried in a trench and that the stones were just on top of each other. However, due to the diligent work of some women working with the Commandant of the camp, most soldiers buried there had been identified.

Fran Ek reported that she had been working on her Vivian side of her family tree and had been corresponding with a relative in Australia. This relative had research that showed the Vivian line back to the year 1298, with a Sir Violl Vivian in the family.

Ceil Damschroder shared the power of photo editing software, by telling us how her ancestor described in the last newsletter had lost an eye due to an infection. When Ceil sent the picture to be used in the newsletter to Bob for some touch up work, he cleaned up the picture and put her relative's eye back in.



The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be June 15th.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Jones