



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 11 ♦ November 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, NOVEMBER 16, 2003

1:15	Classes	Basic: GETTING STARTED
		Intermediate: A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF DNA AS IT APPLIES TO GENEALOGY presented by Jeanette Jones & Aaron Day

2:15	Break	Time for chatting, browsing and refreshments
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2:30	General Meeting	QHGS ELECTIONS PRESENTATION RANCHO LOS CERRITOS: The Roots of Long Beach
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~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~
Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

OCTOBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 22 Guests: 2



RENEWALS

Catherine F. Alberti	Sustaining	to 9/04
Irene E. Brewer	Newsletter	to 9/04
Daryllynn J. Buras	Individual	to 9/04
Hazel S. Clover	Individual	to 9/04
MaryEmma Hargrave	Individual	to 9/04
Priscilla M. Nielsen	Patron	to 9/04
Joycelyn Proust	Individual	to 9/04
Thomas G. Sanford	Individual	to 9/04
Christina Yanis	Individual	to 9/04

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

September Income	\$1,511.02
September Expenses	\$354.60

*Yeah, way to go members!
Let's do that again next month!*



Balance September 2003	\$3,169.35
Balance September 2002	\$3,448.74

~ NOVEMBER MEETING ~

Be sure to join us at the meeting on Sunday, November 16 to hear a speaker from Rancho Los Cerritos give a presentation entitled "Rancho Los Cerritos: The Roots of Long Beach." This slide program traces the history of Rancho Los Cerritos from its origins as a Spanish land grant to its transformation into the city of Long Beach. This presentation touches upon the history of this National, State and Local Historic Landmark, its current public and educational programs, as well as its plans for the future.

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

Editor's note: Georgie has not been at the last couple of meetings, so I'm afraid we've been remiss in listing the hosts for each meeting. We do appreciate everyone's contributions to the group. Last month, some kind soul brought some Oreos to satisfy our need for refreshments. And Marilyn was there, so we had punch. Please consider bringing some kind of food or drink to the November meeting to share with others.

~ NOMINATING COMMITTEE ~
Mike POWERS (562) 621-6631

QHGS ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at this month's meeting. Positions on the Board up for election this year are: First Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

At the October meeting, the Nominating Committee, consisting of Cynthia Day-Elliott, Richard Hoover, and Mike Powers, announced their slate:

- ◆ First Vice-President Aaron Day
- ◆ Recording Secretary Linda Artuso
- ◆ Treasurer David Werts

Nominations may be also taken from the floor at the November meeting.

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



History is merely a list of surprises.
It can only prepare us to be
surprised yet again.

Kurt Vonnegut

~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~

INDUSTRIOUS LIBRARIANS: INVENTORIES, FINDING AIDS, AND DATABASES

Long before most of us were even aware a computer revolution was underway, librarians were considering how information technology could be applied to the problems of information retrieval. When I was in graduate school in the 1970s, and even before that, the great libraries had already begun to access the avalanche of new medical research by computerized systems. Soon, city libraries threw out their card catalogues – for better or for worse – in favor of automated catalogues. (About that time, perhaps because computer languages were designed to deal with words of no more than eight letters, the English word “catalogue” began a new life as “catalog.”) But the computer revolution is still going on, and librarians and archivists are now achieving an unprecedented democratization of historical information. If you can get to the Internet, astonishing details of history, and therefore also of genealogy, will be, literally, at your fingertips.

Catalogues of books are not new, and the electronic catalogues, if carefully and thoughtfully done, can be even more useful than a room full of file cards. Much depends on the search options that each catalogue uses, and on that point, there is still considerable room for improvement. But the most significant new development is the appearance on the Internet of inventories or “finding aids” for manuscript collections.

Inventories of manuscript collections are nothing new. Even in medieval times, inventories of various archives were prepared, sometimes in very great detail. In more modern times, many archives, especially in Europe, have spent years preparing “summary inventories” of their major collections. For example, the archivists of Geneva, Switzerland have analyzed the records left by over 400 years of notaries, so that it is possible to locate marriage contracts, testaments, and even ordinary property sales from past centuries in a matter of minutes. For the most part, though, the inventories that exist are unpublished and cover only a small fraction of archival holdings. A researcher would generally have to visit a library or archive personally in order to learn whether its collections contained

relevant information. You had to visit the archive in order to find out if it was worth visiting.

