



WHIDBEY ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SEARCHERS

General Meeting Minutes

President Jeanan Richter called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm, Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at the Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, 1253 NW 2nd Avenue, Oak Harbor, WA. Announcements and courtesies were called for and acknowledged, including birthdays, anniversaries, and snack providers. Margie Kott provided the joke of the month. Visitors were welcomed and introduced themselves. Jeanan and her husband John will be on vacation for the March, April and possible May meetings. Vice President Steve Johnson will preside over those meetings.

The Treasurer's records were recently audited and passed with no problems. The January Treasurer's report and the meeting minutes will be posted on our website. The address of our society website www.whidbeygensearchers.org was announced.

Membership: 18 members and four guests were in attendance today.

Publications: John Richter reported the spring edition of our newsletter, "The Searcher", will be published before our next meeting.

Programs: Nedra Weber announced that next month there will be four "presentations" by the American Association of University Women dressed in period costumes.

Historian: Margie Kott is working on chronologically ordering our historical records.

Old Business: The revised Bylaws and Standing Rules are near completion. Active members will receive copies for review and ratification soon.

Next Meeting: The next WIGS meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at the Oak Harbor Lutheran Church.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 pm. A short break and snacks were enjoyed before today's presentation.

Presentation: Nedra Weber introduced today's speaker, Maureen MacDonald. Maureen's presentation, "Filling the Gap, 1880 to 1900" was very informative. The gap is the 1890 census which was mostly destroyed by a fire at the Commerce Department in Washington DC on 10 January 1921. There were a few surviving fragments but alternatives are available. Maureen described various examples of these alternatives including the 1890 Veteran's Schedule, City Directories, Civil War Pension records, state census records, and tax records. There was an 1885 Federal Census but only a few states participated. Maureen's presentation was very well received.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danny Hahn, Secretary