

SUSSEX COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting

Meeting Place Rehoboth Beach Public Library
Upstairs Meeting Room
226 Rehoboth Ave.
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Meeting Date January 15, 2005

Call to Order President Audrey Sensale

President's Remarks

Audrey's welcome intro to the meeting was on the topic of New Year's resolutions. She suggested the each member resolve to analyze what they can do improve their genealogy quest, be it improving their computer skills, organizing their genealogy research collections or other focusing on other areas needing improvement. She suggested also that members who could, plan to attend the Annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) to be held Sept 7-10th in Salt Lake City Utah. For more information on registration go to www.fgs.org.

Secretary The secretary's report was postponed as the secretary is absent.

Treasurer The treasurer reported a balance of \$450.00 in the bank.

Committee Reports Membership - Carolyn Miller: Nothing to report. Newsletter - Fred Schiding: The combined issue for November, December and January has been posted on the website. Education committee - special committee: Computing classes have been postponed till Tuesday Feb 1st. They will be taught by Lynne Hooker and will be on the basics of how to use the computer and surf the internet. Please see Lynne if interested. Already have 3 signed up and only have room for 6. Audrey Sensale will also hold a class starting either Feb 15th or 22nd depending on how long Lynne's classes go. Audrey's class will last 12-12 weeks. Let her know if you are interested and give her a check for \$6.50 for a copy of the book she will be teaching from. Service Committee: Judy Lally has agreed to be responsible for the book fund. Programming: The March Bus Trip to the Archives is on and scheduled for March 22nd, so the March presentation (just prior to our trip) will be on the census and will be presented by Holly Wright.

Announcements Ann Prang (not sure of spelling) is in the Lynncare Nursing home in Front Royal (?) Virginia. Shirley Herndon has her address if you would like to send a card.

The next general meeting will be February 19th, 2005. Shirley Herndon will speak on Wills and Probate. She is also going to be teaching an intermediate course on Mondays evenings at Deltech

from 6 to 8 PM. She needs at least 6 people to sign up in order to keep the course from being cancelled. Call 856-5400 to sign up.

Please remember the book fund, today we're using a little white bowl.

Program Part One of the program was a proposal by Charlotte Holloway of the Downstate Delaware Genealogical Society. She is looking for volunteers to help their group with the cemetery project, specifically 2 cemeteries in Sussex County, one in Seaford and one in Bridgeville. She needs people to read tombstones, transcribe data, enter data into excel spreadsheets and also people to proofread the work of others. If you are interested, please see her after the meeting.

Charlotte also took a poll to see how many were interested in doing a trip to Trenton or Harrisburg. 5 voted for Trenton and 3 for Harrisonburg. She warned that the cost would be much higher and the bus would have to leave around 5 AM and the trip from Milford would take about 3 hours and 15 minutes. Charlotte finished by giving the data of the bus trips to the archives scheduled for this year. They are March 22nd, May 17th, July 23rd, Sept 20th and November 1st. They are all Tuesday trips except for July 23rd which is a Saturday. Cost will be \$23.00 per person and the stops will be Rehoboth, Milford, Dover and Kent Island. Pick up at Rehoboth will be a little later this year 6:00 AM.

Part Two of the Program was on German Research by Peggy McKenzie. Originally from Oregon, she has spent most of her adult life in Europe and only moved back to Delaware in 2003. Peggy speaks German, Croatian and several other Slavic languages. She used to have a business providing heritage tours to genealogists in Germany. Peggy first established why you must know what part of Germany your ancestor is from before you begin any German research. She offered several possible ways to ascertain the region they came from including using the German phone book, checking the migration patterns of various regions out of and into specific ports, looking at church records, land records family bibles, oral tradition and friends and neighbors since they tended to stick with their own country and often whole villages migrated together. Peggy reviewed several excellent websites and provided several handouts with links, other resources and maps showing the migration patterns of Germany and the ongoing redefinition of the borders of the country.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

Submitted by

Holly Wright, Acting Secretary