

~ SEPTEMBER MEETING ~

SPEAKER: ANNIE LLOYD

Annie Lloyd was born in California, the daughter of a mother of Colonial-American descent and a Welsh immigrant father. She is a professional genealogist, columnist, lecturer and author of genealogical reference books on Welsh research.

However, she started genealogical research in 1982 working on an American family "where the records didn't exist." She will tell you how she started, what she did when she encountered that "we have no record," and how the whole thing came together.

Annie will be happy to answer any questions you may have on either American or Welsh research.

~ FINANCIAL REPORT ~

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

July Income	\$ 133.67
July Expenses	521.46
Balance as of July 31	\$ 1594.19
Balance designated for special projects	\$ 944.50
Balance available for operations	\$ 649.69

~ REFRESHMENTS ~

**Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562)
432-4908**

Thanks to our August Hosts:

Aaron Day
Richard Hoover
Jeanette (Marcus) Jones
Mike Powers

Our September Hosts will be:

Marilyn (DeLonjay) Brasher
Hazele (Thresher) Johnson
*[Plus a couple of others I missed when
all the hands went up. Sorry! -Editor]*



There is a history in all men's lives.

William Shakespeare

~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~

**Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562)
421-5610**

AUGUST MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 26 Guests: 5



RENEWALS

Ruth A. Anthes	Individual	to 9/05
Bob & Marilyn Brasher	Patron	to 9/04
John & Kathryn Foord	Contributing	to 9/04
Norma S. Brady	Individual	to 9/04
Jeanette A. Jones	Sustaining	to 9/04
LaVerne Maxwell	Individual	to 9/04
Elizabeth Myers	Individual	to 2/05
Bettie L. Perre	Individual	to 9/04
Helene Smith	Individual	to 9/04
Mary M. Smith	Individual	to 9/04
Linda Wittman	Individual	to 9/04



YEARLY DUES REMINDER

September is the month that our yearly dues come due for most members. Look on your newsletter address label -- if it says 9/03 or before, that means you need to pay your dues for the coming year. At the bottom of the back page you will see the various levels of membership:

Individual	\$18.00
Family	27.00
Newsletter subscriber	12.00

You will also note that there are three other levels:

Contributing	\$35.00
Sustaining	50.00
Patron	100.00

Please consider writing your check for one of these amounts. Our basic dues have not been raised for years. However, our basic costs for running the club have raised. PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

Bring your check to the September meeting or mail it to our post office box. If you have any questions about your dues, please call me or see me at the September meeting.

And, of course, thank you to the people whose dues we have received so far.

~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~

Evaluating a Sensational Story

Genealogists know historical documents can be unreliable. Most of the time, we deal with obscure people who left few traces in the sands of time. It is rare when we can relate someone's life story without noting at least one discrepancy. We understand how to deal with some uncertainty. But what if the story reads like a romantic novel? What if it *was* a romantic novel? Can you trust any genealogical statements it may contain?

About twenty years ago, I learned that a copy of a famous account of the Mormon trek from Illinois to Utah had been given to my McCoy family of Brown County, Illinois by a second cousin, Hugh Darius Smith, in the 1870s. The book claims to be the story of Mary Ettie Smith, wife of Hugh's brother Reuben P. Smith, first published in 1858 as "Fifteen Years among the Mormons." My Smith ancestors from Adams County, Ohio forgot to tell us where they lived before coming to Ohio in 1803, so I have tried to find all the descendants in search of clues. Who was this Reuben P. Smith, and what did the "P" stand for?

The story begins in 1841 in Pike County, Illinois, with the death of Mary Ettie Coray's father Silas. The family joined the Mormons at Nauvoo. Mary Ettie was just fourteen when she was married to someone named Wallace Henderson, but he was better than the competition, an old man who already had several wives! The

family moved on to Iowa in 1846, and arrived in Salt Lake City in 1849. Along the way, Wallace turned out to be shady and undependable, and Mary Ettie couldn't deal with the extra wives he acquired. They parted company. She met Reuben P. Smith, passing through Missouri on his way to California. About 1851, Reuben arrived in Utah, converted to Mormonism, and married Mary Ettie. They planned to go to California. However, Mary Ettie knew too much of some dark secrets, such as murder, and was prevented from leaving Utah. After many breathless adventures, she finally reached her family home in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania in 1857, where Reuben caught up with her in 1858. Here the story ends. Along the way, many relatives, friends, and neighbors are mentioned, along with some genealogical details.

