



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 5 ♦ May 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, MAY 18, 2003



1:15 – INTERMEDIATE CLASS & DISCUSSION
Genealogical News, moderated by John McCoy



2:15 – BREAK
Time for chatting, browsing and refreshments



2:30 – GENERAL MEETING

CHARLOTTE MARIE BOCAGE
I Thought I Was Organized – So Don't Do What I Did!



Questing Heirs Board meeting to follow



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~ FINANCIAL REPORT ~

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

MARCH 2003

Income	\$	188.02
Expenses		307.70
Balance as of March 31	\$	2454.43

~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

APRIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 26 Guests: 3

RENEWALS

Betty Bell FELDMAN	Individual	to 9/03
Barbara CARY	Individual	to 9/03

~ REFRESHMENTS ~

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thank you to our April Hosts:

- ◆ Connie (Little) WILLIAMS
- ◆ Mary Emma (Holley) HARGRAVE
- ◆ George JOHNSON
- ◆ Mary M. (White) SMITH

[The list of our May Hosts was unavailable at press time, so we will thank them twice next time.]

~ MEMBER NEWS ~

Betty Bell (Bryant) FELDMAN is getting better every day and will be back with us soon, according to a letter she sent to Jeanette Jones. She misses seeing everyone and conducting the basic classes in family research, and expresses her appreciation to all her dear friends for pitching in and covering for her absence. She adds that she'd love to hear a happy message from anyone in the group on her voice mail at (714) 545-4493.



Dorothy DE LAPP has written to inform us that her husband Richard E. "Dick" DE LAPP passed away on December 27, 2002 from complications of diabetes, after having been ill for some time. He was 79 years old. Dorothy writes that they both enjoyed the Questing Heirs meetings and field trips. Our most sincere sympathy goes out to Dorothy.

~ MAY MEETING ~

SPEAKER: CHARLOTTE MARIE BOCAGE

Before 1977 Charlotte Bocage had a nagging question in her mind: "Who are my ancestors?" Then, in 1977, Roots inspired her to answer that question. The oral history passed on through her mother became the basis for her research. She is now the Family Historian, tracing her family back to 1835 in Louisiana, and has over nine hundred names in her family database.

The natural progression from family research is to a family reunion. She therefore serves as the Bocage Biennial Family Reunion chairperson and as the organizer for the Bocage Surname Association.

Charlotte's family is very important to her, and returning to her New Orleans roots is always a pleasure. Since retiring in 2001 she has had the opportunity to visit some of the newly-found relatives she added to her family tree.

She is organizing her family research in preparation to publish a Bocage family history book; she is also preparing to publish a book on her specialty, Louisiana research.

Charlotte started teaching religion classes in high school, taught training classes during her 31-year career with Pacific Bell, and now teaches several genealogy classes. Topics of her classes include: Let's Get (a Family Reunion) Together; Lost in Louisiana Research?; The Importance of Forms and Abstracts; and Gathering the Family Stories: Interviewing Techniques (in development).

Presently, she is the First Vice President of the California African American Genealogical Society, the secretary of the Atwater Village Residents Association, and the secretary of the SBC Pioneers-Airport Central Council.

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS & DISCUSSION:
Genealogical News, moderated by John McCoy**

From archives closings to budget cuts to mergers of dot com giants, there's a lot going on in the world of genealogy. So much, in fact, that we're going to devote this month's class time to discussing all the latest. So be sure to bring a news item to share with the group.

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

HOORAY FOR ENGLAND!

These days, the availability of genealogical records changes constantly. New laws restrict birth records in many states. Some jurisdictions are turning over records to private contractors so they no longer have to deal with the public. On the Internet, experiments with digitized and indexed records abound. Norway has its 1801 census on-line, intelligently indexed. Not all such experiments have been as successful, as we noted here in an earlier column.

We were pleasantly surprised by the latest project of the Public Record Office in London. They are indexing the wills probated in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. So far, over 800,000 wills from the period 1650 through 1858 have been indexed, and more are being added each week. The PRO has indexed not only the names of the testators, but also the date of probate, the place of residence of the deceased, and their occupation. At last, the PCC wills are easy to use!

