



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 38 ✦ Number 7 ✦ July 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, JULY 17, 2005

1:15	Workshop	How Old is That Photograph? presented by John McCoy
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2:15	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER <i>Nancy Carlberg</i> GENEALOGY TRAVEL ON A SHOESTRING
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BEST IN THE WEST!

On most Saturdays, you can find me at the Los Angeles Family History Center (LAFHC), 10741 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Los Angeles, CA 90025. Most of the time, there are no other Questing Heirs members present, besides myself and Questing Heirs past president Richard Hoover. I want to remind our members and friends that LAFHC is the biggest and best genealogical resource in Southern California—and the biggest such facility west of Utah! It is also the first place you should check for your genealogical problems!

Thanks to webmaster Jon Schweitzer, the collections of LAFHC are now more accessible than ever! Did you know, you can check to see if a specific microfilm or microfiche is in the collections of LAFHC? You can even check to see if there are other films that you didn't know about, by doing a keyword search. Take a look at the new search page at <<http://www.lafhc.org/microsearch.html>>. The LAFHC website, <<http://www.lafhc.org>>, features other new finding aids, for state

census resources, passenger lists (largest collection in the West outside of Salt Lake City), CD-ROMs, the rare book collection, maps, etc.

Most of the holdings have been acquired through donations. For microfilms, patrons have taken advantage of the "indefinite loan" process: for about \$10, you can have a microfilm from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City deposited permanently at LAFHC. Thus, the collection at LAFHC contains precisely the films that patrons have wanted to use. There is currently plenty of room for additional films.

Some of our members may remember that LAFHC used to be very crowded on Saturdays. The parking lots are still full, but the microfilm room is no longer crowded. People used to spend most of their time searching the census microfilms, but that task is now greatly simplified by using Ancestry.com (available for free at all Family History Centers). The microfilm room, no longer crowded, has become the preferred setting for more

detailed research using the more than 116,000 reels in the permanent collection.

The economics of genealogy are complicated. The cost of traveling to LAFHC from Long Beach is probably about \$6 for gas, plus 2½ hours on the freeways (round trip). For some people, it might be cheaper to do your research in an annual trip to Salt Lake City. However, I prefer to work at a steady pace. Without the facilities of LAFHC (open to the public 49 hours per week!), I would not have been able to undertake long-term projects such as extraction of parish registers or one-name studies. I still use my local FHC for rental microfilms that are not already in the LAFHC collection and that don't require extended analysis. That way, I can spend up to about 14 hours per week on research, when my schedule permits.

If you are serious about genealogical research, take advantage of LAFHC. I hope to see you there!

—John McCoy

The 1851 Census in Quebec used forms that each household was supposed to fill out. The forms were collected on a specified day, but unfortunately for genealogists, the individual forms generally have no indication of the location of each house, and the microfilmed records available today seem to be in no particular order. Somewhere in the city of Quebec, a frustrated renter, Laurence Corneil, born in Ireland, added the following comment on the census form:

"I beg leave to state that the within house is infested by rats whom I should think should be included in the census, and that all proprietors building stables against dwellings should have imposed on them a heavy fine, for it is by this means those four-footed beasts increase and multiply."

—Submitted by John McCoy

SOCIETY NEWS

JANET TAYLOR PASSES AWAY AT AGE 82

Former member Janet Taylor died June 13, 2005 after a long illness. Janet joined *Questing Heirs* in April 1998 and served as Publicity Chairman before she became incapacitated. Many of us remember Janet not only for her bright red hair, but most of all for her super intelligence.

Alas, Janet was one of those people who never got around to organizing her genealogy and writing it up. Nobody was more capable of doing this than Janet, whose life work was writing and editing for a number of venues from newspapers to technical manuals. After Janet became ill, *Questing Heirs* was given her raw genealogy research material as she had no children and no family who were interested in it. Linda Artuso then took on the task of organizing the material and seeing that it was sent to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I am sure that Janet would thank Linda for doing such a good job.

Submitted by Jeanette Jones. Janet Taylor's obituary appeared in the Long Beach Press-Telegram on June 22.

