

**CAPITAL AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**for 2003**

**January 12, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held January 12, 2003 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Seventeen members and guests were present.

President Richwine began by thanking Annabelle Hoffman, who has retired as vice-president, and Rae Neubaum and Jim Gould, the new first and second vice-presidents, respectively.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the December meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Treasurer Marion O'Neal then read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes. Audit committee chair Freda Yocum read the audit committee report.

President Richwine announced that we will have a "work session" in lieu of our March 9 meeting. We will start at 1:00 p.m., and work on our surname file, planning, and getting ideas for programs.

Several members announced upcoming genealogy events.

Lawrence Crudup spoke and showed slides on the underground railroad in the Harrisburg area.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

**February 9, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held February 9, 2003 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. Thirty-three members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the January meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Treasurer Marion O'Neal then read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

President Richwine reported that she spoke on genealogy to the PP&L retirees the previous Wednesday. She reminded everyone that we will have a workday in place of our March meeting to redo our surname file and get suggestions for programs. She reported that Molly Ulsh and Marion O'Neal will staff a table at the Historical and Museum Commission's Family History afternoon the same day as our March meeting. President Richwine then introduced

the subject of the Lancaster Family History conference, March 28 and 29. A motion was made and seconded to pay the way of two people to staff a table at that conference.

Announcements from members were: A bus trip to Washington DC April 23, sponsored by the Juniata County Genealogical Society, to visit the archives and DAR library, cost \$25. A talk by Annette Burgert "Are your Pa. German ancestors really Swiss?", May 4 in York.

The president of the Harris Ferry Chapter of the SAR described the proposed clean-up of the Greiner Cemetery off Fulling Mill Road in the spring and asked for volunteers to participate.

Carl Fox described and showed pictures of the cemetery used by the Dauphin County Home. There was discussion about other area cemeteries and how to find cemeteries.

Graham Hetrick, our scheduled speaker for the day, was ill and unable to be with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

### **March 9, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held March 9, 2003 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Eventually, eighteen members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the February meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded.

President Richwine conducted the meeting by posing a series of questions:

Should we cancel or reschedule our March meeting when it conflicts with the Historical and Museum Commission's Family History Afternoon? The consensus was that we should do one or the other.

Should we exhibit at other conferences? The consensus was that we should, depending on the cost and the availability of volunteers.

How often should we have a how-to-get-started-in-genealogy program? The consensus was once a year, perhaps in the winter. It was suggested that we have basic forms (such as family group sheets) available.

Are there any suggestions for speakers? Warren Wirebach and Jim Beidler were among those mentioned. Jim Gould suggested we have a standard operating procedure, such as a question and answer session, when speakers cancel at the last minute. Annabelle Hoffman suggested book reports in addition to speakers.

What would people like to see in the quarterly? Something other than cemetery listings, a synopsis of recent meetings' programs, and surname searches were among the suggestions. A discussion of our handling of queries followed.

What should we do with our "surname file"? The suggestion was made to put a list on the website and/or in the quarterly of the surnames in the file. Carl Fox volunteered to take the file and organize it.

What should we put on our web site? Cemeteries that have been "read" (and who read them), indexes to the quarterlies, membership applications, and a list of future speakers were among the suggestions.

Should we have a picnic this summer, and where? The consensus was that we should and Shank's Park in Stoverdale was suggested.

Should we continue to have field trips, and where? The consensus was that we should. The Army War College, the Lebanon County Historical Society, and the Conrad Weiser Homestead were among the suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

### **April 13, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held April 13, 2003 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Twenty-six members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the March meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded.

President Richwine thanked Carl and Mrs. Fox for indexing our surname file. The index will be on our web site soon and in our library in the future.

Secretary Yocum gave a brief synopsis of the major items discussed in our board meeting, held before the regular meeting. Our picnic will be July 13 at Indian Echo Caverns. Set-up will be at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon. Later in the afternoon there will be a tour of Stoverdale Church, led by the granddaughter of the man who founded the church. Tours of the Caverns are also available. We're planning to have our meeting room open an hour and a half before our regular meetings for people to use our library. Hopefully we can start this by fall. We'll need volunteers to staff the room. Details still need to be worked out.

