

**Sussex County Genealogical Society
General Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Place: Rehoboth Beach Public Library
Upstairs Meeting Room
226 Rehoboth Avenue
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Meeting Date: April 19, 2008

Call to Order & President's Remarks: Jeanne Davis, President

Secretary's Minutes: Nancy Purchase read the minutes of the last General Meeting, March 15, 2008. They were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Blakeslee read the treasurer's report, which is the same as reported at the April Board Meeting. SCGS has \$1495.24 in the account which includes \$1036.19 in the Contingency Fund, \$110.91 in the Book Fund and \$51.02 in the Speakers Bureau Fund. The treasurer's report was received subject to audit.

Committee Reports:

Service: Jeanne Davis has received a letter of resignation from Gene Chap, chair of the Service Committee, effective at the end of this fiscal year. Jeanne presented to us Marilyn McMahan, Acting Chair, who will become our new chair person.

Jeanne also introduced our new Webmaster, Richard "Dick" Cleaveland who announced that the SCGS web address will remain the same. There will be an area open to the public, a member's only area and an area accessible only to the Board - Officers and Committee Chairs. Details are still being worked out and will be announced later.

Membership: Carolyn Miller thanked all for coming and introduced the one guest. Carolyn distributed renewal forms and asked members to check their name, address, phone number and e-mail address and to return it with their dues for the upcoming year. She pointed out that we have the option to have our names, phone numbers and e-mail address (not our street address) included on our password secured website.

Announcements: Marilyn McMahan announced that the Computerized Genealogy Interest Group will meet May 1, 2008 at the Milton Library from 2-4 p.m. The group's official name is yet to be determined. The intention is to hold the group meeting in various locations to allow more people to attend.

Sally Nelson announced the Fourth NARA (National Archives) Open House in Washington D.C., which will be on Wednesday, April 24, 2008. The Downstate Delaware Genealogy Group has cancelled their bus trips for the rest of the year, including the bus to Washington D.C. for this occasion. We are therefore arranging carpools leaving Millsboro at 7 a.m., parking at New Carrollton, MD and taking the Metro in from there. She passed out copies of the NARA schedule for the day's activities.

Sally announced that July 19 is the deadline for submission to our newsletter for the August/September issue of *The Searcher*. We do not publish an issue in the summer.

Peggy McKenzie announced that the Genealogy Discussion Group at the Selbyville Library is held the first Friday of every month at 11 a.m. (July will be the 2nd Friday). All were welcomed to attend.

Tom Dempsey announced that his family is having a rededication ceremony on June 14, 2008 in Morristown, NJ, for his deceased grandfather who was in the Civil War. Tom has been researching this grandfather in his ancestry. This will be a large family affair and will include Bagpipes and a Civil War re-enactment. He promises to tell us all about it.

Shirley Herndon still has Vol. 2 of the Delaware Tombstones book for sale. She also has two articles that she has copied, for those who are interested.

A Genealogy workshop is scheduled at the Bridgeville Library on April 25, 2008 to try to help anyone with their 'brick wall' ancestors. They have one computer with Ancestry Library Edition available which may be reserved.

The National Conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) will be held September 3-6 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There are print-outs available with details and it's on the FGS website.

Nomination Committee: Marilyn announced the results of the nominating committee. Candidates for SCGS offices are as follows:

President: Jeanne Davis

Vice President: Ralph Nelson

Treasurer: Jim Blakeslee

Secretary: Diann Sherwin.

Adjourn at: Sally moved and Tom Roche seconded that we adjourn. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Nancy R. Purchase, Secretary

Program:

Marilyn McMahon spoke on photo restoration. She showed a photograph of four generations of her family, which she had restored by Sue Rowland of First State Photo in Rehoboth. She also spoke on how the people in the photo were identified. She showed a second severely damaged photo and the restored version and answered our questions. She recommends the books *Dating Old Photographs* and *More Dating Old Photographs*, a Family Chronicle Publication, Editors Halvor Moorshead & Jeff Chapman.

Norm Montigny showed his Global Positioning System (GPS) and spoke on how he uses it to identify ancestral towns, houses, tombstones, etc. to go along with his photographs and family history. GPS allows for the exact identification of a place for later easy location. He answered our questions.

Tom Roche spoke briefly on using a digital camera for taking photos related to our genealogy. He also showed his Garmin GPS which he finds to be very user friendly. The more expensive models have software that can be updated, the cheaper ones do not.

Dick Cleaveland spoke, as our Webmaster, about our SCGS Website and our Computer Interest Group. He reminded us of the use of Google in searches. Google earth can show a cemetery and even zoom in on the individual tombstones. A website recommended by Dick www.forsensicgenealogy.info contains a weekly quiz to keep you on your toes.

Audrey Sensale spoke on preservation. She handed out copies of *Guide to Collections Care, Paper, Photographs, Textiles & Books* by Gaylord Bros., Inc., Syracuse, NY.

Our speakers were presented with Certificates of Appreciation by Ralph Nelson. He announced that next month's program is our "Show and Tell" where we bring in something to share with the group.

Submitted by:

Nancy R. Purchase, Secretary