



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 9 ♦ October 2004

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS ♦ 1969-2004

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, OCTOBER 19, 2004

1:15	Class	Ulster Scots and Real Scots in the American Colonies: "Scotch-Irish" Research, presented by John McCoy
------	-------	---

2:15	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
------	-------	--

2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER NANCY BIER Tell The Story: How To Liven Up Your Genealogy
------	-----------------	--



~IN THIS ISSUE~

Reports	74
President's Message: <i>Forty Years in a Wilderness of McCoy Ancestors</i>	75
October Meeting Information	75
Feature Article: <i>Jacob Werts Goes West</i> , by David Werts	76
Of Interest – Humor – <i>Gene the Genealogical Church Mouse</i>	77
Society News	78
On the Web	78-79
Calendar	80

~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 31 Guests: 5



RENEWALS

Florence Doud	Family	9/05
William Doud	Family	9/05
Patrick Horan	Individual	9/05
Georgie Lyons	Individual	9/05
Christina McKillip	Individual	9/05
Caroline Rainey	Newsletter	9/05
Frances Smith	Individual	9/05
David Werts	Sustaining	9/05
Linna Young	Patron	9/06

~ FINANCIAL REPORT ~

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

August Income	\$	116.37
August Expenses		339.24
Balance	\$	1432.52
Balance for Operations	\$	499.02
Balance for Special Projects		944.50

~ ELECTION UPDATE ~

As noted in last month's newsletter, *Questing Heirs* will hold elections at the November meeting. The positions to be filled this year are: President, Second Vice-President, and Corresponding Secretary.

The Nominating Committee has been formed and will present its slate of candidates at the October meeting. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Please note that all nominees must give consent before their names are put into nomination. The election will follow in November, and the elected officers will be installed in December.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of the available positions, please contact David Werts at (562) 431-7790.

~ NEWSLETTER ~

Mike POWERS (562) 621-6631

HELP WITH NEWSLETTER NEEDED

I have enjoyed working on the newsletter, and have learned a lot since taking over the job from Priscilla Neilsen two years ago. Many aspects of the job are quite easy – and even fun – for me. I especially enjoy working on the look and the layout of the newsletter.

However, having to compose text is another story! It is quite difficult and time-consuming for me – so much so that I find myself resenting how much it cuts into the limited amount of free time I have for my own research. That and the fact that I also have to fulfill the job of newsletter librarian have gotten me to the point that I am about ready to give it all up.

Therefore I am asking for your help. If we could find a co-editor or an assistant editor, someone who can take on the task of writing copy, it would take a lot of the pressure off. If there is someone who is willing to take over as newsletter librarian, that would help even more.

Best of all, this would also allow us to have a truly great newsletter. If I took half the time I now spend trying to come up with copy, I could implement many new ideas which would make our newsletter much more interesting and meaningful. Further, this would also free up some time for me to take on our web page, something I have been quite eager to do, but just have not have time for.

None of these jobs is very difficult or time-consuming in itself, but together it is just too much for one person. If you can help, please contact me by phone at (562) 621-6631 or by email at <lunalake@pobox.com>.

~ REFRESHMENTS ~

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thank you to our September hosts:

Linda ARTUSO	Marilyn BRASHER
Aaron DAY	Phyllis STRAWN

Our October hosts will be:

Cynthia Day ELLIOT	Kay FOORD
Norma GRADY	Joy PROUST

~PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

FORTY YEARS IN A WILDERNESS OF MCCOY ANCESTORS

Not to sound too bleak about the prospects for genealogical research, but I had a sobering thought: I've been working on my McCoy ancestry for at least forty years, and I haven't got much beyond what my father told me: my ancestor John Wingate McCoy (1794-1877) came from Maryland and settled in Brown County, Illinois, where he raised a large family. True, I have met many distant cousins and documented the life of John Wingate McCoy. I have his picture, and I found his marriage in Adams County, Ohio.

I know a lot about the other McCoy families of Brown County, Illinois, too. One group, children of an Alexander McCoy who died about 1840, seems to have accompanied John Wingate McCoy in these migrations. At first, I thought they must be my ancestor's siblings. I had to discard that idea when I found all of them except John Wingate named as heirs-at-law when a family member died in 1866 and left no will. But an

old county history mentions that Alexander had two wives. My John Wingate McCoy could have been the only child of the first wife, and thus the half-brother of the others. But there was no proof.

