

**MORRIS AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY
ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING – April 10, 2001**

Trustee and Past President Regina Springer called the meeting to order and chaired it in the absence of President Carol McCloud.

Regina read the Treasurer's report from Janet Meissner which showed that after some dues received and small bills paid MAGS had a balance on hand of \$1923.77.

Prior to conducting the annual election of MAGS officers Regina reported that the Corresponding Secretary Kenneth Brinck had resigned his position the previous day. She asked for a volunteer to be nominated for that office but did not receive any response.

The nominees for MAGS officers for the 2001-2002 year were:

President	Carol McCloud
Vice President/Program Chair	Bogert Holly
Treasurer	Janet Meissner
Recording Secretary	Leroy May
Trustee 2001-2003	Emily Svenson

These nominees were then unanimously elected or reelected.

There was neither any old business nor other new business.

While waiting for the speaker to arrive members shared various bits and pieces including:

- Mary Middleton informed us that you can get Irish records by writing directly to the Archives in Dublin and sending a check for US\$3 for each record requested.
- That the Newark 7th ward records of the 1855 NJ census are now available in Trenton.
- Regina reported having visited the Brooklyn courthouse and having had great success. She found the staff there very helpful.
- Naturalization records for Brooklyn are now about 75% indexed as the result of efforts by the Jewish Genealogical Society.
- Scott Shephard reported that there is an effort to document and photograph the ten most endangered sites on the Morris canal.

At this point the speaker for the evening, Mr. Jerry Harmen from Madison PhotoPlus presented his talk on *Preservation & Archival Processing of Historical Photographs*.

He began by observing that recording and preservation of photos has come a long way in past 25 years and that much of conventional wisdom in this area is outdated.

One factor, which must be observed with increasing care, are the copyright laws as they apply to photos. Now if you put your name on a photo it becomes copyrighted. You may state that you give a license to copy and may state limitations upon that license.

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Many older photos are deteriorating, usually because the original processing was flawed. Processing of film accounts for at least half of the factors affecting print quality.

He advised that one should never try to change originals but should make copies and work upon the copy. Most of what we want to copy is monochromatic, often sepia. Use of color filters will lighten their own color. Blue filters are useful to reduce blue ballpoint ink.

He noted that the computer is one of the best tools for preserving images. Digital image data does not deteriorate, as do chemical emulsions. He believes that CD-ROMs have 2 to 3 times the life of film. (While this may be correct there is the problem of changing computer technologies, which may cause CD-ROMs to become obsolete for lack of hardware to read them.)

He also discussed some of the good and bad materials for photo preservation. Avoid the peel and stick albums. Avoid exposure to ultraviolet light. Use a product named *UNDO* to remove labels and adhesives.

When scanning images it is essential that the original be flat and that a "macro lens" designed for copy work be used. Normal zoom lenses do not have flat focus. The Minolta Web site has good introductory information on scanning. Kodak has a publication on photo copying. The out-of-print *Amateur Photographer's Handbook* is still the best reference.

He then reviewed numerous technical items and answered questions from the audience.

MAGS adjourned after the presentation.

Leroy M. May
Recording Secretary