

**Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2008
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room**

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

Brief Announcements

Cemetery Stroll

The DAR-sponsored Cemetery Stroll at Grandview Cemetery will be held on September 20. President Goldsberry stated that several volunteers are still needed. If anyone is available, please contact Ken.

Salt Lake City Trip

The Society is gathering information concerning a possible trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Ken requested a show-of-hands indicating interest in the trip. He also asked which times of the year would be preferable to the majority of members. A large number of members seemed to show interest in a possible trip.

Spellbinders' Group

Member Dora Hildbrand reminded everyone that the Spellbinders' program is coming up on Monday, June 23. This is a program geared to helping older people learn to tell their own life stories so that these stories can be passed on to following generations.

Recycle Table

Table Chair Cathi Smith reported that she has received 25 CDs which contain various genealogical records such as census, marriage, etc. There is a lot of data on the CDs, but they are older and may be obsolete. Cathi suggests that members borrow them and see whether they are still useable.

Publications

Publications Chair Hap Hazard reported that he has several genealogical videos available for members to borrow. These are on various topics including finding maiden names, organizing files, etc.

In addition, Hap reported that the current price list for Society publications is available on the Society website.

Introduction of Visitors

Ken welcomed the following visitors: Marta Aguayo, LaVerna Barnhart, Allen Miller, Gary Fleischer and Al and Peggy Tighe.

Hospitality

Chair Carrie Graves thanked those who provided treats for this evening's meeting. She indicated that she will need some additional volunteers to bring treats for the July meeting.

July Meeting

Ken reminded the members that the July meeting will be the annual Question and Answer program, featuring roundtable discussion groups.

Genealogy Gems

Carol Stetser and Fran Ek reported on genealogy finds. Carol mentioned that Ancestry.com has doubled their digitized newspaper collection. She recommended that everyone visit the site to see what is available. Fran reported that the library in Ontario, Nebraska has greatly enlarged its index to the local newspapers in that area.

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

Guest Speaker

Ken introduced the evening's speaker: Debbie Dalton from Greeley Monument Works. Debbie is a co-owner of the monument company, which is one of the few monument companies who design and carve unique monuments.

Debbie's talk concerned the different kinds of monuments that are available – everything from the typical memorial in a cemetery to a carved bench in a park. Monuments have become very much a personal statement about the life of the deceased. Debbie showed slides of various monuments including pictures, carved memorabilia from the deceased's life and even genealogical information. The theme seemed to be that no matter what kind of monument is desired, a memorial of some type is important. With the trend towards cremation and fewer printed obituaries, future generations will have a harder time finding information about their ancestors, unless memorials of some type are placed.

Debbie's final quote from the World Trade Center Memorial seems to reflect her views of monuments, "May the lives remembered, the deeds recognized and the spirit reawakened be eternal beacons."

Business Meeting

Due to the strong interest and numerous questions Debbie's program engendered, the time remaining for the business meeting was very brief.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Smith reported that the Society bank balance is presently \$2759.05.

Directories

If members did not pick them up last month, 2008 Society Directories are now available at the sign-in table.

Mentor Program

Ken suggested contacting Sharon Koleber of the Mentor Program if anyone has questions, brick walls or other genealogical problems. Several people have volunteered to help and are waiting to assist any members who need them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.