



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 3 ♦ March 2004

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, MARCH 21, 2004

1:15 Classes	Basic	GETTING STARTED
	(by request)	
	Intermediate	FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH IN IOWA

2:15 Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:30 General Meeting	SPEAKER
	PAT RYDMAN: Adding sources and notes to the individual in Personal Ancestral File



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~ MARCH MEETING ~

SPEAKER: PAT RYDMAN

Pat Rydman worked in the Cerritos Stake Family History Center for almost ten years. She is presently working in the Long Beach East Stake Family History Center. She is a Stake Family History Specialist, and Los Alamitos Family History Consultant. Pat has taught Family History at the Long Beach City College Institute of Religion. She is the mother of seven children and grandmother of nine.



**INTERMEDIATE CLASS:
FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH IN IOWA**

Why Iowa? Because many people's ancestral families came through Iowa when it was the frontier. Looking at the rolling hills and big skies today, you would never guess what a busy place it was from about 1845 to 1880.



BASIC CLASS: Getting Started

A basic class will be given by request; that is, we will ask at class time if anyone would like to learn about how to get started in genealogy.

~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

FEBRUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 23 Guests: 1

RENEWALS

Barbara Revo BROWN	Newsletter	to 9/04
Herbert W. LAFFOON	Individual	to 1/05

~ FINANCIAL REPORT ~

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

January EXPENSES	\$ 374.24
January INCOME	34.29
BALANCE as of January 31, 2004	\$3017.18

~ REFRESHMENTS ~

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to all for helping out with refreshments in the last few months. Here is the list of our hosts for the March meeting:

Marilyn (DeLonjay) BRASHER
George and Polly JOHNSON
Jeanette (Marcus) JONES
Liz (Stooksberry) MYERS

Thanks to Kay Foord for rounding up these volunteers.

~ NEWSLETTER ~

Mike POWERS (562) 621-6631

NEWSLETTER UPDATE EMAIL LIST

We are going to be starting a brand new email update list. This list will be for items of interest that didn't fit into the printed issue, as well as for things that come up during the month that are too hot to wait until the next issue comes out. (You may recall that I started such a list last year, but the email addresses got lost in a computer crash.) If you would like to subscribe to this list, please send an email to that effect to me at <lunalake@pobox.com>.



NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN NEEDED

I became your Newsletter Librarian almost two years ago, and have also been your Newsletter Editor for a year and a half. I am simply unable to continue to fill both positions. Therefore, I am looking for someone to take over as Newsletter Librarian.

The duties are fairly easy, and the position provides an excellent opportunity to get involved with the society. It mainly consists of picking up the newsletters we get from other societies at the post office box every two weeks or so, and culling items of interest from them for our newsletter. The newsletters are then packaged with our own, and the packets are made available to be checked out by society members.

Please contact me by phone at (562) 621-6631 or by email at <lunalake@pobox.com> if you can help.

~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~

HOW WE GET RESULTS

It is often claimed that genealogical discoveries occur by chance. Indeed, there are some lucky finds. On her first visit to the genealogy department of the Seattle Public Library, my mother found herself listed in *two* books, one on the Nickey family,¹ the other on the Metzger family.² Each book traced one of her great-grandmothers back to Germany! But this can't happen to everyone. What are we supposed to do while waiting for good fortune to strike? Louis Pasteur observed that "chance favors only prepared minds."³ Therefore, let us prepare!

By *preparation*, we mean "a personal capacity gained by previous instruction or training."⁴ In order to find the clues we need, we will have to learn our subject well. What should we study? First, there is a general method to genealogy—a way of thinking about building a pedigree, using family group sheets, reasoning about censuses, etc. But when we get past the basics, it is time to focus on specific problems. We have to learn everything that can be known about:

- ♦ **The times**—that means political, social, and economic history.
- ♦ **The place where the family lived**—the legal description of land in that area, all of the place names and geographic features.
- ♦ **The people who lived there**—the families, the surnames, the social structure, the lives of as many of the inhabitants as we can discover.
- ♦ **The records that may exist**—official records in local, state, and national courts, church records, unofficial records such as newspapers, diaries, business records, and the repositories such as libraries, societies, and archives.

