



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Volume 38 ✦ Number 8 ✦ August 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, AUGUST 21, 2005

1:15	Class Period	BASIC: How to Get Started  INTERMEDIATE: Now in Long Beach: Digital Microfilm Scanners are Here! presented by John McCoy & Linda Artuso
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2:15	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER  <i>Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick</i> <b>Forensic Genealogy</b>
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

If you have been following our programs and our musings in this column for any length of time, you may have noticed two recurring but seemingly contradictory themes: On the one hand, we are forever touting the latest technological innovations. On the other hand, we continue to harp on the importance of original documents—meaning in almost every case documents not available on the internet—for genealogical research.

This schizophrenic frame of mind is necessary because so many people get caught up in the excitement of finding information on the internet, leading them to suppose that it will never again be necessary to visit a library or archive in person. This effect has even been blamed (incorrectly, I think) for the loss of members that many societies have experienced in the past decade. In my view, however, the new technology has become an indispensable addition to the small arsenal of tools available to the genealogist. It is not the only tool, nor necessarily the most important.

Several examples of indispensable technology have come to our attention in the past month. At long last, *Heritage Quest* is available on the internet to anyone with a library card from the Long

Beach Public Library. *{Editor's note: see the following page for more details on this.}* Another example will be discussed in our August meeting: digital film scanners have arrived at the Family History Centers in Long Beach, replacing the old microfilm copiers. Realizing that your first encounter with a new scanner could be a frustrating one, we had the idea of developing a simple step-by-step method you can take with you on your next visit.

New technologies carry the promise of time saved, but experience shows we can also waste a great deal of time before we have finally mastered the new gadget or program. The threat of time and money wasted is so great, in fact, that we have decided to form a Technology Committee. Its mission will be to figure out, for the benefit of real genealogists with limited time and funds, which of the new technologies we need to master.

At the moment, the list of documents available on the internet is very much shorter than the list of those that are not on the internet. In fact, most documents that exist are not even referenced by title on the internet. We are still many years away from a complete electronic

catalogue of all historical and biographical documents. The amazing content that has appeared on the internet so far—such as personal journals of wagon train travelers, documents of the Revolutionary War, vital records, and so forth—is only the smallest hint of what is to come. But I am not willing to wait for an indefinite future while all the world's documents are being digitized. I want my genealogy now! Therefore, we will continue to try to balance our programs between essential developments of technology, and the old-fashioned research methods that make sound genealogy possible.

For the sake of completeness, I offer a speculation about the fluctuating membership of genealogy societies. Maybe the decrease in the 1990s, and the recent rebound that we have experienced, is nothing more than demographics. The great generation that won the war has been dwindling, and now the Baby Boom generation is approaching retirement, traditionally a time when people start attending to priorities that can no longer be delayed, such as passing on the legacy of one's family. Our emerging mission is to acquaint the Baby Boomers with their roots.

—John McCoy



*I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that won't work.*  
Thomas Edison

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

**FREE AT-HOME ACCESS  
TO HERITAGEQUEST  
FOR LBPL CARDHOLDERS**

At our July meeting, Richard Hoover announced that Long Beach Public Library cardholders can now access HeritageQuest from home for free. That's right—now you can access HeritageQuest any time of the day or night. You can even do it in your pajamas!

Here's how to access it. From the shaded bar near the top of the Library main page at <<http://www.lbpl.org>>, select "Electronic Databases." On the next page, select "History, Genealogy & Biography" from the first column on the left side of the page. On the subsequent page, scroll down to find the banner that says "HeritageQuest" and then select "HeritageQuest Outside Library." A box will come up that says "Please enter your 14-digit library card number." Enter your card number without any spaces or punctuation. Once your card number is accepted, you will then be re-directed to the HQ site. From there, you can choose to search or browse their census records, their collection of Revolutionary War records, ProQuest's collection of family and local histories, or the Periodical Source Index, better known as PERSI. You can also find out more about the HQ collections or find out what's new by selecting the links on this main page.

Our July speaker, Nancy Carlberg, pointed out a couple of useful facts. First, while the HeritageQuest census records are not indexed as extensively as those of Ancestry.com, the images are often much clearer. So if you find

someone in the Ancestry indexes but are having trouble reading the image, you can use the state, county, town, enumeration district and page number to find the corresponding image on HQ. Also, newer magazines will only be found in the HQ version of PERSI, as they now have the sole right to publish it online.

Another important fact is that if you are having trouble finding someone in the Ancestry indexes, you might have better luck finding them in the HQ indexes.