METHODS

EXPLORING IN UNLIKELY PLACES

One of our local cemeteries, established in the 1800s, keeps exceptionally complete records. My research led me to this cemetery where my grandmother rests.

I noticed the cemetery records indicated that beside her was buried a sister who had died in a state mental institution, sometimes called an insane asylum, in 1943. My curiosity was piqued especially concerning family medical history.

After contacting the state facility which still exists, even though its purpose and focus has changed over the last 60 years, I was told this grandaunt's microfilmed records did indeed exist and would be released to me upon receipt of a notarized affidavit declaring myself as next of kin. Since the lady had no children, I am just as "next" as any other surviving nieces or nephews, none of whom are interested in genealogy.

I now know grandauntie's medical and psychiatric history, previous address, names and birth places of her mother, father, and sisters, martial and financial status at time of commitment, place of birth, as well as date and cause of death. But most valuable was the date the family had moved from the county to the city—a date previously unknown to me. This date helped make some pieces of the genealogy puzzle fit into place. Who would have dreamed all this information would be noted in her hospital-admittance evaluation?

Point is, sometimes a lot of valuable genealogical information can be found in the most unlikely places—just keep looking for little clues, then pursue those leads. But don't put it off. I was warned those old microfilmed records are deteriorating rapidly and auntie's might not be readable, but fortunately for me, hers were still intact.

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HOMEWORK BEFORE LIBRARY TRIPS

An Ancestry Quick Tip, submitted by Diana Nelson:

If you are planning a trip to a library, find out if the library has open or closed stacks. If the stacks are closed, you are going to have to use the catalog to find the call number, author, and title and fill out a request. To save time, use the library's online catalog to find the books you want to use and prepare a sheet of call numbers, authors, and titles. For the call number, make sure you write down all the numbers. When you get to the library you will be prepared to write your first requests without having to spend valuable time on the look up (Some libraries require you to have one of their library cards to use the computer). If you have access to PERSI at home or your local library, check for articles about your ancestor or when he came from, and whether the library you are going to has copies of that periodical.

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OF INTEREST

**BARBARA RENICK
TO SPEAK AT ORANGE FHC**

Barbara Renick will be speaking at the Orange Family History Center twice in the month of July. Her first lecture will be on Friday, July 8, from noon until 2 pm. The topic will be "GenWeb Projects, WebRings, Blogs & Wikis Online." The second lecture will take place on Wednesday, July 20, from 10 am to noon, and will be about "Creative Census Searching."

The Family History Center is located at 674 South Yorba in Orange. Their phone number is (714) 997-7710.

Submitted by Liz Myers.



**CANADIAN 1911 CENSUS
TO BE AVAILABLE VERY SOON**

Great news for those with research interests in Canada! Under a law recently passed by Parliament, records of the 1911 census will soon be released to the public. The law also allows later censuses from 1921 to 2001 to be released 92 years after the censuses were taken. This is a great victory for researchers, who put up an organized and concerted effort to get the records opened.

The 1911 census images have already been turned over by Statistics Canada to Archives and Library Canada, and it is believed they have already been scanned and will be put online within weeks. For updates on this exciting news, visit the Library and Archives Canada web page at <http://www.friendsofnationalarchives.ca>.



"MY ROOTS ARE HERE" PRODUCTS

You may have noticed Cynthia Day-Elliott's "My Roots Are Here" T-shirt at one of our meetings. The shirt features a map of the U. S. with the states she's researching marked with a little gem. The shirts are made by Kathy, a member of our sister society, the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society. Kathy is planning to come to one of our meetings soon to

show the items she makes.

The short-sleeved T-shirts cost \$18.00 and come in sizes S-2XL. Available colors are: pink, red, yellow, violet, light blue, black, maroon, royal blue, gold, purple, and green. The ladies' scoop neck shirts also cost \$18.00 and come in sizes S-2XL. Colors are: daffodil yellow, light blue, pink, wisteria, and black. The long-sleeved T-shirts cost \$19.00 and come in sizes S-3XL. Colors are: jet black, true navy, and true red. More colors may be available on request. The sweatshirts cost \$20.00 and come in sizes S-3XL. Available colors are: black, deep purple, true navy, true red, true royal, forest green, and maroon. The totes cost \$20.00, and come in the same range of colors as the sweatshirts.