A few years ago, I could only wonder if the story were true. How much of it was embellished or invented? Did *any* of it really happen, or was it just cooked up for the popular press? Then came the Internet! The book is now part of the University of Michigan's digital library project, "The Making of America." In effect, the text is now searchable! Meanwhile, accounts of many pioneers have appeared on the Internet. Ancestry and Heritage Quest have indexed all the censuses. I discovered most of the people mentioned in the book are now easy to find, and their stories match up very well with Mary

Ettie's version. Whether the darker events are completely true, I can't tell yet, but at least the genealogical facts seem as reliable as can be expected when they deal with events in the author's childhood — with one exception: Wallace Henderson seems not to have died in 1851, but lived until 1904 with at least one of his other wives, under his "real" name of Samuel Henderson. I think maybe Mary Ettie disposed of Wallace in the story in order not to defame the living, and to clear the way in the minds of her non-Mormon readers for her marriage to Reuben Smith.

So, what became of Mary Ettie and Reuben? I haven't been able to find them in the 1860 census yet, but they might have used another name or avoided the census entirely. I will try to locate all her relatives mentioned in the book. But the Internet suggests another possibility: a Reuben P. Smith served in the First Regiment, California Cavalry, in the Civil War. I found the veteran on the 1870 census in San Francisco (teamster, single); on the 1880 in San Francisco (listed as "Peace Smith," married to Augusta H., two sons); and on the 1900 in Berkeley (with wife Augusta and a son). The microfilmed U. S. military pension index at the Los Angeles Family History Center shows Reuben applied for a pension in 1887, and his widow applied in 1907. If the service

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~FEATURE ARTICLE~

Not a Randolph, But a Fitz-Randolph, by Jeanette Jones

I found out from DNA testing that I am descended from the Fitz-Randolph family and not from the fairly prominent historical Randolph families of colonial Virginia. I thought surely that I must be a descendant of Pocahontas, or maybe the Randolph family that claims Thomas Jefferson, or one of the many other Randolphs who are noted on the historical plaques in and around Williamsburg. No such luck, that I would be able to tie my research to one of these lines that are very well researched and proved.

I belong to a Randolph family Internet site sponsored by MyFamily.com. A couple of years ago the members of this site decided to do DNA testing to try to find out how the various persons carrying the names of Randolph, Randolf, Fitz-Randolph, Randal and various other spellings were related and how many actual direct lines had come from the British Isles or elsewhere. I was very excited about this because my authenticated knowledge of my Randolphs ended with the birth of my 3rd-Great-Grandfather, Absolom Randolph, in Kentucky in 1791. There are several direct line descendants of Absolom on this site, so we have traded information and have formed a pretty complete family tree of the descendants of Absolom forward. However, no one has ever been able to go back beyond guessing that his father's name was Joseph because of certain clues. We all

pretty much hoped and assumed that somehow we were descended from one of these prominent historical families.

The committee for the site decided to use Y-Chromosome testing, sometimes called paternal ancestor testing, which is the preferred route for surname or common ancestor testing. This means that you have to have a descendant of a direct male line -- obviously, in our case, with some variation of the name Randolph. My descent from the line is via a female. Luckily, we had many direct line descendants of two of Absolom's sons. One of these descendants, Robert Randolph, was a very active member of the site and eagerly volunteered. There were thirty-nine males tested originally and they broke down into ten family groups having almost identical markers within their group. Our Fitz-Randolph group, the second largest group, had eight males that had almost identical DNA marker scores.

Robert Randolph's DNA markers placed him exactly into the Fitz-Randolph group with only a slight variation. No historical Randolphs for us. Now all we descendants of Absolom Randolph know that we are descended somehow from the same person as the Fitz-Randolph group and that sometime in the past the "Fitz" was dropped from our name. The slight variation mentioned above is the difference between a seven and an eight on one of the twelve DNA markers.

