

MEETING NOTES



OCTOBER 18, 2017

Attendance: 20

Guests: 1

Our guest this week was James Daniel Gurdis. James shared that he is a relatively new father and homeless. He is hopeful his efforts to find out more about his own father, a cat burglar from San Francisco, will provide answers to questions his son is likely to have down the road.

PROGRAM:

Kevin Mittge showed a webinar and provided a handout from Ancestry Academy entitled, *The WPA: A Good Deal for Genealogists*, with Paula Stuart Warren. Much of the work completed through the New Deal projects was documented and some of the work involved documenting local and state history, cemeteries, etc. WPA records were generally created between 1935 and 1943. Of surviving records, not all are digitized, available on line, or in a centralized location. However, available materials can be great sources for genealogists. Among WPA resources identified by Ms. Warren were:

- *HathiTrust*, a partnership of academic and research institutions, offering a collection of millions of titles digitized from libraries around the world, available at www.hathitrust.org.
- *The WPA Historical Records Survey: a guide to the unpublished inventories, indexes, and transcripts*, also known as the Hefner Guide by Loretta L Hefner; Society of American Archivists. This document is out of print but available online through HathiTrust at: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015021534733;view=1up;seq=3>
- *ArchiveGrid*, connects users with primary source materials held in archives around the world, e.g., historical documents, personal papers, family histories, and more. *ArchiveGrid* also helps researchers contact archives to request information, arrange a visit, and order copies. Available on-line at <http://beta.worldcat.org/ArchiveGrid>

Kevin Mittge said tonight's webinar source, *Ancestry Academy*, offers many video courses taught by genealogy and family history experts and is available to those with a subscription to *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com/academy), or may be viewed at the library.

Kevin also noted question #22 on the 1940 Census identifies some individuals who participated in one of the public Emergency Work Programs designed to help people weather the Great Depression. The employment-related question for individuals, 14 years of age and older, asked if the individual was not working for pay was 'he' at work on, or assigned to, public Emergency Work (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during the week of March 24-30? Since many individuals participated during other time periods/years, the resource is somewhat limited.

Pat Rongey discussed the latest stone work completed at the Deadwood Cemetery.



REFRESHMENTS: Pat Rongey

RAFFLE: Karen Childs

The BUSINESS MEETING was called to order at 8:25 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

September's Minutes were approved with the correction to show that Kevin, rather than Mike Allen, presented on Civil War pensions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe reported the current balance was \$3,782.88, as of September 29, 2017, with a checkbook balance of \$3,818.07. Disbursements: Picnic Foods \$76.19; Income: Raffle \$21.00; and Dues \$20.00. Joe will update the report to reflect any additional dues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS:

If you would like to be a greeter for SGS guests, please let Mike Allen know.

Kevin reported for the DNA Seminar Committee that a printer has volunteered to provide services for the April 15, 2018 DNA event SGS will host at the Florence Events Center. The committee is collecting brochures, prizes, etc. Kevin said 90 slots will be available for the event at a cost \$25 for non-SGS members and \$20 for members. Box lunches will cost \$10.

Joe Cullivan will look into t-shirt/hat options including research Debbie Lobey already completed.

UPCOMING

November 15 – *Ancestry Trees and DNA Results*, Kevin Mittge

December 20 – Annual Holiday Party (no meeting)

January 17 – *Genealogy Shorts: The Great Depression*, Sally Daugherty, Brenda Gilmer, and Debra Wright

February 21 – *Ancestry Academy Webinar*

March 21 – *Capturing Life Stories on Video*, Pat Rongey and Jacquie Beveridge



SHARING

Mike Allen said he is compiling his family's DNA profiles and the genealogy class he is teaching at the community college is full.

Kevin Mittge said that Family Search will no longer send out microfilm, but the Siuslaw Public Library is a certified affiliate library and expects to provide access to materials soon.

Joe Cullivan followed up on the founding of the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which began with the founding of the Continental Marines on November 10, 1775.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.