In other words, the best preparation is to become a local expert.

The next requirement is *thoroughness*, by which we mean "completeness of execution or treatment."³ We have to search out and master *all* aspects of local history. The wider the net we cast, the bigger the catch! Leave no stone unturned, no mountain unclimbed, no stream un-forded, no byway un-traveled, in the search for knowledge!

The last requirement is *persistence*, a "firm or obstinate continuance of a particular course in spite of opposition."³ Here is where too many will fail. Some clues are easy to find; they are in plain sight! But many others are hidden, and will only be found if you keep searching. Not the same search over and over again, but a creative search, always trying a new approach. The answers might be in an estate packet concealed in the dustiest corner of a remote county courthouse. The missing document might have been recorded in a different county. The missing grave might be in another state.

By searching, you will find—if you are *prepared*, *thorough*, and *persistent*!

- John McCoy



¹ Milligan, Ella R. M., *A History of the Nickey family in America, 1700 AD–1940 AD* (Denver: E. M. Milligan, 1940).

² Milligan, Ella R. M., *Christian Metzger, Founder of an American Family, 1682–1942*, (Denver: E. M. Milligan, 1942).

³ In a lecture delivered on December 7, 1854, on the occasion of his appointment as professor and dean of the faculty of sciences, at Lille, France.

⁴ *Oxford Dictionary of the English Language*.

~ S O C I E T Y N E W S ~

**LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL CEMETERY
RENOVATION PROJECT**

Marie Sorensen, acting City Engineering Bureau Secretary, is planning the next renovation project at Long Beach Municipal Cemetery. She wrote to our Member-at-Large Liz Myers asking if Questing Heirs members would like to attend with information about how to find your roots. Here is the information that Marie sent:

The hours of this project are from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Volunteers may arrive and leave at any time, and additional consent forms will be available at the cemetery for last minute volunteers. No one will be allowed to enter the cemetery grounds without a completed consent form. Parents are encouraged to attend as additional chaperons.

Three CSULB anthropology professors will be on hand demonstrating the use of some of their archeology equipment and excavations of buried headstones. Volunteers will be cleaning headstones, plotting the location of headstones, and assisting with the excavation of buried headstones and cement boundaries. Some supplies will be provided, but extra sponges, buckets, clean rags, garden trowels and soft-bristle brushes would be appreciated. Due to the delicacy of the project, children under eight years old (unless part of a third-grade class) are not allowed to attend.

Individuals should bring a bagged lunch, however, there are a few fast-food restaurants nearby if teachers/parents/troop leaders wish to take their wards. Comfortable clothing and shoes should be worn, as well as hats and sunscreen if the day is sunny. Additional protection would be gloves and kneepads. There will be no public parking allowed on the cemetery grounds, however, there will be street parking on Cerritos and Lime Avenues. Carpooling or taking public transportation is highly recommended.

Anyone interested in helping out please contact Liz at (562) 598-3027 or by email at <lizstookes@cs.com>.

QHGS TABLE AT THE SCGS JAMBOREE

Liz Myers has arranged for Questing Heirs to have a table at this year's Jamboree. This year the Jamboree will be held on a new date in a new place. You can find all the details on date, location, speakers, price, etc. on page 23.

We need a couple of people to help each day at the table. Please contact Liz at (562) 598-3027 or by email at <lizstookes@cs.com> to volunteer. Liz will be driving up there on Friday and will be glad to take anyone with her.

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

GENEALOGICAL CODICIL

The following item was printed in the Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly, October 2003. Of course, it would be prudent to discuss this with your attorney or estate planning agent in advance:

A Genealogical Codicil to my Last Will & Testament

To my Spouse, Children or Guardian:
Upon my demise it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years.