Along the way, I discovered I'm descended from a second McCoy family, this one from Kentucky. In this case, there is not even documentation about the given name of the McCoy ancestor; he was already dead by 1832, when his widow gave her permission for her daughter's marriage.

How am I going to get beyond these difficult ancestors? The obvious answer is to try harder. I still have to dig more deeply into the records of the places where these families lived before they came to Illinois. For my second McCoy family, I still have not managed to contact other descendants. There is always more to do!

New technology suggests another approach: perhaps "DNA genealogy" could answer some of the questions! I thought about this for a long time, and finally decided there was no reason not to try. I've started a "McCoy DNA genealogy project" that will attempt to catalogue the Y-chromosome markers of as many McCoy families as possible. If I can get a sample from a documented descendant of Alexander McCoy, I will be able to find out if my John Wingate McCoy is related to him or not. If he is, then I need to follow Alexander. If not, I need to try something else. If my Y-chromosome matches some other McCoy family, then I can try to document a connection. DNA genealogy promises to give me clues I couldn't get any other way. The project is just getting started, but there are enough inquiries to make me think this could really work. I just hope it doesn't take another forty years!

-John McCoy

~OCTOBER MEETING~

SPEAKER: NANCY BIER

Nancy Bier is the co-founder and past president of the British Isles Family History Society - USA, a society of over 600 members. She also founded and currently serves as the Director of the Irish Studies Group. Besides Irish and British research, generic talks on court records, techniques of research, and methods of research, as well as lectures on Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia are some of her specialties. Nancy leads research trips each year to the British Isles and to Ireland and will be doing trips into the East Coast for colonial research and a follow-up trip to Britain and Ireland to "make connections."

**CLASS: ULSTER SCOTS AND REAL SCOTS
IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES:
"SCOTCH-IRISH" RESEARCH**

Join us as we attempt to answer the perennial question: "Why can't I find any record of my Scottish ancestor who settled in America in colonial times?" We will also suggest some strategies for research on these difficult ancestors.



90% of all statistics are made up.

~FEATURE ARTICLE~

JACOB WERTS GOES WEST, 1865
by David Werts

Jacob Henry Werts uprooted his family in 1865. He moved from Adamsville, Muskingum County, Ohio (near Zanesville) to Russell, Lucas County, Iowa. He took with him his wife Sophia and three children, ages 6, 5, and 3. The youngest died in Iowa in August of that year, not long after their arrival. The following are the notes that he jotted down as they made the trip. The original had no punctuation; some has been added to make it easier to read. The decision to leave was evidently difficult, judging by his description of his feelings on the first day out. The voyage wasn't as treacherous or dangerous as the pioneers' travels from Missouri to California, but the hazards of travel made the trip an adventure. The diary follows:

"left Adamsville March 13, '65. counted money in zanesville monday night. had \$469.67, Rec. in town cash 3.40. whole amount on hand 500.04. went aboard sachler(?) at 10:00 tuesday. had to lay over till thursday morning afully ??? the blues vary bad left zanesville 16th thence to maconelsville thence to beverley thence to parkersberg. there took the cars for ??? run out a few miles and came to whare the trussle work was broke down. got off and walked aboth 1/2 mile went on then to cincinnati without further trouble arived in Cinc between 10 12 oclock at night. cost 100 for to get to the henery house bill for logging and breakfast 5.25 took the hack in the morning for depo cost 1.00 to the trane for St. Luis at 7 3/4 oclo run to vincens by about 5:00 and there layed over till 10:00 at night then got aboard and run down about 3 or 4 miles and came to another broken trustle work 3 cars thrown

