

MORRIS AREA GENEALOGY SOCIETY

General Meeting
February 11, 2003

President Linnea Foster opened the meeting at 7:05. We welcomed 1 returning member and 2 new visitors. Ruth Grimm needs more help and the hospitality sign-up sheet was circulated. Martha Corsen will be the new Publicity chairman. Lois Pelaja was looking for someone to work with her until May and then take over for her in the new year (starting with the September meeting). The responsibilities include preparing flyers for library distribution and writing newspaper notices.

The May meeting will be in the sanctuary after the church service, about 7:30. Coffee time will begin at 7:00. The Board decided to give \$1500 to Morristown-Morris Township Library as our annual gift, less the cost of 2 adjustable chairs for use with the newer microfilm readers. The chairs will be purchased in the next few days and then the balance will be given to the library for use towards a new microfilm reader.

There were 2 conferences mentioned at the last meeting. Lyn Foster, Rich Phibbs and Ruth Daniels attended "Putting the Pieces Together" presented by the Monmouth Co Genealogical Society at Eatontown, NJ on Saturday, January 25. It was a very worthwhile day and we heard Larry Fermi speak on 20th Century Military records and Italian Genealogy. We've scheduled Larry for our March meeting. The other conference, sponsored by the National Genealogy Society and hosted by the Monmouth Co Genealogical Society and the Central Jersey Genealogical Club, will be on March 22, 2003 at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, NJ.

John Konvalinka, our speaker from the 2002 Fall Seminar, will be speaking on Saturday, April 5 at the NJ State Museum in Trenton. The emphasis will be on doing research in the UK. This is sponsored by the Genealogy Society of NJ. Lyn reminded us that Stephen Conte's Family Historian is still running on cable TV.

VP Bo Holly announced that next month's program will be on 20th Century Military Records. The Speaker is Larry Fermi. Bo forgot to bring tonight's handouts, but he will see to it that they are here for the March meeting (Bo will be away in March). In the fall, Larry will be back to speak on Italian Genealogy and Leroy May will be speaking on working with land records. Bo then introduced tonight's speakers, Ken and Edna Franz. The program began at 7:20 and ended at 8:20.

Ruth Phibbs Daniels
Recording Secretary



Ken Franz spoke to us about *Colonial Record Keeping* which is based on English Common Law – which is based on Saxon Law. In 1538 it was decreed that the churches must keep vital records with a copy going to the diocese. Main repositories for church records in this area are Drew University and Princeton University. Additional Presbyterian records are located in Philadelphia. Other sources are

town, county and other court records. Also Cemeteries, family heirlooms, the Internet, Family History Centers, libraries, archives and museums. Searching locally is usually the most fruitful.