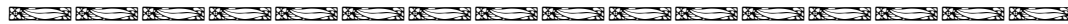


QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 38 ✦ Number 6 ✦ June 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

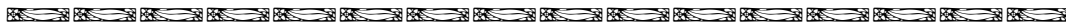


SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2005

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| 1:15 | Class | Use Your Genealogy Software to Write a Book! presented by John McCoy |
|------|-------|--|

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

| | | |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 2:30 | General Meeting | SPEAKER CONNIE MORETTI Genealogy: What to Do When You Are Stuck <i>Where to Look When You Don't Know</i> <i>Where to Look; i.e., They Just Showed Up</i> |
|------|-----------------|--|



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A SUNNYSIDE ANTHOLOGY

Recently our society acquired a volume of funeral home records from Coon & Stricklin, a firm that operated under various names since the 1920s in Long Beach. The volume is a register of 300 pages and contains information about 299 funerals from 1922 to 1926. One record was entered twice; otherwise the book is completely filled. The information for each funeral is far from complete, however, and not always legible. But we did the best we could, and the abstracted information will soon be posted on our web site so it may be found by interested relatives and genealogists. We will, of course, be happy to provide further details to any such parties.

Most of the burials were at Sunnyside, but a great number of other final resting places are named, and many bodies were shipped out of the area. Naturally, the records reflect the diversity of our city, and especially its history as a friendly haven for people weary of more difficult climates. But the story is not that simple!

We know that Long Beach had a very active contingent of immigrants from Iowa—sometimes we refer to our town as “Iowa by the sea!” But it would be at least as accurate to acknowledge our Pennsylvania and New York roots, as well as Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Nebraska, Texas, and so on, including a number of foreign countries.

Some of the deceased were very old, a few born as early as 1831, and so some of the parents named likely were

alive at the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. Some of the deceased had served in the Civil War and were buried at the Sawtelle Soldier's Home. A great number could be found on the 1850 census, and so Long Beach's history must include the memories that is settlers brought with them, dating back almost to the founding of the Republic.

While most of funerals were for people who lived very long lives, some met their end in accidents that tell us something about a Long Beach that is all but forgotten. Charles Fritz died July 28, 1922 as a result of an accident on the railroad where he worked. Today, when the air is still, we can barely hear the mournful whistle of the trains and we wonder where the sound is coming from. Did the same accident cause the death of Maggie H. Alston, who apparently worked for the railroad and whose funeral was held the next day? Dana G. Boleyn, Jr., a high school student, died of an accidental gunshot wound November 11, 1922. He was only 14. George William Erikson, age 29, died in an automobile accident. George Alonzo Richardson, age 31, a schoolteacher, died of a nervous breakdown March 8, 1923. Edward W. Paine and his wife Adaline of 1510 Locust Ave. died November 11, 1923 as a result of inhaling gas. On the very same day, Mrs. Hazel Belle Williams, working as a domestic in San Francisco, died of the same cause; her parents, Grant V. and Annie B. Green, brought their daughter home to Long Beach and buried her at Sunnyside. On May 8, 1924, an

explosion at an oil rig on Signal Hill killed Frank Geisinger, age 35, caught in the burning rig, and Fletcher Bownds, age 18, working as an “old driller helper,” who died of his burns the next day at Seaside Hospital. His remains were shipped to his parents in Memphis, Texas. We read that Henry M. Arbuckle, realtor, age 61, died of “Complications.” At least one woman died from a botched abortion. There were a few suicides, and a sea captain from San Francisco who simply dropped dead on Pine Avenue.

But of all the potential stories hinted at in this volume, I would most like to know more about Dr. Bessie Park Haines, M.D. She was born November 1, 1839, in Pennsylvania, the daughter of Ezra S. Park and Mary Anne Warner. Her funeral on February 10, 1925 was paid for by Ezra Park Foot of Alameda, CA, with burial at Angeles Abbey Mausoleum. What determination she must have had, to become a doctor at that time!

The Long Beach Public Library website includes a link to a “History Database.” At this writing, the library has posted obituary information up to about the middle of 1923, with the promise that more will be added as time and resources permit. Until that happens, the information posted on our web site will serve as a tantalizing reminder of our shared history.

The memory of our past, and the memory of the individual citizens of our modest city, require our care and attention. Where they have gone, we are sure to follow.

—*John McCoy*

OF INTEREST

STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN LAIRD
WORKING FOR FULL ACCESS TO RECORDS

The following is the text of an email received by Liz Myers from J. L. Bellamy of the Monterey County Genealogical Society.