The PCC reported to the Archbishop of Canterbury. It had jurisdiction over the most important estates in the British Isles, from the 14th Century until 1858, when probate was removed from the jurisdiction of the Church of England and became a civil matter. Among other reasons for an estate to find its way to the PCC was that it involved a British subject who died outside of England, or anyone who owned property in England. Estates of British subjects who died at sea were referred to this court, as were any estates from the south of England or from Wales when the estate involved property in more than one jurisdiction.

The web site, which can be found at <http://www.documentsonline.pro.gov.uk>, is simple and obvious. You can search by name, date, occupation, or key word. The results are displayed in a way that is easy to read. If an item looks interesting, you can order a scanned copy for less than \$5 on your credit card. (That's about the same cost you would pay if you managed to figure out which microfilm to order from Salt Lake City, and then tried to make copies from the microfilm.) Once the transaction is complete, you can download the images in PDF format and display them using the free Acrobat Reader. Then the fun begins.

The wills were recorded in huge ledgers with a quill pen. The handwriting is nearly blinding at first, but you can get used to it, especially if you are already familiar with the kinds of things that wills are likely to say. I quickly found five wills that were of interest to me.

My strangest find was listed in the index as the will of Anne Johannot d'Annonay of Berne, probated in 1741. Which of my Johannot family could she be? When I displayed the image, I realized this was not an English will at all. Anne Johannot had left Annonay, France as a result of the persecution of Protestants there in 1685. She took refuge in Bern, Switzerland, sharing her resources with another refugee, Magdelaine Peccat of Grenoble, France. These pious ladies lived together for the next forty years, when, about 1728, they decided they should settle their affairs. They made bequests to their relatives -- mostly nieces and nephews -- but left the rest to whichever of them should survive, for her lifetime. Anne Johannot had the most money, and some cherished silver, but Magdelaine owned stock in the East Indian Company, purchased for her by some of Anne's relatives who had settled in London as merchants. When Magdelaine died, about 1741, the Prerogative Court of Canterbury required a copy of the will in order to settle ownership of the stock.

This is one reason why these wills are so important: they contain copies of wills made in other countries that would otherwise be impossible to locate. There are, for example, hundreds of wills relating to people from Switzerland, and over a thousand relating to French citizens.

It should not be long before the wills are available back to 1620. When that happens, we will be able to search for the English estates of the American colonists! Previous to this, it was necessary to leave such matters to specialists, or to rely on published abstracts. Soon, these important documents will be accessible as never before. Hooray for England -- the PRO has democratized the PCC!

John McCoy

- NOTES FROM THE JAMBOREE -

AMERICAN TAX RECORDS, WITH A KENTUCKY CASE STUDY
Presented by Wade Hone at the SCGS 2003 Jamboree

The speaker's main point was that tax records, like other records, must be searched thoroughly and creatively if they are to provide answers to genealogical questions. We normally think of searching tax lists at the county level, but Mr. Hone pointed out that federal taxes also created records. What was taxed and how the lists were kept on the state and local level varied from state to state and among counties.



Key dates to remember in regard to federal taxation policies are the following:

1798 The first direct tax was initiated. There were three schedules: one for land and lots, one for houses and other buildings, and one for slaves. Both the occupant and the owner were listed, and the owner's residence was given if he did not live locally. These tax lists can be used as a substitute for the 1800 census. Although the tax was federal, the records were kept at the state level because the states were responsible for paying the tax on their residents.

The National Archives has only the list for Pennsylvania. The Family History Library has microfilms of some of the lists. Others are in the Connecticut Historical Society, Historical Society of Delaware, Maryland Historical Society (MD & DC), New England Historic Genealogical Society (ME, MA & NH), Rhode Island Historical Society, Tennessee State Library & Archives, and Vermont Historical Society.

1814 and 1816 Money had to be raised for the War of 1812. Again the states were responsible for paying the tax, and records are at the state level. Unfortunately, they are very fragmented and scattered.