This slight variance is too bad for Absolom's descendant's research, since the exact matches have authenticated research all the way back to England in the 1500s. There was not another exact DNA 12-marker match for Robert.

I have found the above experience very interesting from the viewpoint of the future of genealogy and where it is going and from a personal standpoint of furthering my research on this particular line. DNA is going to be the final definitive proof for accurate genealogical lines. Some feel that in the next twenty-five years a quick cheek swab will unravel long descending lines and there will be huge DNA databases available to the public for genealogical research. Brigham Young University and Oxford University are already starting their databases.

The testing is still going on by people who are new to the site and want to find out which group they are descended from. My hope is eventually maybe one of these new people will be an exact match for Robert, and that access to their research will provide clues to Absolom's ancestors.



One of the greatest
tragedies of life
is the murder
of a beautiful theory
by a gang
of brutal facts.

Benjamin Franklin

~ SOCIETY NEWS ~

QHGS ELECTIONS

Our annual elections are coming up in November. Here is the timetable for the elections:

- ♦ August: Nominating committee formed.
- ♦ October meeting: Nominating committee announces its slate. Nominations may be taken from the floor.
- ♦ November meeting: Nominations may be taken from the floor. Elections are held.
- ♦ December newsletter: Winners are announced.
- ♦ December meeting: New officers are installed.

At the August general meeting, the Nominating Committee was formed. Members of the committee are: Cynthia Day-Elliott, Richard Hoover, and Mike Powers. Positions on the Board up for election this time around are: First Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Anyone who is willing to help our society by giving just a little of their time is encouraged to contact Cynthia, Richard, or Mike.



**QHGS HONOR/MEMORIAL BOOKS
COLLECTION**

Several years ago, to kick off Family History Month, Questing Heirs of Long Beach started an Honor/Memorial Books Collection. This is our way of supplementing the Genealogy Collection at the main branch of the Long Beach Public Library.

Members and friends are encouraged to purchase Honor/Memorial Books during the entire year. We would like to especially promote this collection every October, to commemorate Family History Month.

If you would like to purchase a book, video, or other material, a bookplate will be added, noting the person's name, and the contributor. Board members Bob Brasher and Aaron Day are working together to establish this collection. If you would like to purchase a book in someone's honor or memory, please write to: Questing Heirs, Attn.: Honor/Memorial Books, P.O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA 90815, or e-mail: <adaydec@aol.com>. For further information, call (562) 634-6708.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

The August board meeting was a very productive one.

Our resident dynamo Elizabeth (Stokesberry) Myers was appointed Member-at-Large. Liz has presented several great ideas to help our society grow and to help the community learn more about genealogy, which we will be reporting on in upcoming issues.

It was further decided that October, being Family History Month, would be a good time to start up our basic classes again.



SUBMISSIONS WANTED

I don't believe I'm alone in thinking that the last couple of issues of the newsletter have been quite good. It must be because we are getting more input from society members. Jeanette's special report last month on our friends we haven't seen in a while was a big hit. So c'mon, send in your submissions today. It's fun and it's easy -- and you get to see your name in print! Please address your submissions to: Mike Powers, 328 Loma Ave., Long Beach CA 90814, or send them via email to <lunalake@pobox.com>.

~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~
continued

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record and pension file at the National Archives contains Reuben's enlistment information, the answer may finally be revealed.

The lone prairie must have resounded with the scratching of the quill pens of innumerable pioneer women who recorded their sufferings in great detail during their bleak journeys. The rediscovery of their stories in recent years, hundreds of them, and their publication on the internet in a form that can be searched, has made it possible to reconstruct the lives of those brave souls who settled the Wild West.

-- John McCoy

~ *OF INTEREST* ~

TENNESSEE TRAIL LEADS TO BRAZIL

by Telma Anijar-Andersen <anidjart@netscape.net>

Recently I found out through the RootsWeb Review that a Boy Scout completed a cemetery project to become an Eagle Scout. I went online and looked under Nashville for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) website. I found the Nashville chapter and wrote an e-mail regarding the need to have my Johnson Vaughan family cemetery restored.

