

## **SaddleBrooke Genealogy Club Meeting October 4, 2018**

President Carol Tibor opened the meeting at approximately 1:05 PM and welcomed our speaker, Dr. Melanie Sturgeon.

### **New Members and Guests**

President Tibor asked the new members and guests to introduce themselves and tell us a little about themselves which they did.

### **September Meeting Minutes**

Christine Nelson, Secretary, read the minutes for the September meeting at the request of the president. Pat Rourke had one correction to a figure from her treasurer's report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Pat Rourke, treasurer, provided her report on the club's finances.

### **Speaker**

Christine Nelson introduced Dr. Melanie Sturgeon, our speaker for the day. Dr. Sturgeon recently retired as the State Archivist and Director of the Arizona State Archives and Records Management Branch of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records where she served for 16 years. She has a Ph.D. in history and is an avid family historian. She is familiar with numerous primary sources that contain information about people - information that is of value to geologists.

Dr. Sturgeon said that while she will talk about Arizona State Archives records, what she says about records can apply to records held in the archives of other states.

Dr. Sturgeon made several important points. First, we as genealogists should not be content to rely solely on indexed records, the kind that we typically find online. We should examine the original records because they are likely to contain important information that is not included in the indexed record.

Dr. Sturgeon pointed out that "historia" is the root word for history. While you might think it means story, the real meaning is "inquiry." In the case of genealogists this means analysis of records. Where are records held? The Arizona State Archives holds a wealth of records, and most of these records are not online.

Another important point is when you seek records from the archives, do not expect the people who work at the archives to do your research for you. This means you need to

have a pretty good idea of what types of records could be of use to you when you make a request.

Types of records held at state archives include:

- Maps - city, county, state showing social geography of area, changes over time, locations of schools, churches and businesses
- Judicial branch records - one of the richest sources
- Prisoner files
- Pioneer home records
- Pioneer historical society
- Secretary of the Territory such as letters for early land titles
- Governors' papers including correspondence
- Supreme and Appellate Court records
- Teachers' certificates
- Incorporation records
- Name changes
- County Board of Supervisors, such as letters of complaint
- School records
- Coroners Inquest records
- Probate and guardianship records
- Naturalization in state (sometimes not sent to National Archives)
- Adoption
- Marriage and divorce, affidavits of marriage, consent to marry of family
- Insanity and guardianship of incompetents
- Probate case letters
- Tax rolls
- Assessors' notes
- County hospital and poor farm records
- Steamship logs, stops
- Photos
- Newspapers
- Troop rosters
- Private manuscripts, letters

To access records you can personally visit the archives, call or write a letter.

Dr. Sturgeon stayed after the meeting to answer questions.

### **New Business**

President Tibor made several announcements.

Kathy Plum has volunteered to take over management of the club's website.

Hod Wells volunteered to take over responsibility for setting up and operating the AV equipment.

Rondie Yancey is coordinating the club trip to Salt Lake City. There is still room, so let Rondie know if you are interested in going on the trip. So far 15 have signed up. The dates are March 3 - 10, 2019. The hotel has a special rate for SBGC member, so mention that when you make your reservation at the hotel.

### **Door Prize Drawing**

The door prize drawing was held and there were two winners: Lydia O'Connor and Mary Lou Worthy.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Nelson  
Secretary