On May 5, 2005, Assemblymember John Laird spoke at the regular monthly meeting of the Monterey County Genealogical Society. John Laird represents the 27th Assembly District. He is an active genealogical researcher and is a member of the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County. He is the Chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee and as such he is also a member of the Speaker's power panel. This is a man with tremendous influence in Sacramento and fortunately he is a genealogical fan to boot.

The subject of his talk was Assembly Bill AB 2719, which he authored and which will become law in the fall. In 2001 Governor Davis issued an executive order which locked out certain state records as a security measure following in the wake of the 9/11 disaster. AB 2719 opens all such records after a period of 75 years. Many of the records which will now be accessible had been permanently closed.

The law specifically applies to records held in the state archives but conceivably could begin a slippery slope to any other state records. The state archives are under the control of the California Secretary of State. The new Secretary of State is Bruce McPherson, a prominent political figure from the Monterey Bay area.

These records are only available in Sacramento. The first stop is the State Archives in the Secretary of State Building. Some records may be held in other repositories a short distance away. Among the records now available will be those related to mental institutions, and penal facilities. Also available will be the partition books, which relate to the division of properties. Unfortunately, the state may not know what records they have so there will probably be an inventory effort. Indexing will be a problem. Due to cost, there will probably not be Internet access to these records.

Mr. Laird's session was largely a question and answer situation. John has been doing missionary work in

Sacramento on behalf of genealogical interests. He was responsible for keeping the Sutro branch of the State Library open on Saturday for the benefit of the working people.

I identified myself as representing the Alliance (as well as both genealogical societies) and discussed the problem of varying local access to birth, death, and marriage records. He commented that he had been working with the Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County president, Wayne Thalls, on this issue. I got a commitment from him that he would like to be the focal point for any problems related to this issue. That applies regardless of which assembly district the incident may have occurred in.

This is the best shot we will ever have, unless [Governor] Arnold [Schwarzenegger] becomes interested in genealogy. John Laird's addresses are:

- ◆ Mail: P. O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 98249
- ◆ Phone: (916) 319-2027
- ◆ Fax: (916) 319-2127
- ◆ E-mail: <assemblymember.laird@assembly.ca.gov>



NARA FACING SEVERE BUDGET CUTS

Our nation's archival heritage includes hundreds of years of letters, documents, maps, drawings, photographs, films, and other materials kept by archives.

This archival heritage is at risk. President Bush's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006 eliminates the National Historical Publications & Records Commission (NHPRC), the only grant-making body in the federal government with a focus on archives. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), NHPRC's parent agency, will also be challenged to meet demands in other important areas.

A web site has been set up to keep people informed on what is happening in Congress and what can be done. The address for this site is <<http://www.SaveArchives.org>>. While there, you can also sign a petition online to support funding for the NHPRC.

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

FAMILY CHRONICLE MAGAZINE
SEEKS SUBMISSIONS FOR BOOK

The following comes from the Family Chronicle web page at <<http://familychronicle.com/lettershome.htm>>:

We are in the early stages of planning a new book and we need your assistance. The book, tentatively titled "Letters Home: The Immigrant Experience," will be about the trials and tribulations of our ancestors as recorded through their correspondence to friends and family. The book will feature the transcribed letters from new immigrants describing their experiences crossing the Atlantic or migrating across North America, finding their first jobs in their new homes, moving into a new house and making a new life.

We are looking to our readers to share their family's letters with us for publication in the book. Translated letters are welcome, however, we are only accepting letters that predate 1950. Please send your transcribed letters (as a Word document or as a RTF file) to <lettershome@familychronicle.com> or a typed transcription to Family Chronicle Letters Home Project, P. O. Box 194, Niagara Falls NY 14304.

Please include your name, address and telephone number. A color photocopy of the original document would be appreciated. Please do not send originals as we cannot return them. Phone numbers, e-mail addresses and mailing addresses supplied will only be used in connection with this project and will not be included in the book without permission.

We would like to illustrate the book with photographs or postcards. If you have postcards, photographs of the writer, the recipient or one of the subjects in their letter, please send a copy or scan of the original. The scans should be at least 200 dpi in JPEG (preferred) or TIFF file format. These can be sent via e-mail to <lettershome@familychronicle.com> or mailed on a disk or CD. If you wish to send photocopies please use a color photocopier, even if the picture is black and white,

as color photocopies produce a far higher quality image. Please write a suitable caption for all pictures sent, giving as much information as possible for each. If you are sending multiple attachments, it would be better if each were sent separately as this reduces the likelihood of having messages rejected due to being oversized.

