

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2007
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Ken Goldsberry welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced that the meeting would begin with short Genealogy Gems and Question and Answer periods followed by the guest speaker. After the speaker, a brief business meeting would follow.

Genealogy Gems

Several members of the Society talked about successes they have had in the last month. Cathi Smith told the sad story of her cousin who died recently. She reminded everyone how important it is to make final plans in advance. Hap Hazard described how he got talking to another Society member and found that both were researching ancestors who were from the same area. It just shows how important it is to talk with other genealogists. Tom Phelan also reported on finding that an uncle was the Marshall of Fort Collins. He has written the story for the Society newsletter.

Visitors and New Members

Several visitors were in attendance including: John Staples, Mary Severs, Darrell Keitzman, Ron and Elsie Camp and Robbie Williams. In addition, two new members, Ray and Betsy Nail, were present. Ken welcomed them and encouraged the visitors to consider joining the Society.

Question and Answer

A few questions had been submitted to the coal scuttle, and Society members helped to answer them. One question concerned finding a German translator. Len Ray recommended the Society website to the member, since it contains a list of local translators.

Another questions involved preservation of old documents. The consensus seemed to be that old documents should be flattened and put into acid-free envelopes. It was also recommended that copies be made for day-to-day use.

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

Guest Speaker

Vice President Len Ray introduced Roger Dudley, a librarian from Denver Public Library and an avid family historian. Roger's program was entitled, "When All Else Fails, Try the Local Newspapers."

Roger first described the differences between genealogy and family history. Genealogy merely describes dates and lines of descent, while family history fills in the gaps between the dates. It asks what, where, how and why people did what they did. Local newspapers help fill in these gaps in family history. Roger told the group that one rule of thumb is, "the smaller the town, the better the newspaper coverage," at least in terms of family history.

Roger explained how he became addicted to local newspapers. He had been unable to find any death information on his great-great grandfather, but when he read the local newspaper, he found a death notice. From that point he was hooked, and he read the entire newspaper, taking notes on family items as he went. Since that time, he has read the entire run of that newspaper in Illinois and is working on a local Colorado newspaper from Hugo. He highly recommends ordering local newspapers through interlibrary loan and reading them. They're full of information that can be found nowhere else.

Some members of the Society also pointed out that some newspapers are beginning to be digitized. <http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org> is an example of a website that contains many Colorado newspapers.

Business Meeting

Recording Secretary

Carol Stetser, Recording Secretary, reminded all members that the Society minutes are available on the Society website. A hard copy is also available at all meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Joy Hauk reported that the Society bank balance is presently \$2572.83. She further reported that the Society has received deposits from the affiliate programs with Amazon.com and Ancestry.com. These are programs whereby the companies advertise on the Society webpage; members can access them through the Society webpage; and a portion of all purchases made is refunded to the Society.

Research

Mary Joy also reported on the ongoing Society obituary project. She said that the Society is scanning and placing on the website 174 months of obituaries, which is about 14,000 individual obituaries. At present all but four months are either scanned or in the process of being scanned. It has been a lot of work, and she thanked the volunteers who have spent so much time and effort on the project. The volunteers who have helped scan are Debra Beasley, Mary Joy Hauk, Gordon Hazard, Jan & Sonny Hygh, Sharon Koleber, Sonja Mehafey, Cathi & Paul Smith, Barbara Sullivan, David Shaw and Evelyn Haynes. Dolores & Len Ray have done a great job getting the scanned obits onto the Society website.

Education and Outreach

Education and Outreach Chairperson Dolores Ray reported that recently she has received a lot of questions concerning beginning genealogy. She has printed a number of brochures and flyers which explain various aspects of genealogy (see attached), which are available to members.

Dolores is stepping down as E & O Committee Chairperson. President Goldsberry thanked Dolores for all of her hard work and informed everyone that a new "facilitator" for the committee is needed. He used the term "facilitator" because the committee is so organized and has planned so far in advance that it merely needs someone to keep it moving along.

Archival

Len Ray reported that the committee is still accumulating Society documents. This is another committee

that needs a chairperson.

Hospitality

Marge Abrames reported that she needs two people to bring treats for the next meeting. They should contact her. President Goldsberry thanked those who provided this evening's treats.

Recycle Table

President Goldsberry explained once again what the table involves. Members are encouraged to bring genealogy materials that they no longer need and to purchase materials from the table that will be useful to their research. Ken encouraged everyone to bring items to donate and to make sure to check out the items available for purchase.

Membership

Membership Chair Dale Eriksen reported that 58 people were in attendance. Thus far, 69 people have paid dues for 2007. Unfortunately, health issues have necessitated Dale's resigning as Membership Chair. Ken encouraged anyone interested in the position to contact any member of the Board.

Newsletter

Ken reported that a newsletter editor is needed. Bob Larson is willing to help anyone interested to transition into the position. Sonny Hygh has agreed to be the Society Photographer.

Bob Larson, Newsletter Editor Pro Tem, reported that the next newsletter will be out in a couple of weeks. As always, stories and articles by members are welcomed.

Bob also runs a Family Tree Maker Users' Group, which meets monthly. He encouraged anyone who uses any type of genealogy software to attend. Many of the topics are applicable to all types of software, not just Family Tree Maker.

Further, Bob reminded everyone that Ceil Damschroder, past Society President, will be teaching beginning classes in genealogy beginning in April. These are a great way to acquire the skills to begin working on family history.

Finally, Bob announced that he occasionally gives "Introduction to Genealogy" presentations to various groups. If anyone is interested, please let him know.

Publications

Publications Chair Carolyn Jones reported that the slide show from January's meeting is available from Publications. The slide show details some of the recent history of the Society. Two other videos, one on finding maiden names and the other on organizing family history files, are also available to check out.

Publicity

Publicity Chair, Kathy Patrick, needs someone for her committee who can be available in the daytime to meet with newspapers, etc.

Website

Webmaster Dolores Ray reported that the website is up to date and shows all upcoming events. The password has been changed for 2007. The new password is available to members on their 2007 membership cards.

More Genealogy Gems and Other Miscellany

A member queried making her family tree available to a genealogist (not a distant cousin) online. Some discussion concerning pros and cons of such a practice followed. The consensus seemed to be that, as long as living persons were excluded, it probably wouldn't be a problem.

Mary Joy Hauk mentioned that she has about 30 years' worth of local news items that her mother wrote for her hometown paper. It is a goldmine of information.

Len Ray suggested that everyone should keep a personal journal. Not everyone's story will make the local newspaper, and this is a way to communicate with the future.

Donna Willard stated that she has written Christmas newsletters for years and has kept them as a sort of journal of the important events in her life.

Jim Willard offered a series of genealogy columns to anyone who might be able to use them. Hap Hazard suggested that they might be scanned and made into a book. Dolores Ray mentioned that the old Society newsletters have a lot of "how-to" articles, which also might be included in such a publication.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.