

Minutes of the IRGS Meeting September 11, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Indian River Genealogical Society was held on this date at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Library. President, Pete Kersey, presided and declared a quorum with 49 members and 4 guests. Members and guests were welcomed.

In remembrance of the 9/11 tragedy President Kersey asked for a moment of silence. Many members have the shared memory of attending our monthly meeting six years ago at the Women's Club when they heard the news.

President Kersey read a statement (on file with minutes) acknowledging the rift between the former board leaders and this group. He explained the structure of the Transition Board with Pete Kersey now serving as President, Vice-President post-vacant, Treasurer -Tom Garvey, Recording Secretary - Jeanette Webber, Corresponding Secretary -Diane Chazotte. Immediate Past President-Cindy Davis. Chair persons are Diane Macgowan-Education, Mary Mitchell-Publicity, Barbara Rorick-Membership. Newsletter editor is Pam Cooper and Webmaster is Phil Wright. President Kersey then stated that "for the health of our organization it is best now to simply set our sights on the future and move on with the real business for which we have gathered....Genealogy."

Jim Runnels then rose and offered thanks to Pete and other board members for their continued willingness to serve the Society.

Minutes Approval: Minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting have been published in the Newsletter and on the Website. No corrections were made, thus the minutes were approved.

Corresponding Secretary: Diane Chazotte reported she had sent a thank-you note to Cora Sjogren-Welch, former Acting President, for her service to the Society. A sympathy Card was sent to Rose Caughey on the death of her husband Jack O. Caughey. Jack was the member who created the membership nametag rack. Diane reminded us to contact her for events needing cards from the Society.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Garvey presented the financial report for filing and audit. Tom Garvey then made a **Motion to approve spending of \$2,160.00 to buy 200 Indian River County Postcard Books to be used for consignment books to be sold at Friends of the Library Book Store, Used Book Store, and Cultural Council.** Seconded by Suzy Bromwell. **Approved Unanimously.**

Committee Reports: Program: Cindy Davis outlined a full schedule of programs until the end of the year. A new "show and tell" feature each month will create interaction with the members. This month we brought family photos to share. October 9th we are to bring a family heirloom from the "Old-World". Plans are underway for the February 9th 2008 Valentine Seminar. Most importantly, we should plan on attending our **May 2008 25th Anniversary Celebration**.....any creative ideas are most welcome. November 9-10 is the FSGS meeting in Orlando. We are planning to have a booth displaying our Postcard History Book at that conference. September 3-6, 2008 is the National meeting in Philadelphia.

Education: Diane Macgowan reported that she is using the December survey results to guide her educational offerings. *Basics of Genealogy* (6 sessions) will begin in January 2008. Other workshops to be held monthly on the fourth Saturday will be: January-**Basic scanning**; February-**Writing about your family**; March-**Immigration**; April-**Military records**; May-**Creating a Family Website**. On the second Monday of each month forums will be held relating to particular state research: January-**Massachusetts**; February-**New York**; March-**Pennsylvania**;

April-Connecticut. Sign-up sheets for these forums will be available at the December meeting. Pam Cooper will teach two individual class-workshops i.e. *HeritageQuest* Oct 10 (10-12); *Newspapers Online* Nov 15 (10-12). Tom and Nancy Garvey will teach a class on the use of City Directories. Watch the newsletter and website for further details.

Membership: **Barbara Rorick** the new chair was introduced. She reported attendance of 49 members and 4 guests for a total of 53 attendees.

Public Relations: **Mary Mitchell** is submitting data to the media by email, she will return in November.

Newsletter Editor: **Pam Cooper** hoped that most people had received their newsletters. October is Family History Month and Pam urged members to “dress-up” in the dress of their ancestors-this was very successful last year and she hopes we will do so at our October 9th members’ meeting too. At the Madison, Florida FGS conference the new book by Elizabeth Shown Mills’ “*Evidence Explained*” was introduced. This is a very comprehensive guide on documentation and recording sources.

Website: **Phil Wright (returning to this position)** reported that he is currently working with two sites i.e. irgs.org and rootsweb and will refine these as quickly as he can. If there is any question he can be reached at webmaster@irgs.org. Our newsletter and meeting information has already been placed on the website.

Postcard Committee: **Tony Young** reported about the marketing of the Postcard History Book. It has received great response with 800 copies already sold. He mentioned future visits to the Mayor of Vero and City Council to introduce the book. All those involved with this project are to be congratulated.

New Business: **Nominating Committee** will be forming. Volunteers are urged to see Pete Kersey to serve on this vital committee.

Refreshments were then served. Cindy Davis provided a celebratory cake in honor of the Postcard Book.

Program: **Pam Cooper introduced our speaker Ann Staley, CGRS of Jacksonville, Florida.**

Ms. Staley’s presentation “**Overlooked Research Sources: A Gold Mine to be Discovered**” was indeed a gold mine. A detailed outline was distributed that will serve as an excellent reference to these sources (copy to file). She encouraged us to look at some of the great variety available. Among these are: County Historical & Biographical Publication, City Directories, Federal Census-Agricultural and Industrial Schedules, School records, Society records, Company Reports, Insurance Records, WPA Historical Records Survey, NARA, Newspaper Research. Ms. Staley’s scholarship was quite impressive and her congenial manner made for delightful listening.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. Next Meeting is **October 9, 2007.**

Submitted by:

Jeanette L. Webber