down about 12 or 15 feet into a swamp got out and walked over the mud and trustle work about 1/4 to 1/2 mile got over and no trane there. built up a fire on the ground and layed there from 1 to 2 hours then got aboard again and went on arived at St. Luis about 10 oclock on sabath day and stoped a the Keokuk packet landing and found there was no boat ther for Keokuk. got in a hack and went a few rods through the rain to the Olive house. hack charge \$4.00. went in the tavern and found it would cost 10 or 15.00 to stay all night thought that a little to steep. left my family and went on the hunt of some other place to stay went down to the boat landing and found a boat that was going out on tuesday. went aboard of her and got privilege to bring my family on board and stay till an other boat came in that was going out on monday at 4 oc or tuesday. went back to the tavern and got my family (and had to pay 30 cts to get my trunk) and caried my baggage back to the boat caled the hawk Eye and bought tickets for Keokuk. stayed till monday 10/oc then went on board the stemer Keithsburg and started up the River at 4:oc run all night and next day had a strong head wind run vary slow got to Keo on tuesday mor at daylight."

The story ends here. The railroad did not yet run to Russell, so we can suppose that the family took a train from Keokuk to a nearby town, perhaps Albia, and went the rest of the way by wagon. There were cousins already in the area who might have given the family a ride, but of course the exact date of their arrival was unknown.

~OF INTEREST~

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Liz Stookesberry Myers is preparing a talk to non-genealogists for Family History Month, and is looking for examples of humor from genealogy. For example, a death certificate that reads: Cause of Death: Ax to the head. Secondary Cause: Another man's wife. Her purpose is to let people know and love us crazy people who love to find dead bodies, and not to throw away old letters, bibles, etc. She's looking for groups to give the presentation to in the Southern California area, too. If you can help, please give Liz a call at (562) 598-3027

~OF INTEREST, continued~

SCGS FAMILY HISTORY WRITING CONTEST

The Southern California Genealogical Society has announced its fifth annual Family History Writing Contest. The contest is open to the public, and to both amateur and professional writers. There is no entry fee, and you need not be a member of the Southern California Genealogical Society to enter. Cash awards range from \$50 to \$250.

The contest is for factual articles on family or local history, character sketches, or memoirs. Accounts of genealogical research procedures, "how-to" articles, advice, or general genealogical columns are not considered appropriate for this contest. According to the SCGS web site, "entries should capture a sense of a family's experience(s), or the character of a locality, or

reveal an individual's character and personality. The best articles will help illuminate the human drama – and will also illuminate the era, and/or the historical or social context of the subject." Submissions are requested in three categories: unpublished family or local history articles, character sketches or memoirs of 1,000 to 2,000 words; previously published family or local history articles, character sketches or memoirs of 1,000 to 2,000 words; and articles of 1,000 words or less, published or unpublished. Entries must be received between November 1 & December 31, 2004.

For further information, please visit <<http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com/5thWC.htm>>, phone (818) 843-7247, or email <scgs@scsgsgenealogy.com>.

~HUMOR~

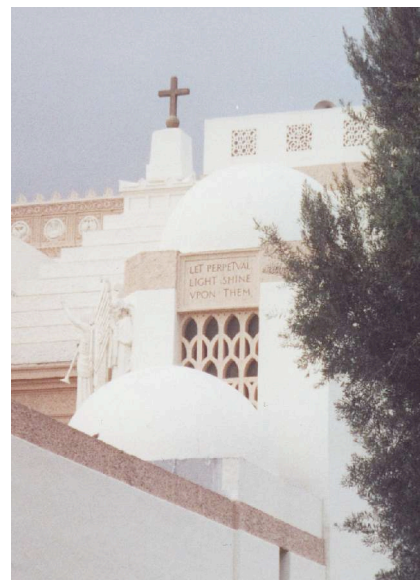


Chuck Mitchell found this gem on page 203 of the September 1983 issue of The Searcher, a publication of the Southern California Genealogical Society. It had been attributed to The Second Boat, Volume 1, Number 1, Page 20.

"As I am now, so shall you be.
Prepare for death and follow me."

Below this, added by another:

"To follow you, I'll not consent,
Until I know which way you went."



Photos by Mike Powers. Taken at Calvary Cemetery, Los Angeles.

~GENE THE GENEALOGICAL CHURCH MOUSE~

I was not able to gain very much from John McCoy's lecture at the September meeting about the 100 most important genealogy books. Somehow they didn't seem to apply to my research. I do make use of a number of

church-related records as they relate to "damage done by mice" in the yearly church custodian's report. The mortality schedules that are included in these reports are quite helpful also.

