

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 1 ♦ January 2003

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, JANUARY 19, 2003

1:15 – CLASSES

BASIC: Locating your Families in the Census Records of 1930 back through 1880

INTERMEDIATE: Grandmother Was a Viking, presented by Richard Hoover

Time for chatting, browsing and refreshments – 2:15 – Sign up to borrow the microfilm reader

2:30 – GENERAL MEETING

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E L A I N E A L E X A N D E R :
HOW TO LOCATE UNITED STATES PASSENGER LISTS

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Questing Heirs Board meeting to follow



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~ JANUARY SPEAKER ~

Our January speaker will be Elaine Alexander. Her theme will be "How to Locate United States Passenger Lists."

Elaine has served at the Los Angeles Family History Center (LA FHC) since 1992 as teacher, supervisor, assistant to the Director of Passenger Lists collection and head of the Naturalization Project. She has been an Instructor of Basic Genealogy and an Instructional Materials Developer at UCLA's Extension Division, California State University at Northridge, and Los Angeles City College.

In addition to her work at the LA FHC, Elaine lectures throughout southern California. This past year she presented four seminars at The British Isles & Ireland Family History Society's international three-day conference aboard the Queen Mary here in Long Beach.

She has two texts in process:

- ◆ How to Locate Hard-to-Find Naturalization Records
- ◆ Passenger Arrival Records: What Can You Hope to Find

Before entering the field of genealogy, Elaine served as State of Connecticut Mentor Teacher, Grant Developer, and Reading Consultant. She also worked as Research Assistant at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute.

~ JANUARY INTERMEDIATE CLASS ~

Be sure to join us for "Grandmother was a Viking," presented by Richard Hoover. Yes, Richard finally found his Norwegian ancestors, in spite of the fact that they changed their names when they reached America. And back in Norway, they changed their surname with each generation due to the patronymic system. However, these obstacles have not kept Richard from discovering the saga of his Olson family. Uff da!*

* See page 6 for an explanation of this extremely useful Norwegian interjection.

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

November INCOME	\$	146.62
November EXPENSES	\$	403.10
BALANCE as of November 30, 2002 \$ 3,235.41		

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

DECEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE: Members: 23 Visitors: 1

RENEWALS for December

Brewer, Irene	Subscription	\$12	to 9/03
Buras, Joy	Individual	\$18	to 9/03
Taylor, Patric & Sherri	Family	\$27	to 9/03

Thanks to all for your continued support!

~ **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN** ~

GENEALOGISTS AND FAMILY SECRETS

At the suggestion of our treasurer, Dave Werts, we devoted part of our December meeting to the problem of dealing with family secrets when writing a genealogy. Family secrets are a potential minefield. As genealogists, we want to tell the truth that we have worked so hard to uncover, but we also have no desire to alienate our families. Family history is supposed to be a positive force. Thus we are sometimes faced with difficult decisions, and must be guided by ethical considerations.

Discussions of ethics for genealogists, unfortunately, are usually limited to a sort of Genealogist's Creed, something to the effect that "I will tell the whole truth all of the time and always cite my sources when I plagiarize the work of others." That's fine, as far as it goes, but it entirely ducks the problem of which family secrets should be revealed and which should remain hidden.

For that, we have to think carefully! Our discussion was based on two resources. First, I highly recommend a little book by the well-known philosopher Sissela Bok, Secrets (1982). Secrecy, it turns out, is part of everyday life, and it is widely abused. In the name of "privacy," for example, a school bus driver might conceal a dangerous heart condition, even though keeping this secret places children at risk. We understand that there are limits on secrecy, when the secret may cause harm to others. A particularly subversive kind of secret is illustrated by the situation where a mother tells her child that she intends to leave her husband, but requires the child not to tell his father. The child is being asked to be disloyal to his father. The more he keeps the secret, the more disloyal he feels. We recognize that keeping a secret may be every bit as destructive as revealing it. Examples such as these show that there are many dimensions to secrecy.