During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons whoe would be willing to toake custody of the said materials and the responsibly of maintaining and continuing the family histories.

In the event you don not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials.

Please remember that my genealogy endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel and requests.

Signed, date _____
Witness, date _____
Witness, date _____

Reprinted from South Suburban [Chicago] Genealogical and Historical Society News, Volume XXXI, No. 6, February 2004.



~ O F I N T E R E S T , c o n t i n u e d ~

**FOUNDING AND ORGANIZATION OF THE
QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH
1968-1969**

Liz Myers submitted this chronicle, which she found in the Questing Heirs scrapbook:

The society started as a Southern Workshop group in the fall of 1968 with a small number of people interested in tracing their southern families. Because resources were limited and records difficult to find, the group began meeting together to exchange books and materials and to share new ideas and research methods. There was a friendly spirit of mutual help and after each person's knotty problems were discussed, the 'hat was passed' to cover expenses and to buy additional materials. Members brought their own books to exchange and were interested and enthusiastic in contributing ideas to help each other research. Since the meetings were informal sharing sessions, no one thought of keeping records except for the 'treasury' which had grown to \$28.00 by the end of the year.

In December 1968, about 20 persons met at the home of Myrtelle Molyneaux, 2227 Cedar Avenue in Long Beach and voted to organize and elect temporary officers at the next meeting. Frances Parker volunteered to send out notices. Lena Woodall proposed making a file of members' books and the group agreed. It was voted to start a family surname file. A lively discussion and sharing period followed.

At the meeting on January 11, 1969

at the above address, the following temporary officers were elected: Chairman, Myrtelle Molyneaux; Secretary, Frances Parker; and Treasurer, Lena Woodall. Viola Olson volunteered to serve as Librarian and be responsible for bringing the books and magazines donated by the members for general use. Isabelle Cadwallader asked for volunteers to be docents at one of the local Ranchos. Marshall McClanhan brought maps to share. Discussion covered ordering pedigree charts for use by members, and addresses for ordering county maps. Ruby Harvey, who could not be present, brought a number of new books ahead of time for the group to use. There was ample time to consider each person's problems.

Some 22 persons attended the February meeting at the same address. Minutes were read, bills paid, and treasurer's balance showed \$30.12. The members voted to continue regular meetings and elect permanent officers at the next meeting. Frances Parker volunteered to get a special speaker. Martha Hess, Viola Olson and Bea Graves volunteered to serve as a membership committee. It was voted to keep the meeting place at Molly's until organization was completed. John Bezusko, whose second hobby was photography, brought a display of old family pictures he had re-photographed to uniform size. He used them to illustrate his family history. He

offered this service free to the other members.

On March 9, 1969, the meeting was held at 2227 Cedar Avenue and officers elected as listed on an accompanying page. Lena Woodall declined the Treasurer's office in order to work on the file box for the books. Donations continued adequate to cover expenses so no dues were assessed. Future meetings were voted for the second Sunday of each month to be held in members' homes on a rotating basis. Mrs. Whitehall gave an excellent talk on how to find southern records, the availability of Confederate military records in the LDS Library and records of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Lena proposed a family surname file and Ruth Dowty volunteered to keep it. Ruth also explained how to get books and pre-1850 census records from Sutro Library on inter-library loan. Frances Parker volunteered to send out notices with attached maps.

The name "Questing Heirs" was selected as a name for the society in June from a list submitted by Buzz Bezusko, Jane Farmer, and Dorothy Riggle. Donations to the society's library continued throughout the year and required first one large box and later two boxes to transport it to the meetings. A nominating committee was elected in November and officers elected in December. Jane Farmer could not serve as vice-president.



