

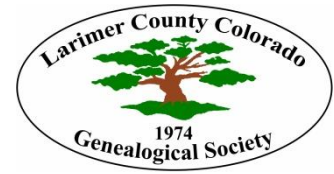
# Larimer County Genealogical Society

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## 2013 LCGS Annual Report

by Robert Larson, Outgoing  
President



January 17, 2013

The 2013 Annual Report provides an overall summary of our society regarding projects, programs, classes, workshops, and external society events throughout the past year. As you read this report, you'll find that we are truly a very active society! Last year was even better economically for our society and more members joined our society with 188 total members.

My last year as President gave us several opportunities for our society. With the initial help of Vice President **Kathy Patrick**, incoming president **Stacey Rehbien**, our society researcher **Carol Stetser**, speaker and instructor **Pat Johnson**, past president **Ceil Damshroder** and myself, we've alternately written a monthly genealogy column for four years in the popular 50 Plus Marketplace News. It's distributed to over 110 locations in Larimer County, which gives us lots of publicity.

The Board approved several major projects in 2012 including providing volunteers at Loveland and Old Town libraries in 2012. A larger project includes the purchase of two microfilm scanners for the Old Town Library in mid 2013. We are submitting grant requests to several benefactors to purchase the two scanners that will cost \$14,000. We expect to receive enough grant money to purchase the scanners in mid-2013.

Our society produced the **Genealogy Quest™** TV show that started broadcasting in January 2011 on Fort Collins cable channel 97. We've recorded 17 programs that finished last August and will be repeated on the cable channel for several years. We now sell DVDs (a full set includes four DVDs with 16 programs) to genealogists, other societies and libraries across the United States and have sold about \$1,000 worth of DVDs last year. We plan on marketing our DVDs to many more libraries and other similar institutions in the U.S. in 2013. Thanks to host **Ken Goldsberry** and our many guests and producers for creating this wonderful TV series!

We joined our Colorado Council in 2010 to help index the 1885 Colorado Census, which our society and others completed last November. Publications librarian and our 2011 Volunteer of the Year **Pat Johnson** was our society coordinator for this fun project. Pat has done an impressive job in making this happen. The Council president indicated we were number one with the most active indexers and number one with the largest indexed and arbitrated records completed (over 420,000) since December 2010, compared to other Colorado societies. Kudos to **Grady Kane** as our top indexer and **Sherri Schloss** as our top arbitrator. We rewarded our indexers and arbitrators plus our TV series producers and guests with a nice luncheon last year. Thanks to Pat and all of our indexers and arbitrators!

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We obtained library agreements with Poudre River Public Library District and Loveland Public Library several years ago. The agreements give us preference on meeting space for our Board and general meetings plus space for our 30 classes and workshops every year. In return, we provide volunteers for the two library systems for one day per week on helping library patrons with their genealogy research.

Our Research Project Coordinator **Ken Goldsberry** has been instrumental in working with FamilySearch.org (part of Family History Library) on photographing the funeral home records from Allnut Funeral Homes in Larimer and Weld counties. We're in contract negotiations with both parties and the project should be completed in 2013.

Our Board approved a social marketing web service called **Facebook** in 2010. Facebook has over one billion worldwide users of all ages to date. This gives our society a new marketing tool to attract all generations from age 30 through retirement ages. The public or any member can view our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lcgsco](http://www.facebook.com/lcgsco).

Our affiliate programs include Flip-Pal (mobile scanners), Genealogical Publishing Company (largest genealogy book supplier), Ritchies Car Wash, and TYT Publishing (Boyd & Gwen Johnson's 'Write Now' book). We have received over \$634 in commissions from these affiliates last year. In addition, Cartridge World in Fort Collins and Loveland gives us 10% discount on their recycled cartridges. Visit our website for more details about our affiliate programs!

We did a special fundraiser with Applebee's Restaurant in Fort Collins last September. We raised \$220 selling tickets for this annual event to members and visitors. **Kathy Patrick, Hap Hazard, Kaye Williams, Carol Stetser, Larry Doyle, George Morgan**, and I volunteered as greeters or waiters.

