

Sussex County Genealogy Society
Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting Date: March 19, 2005

Meeting Time: 10:30 a.m.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by President Audrey Sensale.

President's remarks: Audrey Sensale welcomed everyone to the 7th general meeting of the SCGS. She reminded everyone of her newsletter articles encouraging them to explore other meetings and conferences in their research process. Made the comment she was raised with belief she should give back what she has gained. The benefits of that are called fun. At any rate, the Board must be doing something right--good meeting attendance, membership has increased and the group is gaining a good reputation in Delaware. We still need to grow more.

The nominating committee will announce a new slate of officers at the April meeting. They still need a Secretary and someone to serve as a substitute secretary when the regular one is unable to attend a meeting. We also need a Rules Committee Chairman. Would like someone who has a familiarity with Roberts Rules of Order and long-range planning.

The various committee chairmen could use some support. If you are willing to help, let Audrey know. She is also putting a sign-up sheet on the front table for people to sign after the meeting. Possible areas of assistance are: hospitality, book fund manager, scrapbook keeper, etc. At the present time, we still don't know each other and we should improve on that.

Secretary: Marjorie Frampton was absent. In her absence Sally Nelson served as acting secretary and read the minutes from February. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer: Gene Chap reported there is currently \$536.91 in the bank and \$200.00 in the book fund.

Membership: Carolyn Miller welcomed everyone. She reported that SCGS now has 75 members.

Carolyn announced that the membership committee is designing a tri-fold brochure as a recruiting tool. The brochure will describe our group and be placed in public areas. She has a list of libraries and some other locations, but since she does not live in this area most of the year, she would appreciate your suggestions of other places to put the brochure. See her at the end of the meeting with your suggestions.

The May meeting is coming up and it marks the end of the membership year. ***Carolyn Miller moved that Pat Bray be made an honorary member of the SCGS and Ralph Nelson seconded the motion.*** The qualifications for this membership are outlined in the by-laws under Article II, Section C. **HONORARY MEMBER.** Honorary membership is bestowed on an annual basis for significant service to the Society. Nominations for such membership must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and confirmed by a simple majority of those members present and voting at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Honorary memberships confer neither the right to make a motion nor to vote. ***The motion was voted on and unanimously passed.*** Pat Bray is the first Honorary Member of the SCGS.

Carolyn will have membership renewal forms at the next meeting. The new membership year begins in June.

Carolyn announced a new member. Nancy Lyons is a member of the Delaware Genealogical Society, and serves as a guest lecturer at the Dover Public Archives. She is also a member of the Irish Families History Research Group.

Several guests were in attendance as well.

Bill Wolf, father of Sally Nelson
Joann Freed who is doing research in Sussex County
Elaine Hughes from Bethany Beach

A question was raised about another genealogical group in lower Sussex County. Audrey mentioned the South Coastal Library Group in Bethany Beach. She pointed out some differences between the two groups. The Downstate Genealogical Society from Dover and the Lower Delmarva Group and the Nabb Center from Salisbury were also mentioned. The educational mission of our group was discussed as well as the advantages of belonging to several groups (both local and non-local).

Nancy Lyons made the comment that when you first start doing genealogy all you do is take, but as time goes on you begin to give back. It may be by donations, volunteering to do research for others, teaching others, etc.

- Education: Audrey announced the Genealogy On Line book discussion group is going strong. There are 10 members.
- Service: Holly Wright had no report other than the bus trip coming up on the following Tuesday. Riders must be at the meeting point by 6:00 a.m.
- Historian: Not present.
- Audit: Audrey asked if Al Beasley was present. She needs to talk to him about the Audit Committee.
- Announcements: The next meeting will be April 16. Audrey will present a program on document preservation. She asked Lynne Hooker to preside over the meeting that day.

Remember the book fund (white bowl on membership table). The money is used to purchase books for our genealogy reference area in the Rehobeth library. We have donated several books so far. Audrey has been able to purchase ten remainder books for very reasonable prices. These books are readily identifiable because there is an SCGS book plate in them.

