

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2006
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

Since President Goldsberry was absent, Vice President Len Ray called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The following agenda was projected for members to read:

Society's 32 Year History
Society's First Board Members
Society's First Newsletter
Charter Member Recognition
Committee News
Membership Question and Answer Session

Len began the meeting with a few items of business. He mentioned that a donation jar is now available on the sign-in table as members enter the room. As members know, the Society is undertaking more ambitious programs, which means more expenditure. Members' generosity will be appreciated.

Len next introduced Cathi Smith, who explained a new program, which she has agreed to coordinate, called the "Recycle Table". She explained that members can donate books, magazines and other genealogy-related items which they no longer need. The Society will place these items on a "Recycle Table" where other members may peruse them and purchase them for a modest fee. Proceeds will benefit the Society.

Society History

Len introduced Newsletter Editor, Bob Larson, who gave a brief history of the Society. The first Society was formed in 1974 with six members. Laura Simpson became the first President of the Society at that time. By June of 1974, the Society had grown to 22 members. Most of them were Daughters of the American Revolution members who wished to pursue their family lines further.

In 1975 a quarterly newsletter was begun with Laura Simpson as its first editor. Bob projected a copy of the first newsletter for members to see. Members were amused to see that the original dues were \$2.50 per year.

Bob further stated that the Society has had fourteen presidents since its inception in 1974.

Charter Member Recognition

The Charter Member Recognition program was introduced by Bob Larson. Bob stated that some original Society documents were recently obtained by Len Ray. After looking over the documents, Bob suggested to the Board that the charter members, listed in those documents, should be contacted and recognized in some way. The Board agreed, and tonight's program is the result. It was determined that Charter members would receive a certificate of recognition and lifetime membership in the Society.

Betty Frye checked the original list to see which charter members were still alive and living in the area.

Recording Secretary Carolyn Jones was responsible for sending invitations to those members still in the area. In addition, she prepared certificates and lifetime membership cards for the members. Bob stated that thirteen letters of invitation were sent to charter members. Seven of them responded. Six of the original members were in attendance.

Bob introduced these members: Carolyn and Jane Goodwin, Gordon and WillaRuth Jesser, Lois Johnson and Doris Rust. Each of these members told a bit about themselves and their experiences in the Society. They were then presented with certificates and lifetime memberships to the Society. Cathi Smith took several pictures of these original members.

New Members and Visitors

Len Ray introduced several visitors to the Society. These included: Maxine Griffin, Shirley Rogers, Grady and Mary Clark Kane, Sandy Luna and Tony Edridge. Each briefly told of his/her experience in genealogy and reason for attending. At this point a break for refreshments and conversation was taken.

Question and Answer Session

This meeting was the Society's annual Question and Answer Session. Members were asked to come prepared with questions they wanted answered. Several members did so, and other members of the Society helped with some interesting, informative answers.

Queries ranged from a question concerning why Quaker ancestry is good (because of the great records they kept) to what the letters "FLT" on a tombstone might mean (Faith, Love, Truth – Odd fellows symbolism). Another question involved a discussion of what happened to the books the original Society purchased. Apparently, most books were donated to the Loveland Library, although some did end up in Fort Collins. Other topics included ways of tracking down the author of an unsigned Civil War letter, Mayflower records availability and even a question about selling items on EBay.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Joy Hauk reported that the Society bank balance as of July 17 was \$2004.17.

Hospitality

Hospitality Committee Chairperson thanked those who brought treats. All were delicious, and everyone enjoyed them.

Website

Webmaster Dolores Ray reported that Ancestry.com will give ten free days of census research on their website to those who access Ancestry through the Society's website. In addition, she reported that several entities including Genealogy.com, Ancestry.com and Generations have programs similar to the one the Society presently has with Amazon.com. These entities have links on the Society website, which members may use to access the companies. The Society will receive a percentage of the price of any purchases made by members at these companies, if the companies were accessed through the Society website.

Newsletter

Newsletter editor Bob Larson reported that he would like to have approximately 50 members sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter. At this point he needs about ten more members to sign up to meet this goal. Several members then asked to be added to the list of electronic subscribers, and Bob's goal was met.

Bob also answered a question concerning recycling computer ink cartridges through Computer World in Fort Collins. Several members had used the service and felt that the service was worthwhile. The cartridges work well and are less expensive.

Genealogy Gems

Nancy Abrahams reported on her recent attendance at the National Genealogical Society conference in Chicago. She stated that the conference was very informative. She passed around a syllabus showing the available classes and also a scrapbook she made showing some of the research she had done while in the area. She also briefly described some of the classes she attended.

Len Ray then mentioned how much information is now available on the internet. He told about finding a copy of a speech given in 1917 by a great uncle in Wisconsin. It's amazing how many documents are now online.

Mary Joy Hauk's genealogy gem was maybe less a gem than a clunker. She reported that she recently found a listing of her own death on an internet site. Apparently, she has been dead since 1995.

Upcoming Events

Bob Larson reported that there will be a two-day genealogy workshop in Cheyenne, Wyoming on October 20 and 21. He will be one of the featured presenters at the workshop.

Len Ray stated that he and Dolores will be attending a Polish Conference in September in Chicago.

Final Thoughts

Len asked the members how they felt about the "Recycle Table". They seemed in favor of the program. Many had already purchased materials.

Len then announced that the Society has officially been given 501 (c) (3) status by the IRS. This means that the Society is a non-profit organization; this status will have benefits in the future as the Society grows and applies for grants, donations, etc.

Finally, Len reported that the next meeting will be on August 17. Member and Former Society President Ceil Damschroder will be presenting a program on surnames. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.