The second resource for our discussion was the collective experience of our members. *Questing Heirs* is fortunate to have many members who have lived long and complicated lives. Some have the experience of family secrets in their own lives. When our members explain from personal experience what it is like to be told as a child that their parents were not their real parents, their perspective on these situations carries great weight. Likewise, the feeling that it is usually not harmful to reveal secrets of generations long dead, but potentially very harmful when participants or their

children are still living and consider the matter sensitive. I would *almost* go so far as to recommend that genealogists not attempt a book that traces a family into modern times until they have reached retirement age. It may take many years to develop sufficient "discretion" – the ability to determine which things should be said and which should not be – in relating the story of a family.

While waiting for our sense of discretion to develop, however, I think we need to pay attention to the possibly conflicting interests that might attend the writing of a family history:

- ◆ How do I know I have the whole story, and that no one's motives or character has been misrepresented?
- ◆ Is the secret something that would ordinarily be considered private, or is there some overriding aspect that gives it significance beyond the immediate family?
- ◆ Is the secret causing harm to anyone? Is it keeping someone from making important decisions? Does it involve people against their will, or who can't speak for themselves (such as children)?
- ◆ Would revealing the secret cause harm to anyone? Would anyone benefit if it were revealed? Can the participants in the secret cope with the consequences of revelation?
- ◆ How much of the secret is already in the public record?
- ◆ For purposes of family history, is it *necessary* to reveal the secret? Would the significance of someone's life be better summed up by concentrating on other facets of his or her life?
- ◆ Has anyone been coerced or manipulated to keep the secret?
- ◆ What is the motive for keeping the secret?
- ◆ How would I feel if this story were printed about me?
- ◆ Who am I to reveal the truth? Am I trying to reveal the secret in order to get back at someone? Are my motives above reproach?

Family secrets, both good and bad, are part of the reason that we do genealogy. But we have a responsibility to use our findings wisely.

John McCoy

~ **FEATURE ARTICLE** ~

**DONATING
GENEALOGY MATERIALS**

by Susan Scouras <Susan.Scouras@wvculture.org>

As a librarian with the West Virginia Archives and History Library, I would like to make several suggestions regarding recent discussion in *Missing Links* about what to do with one's personal genealogy when there is not another family historian who will appreciate the inheritance. Donation to a library, the larger and the more prominent the better, makes the information the most accessible to anyone searching for the same family. Do a little research to locate the library that has the best genealogy collection in the state or other geographic area most closely associated with your family. Possible recipients of your donation are a genealogical or historical society, a college or university library, a sizeable public library, or a state library and/or archives (in some states, the two functions are in separate agencies and in others are combined). Ask for a copy of their collection policy regarding donations, and discuss terms with them for the donation of your specific materials. Ask how materials are made available to the public and how different types of materials will be preserved. Be prepared to be flexible. Keeping all of your materials in the same box, regardless of type or format, will not be feasible for many institutions nor wise for preservation purposes. Generally, photographs will be housed in a photograph collection, bound books (with a gift plate inserted) will go on the library shelves, letters and journals may go in a manuscript collection, genealogy charts will be placed in a folder in a map case, while postcards and scrapbooks will be considered special collections. The West Virginia State Archives even has a separate collection of West Virginia family Bibles. Regardless, in any setting most materials should be accessible through the library's catalog under the subject heading of your family name.

Usually you will be asked to sign a donation form that allows the institution to use the materials as it sees fit, as long as you are credited as the donor. I know West Virginia Archives and History does not make a significant profit from this practice; however, I realize that our fee schedule is necessary to cover our costs. For example, area restaurants and other businesses often decorate with copies of photographs of West Virginia scenes from our collection. We also receive requests from all types of publishers and filmmakers for West Virginia-related images. When we provide these images, we always name the donor ("From the A. B. Cee Collection.") and ask that the donor be credited. Individuals may also purchase photographic copies of images in our collection.

If you donate a typescript of your family history, generally the West Virginia Archives and History Library will have your manuscript bound in a standard library binding, cataloged as a published book, and placed on the library shelf for public use.

