



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 10 ♦ October 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, OCTOBER 19, 2003



1:15 – CLASSES

**BASIC: Getting Started**

**INTERMEDIATE:**

**Witches in Our Pedigree**, presented by John McCoy



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



2:30 – GENERAL MEETING

**T O M U N D E R H I L L :**  
**Scanning and Photo Retouching Basics**



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~ **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** ~  
**Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Members: 28                      Guests: 1



**NEW MEMBERS**

*Welcome to our newest members:*

Sandra Hollandsworth	Individual	to 9/04	James A. Weston	Individual	to 9/04
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**RENEWALS**

*Thank you to the following members for renewing so promptly:*

Linda Artuso	Individual	to 9/04	Hazele Johnson	Individual	to 9/04
Martha B. Baxter	Individual	to 9/04	Donald Krokus	Contributing	to 9/04
Bruce Brightman	Individual	to 9/04	Maybelle Larson	Individual	to 9/04
Barbara Cary	Individual	to 9/04	Jack & Vivian Marks	Family	to 9/04
Jean K. Chapple	Contributing	to 9/04	John McCoy	Patron+	to 9/04
Evelyn M. Coles	Individual	to 9/04	Christina M. McKillip	Individual	to 9/04
Aaron Day	Contributing	to 9/04	Harriet Miller	Individual	to 9/04
Cynthia Day-Elliott	Individual	to 9/04	Beverly J. Plank	Individual	to 9/04
William & Florence Doud	Family	to 9/04	Michael E. Powers	Individual	to 9/04
Vickie Elliott	Individual	to 9/04	Caroline Rainey	Newsletter	to 9/04
Raye Fairchild	Newsletter	to 9/04	Elizabeth Reidy	Individual	to 9/04
Helen L. Goring	Individual	to 9/04	Jack W. Rhodes	Individual	to 9/04
Douglas Grant	Individual	to 9/04	Mary Ellen Smith	Individual	to 9/04
Carmen Gross	Individual	to 9/04	Phyllis Strawn	Individual	to 9/04
Lowell M. & Inga Harris	Family	to 9/04	Mark J. Thompson	Individual	to 7/04
Richard Hoover	Patron+	to 9/04	David Werts	Individual	to 9/04
Patrick J. Horan	Individual	to 9/04	Linna Young	Sustaining	to 9/04
George & Polly Johnson	Sustaining	to 9/04			



**YEARLY DUES REMINDER**

*Read the following if you have not recently paid your dues:*

Questing Heirs dues cover the period of September 1 to September 1 of the next year. Look on the address label of your newsletter. If it does not have an "9/04" date on it, you need to look on back page of newsletters for information about renewal. For those of you who have something other than the "9" we will be getting in touch with you. You can send your check in or bring it to the October meeting.



**Do not trust your memory; it is a net full of holes;  
the most beautiful prizes slip through it.  
Georges Duhamel, 1884-1966**

**~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~**

**Thoughts on an American Pedigree**

**M**any years ago, a reporter friend complained, "Everyone wants to tell me the Truth. I'm not interested in the Truth – just give me the facts." It was the same complaint attributed to Pontius Pilate: "*What is truth?* Everyone wants me to see things their way. Can't we all just stick to the facts?" It is only after about four decades of genealogical research that I am beginning to understand the difficulty of discerning the truth.

In recent programs and discussions at *Questing Heirs*, we have touched on some of those difficult topics that turn up in an American pedigree: religious intolerance, slavery, gangsters, notorious outlaws of the Wild West, and this month, witch hunts. "If you were to meet your distant ancestors, you probably would not like them," said one genealogist. A lot of distressing things turn up in genealogy – especially if it's done well.

An alternative view was popular a few generations ago. Numerous family histories were published that made everyone into fine, upstanding citizens who led lives of unparalleled virtue. Some authors went so far as to invent pedigrees back to noble roots. A great example is the famous Dickinson genealogy that has proved to be entirely fanciful.

