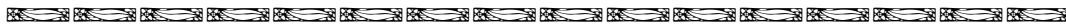




QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 38 ✦ Number 5 ✦ May 2005

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102
<http://www.cagenweb.com/questing/>



MONTHLY MEETING: third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p.m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach

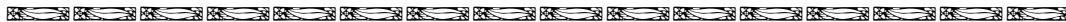


SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005

1:15	Class	Let's Get Acquainted: South Bay Cities Genealogical Society A Visit with Warren Weimer, SBCGS President
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2:15	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER WARREN WEIMER <i>Molecular Genealogy: A DNA Approach</i>
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FORTY YEARS LATER, I'M STILL FIGHTING WITH THE MICROFILM READERS

This may sound like just another pet peeve, but it's important! If genealogists are going to do quality work, they need quality tools. The time we have spent over the years trying to find a microfilm reader that is properly adjusted, and a microfilm printer that will produce usable copies, has probably added a couple years to our research, if it hasn't already impaired our vision.

Some of the problems relate to simple maintenance tasks. On those models where the film is loaded at the top, dust and debris can collect on the glass plates or on the top surface of the lens assembly. On occasion, we have even been startled to see the shadow of a bug walking across the glass plates! In a pinch, you can probably clean these surfaces yourself. We should carry a can of compressed air, for blowing dust off of lenses! Also, there's may be an adjustable screw at the front left corner of the metal plate that holds the glass plates, and when it is not properly adjusted, either the top or the bottom of the image will be out of focus at all times! The screw is supposed to align the glass plates so they are exactly parallel to the plane of the lens.

If used as designed, these machines should deliver a clear image. Over the years, though, parts may have been replaced with something

different. Today, many microfilm readers are equipped with donated camera lenses they weren't designed for. Some of the lenses lack "flat field correction," so they will never have the entire image in focus. Some lenses have a focal length that is not compatible with the design of the reader, with the result that the lamp is in the wrong position to illuminate the image properly. The image will always be too dark!

I finally realized there are two key features to look for when selecting a microfilm reader. These are very basic requirements, but I have the impression that many of the volunteers who repair microfilm readers are not aware of them. First, if the reader has a zoom lens or a high-magnification lens (anything over 40X), it should also have a lever for adjusting the position of the light source! If the light source is not adjustable, the reader was designed around a "normal" lens with a fixed magnification, and if the lens is changed, the image will not be as bright as it should be. The higher the magnification, the more important this is!

The second key feature is even more basic. Is the lamp bright enough? I'm afraid everyone is using the cheapest possible bulbs today, and that seems to mean the dimmest bulb they can get away with. A bulb

that is bright enough for a "normal" lens will not be bright enough for a zoom lens or for a lens with a high magnification, such as 62X. That's just basic optics! The bulb has to be bright enough to produce a clear image at the highest available magnification.

Having the right lamp is even more important for microfilm printers. The lamp has to be sized to produce a good copy at the highest magnification, even if the film is a bit dark. (Naturally, the light source has to be properly adjusted for the lens that is used!) Microfilms that are properly exposed in the first place will always be a bit dark, because that is the only way to assure that any faded writing will be visible. Another important point for microfilm printers is that the instruction manual should stay with the machine. No matter how many little green buttons the machine has, they won't do us any good unless we know what the various adjustments are and how to make intelligent use of them. Just because we are addicted to our hobby doesn't mean we are willing to insert an infinite number of quarters into the machine in hopes that, by randomly fiddling with the little green buttons, we will eventually obtain a usable copy. We know there is a better way!

— John McCoy



Help stamp out, eliminate, and abolish redundancy! *Author Unknown*

OF INTEREST

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ANNOUNCES MASSIVE HUMAN MIGRATION STUDY

The following information comes from the National Geographic web site:

The National Geographic Society, IBM, geneticist Spencer Wells, and the Waitt Family Foundation have launched the Genographic Project, a five-year effort to understand the human journey—where we came from and how we got to where we live today. This unprecedented effort will map humanity's genetic journey through the ages.

The fossil record fixes human origins in Africa, but little is known about the great journey that took Homo sapiens to the far reaches of the Earth. How did we, each of us, end up where we are? Why do we appear in such a wide array of different colors and features?

Our genes allow us to chart the ancient human migrations from Africa across the continents. Through one path, we can see living evidence of an ancient African trek, through India, to populate even isolated Australia.

But to fully complete the picture we must greatly expand the pool of genetic samples available from around the world. Time is short.