~ O N T H E W E B ~

**ARIZONA BIRTH & DEATH
CERTIFICATES ONLINE**

<<http://genealogy.az.gov>>

The Department of Health Services of the State of Arizona has made available microfilmed images of birth and death certificates from the State Archives. Volunteers from the Mesa Regional Family History Center extracted the information at no cost to the state.

Arizona law allows birth certificates over seventy-five years old to be available to the public, so the birth certificates in this database span the years between 1887 and 1928. Death certificates are available fifty years after the date, so these cover 1878 up to 1953.

The images are free to search and to view. Copies of the images are in PDF format, so you can print or save them for your own use.

The Department of Health Services is careful to point out that the images do not constitute certified copies, and that the images may not be a full and accurate reproduction of the original documents.



**FIND YOUR CRIMINAL ANCESTOR
IN ENGLAND**

<<http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk/>>

Come on, everybody's got at least one!

From 1784 to 1829 in England, Judges' Reports on Criminals were written for the Home Secretary. The purpose of these reports was to help decide whether free or conditional pardons (reduced sentences) were to be given to convicted prisoners.

The [U. K.] National Archives' Local History Research Group has begun to list these reports in detail in its online catalogue. The first ten pieces of HO 47 can now be searched online by convict's or judge's name, the locality, and more.

From the home page at <<http://catalogue.pro.gov.uk/>>, click on "Browse." Then, to the right of "Browse from Reference," type "HO47." Clicking on subsequent plus signs (+) will bring up details, including names. At this

time, however, there is no name search available.

Reprinted from the Genealogy Workshop of the Huntington Historical Society Newsletter, Vol. 27, No. 2, February 2004. Originally published in The National Archives Newsletter, January 2004.



EARLY WORDS

<<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/special/earlywords.txt>>

Sherri Von Mings Stachon has been transcribing and contributing court records, deeds and wills for several counties in Virginia. So far, she has completed 562 documents and is still going. In the process, she has collected a list of words that appear in these documents whose meanings may not be known by the average reader.

Reprinted with permission from the Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania mailing list <PAWESTMO-L@rootsweb.com>. Submitted by Liz Myers.



LIVERPOOL CENTRAL LIBRARY

<<http://www.liverpool.gov.uk>>

Liverpool's Central Library is engaged in an extensive project of digitizing and placing online many of its records. They have committed about \$16 million to this project. They will include their charter, birth certificates, school registers, emigration lists, and much more. To house this online facility, they are establishing a Heritage Center, expected to be completed for their 700th anniversary celebration in 2007. The entire project will cost about \$64 million.

From their home page at <<http://www.liverpool.gov.uk>>, click on "A to Z Council Services," then "Libraries." Under "How to Find Us," click on "Central Library." You'll want to check on the stage of progress of this project as more and more information comes online.

Reprinted from the Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter, Number 239, February 2004. Originally published by the German Genealogical Group of Kings' Park, New York in November 2003.

~ E V E N T S ~

*Several genealogical events are coming up in our area in the next few months.
Here are the details on some of them:*

**Genealogy Society of
North Orange County
California
Annual Seminar**

Saturday, March 20
8:45 am - 3:15 pm

Yorba Linda Community Center
4501 Casa Loma Avenue
Yorba Linda

Featured speaker:
Melinda Kashuba, Ph. D.

Seminars:

- ♦ Solving Brick Wall Problems -- A New Approach
- ♦ Techniques for Finding People in the 21st Century
- ♦ Mapping Your Ancestor's Neighborhood

Great door prizes, including:

- ♦ 5 hours of research time donated by professional genealogists Beth McCarty, Wendy Elliott, and Celia Christensen
- ♦ 2 nights at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Salt Lake City
- ♦ 1 year free membership GSNOCC
- ♦ "Genealogy 101" by Barbara Renick

\$17 pre-registration/\$20 at the door.

More information available at
<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cagsnoc>> or by calling (714) 528-4977.