I am a descendant of Johnson Vaughan from Virginia, who was a plantation owner in Nashville, Tennessee. His son James H. Vaughan, from his first marriage to Nancy Low, is my line.

I received at least three e-mails from three different people interested in the project. The second person to contact me was a newfound cousin that I did not know existed. You see my James H. Vaughan had immigrated to Brazil in 1868 with the Major Warren Hastings group that settled in the Amazon River region -- in a little town by the name of Santarem in the state of Pará. Some of James H. Vaughan's children from his first marriage stayed in the United States, some were already married, and others chose not to go with the family to Brazil.

I found the Vaughan cemetery through a cousin who had been researching the family and knew about the immigration to Brazil. James lived in Silver Spring, Wilson County, Tennessee. His father Johnson Vaughan lived in Nashville and he had 20 to 22 children, and his son James had the same amount of children. I have found a few cousins through the Internet, and now I found a new cousin through the BSA.

The families in Brazil lost contact with their American cousins after the death of the original Confederates (also known as *Confederados*) who immigrated to Brazil. Some returned to the United States to live and others remained in Brazil where their families continue to grow.

Doing some research at the National Archives in Maryland I learned that there were several colonies in Brazil -- in places such as Americana (Vila Americana), São Paulo, and 13 miles west of there in

Santa Bárbara d'Oeste; in the Amazon region at Santarem, Pará; and in Pernambuco (sometimes referred to as Port of Pernambuco; see also Recife) in the northeast region of Brazil. If anyone is researching their Southern ancestors and has not been able to find them after the 1860s, they might be buried in Brazil. Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Roslyn have ancestors buried at the cemetery in Americana. There are many descendants of these Confederates families still living in Brazil.

Anyway, my story is about how families can move from one continent to the other and you can still find your ancestors and families that were left behind. And, you can find your cousins in the most unusual ways.

[RootsWeb Review Editor's note: It is not known how many Confederates went to South America -- estimates range from 8,000 to 40,000. There is a book, "The Lost Colony of the Confederacy," by Eugene C. Harter, available from the Texas A & M University Press and in many libraries, that may be of interest to family historians.]

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SHERMAN LIBRARY & GARDENS

The Sherman Library in Corona del Mar acquires, organizes, and preserves all kinds of materials pertaining to the history of the Pacific Southwest. It contains approximately 25,000 books, pamphlets and other printed items, a very sizeable number of maps and photographs, several hundred thousand papers and documents, and more than 2,000 reels of microfilmed material. It is best known among genealogists for its collection of directories, which is among the most highly used portions of the library.

The library is situated on a 2.2-acre block that was created to be a serene oasis -- a respite from the stress and pressures of daily schedules. It is located at 2647 E. Pacific Coast Highway in Corona del Mar. It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 4:30 p.m. For more information, phone (949) 673-1880. They can also be found on the web at <<http://www.slgardens.org>>.

~ O N T H E W E B ~

EARLS COLNE, ESSEX

<<http://linux02.lib.cam.ac.uk/earlscolne/>>

Subtitled "Records of an English Village, 1375-1854," this web site is an exhaustive exploration of the documents that relate to one tiny, insignificant English village, Earls Colne in Essex. It is the result of the most extensive historical reconstruction project ever attempted, representing thirty years of work. There is a long description of the gestation of the reconstruction on the web site itself, under "History."

The "References" section has a long discussion of the largely unknown contents and location of the various kinds of records, including explanations of such obscure concepts as freehold, copyhold, leets (not a Welsh vegetable), and so forth. By comparing the various records, the compliers were able to discover how much of the records are now lost or misplaced, which I also believe is a valuable finding. (In brief, a significant portion of wills mentioned in manorial court records could not be found, though many of their provisions are copied into these court records.)