In a shrinking world, mixing populations are scrambling genetic signals. The key to this puzzle is acquiring genetic samples from the world's remaining indigenous peoples whose ethnic and genetic identities are isolated.

Such distinct peoples, languages, and

cultures are quickly vanishing into a 21st century global melting pot.

That's why the Genographic Project has established ten research laboratories around the globe. Scientists are visiting Earth's remote regions in a comprehensive effort to complete the planet's genetic atlas.

But we don't just need genetic information from Inuit and San Bushmen—we need yours as well. If you choose to participate and add your data to the global research database, you'll help to delineate our common genetic tree, giving detailed shape to its many twigs and branches.

Public participation, including yours, is critical to the Genographic Project's success. Purchasing a Public Participation Kit will fund important research around the world—and open the door to the ancient past of your own genetic background.

As your own genetic ancestry is revealed you'll also see worldwide samples map humankind's shared genetic background around the world and through the ages.

The Participation Kit costs U.S. \$99.95 (plus shipping and handling and tax if applicable). The kit includes:

- ◆ DVD with a Genographic Project overview hosted by Dr. Spencer Wells, visual instructions on how to collect a DNA sample using a cheek scraper, and a bonus feature program: the National

Geographic Channel/PBS production *The Journey of Man*.

- ◆ Exclusive National Geographic map illustrating human migratory history and created especially for the launch of the Genographic Project.
- ◆ Buccal swab kit, instructions, and a self-addressed envelope in which to return your cheek swab sample.
- ◆ Detailed brochure about the Genographic Project, featuring stunning National Geographic photography
- ◆ Confidential Genographic Project ID # to anonymously access your results at this Web site.
- ◆ Testing and analysis of your sample.

The net proceeds from sales of the kits will fund additional research and the Legacy Project, which will provide indigenous groups participating in the Genographic Project with direct help through development projects, education, and public-awareness campaigns aimed at preserving traditional cultures.

To be clear—these tests are not conventional genealogy. Your results will not provide names for your personal family tree or tell you where your great-grandparents lived. Rather, they will indicate the maternal or paternal genetic markers your deep ancestors passed on to you and the story that goes with those markers.

For more information, visit: <<http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/>>.

OF INTEREST, continued

SCGS SEARCHING FOR OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Do you have cherished family photographs that you would be willing to share with others? With your permission, the Southern California Genealogical Society would like to include them on their new Family Photo Album web pages. They would particularly like to include the following types of photographs:

- ◆ Old (pre-1930s) photos of family members.
- ◆ Residents from Southern

California, who could be featured in a special photo gallery.

- ◆ Old-timey photos of buildings, tourist sights, etc., particularly of Los Angeles County.

They are asking that these be personal photos owned by you or your family members. Both identified and unidentified photos can be included. At this time, they can accept only those photos that have been scanned and are in digital format. These photos will not be

sold and will remain your property. Photos will be removed from the Photo Album upon your request. Unfortunately, we are unable to use photos that were published elsewhere or printed in the newspaper due to copyright concerns.

If you are interested, please email Paula Hinkel at <phinkel@pacbell.net> and let her know of your interest. She will contact you with the specifics.

EVENTS

BYU GENEALOGY &
FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
JULY 26-29, 2005

The 37th annual Brigham Young University Genealogy and Family History Conference will be held Tuesday, July 26 through Friday, July 29 at the BYU Conference Center in Provo, Utah. The theme for this year's conference is "Building A Lasting Legacy." Eight information tracks will be available: Beginning Family History, Family History Center Support, Computers, Europe/Nordic Research, British Research, U.S. Research, Methodology, and Publishing Family Histories. Limited on-campus housing is available. Registration is limited, so early registration is encouraged. For more information, call (801) 422-8925, or visit <<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>>



WHOLLY GENES
GENEALOGY CONFERENCE & CRUISE
NOVEMBER 6-13, 2005

Wholly Genes Software, creators of The Master Genealogist, is hosting a genealogy conference and cruise through the western Caribbean, where you can learn about genealogical research methods, tools, and

technologies from some of the most popular speakers and authorities in those fields.

The conference and cruise offers a first-class lineup of speakers and at least eleven hours of lectures on a wide variety of topics relevant to every family history researcher. Scheduled speakers and presentations include: Robert Charles Anderson, Dick Eastman, Cyndi Howells, Elizabeth Shown Mills, and Bob Velke; other speakers and presentations may also be available. Users of The Master Genealogist, or other interested researchers, will have access to an additional six hours of instruction specific to that software.