1862 to 1866 Money was needed for the Civil War. Income was taxed for the first time but only for ten years and not many people had enough income to be taxed. Records for this time period are held at the national level, most in Record Group 58 (Internal Revenue Service). Those in Record Group 217 (or possibly 117) relate to southern states, whose taxes couldn't be collected during the war. Mr. Hone also mentioned Record Groups 39, 50, and 56.

1913 The first permanent federal income tax, which required a change to the Constitution, was instituted.



A case study in Kentucky was used to illustrate a number of points:

- ◆ To get a picture of a family, you have to search a number of consecutive years.
- ◆ A male first appeared as an independent tithable at age 21.
- ◆ Many lists also included a category for males 16-21, and sometimes gave their names. Watch to see when a man who had more than one tithable drops one, and a new man of the same surname appears on the list.
- ◆ If a man's estate is taxed, you know about when he died.
- ◆ A woman is not usually listed, but may be after her husband's death.
- ◆ When the number of acres and the watercourse where they're located are given on a land tax list, you may be able to separate families of the same surname.
- ◆ It may even help to note the number of horses a man possesses in case he gives one or two to a son when the younger man sets up his own household.

~ OF INTEREST ~

**TIPS, HINTS & TRIVIA BY
CONNIE MORETTI:
IS YOUR FAMILY LOST?**

Good maps are an essential aid to family history research. When you can pinpoint where the family resided, you can open the door to a wide variety of other resources.

Use a combination of census records and land deeds to help you find this precise location. If your family didn't own land, look at the deeds of the neighbors on the census to help you find the location.

In Federal Land States, the range and township descriptions will allow you to locate your family, probably in the correct portion of a particular section. In State Land States, measured in metes and bounds, you will have to rely on named geographic features or roads, but it is still possible to locate the residence area.

Once you've determined the ancestral place of residence, where can you get useful maps? Topographic maps show great detail. They can be ordered from the US Geological Service or looked at on-line at <http://www.topozone.com>.

How can maps help you in your research? You can determine:

- 1) Where family might be buried, and their valuable tombstone information. Most topographic maps show even the smallest family cemeteries.
- 2) Where family might have worshiped, and their valuable church records. The same topographic maps will usually

show the churches in an area.

- 3) Where family probably shopped. The nearest town may be across the county line, but its social & fraternal organizations and newspapers were likely more convenient for your family.
- 4) Potential birth families of marriage partners. People, as a rule, married those who lived nearby, and maps can help you sort the potential families.

Reprinted from the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 26, No. 3, March-April 2003.



RESEARCH TIP

When visiting a public records office, library, or research center, use only pencils and have a pre-made plan of what documents, publications, etc., are required during the visit.

Likewise, request documents in advance of a visit, and once there, always request documents prior to need, so that as soon as you have finished with one document, another is readably available, to help save on lost time.

In all the advice I have ever been given, no one has *ever* mentioned that one should take a good magnifying glass. Even with good eyesight, some documents can be extremely difficult to read.

Plan ahead, take any relevant notes with you to remind you what information you are seeking, take a few pencils with soft lead (and don't forget that pencil sharpener), an eraser, plenty of paper and of course, an aid to view badly written or faded documents.

Finally, there are times when you are only allowed a set time on a computer or microfiche, so ensure you have a watch or are in view of a clock. Keep an eye on the clock and always make sure you take notes of exactly where you obtained your information so that you can return to that exact place in the document at the next visit.

-- Norman Rochester

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ANCESTOR BOOKMARKS

Since I've begun tracing my genealogy (and been a mother), I have become interested in arts and crafts. One project I am planning to start soon is ancestor bookmarks. I will put a picture of an ancestor along with bookmark-sized facts about the individual (birth/death date and place, who they married, and a couple of small interesting tidbits). They can be made easily with a scanner and a word document. I can fit more than one bookmark on a page, and laminate them at a low cost. They'll make great gifts for those family members who are interested in the information I find while researching (and hopefully keep them looking for updates).

