

CAPITAL AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Monthly Meeting Minutes
for 2010

January 10, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held January 10, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. Twenty-two members and guests were present.

President Jim McAteer spoke on basic genealogy.

President McAteer called the business meeting to order at 3:42 p.m. Charlene Kemp, state historian for the Boyd Society, introduced herself and pointed out applications and brochures for the January 23rd Robert Burns dinner.

Freda Yocum read the treasurer's report. In the librarian's report, Karl Fox announced that the library won't be open before the February meeting because the church is using our meeting room until 2:30. He also asked everyone to keep their eyes open - a couple things are missing from the library.

President McAteer announced the February speaker: Alesia Skinner, Paxtang Cemetery restorer. He then opened the floor for genealogical questions; there were none.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

February 14, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held February 14, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Jim McAteer called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. Ten members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the January meeting; they were accepted as read. Treasurer Marion O'Neal read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

Speaking for the refreshment committee, Esther Richwine reported that more volunteers are needed to bring snacks to the monthly meetings, and reminded us that CAGS will give up to \$15 to anyone who brings refreshments and asks to be reimbursed. In her role as program chair, Esther reported on upcoming programs: March - Tony Orsini on rural architecture and outhouses; April- Professor Michael Barton on Currier & Ives; May - Steve Runkle on the life and times of his great-grandfather John H. Miller, who owned a coal mine. Because President McAteer wants to focus on genealogy, rather than history, in future programs, Esther suggested bringing back either Linda Piekut on HeritageQuest, or Harriet McGee on Perry County.

Librarian Karl Fox reported that he has finished combining all his cemetery readings into one database of approximately 97,000 names, representing about 100 cemeteries, cross-referenced to the cemetery books in our library. Starting in March, Dottie Fox will bring a laptop to the meetings so this information will be available to researchers.

Volunteer auditor Freda Yocum read the audit report, which is on file with these minutes.

In new business, President McAteer reported that we need volunteers for committees, to edit the newsletter, and to help with our website. (While our website is paid through the end of the year, it is very hard to update, and Rae Neubaum, who has been updating it, no longer has the time.) He asked for South Central Pa. family histories for our library, for suggestions for programs and field trips, and, on a personal note, if anyone is researching Stouts. He reported that the newsletter will be out in March, requested that everyone bring the names they're researching to the March meeting, and called a directors' meeting in April.

President McAteer announced two upcoming events: German Heritage Day at the HACC Lebanon campus March 6, and a Juniata County Historical Society trip to the National Archives and DAR in Washington, DC, in April. See him for information on either. Member Mike Freeland reported on the website Ancestortracks.com, which contains maps from the 1875 atlas of Pennsylvania (showing landowners' names) and much more.

Alesia Skinner spoke on her experiences as owner of the Paxtang cemetery, and the resources they have available to researchers.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

March 14, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held March 14, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. Thirteen members and guests were present.

Tony Orsini gave a presentation on rural architecture and outhouses.

President Jim McAteer called the business meeting to order at 3:29 p.m. Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the February meeting; they were accepted as read. Treasurer Marion O'Neal read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

Librarian Karl Fox reported that his database of cemetery readings is up to 98,500 names, and that he's in the process of photographing every stone in three Middletown and Londonderry Township cemeteries. He also reported that we've received information on the Row and Shoffstall families.

President McAteer reported that Lebanon's German Heritage Day was enjoyable, and that such events are good places to meet other people interested in genealogy. He also announced the Palatines to America conference in Harrisburg April 17, at which Jim Beidler will speak. We have forms available.

On the subject of our website, member Mike Freeland reported that he met with Rae Neubaum the previous day. The organization hosting the site no longer supports the software we have. He also noted that we have much unused capacity. Mike is first going to back up everything on the website before making any other changes. President McAteer thanked Mike for taking on this job.

President McAteer then opened the floor for genealogical questions; there were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

April 11, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held April 11, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. Seventeen members and guests were present.

Michael Barton gave a presentation on The Secret History of Currier & Ives.

President Jim McAteer called the business meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the March meeting; they were accepted as read. Treasurer Marion O'Neal read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

Librarian Karl Fox reported that he donated the book "Becker St. Peter's Church & Cemetery – Berks County" to our library. He also reported that the three books by Oscar Stroh are missing from our library. In addition, he reported that his database of cemetery readings is up to 100,000; he can look up a name and find the cemetery the person is buried in.