~SOCIETY NEWS~

QHGS ON THE ROAD AGAIN

MaryEmma Hargrave is planning a research trip for Questing Heirs members to the Southern California Genealogical Society Library in Burbank. The trip will be on a Saturday, so that members who work will be able to attend. MaryEmma is waiting for answer from the SCGS on the date – it will be in late October, on either the 23rd or the 30th. The plan is to meet at the Lutheran Church parking lot at Cherry and Carson at 8:45am. Drivers are needed! MaryEmma would like to get an idea of who is interested in going, so please call (562) 799-8857 between the hours of 10:00am and 8:00pm and leave a message on her machine.

MaryEmma has also provided these tips for making the most of your research time:

- ♦ Take a completed pedigree chart, so anyone can help you find the best approach.

- ♦ Have at least one family group chart filled in for the family being searched.
- ♦ Limit your search, but be prepared for maximum options.

Have a fun and successful research day!

PRINTS OF NEWSLETTER PHOTOS

At the October meeting, we will be taking orders for prints of a couple of the photos that have appeared in the newsletter in recent months. For now, we are planning to reprint the group photo from the dedication of the new genealogy department at the Long Beach Public Library in June, and the group photo from the Questing Heirs 35th Anniversary meeting in July. We are asking for \$1.00 per print to cover the cost of reproducing them. To order your copy, or to see a sample print, please see Tina Yanis or Aaron Day at the meeting.

~ON THE WEB~

NEW AT ANCESTRY.COM

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

**1900 CENSUS
EVERY-NAME INDEX**

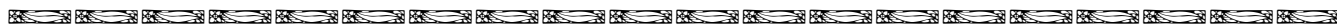
Ancestry.com has just completed an update of their project to create an every-name index to the 1900 U.S. Federal Census. The latest update adds the states of Kentucky and Louisiana. This database now indexes Arizona Territory, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Index entries are linked to images of the census schedules. Additional postings will be made regularly to this database.

**WWI DRAFT
REGISTRATION CARDS**

Ancestry.com continues to update its collection of World War I Draft Registration Cards, adding cards for California, Michigan, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Images and indexes are now available for the following states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. More states will be added in the near future.

**SAN FRANCISCO
PASSENGER LISTS 1893-1922**

This database is an index to the passenger lists of ships arriving from foreign ports at the port of San Francisco. Information contained in the index includes given name, surname, age, gender, ethnicity, nationality or last country of permanent residence, arrival date, port of arrival, port of departure, and ship name. In addition, the names found in the index are linked to actual images of the passenger lists, copied from NARA microfilm, M1410. The most recent update adds the years 1920-1922.



~ O N T H E W E B, continued ~

DIGGING IN LAND RECORDS

I have obtained so many good tips from RootsWeb Review that I wanted to write and share one. In my current position as a loan analyst, I regularly access property assessment information online on county websites. This is public information in the U.S. and you don't have to pay a subscription or anything to access it. I'm not sure for other countries what equivalents might be available. However, here in the U.S. you can typically find the county site by doing an Internet search on the county name, state, and "property assessment."

There are a few counties that don't offer this online option and the amount of information varies significantly. For most counties, you can search by property address, parcel number, etc. Generally, you can see at least the current assessed value and current owners. But more interesting is that in many cases you can read some description of the improvements to the property. So, for example, you can find the year the structure was built (and tell if it's the same house your ancestors lived in, worshipped in, or what have you), number of bedrooms, type of construction (frame, brick, etc.), and so forth.

I've had variable success -- I was not quite bright enough (yet) to figure out the map parcel numbers from an old plat map of Wisconsin to find my Weston ancestors. However, for the Candishes and Kelloggs in Nebraska, I actually found online photos (provided by the county assessor for each property) of the homes they lived in during the early 1900s!

