

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
November 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.

Announcements

Ken explained that the Holiday Adventure Dinner will be held on December 4 at the Golden Corral. He circulated a clipboard for people to sign if they plan to attend the dinner.

Recycle Table

Recycle Table Chair Cathi Smith stated that she has received a supply of *History* magazines, which members may be interested in purchasing. She also reminded everyone that first-time visitors are entitled to a free magazine.

Publications

Publications Chair Hap Hazard reported that the Society has several videos on various aspects of genealogy that members may borrow. These include topics such as graveyard research, finding maiden names and organizing genealogy files.

Introduction of Visitors

President Goldsberry then introduced and welcomed visitors who were attending the meeting. Visitors included: Shawn Johnson, Catherine Everhardt, Peggy Donovan, Ron Krasovich and Carol Diaczun.

Genealogy Gems

Several members reported on their genealogy gems for the month. Most of them this month involved great internet finds. Hap Hazard reported that he has been uploading cemetery information to the "Find-a-Grave" website. Because of this, Hap's name was found by a 4th cousin who contacted him. Through her, he has learned much new information about his mother's side of the family. Liz Willson reported that she recently found land records online for one of her ancestors. Pat Walker explained that she has a family genealogy website. Someone found her site and emailed her; it turns out that they are related. Finally, Shawn Johnson stated that she recently found the headstones for her great-grandparents because someone had entered the information on a website.

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

Featured Speaker

Len Ray introduced Carol Darrow, who is a professional genealogist and president of the Colorado Genealogical Society. She has also written a book on tax records, so her topic “The Tax Man Cometh – and he Left Records” was very appropriate (see attached handout).

Carol began her talk by stating that tax records, although often overlooked, are second only to the census in containing genealogical information. Through tax records it is possible to locate and verify locations of ancestors at a specific time and place.

She further stated that there were three types of tax records: property, personal and head taxes. Not all records survive for all types of taxes in all places, but the records are definitely worth looking for. She suggested that the best place to start looking for tax records is in the Family History Library catalog which is online. A place search followed by a search for “taxation” is the way to find what records the Library has. In addition, it can be worthwhile to Google the place name plus taxation, just to see what pops up. Finally, it may be necessary to check at state archives and/or local courthouses, particularly for states in the western part of the United States.

Business Meeting

Brief Announcements

The Colorado Genealogical Society will be hosting a genealogy seminar on February 21 (see attached brochure for information).

Ken reported that the Society’s Salt Lake City trip, which was being planned for June of 2009, has been postponed until September. This is due to the Family History Expo which will be held on June 12 and 13 at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. Further information about this will be forthcoming.

Nominating Committee

Carol Stetser, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that nominees for President, Corresponding Secretary and At-Large Board Member have been secured. Bob Larson will stand for President; Hap Hazard will remain as Corresponding Secretary; and Pat Walker will stand for At-Large Board Member. In addition, nominations from the floor will be heard at the January meeting; after which, the election will be held.

Ken reported that, in addition to the above named officers, the Society has a great need for people to fill some of the committee chairs such as Membership, Education, Hospitality and the Scrapbook Keeper.

Treasurer

Treasurer Paul Smith reported that the Society bank balance as of the end of October was \$1535.09 (see Treasurer's reports included in October Board Meeting Minutes for more details).

Education

Education Chair Bob Larson reported that the Education Committee has met and made plans for 2009 programs. There will be the same number of programs as was held in 2008. In addition, Bob stated that the Family Tree Maker Program will resume in January with a discussion of Family Tree Maker 2009.

Basement Bookshelf

Ken explained that the Basement Bookshelf is a program where members will do lookups in genealogy books that they own. The list of books for which lookups are available is on the Society website.

Hospitality

Hospitality Chair Carrie Graves suggested, since she is stepping down as of January, 2009, perhaps someone might be interested in being the Hospitality Chair for only three months. This would be less onerous than the full year. If anyone is interested, contact Carrie.

Carrie also passed around a clipboard requesting volunteers to furnish treats for the next few months.

Ken thanked everyone who has furnished treats during 2008 and also thanked Carrie for the excellent job she has done as Hospitality Chair.

Mentor Program

Ken asked for a show of hands of those who have started doing genealogy during the last year. Several people raised their hands. Ken suggested that those people might want to start meeting in a self-help type group to discuss various genealogy topics. Sonny Hygh has made a questionnaire concerning this possibility; he circulated the questionnaires to those who were interested. Hopefully, he will be able to organize a group after the first of the year.

Webmaster

Webmaster Pat Walker reminded everyone that the Society has an affiliate program with Amazon.com in which the Society receives a commission on all sales that are made by

anyone accessing Amazon through the Society's website. She suggested members think about this as they purchase gifts this holiday season (see attached handout concerning the program).

Pat also reported that she is working on a resource list for researchers in Larimer County. This list will appear on the Society website and would be very useful for out-of-area researchers as well as local researchers. If anyone has any sources that he/she thinks should be included, Pat would like to be contacted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.