

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2006
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Goldsberry at 6:30 pm. He welcomed members and proposed the attached agenda.

President Goldsberry conducted a brief survey at the beginning of the meeting. He wondered how many members had been or were schoolteachers. Six members indicated that they were elementary school teachers. Three each had been junior high and/or high school teachers. Three had been college instructors. Ken promised to explain the reason for the survey later in the meeting.

Question and Answer Scuttle

President Goldsberry reminded the group that the Question and Answer Scuttle is available at all meetings. Members can place questions in the scuttle; other members will attempt to answer the questions.

Genealogy Gems

Several members described genealogy gems from the last month. Marilyn Rudd told of learning that two men important in the early settlement of New York both turned out to be paternal ancestors, although they had no connection at the time of the settlement.

Liz Willson described corresponding online with someone. It turned out that her ancestor had baptized the ancestor of the person with whom she was corresponding.

Carol Stetser told of attending the Cheyenne Genealogy Jamboree and meeting a woman there whose great great grandfather was buried in the small cemetery in rural Minnesota as Carol's.

Don Willson told of visiting a ranch in New Mexico which had once belonged to his wife's family. He felt it was important to see the property where ancestors once lived.

Visitors and New Members

A number of visitors were present including: Sue Burdgett, Jean Miles, Linda Gehring, Phil Carpenter, Carol Condon, Teresa Conrad, Charlie and Jackie Pearce and Steve Anonson. President Goldsberry welcomed them all and encouraged them to join the Society.

President Goldsberry then encouraged everyone to visit the Recycle Table to see what was available for purchase. Bumper stickers are a new item just received at the Table. He also recommended that members donate unwanted books, magazines, software, etc. to the Table. At this point a break for refreshments and conversation was taken.

Guest Speaker

Vice President Len Ray then introduced Duane Kniebes, our speaker for the evening. Duane has been a

volunteer for the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies for seven years. He has been in charge of a program to locate and identify all burials and cemeteries in Colorado. He and his wife have located over 150 burial sites in Larimer County.

Duane then proceeded to tell the members how he locates old graves using external signs such as rocks, soil and vegetation changes, etc. In addition, he described using dowsing rods to locate graves, determine gender of the graves' occupants and even converse with the dead! The audience enjoyed experimenting with the rods themselves and discussing whether or not the rods really work and why.

Business Meeting

Minutes

Recording Secretary Carol Stetser indicated that, as usual, all minutes are available at each meeting. In addition, they are posted on the Society website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Joy Hauk stated that the Society bank balance is presently \$1693.30. She further informed everyone that the Society is beginning to receive revenue from the Affiliate Programs listed on the website, particularly through Amazon.com and Ancestry.com. She recommended everyone use the Society website to purchase items from those vendors. In addition, she stated that the Recycle Table is producing revenue for the Society, as well.

Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Representative

Marilyn Rudd, Council Representative, reported that the Quarterly Meeting of the CCGS was held in Fort Collins in October and seemed to go well.

Education and Outreach Committee

Chairperson Dolores Ray invited everyone to attend the upcoming Education and Outreach Committee meeting on December 6 (see attached). Not only will it be a chance to see an important committee in action, but Dolores promised goodies, such as banana crepes, as well!

Dolores further reported that the next workshop will be on November 11. It will be "New Dimensions in Publishing" and will cover alternatives to publishing a complete genealogy book. Further in the future, a workshop, on February 3, 2007, will be held on "Genealogy on the Internet". Additionally, on April 14, another Girl Scout Heritage Badge Workshop for Girl Scouts from Estes Park, Loveland and Berthoud will be conducted. This workshop, as well as the internet one, will require volunteers. Members should be look for further notices concerning them after the first of the year.

Membership

Temporary Chair Bob Larson reminded members that membership pins are still available for \$5.00. He also reminded them that 2007 dues will be \$18 per person or \$27 per family. A renewal membership form will be published in the next newsletter; Bob asked everyone to please fill it out.

