

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 35 ♦ Number 12 ♦ December 2002

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102



MONTHLY MEETING – third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p. m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2002

1:15

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Share your heritage by bringing a dish that is part of your family's tradition.
(Plates, utensils, cups and napkins will be provided.)

2:30 – GENERAL MEETING

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

GROUP DISCUSSION Genealogists and Family Secrets

SHOW & TELL

Share your successes! Bring a discovery or family memento and share it with us.
Tell us about your family traditions, recent research discoveries, or genealogical problems.
Call John McCoy at (562) 437-4337 to reserve your turn at the microphone.
(Please, no more than 5 to 10 minutes so that we can fit in as many people as possible.)



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~ QHGS BOARD ELECTIONS ~

Elections for three positions on the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Board were held at the November meeting. The Nominating Committee – Aaron Day, LaVerne Maxwell, and David Werts – presented their slate of nominees at the October meeting. The nominees were:

- President: John McCoy
- Second Vice President: Jeanette Jones
- Corresponding Secretary: Vickie Elliott

At the November meeting, no other nominations were made from the floor. The vote was taken, and the slate was accepted. Installation of the new officers will take place at the December meeting. Congratulations to the new officers, and many thanks for your commitment to serve QHGS!

~ REFRESHMENTS ~
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thank you to our November Hosts:
Marilyn (DeLonjay) BRASHER
Kaye (Finlay) FOORD
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS
Phyllis STRAWN

~ FINANCIAL REPORT ~
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

October INCOME	\$ 638.65
October EXPENSES	\$ 492.90
 BALANCE as of October 31, 2002	 \$ 3491.89

~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~
Betty MARR (562) 433-0370

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE: 23

VISITORS: Helen & Richard Miller of Long Beach, Joan Atha of Long Beach

RENEWALS as of November 17

Harris, Lowell	Individual	\$18	to 9/03
Miller, Patricia	Individual	\$18	to 9/03
Perre, Betty ☺	Individual	\$18 + \$7 donation	to 9/03
Wilkinson, Mary ☺	Sustaining	\$50	to 12/03
Allen County Library	Subscription	\$12	1/03 to 1/04
DAR Library, Washington, D. C.	Subscription	\$12	1/03 to 1/04

Thanks to all for renewing!

☺ *A special thanks to those who were able to give a little more.* ☺

~ *PRESIDENT'S COLUMN* ~

HOLIDAY MEMORIES

Here in Long Beach, people are so busy, we are lucky if there is any time at all to plan for the holidays. By the time we get out of the office and do battle on the freeways, we have only enough energy left to get ready to repeat the process the next day. But the holidays will happen, and we will celebrate them by drawing on our family traditions. No matter how stressed out we may be, we can switch on our holiday memories and join the celebration in spite of ourselves.

Some families have elaborate traditions, others are more subtle. I know some families whose traditions I would willingly adopt for myself. My favorite holiday memory is celebrating Christmas Eve with the Quakers in Indiana. The North Meadow Circle of Friends meets in an old house in Indianapolis – the north meadow is a vacant lot next door. The meeting also has an ancient meeting house out in the country, used only for special occasions. I allowed plenty of time for the drive, for the roads were icy, with snow on the ground. There was a bright moon overhead. The road led through rolling hills dotted with farms, then deep into the woods. At last, a small, isolated brick building, barely visible in the moonlight. The ice and snow crunched underfoot as we gathered at the doorway. The building had scarcely been touched since the 19th Century, no electricity, no plumbing. There was a kerosene lantern inside, and someone was building a fire in the huge cast iron stove in the middle of the room. There were long benches of well-worn oak. The worship this evening would be one of those famous Quaker non-rituals, “unprogrammed worship”. When everyone had gathered, in relative silence, variously bundled up against the cold, we took our places, blew out the lantern, and settled into silent worship. Completely silent, unbelievably silent. You could not even hear anyone breathe.

To an outsider, silent worship is puzzling. Centuries ago, Voltaire attended a Quaker non-service in London. The faithful sat in perfect silence for a long

time until someone blurted out, “Jesus wept”, and then everyone got up to leave, remarking what a fine service it had been. Nothing has changed; that is exactly how my Indiana Friends worship. But to a Quaker, the silence has a depth and form. What happens in the silence is felt by everyone. Silence in the dark was even deeper, until the pot-bellied stove began to glow in the darkness. When the worship was finished, the lantern was lit, and candles too. A pot of cider had been warming on the stove, several families had brought cookies to share. Then the (very discreet) singing of Christmas carols. For Quakers of the old school, there is still a place for music, but like many other important, meaningful activities of life, it is not part of the worship service.

