

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: November 19, 2005

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Audrey Sensale at 10:30 a.m.

President's Remarks: Welcome to the third general meeting of our second year. It hardly seems possible but we have only one meeting left in the current Discussion Group series. Our last meeting will provide an opportunity to evaluate whether we like the direction in which we have been going or wish to change it. Periodic evaluation and adjusting of goals is a necessary part of growth and gives the opportunity to consider alternatives.

Perhaps it is time for each of us to assess our current direction in the pursuit of our family history. Are we progressing as we had hoped? Do we need new tools to help us use our time more effectively? What might those tools be? If pursuing our family history is of importance, and because we are here I assume it must be, it is worth taking the time to look objectively at what we are doing. The evaluation must be formal—that is, organized and in writing.

Begin by putting down your random thoughts about what you had hoped to accomplish. Then go through and indicate which goals you have achieved. The goals that remain provide the framework for the future as you decide what you need to do to accomplish your goals. These could include getting in touch with family members, visiting a distant graveyard or county court house, buying books to learn techniques or to learn the history of a certain place, learning the rudiments of the language of your ancestors. It could even mean resolving to take advantage of the many programs offered by genealogical societies.

In any event, there is a time when stopping an activity long enough to scrutinize where we have been, where we want to go, and how we plan to get there, is advisable. Now is the time.

Secretary's Report: Sally Nelson read the minutes of the October 15, 2005 meeting as Secretary Nancy Purchase was not present. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Gene Chap reported that the Society has \$709.99 in the bank. This total includes \$69.83 of contributions to the Designated Book Fund.

Membership's Report: Carolyn Miller asked our guests to introduce themselves. We had nine guests. She also asked our members to indicate on the sign in sheet if they would be able to bring a refreshment to the next meeting. That meeting will be our Holiday meeting.

Other Committee Reports: It was announced that Holly Wright, our webmaster, has included announcements of other genealogical organization's meetings on our website.

Audrey mentioned she had brought additional handouts for members use and information.

Audrey announced the final meeting of the Discussion Group would be held the following Tuesday, October 22, 2005

Audrey announced that the Society has added three new books to the Genealogy Reference Shelf in the Library. They are:

Genealogy 101 by Barbara Renick

Your Guide to the Federal Census by Kathleen W. Hinckley

The Family Tree Guide to Finding Your Ellis Island Ancestors by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

If you would like to contribute to the book fund, you may put your donation in the white bowl by the door.

Because we belong to the FGS, we get a copy of their quarterly report. In the last issue our Society was recognized for our contribution to the Stern-NARA Gift Fund.

Old Business: None

New Business: Gene Chap announced that Jim Blakeslee has accepted the position of Assistant Treasurer.

Gene Chap announced that our financial records have been reviewed by Al Beasley, the bookkeeper and auditor. They have been approved and signed off on.

Carolyn Miller spoke on the Ancestry.com World War I draft registration module. It is available for free from November 12-November 25. You must register to use the site, but they do not require a credit card. The site is located at: www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone.

Audrey reminded everyone that the meeting does not end until the speaker is done. Audrey asked for a motion to adjourn.

Program: Lynn Hooker introduced Nancy Lyons and read her bio. Nancy then gave a very informative program called Irish American Family Research 101: the Basics. Afterward, Lynn presented Nancy with a certificate of appreciation.

Adjournment: Ron Ray moved to adjourn the meeting and Tom Roche seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Sally Nelson