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Bob Larson announced that several members have articles in the current newsletter. Jane and Carolyn Goodwin have a "Story of a Lifetime" about Jane's mother. Pat Roberts and Carol Stetser also have articles. Those who are using electronic delivery seem satisfied with it; Bob requested any others who would like to use electronic delivery to let him know. Several members indicated that they would like to do so.

Bob also announced that member Ceil Damschroder received a notice from Ancestry.com stating that their immigration database has been enlarged and is available until November 30 at no cost. Members may want to take advantage of this large and informative database.

Family Tree Maker Group

Group Leader Bob Larson reported that the group will repeat this year's series beginning in January. Notices of time and place will be emailed. He requested anyone who is interested, and is not presently listed, to let him know.

Hospitality

President Goldsberry has made arrangements with the Golden Corral Restaurant for a dinner to be held on Tuesday, December 5. All members are invited to attend this pre-holiday get-together.

Publications

President Goldsberry indicated that he had recently visited the Loveland Cemetery. He reported that they are still happy with the great job the Society did a few years ago in indexing the burials at that cemetery.

Publicity

Chairperson Kathy Patrick reported that Society brochures have been placed in holders around the community. Hopefully, this will create awareness of the Society among the general public.

At that point, President Goldsberry explained the reason for his earlier schoolteacher survey. He noted that schoolteachers know how to write, and the Society is looking for people to write some articles publicizing the Society. He encouraged members to volunteer to do this.

Research

President Goldsberry and Treasurer Mary Joy Hauk recently met with representatives of the Loveland Library to discuss the possibility of digitizing the library's large vital statistics card file. This was a preliminary meeting, and Mary Joy emphasized that, until further research is done on what the project might entail, no commitment was made.

President Goldsberry stated that the Society is reviewing and searching for various projects throughout the county that the Society might undertake to help the genealogical public.

Corresponding Secretary Report

Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Jones reported that she had sent a get-well card to Donna Willard, who recently had eye surgery. The Society wishes her a speedy recovery.

Library District

Vice President Len Ray reported that the creation of a library district passed in the recent election. This could have positive ramifications for the Society. At present the Fort Collins Library is considering purchasing a new genealogy database. The Board will be previewing this database to see if they feel it will be beneficial for members. Some other positive developments may include a future library subscription to Ancestry.com as well as institution of expanded library hours. This may enable the Board and various committees to hold their meetings at the library. Since these groups now include as many as fifteen members, this will be a great benefit to the Society.

Both the Loveland and Fort Collins Libraries will be meeting periodically in the future with the Board to exchange information and to create common goals.

Nominations

Dale Erickson has been serving a chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The committee was tasked with recommending four officers: President, Corresponding Secretary and two At-Large Directors. Ken Goldsberry has agreed to serve as President for another term; Carolyn Jones has agreed to serve as Corresponding Secretary; Hap Hazard has agreed to serve a term as one-year At-Large Director; and Bob Grundborg has agreed to serve a two-year term as At-Large Director. If anyone else is interested in serving in any of these positions, they should contact Dale Erickson. Elections will be held at the January General Meeting.

January Meeting

President Goldsberry reported that there will be no meeting in December (except for the Holiday Dinner!). The January 2007 meeting will be the annual election and business meeting. In addition, a brief presentation on the two videos that the Society owns will also be given. Since this is also the potluck dessert meeting, Ken encouraged everyone to attend.

Final Thoughts

Jim Willson reported that there is a new computer based scrapbook store on Harmony near the Cold Stone Creamery store. He recommends the store, stating that it is a great way to get started on digitizing all of the memorabilia that family historians seem to collect.

Phil Carpenter mentioned that, in Fort Collins, nearly 75% of people are choosing to be cremated; yet only about 10% are being memorialized. He stated that this means that future genealogists will hit a dead end when researching. He feels that memorialization is important to future generations. There are many ways to go about it which may not include traditional burial and a headstone. Grandview Cemetery, for example, will place memorials even for those not buried there. He feels that this is an issue that family historians should consider when making their own plans.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.