No holiday before or since has left such deep memories. That is why, in sunny Long Beach, California, I still keep my heavy green wool overcoat in my closet, to remind me of that special winter night.

In my own family, Thanksgiving and Christmas were almost the only occasions when I saw my grandparents for any length of time. I remember my grandfather's long, drawn out stories, reminiscing over old times. Much of what I know about my family comes from the stories recounted while waiting for the turkey to finish roasting. I remember, too, skeins of nylon leader, bags of feathers, bundles of brightly-colored yarn. That was his business, he ran a fly and tackle company near Seattle. And the coal fire, the fur coats, *National Geographic* and *Arizona Highways* stacked nearly to the ceiling and Marlin Perkins' “Wild Kingdom” always playing on the television, no matter what time we arrived. I have no plans for the holidays, but whatever I do at the last minute will in some way relive the best of my holiday memories.

John McCoy

~ **FEATURE ARTICLE** ~

IN MEMORY OF P. WILLIAM FILBY

P. William Filby died in Savage, Maryland on 2 November 2002. He was born in Cambridge England in 1911. He was a rare book librarian at the Cambridge University Library and then Director of the Cambridge University Science Library. During the World War II he was a cryptographer at Bletchley where ULTRA was broken, and following his marriage to Vera Ruth Weakliem he came to America in 1957.

He was librarian and assistant director of the Peabody Library, Baltimore which possessed a rich genealogical collection, especially British material. Knowing nothing about genealogy he decided that such a collection had to be used and made known to unsuspecting genealogists, and he proceeded to acquaint himself with the subject. In those days libraries were not interested in genealogy or genealogists; but being sympathetic to them, he determined that they should receive better treatment. Since he knew little about the subject upon arrival he decided to issue a book which would help beginning genealogists and librarians by telling them what was available for their research. "American and British Genealogy and Heraldry," published in 1970 was an immediate success; the second edition was issued in 1976 and the third in 1983, and a supplement in 1986. The third edition was included in the best ten reference books of 1983, and with the supplement it contains 13,000 titles, with annotations, and over 30,000 index entries. The Library of Congress staff regards it as its "genealogy Bible."

He moved to the Maryland Historical Society in 1966 as its librarian and became director in 1972. There he found an interest in emigration, and following his retirement in 1978, he was engaged by Gale Research, Detroit to head the genealogy section, and being given a carte blanche he commenced to bring together the many sources of passenger lists. In 1981, with Mary K. Meyer he published a 3 volume set, "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index" containing 500,000 names, with ages, date and port of arrival, family brought with him, source of the entry.

Supplements followed annually and by the time he died, well over one million names had been listed; he had another million waiting publication. Harold Lancour's "Bibliography of Ship Passenger Lists" (1981) had remained the classics until Filby produced another "Bibliography of Passenger and Immigration Lists"

(1984). Lancour had 262 sources but since Filby's had 1009 and the supplement published in 1984 had another 600, Lancour was completely superseded. Another supplement containing 500 new sources was being compiled. During the depression the WFA produced a list of Philadelphia naturalizations from 1789-1880, but it was available in six copies (all typescript) which were almost unreadable. He therefore edited them and the "Philadelphia Naturalization Records" (1982) was issued. It contained 121,000 names and since Mrs. Filby gave the locations of the originals many researchers have found much about their ancestors.

With Mary K. Meyer he compiled the first "Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry," containing biographies of 800 leading genealogists and heraldists in the world. It was successful but attempts to produce volume two were unsuccessful because genealogists did not return their forms, and it was abandoned in July 1986. A "Bibliography of American County Histories" (1985) was an immediate success.

Besides writing books, Bill was a popular speaker throughout U.S. and he wrote many genealogical articles. He was a Fellow of the National Genealogical Society, Society of Genealogists (London) and Utah Genealogical Association. He left much work on the immigration lists in the capable hands of Dorothy M. Lower, for many years genealogical librarian of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, and it is hoped that someone will continue the "American and British Genealogy and Heraldry," since almost one thousand new books are issued annually.

