

**Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
October 18, 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 to the meeting. He proposed the attached agenda.

Genealogy Gems

Don Willson showed everyone a picture of his ancestor's home in Massachusetts; it turns out that it was built in England and shipped in sections to America.

Mary Severs told of finding a family tree for someone named Robert Wood in an old book. She felt it was a shame to throw it away and wondered whether it might be possible to return it to the correct family.

General Announcements

Holiday Dinner

President Ken Goldsberry informed everyone that the Society will be hosting a Holiday Dinner on December 6 at the Golden Corral in Fort Collins. Further information will be forthcoming, but everyone is invited to this dinner.

Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee consisting of Marilyn Rudd, Barbara Sullivan and Sonny Hygh is in place. President Goldsberry drew the members' attention to the attached sheet detailing the positions now open and suggested that members seriously consider volunteering for some of these positions. He reminded everyone that it's the members' society and cannot function without members' participation.

Introduction of Visitors and New Members

No new members joined at this meeting, but there were several visitors including: Jim Madden, Larry and Kaye Ward, Nancy Larson, Jane Peterson, Nancy Thomas, Jan Hazlett, Lewis Carter and Gordon Stone. Ken welcomed them and encouraged them all to join the Society.

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

Guest Speaker

Vice President Len Ray introduced Julie Miller, whose topic was "When Grandpa Went Off to War". Julie's talk discussed various types of military records and their availability and value to genealogists. See the attached sheet for further information.

According to Julie, the U.S. has a long involvement in various wars. Most of these wars have created two distinct types of records: service records and pension records.

The earliest American Wars are generally referred to as Colonial Wars. These wars began with King Phillip's War in 1675 and ended with the French and Indian War in 1763. Records are often sparse for these wars, and it can be difficult to find enough information to ascertain whether the soldier listed is "your" ancestor.

Of great interest to genealogists are records from the Revolutionary War. There are compiled records available covering service records, pension records and bounty land applications. In addition, there were many Loyalists, whose records should be checked. Many Revolutionary War records have been digitized on either Heritage Quest or Footnote.

The Post-Revolutionary period is from 1784 through 1811. This era involves primarily Indian campaigns. The records have been indexed and microfilmed and are available from the National Archives.

The War of 1812 involves records from 1812 through 1815. These records have also been microfilmed and indexed.

The next period covers Indian Wars and the Mexican War. Indexes to records have been microfilmed.

The Civil War covers the years 1861-65. There is much information available for this period including regimental histories which can give genealogists insight into their ancestors' war service. Some of the pension cards have been digitized on Ancestry, but copies of service records and pension files must be ordered from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

The period from 1898 through 1916 is generally referred to as the Spanish American War period, although it covers several conflicts including the Philippine Insurrection, the Boxer Rebellion and the Mexican Expedition. Records of service for this period are available through the National Archives.

World War I records are available through the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. A fire in 1973 destroyed a large percentage of the records, but some survive, so it is definitely worth checking. Another good source of information for this period is the World War I draft registration cards which are available through Ancestry.com.

The same fire that destroyed most WWI records also destroyed most WWII records, although WWII Army Enlistment records are available on the NARA website. Some records, such as those for the Navy and the Marine Corps, were not destroyed in the 1973 fire, so genealogists should always check with the National Personnel Center.

In conclusion, Julie reiterated that most Americans will find at least a few soldiers in their family tree, and it is always worth checking for records.

Business Meeting

Cheyenne Library Presentation

Newsletter Editor Bob Larson had planned to present a brief program on the new Cheyenne Library, but the program was postponed to a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Joy Hauk reported that the Society bank balance is presently \$1603.99.

Corresponding Secretary/Publications

Since Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Jones has recently moved from the area, Hap Hazard has agreed to take over as Corresponding Secretary. He will continue to head the Publications committee, as well. He reminded members that the Society has several publications, primarily concerning Larimer County, that are available for purchase.

Membership

Membership Chair Gene O'Connell reported that the Society presently has 138 members.

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Bob Larson reported that the next newsletter will be available on November 1.

He also reported on several upcoming events. The next Family Tree Maker Users' Group meeting will be held on November 8. It will focus on self-publishing of family histories. In addition, Bob reported that he will be presenting an "Introduction to Genealogy" program on November 17 at the Windsor Library.

Hospitality

Hospitality Chair Marge Abrames thanked everyone who contributed treats for the meeting. As usual, they were excellent.

President Goldsberry announced that Marge will need help with organizing the holiday dinner and suggested members volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.