There are, of course, people who try to explain it all away. I don't think this is helpful! I remember

someone in the darkened microfilm room of a Family History Center trying to argue that the Civil War had nothing to do with slavery. "It was all about preserving a way of life," she said cheerfully. To her, that was the Truth. A way of life not shared by the slaves, I thought, and only made possible through their suffering.

Similar rationalizations have been advanced for almost all of the darker episodes in our history, except for the Salem witch hysteria. Our New England ancestors at least had the honesty to admit their error while many of the participants – other than the "witches" themselves – were still alive. With refreshing candor, they re-examined the facts and realized that what they once held to be the Truth, was an illusion.

As genealogists, we take it for granted that our ancestors were survivors. Had they not persevered, we would not be here. Therefore, we should be able to learn something from them about what it takes to succeed in life. Viewed in this way, our ancestors become object lessons on the human condition. We can learn something about how to cope with adversity through their example. They may teach us what to do, or what not to do. Consider how your ancestors responded to threatening times: did they risk everything to start a new life somewhere else, or did they circle the wagons and fight where they stood? Did the vast

continent tempt them to wild adventures? All the stories are different, and they are all part of our history.

There is no need to embellish these stories; their lively diversity is what makes them interesting. Nor is there any need to make them fit with popular preconceptions, for the facts themselves convey the point. The surprising turns of fortune, the heroes and villains, the farmers and the entrepreneurs, the ministers and the accused witches, the proud and the humble – this unlikely mix has become the root of a great nation.

-- **John McCoy**



**~ QUERY ~**

**CHANEY, ROSSER,  
NEWCOME**

Searching for information concerning Maud Chaney (1887-1972), who married Edward or Jack Newcomb, who resided in Long Beach after 1929. Besides their one daughter, they also adopted Maud's sister's children: Marth Clara Rosser (1924-1976) and Tommy Rosser. Please contact Mark Thompson via email at <markthomps6@cs.com>.

*If anyone has information for Mark, but no email access, please contact the editor, who will forward the information.*

- OCTOBER MEETING -

**SPEAKER: TOM UNDERHILL**

Quality scanning is more than just pushing the "scan" button. Learn tips and tricks used by a pro with more than five thousand scans under his belt to make a marginal scan good and a good image great. Topics covered include proper resolution, file types and color spaces, image enhancement and basic photographic techniques.

Tom Underhill is the publisher at Creative Continuum, a book design and publishing company specializing in high-quality, short-run books. Tom's background includes extensive graphic design, marketing and project management experience.

During the last three years, Tom and his company produced more than 100 custom-designed books and printed more than 7 million pages. Tom is the author of five books:

- ♦ *Family History Publishing Basics* and *Scanning and Photo Retouching Basics* are geared to demystify much of the technical jargon surrounding image acquisition and publishing.
- ♦ *Make Your Photos Zing!* is a step-by-step guide to mastering Photoshop Elements and makes it easy to retouch and improve the photos you've always wanted to fix.
- ♦ *Dead Men Tell No Tales* is a comprehensive how-to for recording and publishing your family's oral history.
- ♦ Tom's latest book, *Save an Hour a Day on Your Computer*, helps eliminate the frustrations often encountered with using your computer.

- SOCIETY NEWS -

**QHGS OBSERVES FAMILY HISTORY MONTH**

Member-at-Large Elizabeth (Stookesberry) Myers has been busy lining up quite a few activities so that our group can become more visible and active in the community. We applaud her efforts.

Here is a report she prepared on our plans for observing Family History Month:

Long Beach's Questing Heirs Genealogical Society is celebrating Family History Month by offering the family researcher a free consultation at the Long Beach Public Library, on Ocean Blvd. every Wednesday and Saturday from 1 PM to 5 PM. Help is available at the library Wednesday and Saturday afternoons from Bob Brasher throughout the year. However, during October a beginner's packet will be available with additional experienced researchers to help launch inquirers into the fun and educational opportunities of looking for grandparents and the history that surrounds them.