What a difference the Internet makes! In the United States, for example, the state libraries and archives of at least twenty states have begun to put their inventories on the web. Massachusetts has listed the old directories and voting lists that are available, town by town. Virginia has a list of 6,000 family bible records, and the major surnames are indexed. Missouri is digitizing vital records before 1909, as well as St. Louis probate files. Utah has posted inventories of district court case files, from which I was able to obtain a copy of an affidavit about stolen mules that involved one of my Smith relatives. Illinois has indexed records from all over the state, including a large collection from Chicago predating the great fire. But the greatest achievement to date is surely the “American Memory” project of the Library of Congress. The journals of the House and Senate turn out to be a goldmine, but they are only a small part of the project. A quick search for the unusual Uran surname turned up a record of a court-martial in the papers of George Washington (seventy-five lashes for stealing geese).

The American Memory project, and a number of others, have actually gone well beyond inventories: they have begun to make available both transcripts and digital images of historical documents, with search capabilities. A large number of pioneer diaries have been transcribed and indexed, with the result that you may be able to find mentions of ancestors who crossed the Rockies by wagon train or ox-cart, even if they did not keep journals of their own. For that matter, it may turn out that your ancestor did keep a journal, and you can use the web to locate the manuscript.

It is no longer true – and alas, perhaps it never was – that *all* the unpublished manuscripts in the U. S. are indexed in the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections (fondly known as NUCMC; pronounced “nuck-muck”). But when they are, it is frequently possible to locate people and events that are

[continued on next page]

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mentioned in a single piece of correspondence now located hundreds of miles away from where your family lived.

Search capabilities vary tremendously. Some of the inventories found on the Internet are simple text files; you just use the “find” function in your web browser. At the other end of the spectrum, the American Memory search capabilities support just about every search function, and return the results in useful groupings. Unfortunately, there seems not to be an effective standard for search functions. The way you use “wild cards” in setting up a search, whether you can search for Soundex equivalents, and other essential options seemed to be different on each site we visited, and they are not equally effective.

Some of the web sites are faster than others, of course, especially if you are working with digital images of

documents. A high-speed Internet connection will make a big difference. If you don't have a high-speed connection at home, you may be able to use one at a local library or Family History Center. If you find it difficult to print your results at one of these sites, you may be able to e-mail the data to yourself.

When your search reveals that a document of interest exists, or perhaps a file of some historian's notes, you can take the next logical step, and contact the library or archive for further information about the content. Many archivists are pleased to hear from people who ask about specific documents, and they will often offer to copy a short document for a reasonable fee.

– John McCoy

[Please see page 87 for the addresses of the web sites featured in this article. – Editor]

- SOCIETY NEWS -

FIRST PRESIDENT OF QUESTING HEIRS DIES

Myrtelle (Mollie) Wheeler Molyneaux died on October 11, 2003, in Huntington Beach, California.

Mollie, who was the first president (1969-1970) and long-time member of Questing Heirs, is remembered with fondness by many members for her long list of admirable qualities and the dedication and work she contributed to the club over the years.

She was very much an elegant lady, and described as being very professional at all times. She was dedicated to Questing Heirs and

knowledgeable about genealogy, and always willing to share her knowledge with others. She taught the beginning classes for many years and was very efficient at it – always arriving at the July board meeting with the full outline of what she intended to start teaching in September.

She had a lovely home on Ocean Boulevard where she liked to entertain, and where it is said that Questing Heirs was founded. Two or three people shared almost exactly the same story that Mollie related to them about the founding. There were five people, including Mollie's brother, who met and

decided to form a genealogy group. They all put their names in a hat to decide who would be president, and her name was pulled out.

Mollie's obituary in the Long Beach Press-Telegram also showed other aspects of her full life, such as her devotion to her family and to the community.

