

SUSSEX COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
General Membership Meeting November 21, 2009

Vice President Al Lister called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. at the Rehoboth Beach Library, and welcomed everyone. A first time attendee introduced himself. Al announced that the fundraiser held at the Roadhouse Steak Joint produced \$106. He also announced some publication donations decided by the board of directors. He announced that the December meeting would be a round table discussion and holiday party. The January meeting will feature Barbara Flexer speaking on "Beyond the Begats. Some ideas on how to really get to know your ancestors and tell their stories." Dr. Ray Thompson of the Nabb Center will speak in February, and the Society will coordinate with the afternoon program by the Rehoboth Historical Society that same day.

Treasurer Carolyn Miller reported that the October opening balance was \$2,802.87. Receipts for the month were \$30, and disbursements were \$51.02, leaving a balance of \$2,781.85 at the end of the month. There were no changes in the Contingency, Speaker Bureau, Book, or Operating funds.

Cathy Hudson presented the Membership report for Nancy Purchase. She stated that 23 attended the October meeting, two of whom were guests. As of November 21, SCGS has a total of 94 members. Two individuals renewed and two new members joined during October.

There was no report from the Speakers Bureau. Service Committee Chair Marilyn McMahon pointed out society items for sale that would make good Christmas gifts. She reported that the Fall Discussion Series has concluded. The spring discussion group will follow the same format, using a DVD presentation. Genealogy Bytes continues, and the December meeting will be about digitalization of records of the National Archives. The January meeting topic is scrapbooking genealogy.

Sally Nelson stated that the next newsletter would be ready early in December. She noted that some adjustments are being made to the website, including the goal of updating the surname list.

By-Laws: Jeanne Davis thanked the board members—this year’s and last—for their work on the by-laws revision. She read Article X, Section 2, of the current by-laws that describes the process for amending the by-laws. She noted that one suggestion was received from the membership that will be considered later so as not to delay the adoption of the revisions. It concerns the giving of awards. **Sally Nelson moved that the by-laws be accepted as revised, and Marilyn McMahon seconded it.** After some discussion of the suggestion about awards, the membership voted to approve the revisions. One vote opposed the adoption.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Diann Sherwin, Secretary

Vice President Al Lister introduced the speaker, Denny Rayne from the Watson Funeral Home ,who spoke about funeral home records. In general , he said, the news is “not good.” He described the history of record keeping, the various ways records were kept, especially in small towns. He noted that some records have been lost or thrown away. Some were recently found in a barn loft. He described the practices at the Watson Funeral Home, saying, “Today we keep every scrap of paper.” He provided copies of the files they use as well as a “My Wishes” document that can help families plan. He discussed privacy issues and recent laws that affect what can be shared and with whom.