

Minutes for the January 4, 2018 Meeting of the SaddleBrooke Genealogy Club

President Carol Tibor opened the meeting at approximately 1:02 pm. She asked Gloria Quigg to describe the training currently available to members.

Available Classes

Ms Quigg said she is conducting ongoing classes on genealogy on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm in the Coyote Room. A class on the Family Tree Maker genealogy computer program meets on the 2nd Tuesday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the Coyote Room. Anyone interested in these classes is invited to enter their name and e-mail address on the sheet in the back of the room, so they can be notified of the specific topics to be covered each time the class meets.

Guests and New Members

President Tibor welcomed the following guests and new members:

- Barb Pinelli
- Jan Cahill
- Mickey Burnham
- Carol Langer
- Elaine Walter
- Steve Kendall

Speaker and Talk on The British Home Children Program

President Tibor introduced the speaker for this month's meeting, our own Patty Burke. Ms Burke's topic was British Home Children with a focus on one Elizabeth Gregory Smith, an ancestor of Ms Burke's, and her ancestor's experiences as a British Home Child.

Ms Burke showed a video in which the British Home Children Program was described. Children who were orphans and children whose parents turned them over to orphanages because they were unable to care for them because of illness or injury often were shipped off to Canada to be adopted by families there. In some cases parents who turned their children over to orphanages returned to take back their children when they were

able to take care of them only to find that their children had been sent to Canada never to be seen again by the grieving parents.

It was the intention of the program that these unfortunate children find good homes where they were loved and raised in comfortable circumstances. However, too often these children were taken advantage of and put to work at farm chores or child care or housework with unreasonable expectations about how much they must accomplish. Children were sometimes subject to physical and/or mental abuse. A few children were in such miserable circumstances that they committed suicide.

Furthermore, many Canadians had the impression that Britain was dumping their “filthy garbage” on Canada and that these children were diseased, stupid, dishonest and certainly no asset to society. Knowing how Canadians regarded them, the children learned not to talk about the fact that they were British Home Children. If you have ancestors from Canada, they might be British Home Children, but it would be difficult for you to find that out because these people tried to conceal that fact all their lives to avoid the stigma associated with being a British Home Child.

Ms Burke told her story about how she discovered that her ancestor was a British Home Child and she shared with us what she found out about her ancestor’s life and efforts to find out about the fate of her own parents.

December Meeting Minutes

Following Ms Burke’s talk, President Tibor asked if there were any comments or corrections to the minutes for the December meeting. There were none, so the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report

Ms Pat Rourke gave the treasurer’s report. The report will be posted on the Club’s website.

Irish Special Interest Group (SIG)

Bonnie Lucas invited anyone interested in Irish genealogy research to the next meeting of the Irish SIG at her house next Thursday at 10:00 am.

Old Business

President Tibor asked if anyone had any old business to discuss. There was none.

New Business

President Tibor asked if anyone had any new business to discuss. There was none.

Speaker at February Meeting

It was announced that the speaker at the February meeting will be Mrs. Benjamin Franklin . . . played by Karen Hall. This is not to be missed.

Activity Fair

The Genealogy Club will participate in the Activity Fair that will be held on Saturday, January 27th from 9 to 11:30 am. Patty Burke showed us the new banner she ordered for the club that will be displayed in the club's booth at the Activity Fair.

Annual Luncheon

The annual luncheon will be held this year on March 1 instead of in April, so that more snowbirds will be able to attend. Sign-ups will occur at the February meeting.

Door Prize Drawing

Ann Kurtz and Shirley Morris were the winners of the door prize drawing.

The meeting was adjourned by President Tibor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Nelson, Secretary