

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2006
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Ken Goldsberry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He welcomed members and guests. He requested members to be thinking of Genealogy Gems and Questions and Answers to discuss later in the program.

As part of getting to know members better, Ken requested Leonard Everett, a recent new member, to give a short autobiography. Leonard reported that he is originally from Nebraska and had a career with the Public Service Company. He has been retired for about 20 years and is part of the eldest generation of his family still living. This has sparked his interest in genealogy, since he feels that it is his job to pass on family information to the younger generations of his family.

Genealogy Gems

Sharon Koleber told the members of a coincidence that recently happened to her. She is doing some research for someone else; she found a gedcom relating to that family on Ancestry.com. To her surprise, the family has roots in the same town her own ancestors are from.

Bob Larson reported that, as part of his research, he has been trying to locate photos of as many ancestors as possible. Bob's fourth great-grandfather was a Mason; Bob called the Lodge and was able to get, not just a copy, but an original photo of his grandfather, since the Lodge is closing.

Don Willson mentioned that he had found a distant cousin, Jim Willard of our Society, while checking out possible membership in a local church.

Jim Willard was excited to find he was able to get a book of letters from relatives in Vermont through interlibrary loan.

Finally, President Goldsberry and the members of the Society wished Vice President Len Ray a "Happy 70th Birthday"!

Program

Vice President Ray introduced the evening's program. It was to be an overview of three websites that genealogists may find useful in their research. Members Ginny Feagler, Bob Larson and Len Ray will discuss Heritage Quest, Ancestry.com and the New England Historic Genealogical Society Website, respectively. See the attached sheets for more information concerning these databases.

Heritage Quest

Ginny Feagler, who in addition to being a Society member is also a librarian at the Fort Collins Public Library, explained that Heritage Quest is a genealogy database that the Fort Collins Library, as well as many other libraries, subscribes to. For members who have a library card, it can be accessed from home. The

database is only available for subscription to libraries, not to individuals.

One of the major features of the database is its census searches. Ginny demonstrated searching the census. In addition to the censuses, Heritage Quest includes books, PERSI, the Freedman's Bank Records, and Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Application Files.

At this point a short break for refreshments and conversation was taken.

Ancestry.com

Bob Larson reported that Ancestry.com is available at any of the local Family History Centers and at the Loveland Public Library. It is also available for subscription to individuals. Ancestry.com is a powerful resource since it has so many databases; it is continually expanding the information available to subscribers.

Bob discussed briefly some of the various features available on Ancestry.com including One World Tree, Message Boards, Learning Center, etc. Many of these features are available at no cost and without subscribing to Ancestry.com.

New England Historic Genealogical Society Website

Len Ray recommended that members, who have New England ancestors, visit the website at www.newenglandancestors.org for further information about items available. The subscription fee is \$75 per year. One of the more interesting databases, in Len's opinion, is the historic newspapers, which is a treasure trove of interesting information that is unavailable elsewhere.

Len also reported that the attached handout lists several other databases which members may wish to investigate. These include: Genealogy.com, Godfrey Library, Wisconsin Historical Society, Everton Publishers, and New York Genealogical and Biographic Society.

Society Business

Recycle Table

President Goldsberry reported that the Society is starting a new service at General Meetings whereby members can donate no-longer-needed books, magazines, etc. to a Recycle Table. Other members may purchase any of these materials for a modest fee.

Don Willson announced that he has an Epson Stylus 1520 color printer and an HP scanner that he is willing to give away, if any members are interested.

Society Website

Webmaster Dolores Ray announced that the Society website at www.jymis.com/~lcgs is defunct. The Society now has a new website address: www.lcgsc.org. See attached sheet for further information.

In addition, Dolores reported on the progress of obituary indexing project. Several years are already online, and more will soon be available. Volunteers to help scan the obits would be welcome.

Refreshments

President Goldsberry recognized the members who provided the refreshments for the meeting: Marilyn

Rudd, Carol Stetser and Barbara Pinella.

Questions and Answers

A question was submitted to the coal scuttle regarding the accuracy of online census images. The questioner wondered if microfilm copies should be ordered and read, as well as the online version. The consensus of the members was that the online censuses are scanned images of the microfilm. So the advice was, "Save your money".

Visitors

Four visitors were present. President Goldsberry introduced them. They were Terry Phelan, Kelli, Melissa and Linda Stevens. All were welcomed and encouraged to join the Society.

Upcoming Programs

Finally, Hap Hazard announced that the historic Fort Collins Waterworks building will be open to the public on June 24. It is an important part of Fort Collins history, and he encouraged members to visit on that date.

The next meeting of the Society will be on July 20 and will feature the annual Question and Answer program. Members are encouraged to be thinking of questions they want answered.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.