

# MORRIS AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY

**General Meeting  
October 13, 1998**

Delicious refreshments were enjoyed before the meeting began. Regina Springer, our president, opened the business part of the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Henry Weis, our treasurer, gave the balance in the treasury as \$4,288.00. He also had a few checks to be cashed. To date he has received 216 checks for dues which also includes families and institutions, not just individuals. Linda Hart, the corresponding secretary, did not have anything to report. Regina said we are still looking into a new meeting place and Grace Episcopal Church is a good possibility. Ruth Grimm, our hospitality head, is always willing to accept donations of money or if anyone would like to help her by bringing food please see her before or after the meeting. Kevin Elliott is our electronic technician and he helps with all of the electronic stuff.

On October 17 at 4:00 p.m. and October 31 at 3:00p.m. Denville Library will be holding a class on Genealogy for Dummies. If anyone is interested please contact Denville Library for more details or to sign up. On October 18 from noon until 5:00 p.m. New York University will have a Family History Fair. A flier was passed around with the details. Certificates were given out to people who had not gotten theirs previously and also certificates for people who had passed the genealogy course were given out. Anyone who was not at the meeting and had a certificate coming to them, would be receiving his or her certificate in the mail.

Roger Conover, Vice President and Program Chair of Morris Area Genealogy Society, introduced our speaker for the night, Beverly Seward Yackel. Her topic was **Census Quirks**. She gave us a handout showing many of the quirks she has run across in her own research. Using the PAF manual could be different from using the computer. Make sure you check both ways because it could be either or both. In the soundex a surname may have a double letter which could be counted as one or as both. Be sure you check out both ways. If you use a census index book write down the publisher of the book so that you can refer to this at any time years later. County boundaries changed over the years so check the Map Guide to the US Federal Census; this is the bible for locations. One big factor to keep in mind is that many could not read or write so that there was no one way of spelling a name. It was however the census taker felt it should be spelled. I got a real chuckle out of the age variations. We still see this today, ask someone how old they are and chances are they may not be honest with you. This was done on the census and if you follow the age variations you see how peoples ages are not accurate. This could be just because the person giving the information was not sure of the correct age or they might not want the true age to be known. Names can be under first name one year, initials another and by the middle name another so you have to be on the lookout. Even job descriptions are not necessary accurate, laborer; farmer might be the same occupation. A housewife could also be a domestic or keeps house etc. It is also

important to notice the date the census was taken. Old handwriting and colonial handwriting is much different than the way we write today and many of the letters are different and more difficult to read. Many questions were asked and Beverly answered them all.

Regina mentioned we need a plywood sign for handing out information. She is open to suggestions. Maybe put the MAGS logo on it or our name or both. She told us on October 25 at 2p.m. Ghosts of New Jersey would take place and on October 29 at 7 p.m. Irish Genealogy. There is a need for at least one more member to do research. Right now Maria Young is the only person doing this research. Bo Holly will be doing trips to New York and Trenton. He is always willing to take people, just give him a call and he will set up a date and time for you to go. Just a reminder any time you plan on doing research make sure you call ahead first and make sure they are open before you go. Plan ahead of time so you know exactly what information you are looking for. This will save time and help narrow down your search.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Svenson  
Recording Secretary