Best of all, the conference will be conducted on a seven-night cruise which visits such exotic ports of call as Grand Cayman, Costa Maya, Cozumel, and Belize. All lectures are scheduled while the ship is at sea so that you can spend the days at port relaxing on exotic beaches, visiting Mayan ruins, snorkeling, swimming with the dolphins, or participating in any number of other optional guided shore excursions.

Prices start at \$700 per person, including lodging, food, port fees and taxes, and attendance to all conference lectures. For complete details about the speakers, lectures, ship, itinerary, and cabin pricing, visit <<http://www.whollygenes.com/cruise.htm>>.

ON THE WEB

THE WAYBACK MACHINE

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

The Wayback Machine, a service from the Internet Archive and Alexa Internet, allows people to access and use archived versions of stored websites. Visitors to the Wayback Machine can type in an URL, select a date, and then begin surfing on an archived version of the web. The Wayback Machine is built so that it can be used and referenced by anybody and everybody.

The original idea for the Wayback Machine began in 1996. Now, with over 100 terabytes and a dozen web crawls completed, the Internet Archive has made the Wayback Machine available to the public.

The Wayback Machine, which is growing at a rate of 12 terabytes per month, is the largest known database in the world, containing multiple copies of the entire publicly available web. This eclipses the amount of data contained in the world's largest libraries, including the Library of Congress.



TALKING SCOT

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

Ina Gibbons, president of the Sun City Palm Desert Genealogy Club, sent us the following information:

TalkingScot website has been set up as a meeting place for people with an interest in Scottish genealogy, history and culture. In the finest Scottish tradition, we extend a warm welcome to all and ask that you please join us!

The site is very informal and includes these features:

- ◆ Forum: Talk to Talking Scot members.
- ◆ Societies: Family History Societies.
- ◆ Sources: Valuable sources of genealogical data.
- ◆ Census: A concise explanation of the census in Scotland.
- ◆ Registrar: Registration districts in Scotland.
- ◆ Libraries: Places where you can find useful genealogy information.
- ◆ Experts: Professional people who offer a professional service.

Many of our members are acknowledged experts in their fields, and are able to offer advice and assistance. We also have many who are newcomers and looking for a little help in their quest to trace their ancestry. Of course everyone likes to pop in for a chat and to read the stories!

After visiting our site you will notice that our home page has been defined by the photographs of the Carr Bridge and the Falkirk Wheel—links to yesterday with an eye on the future. Classic ingenuity, lasting heritage and simple grace. Their timeless appeal is a testimony to what it means to be "of Scotland!"

You will find our site is moderated by common sense and good Scots manners. If you have any questions, please make a post, or feel free to contact us by email at <talkings@talkingscot.com>. We'll be happy to hear from you.



NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

UNVEILS ONLINE ARCHIVE

<<http://www.nypl.org/digital/>>

The New York Public Library recently unveiled an online archive of 275,000 images, available to the public for free. The project, called the NYPL Digital Gallery, is supported by a \$7 million grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies and includes Civil War photographs, illuminated manuscripts, Japanese prints, early American maps, and photographs of New York City buildings and streetscapes. Paul LeClerc, president and chief executive officer of the library, noted that while other libraries are digitizing texts, few are putting materials such as photographs and maps online. Images in the collection are either in the public domain or are owned by the library and can be downloaded and used for noncommercial purposes. The NYPL Digital Gallery project, which is unrelated to the library's arrangement with Google to digitize content, is expected to add another 225,000 images to its database in the coming months.

Excerpted from the Chronicle of Higher Education, March 3, 2005, <<http://chronicle.com/prm/daily/2005/03/2005030307n.htm>>.

ON THE WEB, continued

SCGS REVAMPS WEB SITE

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

*The following information is excerpted from
<<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/WebLaunch.htm>>:*

It is with pride that we announce the launch of the new website for the Southern California Genealogical Society. Many months' work has gone into the design, programming, and content development of the new site.

The website is the SCGS's first real step toward becoming a strong genealogical resource on the Internet. The 30,000-volume SCGS Family Research Library is recognized as the largest privately owned and volunteer-operated genealogy library on the West Coast. We intend to extend the level of excellence of our brick-and-mortar facility into our Internet presence," explained Paula Hinkel, the Society's vice president and member of the website design team. "We want the website to be the first stop for genealogists and family researchers who are tracing their ancestors in Southern California." The new website offers a variety of information for SCGS members and nonmembers:

- ◆ Research techniques and tips for novices as well as experienced researchers
- ◆ Information on resources and facilities in LA County.
- ◆ Several sections designed to communicate the Society's educational offers, activities and events.
- ◆ Articles about the volunteers who staff the Library and other programs.
- ◆ The Research Library's card catalog will be available online. Books, manuscripts, maps, CDs, periodicals, and microform resources will be included.
- ◆ Online purchase of the Society's publications.
- ◆ Special Interest Groups and Projects features.
- ◆ Posting area for queries, questions and suggestions.
- ◆ Data that can be searched free of charge.

