

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2008
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Ken Goldsberry welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:30 pm. He presented the attached agenda.

Brief Announcements

Ken mentioned that the Cheyenne Genealogical Society is considering a trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City next fall. They would like it to be a joint venture between several societies including LCGS. Ken asked for a show of hands to see how many might be interested in such a trip. Quite a number raised their hands. The Board will need to explore the possibility further before any decisions are made.

Carrie Graves, Hospitality Chairperson, announced that she needs volunteers to supply treats for Society meetings. She passed around the infamous clipboard for volunteers to sign.

Ken also informed the membership that volunteers will be needed for the Cemetery Stroll on September 20. The Society agreed to help the DAR, who is sponsoring the event, with volunteers to serve as actors, guides, ticket takers, etc. A clipboard was circulated so members could volunteer for any of these positions.

Cathi Smith, who chairs the Recycle Table, was absent, but Alma Hazen has volunteered to help with the Table. She encouraged everyone to browse the Table and purchase items.

Publications Chair Hap Hazard reminded members that the Society owns several videos on genealogical subjects which are available for check-out. He stated that these videos can be very helpful and recommended that members sign up to borrow them.

Genealogy Gems

Several members related great finds they'd made during the last month. A new researcher mentioned that she'd been researching in Las Animas. She wrote to the local historical society there, and they sent her some great information.

Mary Joy Hauk stated that she'd recently discovered the IRAD (Illinois Regional Archives Depository) system. She found a relative, for whom she'd been searching for 14 years, on the marriage index, called and requested a copy of the marriage license and received it within a few days. All for free! She recommended that anyone researching in Illinois check out this service.

Sharon Koleber stated that the Family History Library website now has death indexes for Ohio from 1908 through 1953. It's a great site for anyone researching in Ohio.

Visitors

President Goldsberry introduced visitors to the meeting. These included: Dick Anderson, Bev Campbell, Peggy Donovan, Linda Oschlager, Ed and Carol Cady, Madonna Adams, Tommye Gaylor and Todd Black.

Ken welcomed them all.

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

Featured Speaker

Board Member Len Ray introduced Birdie Monk Holdsclaw, who spoke on “Tracking down Treasures with Online FirstSearch” (see attached handout). Birdie explained how researchers could use FirstSearch/Worldcat to locate books and articles written about and by their ancestors.

Birdie reminded members that these great tools are available through most public libraries, free of charge to users. Most libraries only require a current library card to access the databases from home. Local libraries including the Denver Public Library and the Fort Collins Library provide access to the databases.

One of the great features of FirstSearch is the fact that once an article or book of interest is found, it indicates where the libraries that hold the source can be found. The researcher can then visit, use interlibrary loan or hire an agent to access the source.

As usual, Birdie’s talk was informative and interesting. She mentioned that she suspected some members would be burning up their computers after the meeting looking for elusive sources. The remark elicited chuckles, but probably more than one member was inspired to search into the wee hours.

Business Meeting

Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Paul Smith submitted the attached report. He further reported that the Society bank balance is presently \$3132.35.

Society Representative Report

Society Rep Marilyn Rudd reported that the Board has decided to let membership lapse in both the NGS and FGS. NGS provides more benefit to individuals than to societies, and FGS is more suited to those who are in the process of organizing new groups rather than established ones such as LCGS. The Society will remain a member of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies, and Marilyn will remain the Society Rep to that group.

Education

Education Chair Bob Larson reported that a number of programs are upcoming including a Family Tree Users’ Group meeting on March 31 at the Loveland Library. This meeting will cover scanners and digital cameras. On March 29, Bob will be presenting an “Introduction to Genealogy” workshop at the Harmony Library. This program is aimed at beginning genealogists. On April 12, “Genealogy on the Internet” will be held at the Harmony Library. This workshop is full, but a waiting list is being kept for the next time the program is offered. Several other workshops are planned; information can be found on the Society website, in the newsletter and on the attached handouts.

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Bob Larson reported that he needs people to write ancestor stories and/or other articles for the newsletter. If anyone is interested, Bob asked them to let him know. Hap Hazard commended Bob on a

great newsletter. Since Hap is the Corresponding Secretary and picks up the Society mail, including other societies' newsletters, he sees what other societies are sending out. He feels the LCGS newsletter is far superior.

Archival/Photographer

Archivist Sonny Hygh reported that he is still archiving older Society materials. Eventually he will need help in digitizing some of those materials and will request volunteers at that time. As Society Photographer, he is continuing taking member photos for the new directory; he encouraged anyone who wants a picture in the directory to contact him.

Basement Bookshelf

The Basement Bookshelf program is up and running. A list of books available is posted on the LCGS website. Members may ask for lookups from any of these books.

Mentor Program

Program Coordinator Sharon Koleber reported that she has had some requests, which have been filled. Ken reminded everyone that this is a program for members who would like a little individual help with their research and recommended that they contact Sharon to be matched with a mentor.

Website

Len Ray reminded everyone to visit the Society website occasionally. It has a lot of great information. Currently, Webmaster Dolores Ray is placing the last of the scanned obits from the *Coloradoan* on the site. These obits will be a great boon to anyone researching in the Fort Collins area. Len also reminded everyone that information about future programs, workshops, etc. is all available on the website.

NGS Conference

Member Margo Butner reminded the members that the National Genealogical Conference will be held in Kansas City during the second weekend in May. She informed everyone that the conferences are a great opportunity to learn and to meet other genealogists. She recommends that everyone consider attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.