

**MORRIS AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY**  
**General Meeting**  
**November 14, 2000**

Carol McCloud, Vice President and Program Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A welcome was extended to all guests.

She noted that email was the most effective means of notifying members of late breaking news and date changes and circulated a list to capture email addresses of those members who have email capability.

She called attention to the minutes of the October meeting and other items on the tables. There was no correspondence to report since the October meeting. The MAGS treasury was reported to have a current balance of \$2,716.33.

The MAGS Newsletter will be issued about one week after Thanksgiving. Members were advised to check the status of their dues payment for the 2000-2001 period. Those who have not paid will no longer receive the Newsletter. She assured any members who had paid but whose payments were not correctly recorded that the records would be corrected.

Members were reminded that they should bring a genealogical item for the grab bag drawing at the December meeting. Also to have a genealogical tidbit to share.

The speaker for the evening was John Walter. He has turned a lifetime interest in Civil War research into a business called the Institute for Civil War Research. His talk was titled "Grandpa was a Drummer Boy" The title came from a case where a family claimed that an ancestor was at the battle of Gettysburg as a drummer boy for a particular Union regiment. Yes he was a drummer boy but the regiment was hundreds of miles away from Gettysburg at the time of the battle.

Mr. Walter led us through the types of information available from the National Archives and their strengths and weaknesses. He also spoke of the advantages and disadvantages of ordering information, doing your own research or using a professional service such as his own. He noted that the Archives is raising the prices for their services on Jan. 1, 2001. His handout provided an excellent list of the points he discussed.

After his talk there was a lively and informative question and answer period until the meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Leroy M. May  
Recording Secretary