If you can't wait for Kathy to come to the meeting, or if you'd like more information on these products, you can contact her via email at Kfikel@aol.com.

ON THE WEB

TANGUAY'S DICTIONARY ONLINE
<http://www4.bnquebec.ca/numtextes/accueil_tanguay.htm>

An Ancestry Quick Tip, submitted by Jolynn Noel Winland of West Virginia:

Just wanted to let everyone who may be researching their French Canadian ancestry know that the link for access to Tanguay's dictionary has changed.

This may save others from the heart failure that I experienced when I went to the old link and found that it no longer worked! I had to really search the home page before I found where the link was, since the Bibliotheque Nationale Quebec website at <http://www.bnquebec.ca/portal/dt/accueil.html> has so much information on it. I don't know what I would do without Tanguay's—it has helped me so much.

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ON THE WEB, continued

B. W. COON CO. 1922-1926 FUNERAL RECORDS INDEX

<http://cagenweb.com/questing/information.html>

An index of the volume of funeral home records that John McCoy wrote about in last month's newsletter is now available on the Questing Heirs web page. The volume is a register of 300 pages which contains information about 299 funerals from 1922 to 1926. You can view, download, or print the 20-page PDF document using Adobe Reader. If you don't already have the reader installed on your computer, it is available for free at <http://www.adobe.com/>.

We will, of course, be happy to provide further details to interested relatives and genealogists. Please contact John McCoy by phone at (562) 437-4337 or by email at realmac@aol.com.



BYU FAMILY HISTORY ARCHIVE

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/>

The following is from a message sent by Chad Milliner to the RootsWeb APG mailing list <APG-L@rootsweb.com> on May 6, 2005:

BYU has launched a front-end search engine to a website with a massive amount of digitized local and family histories. A few days ago, I noticed a link on the Family History Library catalog to a history of Trumbull County, Ohio that had been digitized from microfilm by BYU. Today, I went to the new front-end search engine site and entered "Trumbull" in the "Geographic Area" space on the search form. The list of results included not only the history of Trumbull County that I already knew had been digitized, but also several other histories of the county, all of which can be searched full-text. (Although I still have my doubts as to the usefulness of that search function, just as I have my doubts about the usefulness of full-text searches of the HeritageQuestOnline histories). Nonetheless, I have extremely happy to finally see something that I had been hearing rumors about for years finally begin to come to fruition.

To its credit, BYU is not making outrageous claims about the accuracy of its OCR technology. On the

help page for the database, I found this disclaimer, "You should always carefully examine the family histories and not depend completely on full-text search results." Words for all of us to live by.



GODFREY LIBRARY ADDS ACCESS TO READEX EARLY AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS

<http://www.godfrey.org>

The following information is reprinted from the Godfrey Library News, 20 May 2005:

The Library is pleased to announce that it has added Early American Newspapers (Readex) to our Godfrey Scholar Online Portal. These original 17th, 18th and 19th Century newspapers are ideal for genealogists and are only owned by a small group of libraries. Now they are available online, 24/7.

This new resource contains more than 1,200 of the earliest newspapers published in the US and includes titles from 23 States, from New England through the South. The First Series contains 141 newspapers. More newspapers will be added throughout 2005 and the set will be complete in early 2006.

These newspapers are every word searchable. There are also special search features that let you narrow your search to just obituaries or just marriage announcements. Researchers may view only the article or read the entire newspaper.



LONG BEACH HISTORY & TIMELINE

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

Thought you knew all there was to know about Long Beach? Did you know that just fifty years after Columbus came to America, Cabrillo and his crew of explorers anchored off the present site of Long Beach? Or that between 1902 and 1910 Long Beach was the fastest-growing city in the United States?

You can find more than you ever wanted to know about our fair city on the Long Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau web page at <http://www.visitlongbeach.com/pressroom/index.cfm?action=history>.

