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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Alberta Family Histories Society
Southminster United Church
Calgary, Alberta
5 June 2000

Present: AFHS Board Chair, Larry Gilchrist
Attendance: 150+ members

OPENING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.
2. **Appointment of Recording Secretary**
MOTION (Judy Riddell) Seconded (Frank Morrow) THAT Carol Gilchrist be appointed the Recording Secretary for the meeting.
CARRIED.
3. **Presentation of Honourary Membership to Janet Morgan** – L. Gilchrist presented a framed certificate of Honourary Membership to Janet Morgan in grateful appreciation for having made an extraordinary contribution to the cause of family history and the objects of the Society.
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
MOTION (Bev Swann) Seconded (Alanna Brown) THAT the agenda be approved as printed.
CARRIED.
5. **Minutes Annual General Meeting**
MOTION (Roy Kinnear) Seconded (Jean Bentley) THAT the Minutes of the AGM held 7 June 1999 be accepted as printed.
CARRIED.

ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

6. **Chair's Remarks** - Larry Gilchrist thanked everyone for their support, willingness to volunteer, and attendance at all the various presentations over the past two years. MOTION (Nancy Carson) Seconded (Alan Peers) THAT the Chair's Remarks as printed (pages 10-11) be received for information.
CARRIED.
7. **Treasurer's Report and Audited Financial Statements**
Eva Kinnear presented the Report audited by Daryl Mellafont (page 12) and reviewed the financial statements (pages 13 – 16). In response to a question requesting clarification on the category of Miscellaneous under Expenses on page 14, she explained this was money released to cover the expenses for sending two members to receive the award for the Canadian Genealogical Projects Registry.
MOTION (Eva Kinnear) Seconded (Lois Sparling) THAT the Audited Financial Statements and the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.
CARRIED.

7. **Committee Reports.**

Larry Gilchrist asked for any additions to the written committee reports. There were none.
MOTION (Myrna Waldroff) Seconded (Frank Morrow) THAT the committee reports be received for information.
CARRIED.

8. **Special Interest Group Reports**

MOTION (Marlene Knott) Seconded (Dave Embury) THAT the reports of the Special Interest Groups be received for information.
CARRIED.

9. **User Group Reports**

MOTION (Tom Worman) Seconded (Bob Westbury) THAT the reports of the User Groups be received for information.
CARRIED.

10. **Budget for 2000 - 2001**

Lorna Stewart corrected two items under Budget Proposal Revenue (page 30) . The figure of 300 under Donations is to be exchanged with the figure of 1300 under Education. In response to a question requesting clarification of the entry under Expenses Annual Meeting copies/postage, it was explained that these were the costs associated with the mailout for the Notice of Change to the Bylaws.
MOTION (Lorna Stewart) Seconded (Lois Sparling) THAT the budget for 2000-2001 be adopted as presented.
CARRIED.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

11. Larry Gilchrist reviewed each proposed change to the by-laws. See attachment to Secretary's Minutes for summary.
MOTION (Lorna Stewart) Seconded (Eva Kinnear) THAT the existing by-laws be repealed and be replaced by the proposed by-laws as posted.
CARRIED.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

12. Larry Gilchrist read the names of the members listed in the report who have agreed to stand for the noted positions:
Roy Strickland - Chair
Millie Drinkwater – Vice-Chair
Sally Rae – Vice-Chair
Linda Williams - Secretary
Bob Crowle, Charlie Hanson, George Lake and Tom Worman – Directors-at-Large

There were no nominations for Chair-Elect and Treasurer.

MOTION (Frank Morrow) Seconded (Ethyl McDonald) THAT the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted and those persons listed as per the report be declared elected by acclamation.
CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

13. MOTION (Eva Kinnear) Seconded (Barbara Lafrentz) THAT Daryl Mellafont be appointed the AFHS auditor for the fiscal year 2000-2001.
CARRIED.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CHAIR

14. Larry Gilchrist turned the gavel over to the new Chair, Roy Strickland, who thanked the Society for their confidence in him and asked for a vote of thanks for the retiring Board members.
MOTION (Mary Arthur) Seconded (Gordon Jepson) that the retiring Board members be thanked for their efforts over this past year.
CARRIED.

CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16. There being no further business, Roy Strickland declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Larry Gilchrist
AFHS Chair

Carol Gilchrist
Recording Secretary

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Monthly Meeting Operations

Without dedicated volunteers, meetings would not be ready for members when they arrive.

The following persons have helped set-up and take down chairs and tables:

Spencer Field	Dave Wake	Bob Hauswirth	Charles Aubin
Judy Sparrow	Linda Williams	Heather Jaremko	Irene Oickle
John Doyle	Ian Simmons	Ron Marshall	

Bob Westbury co-ordinates the set-up and take-down of the Beginner's Meeting.

Audio-Visual equipment and stage set-up and take-down is managed by:

Wes Johnston	Bob Colwell	Keith Maitland
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Elevator Operators who alternated monthly were:

Stan & Judy Sparrow	Lorna & Jim Stewart
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Greeters at the front door included board members:

Sally Rae	Larry & Carol Gilchrist	Doug Stobbs	Tom Worman
Millie Drinkwater	Robin Nixon	Roy Strickland	Charlie Hansen
Judie Riddell	Heather Jaremko	Bob Crowle	

Francis Tanner and Jill Browne also took a turn.

The coffee makers included:

Barbara LaFrentz	Marilyn Younger	Bernice Warden	Carol Gilchrist
Margaret Main	Bill & Sheila McLaggan	Gordon McMahon	

Thank you to everyone. You have been a great team to work with.

Submitted by Mabel Kiessling

AFHS Webster Report, 2001

Some Big Changes

This past year has been a momentous one for the AFHS website. We ran into some difficulty in fall with access times plummeting and the number of hits dropping substantially as well. This appeared to be due to a technical change that our webhost (Calgary Community Network Association) and their supplier effected. Because the problem couldn't be fixed rapidly, we needed services beyond their standard offering, and because our site couldn't be accessed at all by some users, the Board agreed to fund a migration to a commercial webhost, Cadvision.

This had an immediately positive effect regarding the problems – a great relief. In addition, we are now building additional features. For instance, email addresses tailored to various active AFHS roles (e.g., membership@afhs.ab.ca, president@afhs.ab.ca, queries@afhs.ab.ca, distgen@afhs.ab.ca, and webster@afhs.ab.ca); forms for the various components of our query system; and we have build secure directories for committees to house common documents for their eyes only (e.g., www.afhs.ab.ca/member/ for the spring members-only survey, one for board documents and one for GenSoft team members).

Web Content Analysis

Main Site: In this past year, the website has grown again, now having about 4,000 (was 3,100) links to resource materials that assist visitors with general research methodology needs and geo-specific resources. The site is mature at this point, with only minor additions every month. The sustaining of the site through checking broken links is a significant effort.

In 2000, webguides (two) were instituted to provide a content-informed approach to the links on a given geographic page. At this time we have webguides for Italy (Robert Montagni), Netherlands (Ulrich Haasdyk), Scotland (Doug Hay), and United Kingdom/England (Dann Craig). They review any links before the latter are put online. In addition, their names/e-mail addresses are posted on the sites to encourage more knowledgeable support for the queries that we might receive.

CGPR Site: The Canadian Genealogical Projects Registry (CGPR) continued to grow in 2000 and now has roughly 11,000 links. The lack of time means that new links are not sought out as actively as they once were and the effort has gone into keeping the broken links fixed. However, links are added every month. The Registry is now much better known and as a result, some link recommendations arrive from across the country every month. It has been featured this year in talks to the AFHS (WildRose Seminar and GenSoft) as well as to the Alberta Genealogical Society (GenFair).

New data online: This past year, the work between the Projects coordinator (Judie Riddell) and the Webster has been intense. Judie set to conclude a number of projects that the past Coordinator (Janet Morgan) had initiated. This meant that a lot of cemeteries' record transcriptions have been finalized and appeared onscreen. They significantly include the Calgary Crematorium Records, the Erlton Jewish Cemetery, and others.

In the past year, several new features have appeared on the AFHS website with the help of volunteers: 1900 BMDs (Calgary newspapers), *Transcription of Calgary, Alberta: Her Industries and Resources* (1885), *Index to Journal of Family History, Old Diseases* (and their modern definitions),

We've also enhanced the availability of talks presented at GenSoft this year by placing them online.