October marks the third annual celebration of Family History Month since the U.S. Senate unanimously approved legislation on September 26, 2001, just 15

days after world history was made on September 11. According to the PBS "Ancestors" program website, family history has become the second most popular topic on the Internet, and the third most popular hobby in the U.S. As of September 1, 2002, another top genealogy website, FamilySearch.org, has had 8.8 billion hits and 1.7 billion page views since it launched in May of 1999. It is estimated that more than two million separate websites are devoted to genealogy. "This is a huge day for the more than 80 million Americans who are believed to be actively searching for more information about their ancestors. "Millions of Americans are researching the history of their families," said Senator Orrin G. Hatch, the Utah Republican who introduced the Family History Month resolution. "Experts say that in the United States, genealogy is now the second most popular hobby next to gardening." "It is only natural that we want to find out more about our ancestors," Hatch continued. "What better way to bring families closer together than by discovering more about the story of their own family? Like it or not, who we are today is in large part, a product of our ancestors."

~ SOCIETY NEWS, continued ~

**QHGS ELECTIONS**

Don't forget, elections are coming up next month. Positions on the Board up for election this year are: First Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

At the October meeting, the Nominating Committee will announce its slate. Nominations may be also taken from the floor at the next two meetings. The elections will be held at the November meeting, the

winners will be announced in the December newsletter, and the new officers will be installed at the December meeting.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Cynthia Day-Elliott, Richard Hoover, and Mike Powers. Anyone who is willing to help our society by giving just a little of their time is encouraged to contact Cynthia, Richard, or Mike.

~ PFUNNIES ~

**PFINDING PFÜTZE: PFITFALLS OF PFINDING GERMAN ANCESTRAL VILLAGES**

A genealogist we see frequently at a local Family History Center received a copy of a document her immigrant ancestor brought from Germany in the 1850s, proving that he had completed military service there. The problem was to decipher his birthplace. Over the last few months, Richard Hoover and I looked at the document several times, each time making a little headway.

The first problem was to read the name of the village itself. Our first attempt resulted in "Pfützel," a name that was difficult to pronounce, and impossible to find in any gazetteer. "You can't say Pfützel without smiling," observed our friend Lee Humphries. But what were the additional words written in even smaller German script?

The second attempt came from the realization that the letter at the end of Pfützel was not a letter at all. It was just a big flourish! So Pfützel became Pfütze. Further, the name of the district in which

it was supposed to be located seemed to be "Lindenkopf," another unfindable name. The 1958 edition of *Müllers Großes Deutsches Ortsbuch* was available on microfiche, part of the 100 most-used books collection that every Family History Center has. Armed with the list of otherwise impenetrable abbreviations at the beginning of the microfiche, we found two Pfützes in Germany, but neither one was in a district similar to Lindenkopf. Both were in the old principality of Hesse, so we seemed to be headed in the right direction.

But I wasn't satisfied. Thinking to look at the *Ortsbuch* again, I discovered that the 100 most-used books collection on microfiche also includes the 1912 edition of *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs*. While the 1958 *Ortsbuch* is quite legible, except for the abbreviations, the 1912 *Orts-Lexikon* uses Gothic type, a very serious obstacle. Not only that, the abbreviations used in this work are different, and

seem not to be fully explained. Nevertheless, I found the entry for Pfütze. In 1912, there were three of them! The extra Pfütze in the *Orts-Lexikon* seems to be the right one, at last: it is in the district of Biedenkopf, which in German script is easily mistaken for Lindenkopf. This Pfütze turns out to be another name for a hamlet called Neu Ludwigsdorf in the parish of Bromskirchen. The Family History Library catalogue includes protestant church records from this parish on microfilm back to the 1500s.

Even if you can't say "Pfütze" without smiling, I think the best bet is to call it "Neu Ludwigsdorf." It's so much easier to say!

