

Groton Historical Society
Program on Genealogy Resources
Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 6:00

Fifteen people attended the very enjoyable and informative program given by Bill Hodge. Bill is the President of the Topsham Historical Society, and is well known in the area for his knowledge of local history and the genealogies of local families. He described the importance of determining what it is you want to find out about your family, and then, traditional resources like public government records, family stories, cemeteries, photographs and post cards, church records, newspapers, maps, town histories, and Civil War records. He discussed the various on-line resource programs available now, and the resources available at the Vermont State Historical Society. He told about different ways of organizing and storing your information, and showed us samples of his formats. He also reminded us to keep in mind that discrepancies occur in information available, no matter what the source, and gave examples from his work. He warned us to be prepared for some surprises, and that your family tree, which extends "like a spider's web," is never "done." Many thanks to Bill. Most folks attending had questions or helpful contributions, and stories to add. We learned a lot! People visited and enjoyed refreshments until about 7:15.

After the program GHS members had a brief business discussion in the absence of the president. Phil Coutu, Brent Smith, Lise and Mark Shallberg, and Phyllis Burke were present. We agreed to postpone any official business until after the July 9th meeting.

Mark Edwards had brought to the program a small King James Bible that had been given to him by Scott Morrison, and given to Scott by Greg Christiansen. The Bible had been given by a Mrs. Taisey to her daughter-in-law in 1887. Mark and Scott hope that the GHS can help return the Bible to someone in the Taisey family. If no living Taisey relatives can be found, then they will donate it to the GHS.

Brent reported about the leak in the bathroom plumbing and the proposal to install plumbing for a kitchen sink in the pantry/documents room at the time the bathroom plumbing is done. Everyone present seemed comfortable with that idea.

One new member joined and 2 books were sold.

Phyllis Burke