

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

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

- Welcome
- Meeting of New Members and Visitors
- Break
- Program
- Business Meeting

President Goldsberry began the meeting with a short reading called an "Ode to America" which extolled the virtues of America and its people. He then called on the audience for Genealogy Gems.

Genealogy Gems

Several members of the Society reported on great genealogy experiences from the past month. Roger Long explained how he had found a wonderful picture of his ancestors online. Another member wondered how to get more information about an old photograph she owned. Hap Hazard suggested that she might want to get in touch with the director of the Thompson Valley Museum, who is an expert on various types of historic photographic processes. Finally, Paul Smith reported on contacting a distant relative online, from whom he has received a very informative book on his family.

Visitors and New Members

President Ken Goldsberry introduced several visitors including: Josi and Bobbi Hayward, Robbie Williams, Shirley Sheets and Nettie Slayton. Mary Severs was introduced as a new member. Ken welcomed them all to the meeting.

Recycle Table

Cathi Smith explained that the recycle table is a method to earn revenue for the Society, as well as a way for members to gain new genealogy materials and get rid of materials they no longer need. Members are encouraged to bring in materials they no longer find useful; other members are encouraged to purchase anything they find of interest. Cathi reported that the Society has been earning approximately \$25 per month from the program.

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

Guest Speaker

Vice President Len Ray introduced the guest speaker, Bob Sheets, who presented a program on the Salem Witch Trials of 1692 (see attached).

Mr. Sheets presented a very informative and interesting talk on the Salem Witch Trials, specifically as they impacted his ancestor, George Burroughs, who was hung as a witch in 1692. In addition to telling the history of his own ancestor, Bob explained how the Salem Witch Trials impacted American history in general, giving rise to some of the ideas that led to the American Revolution and the beginning of the United States as an independent nation. One of Bob's points that specifically impacts genealogists is his statement that our ancestors' lives and experiences have made each of us who we are today.

In addition to relating the Reverend Burroughs' experiences during the Salem Witch Trials, Bob also gave the Society members a number of tips and hints about doing ancestral research. For example, he stated, "Never accept a transcription; always look at the original document." His tips were useful for anyone doing research, not just those researching their Salem ancestors.

Business Meeting

Due to the interesting nature of his presentation, Bob Sheets' program ran a bit long. Because of this it was moved, seconded and approved by the members that the usual monthly business meeting would be dispensed with.

However, a few announcements were made, including the fact that 68 members were in attendance at the meeting. The Society, as of March 15, has 96 members.

The Education and Outreach Committee announced that there are several upcoming workshops. One for Publisher users will be held on Saturday, March 17 at the Loveland Library; a workshop on PowerPoint will be held on April 21. Finally, a Girl Scout Merit Badge workshop will be held on April 14; those who volunteered for the earlier workshop will be contacted. More information on all of these workshops can be found on the Society webpage.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.