If someone were to study this website carefully, I think they would get a much clearer idea on how to proceed in English research. I have found no other resource that even begins to explain the context of the various legal documents relating to land tenure and other matters. Under the heading of "Records," you can get to the detailed description of how the whole thing works, a marvel of the English legal system. It turns out that the terminology found in the newly available English wills, e.g. from the PRO website for the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, is exactly the sort of thing that the Earls Colne web site explains.

In brief, this is one of the most amazing web sites ever developed. The effort began at a time when data entry meant paper tape and punch cards, before the invention of databases and query languages, and somehow survived three decades of incredible technological evolution. The genius behind the project is Alan MacFarlane, and you just ought to check out his bio and publications list!

Submitted by John McCoy.

**POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF CALIFORNIA**

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

The Polish Genealogical Society of California was founded in 1989 to promote the research of Polish family heritage, to help you research and record your family history, to collect and preserve records of our ancestors, and to preserve historical and biographical material. PGS-CA provides a forum for members to learn how to research their ancestral lines.



**LONG BEACH INDEPENDENT
ONLINE AT ANCESTRY.COM**

<<http://www.ancestry.com>>

This database is a fully searchable text version of the newspaper for 1938 to 1942. The newspapers can be browsed or searched using a computer-generated index. The accuracy of the index varies according to the quality of the original images. The images for this newspaper can be browsed sequentially, or via links to specific images, which may be obtained through the search results.

This may well be of help to those of our members who subscribe or want to visit a Family History Center that has access to ancestry.com.

Submitted by Richard Hoover.



NGS GENTECH 2004

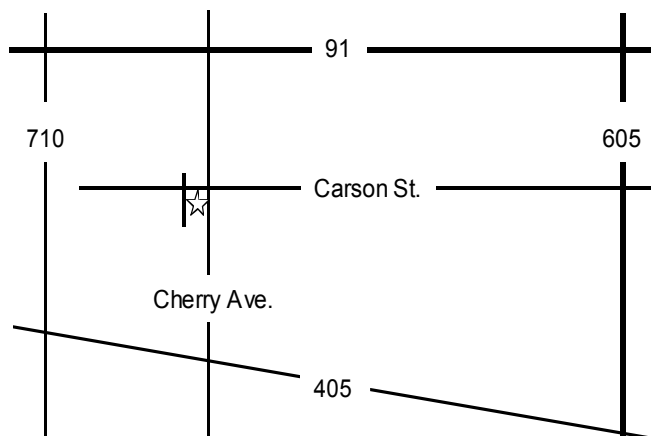
<<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngsgentech/>>

NGS GENTECH is *the* conference for technology and genealogy. GENTECH began more than ten years ago as a not-for-profit educational society with the mission of bridging technology and genealogy through an annual conference and related events. In 2002, NGS and GENTECH merged, followed by the formation of the NGS GENTECH Division. GENTECH 2004 will be held 22-24 January in St. Louis, Missouri, which will be celebrating the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis & Clark Expedition, as well as the centennial of their 1904 World's Fair.

~ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ~

- ◆ Saturday, September 13, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Second Annual Southern California Genealogical Society Antique Appraisal Faire. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Dr., Burbank. Offering a verbal valuation from certified appraisers for \$5.00 for each item; there is a maximum of three items (possibly more, if there is time).
- ◆ Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, Yorba Linda.
- ◆ Wednesday, September 17, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Michael Regan on “Protecting Your Computer Files.”
- ◆ Saturday, September 20, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Tom Underhill will show you how to “Make Your Photos Zing!” Beginner/Intermediate Class at 9:00 am; Computer Interest Group at 10:30 am.

◆ **Sunday, September 21, 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 66.



- ◆ Sunday, September 28, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.* A talk by Darlene McClain, followed by a mini-workshop on Welsh records led by Annie Lloyd.
- ◆ Saturday, October 4, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Gene Cheney will give a two-part lecture. Topic: “Supplement Census Research by Searching Other Record Types.”
- ◆ Friday, October 17 - Saturday, October 18. Third Annual West Coast Summit on African American Genealogy. Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles. Theme: Celebrating a Tree of Life -- Our Family. Keynote Speaker: Tony Burroughs. Contact Marjorie Sholes Higgins at <MHIGG71503@aol.com> 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 may change from time to time.