We are very proud of our first president, and thankful for her sharing of her many talents and hard work, all of which contributed to getting us to where we are today.

*Submitted by Barbara Brown,
Jeanette Jones, and Mabelle Little.*



Life is a great big canvas; throw all the paint on it you can.

Danny Kaye

~ OF INTEREST ~

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH
ANNUAL CEMETERY TOUR
OCTOBER 25, 2003**

The Historical Society of Long Beach gave its annual cemetery tour at Sunnyside Cemetery and Long Beach Municipal Cemetery at Willow St. and Orange Ave. on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Side by side and surrounded by oilrigs, these two cemeteries are not only quite picturesque, they also have a fascinating history. The tour featured volunteers dressed in period costume telling the stories of some very interesting inhabitants of Long Beach.

Information on the Historical Society is available by writing to P. O. Box 1869, Long Beach CA 90801, by phone at (562) 495-1210, or on the web at <<http://www.historicalsocietylb.org>>.



*Angel sculpture at Denni family plot,
next to the office at the entrance
to Sunnyside Cemetery.*

SCGS 2003 WRITING CONTEST

All family history writers are invited to compete in the Southern California Genealogical Society's 2003 Writing Contest. This year's categories are: Research Problem Solving; Research Advice & How-To; Narratives: Family or Local History; and Short Sketches: Memoirs, Character Studies & Anecdotes.

There is no entry fee. Cash prizes range from \$200 to \$25. Honorable Mentions will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Writers receiving an honorable mention will receive a free one-year membership in the Southern California Genealogical Society, along with a one-year subscription to "The Searcher."

For more information, visit the SCGS web page at <<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>>, or call (818) 843-7247.



DONUTS FOR EVERYONE!

An Ancestry.com quick tip, submitted by Bettie West:

On a visit to a local cemetery, the office staff was not cooperative, even though I desperately needed help and was being very polite in my requests. So, before I made another trip, I changed tactics. I bought a dozen donuts for the staff. Everyone was very helpful. The new director at the cemetery was told of my presence in the office (and the donuts) and he came to me and introduced himself. One very helpful person even took me to headstones that I could not find on my previous visit. I found this small investment in donuts was well worth the fruitful results received on this trip to the cemetery.

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**Junk is stuff we throw away.
Stuff is junk we keep .**

~ O F I N T E R E S T, continued ~

ORANGE COUNTY ARCHIVES REOPENING AFTER EIGHT YEARS

Read the article in The Orange County Register entitled "Looking Glass Into Court's Past Dusted Off." These archives are being housed in the Old Orange Courthouse in room 101. The address is 211 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana. The hours are 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The article states that included are leather-bound volumes, old maps, photos and other records dating to 1889.

For those who have family history in the area back to and before 1850, when the county was organized, this is a great place to visit. Read the article in the local section of The Register dated October 5, 2003.

Reprinted from Genealogical Society of North Orange County California Newsletter, Volume 19, Issue 10, 10 October 2003.



WHITTIER VITAL RECORDS INDEX PROJECT COMPLETED

The Whittier Area Genealogical Society is extremely grateful to Nancy Giles, Duane Benell and those other volunteers, Phyllis Randal, Sharon Dionne, Betty Hergesheimer, Masha Delott, and Georgia Caraveo, for their enduring work on this immense project. Many hours were spent perusing the newspapers of Whittier and posting the information into a database. WAGS is also grateful to the staff of the Whittier Historical Society and Museum for their assistance.

The finished book is over 424 pages long, contains over 33,800 names. and sells for \$35.00. The CD contains the same information, is fully searchable, contains Adobe Acrobat 6, and sells for \$20.00.

Reprinted from WAGS Newsletter, Volume 23, Number 5, October 2003.



SONS OF THE REVOLUTION MOVES

The headquarters of the Sons of the Revolution, housed up to now in New York City, is moving to Independence, Missouri. In its new location it will be near the Mid-Continent Public Library's Genealogy and Local History Branch.

The SR's new address is 201 W. Lexington Ave., Suite 1776, Independence MO 64050-3718. You may reach them by phone at (800) 593-1776 or examine their web site at <<http://www.sr1776.org>>.