– *Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 7 July 2004, Vol. 7, No. 27. Submitted by Valerie Vesper.*



**TEXAS ADJUTANT GENERAL
SERVICE RECORDS ONLINE**

<http://www2.tsl.state.tx.us/trail/ServiceSearch.jsp>

The Texas State Library and Archives (TSLAC) now has an online searchable database of digitized items from its Adjutant General Service Records collection. The Service Records Series combines both official service record files from the Adjutant General's Office and

alphabetical files created by other agencies, which contain records related to an individual's service in a military unit.

The records help researchers document an individual's service in fifteen different military organizations, from the Army and Navy of the Republic of Texas to Texas Rangers to frontier defense organizations. The records range over a one-hundred-year period, from the 1830s to the 1930s.

Eight of these series are now available in their entirety in digital format, and the work is ongoing. Over 17,000 images are now available to be viewed, with new documents added to the database on a weekly basis.

The documents are varied. Some files contain only small strips of paper with one or two brief sentences. Others contain several lengthy, detailed records. Information can include measurements of uniforms, payments for mustering-in, warrants of authority, individual equipment records, general orders, oaths of allegiance, pay vouchers, powers of attorney, and discharge verifications.

TSLAC also provides individual documents and photographs from its collections with historical context in the form of online exhibits.

– *Reprinted from Ancestry Daily News, 31 August 2004. Copyright 1998-2004, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Subscription information available at <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>.*



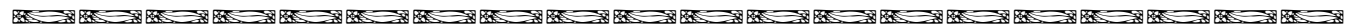
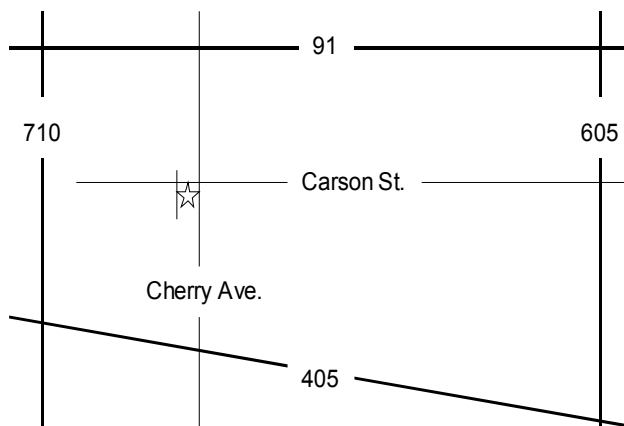
**UK CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE ONLINE**

<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificate/>

The Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom recently made their online ordering site available to customers outside of the UK on a trial basis. This makes it easier than ever to obtain UK birth, marriage, and death certificates, especially coupled with with the online availability of the GRO indexes at <http://www.1837online.com>, highlighted in a previous issue of this newsletter.

~ C A L E N D A R ~

- ♦ Saturday, October 2. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Family History Workshop. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ♦ Saturday, October 2, 9:00am – 1:30pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations, including Richard Wilson speaking on different aspects of creating web pages.
- ♦ Saturday, October 9, 10:00am – 4:00 pm. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California. Speaker: Charlotte Bocage .
- ♦ Saturday, October 16, 9:00am – 3:30pm. South Orange County California Genealogical Society third annual Family History Seminar. Saddleback Room, Mission Viejo Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive, Mission Viejo. Speakers: Bill Dollarhide and Leland Meitzler. Cost: pre-registration \$20.00; at the door \$25.00. For more information, phone (949) 581-0690 or visit <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~casocgs/seminar-2.html>>.
- ♦ Saturday, October 16, 1:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Emily Teipe, Ph. D., a historian and teacher at Fullerton College, will give a presentation on women in the Revolutionary War.
- ♦ **Sunday, October 17, 1:15pm. 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 more information, see page 75.
- ♦ Wednesday, October 20, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Program: Annual Genealogy Show and Tell.
- ♦ Sunday, October 26, 1:00pm – 5:00pm. British Isles Family History Society monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.* Annie Lloyd will be speaking on “The Welsh Borderers: Famous and Infamous.”
- ♦ Saturday, February 26, 2005. 9:00am – 4:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society presents its 22nd annual Seminar. Guest speaker Dr. Gary Shumway, Ph. D., historian. For more information, phone (562) 941-3184, email <hergwerk@earthlink.net>, or visit <<http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>>.



*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, 10 am to 7 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.