

MEETING MINUTES



JANUARY 17, 2017

Attendance: 23

Guests: 3

REFRESHMENTS: Karen Childs, Debbie Lobey, and Debra Wright
RAFFLE: Karen Childs

Cindy Swoboda, Kathleen Van Ballegooijen, and Dale G. Garnett became new members and among this evening's guests were Sandy Todd, Michele Rosewitz, and a mystery guest (who wished to remain anonymous).

PROGRAM

Genealogy Shorts – The Great Depression by SGS members Sally Daugherty, Brenda Gilmer, and Debra Wright

Sally Daugherty read from her brother's memories about how Depression era economics resulted in their family's relocations from Chicago, back to their native Massachusetts, a return to Chicago, and ultimately to Coronado Island, California, in her father's Essex automobile. Sally said her family was greeted at the Golden State's border by Los Angeles County sheriff deputies, part of the state-wide 'bum blockade,' intent on keeping out people (mainly refugees from the Dust Bowl) without documented jobs or other means of support, but her Dad's letter from the Navy, showing his work transfer, allowed them to be admitted. (Details on California's border initiative can be found at <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ca-bumblockade.html>)

Sally also shared that the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (RA) and the Federal Farm Security Administration (among other Federal agencies) hired photographers to document American life between 1935 and 1944. (View the photographs at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/fsa/> and see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farm_Security_Administration for additional information about how this national photographic treasure came to be.)

Brenda Gilmer spoke about the love story between her Great Grandfather, Percy Train, a former mining engineer, and his wife, Agnes Hume Scott, a former librarian. During the Depression, the pair turned from fossil hunting for universities and museums, including Miocene fossil leaves in Oregon, to conducting ethnobotanical field work from 1937 to 1941. This involved studying the medicinal uses of plants among the native cultures of Nevada, by meeting and interviewing Shoshone, Paiute, Washoe, and Moapa Paiute peoples.

The Trains collected over 6,000 specimens and Mr. Train published *Medicinal Uses of Plants by Indian Tribes of Nevada* (1941) with James R. Henrichs and W. Andrew Archer, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry, in conjunction with the Works Projects Administration and the University of Nevada.



(Though Agnes worked side-by-side with Percy, Brenda noted Agnew is not listed as one of the publishers.) A complete study of the plant specimens was not completed at the time, due to the government's reallocation of resources to national preparations for World War II. However, one of the plants tested was found to be effective in the preservation of lard and this information was used and kept as a 'top secret' during the war.

The New York Botanical Garden acquired the Train's papers and announced in 2017 that they have been catalogued and are available for research. (Information is available at https://www.nybg.org/library/finding_guide/archv/train_ppf.html)

Debra Wright talked about how her 'still-to-this-day' fashionista Mom first felt the Depression's impact. Debra's mom had to start school in a 'flour sack' dress, rather than shopping for fabric at a store. (See <https://www.mequiltshoppe.com/history-of-the-1930s-feedsack-fabric.htm> for additional details and Pinterest has many examples of these dresses as well.)

Michael Allen called the business meeting to order at 8:04 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes from both November and December 2017 were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Joe Cullivan reported the Society's funds, as of December 29, 2017, were \$3,859.87, which included monthly income of \$100 (donations) \$40 (memberships).

NEW BUSINESS

Due to logistical limitations, it was decided not to serve refreshments at the Living Passages event (see page 3 for information).

OLD BUSINESS

T-Shirts

Debbie Lobey said all those that ordered T-shirts have received them. Additional shirts are available.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

To date, nine registration forms for the Saturday, April 14, 2018, SGS Genealogy Seminar, "*DNA: What's It All About*" featuring Emily Aulicino have been received. The form is on our blog (siuslawgenealogy.org). It should be printed, signed, and mailed (P.O. Box 1540, Florence, Oregon 97439), or returned to the library, to the attention of Mary Colgan-Bennett, along with the registration fee (\$20 for members; \$25 for non-members. Boxed lunches are an additional \$10). Florence Shipping Solutions also has registration forms available. Kevin Mittge noted that FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) are posted on the SGS blog.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28, 2 pm Bromley Room

Northwest Passages

Living Voices (theatre performance)

Bromley Room

February 21, 7 p.m., Bromley Room

Webinar – *Using City Directories*

Bromley Room

March 21, 7 p.m., Bromley Room

Capturing Life Stories on Video

Pat Rongey and Jacquie Beveridge

April 14, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Florence Events Center

SGS Genealogy Seminar - *DNA: What's It All About*
featuring Emily Aulicino

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.