Web Activity Analysis

The AFHS homepage has received roughly 100,000 hits in 3 years – at an average of about 90 hits/day. At the present time, we are receiving about 140 hits per day.

Working on the AFHS website continues to be a meaningful challenge and a joy. It pleases me to provide this service for the AFHS and it's members and to be help build a tool that advances the goals of the society.

*Respectfully submitted
Judith Rempel, AFHS Webster*

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs

For the 2000-2001 Season the members of the Program Committee were the following:

Diane Granger Keith Maitland Norma Lendrum Elda Hauschildt
Bob Westbury

greatly assisted by the expert advice of Judii Rempel and Sheila Johnston.

Over the course of the year we planned and organized -

23 meetings 10 Main Programs
10 "Beginners" Programs 3 Saturday Specials.

All the signs were that these were well received by the membership, although we are aware that not every program can delight every member of the Society every time.

Of these programs 7½ were given by outsiders and all of the rest by AFHS members. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to these speakers for coming to speak to us. A talk of 30 to 60 minutes may not seem like much, but it takes many hours, spread out over many weeks, to prepare these talks.

This year the Society acquired a most useful addition to our audio-visual equipment: a generous grant from Chevron Canada Ltd. made it possible for us to buy a mobile microphone.

And our committee would like to offer our thanks to the many unsung and largely invisible people whose work is vital to the success of every meeting:

- the Set-up and Take-down Teams,
- the highly skilled Audio-visual Team,
- those from the Computer SIG who understand the workings of the computer- projector
- the Refreshments Team, who unfailingly remember to provide our speakers with a glass of water

Submitted by Bob Westbury, Chairman

Education Subcommittee

The current members of the Education Subcommittee of the Program Committee:

Kay Clarke Diane Granger Sheila Johnston Norma Lendrum
Bob Westbury

The curriculum consists mainly of two one-day courses:

Level I - Getting Started, Use of Charts, Maps and Gazetteers, Organizing, Census Records, Vital Records, Interviewing, Correspondence, Calgary Resources, Computing and the Internet;

Level II - Source Citation, Land Records, Family History Centre, Passenger Lists, Old Hand writing, Occupations, Wills and Probate.

In 2000-2001, the Committee offered a Level I course at the University of Calgary for the first time; it was held on 21 November 2000 and was very well received. A Level II course for AFHS members only will be held on 5 May 2001. Unfortunately, other projected Level I courses for AFHS members, Chinook College, and Acme were cancelled because of low enrollment. In the case of the members-only course, the cause was possibly lack of advertising; in the case of Chinook College, both fall and winter classes were likely cancelled because of extremely high fees.

We wish to acknowledge the enormous contribution of the the late Janet Morgan to the development and teaching of our courses, as well as the pioneering efforts of Marmie Longair, Rosemary Lyons, and the late Ruth Duncan. We also wish to thank Janice Cushman, AG, for volunteering toteach the section on Old Handwriting for Level II for the past few years.

*Respectfully submitted,
Diane Granger*

Projects

The Project Committee suffered the loss of its long time and competent leader, Janet Morgan who passed away in July 2000. Her guidance and friendship will be greatly missed, not only on the Committee but also throughout the genealogy community.

Judie Riddell, Marlene Knott and Lynda Alderman agreed to assume the responsibilities for the Project Committee. It has been a monumental task and has taken most of this year to complete the tasks started by Janet and to get an overview of what is involved in completing the Projects of the AFHS.

The first major assignment completed this past year was the data entry of 13,000 records from the files of Calgary Crematorium at Queens' Park for the time period scanning 1937 to 1979. These recordings are available on the Alberta Family Histories Society (AFHS) Website. This project, spearheaded by *Marlene Knott* and *Judie Riddell*, was supported by numerous volunteers who helped with data entry:

Lorea Anderson	Alan Cassley	Kay Clarke	Rene Dussome
Elda Hauschildt	Marg McCreedy	Lil Myers	Lois Nicholson
Caroline Phillips	May Schulte	Roy Strickland	

Joan Hudson and *Heather Williams* completed the data entry of Jewish Cemetery Records. The index to the 2000 burials is now on line at the AFHS website. It is anticipated that these records will soon be published in paper format

Another major project headed by *Doug Stobbs* and *Nancy Carson* was the transcription and data entry for cemeteries in the Municipal District of Mountain View, located north of Calgary. Half of these cemeteries were published in the early days of the Society. All 13 cemeteries have now been issued either as new or updated publications.

