

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2009
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Bob Larson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. At that time, a break for refreshments and conversation was taken.

After the break, Bob welcomed everyone and presented the attached agenda. He thanked Dora Hildebrand, Arden Shubert and Esther Pressel for supplying the evening's treats and reminded everyone that McDonald's on Timberline and Horsetooth is now supplying coffee for the meetings.

Business Meeting

Colorado Family History Expo

Bob reported that planning is nearly finalized for the June 12 and 13 Expo to be held in Loveland. Several new sponsors have recently signed up including *50 Plus Marketplace*, *Senior Voice* and the LCGS Genealogy Society.

Bob encouraged everyone to plan to attend since this will be a large expo featuring over 30 speakers and 88 classes. Registration can be done online.

Clipboard Signups

Bob reported that three clipboards were circulating throughout the meeting. One was for volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments for upcoming general meetings. A second was for anyone interested in attending the June 27 Genealogy on the Internet workshop. There are still five seats available for anyone who is interested in attending this informative and worthwhile program.

The final clipboard was for volunteers to man the Society table at the Victorian Sunday in the Park to be held at Library Park in Fort Collins on Sunday, June 14. See the attached brochure for further details. Bob recommended that everyone plan to attend since it is a great chance to experience a step back in time by hearing old-time music, seeing historical presentations and even eating old-fashioned treats.

2009 Society Directories

Bob informed everyone that the 2009 Society Directories are now available. They contain a wealth of information about various society events as well as valuable contact

information for members. Some of the information contained in the directory includes a listing of when Ceil Damschroder's genealogy classes will be held and even some advertising for companies who have supported the Society in the past.

Bob recommended that members return last year's directories to the Society for disposal or, alternatively, shred them themselves to avoid disseminating membership information to the general public.

Visitors and New Members

Membership Chair Jan Hygh reported that 13 visitors attended the meeting. These included: Cherrie Benton, Bob and Judy Brags, Avis and Rich Fisher, Mel Hilgenberg, Vicky Gray, Fran Jeffords, Judy Ryan, Helen Weber and Tom and Sally Wingfield. One new member, Dick Anderson, also joined this evening.

Recycle Table

Cathi Smith reported that there are numerous magazines and other materials available at the Recycle Table for purchase. She also reminded everyone to bring donations of items for the table to future meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Smith reported that the Society bank balance is now \$3533.15.

WYCO Trip to FHL in SLC

Paul Smith reported that the WYCO trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is scheduled for September 20-27. Brochures and registration forms are available (see attached). Paul stated that there is also a clipboard at the rear of the meeting that interested members can sign if they wish to get updates about the trip.

Publications

Publications Chair Hap Hazard reminded everyone that he has a lending library of genealogical videos available. In addition, Society pins are for sale for \$5. Society business cards are also available.

Education

Sherri Schloss will be taking over as Chair of the Education Committee.

Position Openings

Bob reported that the Society is still in need of a Recording Secretary. In addition, a Photographer is also needed. Anyone interested in either position can contact Bob or Carol.

Featured Presentation

Vice President Carol Stetser introduced the evening's speaker, Dawn Rohan. Dawn is an intellectual properties librarian at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne. Her presentation was titled "Patents of Invention as Genealogical Resources" (see attached handout).

Dawn explained that patents are little-used genealogical resources that can contain genealogical information that is found nowhere else. Even though we tend to think of patents for people such as Thomas Edison, other, less well-known people also received patents. Over seven million patents have been issued in the United States to date, many of them for simple farm or factory inventions. Thus, Dawn explained, it is worthwhile for family historians to check out the possibility of patents issued to their ancestors.

Since patents were issued by the federal government, they are fairly easy to access and search. Patents are filed by an individual under his name, but each patent has a unique number which makes it possible to find the patent itself. Although it is necessary to find patent numbers, from before 1975, in books at a Patent and Trademark Depository Library (the nearest are in Cheyenne and Denver), once the number is found a free database, <http://www.uspto.gov>, has copies of all extant patents.

Some of the types of genealogical information that can be found in patents includes various name changes, such as through marriage or legal name changes; citizenship status and clues; movement, such as different locations for different patents; assignees; estate information such as heirs and executors and even original signatures in some cases.

Closing Announcements

Bob reminded everyone that 2009 Society directories are available; members can pick them up on the way out, if they haven't already gotten them. He further reminded everyone that the next Family Tree Maker class will be held at the Council Tree Library on June 2. GenSmarts will be the topic of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.