

**Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
September 18, 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. Ken announced that the scheduled speaker was unable to attend, but that Robert Larson had agreed to present his program on using Familysearch and Ancestry.com in her absence.

Announcements

Donation

Ken reported that Betty Summers recently donated part of her genealogy library to the Society. Ken stated that the Society needs to begin looking for a location for a Society library; in addition, a Society Librarian will also be needed. Ken suggested that members keep these items in mind and contact the Board with suggestions.

Weld County Family History Festival

There will be a Family History Festival held in Greeley on October 18. Ken circulated brochures describing the Festival. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Cemetery Stroll

The Cemetery Stroll at Grandview Cemetery will be held on Saturday, September 20. Bob Larson and Betty Winberg, LCGS members, will be portraying two of the people whose lives will be featured at the Stroll. In addition, the Society will have a table at the Stroll.

Salt Lake City Trip

A proposed trip to Salt Lake City is in the planning stages. This would be a joint venture between the LCGS and the genealogical societies in Estes Park, Cheyenne and Longmont. A date in June of 2009 is being considered.

Palatines to America

A "Palatines to America" day-long seminar will be held in Denver on October 25. Interested members are invited to attend.

Recycle Table

Recycle Table Chair Cathi Smith reported that there are many new magazines available at the Table this evening. She further reported that visitors are invited to come to the Table and receive a free magazine.

Visitors and New Members

The following visitors were introduced: Sharon Foster, Judy Krieger, Glenna Brissey, Irene Lewis, Betty Coble and Carol Diaczur. Jim Austin became a new member this evening. Ken welcomed them all and encouraged them to join the Society.

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

Featured Speaker

Since the evening's speaker was unable to attend, Robert Larson, LCGS Newsletter Editor and Education Committee Chair, kindly agreed to present a program on "Tips and Tricks for Using Ancestry.com". He also gave a brief overview of the Familysearch project which is digitizing the microfilms held by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City (see attached handouts).

The first portion of Bob's speech concerned the Familysearch Pilot website, which is a section of www.familysearch.org. The pilot website is the result of the beginning of the Family History Library's digitization project. Through this website, searchers can access original records, such as birth records as well as census records. At present, these records are free, but there may be charge at a later date, so Bob encouraged everyone to use them now while there is no charge.

The second portion of Bob's talk dealt with Ancestry.com. Ancestry has recently changed their home page, and Bob discussed some of the upgrades and changes available. He also reported on some tips and tricks for using Ancestry including various ways to print out census records and use of message boards.

Genealogy Gems

After Bob's presentation, several members presented genealogy gems. Ken Goldsberry reported on how he received an answer to a message board query several years after he posted it. The information he received helped him tell more of "the rest of the story" about a collateral relative.

Madonna Adams then reported on a damaged picture that she took to Digigraphics for repairs. Her before and after pictures showed the amazing restoration work that is possible. In addition to her own photo, Madonna brought several other pictures that Digigraphics had restored. While the cost is not insignificant, it can be worthwhile for some pictures.

Business Meeting

World Vital Records

Len Ray reported that World Vital Records, a genealogy website, has offered a month's free subscription to their website to Society members. An email has been sent to all members detailing methods to access the site. Len would like members to use the site and give feedback.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Smith submitted the attached report and announced that the Society bank balance is currently \$1742.20.

Webmaster

Webmaster Pat Walker reported that she is working on updating the Society website. Pat reminded everyone to access Amazon.com through the Society web page, if they plan purchases. The prices are the same, but the Society receives a commission on all sales made through the Society website.

Small Groups

Sonny Hygh reported that he would like to start some small groups, perhaps 4 or 5 persons in each, to work on their individual genealogy. These would be self-help groups; he would like feedback from members about whether or not they feel these groups would be beneficial and how they might be structured.

Technology

Don Willson reported that he has ordered some voice recognition software to aid him in writing his family histories, since he does not enjoy typing. Paul Smith suggested that this might be something that Don could demo for members prior to a general meeting.

Hospitality

Hospitality Chair Carrie Graves thanked those who provided the evening's treats. She reminded everyone that a new Hospitality Chair will be needed as of January. Anyone who is interested should contact the Board.

Education

Education Chair Bob Larson reported that several workshops will be held in the next few weeks. These include a "Genealogy on the Internet" workshop, Ceil Damschroder's Beginning Genealogy courses which will be held in Loveland and Fort Collins, a

workshop on scanners and digital cameras and several “Introduction to Genealogy” workshops held at various libraries. Further information on these workshops and classes can be found on the Society webpage. Handouts are also available on these programs.

Bob also questioned members as to whether they had looked at the various training videos that are now on the Society webpage. Very few members seem to have done so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.