

Larimer County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2009
Harmony Library
Harmony and Shields Street
Fort Collins
Community Room

President Bob Larson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He announced that a break for refreshments and conversation would be taken until approximately 6:55 pm.

After the break, Bob welcomed everyone and presented the attached agenda. He introduced and welcomed the following visitors: Mel Eckard, Judy Herman, Carol Minicus, Nancy Judkins, Ruth Potter, Judy Spada, Lee Wingard and Al and Barbara Zahn.

Business Meeting

Upcoming Classes and Workshops

Bob reminded everyone that Ceil Damschroder will be teaching genealogy classes again this fall (see attached handout); these classes are well worth the modest fee that is charged.

In addition, Bob reported that several workshops (see attached) are coming up in the next few months including ones on Document and Photo Preservation, Scrapbooking, Introduction to Genealogy and Genealogy on the Internet. He suggested that everyone consider attending one or more of these programs.

Hospitality and Other Volunteers

Bob thanked this evening's Hospitality volunteers: Ellen Wheeling, Madonna Adams and Diane Fox. He also reminded everyone that McDonald's on Timberline and Horsetooth is now providing coffee for our meetings.

Bob further reminded everyone that Cartridge World will give a 10% discount on their recycled cartridges to anyone who mentions that they belong to LCGS. Bob thanked both McDonald's and Cartridge World for their support of the Society and suggested members patronize these retailers, if possible.

A clipboard was circulated for volunteers to provide refreshments for upcoming meetings.

Recycle Table

Recycle Chair Cathi Smith reported that lots of excess magazines were given away at the Colorado Family History Expo and the Victorian Sunday in the Park. However, she assured everyone that the Table has plenty of new magazines to replace those given away, so members should plan to visit the Table.

Colorado Family History Expo and Victorian Sunday

Bob reported that the Colorado Family History Expo was successful, attracting around 600 attendees.

He further reported that everyone had a great time at the Victorian Sunday in Library Park.

Library News

Bob has recently learned that, due to budget constraints, the Poudre River Valley Library District will be dropping their subscription to Ancestry.com.

Need for Volunteers

Bob stated that the Society is still seeking volunteers to fill various positions, particularly a Recording Secretary. If anyone is interested, contact Carol or Bob.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Smith stated that the Society bank balance is currently \$3288.93. Paul reminded everyone to continue to access Amazon.com through the Society website since the Society receives a small portion of all sales made on Amazon when it is accessed through our website.

WYCO

Paul Smith reported that the plans for the trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City September 20 through 27 are finalized. Information is available for anyone who wishes to register for the trip.

Possible Genealogy Software Users' Groups

Bob suggested that members may wish to start a user's group for Rootsmagic or Legacy. He asked for a show of hands; not too many seem to use these programs. Users' groups for these programs may be something that members will want in the future.

Website

Webmaster Pat Walker would like members to submit some Colorado photos showing Larimer County scenery which could be used as a banner for the Society website. Anyone who is interested in submitting photos should see the attached flyer for details.

Guest Speaker

Carol Stetser introduced Sue Seniawski who presented a program on the Laramie County Public Library in Cheyenne, Wyoming which was called “Look in Your Own Backyard.” See the attached handouts for further details.

Sue reported that the Laramie County Public Library moved into a new building in 2007. As part of that move, the genealogy department became the “Special Collections” room which is equipped with various aids to genealogical researchers. These include computers that are only able to access genealogical websites such as Ancestry.com, NewEnglandAncestors.org, Footnote.com and Heritage Quest.

Other features of the genealogy department include a vertical file containing numerous maps and courthouse information, microfilm and microfiche readers (the library also houses the local Family History Center), and a library of nearly 20,000 genealogy books.

To show the resources available at the library, Sue used them to research her own family. Since the library is particularly strong in New England resources, she presented some great examples of information that she found on her ancestors from that area.

In conclusion, Sue stated that the goal of her presentation is to inspire people to come to the library and use the genealogy collection. She invited everyone to plan a research trip to Cheyenne.

Genealogy Gem

Roger Long recently received a request concerning the Dowdy Lake Ghosts. Supposedly, a man named Edward Dowdy murdered his wife and children in the Red Feather Lakes area. He was sentenced to excavate the Dowdy Lake Reservoir site as a punishment. The ghosts of his family are still sometimes seen in the area of Dowdy Lake, or that’s the story, anyway.

Roger wondered if anyone had heard of the story and how it might be researched. Most had not heard of the story, but it was recommended that research be done as in any other genealogical puzzle. Most were skeptical of the story, but agreed it does make a great yarn!

July Meeting

Bob reminded everyone that the July meeting will be a “Do It Yourself Brickwall Breakdown” session. He encouraged everyone to come prepared to talk about their own brickwalls or successes in scaling those brickwalls.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.