Based on our experience with genealogy collections accepted by us in the past, we know an explanation of how the material is organized will be very helpful. While various record-keeping systems for family history have been developed and improved over the years, there is no standard method for organizing a family tree. Please include a description of the system you have adopted or that you have devised for yourself. If no one can figure out how your system works, your information has limited value. At the very least, a good genealogy chart that shows names and dates will be a basic guide to accessing the more detailed information in your collection. Please, please, please do not assume that the library will do the organizing for you! Few, if any, tax-supported institutions are going to have the staff time to spend on this type of project unless your family history is of significant historical interest in some way (prominent politician, scientist, artist, author, etc.).

A bonus of donating to an institution such as the West Virginia State Archives is that your materials are also made available to the State Museum for display. If you have clothing, artifacts, antiques, etc., that you would like to donate along with your research materials, in West Virginia you can keep them all in the same building. The State Museum considers these type of items with West Virginia connections, while all paper, photographic, tape and film formats are reviewed by the State Archives for acceptance. We are also interested in West Virginia-related business or professional records for our collection. We have architectural drawings, blueprints, account ledgers, etc., from a variety of West Virginians. Look for a similar arrangement in your state of choice.

Finally, please write or call the institution and make formal arrangements for acceptance of your donation. While the West Virginia Archives and History Library will accept any family history book for the library collection, all other materials must have a West Virginia connection to be considered for acquisition. Most libraries and archives will have similar policies. If the institution you have selected is not the appropriate place for your collection, hopefully the staff there can guide you to a better home for your work.

Previously published in Missing Links, Vol. 7, No. 44, 3 November 2002. Subscription information: <<http://www.petuniapress.com>>.

~ **RECORDS OF THE WAR OF 1812** ~

OK, so you finally found a record that indicates your ancestor served in the War of 1812. Now what? I have to admit, the situation is not at all clear!

There are several sources of information that would point you to the War of 1812. First, the U. S. National Archives has several indexes on microfilm. The two most important are the index of PENSION APPLICATIONS for 1812 (microfilm series M313, including, apparently, bounty land applications for this war), and the index of SERVICE RECORDS for volunteer soldiers in the War of 1812 (microfilm series M602). In addition, microfilm series M848 covers bounty land warrants issued under congressional acts of 1812, 1814, and 1842 (four separate indexes on the first microfilm reel, followed by the actual books in which the bounty land information was recorded). Also, there are separate microfilms dealing with service records for Louisiana (M229), North Carolina (M250), and South Carolina (M652).

The various states whose militia participated in the War of 1812 have also published muster rolls and similar records. I found what appears to be my ancestor John Wingate McCoy among the published muster rolls of Maryland. Family notes say he often recounted that he was on guard duty at Ft. McHenry the

night the Star-Spangled Banner was penned by Francis Scott Key. There was indeed a John McCoy in a unit from Baltimore that would have been in the area when the fort was bombarded, but when I finally obtained the service record from the National Archives, it said he deserted. He was in Captain Wm. Brown Jr.'s Co., 6th Regt., Maryland Militia, August 19, 1814 to November 5, 1814, and deserted November 5, 1814. The siege of Ft. McHenry occurred September 13-14, 1814, preceded by General Ross burning Washington D. C. and taking Alexandria, Virginia. At the time, he was twenty years old. I believe he deserted because his family was then leaving for Adams County, Ohio! But this example illustrates how little information may be preserved. There may be so little information, in fact, that you might never be sure whether the soldier was really your ancestor, or just another man of the same name.

Aside from bounty land offered as an inducement to enlist (acts of 1812 and 1814), or as a reward for having served (1842), the only pensions available before 1871 from this war were for disability or death resulting directly from service in the war. In 1871 there was finally some provision for pensioning the remaining veterans, who were then in their seventies or eighties. The number of pensions granted for

the War of 1812 was thus not very large, compared with the number granted for the Revolutionary War.

If you do find an entry in the index of pension applications, be sure to record the soldier's state, unit, and rank, as well as the application number(s). The application number begins with "SC" if the soldier himself made the claim, or "WC" if is widow claimed a pension. In the index to service records, you need to record the soldier's name exactly as spelled on the index card, along with the state, unit, and rank, and any other information that might be on the card. You might want to make a photocopy of the index card.