President McAteer reported the current edition of our newsletter contains a list of the books in our library. He also reminded everyone that we have applications available for the Palatines to America conference April 17.

Mike Freeland gave a report on our new website; it will be up by the end of April.

Molly Ulsh reported that she was unable to access the DAR website today; others thought it might be down for maintenance. Molly also read an article from the Juniata County Historical Society newsletter.

In response to an inquiry about our field trip, the Lancaster County Historical Society and Wheatland were suggested. Those present expressed no preference of month for the field trip, and were agreeable to a Saturday. President McAteer will contact the Historical Society.

He also reported on our upcoming programs: May – Steve Runkle on the life and times of his great-grandfather John H. Miller, who owned a coal mine; June – a presentation on HeritageQuest; September – Harriet McGee on Perry County. President McAteer would like to have workshops in other months, and is willing to speak about genealogy on the internet.

Karl Fox reported that he was given a trunk-full of genealogy information; it was suggested we spend a meeting going through it.

President McAteer concluded the meeting by reading a poem from the Connecticut Nutmegger. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

May 16, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held May 16, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Jim McAteer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Fourteen members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the April meeting; they were accepted as read. There was no treasurer's report.

Librarian Karl Fox reported that the trunk-full of genealogy information he was given last month is all family histories, but suggested we get our files in order before we start to work on those. President McAteer asked for volunteers to help Karl with that project.

Mike Freeland reported that our new website was up May 1, and described several features of the website, including a soundex routine, a routine to calculate a birth date from a date of death and age, and information on the 1940 census.

President McAteer reported that he hasn't heard back from the Lancaster County Historical Society yet about our proposed field trip. He encouraged attendees to complete the survey that we have available and drew their attention to a list of free genealogy websites. Finally, he reminded the group of our June speaker – Linda Piekut on HeritageQuest.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Steve Runkle gave a presentation on the life and times of his great-grandfather John H. Miller, who owned a coal mine.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

June 13, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held June 13, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Jim McAteer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Eighteen members and guests were present.

President McAteer began by announcing the workshop Archives Without Tears in Middletown July 28. Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the May

meeting; they were accepted as read. Treasurer Marion O'Neal read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

Mike Freeland reported that our website is almost complete, with only the site map still to come. He's scouring the internet for useful links to finish up our list of suggested websites.

President McAteer reported that he's still had no response from Lancaster County, so August is out for a field trip there. We also have no speakers planned for Oct. or Nov. There was discussion on whether the group would prefer workshops or a presentation on internet genealogy. Karen Schmidt and Joan Bretz agreed to do a presentation on the DAR, probably in Nov., and President McAteer will try to get a speaker from the SAR for Oct. Suggestions are also needed for next year's programs.

President McAteer announced a board meeting in August. He then opened the floor for genealogical questions; there were none. The business meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Linda Piekut gave a presentation on Heritage Quest.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

July, 2010

No Minutes

August 8, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held August 8, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Jim McAteer called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. Nineteen members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the June meeting; they were accepted as read. Treasurer Marion O'Neal read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

President McAteer announced our field trip to the Lancaster County Historical Society, Saturday, November 13. We'll have a one-hour tour, followed by two to

three hours for research in their library. The cost to the Society will be \$60 to \$75. By a show of hands, ten to twelve people expressed interest in participating. We'll announce the trip on our website and take another count at our September meeting. The presentation on the DAR, previously scheduled for November, will be postponed. A speaker from the Dauphin County Chapter of the SAR is scheduled for October.

President McAteer announced that the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society is conducting a membership drive, and is presenting a program October 2 at the Holiday Inn East. He reported that the DAR is identifying existing houses of patriots of the American Revolution. He also announced that the Juniata County Historical Society is running a bus trip to the DAR and National Archives October 20. The cost is \$40 and reservations must be made by September 28. We have further information available on all these topics.

President McAteer asked for committee volunteers: For 2011, we need an assistant to refreshment chair Ricki Hammell and a program chair; and at the September meeting we'll need a nominating committee. He reported that the printer we used for our newsletter went out of business. Treasurer O'Neal is researching other printers; let her know if you have any ideas.