If we use your letter we will send you two copies of the book for every letter published. If we do not use your letters, we send you a discount voucher you can use to purchase the book. We reserve the right to restrict discount vouchers to serious submissions.



MORE ON THE GENOGRAPHIC PROJECT

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I was pleased to see the Genographic Project publicized in the "Ancestry Daily News." A couple of extra points may be of special interest to the genealogical community.

The "public participation" samples are being analyzed by Family Tree DNA, a company which specializes in DNA testing for genetic genealogy. Within the next few weeks, existing customers at Family Tree DNA will have the opportunity to add their results to the Genographic Project. Also, people who sign up for the Genographic Project can elect to share their results with others and obtain further, more detailed analysis from any of the genealogical testing companies.

The book I co-authored with Megan Smolenyak, "Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree," includes a chapter called "Around the World: Geographic Origins" which explains the techniques that will be used in the Genographic Project.

– Ann Turner, List Administrator
GENEALOGY-DNA-L@rootsweb.com

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail.

Abraham Maslow

ON THE WEB

PROQUEST OFFERS FREE TRIAL
TO QUESTING HEIRS

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

Liz Myers has been in contact with William Arnold of ProQuest, who has set up a free trial of home access to their Sanborn Maps and Historic Newspapers databases just for Questing Heirs members. The Digital Sanborn Maps are the old fire insurance maps converted to digital format. The ProQuest Historic Newspapers provides newspaper coverage for publications such as Los Angeles Times and New York Times back to the first issue. ProQuest has taken the microfilm from these papers, converted them to digital format and made them available online. This trial will last for one month or 700 logins, whichever comes first, so please consider others when you use the databases. To log in, visit <<http://trials.proquest.com/ptc?userid=1374243>> and enter the password "welcome."



GENEALOGY BLOG

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

Daily updates from Leland Meitzler, founder of Heritage Quest, on what is happening in the genealogical world.



PRE-1905

CALIFORNIA DEATH INDEX PROJECT

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cabf1905/>>

The following is from the text of an email sent by Sharon, Kern County Volunteer and Webmaster for the Pre-1905 CADI Project, to the Rootsweb Southern California mailing list <SOCAL-L@rootsweb.com> on February 3, 2005:

I would just like to take an opportunity to remind everyone about the Pre-1905 California Death Index Project that is ongoing. We are all volunteers and our goal is to find and transcribe for indexing, all deaths in California that occurred before July of 1905 when the state began its own indexing system. We have all been working diligently and have recently added five new counties to the website. All is freely available online and the site is completely searchable. We still have a ways to go to get everything, but there is a lot in the works. We

are working on Sacramento County right now and it, by itself, has over 15,000 records.

All this, of course is not free. If anyone would be interested in supporting this project, please go to our website and click on the link for Elvina Fernandez. She is our Leader and Treasurer and will happily accept whatever donation you feel impressed to give.



HISTORICAL COUNTY LINES

<<http://jrshelby.com/hcl/>>

Here's a unique web page that pulls together all the "animated" maps that show the year-by-year changes in U. S. county boundaries.



"MISSING FRIENDS" COLUMN
SEARCHABLE ONLINE DATABASE

<<http://infowanted.bc.edu/>>

The following is excerpted from the Boston College "Information Wanted" web page at the above address:

From October 1831 through October 1921, the Boston Pilot newspaper printed a "Missing Friends" column with advertisements from people looking for "lost" friends and relatives who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States. This extraordinary collection of 31,711 records is available here as a searchable online database, which contains a text record for each ad that appeared in the Pilot.

The advertisements contain the ordinary but revealing details about the missing person's life: the county and parish of their birth, when they left Ireland, the believed port of arrival in North America, their occupation, and a range of other personal information. Some records may have as many as fifty different data fields, while others may offer only a few details. The people who placed ads were often anxious family members in Ireland, or the wives, siblings, or parents of men who followed construction jobs on railroads or canals.

These "Missing Friends" advertisements provide a window on the world of Irish immigration.

COMPUTING

AFTER THE RESEARCH TRIP

An Ancestry Quick Tip, submitted by Yolanda Campbell Lifter of Malabar, Florida. Reprinted with permission from Ancestry Daily News, 26 May 2005. Visit <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>> for more information. Copyright 1998-2005, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

My long-distance research trips are usually seven or more days in length. I arrive home with piles of paper and documents that I have collected along the way as well as all the digital photos I took.

To help make my post-trip recovery easier, I have developed a simple way to help myself. At the end of

each day of research, I send myself an e-mail. I write where I was on that particular day and what I did. I note any libraries, courthouses, or cemeteries I visited. I also mention if I made any new discovery or found something that needs further follow-up. I list the name(s) of anyone I need to send a thank-you note. I report which client(s) I worked for that day and for how long.