In 1998, Scholarly Resources, publishers of Wilmington, Delaware awarded an annual prize of \$1,000 and named it the Filby Prize, to be awarded to a genealogical librarian.

In 2000 the American Society of Genealogists conferred its Certificate of Appreciation for his genealogical publications.

Reprinted with permission from UpFront with NGS, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society, Volume 1, Number 11, 7 November 2002. Co-editors: Dennis and Carla Ridenour. Subscription information at <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>>.

~ OF INTEREST ~

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS

Yearning for more original material in your newsletter? Don't think you can bear seeing another one of those endless "reprinted from" messages? Well, your troubles are over -- your newsletter editor will happily accept submissions!

We're looking for articles, anecdotes, biographies, research strategies, useful programs, favorite web pages, humor, quotes -- anything related to our common interest. Your submission can be as short as one line or as long as two pages (about 1250 words).

We'd really like our newsletter to reflect our society, so we will be glad to publish a notice of any news or milestones in your lives, as well.

Illuminate the past. immortalize someone who touched your life with a character sketch. Take us to a remarkable place you've found in your search for your ancestors. Fill us in on a famous (or infamous) family member. Share your successes, your insights -- even your hopes and dreams -- with the entire society. Let us know about a treasure trove you discovered. Describe a touching reunion you experienced. Tell us how you got involved in this crazy pursuit.

Let your story be told! We will be happy to help you with writing or typing. Send your submissions to Mike Powers, 1009 Coronado Avenue #1, Long Beach CA 90804, phone (562) 621-6631, email <lunalake@pobox.com>.



VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION RECORDS

Another option for those researching military personnel, where records might have been destroyed, is through the Veterans Administration. Yes, you can contact the V. A. Regional Office nearest you -- always an 800 (toll-free) number, then ask for the Freedom of Information Officer. Let them know you interested in seeing if your *deceased* relative has a file with them and how you may obtain copies of the contents of such a file. These records are free. The FOIA Officer will explain the procedure. Just follow the instructions.

What will you find in the file? That will vary from one file to another. One of the files I looked at was a more recent death -- there was only a request for a flag for the funeral, but it did give name, which branch of the service and dates of entry and discharge.

By contrast, there was the "ultimate file" of an unmarried cousin, who was a pilot and was killed in WWII. The plane went down and at first it was thought to be the result of pilot error, meaning no death benefits. In his V. A. file was his death certificate, enlistment papers, a discharge by death which listed his service dates and places and medals earned. Because there was a question about the plane crashing, there was an investigation of the accident -- copies in file, never recovered the body or the plane, but it was proven to be an accident. The plane iced/froze. Then because he died in service and there was "death insurance," his mother being his beneficiary, the file contained also her birth certificate, and the soldier's birth certificate, proving relationship. Then mother had to fill out forms of the needs of the family -- these forms listed all her children, dates, etc. Mother was allotted a monthly check as part of the agreement on the death settlement. While mother was receiving this, she died. Then father was next on the list. So that he could continue receiving benefits, there needed to be a copy of the mother's death certificate, copy of their marriage certificate, and father's birth certificate. When the father died, his death certificate was added to the file, but funds had already been fully issued to the family. What a file, proof of all those vitals, along with the military information. All in all, that included three birth certificates, three death certificates, one marriage certificate, military record, and the military investigation of the plane crash. What a find and the cost was zero. Here in Wisconsin I did have to go to the Regional V. A. center when the original file came in, look through the file, mark the papers I wanted copied, and then wait a week to receive them in the mail. Is it worth it? Yes!

Doris Demet

Previously published in Missing Links, Vol. 7, No. 47, 24 November 2002. Subscription information at <<http://www.petuniapress.com>>.

~ **OF INTEREST, continued** ~

VETERANS' ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress has developed a program to collect and preserve written, audio and video recorded histories from America's war veterans.

Simple guidelines are available in a kit which can be obtained by writing to:

Veterans History Project
American Folklife Center
Library of Congress
101 Independence Avenue SE
Washington DC 20540-4615

You can also download the information from their web site at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vetskit.html>.

A veteran may submit their own experiences, or you can interview family and friends. The kit includes information about releases, etc. You are not required to send the material to Washington if you can make arrangement to have it stored in a local repository, but the Library of Congress would like information on where it is housed.

This is a wonderful contribution to future generations that we as genealogists can assist in creating.

