

MORRIS AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY

General Meeting
November 10, 1998

Regina Springer introduced Ruth Grimm, our Hospitality head. She always arrives early for each meeting so we can have delicious refreshments when we walk in the door. Thank you Ruth. She had a special request for refreshments for our next meeting, which will be our annual holiday party. A list was passed around and people were asked to sign up and bring their favorite genealogical or ethnic holiday traditional treat. Regina reminded us the holiday meeting is for members only and would be on the FIRST Tuesday in December not our usual meeting date of the second Tuesday of each month. This will be December 1, 1998. Claire Kissil was thanked for setting up the chairs and getting the room ready for each of our meetings. Often things like this go unnoticed by members but it is very important for smooth running meetings. Thank you Claire.

On Saturday November 21 at 11:30 AM New Jersey Genealogical Society will have their annual meeting. Ann Rodda, one of our members, will be a speaker. Anyone interested should contact Mrs. Suzanne Numberg, program chair, Genealogy Society of New Jersey, 133 Lincoln Way, Bridgeton, NJ 08302. You must sign up before November 13th to attend. Regina reminded us that parking meters in Morristown are now in effect until 8:00 PM each night Monday through Saturday. Also you get less time for your money so be careful. We still are looking for a larger meeting place and are open to suggestions from anyone.

Bogart Holly will take anyone interested on the train to New York City or any other place you want to do research. Please call him to make arrangements at 366-1537. Ken Franz told us the date on the orange sheet (Gleanings) of November 23 at the Midland Park Library has been changed to June 28, 1999. He will be speaking at the Genealogy Society of Bergen County at their regular meeting. His topic will be "Turning Oral Tradition into Family History". Anyone who would like to hear him speak is welcome to attend. You are still welcome at the November 23rd meeting. The address is in the Gleanings.. The Morristown Library announced that any patron of Passaic or Bergen County Libraries could now borrow material from Morristown Library. Just bring your library card from your own library. Regina informed us Mary Middleton's son recently died.

Marie Wallace was the speaker of the evening. She talked to us about Polish, Hungarian, Slavic Genealogy. She has spent over 35 years tracing her family. Marie works at the Family History Center at Ledgewood. Many people do not use the Family History Centers. They have films up to 1945. A very important thing for your research is to get good maps of the country you will be researching. Often people are listed by the nearest big town in the area where they lived, not their little village. Remember that just because your relatives said they were from some place it might not be true. Check it all out. If you can't find a place, change the vowels around and see if this helps. When going through passenger lists check the whole list. Other relatives or neighbors could be found because people usually did not travel alone to new countries.

Besides a map you should invest in a good dictionary to help with genealogical terminology. Books can be found to translate in 37 different languages. One important thing Marie reminded us is to cite your sources. When you gather information write down when and where you found this; not just the source you found it in but the building you did your research at such as the town hall or court house etc. Put down the date you went and make copies of all pages or certificates that you can. As new information is made available you will know what you have already gone through as long as you know when you went. Make a copy of the original document, not an extraction, since extractions often leave out important information. Write down page numbers or document dates. Different sources can use different cataloging systems. If you are looking for church records keep in mind that the records may be kept at whatever church was handy in the town, not necessarily the one your ancestors attended. The Family History Center has filmed many church records in Europe. 1750 is when most start. Get all the information you can ahead of time before going places to do research. Marie answered our many questions.

Regina reminded us again that our holiday party for members only would be December 1, 1998. Read the next issue of the Morris Area Genealogy Society Newsletter because it will have more details about are party.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Svenson
Recording Secretary