The compilation of the Garden of Peace Cemetery records is ongoing and *Lynda Alderman* expects it will be ready for publication by June 2001. Lynda wants to thank the following people who have been doing the transcribing and data entry for us:

Linda Carlson	Heather Williams	Ann Stewart	Dorothy Clements
Blair Barr	Eileen McElroy	May Schultz	Pat Morey
Ruth Unser	Lorna Laughton	Louise Calderbank	Alan Peers
Kay Clarke	Marilyn Younger	Peter Morgan	Jacqueline Parks
Lillian Myers	Bob Riddell	Marlene Knott	Eleanor Wilson
Barb Hausegger	Caroline Phillips	Carol Lylyk	Lois Sparling
Judy Mitchell	Glen Clarke	Nancy Strickland	Roy Strickland
Judie Riddell	Ann Ross	Roberta Poole	Judii Rempel
Margaret Main	Norman Lendrum	Jan Ferguson	Helen Backhouse
Claire Neville	Lois Marchand	Marlene Marchand	

“and of course Janet Morgan”

Work on the Claresholm Cemetery marker transcriptions and burial records has now been completed. *Janet Morgan* had done considerable work on the data entry and with the help of *Marlene Knott* and *Kay Clarke* the project is nearing completion. The indexes will be on line in the near future and the publication will follow. Volunteers that assisted in this project were *Doug Stobbs*, *Helen Backhouse*, *Peter Morgan*, and *Fran Kitchingham*.

In addition to the projects previously described, many small projects have been completed and put on the Society's Website such as, the 1900 newspaper announcements, smaller cemetery indexes, and a book on Calgary 1885.

The new Death Records CD, currently being created, will be dedicated to the memory of Janet Morgan and to her enthusiastic devotion to the AFHS. It will contain the cemetery transcriptions, burial and cremation records for all the projects that the Society has completed over the past 20 years, with records numbering over 60,000. It will be ready for sale in the very near future.

The AHFS website continues to receive many queries due to the number of indexes that we now have on line. In conjunction with *Judii Rempel*, the Committee has improved the queries and invoice formats. *Frank Morrow* and *Al Peers* handle queries that come as a result of the online cemetery indexes. There have been well over one hundred requests that have been responded to since last summer. *Donna Coulter* and *Mary Arthur* handled general queries until circumstances required recent resignations. Their devotion to the project is greatly appreciated and they will be missed. In early December, *Ellen Kinghorn* assumed responsibility for queries previously handled by Donna and Mary. Since the New Year over 120 queries have been answered and some of those responses have required extensive research at the Calgary Public Library and the Glenbow Archives. Those who have been answering queries on behalf of the Society have learned a great deal from the experience and encourage anyone interested to come forward and join the volunteer team.

*Respectfully submitted by the Projects Committee
Judie Riddell, Co-ordinator*

Queries, conventional mail

The queries received by mail and reported on for the calendar year 2000 numbered 30. Queries continue to come in by mail but the numbers have decreased as many are coming in on the internet.

They are still coming in from all over the world - France (in French), England, Scotland, Australia, U.S.A. and all across Canada.

A new research policy has been set up and advertised.

I will continue to answer these mail queries as I have done since 1986.

Submitted by Myrna Waldroff

Publications

Staff involved in Publications was as follows:

Backhouse, Helen
Jowett, Anne
Wake, Dave

Browne, Jill
Steffan, Ron

Hudson, Joan
Stewart, Lorna

Nixon, Robin
Stobbs, Doug

Numerous additional AFHS members also contributed their talents by preparing articles and news items.

No formal meetings were held. Four issues of the journal "Chinook" were produced and ten issues of the newsletter "Breeze".