I also mention anything that may help me on future trips to the same area such as a landmark for that hard to find cemetery or the name and location of a store I visited.

This method has helped me avoid feeling overwhelmed when I return home, and the task of organizing my new findings seems more manageable.

EVENTS

BIFHS-USA ANNUAL SEMINAR AUGUST 13, 2005

On Saturday, August 13, the British Isles Family History Society–USA will present its seventeenth annual seminar, entitled “Essentials for Making British Connections.”

This year's seminar features Linda Jonas. Her topics will be: “All I know is that he was from Virginia!,” “Colonial Search Strategy, Parts 1 & 2,” and “English Sources Beyond the Basics.”

The seminar will be held from 8:00am to 4:00pm in the Rotunda Room of the Veterans Memorial Complex at 4117 Overland Avenue in Culver City.

The price is \$50.00 for members or \$60.00 for non-members, which includes a British tea and a syllabus. The deadline for registration is August 1.

More information, as well as a downloadable registration form, is also available on the BIFHS-USA web page at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/>>.

If you have any questions, contact Linda Egan Flynn at (310) 539-9409, or Annie Lloyd by email at <cardi2@aol.com>. (Please mention "BIFHS Seminar" in the subject line of your mail.)

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR AUGUST 20, 2005

The Polish Genealogical Society Family History Seminar takes place on Saturday, August 20 at the Orange Family History Center, 674 Yorba Avenue, Orange. Check-in time is 9:00am; the seminar will go from 9:30am to 5:00pm. This year's seminar features Ceil Wendt Jensen, Certified Genealogical Records Specialist, in her premier appearance in California.

Ceil's lectures are entitled “Roast the Scribe,” “Brick Wall Solutions Using Internet and FHL,” “Researching Your International Heritage Online,” and “The Palace and the Peasant.”

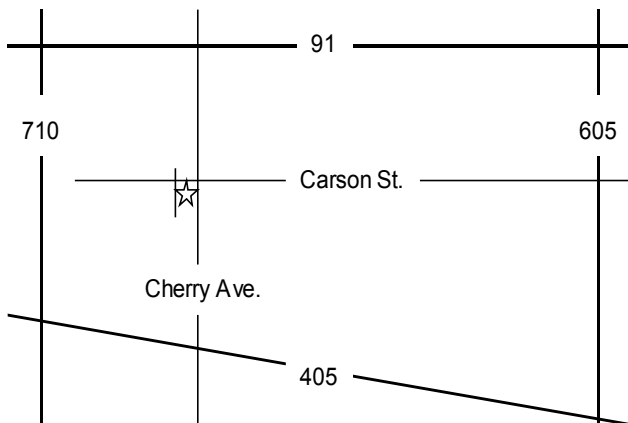
Cost for PGS-CA members is \$35.00, non-members will be charged 45.00. The registration fee includes a Polish luncheon.

For more information, contact Janice Lipinski, Chairperson by phone at (310) 378-0877 or by email at <Janice-Lipinski@znet.com>. More information, including a description of the lectures, is also available on the PGS-CA web page at <<http://www.pgsc.org>>.



CALENDAR

- ◆ Wednesday, June 15, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ◆ Wednesday, June 15, 7:00pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center. Speaker: Kathleen Roe Trevena. Topic: Ancestral Dollars and Cents: Occupations and Money in Early America.
- ◆ Saturday, June 18, 12:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Program: Sharon Ford presenting “Cemeteries: More Than a Place of Burial for Our Ancestors.”
- ◆ Sunday, June 19, 1:15–3:30pm. 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 42.



- ◆ Sunday, June 26, 1:00–3:00pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA. Los Angeles FHC*. Speaker: Janice Cloud. Topic: The Colonial Era.
- ◆ Saturday, July 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 Joan Lowrey speaking on “The Hamburg Passenger Lists and Other German Emigration Sources” and “Passenger Lists–Did They Really Come on That Ship?” 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. For more information, see our May issue, visit <<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>>, or phone (801) 422-8925.
- ◆ Saturday, August 13, 8:00am–4:00pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA 17th Annual Seminar: Essentials for Making British Connections, featuring Linda Jonas. Veterans Memorial Complex, Rotunda Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City. Please see page 47 for more information.
- ◆ Saturday, August 20, 9:30am–5:00pm. Polish Genealogical Society of California Family History Seminar featuring Ceil Wendt Jensen, CGRS. Orange FHC*, 674 Yorba Avenue, Orange. See page 47 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.