Reprinted from Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter, Number 235, October 2003.



JAMBOREE 2004

The Southern California Genealogical Society has announced the date for the 2004 Jamboree, as well as a new venue. The Jamboree will be held April 16 and 17 at the Westin Hotel in Pasadena. Watch for more information coming soon!

~ ON THE WEB ~



View of hillside at Long Beach Municipal Cemetery, showing terraced family plots and Egyptian-style mausoleum.



INVENTORIES OF MANUSCRIPT AND ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Here are the sites featured in the President's message on pages 83 and 84:

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)
<<http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/rlinearch.html>>

Library of Congress "American Memory" project
<<http://memory.loc.gov>>

Missouri State Archives vital records project
<<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources.birthdates/default.asp>>

Missouri State Archives digitized probate records of St. Louis
(mostly early records at this point)
<<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/stlprobate/>>

Utah State Archives various finding aids
<<http://archives.utah.gov/referenc/referen.htm#research>>

Massachusetts State Library special collections
<<http://www.state.ma.us/lib/sc/sc.htm>>

Illinois State Archives searchable databases
<<http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html>>

Virginia State Library, see especially manuscript and archives catalogue, including surname references in family bible records
<<http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/>>

CITATIONS MADE EASY by Karen Ristic

An important process to all genealogists is the citation of sources. These citations provide credibility to all of the information we spend so much time researching. Citing the sources properly takes a long time to achieve the precise format. Countless hours are spent in looking up the correct scheme of arranging works, citing entries, or underlining and italicizing text. Now there is a program from the Internet MLA (Modern Language Association) Auto-Generator (MLAGEN) by Patrick Do. It is a free Windows program that allows you to quickly format your lists of works cited in your documents in complete accordance with the latest MLA.

MLA Auto-Generator should work well for genealogy citations, although the author does not guarantee that it handles citations as specified by Elizabeth Shown Mills in her definitive work, *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*. MLA Auto-Generator works with all modern versions of Windows. I have downloaded it and it seems to be a quick and easy way to automate your citations.

You can find more information about this program and even download it from <<http://mlagen.sourceforge.net>>.

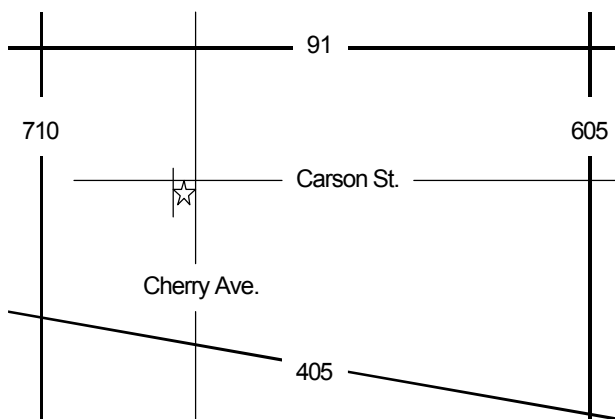
Reprinted from Whittier Area Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 23, Number 5, October 2003.



My family
coat of arms
ties at the back.
Is that normal?

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

- ♦ 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. Nancy Bier will present a lecture and workshop entitled “A Comparison of Tax & Land Records in the British Isles.”
- ♦ Saturday, November 15, 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. Speaker: Jean Straus. Topic: Kiss the Babies for Me...Standing in the Shoes of Our Civil War Ancestors.
- ♦ Saturday, November 15, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. BIFHS-USA English Day at the Los Angeles FHC.* An all-day seminar featuring a program designed by the staff at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Lecture topics include English Royalty and How to Trace Yours, The Wealth of the Parish Chests, and more.
- ♦ **Sunday, November 16, 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 82.
- ♦ Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, Yorba Linda. Leland Pound speaking on “Effective Use of County Records In Genealogical Research.”
- ♦ Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ♦ 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. Attendance is free, however, 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>.
- ♦ Sunday, November 23, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.* Jan Cloud will speak on English Research on the Internet. Following the general meeting, the Irish Study Group will show a film made in Ireland about the Great Famine.



*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.