You need to use NATF Form 85 for pension or bounty land warrant applications, or Form 86 for military service records. In either case, fill in as much information as you are sure of from the index records, enclose the required fee, and send the form to the address given on the form. If you think there might be difficulty with the records, because of unusual spellings, soldier using an alias, etc., feel free to enclose a copy of the index card so that they will know you have done your homework. I will bring a few copies of the forms to the January meeting of Questing Heirs. See you there!



Submitted by John McCoy.

~ **OF INTEREST** ~

UFF DA!

You have probably seen this on a bumper sticker on a car somewhere in the United States or Canada. Norwegians have been known to express themselves with "uff da!" in many situations, but you can't find it in the dictionary. Below are a few situations where you might hear a Norwegian utter "uff da!"

- ◆ Trying to dance the polka to rock and roll music.
- ◆ Eating at Inga and Lena's restaurant and finding out they only serve Mexican food.
- ◆ Having Swedish meatballs at a lutefisk supper.
- ◆ Finding out Ole and Sven's is a pizza place in Grand Marais, Minnesota.
- ◆ Having more miles on your snowblower than your car.
- ◆ Walking downstairs and then forgetting what you wanted.
- ◆ Arriving late at a lutefisk supper and getting served minced ham instead.
- ◆ Having to take your kids trick-or-treating in a blizzard.
- ◆ Trying to pour two buckets of manure into one bucket.
- ◆ Having a mouse crawl up your leg when you're on a hayload.
- ◆ Eating hot soup when you've got a runny nose.
- ◆ Knowing somewhere in the state of Minnesota is a piece of frozen metal with a piece of your tongue still attached.
- ◆ Getting swished in the face with a cow's wet tail.
- ◆ Waking yourself up in church with your own snoring.
- ◆ Forgetting your mother-in-law's first name.
- ◆ Having spent the last fifteen minutes getting your kid dressed to play in the snow only to have him tell you that *now* he has to go potty.
- ◆ Noticing non-Norwegians at a church dinner using lefse for a napkin.
- ◆ Eating a delicious sandwich and then discovering the spread is cat food.
- ◆ Sneezing so hard at the dinner table that your false teeth end up in the bread plate.
- ◆ Having attended a formal affair in your best dress and finest jewelry, wearing your Sorrels.

SBCGS JANUARY MEETING

At its January meeting, the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society will present Janice Wheeler, who is a moderator of, and contributor to, the Obituary Daily Times.

Obituary Daily Times is specifically for *your* ancestor's published obituary. Bring at least one obituary to the meeting -- the older, the better. Please make certain that your obituaries include the publication name, date published, as well as the city and state.

The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 15 in the Public Meeting Room of the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Enter through the main door, the meeting room is on the left. Call (310) 618-5959 for directions. The meeting is free, and everyone is welcome. Coffee will be served. For more information, see <www.rootsweb.com/~casbcgs>.

Submitted by Priscilla (Colvin) Nielsen.



SBCGS BUS TRIP

South Bay Cities Genealogical Society invites you to join us on a bus trip to the National Archives in Laguna Niguel on Saturday, January 18, 2003.

Your round-trip seat costs only \$22.00. You can mail your payment to: SBCGS - NARA Trip, P.O. Box 11069, Torrance, CA 90510, or you can pay at the SBCGS general meeting on January 15.

Be ready for a full day of research. The bus will depart promptly at 8:00 am and return around 5:30 pm. Limited seating is available, so it's first come, first served. Riders will catch the bus in the parking lot behind the Torrance Civic Center Library at 3301 Torrance Boulevard, where there's plenty of free parking.

Questions can be directed to Mike Cleary at <sakmcl@aol.com>. You can also visit the SBCGS website at <www.rootsweb.com/~casbcgs>.

Submitted by Priscilla (Colvin) Nielsen.