President Richwine opened the floor for questions on genealogical research. Several were posed and answered. President Richwine announced that Hershey Foods plans to keep the Hammacher cemetery intact, with limited access.

David Morrison gave a slide presentation on Harrisburg's historic Front Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

### **May 18, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held May 18, 2003 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Twenty members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the April meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Treasurer Marion O'Neal then read the April and May treasurer's reports.

President Richwine announced upcoming genealogy conferences. She solicited donations of materials for our forthcoming library and asked for volunteers for a committee to update our surname file. President Richwine opened the floor for questions on genealogical research; there were none.

David Rempel Smucker spoke on the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

### **June 8, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held June 8, 2003 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Sixteen members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the May meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Treasurer Marion O'Neal then read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

President Richwine reported on a rolling file that she was considering for our library. Jim Gould questioned whether it would be strong enough to hold heavy books. Upon reflection, President Richwine thought it probably would not. A rolling bookcase was suggested as an alternative. Freda Yocum questioned whether the group considered it a problem that the bookcase would not be lockable. The consensus was that we did not. President Richwine handed out resource surveys for donations to the library.

President Richwine reported that the letter from Hershey Foods to the Derry Township Historical Society concerning the Hammacher cemetery will be in the next quarterly. She also reported that the Roots and Branches column in the Patriot News has been cancelled. This is particularly disappointing to President Richwine, since most of the inquiries she gets about the Society and its meetings seem to be generated by this column. Both President Richwine and Dottie Faris wrote letters to the Patriot to protest the cancellation. They replied to President Richwine that she could put a notice in the Weekend News. However, a notice submitted by Marion O'Neal's daughter to the Weekend News was cut drastically. Molly Ulsh suggested putting a notice in "Inside Out".

President Richwine reported on the Derry Township Historical Society's upcoming move to 40 Northeast Drive in Hershey. She also reminded everyone of our picnic in July. She then opened the floor to genealogical questions. Molly Ulsh presented the research dilemma that has been puzzling her for years. Unfortunately, no one had any easy answers for her.

Funeral director and Dauphin County Coroner Graham Hetrick spoke about his life and work, and about genealogical research possibilities at funeral homes.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

## **July, 2003**

No Minutes

## **August, 2003**

No Minutes

## **September 14, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held September 14, 2003, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Thirty-five members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the August meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. In treasurer Marion O'Neal's absence, president Richwine read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

Vice-president Rae Neubaum reported that she is making corrections to the website and announced the Palatines to America conference Sept. 27.

Dottie Faris announced a Hershey Museum program entitled Your Genealogy to be presented by Jim Beidler Oct. 17. She also announced that Jim Beidler is hosting a trip to Washington D.C. Nov. 6.

President Richwine announced: The clean-up of Newside Cemetery, a family history workshop Sept. 20 in Baltimore presented by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Berks County Genealogical Society's Market Place Oct. 11. She reported that: She, Bob Viguers and Marion O'Neal would be meeting with township officials at the Levan St. cemetery; there would be a meeting Oct. 4 to plan 2004 programs; our library will be open at 12:30 or 1:00 and re-open during the refreshment period. Jim Gould stated that the library will need a cut-off time.

A nominating committee was nominated: Carl Fox, Molly Ulsh and Esther Richwine. A motion to close the nominations was made and seconded. The nominating committee will present its report at the Nov. meeting.

Program Committee chair Freda Yocum told the group that the October speaker will be June Lloyd of the York County Heritage Trust.

President Richwine opened the floor for questions about genealogical research. A guest asked how to find an ancestor's spouse and occupation. Censuses and city directories were suggested. Another question was where to find listings of Berks County cemeteries. The Berks County Historical Society and the State Library were suggested. President Richwine reminded the group that we have the Berks County Historical Society's newsletters.

Susan Hartman of the Pa. Historical and Museum Commission spoke on researching in county courthouses.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

## **October 12, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held October 12, 2003, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Twenty-four members and guests were present.

President Richwine began the meeting by mentioning that Fern Boyer had brought books, which were available for people to look at after the meeting, on the Speicher and Lyter families.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the September meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. In treasurer Marion O'Neal's absence, secretary Yocum read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes. President Richwine reported that there were four new members in addition to the one listed in the treasurer's report.