*Submitted by John McCoy.*



**Mistakes are  
the portals  
of discovery.  
James Joyce**

~ OF INTEREST ~

**FAMILY HISTORY FAIR IN LOS ALAMITOS**

The Cerritos and Long Beach East Stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are sponsoring a Family History Fair, to be held on Saturday, November 22, 2003 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Long Beach East Stake Center at 4142 Cerritos Avenue in Los Alamitos. Billed as a day for both beginners and advanced researchers, the fair features some of the best family history speakers in Southern California, including Barbara Renick, Richard Wilson, Pat Rydman, Marilyn Fronk, Ilene Miller, Lee Humphries, Tom Underhill, and Beth McCarty. Following the keynote speech – Barbara Renick speaking on “The Perils of Pursuing Pedigrees” – there

will be four hour-long workshop sessions. Each hour will have a choice of four to five topics, including “What You Are Almost Finding Online,” “Illustrating Your Family History,” “Using the Family History Center,” “Post-1837 Research for England and Wales,” and “Digging Up Treasures in the Graveyard.” The Family History Center will also be open from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm for questions or research. Attendance is free to all, but pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Bob Kienzle, phone (562) 425-0088, email <kienzle@aol.com> or Marilyn Fronk, phone (562) 865-2926, email <marilynjgf@hotmail.com>.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED**

The National Archives and Records Administration has announced its Fall 2003 schedule of genealogical workshops:

October 16	Introduction to Genealogical Resources	November 5	Introduction to Genealogical Resources
October 22	Preserving Your Family's History	November 12	Naturalization & Immigration Records
October 30	Naturalization & Immigration Records	November 19	Introduction to Military Records

Here is a brief description of the workshops:

- ♦ Introduction to Genealogical Resources: For beginners and those who want to brush up on their basic skills, this workshop addresses the use of Federal census, passenger arrival, naturalization, and military records, as well as basic reference works.
- ♦ Preserving Your Family's History: Participants in this workshop will learn basic methods for organizing genealogical records and preserving photographs, historical documents, and other treasured heirlooms.
- ♦ Naturalization and Immigration Records: This course examines immigration and citizenship records, emphasizing procedural changes from 1790 to the present as well as methods for locating both naturalization records and passenger manifests.
- ♦ Introduction to Military Records: This workshop will explore basic military resources for genealogy relating to American military actions from the Revolutionary War through the conflicts of the late 20th century. Special resources and techniques useful in genealogical research from World War II to the present will be emphasized.

All workshops begin at 9:30 am, and cost \$7.50, payable at the door. Class sizes are limited, therefore, reservations are required. For reservations, please call (949) 360-2641 ext. 0.

The NARA Pacific Region is located at 24000 Avila Road, 1st Floor East, in Laguna Niguel. From Interstate 5, exit at Oso Parkway and head west. Then turn left at La Paz Road. Follow La Paz through the intersection with Avila and make the next right on Allegra, a small side street in the midst of an office park. Go straight and park in any unmarked space.

If you are unable to attend any of these classes but wish to be on the NARA mailing list, please call Randy Thompson at (949) 360-3427.

~ ON THE WEB ~

**CENSUS TOOLS**

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

Gary Minder of El Cajon, California has shared a really nifty collection of spreadsheets he devised for managing census information. The spreadsheets are in Excel 97 format, so they should be compatible with most any recent full-featured spreadsheet program. He has offered them for free on the web, but he asks that if you find his work useful, you send him a small donation.

The following is from the CensusTools web page:

I now have 35 spreadsheets available covering the U.S., Canada, England, Ireland and Scotland! Among my U.S. collection are spreadsheets for all federal records as well as the states of Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin.

The U.S. Federal Census spreadsheet has separate pages for each census year from 1790-1930, including the 1880-1920 Soundex. Each page is formatted to faithfully match the actual census for each year. It's a great way to finally organize your census records of an entire family for up to 140 years!

I created the Census Tracker to supplement the Federal Census spreadsheet. It allows a researcher to document all available census data for an individual on a single worksheet! At a glance and in a very professional appearing report, you can trace the important aspects of your ancestors' lives. Your pile of census data, difficult to analyze and evaluate when buried in drawers and paper files, comes alive when properly organized!