Treasurer O'Neal reported that long-time member Helen Foreman had a stroke; she has Helen's address if you would like to send a card. Librarian Karl Fox reported that Mike Freeland donated a book "National Genealogical Society Table of Contents 11-02 to 12-09" to our library. Librarian Fox suggested that books on Berks County, other than Tulpehocken, would be the next logical addition to our library.

Webmaster Mike Freeland reported that our website is complete; with 53 articles and documents; over 100 forms, charts, and guides; and 99 links. Dottie Fox drew the group's attention to old photo albums from the Karl/Bolton/Mountz families, in hopes that someone can identify the people pictured. President McAteer shared several family names he's researching. He then opened the floor for genealogical questions; there were none.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

President McAteer gave a presentation on internet genealogy, focusing on Ancestry.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

September 12, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held September 12, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. President Jim McAteer called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. Fourteen members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the August meeting; they were accepted as read. Treasurer Marion O'Neal read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

Charlene Kemp, state historian for the Boyd Society, announced that the Boyd Society's chief historian will be coming from Australia, touring the U.S., and appearing in Camp Hill. She has flyers available, and we will put the information on our website. Members also suggested several historical societies she should contact.

Librarian Karl Fox reported that we received a surname index for Cumberland County cemeteries for our library.

Webmaster Mike Freeland reported that we've had 900 hits on our website, averaging 200 a month. He's added two new links: One to the American Battle Monument Commission, which lists 125,000 war dead, from the Mexican War to the Vietnam War, in cemeteries overseas; and one to the Veterans' Affairs national cemetery website, which includes 131 national cemeteries. Both sites are searchable.

Treasurer O'Neal reported Holmes OK Letter Shop in Lemoyne can print and mail our newsletter for \$35 plus postage, with three days' turnaround.

President McAteer reminded the group of our November 13 field trip to the Lancaster County Historical Society and pointed out directions and a sign-up sheet. He also pointed out forms we have available for the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and for the Juniata County Historical Society's trip to Washington, D.C., and an e-mail from the Genealogical Society of Pa. detailing their upcoming events.

President McAteer asked for volunteers for program chair. He reported that we will have a speaker on the SAR in October and on the DAR next year. He asked the group to think about what programs or field trips they would be interested in. He also asked for volunteers for the nominating committee; Charlotte Lotz agreed to be chair.

President McAteer reported on a research idea that worked for him: He googled his ancestor's name (with quotes around the whole name).

The business meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Harriet McGee spoke about Perry County.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

October 10, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Capital Area Genealogical Society was held October 10, 2010, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. Vice-president Robin Lighty called the meeting to order at 2:39 p.m. Fifteen members and guests were present.

Secretary Freda Yocum read the minutes of the September meeting; they were accepted as read. Secretary Yocum read the treasurer's report, which is on file with these minutes.

Vice-president Lighty asked for program ideas for 2011; suggestions can be e-mailed to any board member. He suggested we participate in the State Museum's Family Heritage Day in March, and reported that we'll have a program on the DAR at a 2011 meeting. December 12, 2010 is our Christmas party (and probably a board meeting).

Joan Bretz reminded the group that next year is the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. Vice-president Lighty will check with the Civil War speakers he knows to see if any are creating new programs for the occasion.

Vice-president Lighty reminded everyone of our field trip Saturday, November 13. We have room for a few more people. We'll meet at the Lancaster County Historical Society at 11:00. After our tour the facility will be available for research until 3:00. Our website has further information, including a link to Google Maps. Members mentioned that Wheatland and the arboretum are nearby, and that Christ Lutheran Church is having a breakfast that morning.

Because we won't have a November meeting, elections were held. Nominating committee member Ricki Hammell read the slate of candidates: Jim McAteer, president; Robin Lighty, vice-president; Freda Yocum, secretary; Marion O'Neal, treasurer. Vice-president Lighty asked for additional nominations from the floor; there were none. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The candidates were elected by unanimous voice vote.

Webmaster Mike Freeland reported that he added a query on the John Fry family and a link to Linkpendium to the website.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Ed Miller spoke about the SAR.

Respectfully submitted,

Freda J. Yocum
Secretary

November, 2010

There was no meeting this month due to the field trip to the Lancaster County Historical Society and President James Buchanan's Wheatland.

December, 2010

There was no meeting this month due to the Annual Christmas Party.