-- LaKesha Kimbrough, Seattle

Reprinted from Ancestry Daily News, 15 January 2003. ©1998-2003, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. <www.ancestry.com/dailynews>.

~ ON THE WEB ~

**NEW TOOL AVAILABLE
AT CARLSBAD LIBRARY**

<http://www.cserv/genealog.html>

The Genealogy Division of the Carlsbad City Library is pleased to announce that its series of User Guides is now available at its web page. Ann Montgomery, Sue Team and Mary Van Orsdol created guides to some of the more complex resources in the Library to help researchers utilize them more effectively. Resources covered include Alabama Records, Barbour Collection of Connecticut Records, Corbin Manuscript Collection, New Jersey Archives, New York Archives, Pennsylvania Archives, and Vosburgh New York Church Records. These guides were printed and made available to researchers visiting the Library. Now, the guides are available on the Internet in PDF. Researchers can view or print them from their home computers.

Reprinted from Paths to the Past, newsletter of the North San Diego County Genealogical Society, Volume XXXIII, Number 2, March 2003.

◆

WISCONSIN NAME INDEX

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni>

The Wisconsin Historical Society has announced its Wisconsin Name Index, a new online tool to help genealogists research their Wisconsin ancestors.

The Wisconsin Name Index leads to more than 100,000 obituaries, personal sketches, and other short biographies of Wisconsin people. These texts originally appeared in 150 county and local histories, dozens of professional directories and biographical encyclopedias, more than 60 scrapbooks containing 30,000 obituaries, and in Wisconsin magazines and newspapers. Thousands include portraits and other illustrations. Users can search the database with a last name, first name, maiden name, time frame, and various other details. Photocopies of biographical sketches, articles, and obituaries can all be ordered online through our online genealogical research service.

The name index was created not by amateurs but by professional librarians at the State Historical Society. Starting about 1870, staff members made a catalog card

for every biographical sketch in each new Wisconsin county history. They made a similar card for every obituary added to the scrapbooks they called "Wisconsin Necrology," and frequently added cards for magazine and newspaper articles about Wisconsin residents. After more than a century of such work, the data on the original cards was typed into a database and the Wisconsin Name Index was born.

For additional information about the Wisconsin Historical Society and its genealogical tools, visit <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>, or contact Melissa McLimans, Administrator, Online Genealogical Research Service, Wisconsin Historical Society by email at historydocs@whs.wisc.edu.

Reprinted with permission from UpFront with NGS, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society, Volume 2, Number 6 -- 15 March 2003. Available at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.com>.



STORY CIRCLE NETWORK

<http://www.storycircle.org/>

The Story Circle Network is a not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to helping women everywhere share the stories of their lives. They offer publications and programs which empower women to create their own stories, discover their identities through their life stories, and choose to be the authors of their lives.

Their activities include instructional programs, such as Reading Circles, Writing Circles, classes in personal writing, workshops, and retreats, a website, an Internet Chapter, support of local chapters, print publications (including the Network's quarterly journal), and a national conference.

~ EPITAPHS ~

Wallace Ford, British actor 1897 – 1966

Y At last I get top billing. **Z**

Dorothy Parker 1893 – 1967

Y Excuse my dust. **Z**

~ O N T H E W E B, c o n t i n u e d ~

A MIDWIFE'S TALE

<<http://www.dohistory.org>>

Martha Moore Ballard, a New England midwife, began her diary booklets on 1 January 1785 while living with her husband Ephraim on the Kennebec River near the present-day towns of Hollowell and Augusta, Main. Martha continued to record the events of her everyday life for more than twenty-seven years (9,965 days). Her last entry was made on 7 May 1812, not long before her death.

In 1884, the diary was given to Mary Hobart, Martha's great-great granddaughter, as a graduation gift after finishing medical school. Mary organized and bound the pages of Martha's hand-sewn booklets into two large volumes. These volumes were donated to the Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine in 1930 and eventually photographed (1,400 images) in 1982 by E. Wheaton of the Maine State Archive and made into a microfilm. That same year, Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, a University of New Hampshire history professor, discovered the diary and began working on "A Midwife's Tale." Published in 1990, Ulrich's book was awarded the Pulitzer, the Bancroft, and several other prizes.

