

SUSSEX COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
General Membership Meeting, January 16, 2010

President Ralph Nelson called the meeting of the Sussex County Genealogical Society (SCGS) to order at 10:35 a.m. at the Rehoboth Beach Library. He reviewed the cancellation of the December meeting because of bad weather. The minutes of the November meeting were approved with one correction, inserting the word "digitization" in place of "digitalization." Treasurer Carolyn Miller reported that the beginning balance in the society's account was \$2,901.08, income was \$35.00, expenditures were \$22.72, giving an ending balance of \$2,913.36. Her report was accepted subject to audit.

Ralph welcomed the numerous guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Vice President Al Lister announced the February program and described the afternoon program that SCGS is helping to coordinate. He also announced the programs for March, April, and May.

Marilyn McMahon gave the Membership report in Nancy Purchase's absence. She described arrangements for lunch between the sessions next month (bag lunch, with beverages and dessert provided). She reminded people who had promised dessert for the December meeting to bring their treat. Marilyn then spoke as Education Committee Chair. She described the Genealogy Bytes special interest group, and mentioned some potential field trips. She directed attention to the new Adult Plus brochure from Del Tech, noting two dates on which President Ralph Nelson is making presentations. She read an announcement from the Downstate Genealogy Society concerning a field trip to Washington, D.C., and she described the format for the Discussion Group in the spring.

There was no report from the Speakers Bureau. Cathy Hudson, Ways and Means Chair, collected money for a 50-50 drawing. (Tom Dempsey won the 50-50.) Sally Nelson, Newsletter editor, noted that today is the deadline for the next issue of the Searcher, and she said there have been a number of hits on the surname list. She also announced that the February Rehoboth Historical Society speaker

would be at the Laurel Library on January 28, 7 p.m., speaking on “Historic Preservation.”

The business meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. and Al Lister introduced the speaker Barbara Flexer.

Diann Sherwin, Secretary

Barbara Flexer titled her talk “How to Bring Your Ancestors to Life and Tell Their Story.” She described how context, narrative, images, and details make the difference between genealogy and family history. She described various sources for information, including E-Bay, and said, “What you find may raise more questions.!”

Barbara recommended finding a research buddy to encourage you—someone in a geographical area of interest, someone who knows descendants of your ancestor, someone with similar research interests, someone willing to share.

And she encouraged people to share what they find by choosing an ancestor or a few and telling their story. She showed the book she made about women in her family as a gift for her granddaughters.

She provided a number of resources for placing an ancestor in context, including The Everyday Life in America series, and Timelines in History.