

Farmington genealogy club looks backward

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON — What's in a name? It depends — to a genealogist, everything.

Genealogists are people who are concerned with tracing their ancestry back through generations.

To them a name, in a will, on a birth or death certificate, or on a military record, can be the difference between furthering their study or reaching a dead-end.

Every month about 15 amateur genealogists meet in the Farmington Public Library to hear guest speakers, to discuss mutual prob-

lems, or to share their most recent finds.

Members of the genealogical Club welcome visitors at their meetings.

Although they will not research for others, they will offer assistance or answer questions to help other people trace their own family tree.

THE ORGANIZATION is an outgrowth of a class in genealogy offered by the club's past president, Peter Schaldenbrand.

Schaldenbrand was offering classes in genealogy under the sponsorship of the Detroit Society of Genealogy.

After the final class meeting for one session, the class members decided that they would like to continue meeting and formed the organization.

Now, they meet every third Tuesday, September through May from 7:30-10 p.m.

According to Leigh LaChapelle, president of the organization, many of the members belong to more than one Genealogical Society.

He, for example, belongs to the Detroit Society, three societies in Tennessee, one in Ontario and one in Quebec.

Many people find it beneficial to belong to more than one organization, he said. "Ours here in Farmington is a small informal group.

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--Leigh LaChapelle

Many of us like to belong to the Detroit group too, because there is a much wider base there. They have more members, and they can get better speakers.

"I also belong to some from out of state because those are the areas I am interested in. I get the publication their organizations put out."

ACCORDING TO LaChapelle, the first place to look when researching a family tree is to relatives, particularly the older ones.

Every person is a wealth of information, he said. "However, all that information is lost when they die. It really is a good idea to talk

to all the relatives you can and write down what they say.

"It is also a good idea to give the information to the young people. They usually are not too interested in genealogy."

"It is not until we are older and begin looking back that we develop an interest in who came before us. However, by that time many of the people who could be a source of information may be dead or may have forgotten many details."

AFTER GAINING all the possible information from relatives, LaChapelle suggests that the researcher write to various government branches for records.

He said when looking for a record it is important to know not only the family name and state, but also the county from which the person came.

Birth and death records are always valuable, as are wills, because all list the names of other relatives, as well as the person whose name you are seeking.

Military records are also valuable, particularly if the person applied for a pension.

When applying for a pension the applicant had to list the names of all his dependents.

Various bureaus in Washington D. C. and the state capitals often have copies of these records.

LaChapelle said the church of the Latter Day Saints also has an extensive genealogical library which is open to the public.

They have, on file in Salt Lake City, vital records from all over the world.

SOME OF THE local churches have libraries in conjunction with the main library, and they can send to Salt Lake City for microfilms of the necessary documents.

"I was able to find my grandfathers will on microfilm in their library," he said. "It really is a marvelous service, for a small fee, you can have access to vital records from all over the world without ever leaving Detroit."

Other sources of information are

cemeteries, land records, family bibles, and census records.

Even with all this information the genealogists often run into difficulty.

For example, two people of the same family may have a different spelling of their last name, or the spelling may have been written improperly on the record or census forms.

"I'VE LEARNED when looking through records to always think of the phonetical sound of every name," he said. "Sometimes I even pronounce every name out loud. There are so many ways each name can be spelled. You have to be alert to the different spellings or you may miss it completely."

He ran into another type of difficulty once while seeking some records from Quebec.

"As you can tell my name sounds French," he said and Quebec is a French area. Well, I wrote to them, and when my letter came back, sure enough, it was written in French."

Although he would like to learn the history of the people he researches, it said it is often difficult unless an older person remembers it.

"The history is really the meat on the bones," he said. "It's a nice to know, but hard to find. Again the older living relatives are really the best source of information."

Brotherton plans campaign fete

FARMINGTON—A get acquainted, fund-raising event for Wilbur V. "Sandy" Brotherton, Republican candidate for the State House of Representatives will be held at the Bradford Inn, Grand River in Farmington on Thursday, Oct. 17.

The party is sponsored by the Finance Committee of the Brotherton for State Representative Committee, chaired by Claire Onians.

Other members are Robert McConnell, Floyd Cairns, Vivian Jurosek, John Forbes, Marie Faunce Yvonne Brotherton, and John Bailly.

John Anhalt, innkeeper at the Bradford Inn, is the general campaign chairman for the Brotherton election campaign.

Cocktails, hors d'oeuvre and music will be provided to guests during the 7-9 p.m. party.

Donations are \$25 per couple, \$15 for individuals, and \$10 for senior citizens, 65 and over.

During the evening Brotherton will present a "personal tribute" to guest Ray Baker.

Baker, a four term representative, is retiring, vacating the seat which Brotherton is seeking.

Tickets will be available at the door.

Skit planned for seniors

FARMINGTON—A skit from the play the "Power of It All" will be presented at the Farmington Community Center Oct. 4, during the senior citizen morning coffee hour.

The coffee hour is designed to help the senior citizens meet others their own age, and to acquaint them with the facilities at the community center.

Refreshments will be served, and the community center will be open in the afternoon for those who wish to remain.

This morning officially opens a new season of Friday activities for the over 55 group.

For more information about the event call the Farmington Community Center.

Hope Nahstoll, Delores Shevlin, Marie Walck, Wanda Dodsworth, and Verna Roberts will be appearing in the skit.

The excerpt is from a play which was given at the Players Barn during the summer as a benefit for the center.

Lumber yard vandal fined

FARMINGTON—Police in Farmington Hills have captured the vandal who was shooting out the lights in an outdoor lot in the H. A. Smith Lumber Yard, 26375 Grand River.

Robert Clifford Lomasney, 20, 28525 Grayling, was arraigned in 47th District Court before Judge Michael J. Hand on a charge of reckless use of fire arms.

Lomasney pleaded guilty to the charge, but has not been sentenced yet.

The Hills police have been keeping the house under surveillance since the lights in the outdoor lot were shot out twice in one month.

High class thieves hit

FARMINGTON—Thieves with expensive taste broke into the Be Lynn Cuffures and Fashions shop 26235 10 Mile and took an estimated \$25,000 worth of furs, jewels and clothes.

The owner of the store told police the culprits took only the most expensive items in the store.

The Hills police said there were some bed sheets in the store which did not belong to the owner.

They said the thieves may have used the sheets and pillow cases to carry out the items they were stealing.

A newspaper delivery man alerted the police to the crime when he noticed that a mannikin in the store window had been knocked down.

The thieves apparently entered the store through the front door by falling the lock.

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