Ongoing activities will presumably be continued as in the past. An estimated 300 volunteer hours were expended during the fiscal year in producing and distributing the two publications.

Submitted by Doug Stobbs

Library

The library facility has been well used this year as it has been since we moved to Southminster United Church. We have had Open Library days and evenings, Special Interest Groups, Computer SIGs and SIGlets, Special Education events, and Committee meetings of various kinds use the library. This has enhanced our society in its ability to serve our members.

We have more than 7500 items in the library, most of which members can borrow. There were about 1000 items borrowed in the past 12 months and many more used when members came to the library to do research.

The library received a large donation of books from the estate of Janet Morgan. We are grateful that Janet's family wanted us to share her joy in family history in this way.

Many other people donated books, journals, fiche and videos all of these donations help to build a better library and thus help others.

Special thanks to *Olive Carlin, Ethel McDonald, Lois Nicholson* and *Lorna Laughton* a new member of the team, their tireless work keeps the library going.

Respectfully Submitted - Helen Backhouse, Chair

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Post 1901 Census Release Committee

Last winter we submitted two lengthy submissions to an Expert Panel appointed by the federal government to study the issue of release to the public of the census returns for censuses taken after 1901. All the censuses to and including the 1901 census, have been released by Statistics Canada to the National Archives and the public after 92 years. The Chief Statistician then took the position that no more census could be released. The 1906 census of the western provinces has not been released. In response to the outcry by historians and the family history community, the federal government appointed an Expert Panel. The Expert Panel submitted its report in June, 2000. The federal government did not release it until December, 2000. To no ones' surprise after such a delay, the Expert Panel strongly supports the family history community's demand for the continued release of the historic census after 92 years have passed.

While we were waiting for the Expert Panel's report, we kept ourselves occupied mulling over strategies to convince the government to see things our way. Once this report was finally made public, we issued a press release which was picked up by some Calgary media. We also met with one of the main players on the national front in late December.

When Parliament was dissolved for last fall's election, three private members' bills in support of the release of the post 1901 census "died on the order paper". When Parliament reconvened, our supporters in Parliament had to start the process all over again with their bills. There is one private member's bill before the Senate and an identical bill before the House of Commons. One of the requirements for getting a private member's bill debated in Parliament is a petition in support.

The Alberta Family History Society has done its bit by circulating the necessary petitions. As of March 31, 2001, our Society had collected and submitted over 2000 signatures.

We are increasingly impatient with Ottawa's slow response. To hurry things up we are planning to sue the Chief Statistician in Federal Court to force the immediate release of the 1906 census of the prairie provinces. We have our legal team and are now searching for a group of plaintiffs.

*Respectfully submitted April 2, 2001
Lois Sparling
Alberta Family History Society
ad hoc census release committee*

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

Atlantic Canada

Our meetings are held bimonthly, with two more scheduled in April and June for this year.

Our first meeting this year was a visit in October to the Castell Library. Kathy Mayhood provided us with an informative tour of their genealogical holdings and assisted new members with their research.

The Wild Rose Seminar allowed us to meet a great many members.

Society members who have attended periodically:

Alana Bailey	Jean Bishop	Nancy Barton	Lynn Campbell
Kay & Glen Clarke	Alison Forte	Dorothy Gladish	Jim Hill
Doug Hay	Inge Leavell	Barbara Lafrentz	Marmie Longair
Bruce McKenzie	Gloria Moore	Lois Nicholson	Irene Oickle
Alan Peers	Sally Rae	Joan Ramsey	Joyce Ramsey
Bev Rayburn	Sally Somers	Doug Stobbs	Kelly Sutton
Barb & Phil Thorpe	Nancy Waters	Pat Yates	

Submitted by Douglas Stobbs and Lois Nicholson

English

The English Group continues to meet in the AFHS library on the 3rd Tuesday evening in October, November, January, March and May.

It was back in 1993 that this group began as a SIG of AFHS. England was divided into sections and originally there were three groups, individually chaired by Isobel Schiedel, Lois Nicholson and Peggy Franko. Later it was decided that interest didn't warrant that many groups and the English Group became one group that exists today. It has been a privilege to meet so many members and discuss with them our mutual interest in genealogy. We regularly talk about any new research resources that are available and offer help to new members. Some sessions just involve discussing problems - what to do about them and where to find the answers. Other times, topics for future meetings are pre-arranged, and members bring their expertise and research aids that would contribute to the particular area of interest. Two such topics that appealed to members this past year were doing research in the greater London area and military history.