President Richwine reported that she appointed Freda Yocum and Jim Gould to the finance committee, in addition to treasurer Marion O'Neal; and that an audit is to be done before the December meeting.

Molly Ulsh made a preliminary report of the nominating committee. All officers have agreed to be nominated to serve in 2004: President Esther Richwine, Vice-President Rae Neubaum, Second Vice-President Jim Gould, Secretary Freda Yocum and Treasurer Marion O'Neal. Irene Gipe will be named a director emeritus. Molly Ulsh and Charlotte Lotz have agreed to be nominated to continue serving on the board. Carl Fox was nominated for the remaining board position. President Richwine added that Carl Fox was appointed to chair the cemetery committee and that Bob Viguers will continue to edit the quarterlies. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the November meeting.

Vice-President Neubaum stated that she has applications for membership and reminded people of our website.

President Richwine reported that: We may have to move our meetings, as the church is reviewing "outsiders'" use of the building. There will be a meeting Oct. 20 to review the material we have for our library. A refreshment schedule for 2004 will be circulated. (Helen Foreman will remain chair of the refreshment committee, with Ricki Hammell assisting.) Our library opened before the meeting. The program committee met Oct. 4; results will be reported at a later date. (There will be a field trip in May and a work day in August.)

President Richwine also reported that she, Bob Viguers and Molly Ulsh met with township officials and the man who lives next door to, and has been taking care of, the Levan Street cemetery. This project is still in progress. The township offered to pay for a plaque and put in a sidewalk and possibly a bench. Bob Viguers commented that he thought we got exceptional cooperation from the township. Some discussion of cemeteries followed.

President Richwine opened the floor for questions about genealogical research. A guest asked how to find information on Schuylkill County. The Pottsville Historical Society, the Elizabethville library and the Halifax Historical Society were suggested.

Bob Viguers reported that he got a letter from someone seeking 1830 and 1840 census records for Peter and Daniel Sellers from Dauphin County and asked if anyone would like to volunteer to look them up.

Dottie Faris asked for suggestions on where to donate Northampton County regimental "posters" that were given to the Palmyra Genealogical Society. The Civil War Museum, the Military History Institute and the Camp Curtin Historical Society were suggested.

June Lloyd spoke and showed slides on the York County Heritage Trust.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

## **November 9, 2003**

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held November 9, 2003, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Esther Richwine called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Twenty members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the October meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. In treasurer Marion O'Neal's absence, secretary Yocum read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

President Richwine announced that she would accept checks for 2004 dues. She reported that Bob Viguers resigned as editor of the quarterly. The publication committee is working on the fall and winter quarterlies.

President Richwine asked if there were any nominations from the floor for officers or directors; there were none. In the absence of nominating committee chair Molly Ulsh, President Richwine proposed electing by acclamation the slate of officers and directors in the preliminary report of the nominating committee in the October minutes. A motion to do so was made and seconded. The officers and directors will assume their offices at the close of the November meeting. President Richwine then read the committee assignments; a list of the committee members is on file with these minutes.

President Richwine opened the floor for questions. Carl Fox asked if anyone knew about a cemetery on Applebee Road; no one did. Rae Neubaum will put the question in the quarterly.

President Richwine reported that the winter 2003 issue of the quarterly will be an anniversary issue, with an index of everything in the quarterlies in the past five years. Jim Gould announced the grand opening of the Indiana County Historical Society's new facility in the week following this meeting. President Richwine announced the grand opening of the Derry Township Historical Society's new facility Nov. 16.

Winnie Gould asked if anyone was familiar with DAR magazines (which are referenced in our surname file). She was told that the State Library has DAR magazines.

President Richwine thanked Freda Yocum, out-going program committee chair, for her work in that capacity. President Richwine reminded everyone of the Christmas party at our December meeting; the library will not be open that day.

Walter Lewis Cressler, Jr. spoke about, and showed postcards by, his grandfather Clyde A. Laughlin, the Postcard King of the Cumberland Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum  
Secretary

**December, 2003**

No Minutes