**Southern California
Genealogical Society
Genealogical Jamboree
& Resource Expo**

Friday, April 16 &
Saturday, April 17

Westin Pasadena
191 North Los Robles
Pasadena

This two-day event draws speakers, exhibitors, and vendors from throughout the country who provide participants with classes, displays, demonstrations and items of interest to the family history researcher.

Speakers include Elaine Alexander, Charlotte Bocage, Robert Booth, Jana Sloan Broglin, Lois Burlo, Bill Dollarhide, Arlene Eakle, Bernice Gunderson, Leland Meitzler, Doug Miler, Pat Parish, Andy Pomeroy, Lisa Schumacher, and Tom Underhill.

Fee:
\$30.00 at the door.

For more information, phone (818) 843-7247, write Southern California Genealogical Society, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank CA 91504-2408, email <scgs@earthlink.net>, or visit <<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>>.

**National
Genealogical Society
Conference in the States:
A Golden Prospect**

Wednesday, May 19 –
Saturday, May 22

Sacramento Convention Center
Sacramento

Featured speaker:
J.S. Holliday: *Far from Home and Family: The Origins of California's Risk-taking Culture.*

Classes:

Chuck Knuthson: *California Gold Rush and Research Facilities in the Golden State*

Sheila Benedict: *Did Your Ancestors' Siblings Take Your Family Papers to California?*

J. Mark Low: *Using California Records to Find Southern U.S. Ancestors*

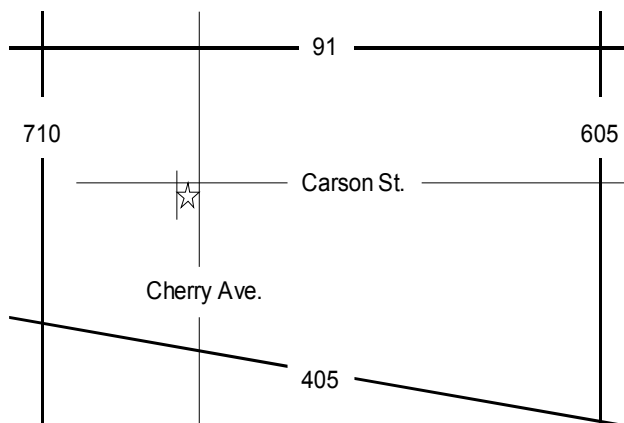
Other classes pertinent to tracing the ancestry of Californians are on westward migration, railroad records and land records, especially federal land records.

We will have more information on this conference in our next issue. In the meantime, you can learn more at <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>>.

Try to live your life so that you wouldn't be afraid
to sell the family parrot to the town gossip.
WILL ROGERS (1879-1935)

~ C A L E N D A R ~

- ♦ Saturday, March 6, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.
- ♦ Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 pm. Genealogy Society of North Orange County California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, corner of Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda.
- ♦ Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ♦ Saturday, March 20. Genealogy Society of North Orange County California annual seminar. Featured speaker: Melinda Kashuba, Ph. D. See page 23 for more information.
- ♦ Saturday, March 20, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad. North San Diego County Genealogy Society & British Isles Genealogy Research Association present a seminar entitled How to Find your Irish Ancestors, with Nora Hickey of Cork, Ireland. For more information, phone Society President Frederick Spong at (858) 453-8469, or visit their web page at <<http://www.cagenweb.com/nsdcgs>>.
- ♦ Saturday, March 20, 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, March 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 18.
- ♦ Sunday, March 28 1:00 -3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society general meeting. Los Angeles FHC.*
- ♦ Friday, April 16 & Saturday, April 17. SCGS Genealogical Jamboree and Resource Expo. Westin Pasadena, 191 North Los Robles, Pasadena. See page 23 for more information.
- ♦ Wednesday, May 19 – Saturday, May 22. National Genealogical Society Conference. Sacramento. Theme: A Golden Prospect. See page 23 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.