A special tribute with certificates was presented to our 10, 20, and 30 year members last November. Too many to list, but congratulations to all of them for achieving those awards.

**Kathy Patrick** became our Vice President in 2011. Kathy scheduled many great programs during last year and also coordinated the Junior Girl Scout Heritage Badge program. She has scheduled all speakers for 2013 with many new exciting speakers and programs. Thank you Kathy for your outstanding programs and coordinating the past Junior Girl Scout programs!

**Bruce Harshberger** became our new treasurer last year. He reported an income of \$5,711 with annual expenses of \$3,637. Extra income came from increased memberships, publication sales, DVDs, affiliate programs, and our recycled table. He has submitted his annual treasurer's report at our annual meeting. Thank you Bruce for your great services!

**Kaye Williams** became our **Recording Secretary** last year. Kaye attends and records our Board and Officer Election meeting minutes besides working full time at CSU. Thank you Kaye for your very valuable service!

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**Outgoing Corresponding Secretary Gordon “Hap” Hazard** sends our speakers and visitors “Thank You” letters for attending our many meetings and classes or workshops. In addition, Hap annually sends “Thank You” letters to our Board members and chairs for their great volunteerism in making this a great society. Besides that, he monitors our mail services and operates as chair for the Publications Committee. He is also President of the Fort Collins Historical Society. Hap has been on our Board for four years and is handing over the duties to our incoming Corresponding Secretary Cheryl Fazzini. Thank You Hap and Welcome Cheryl!

**Board Director-at-Large Nancy Abrahams** started a new Book Committee last year, making new book recommendations for both Fort Collins and Loveland libraries. In January 2013, we donated a check for \$816 for new genealogy books to the Loveland Library. We expect to do the same for Old Town Library in Fort Collins by this spring. Thank you Nancy and your committee for your services!

Our second **Director-at-Large Ginny Feagler** works with the education committee on Fort Collins and Loveland library classes and related issues besides serving on our Board. Ginny also teaches several genealogy classes for us and helps Nancy on the Book Committee. She also monitors our assets inventory for our society. Thank you Ginny for your wonderful services!

**Sonny Hygh** has been our **Archival Chair** for several years and has kept our important society documents and newsletters in storage. Sonny has been storing or digitizing important society documents, such as newsletters and Board meeting minutes that have been digitized to CDs, which requires less space. Thank you Sonny as always!

**Budget & Finance Chair Len Ray** stepped down last year and I took over the position during the last quarter. This committee reviews important financial issues for our society. We meet quarterly and make several recommendations on financial and legal aspects to the Board. Thank you Len and Grady for your past services!

Our **Colorado Council Delegates John & Ruth Rinne** have been attending the quarterly meetings, promoting our society’s accomplishments to our Council member societies and obtaining their accomplishments. In December, they stepped down after two years. Thank you John & Rudi for your great efforts as delegates! The President attends the meetings as backup delegate.

**George & Hildy Morgan** have been our **Education Committee** Co-chairs since 2009. George and Hildy have increased our classes and workshops to over twenty this year. Class attendance from members and visitors has steadily increased since then. We actually have increased our membership from these classes and meetings. Thank you George and Hildy for the great classes and workshops!

Every year, the Education Committee nominates an outstanding volunteer. A certificate for **Volunteer of the Year** and a magazine subscription is awarded to a society member, who does an outstanding job for our society. Last month, we presented **Carol Stetser** with our prestigious

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Volunteer of the Year award at our holiday dinner party and also at our January meeting. Congratulations Carol!

Our **Family Tree Maker Users Group** has grown with over 125 genealogists attending this popular software class since it began in 2004. I continue teaching nine classes annually at three local libraries in Fort Collins and Loveland with an average attendance of 15 people. The group has grown to over 40 people at certain classes from our members and new genealogists in the area.

