

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2007
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Ken Goldsberry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He welcomed everyone and made several general announcements.

General Announcements

First, Ken reported that long-time member Jim Willard has recently been diagnosed with first stage esophageal cancer. His wife, Donna, will be going into an assisted living facility, and Jim will be receiving treatment for his cancer. The Society's best wishes go to the Willard's.

Ken further indicated that the 2007 Membership Directory is now available for members. In addition, Society lapel pins are available at the Recycle Table for \$5.

The Basement Bookshelf has been on hiatus for several years, and the Board is considering reinstating the program. This is a program in which members are asked to submit lists of books they own in which they would be willing to do lookups for other Society members. This is a great way for members to get access to books which they may not wish to purchase. Details of the program are still being worked out, but members are asked to be thinking about what books they might wish to share.

Finally, Ken stated that the Society is growing, and a major long term goal is to find a meeting space which could also house a library and computers for Society use. Ken asked all members to keep this in mind and let the Board know if they have ideas on how this might be accomplished.

Questions and Answers and Genealogy Gems

Cathi Smith reported that last month she had asked for help in finding a framer who could repair an heirloom frame. Although no one in the Society knew of anyone, she fortuitously met a neighbor whose expertise is framing.

Cathi also reported that she has recently learned that she is related to the Stover Family who was prominent in Fort Collins history. She visited the Local History Archive in its new location in the museum. She stated that the Archive is very accessible and easy to use with knowledgeable staff, and she was able to find a great deal of information.

Don Willson then reported that, after last month's program on memorialization, he and his wife decided to obtain cemetery plots and order their own headstone. He showed pictures of a unique, genealogy-friendly headstone that they had purchased.

Gwen Johnson told how Boyd had made a family history booklet when their daughter-in-law's father died. The booklet was circulated at the funeral, and many family members were impressed with the information and ordered copies.

Ken Goldsberry explained that a cousin had sent him a biography of their grandmother. While doing some

further checking, Ken discovered that some of the information was incorrect. His comment is to check what you have in your files; don't take someone else's work as necessarily correct.

Visitors

Several visitors were present; Ken introduced them and welcomed them to the meeting. These included: Ben Hitchen, Allen Huntington and Kim Breedon.

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

Featured Speaker

Paul Kilburn was the evening's featured speaker. Paul previously spoke to the Society about his ancestor who fought in the Revolutionary War. This evening's presentation concerned New England research (see attached notes). Paul has many New England ancestors, and he described ways in which he was able to research some of them.

One of his introductory points was that researchers need to know the history of an area to be able to do genealogy. In New England research, for example, it is important to know what was going on in England at the time that the Puritans and Pilgrims came to America. Because of persecution in England, these groups started arriving in America in 1620. After the English Civil War, Puritans ruled England, and very few emigrated after about 1640. Knowing facts like this can greatly impact genealogical research.

Because New England was settled so long ago and during such a short time period, a lot of research on the area has been done. This means that researchers have many sources to check when searching for their ancestors. These sources include the internet, genealogies, books, historical societies in locations of interest, town records, maps, military records, deeds and even paintings and old houses. With so many sources available, as Paul stated, "New England is a genealogical goldmine".

Business Meeting

Due to the length of Paul Kilburn's program, no business meeting was held. Ken made a few announcements including the availability of Society business cards for members to take and hand out to interested persons. Mary Joy reiterated that the 2007 Membership Directories are available. Finally, Len reported that there is a workshop on Saturday, May 19 on using Pinnacle software. In addition, there will be an "Introduction to Genealogy" workshop on June 16 at the Fort Collins Main Library (see attached).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.