

MORRIS AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY

General Meeting September 8, 1998

Members socialized and enjoyed the scrumptious refreshments prepared for us by Ruth Grimm. Regina Springer, our president, opened the business part of the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Henry Weis gave the balance in the treasury as \$3,526.00. He reminded members dues for the year are \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 per family and he is always willing to gladly take our checks. Our membership runs from June 1 to May 31. If you are not sure when your dues are paid to look at your copy of the Morris Area Genealogy Society Newsletter and after the name is the year the dues are paid for. If it says 98 than you now owe for the coming year.

Linda Hart, corresponding secretary, read a card of thanks from Jan Huth for the lovely flowers she received at the last meeting. Judy Weinstein wrote a note thanking us for the certificate of recognition for charter members given to her. Connie Laine was sorry to have missed our tenth anniversary meeting giving her a charter certificate. Maria Young was presented a certificate also. Certificates for the beginning genealogy course were given to Linda Hart and Roger Conover. Judy read a letter from the Governor of New Jersey, Christie Todd Whitman, congratulating us on our Anniversary and keeping the past alive. We had not received the letter in time to read it at the last meeting.

Joyce Barr, historian, asked us to save any articles we see in any paper or magazine on the Morris Area Genealogy Society and give them to her. She keeps all these records in the historian book. Don't worry that someone else has already given it to her. Better to receive two than to not have the article at all. Bogert Holly, past president, announced he would take people who want to go to New York City or to Goshen, New York. Please call him and make an appointment. Last year he had a sign up list but had people not show up on the train. He also is willing to take interested members to the Newark Library. Please call him at his home. Bo's phone number is (973)366-1537.

Lynn Foster announced she is looking for two or more people to meet the first Monday of each month between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to extract names from cemetery records. There will also be work on other projects in the future. Her request for help on the computer at home at the last meeting has been filled. Regina announced Sunday, September 27th will be Family Day in Morristown from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. We will be having a booth on the green to hand out forms, give information out about our meetings. Interested people are needed to sign up. During each meeting we will have Kevin Elliott answer any of our questions about genealogy research. If Kevin does not know the answer, he will research it and get back to us at the next meeting. Members asked many questions.

Roger Conover, Vice-President, introduced our speaker, Nancy Heydt. She is a member of Monmouth County Genealogy Club and Monmouth County Historical Association. Nancy is also a member of MAGS and has been researching Cornish history in New Jersey. Her topic for the night was **Writing Your Life Story**. We each were given two handouts. She gave us a different way of looking at genealogy. Anyone can dig up facts from records of history such as birth and death records but the most interesting and the hardest to find is what our ancestors were really like as people. We should do this by starting with ourselves and writing what we know. Grandparents are known only as older people to their grandchildren. Unless someone tells them, they will never know what their grandparent's youth was like. Nancy reminded us of childhood illnesses that are no longer around. Children of today have never seen a person with whooping cough and most haven't heard of it. What did our grandparents look like in their youth? We know older people with snow-white hair. Write down the funny stories that we all have happened to us. Any

parent will attest to the fact their children say the funniest things but later these things are forgotten. Write them down. All you need is a little note pad to carry in your pocket. As members interested in genealogy we know how valuable a diary or family bible is with written family history but most of us do not realize each of us should be writing this information about us so future generations will be able to learn what life was like when we lived. Write down what we remember of our grandparents and other relatives, especially the ones that are no longer living. If we don't want to write this down we can use either audio or videotapes to record this kind of information. What kinds of food did they like? What was school like for them? And the questions go on and on. Nancy brought lots of books for us to look at and help us to write our life story. We want to find out the stories of our ancestors but start with ourselves. Don't delay this. Make an appointment with yourself in your date book to start as soon as possible to write your own life story.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Svenson
Recording Secretary