COMPUTING

TIMELINE SPREADSHEET

An Ancestry Quick Tip, submitted by Laurie Miller of Abilene, Texas:

I have found so many ancestors on my husband's side that when I went to the library to do research, I always got lost trying to figure out who should be where and when! Although it took a little time up front, I made a timeline for each branch of the tree and then combined all the timelines on one spreadsheet. My spreadsheet

has seven columns: last name, first name, event year, place (country or state first, then county, city if known), event (marriage to..., birth to..., etc.), military service, and spouse. Now, depending on what I am looking up, I can sort by place, by name, or by date. Or if I'm looking up military service data, I can single out the ancestors who may have fought in a particular war. It makes it a lot

easier and saves a lot of time when I'm researching a particular family, time period, or place. It also shows me which ancestors may have been acquainted.

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EVENTS

FGS/UGA CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 7-10, 2005

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and The Utah Genealogical Association have announced that the FGS/UGA Conference will be held Wednesday, September 7 through Saturday, September 10 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. This year's theme is "Reminders of the Past, Visions for the Future."

This year's program provides an opportunity to expand your knowledge and to learn about new sources, resources, techniques, and practical approaches that will help you trace your family history and solve research problems.

Salt Lake City, Utah, is an ideal location for FGS's 2005 conference. It is the home of the world's largest genealogical library, which will remain open for extended hours during the conference to facilitate attendees' needs. This is the perfect place to learn new skills and discover resources, then apply those to your own research problems.

One of the really exciting things about attending a

national genealogical conference is the opportunity for networking with other individuals who share your passion for this subject. You will have the chance to learn from the nation's expert genealogists. You will also have the opportunity to visit over 150 genealogical exhibitor booths to preview new publications, purchase genealogical items, and learn about the latest technological advances in this ever-changing field.

The conference host hotel will be the downtown Marriott Hotel, directly across the street from the Salt Palace Convention Center. Several other convenient hotels are within walking distance, as are two shopping malls and numerous restaurants. The public bus system and TRAX, the local commuter train service, are free in the downtown area.

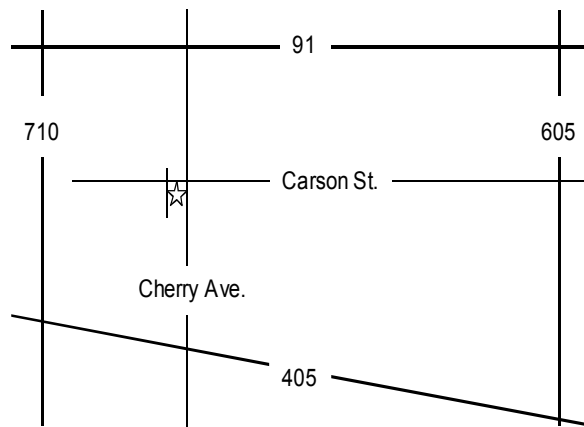
More information, including a full list of speakers and topics, is available on the FGS web page at <<http://fgs.org>>. You can also write to the FGS at P. O. Box 200940, Austin TX 78720-0940, or phone them toll-free at (888) FGS-1500.

Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please.

MARK TWAIN

CALENDAR

- ◆ **Sunday, July 17, 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 50.



- ◆ **Wednesday, July 20, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Program: Search, Discover and Share US Genealogy. Meeting attendees will break into regional groups to discuss resources available for genealogical research in that geographical area of the United States. Attendees should have time to attend two different groups.
- ◆ **Sunday, July 24, 1:00–3:00pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA. Los Angeles FHC*.** Open Research Day: prepare for the August Annual BIFHS-USA Seminar with a day of research.

- ◆ **Saturday, August 6, 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 “Is There Really a Best Genealogy Program? Family Tree Maker and MyRoots,” presented by Chris Hansen and Dr. Lloyd Budwig. 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, please 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. For more information, see our June issue, visit <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/>>, or phone Linda Egan Flynn at (310) 539-9409.

- ◆ **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. For more information, see our June issue, visit <<http://www.pgsc.org>>, or phone Janice Lipinski at (310) 378-0877.

- ◆ **September 7–10. FGS/UGA Conference.** Salt Lake City. See page 55 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.*