At the March meeting, Helen Backhouse suggested a project for the English Group. It involves collecting strays from our cemetery collection and forwarding the English ones to the Federation of Family History Society to be published. It was further decided, as a time saving device, to pick up any strays and forward them to the appropriate organization.

Membership per meeting averages 6 - 12 people with a core group attending and others appearing for one or two sessions.

Those attending the English Group during the current year are the following:

Alison Arthur	Kelly Sutton	Marlene Roy	Peggy Franko
Bob and Clare Westbury	Margaret Main	Anne Jowett	Bev Swan
Judith Dayle	Brian and Gail Martin	Bob Crowle	Harold Hurren
Linda Carlson	Helen Backhouse		

It is my request that a new Chair person take over for next year to bring in new ideas and increase membership. Many thanks to all that have made my years as Chair such a rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Franko

Mennonite

We meet monthly (Sep - Nov and Jan-Jun) and typically have 5-12 people gathering to share new resources and pedigree information.

As of January 2001, we have started to meet at the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Alberta Building and thus have access to the Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta's small library of resources.

The group continues to work with the MHSA on a major data extraction project - to data-enter information from the immigration settlement records of the 20,000 Canadian Mennonites who arrived between 1923 and 1930 from Southern Russia and Siberia to Western Canada (Alberta to Ontario). That work is appearing at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~abmhsa/cmboc/>

The highlight of the year was that two members had the opportunity to visit Ukraine and Siberia - and brought back new insights and experiences to share with the group.

Submitted by Judith Rempel

Metis

The Metis group gather at the home of Geoff Burtenshaw for socializing, having tea or coffee and doing research. The evenings include visiting and helping each other or what ever the group needs or wants to do.

Submitted by Geoff Burtenshaw

Scottish

The Scottish SIG had five meetings scheduled this year, meeting in the AFHS Library.

Our primary purpose is to meet with other members who are researching Scottish ancestry so that we may offer each other guidance and support. We share what knowledge we have gained and ask for help on where to turn next.

The Scottish Special Interest Group did have a table at the WildRose Seminar.

Topics covered at our meetings included

- a review of the LDS Family Search website,
- searching for Scottish family history through the Old Parochial Records,
- deciphering and interpreting Old English hand writing with special consideration given to Scottish research, and
- the history and importance of parish locations and numbers and how they related to research

We have on average 15 - 20 members attending each meeting.

Members of the Scottish Special Interest Group

Barbara Byers	Louise Calderbank	Bill Campbell	June Campbell
Doug Hay	Harold Hurren	Eva Kinnear	Donna Kirkwood
Hugh Leiper	Lorna Laughton	Brian Martin	Bruce McKenzie
Cynthia Milligan	Ernie Ross	Lois Sparling	Kelly Sutton
Pat Yates	Marilyn Younger	Phyllis Ziajka	

Computer Group

The Computer Group has had an active season with 8 meetings since last September and 2 more scheduled for this spring as follows:

Sep 16 2000	Things I did Last Summer	Member discussions
Oct 14 2000	Exploring Familysearch.org	Carol Lee
Nov 11 2000	Some URLs for your Military Ancestors	Charlie Hansen
Dec 9 2000	Copyright and Privacy Issues on the Internet	Dr. Fritz Pannekoek and Wendy Stephens, UofC
Jan 13 2001	Making Use of Your CD-R/W	Gordon Hulbert
Feb 10 2001	GENTECH 2001 - Overview	Suddie Mumford and Ross Haslam
Mar 17 2001	GENSOFT Plus	Panel and Audience
Apr 7 2001	MS PowerPoint for Your Family History	Suddie Mumford

Scheduled:

May 5 2001	Genealogical Data CDs	Carol Lee & Others
Jun 9 2001	Using your Digital Camera's Images	Earl Morris and Dennis Stevenson

Our meetings are generally held the Second Saturday of each month except July and August at the Family History Centre. We have a question and answer or beginners session at 9:30 AM and our main meeting at 10:30. Attendance at our meetings ranges from about 45 to 75, with a slightly lesser attendance at our beginners sessions. We would like to express our appreciation to the Family History Centre and the LDS church for the use of their premises for holding our meetings.