Our new **Hospitality Committee Chair Kara Wittsock** took over from **Carol Diaczun** last September. Kara coordinated the December holiday dinner at the Golden Corral restaurant in Loveland. We had a great attendance with over 60 members, guests, and spouses. We sold raffle tickets for many door prizes and netted \$195 from the ticket sales.

**McDonald's franchise restaurants** in Fort Collins donates their premium coffee for our monthly meetings, so please stop by their Timberline at Horsetooth, 2401 S. College Ave, or I-25 at Mulberry locations and please thank them accordingly. Carol and Kara, nice job as always and thank you for making our meetings really sociable and our members for bringing those tasty desserts!

Our new **Publicity Chair, Linda Simonetta** is responsible for emailing our society general meeting programs to our members and sending flyers to many libraries and other institutions on a monthly basis. Thanks Linda for your great efforts in getting the message to everyone!

**Jan Hygh** is our **Membership Committee Chair**. Jan and her staff have greeted visitors and new members at our general meetings and provides the membership statistics every month to the Board. Below are several of the stats from the last two years. I predict we'll have about 200 members by the end of 2013, which is about normal growth with other societies in our area. We are still the fourth largest society in Colorado.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>New Members</u>	<u>Visitors</u>
2012	188	25	80 including speakers
2011	182	32	105 including speakers

The **Newsletter Committee** has continued to update the newsletter content and layout design to keep it fresh and exciting to read. We deliver over 250 newsletters to members, visitors, other societies, and libraries across the U.S by mail or email every other month. Incoming president **Stacey Rehbein** took over as newsletter chair and editor last year and made some delightful changes. **Sherri Schloss**, our past publisher, took over our Facebook page, **Julia Hillen** and **Nadine Gates** continue to deliver the newsletter, **Ken Horne** became the society's photographer, and **Anna Reznik** helps on providing content. Stacey and staff, nice job as always and thank you for keeping our newsletter very exciting and news worthy!

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**Nominations Committee Chair Ken Goldsberry, John Rinne, and Dorothy Sandman** have nominated **Stacey Rehbein** as first term President, **Cheryl Frazzini** for her first term as Corresponding Secretary, **Ginny Feagler** for her official first term as Director for 2013-2014. We look forward to working with these new Board members. Thank you Ken and your staff for your wonderful nominations and services!

**Publications Chair Hap Hazard** continues to do an outstanding job. Through Hap's great efforts, we received \$88 for our society publications. However, we're receiving less revenue each year for our publications, but the additional DVD sales should improve our income in 2013.

**Paul Smith** temporarily ran the **Recycle Goods table** last year, but revenues were declining. The Board decided to not staff the recycle table and offer the magazines at future meetings for donations only. The Board again thanks Paul for staffing the recycled table in the past!

**Loveland Support Group Chairs Boyd & Gwen Johnson** started this group in 2010. It became very successful with monthly small group meetings in Loveland to discuss the genealogy needs of society members. Thank you Boyd and Gwen for your time and excellent teaching methods!

Our Website Committee **Kim Freeman** and **Webmasters Larry Doyle** and **Bob Larson** have transformed our website into an exciting marketing and information tool. They have updated our website with many new features, new marketing concepts, and adding several new webpages last year. Our latest feature has mobile access for smartphones and tablet PC users.

Last year we received over 5,500 monthly visits looking at over 21,000 webpages from members and visitors in 30 different countries. Our website costs us less than \$250 in annual donations to developers for a world class website that would have cost us over \$3,500 by a private developer. Thanks to our two webmasters for developing a world class genealogy website! Please visit our website at [www.lcgsc.org](http://www.lcgsc.org) to see all the new changes!

I have enjoyed being your President for four years and look forward to continuing as the Budget & Finance Chair and Genealogy Quest TV Series Marketing Chair.

I know our future Board will create a new plan with new goals on continuing our membership expansion, promoting our many events, create new research projects, and continue with our education programs to help our members and visitors on genealogy and family history research. Don't forget to bring a relative or friend who is interested in genealogy or family history to our many events.

Happy Trails,

Robert (Bob) Larson  
Outgoing President