

**Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
August 21, 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.

Announcements

New Webmaster

President Goldsberry thanked Society Webmaster Dolores Ray, who is stepping down from her position. He informed everyone that Dolores has done an outstanding job as webmaster in building and adding to the Society website. He then introduced Pat Walker who will be taking over as Webmaster.

Cemetery Stroll

The DAR-sponsored Cemetery Stroll will be on September 20. Ken stated that a few volunteers are still needed to be tour guides and to man the Society information table. He passed the trusty clipboard around one last time for signatures.

Carolyn Goodwin is organizing the Cemetery Stroll. She gave a brief overview of the Stroll for this year. The Stroll for 2008 is based on women who were founding members of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Several of these women, and their husbands, will be portrayed at their gravesites during the stroll.

Visitors

Ken introduced and welcomed the following visitors to the meeting: Mary Jane Schlueter, Jim Austin, Betty Coble, Dave Dust, Dick Anderson, Trish Spain, Carol Diaczun, Al Tighe and Kelly Morgan (who also joined the Society this evening).

Genealogy Gems

For the benefit of visitors and new members, Ken explained what genealogy gems are. A genealogy gem is something that occurred during the last month that helped a member find some new info on his/her family, crack open a brick wall or some other notable find that the members would like to share with the Society.

Julia Hillen reported that her husband was in the OSS during WWII. He has told some stories, but no official records have been available. She just found that the government is releasing some of these records during the next few weeks, so she will be looking forward to discovering some new information about her husband's service during the War.

Break

At this point a break for refreshments and conversation was taken. Hospitality Chair Carrie Graves announced that she has organized the table in a slightly different manner which may help facilitate members' helping themselves to refreshments.

Carrie also thanked everyone who brought treats to the meeting and stated that she was passing around a clipboard for volunteers to furnish treats for the September and October meetings.

Guest Speaker

Hap Hazard introduced Kate Legg, who is an archivist at Colorado State University's Morgan Library. Kate is in charge of nearly 500,000 photos at the University, which makes her uniquely qualified to talk to Society members about taking care of their own photos. Her topic was "Preserving Family Treasures" (see attached handouts).

Kate showed the Society the best ways to store photos and documents so that these precious heirlooms will still be around for future generations to enjoy. Some of her tips included the necessity of keeping photos in a cool, dry space – preferably not attics, basements or sheds! She also recommended keeping photos out of sunlight. In fact, she recommends copying photos and documents and then framing and displaying the copies.

Another important topic that Kate discussed was how to store photos. She recommends special, archival quality plastic or paper sleeves and archival-safe, acid-free boxes. However, one of her points was that, "If you've used lamination or other non-approved methods to preserve photos, don't beat yourself up about it. Just resolve to do better from now on!" Judging by the number of questions Kate entertained at the conclusion of her talk, several members will be spending the weekend rearranging and storing their photos!

Business Meeting

Education

Education Chair Bob Larson reported on several upcoming workshops, meetings and classes (see attached handouts for information). The Family Tree Makers Users' Group will begin its fall schedule on September 2. The fall meetings focus on publishing your family history, so members who are planning to publish their work may want to attend.

A workshop on Photoshop Elements will be held on September 13 at the Loveland Library. Two workshops will be held in October. One will be on scanners and digital cameras and will be held on October 18 at the Loveland Library. The other will be a "Genealogy on the Internet" workshop and will be held October 11 at the Harmony Library.

In addition, Bob reminded everyone that Ceil Damschroder will be teaching two genealogy classes at the Senior Centers in Loveland and Fort Collins beginning in October. These six-week classes are extremely valuable for new researchers.

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor Bob Larson reported that the electronic version of the newsletter has been updated using color. While the paper version will still be black and white, its overall look will also be updated.

Basement Bookshelf

Basement Bookshelf Chair Roger Long announced that brochures describing the Basement Bookshelf are now available (see attached). These brochures describe the program and also have a place for members to fill in the titles and other information for any books they will be willing to do lookups in.

Roger also announced that he has joined the Lee County Illinois Genealogical Society. As a benefit of membership, he has access to several online databases. He suggested that any members who have ancestors from that area should contact him. He will be happy to do lookups in the databases for them.

Mentor Program

Mentors are available to help any members with various aspects of genealogy. To access help, it is only necessary to contact Sharon Koleber who will then contact the appropriate person to provide the help requested.

Membership

Membership Chair Gene O'Connell announced that the Society presently has 150 members. 78 of them were in attendance at the meeting this evening.

Gene stated that he is stepping down as Membership Chair at the end of the year. He suggested that anyone who is interested in assuming the Membership Chair contact him.

Final Announcements

President Goldsberry reminded everyone that the Society has not had a vice president for nearly a year. That position, as well as some committee chairs, is still vacant. He recommended that members consider filling some of these positions.

Ken reported that the September program will feature Sharon Greenlee who will talk on "Writing to Capture Memories for Children and Grandchildren".

Dolores Ray reminded everyone to use the Society website to access Amazon.com. For every purchase made on Amazon through the Society website, the Society gets a commission. So far the Society has earned \$522.59 through this program. Ken reiterated that it's a great way to help the Society at no extra cost to the purchaser.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Smith reported that the Society bank balance is currently \$1917.48 (see attached report).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.