My newest creation is the U.S. Special Schedules spreadsheet which features worksheets for the 1850-1860 Slave Schedules, 1850-1880 Mortality Schedules, 1883 List of Pensioners, and the 1890 Surviving Veterans and Widows Schedule.



You might be a redneck if you go  
to family reunions to meet girls.

**ARTICLES ON NAMES AND NICKNAMES**

from RootsWeb Review

Vol. 6, No. 39, 24 September 2003

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

"What's in a Name?"

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson2.htm>>

"Funny Names May Adorn Your Family Tree," by Myra Vanderpool Gormley.

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/funnames.htm>>

Who brought "middle names" to America and when did this naming custom start? Read an article on the subject: "A Look at Middle Names," by Rhonda R. McClure.

<<http://www.genealogy.com/rhonda041802.html>>

"Common Nicknames" can be found at this USGenWeb Project website:

<<http://www.usgenweb.org/researchers/nicknames.html>>

"Australians seem to believe that all red-heads will be nicknamed Blue, all Sharons are destined to be Shazza and if you smile a lot as a kid, you'll be Happy or Grumpy for the rest of your life," according to "Aussie Nicknames," an article by Emma Pedler on the ABC South Australia website:

<<http://www.abc.net.au/sa/stories/s881913.htm>>



**SPANISH EXPLORERS AND ORDINARY ANCESTORS**

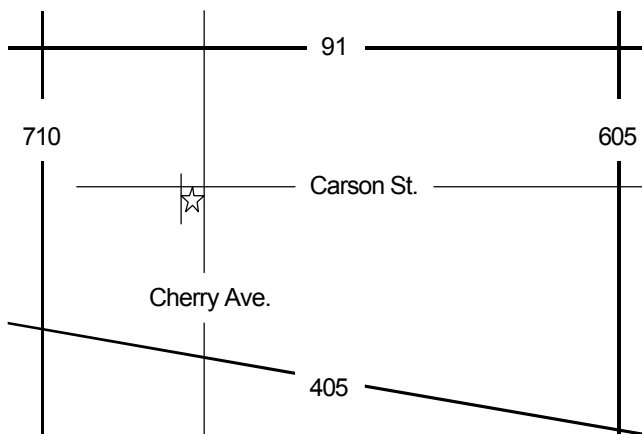
<<http://www.ldelpino.com/archivos.html>>

The Spanish Ministry of Education has placed the passenger lists, 1509-1790, from Spain to America online and Luis del Pino, listadmin of the RootsWeb SPAIN-L mailing list, has uploaded the instructions – in Spanish and English – on how to access these lists.

*Previously published in RootsWeb Review:  
Vol. 6, No. 39, 24 September 2003.*

~ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ~

- ♦ Wednesday, October 15, 7:00 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, Yorba Linda. Speaker: Joan Rambo.
- ♦ Wednesday, October 15, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Annual general meeting featuring a show & tell and member sharing.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Saturday, October 18, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Beginner/Intermediate Class at 9:00 am; Computer Interest Group at 10:30 am.
- ♦ **Sunday, October 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 map at right. For program information, see page 76.
- ♦ Saturday, October 25, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. Pomeranian Town Hall, presented by the Pommern Special Interest Group of the Immigrant Genealogical Society. Magnolia Park United Methodist Church, 2828 West Magnolia Boulevard, Burbank. Featured speakers are Martha and Les Riggle. For more information, contact Toni Perrone, phone (909) 696-1756, email <tperrone@cwia.com>, or visit <http://www.pomeranianews.com>.
- ♦ Sunday, October 26, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.\*
- ♦ Saturday, November 1, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.
- ♦ Saturday, November 22, 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Family History Fair. Long Beach East Stake Center (LDS Church), 4142 Cerritos Avenue, Los Alamitos. A great line-up of speakers and workshop topics. See page 77 for details.



\*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