Reprinted from South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 26, Number 1, Nov-Dec 2002.

SCGS 2002 WRITERS CONTEST

The deadline for entries in the third annual Southern California Genealogical Society's Writers Contest is December 31. There is no entry fee this year. The categories are:

- Category 1: Family, local or ancestral history that required research. Maximum length 2,000 words. Prizes: \$250, \$125, and \$75.
- Category 2: Miscellaneous. Length 1,000 to 2,000 words, including end notes. Prizes: \$250, \$125, and \$75.
- Category 3: Miscellaneous. Length up to 1,000 words, including end notes. Prizes: \$125, \$75, and \$50.

Let's give Aaron a run for his money this year! For complete details, see the SCGS website at <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>.



JANUARY QHGS MEETING

Next month's meeting will feature Elaine Alexander, who has served at the Los Angeles Family History Center since 1992 as teacher, supervisor, assistant to the Director of Passenger Lists Collection, and head of the Naturalization Project. Elaine will be speaking on "United States Naturalization: Records and Process."

~ **ON THE WEB** ~

MEASURING AMERICA: THE
DECENNIAL CENSUSES FROM 1790 TO 2000

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/pol02-ma.pdf>

Since 1790, a U. S. population tally has been administered and recorded every ten years. Measuring America, recently released by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau, documents this census of population from its initial start in 1790, when marshals counted 3.9 million U. S. residents, to the year 2000, when the census totaled

281.4 million residents. This 149-page report traces the changes and growth of the U. S. population by providing descriptions of the questionnaires used in each census, along with the instructions on how to complete them. The report also reveals how each census was conducted and information about its historical significance. On the whole, this document provides resourceful information for those involved with census-related research, as well as genealogists, historians, demographers, and others concerned with the evolution of the U. S. population.

~ ON THE WEB, continued ~

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARIES ONLINE

Research Tips, compiled by Anne Tetley Butcher

<<http://www.lib.state.ca.us>> is the website address for the California State Libraries. It includes the card catalog for each California State Library, including the Sutro Library in San Francisco. This site also has catalogs for the California State University at Sacramento, Sacramento Public Library, Los Angeles Public Library and the Library of Congress, using two access methods: DRA and Voyager. The home page gives you many choices: Main Catalog, Picture Catalog, Braille and Talking Books Catalog, Special Resources, New Titles, New State Documents, Electronic Resources, the Library's Collections, Other Libraries, and Internet Links. Also, there are sections on How to Borrow, How to Recommend a Purchase, Hours, Addresses, and Help. If you find something you'd like to access, you can borrow materials through inter-library loan at your local library. While California State Libraries focus on California, they have a lot of resources from other states as well.

Reprinted from Rabbit Tracks, quarterly publication of the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society, Inc., Volume 20, Number 3 (Fall 2002).



MESSAGE BOARD ATTACHMENTS

You have probably posted a message, or replied to one on the RootsWeb/Ancestry message boards: <<http://boards.rootsweb.com/>>, but are you using the boards to their fullest potential?

Certain types of attachments -- gedcom files and graphic files, including pictures and scanned images -- may be attached to any board message. The potential uses of such attachments are endless. Post a transcription of a will, deed, or family Bible record and add a scan of the image of the original record for others to view and download.

Perhaps you have unidentified family photos you would like to upload so that others might view, and possibly identify, the people in the pictures. If you have a photo of an ancestor's tombstone upload it

when posting an obituary for that individual. Signature comparisons can help prove or disprove whether you have found the correct ancestor. Actual scanned signatures may be uploaded and added to a post for researchers to examine. In addition to posting a query, attach a gedcom of your family tree that may be downloaded by other researchers.

You may add up to five attachments to any single message. Graphics files will be converted to .jpg or .gif format upon upload. Files other than gedcom and graphics files are not accepted.

To add an attachment click on "Attachments: [Add]" when viewing the "Post New Message" or "Post Reply" screen. Either type in the path to the location of the gedcom or graphics file on your computer, or click on the browse button to navigate to the file and then select it for uploading.

After you have located your file or files and the paths are showing in the boxes next to the browse button, click on "Submit" option to upload the files. Complete your message and remember to click on "Post." You also can select "Preview" if you want to proofread your message before you select "Post."

The attached files will be accessible when anyone views your message. When viewing a message, look for the icon -- it's a colorful swirl within a box -- beneath the message. That denotes there is an attachment to that post.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: Volume 5, Number 23, 5 June 2002.