Our major effort each year is GENSOFT. This year's GENSOFT marked a move from church premises to a commercial facility. A separate report on gensoft is attached. I would like to express my thanks to the GENSOFT committee and volunteers for an excellent show.

The Computer Group currently also has four active "SIGlets" that hold separate meetings about the genealogical software product that they are using. Separate reports from the Master Genealogist, Legacy, Generations/Reunion and Family Tree Maker SIGlets are attached and form part of this report.

*Submitted on behalf of the Computer SIG
Charlie Hansen*

Generations/Reunion

We meet 10 times a year and since I was requested to include AFHS in my opening speech everyone attending has been a member of AFHS. I don't take attendance but my guess is that the same 9 people attend, usually 3-5 at a time. We continue to repeat the basics, I respond to a specific question or two but usually just play around with the program, pointing out features and correct ways to do things for the hour and a half each month. The attendees continue to say this is what they want and thank me so I will continue for the time being. I email the announcement to 19 people and usually post on dist-gen and Breeze.

Mary Arthur

The Master Genealogist

List of members:

Alan Peers
Marmie Longair
Darliene Mueller

Blair Barr
Lois Sparling

George Lake
Ken Scott

Wes & Sheila Johnston
Ulrich Haasdyk

We held 9 meetings last year.

We have open meetings without a set agenda. We discuss what problems or queries members have regarding the software.

Alan Peers

Legacy

The Legacy Users Group currently has 36 members.

We try to hold a meeting every month from Sept to June. The activities of the group center around education and help for the use of the various features of the program. I try to get everyone involved in presenting some feature to the rest of us - not always successfully. But the best way to learn is to be forced to teach.

The "ongoing activities, accomplishments, and basic activities" are all the same in our case - learning and helping each other.

Doug Hay Calgary, Alberta

GenSoft 2001

Background

GenSoft 2001 took a major leap forward when the decision was made to move out of church basements and into the facilities of the Best Western Hospitality Inn at Southland Drive at Macleod Trail SE. At the same time as we adopted commercial environs, we took advantage of other commercial services that we had previously provided ourselves: chair and table setup, food service, and audio-visual supply. Each of these added to the cost of the event, but meant that volunteers could spend more time on planning for the event and developing content for the displays and lectures. About 75 volunteers were involved in the development and presentation of GenSoft (11 committee members, 20 - software demonstrations; 32 - information & registration desks, 16 - hosts & thankers, and 18 speakers; there is overlap in these categories),

Three rooms were laid out with tables and were designated for nine software demonstrations (including scanning), two help-desks, eight commercial vendors and four community resources. Four rooms were designated as lecture rooms and each were filled with five talks throughout the day (see program attached). In addition the anteroom became the registration area.

Outcomes

Several critical outcomes should be reviewed in the context of the effort of putting on GenSoft 2001. Some such measures are: the number of visitors (especially non-AFHS), the number of memberships sold, the number wishing to learn of future talks, and the financial balance at the end of the day.

Participants

Overall, there were approximately 500 paying attendees. We only know membership characteristics of those who completed the evaluation form (details below) – about 44% (n=220). Of those who completed the evaluation forms, just over 71% were non-members. Since the goal is explicitly outreach to non-members, this is a very good showing.

Membership Sales

There were 22 new memberships sold. If we assume that 71% of all participants were non-members (n=355), then the rate of membership sale was 1 per every 16 persons.

Gord Hulbert

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair	Sally Rae
Vice Chair 1	Millie Drinkwater
Vice Chair 2	
Recording Secretary	
Treasurer	George Lake
Director at Large 1	Bob Crowle
Director at Large 2	Charlie Hansen
Director at Large 3	Tom Worman
Director at Large 4	
Past Chair	Larry Gilchrist
Membership Secretary	Robin Nixon
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ALBERTA FAMILY HISTORIES SOCIETY

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