- Old Business: By-laws changes need to have 2/3 of the membership present to be voted on. Per Carolyn Miller there are 18 members present and 12 are required for a vote to occur.

Proposed Bylaws Modification:

Lynne Hooker: I move that in the proposed bylaws

amendments, under Article VII, Section 2, F. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE second sentence the word "our" be changed to "Society" so that it reads "The committee is also required to bring information to Society members regarding meetings and pertinent information from other genealogical organizations or sources for the benefit of Society members.

Gene Chap: seconded motion.

Motion was voted on and unanimously passed.

Audrey explained the proposed By-laws changes.

- Puts the Awards Committee under the Service Committee
- Takes the Publicity Sub-committee and makes it a committee called Public Relations. This will entail more than just getting notices to the newspapers.

The proposed changes to the By-laws were provided to the membership within the required time frame for voting purposes.

Proposed Amendment: Article VII, Section 2, E Service committee add: In addition, under the guidance of the Board of Directors, the committee shall establish and maintain a program of awards to deserving members of the Society and to non-members who have made significant contributions to the Society. Decisions of the type, nature, contents and recipients of the Awards shall be made by the committee independent of the Board. The President's Awards for Meritorious Achievement requires the approval of the President and the Service Committee Chairman. Awards may be made at any time of year.

Ralph Nelson moved the amendment to Article VII, Section 2, E be accepted. Seconded by Kaylene Lasbury.

Vote taken. Unanimously passed.

Proposed Amendment: PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE. The Public Relations Committee shall coordinate with the Membership Chairman and the Service Committee Chairman to maintain all necessary communication in a timely manner with Society members and the community regarding Society meetings and activities. The committee is also

required to bring information to Society members regarding meetings and pertinent information from other genealogical organizations or sources for the benefit of Society members.

Peggy Baunchalk moved the amendment to Article VII, Section 2, F be accepted.

Seconded by Carolyn Miller.

Vote taken. Unanimously passed.

Proposed Amendment: Article VII, Section 3, B Publicity Sub-Committee.
Delete this paragraph

Marge Calabrese moved the amendment to Article VII, Section 3, B be accepted.

Seconded by Peg Baunschalk.

Vote taken. Unanimously passed.

New Business: Audrey provided a list of coming events (June through November) of the Dover Public Archives.

Lynne Hooker announced that she has started planning for next years programs. Nancy Lyons will speak on Irish research in September.

Speaker: Lynne introduced Holly Wright. Holly will be going on Tuesday's trip to the National Archives and will be available to fellow researchers to help with their research.

Holly gave an informative talk on the types of records available at the National Archives. She also gave reviewed the Soundex system and how it works. She passed out a hand out highlighting available records and Soundex guides.

When she talked about Civil War pension records Charlie Kemper showed the papers that he had received from NARA on his grandfather's Civil War service.

During Q&A section, Shirley Herndon mentioned that if you had ancestors who served in the military out of the country, during a Census year (1910-1920), they would have been counted separately. This military census would also be kept at NARA. You need to know which branch of the service your ancestor served in.

Lynne Hooker presented Holly with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Nancy Lyons announced that the Delaware Genealogical Society, in cooperation with Delaware Archives, is doing a series on Quick Start Your Genealogy. They have an historical staff member talk about their holdings. The next one will be Monday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on naturalization, passenger lists, and manifests. They will talk about how to use these in genealogy.

Nancy also said DGS would be doing a NARA trip on March 31, but you would need to leave from Wilmington.

Nancy thanked Holly Wright for all the publicity she has given their programs.

Audrey mentioned that in addition to Holly, Ron Ray and Tom Roche were also doing a good job getting the word out about genealogical events.

Discussion was held about Heritage Quest training. This will be through the Delaware Library Association on April 18 at the Dover Archives. There will be 2 sessions 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Lynne Hooker and Audrey will be attending. If you want to go and need a ride, give them a call.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn Miller and seconded by Gene Chap. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 16, 2005

Respectfully submitted by: Sally A. Nelson

Handouts:
NARA talking points from Holly Wright
Listing of Population Census Items 1790-2000
Listing of Occupations--past vs. present