

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2009
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Bob Larson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He welcomed everyone and presented the attached agenda. The following guests were introduced: Roger Yost, Charla Whitman, Culley Lee, Mel Hillenberg, Dennis Wente and Jim and Shirley Morey.

Due to the inclement weather, the speaker requested an early start for her program so that she could leave before the weather became worse. Due to this fact, the refreshment period and business meeting were postponed until after the speaker's presentation.

Guest Speaker

Vice President Carol Stetser introduced the evening's speaker, Valerie Eichler Lair. Valerie is a professional genealogist who has made numerous trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Her presentation was entitled "How to Prepare for a Successful Trip to the Family History Library," a very timely topic since WYCO is sponsoring a trip to Salt Lake in September.

The underlying theme of Valerie's presentation was preparation (see the attached handout for further information). She stated that a successful trip begins long before the researcher leaves for Salt Lake. Valerie recommended that the prospective researcher first determine exactly which ancestors he/she wants to research at the FHL. After that is done, she suggests organizing and updating all family files and figuring out exactly what data might be found at FHL.

The most important step in figuring out what data might be found at FHL is to access the FHL catalog online and determine what books, microfilm and microfiche they hold which might have information on specific ancestors. With this information a research log, or to-do list, can be organized. Valerie then explained her method of putting together a research trip loose leaf notebook containing family group sheets, research logs, printouts of FHL listings and a pocket containing necessary supplies such as paperclips, magnifying glass, markers, etc.

While describing these steps, Valerie offered a variety of specific tips for the Family History Library. These included everything from hints on when to make copies (as the info is found) to how much a locker costs (\$.10 per opening of the locker). She also described the layout of the library and discussed exactly where various types of records are found.

Finally, Valerie recommended that, for a September trip, researchers should begin planning now if they want to get the most from their trip. She invited anyone who is having problems getting organized for a trip to email her at valsroots@yahoo.com, if they would like further help.

Business Meeting

After a break for conversation and refreshments, a short business meeting was held.

Open Positions

Bob reported that the Society still needs people to fill several open positions. These include Newsletter Editor, Education Chair and Recording Secretary. Bob asked anyone who might be interested to contact him or Carol.

Education Classes/Workshops

A number of education classes and workshops will be held in the next few months (see attached handouts). Bob reminded everyone of several classes within the next month that members might be interested in. LCGS will be presenting a Genealogy on the Internet class on April 18, which is already full, but the class will be repeated in the fall. In addition, Bob Benedict will be giving a workshop on DNA at the Loveland Library on May 9. The Nebraska Genealogical Society will be hosting a two-day convention on May 2 and 3 in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Julie Miller will be the keynote speaker at that event.

WYCO Family History Trip

Ken Goldsberry reported on plans for the upcoming trip to Salt Lake City (see attached flyer). The trip is being sponsored by several genealogical societies from northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. The trip will be from September 20 through 27; a \$159 registration fee will cover bus transportation and the services of a professional genealogist during the time the group is in Salt Lake City. Hotel reservations will be made by individual participants, but arrangements have been made with two hotels for reduced rates. Registration information will be forthcoming.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Smith reported that the Society bank balance is currently \$3451.54 (see attached report).

Paul reminded everyone to make Amazon purchases through the Society website. For every purchase made through the website, the Society receives a percentage. The Society appreciates those who have utilized this method of purchasing from Amazon and hopes that they will continue to do so and that others will use it as well.

Colorado Family History Expo

Bob Larson reminded members that the Colorado Family History Expo will be held at the Embassy Suites in Loveland on June 12 and 13 (see attached flyer). LCGS will be sharing a table with a number of other genealogical societies from around the area. Bob recommended that everyone check the Family History Expo website for a list of presenters and classes; it appears that a diverse group of presenters are booked.

Bob also reminded everyone that the “early bird” special registration price of \$65 for the two-day expo will expire on April 30, so anyone who wants to take advantage of that price should do so soon.

Hospitality

Bob thanked Louise Holzman, Kathy Patrick and Darrell Coble for organizing and bringing the treats for the evening. He requested a volunteer to help with next month’s hospitality. Dora Hildebrand volunteered to do so. Bob also informed everyone that McDonald’s on Timberline and Horsetooth furnished the coffee (gratis); Hap suggested everyone show their appreciation by choosing that McDonald’s whenever they plan to visit a McDonald’s.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.