Although the searchable data is limited at present, it will be expanded and improved over the coming months. The current website is an interim step that will eventually house the Society's Genealogy Resources Online (GRO) database of genealogical information about the residents of Los Angeles and surrounding Southern California counties. "We are playing catch-up

and working very hard to compile records—birth, marriage, death and burial records; cemetery inventories; immigration and naturalization; church, school and organization directories, Great Registers of Voters, court records, city directories, and other resources—for Los Angeles County. We have an aggressive plan for developing our database. It's a big job, but it will be an incredibly valuable asset for our Society and for the genealogical community," said Louise Calaway, SCGS officer and driving force behind the data compilation projects.

Calaway continued, "With 9.5 million residents in Los Angeles in 2000, we know that in coming generations, many, many people are going to be looking for their ancestors in Southern California. It's our turn to leave a legacy of data for researchers in the future. Every genealogist has benefited from the work of volunteers who compiled genealogical data in the past."



ANCESTRY.COM OFFERS U.S. CENSUS
MORTALITY SCHEDULES 1850-1880

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

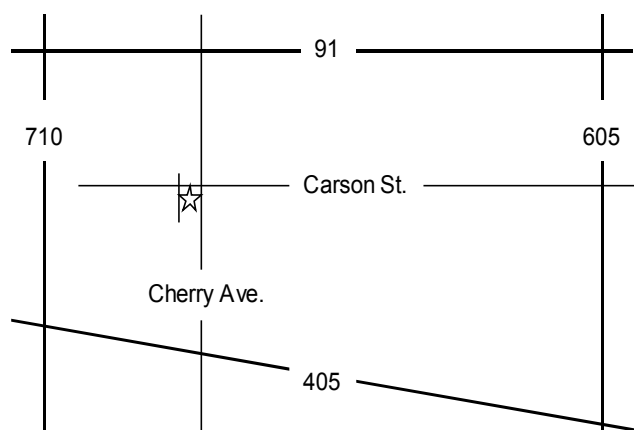
Part of the U.S. Federal Censuses from 1850-1880 included a mortality schedule enumerating the individuals who had died in the previous year. Because each of the censuses from 1850-1880 began on June 1, "previous year" refers to the 12 months preceding June 1, or June 1 (of the previous year) to May 31 (of the census year). This database contains an index to all individuals enumerated in these mortality schedules. In addition, each individual is linked to the census image on which they appear.

Currently, there are schedules available for Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kansas Territory, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana Territory, Nebraska, Nebraska Territory, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Utah Territory, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington Territory.

*Reprinted with permission from Ancestry Daily News, April 26, 2005. Subscription information available at
<<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>.*

CALENDAR

- ◆ Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am–1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations, including Barbara Renick speaking on “Library Web Sites: More than Just a Catalog.” There is a \$5.00 charge for all workshops, except for Basic Genealogy.
- ◆ Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14. Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree & Resource Expo. Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel & Convention Center. Please see page 34 for information.
- ◆ Sunday, May 15, 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 below. For meeting information, please see page 34.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 18, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ◆ Wednesday, May 18, 7:00pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center. Program: Ray Boorman will be speaking on Digital Photography.
- ◆ Friday, May 20–Wednesday, June 1. BIFHS-USA Colonial Scotch-Irish and German research trip to Virginia and Pennsylvania with Nancy Bier, Nancy Carlberg, and Linda Jonas. For more information, contact Nancy Bier at (310) 375-6149, Nancy Carlberg at (714) 772-2849, or visit the BIFHS–USA web page at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/>>.
- ◆ Saturday, May 21, 12:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Program: WAGS birthday and installation of new officers. Speakers: Charles and Rosemary Kissel. Topic: Genealogy of the American Flag.



- ◆ Saturday, June 4, 9:00 am–1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations. There is a \$5.00 charge for all workshops, except for Basic Genealogy.
- ◆ Tuesday, July 26–Friday, July 29. BYU Genealogy and Family History Conference. Provo, Utah. See page 37 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, 10 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.