

Minutes of the BIGWILL Society General Meeting May 16, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Brady at 10:00 with 32 members/guests present. After the pledge of Allegiance, board member reports were called for.

Membership: Al Munn reported that no one signed in as a visitor. Karen Glass introduced her sister-in-law as a new member who is doing Scottish research.

Treasurer: Dick Gilbert reported that we are financially healthy with a little over \$2000 in the bank account. Further discussion will be held at the August retreat on August 15, 2015.

Programs: Maureen is still working on a July program. Emails were sent to prospective speakers. September will be a double session with Debra Dudek, lunch will be included. One session will be on British Victorian Mourning customs, and British criminal records.

Webmaster: No report - Rollie Littlewood is at the NGS meeting.

Refreshments: Prudy Sullivan thanked those that brought refreshments to the meeting. Six people brought in food today.

Newsletter – Karen Glass: thanked those that contributed articles for the next edition. She is asking for articles based on an interesting woman you've found in your research. BIGWILL newsletter was given an honorable mention award at the NGS convention. Karen was specifically mentioned by Dick Eastman!

Library: Marge Zook is still filling this position as no one has stepped forward to take it over. Marge mentioned we received 2 books on parish records in Scotland. Bob Kelley's nephew has donated Bob's old genealogy library which included 3 boxes full of books, CDs, brochures, etc. Marge brought some of the many examples and said she will prepare a listing that can be included in upcoming newsletters. Maureen will send a personal thank you letter to the family for the donation.

Announcements:

1. NARA jar for Preserve the Pension. Contributions are needed for them to digitize the 1812 Pension Fund records. This is in addition to the contribution that BIGWILL makes for the fund.
2. Irish/Catholic – July 8th National Library of Ireland will be releasing all Irish/Catholic records for Ireland. It will not be indexed by parishes, but will be free. This can be found at www.Rootsireland.ie.

3. Chicago Scottish Festival – highland dancing, athletics, British Dog Show, Car show, etc. June 19-20th.
4. MCIGS July 11, 2015 Summer Conference will be held at McHenry County College.
5. British Institute Salt Lake City, in September.
6. Cornish Festival in Mineral Point Wisconsin, last weekend in September.
7. Family History Fair in Lake Geneva, WI October 17, 2015.

Old Business:

1. Two board member vacancies. One for a director, the other is for a 2nd VP and a Directorship. Maureen will start calling people to ask if they can fill the position.
2. A Librarian is also needed. Hopefully someone who lives near McHenry will volunteer for this position.

After the announcements, Marge Zook introduced the program on WWII Remembered presented by Joy Aavang.

The meeting was turned back over to Maureen Brady and adjourned at noon.

There was no Board Meeting after the general meeting.

Submitted by:
Arlene Basten
Secretary