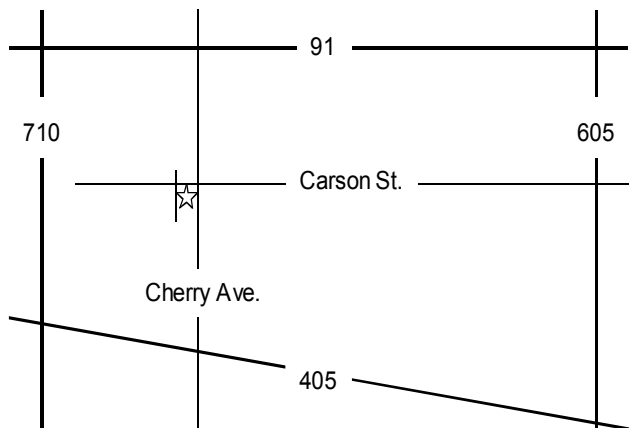
1901 U. K. CENSUS ONLINE

The testing phase is officially over! The 1901 U. K. Census, which became available to the public just last year due to their 100-year privacy rule, is now online and operating twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

You can read the Public Record Office's complete announcement and start your search from this page: <<http://www.pro.gov.uk/about/access/statement.htm>>.

~ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ~

- Friday, December 6, 6:00 pm. **BIFHS-USA Annual Holiday Potluck Party** at the Los Angeles FHC.* In lieu of their regular December meeting, the British Isles Family History Society will be having a Christmas party, with games, entertainment, and food supplied by the members. Details available on their web page at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/index.html>>
- Saturday, December 7, 9:00 am-1:30 pm. **Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue. Guest speaker Randy Thompson. Topic: "Introduction to Genealogical Resources at NARA Laguna Niguel."
- Sunday, December 15, 1:15 pm. **Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Annual Christmas Potluck and Show & Tell.** Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. Parking and entrance on Gardenia Avenue, one block west of Cherry Avenue.
- Saturday, December 21, 12:00 pm. **Whittier Area Genealogical Society Annual Christmas Potluck and Show & Tell.** Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. For more information, visit <<http://www.cagenweb/~kr/wags>>, or call Miriam Benell at (562) 695-5431 or Roger Mount at (562) 693-2674.
- Saturday, February 22, 2003, 8:00 am-4:00 pm. **Whittier Area Genealogical Society 21st Annual Seminar.** Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. With speaker Katherine Scott Sturdevant. Topics include: The Immigrant Experience; Trailing Families: Westward Migration Patterns in Family History; Don't Throw It Away! Utilizing Artifacts in Family History Research and Writings; and Let Family Papers Speak for Themselves: Documentary Editing for Family Historians. For more information, contact Jean Bogart, Seminar Director, phone (626) 333-1194, email <BJCBogie@aol.com> or visit <<http://www.cagenweb/~kr/wags>>.
- Friday, February 28, 2003, 1:00-9:00 pm & Saturday, March 1, 2003, 8:00 am-6:00 pm. **Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree.** Pasadena Center, 300 E. Green Street at Marengo. Parking \$7.00. Exhibitors, software demonstrations, how-to lectures, picture restoration, maps, computer programs, CDs, old, new and used books, videos, new products which relate to the hobby of genealogy and family history. Speakers include: Michael Daigle, Bill Doty, Arlene Eakle, Wade Hone, Joan Lowrey, Andy Pomeroy, Don Ray, Barbara Renick, and Tom Underhill. Grand Door Prize: round-trip air fare to Salt Lake City and six nights at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel. Donation: one day \$12.00, two days \$20.00. Phone (818) 843-7247 or visit <www.scsgenealogy.org> for more information.



* FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FHCs are open free of charge to members of the general public interested in doing genealogical research. Volunteers are on hand and will gladly give you assistance. Regular hours for the Los Angeles FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LA FHC is located on the grounds of the Los Angeles Temple, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles; their phone number is (310) 474-9990. Their web page at <<http://www.lafhc.org>> details their extensive collection. There are smaller FHCs locally, in Long Beach at 3701 Elm Avenue in Bixby Knolls, phone (562) 988-0509, in Los Alamitos, phone (714) 821-6914, and in Cerritos, phone (562) 924-3676. It is advisable to call ahead to the local centers, as their hours change from time to time.