~ **OF INTEREST, continued** ~

**QHGS HONOR/MEMORIAL
BOOKS COLLECTION**

The Honor/Memorial Books Collection was started by Bob Brasher and Aaron Day for Family History Month in October of 2001. We are continuing to expand this collection. Members and friends are encouraged to buy a book in memory of someone, or to honor someone. A bookplate will be placed in the book and it will be added to the collection at the Main Long Beach Public Library. If you have a book or books to donate in honor or memory of someone, please contact Aaron Day or Bob Brasher. You may also bring them to the Questing Heirs monthly meeting.

Submitted by Aaron Day.



FEBRUARY QHGS MEETING

Next month's meeting will feature Charles Meigs, who teaches classes at the Los Angeles Family History Center. The topic for the basic class will be "Locating your Families in the Census Records of 1870 through 1790."

QHGS ON THE GO

MaryEmma Holley Hargrave is proposing a couple of trips to local repositories for the coming months, and would like to get some input from the membership.

The first possible destination is the Yorba Linda Family History Center in Orange County.

The other trip would be to the Southern California Genealogical Society Library in Burbank. Their hours are:

Monday	closed
Tuesday	10 am – 9 pm
Wed – Thu – Fri	10 am – 4 pm
1 st & 2 nd Saturday	closed
3 rd & 4 th Sunday	closed

MaryEmma suggests going on a Tuesday and bringing lunch or a snack, as they are open later.

Please let MaryEmma know if you are interested in going. You can leave her a message at (562) 799-8857.



~ **ON THE WEB** ~

**1930 CENSUS INDEX COMPLETE
AT ANCESTRY.COM**

Ancestry.com announced on December 20 that it had posted indexes for all of Alabama, American Samoa, Guam, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands, and Wisconsin, along with updates to some previously released states, completing its every-name index to the 1930 census. This is the only national index of the 1930 enumeration, and contains 124 million names. All the census images are already online, with the exception of those from four rolls of microfilm, which had some problems and are being reprocessed. Subscription information can be found at <<http://www.ancestry.com/>>.

UK BMD INDEXES ONLINE

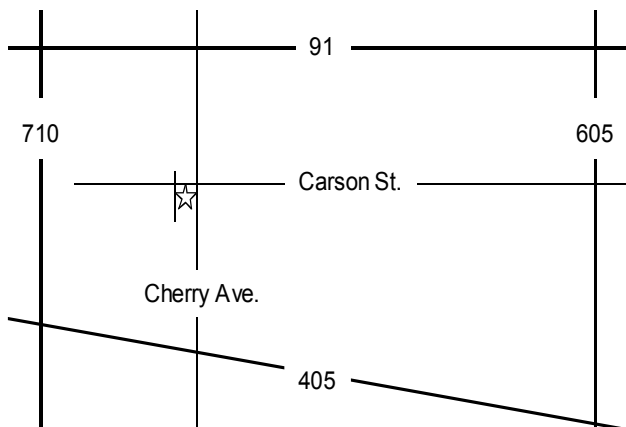
Family Research Link, a new branch of Title Research, a well-known UK company, will soon be offering UK Birth, Marriage, and Death index images online. Pages can be viewed, printed, or saved at a minimum charge of £5 (about \$7.50 US) for 50 page views. The website is still undergoing testing; a launch date is to be announced in January 2003. You can download the required viewer plugin, view a sample page, and read more about the company now at <<http://www.1837online.com>>.



Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. Mother Teresa 1910-1997

~ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ~

- Saturday, January 4, 9:00 am-1:30 pm. **Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue. Speaker: Barbara Renick. Topics: Reference Tools for the Genealogist On-Line; Research Guidance, Where Do I Look Next?
- Wednesday, January 15, 7:00 pm. **South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. See notice on page 6 for program information.
- Saturday, January 18, 12:00 pm. **Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.
- Sunday, January 19, 1:15 pm. **Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. Parking and entrance on Gardenia Avenue, one block west of Cherry Avenue. See page 2 for program information.
- Sunday, January 26, 1:00 pm. **BIFHS-USA monthly meeting** at the Los Angeles FHC.*
- Sunday, February 16, 1:15 pm. **Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** See page 7 for program information.
- 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.