Shortly after the book was published, film producer Laurie Kahn-Leavitt teamed up with director Richard Rogers to produce a PBS film that would interweave the story of Martha Ballard's life with Laurel Ulrich's process of piecing it together. The popularity of the book and film inspired the Film Study Center at Harvard University to develop and maintain the DoHistory Web site. Using Martha Ballard's life and diary as an example, the DoHistory site illustrates how to "piece together the past from the fragments that have survived."

Highlights of the site include:

- ◆ A searchable text version of Martha Ballard's diary.
- ◆ Digitally enhanced copies of E. Wheaton's 1,400 diary photos, which are searchable by word or topic and are available in two resolutions; one for onscreen viewing and the other print-ready.
- ◆ A digitized archive of primary documents and

historical letters from the same time period as Martha's diary.

- ◆ A collection of maps and pictures from Martha's world, plus historical timelines and "A Walking Tour of Hallowell, Main" in portable document format (.PDF).
- ◆ Quick time video clips from the PBS video, "A Midwife's Tale."

Reprinted with permission from UpFront with NGS, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society, Volume 2, Number 2 -- 15 January 2003. Co-editors: Dennis and Carla Ridenour. <<http://www.NGSgenealogy.org>>.



NEW DATABASES AT NARA WEB PAGE

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/title_list.jsp>

Irish Famine Immigrants to New York 1846-1851.
Japanese-American Internee File, 1942-1946.
Korean War File of American Prisoners of War.



WELSH WARRIOR NAME GENERATOR

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/wales/name_generator.pl>

Everyone needs a Welsh warrior name! At this web page, part of the BBC Wales site, you enter your name, your father's name, and a few other details, and it comes up with your very own Welsh warrior name. (Mine is Mihangel ap Trebor y Tewpechodhyll o Wlad Madog – say that five times real fast!) At this site you can also listen to the radio and even watch the news in Welsh, known as “the language of heaven” or “the language best spoken while spitting out cherry pits.”



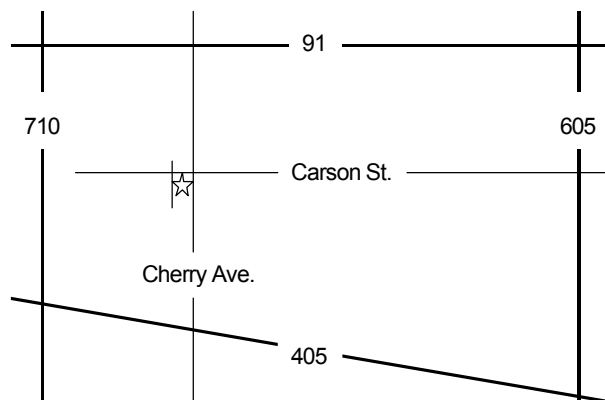
**HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
ONLINE DATABASES**

<<http://www.co.harris.tx.us/websrvcs.html>>

Searchable databases of births, marriages, deaths, voter registration, probate, taxes, and deed indexes for Houston and environs.

~ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ~

- ◆ Saturday, May 3, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.
- ◆ Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 – 9:00 pm. BIFHS-USA lecture at the Los Angeles FHC.* An Evening with Dr. Colin Chapman. The noted English lecturer, author, historian and genealogist will be speaking on “Sin, Sex, and Marriage,” regaling the group with stories of our ancestors from England. Find out if your ancestors were really married!
- ◆ Saturday, May 17, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. WAGS Birthday Party and performance by the Zouaves. *[And no, I did not make that up!]*
- ◆ **Sunday, May 18, 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 map at right. For program information, see page 34.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ◆ Sunday, May 25, 12:00 – 6:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.*
- ◆ Wednesday, May 28 - Saturday, May 31. National Genealogical Society's 100th Anniversary Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Theme: Moving a Nation Westward. Tag line: Come to Pittsburgh -- your ancestors did! Phone (800) 473-0060 or visit <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.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>> provides details of 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.