Our thanks go to HeritageQuest and the Long Beach Public Library for making this wonderful resource available. Special thanks go to Liz Myers for her persistence in working with the library to enable at-home access from their web page.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Foords need some time off! Kay and Jack took on the task of mailing the newsletters many years ago, but it's high time the rest of us pitched in, too. The tasks involved are not difficult: stapling, folding, sealing, and bundling according to U.S. Postal Service standards for bulk mail. We will hold a mailing party sometime during the first week of each month, probably in the afternoon or evening. Please contact a board member if you are willing to be "on call."

**QHGS MEMBER SURVEY**

How and when did your family come to California? John McCoy is collecting information for an up-coming presentation. Contact

him at <[RealMac@aol.com](mailto:RealMac@aol.com)>.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
SOUGHT**

After serving almost three years as your newsletter editor, it is time for me to put away my blue pencil, as I just don't have enough free time to devote to the job anymore.

This experience has been a great opportunity for me. I started out knowing nothing about how to put a newsletter together, and ended up a seasoned newsletter editor. My writing skills have improved tremendously, which is something any genealogist can benefit from. If you ever wanted to put together a book about your family, you will acquire all the skills needed to do a fine job of it on your own.

Requirements are few: a good command of English and familiarity with a basic word processing program ought to cover it. A talent for getting people to submit articles isn't necessary, but would help.

Rewards are many: putting together a particularly good issue feels great; the positive feedback you get from fellow Questing Heirs members feels even better.

So I encourage anyone who might be interested to volunteer. I will be happy to help you get started and to show you some tricks of the trade. I'll be available to help you along the way, too. If you're interested, but don't have a computer of your own, I have an extra I can contribute to the cause.

If you are interested, please contact Mike Powers by email at <[lunalake@pobox.com](mailto:lunalake@pobox.com)>, or by phone at (562) 621-6631.

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS, continued

**RUTH ANTHES  
PASSES AWAY AT AGE 76**

Ruth Adelia (Haugan) Anthes, a member of Questing Heirs since 1989, passed away peacefully in her home in Cerritos, California on July 20, 2005 at the age of 76. Ruth taught many years in the Long Beach Early Education Program at numerous schools. She was a member and active participant of many different groups. Her interest in genealogy was evidenced by her membership

in the DAR and Sons of Norway.

—Submitted by Jeanette Jones

**QHGS PLANS FOR  
FAMILY HISTORY MONTH**

Liz Myers reports that we are hoping to get publicity from the Press-Telegram about the basic genealogy and family history talks she will be giving at libraries during October, also known as Family History Month.

Liz has scheduled classes at the main library, along with local libraries such as Bach, Bayshore, Bret Harte, El Dorado (Saturday, October 8, 2:00-4:00pm) and Los Altos (Tuesday, October 18, 6:00-7:30pm).

Liz will be hauling her overhead projector and a screen, so she is looking for someone to go along with her. Please contact her by phone at (562) 598-3027 or by email at <lizstookes@cs.com>.

OF INTEREST

**CHANGES AT THE LOS ANGELES FAMILY HISTORY CENTER**

No sooner was the ink dry on the July newsletter than the name of the Los Angeles Family History Center was changed to the Los Angeles *Regional* Family History Center, or—as we are sure it will become known affectionately—the LARFHC.

There are other changes as well. The LARFHC website is still at <<http://www.lafhc.org>>, but there is now a keyword search feature for their book collection, as well as their microfilm and microfiche holdings. This feature can be found directly at

<<http://www.lafhc.org/microsearch.html>>.

A less welcome change is that they are cutting back on the professional staff, with the result that Nancy Carlberg will not be working there after August.

The LARFHC will be closed later this month, from August 23-27. The Los Angeles LDS Temple will be closed for remodeling later in the year, but at this time there is no indication that the remodeling will affect the Family History Center schedule.

METHODS

## METHODS

### CORRESPONDENCE FILES

*An Ancestry.com Quick Tip, submitted by Bettye Pribyl:*

We often find new "cousins" on the Internet, and it is quite easy to forget just how we all connect. In order to help me keep everyone straight, I create a new personal correspondence file for each contact, and in the front I put a pedigree sheet that shows exactly how I connect to them. It sure helps when months

later I pull their file and at a glance can see our connection immediately.

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## ON THE WEB

### CALIFORNIA BIRTH INDEX 1905-1995 ON ANCESTRY.COM

<<http://ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5247>>

Ancestry.com now offers its subscribers access to the California Birth Index. This database is from the state's index to over 24.5 million births occurring in California between 1905 and 1995. Information contained in this index includes child's name, gender, birth date, birth county, and mother's maiden name.

### CASTLE GARDEN WEBSITE LAUNCHED <<http://www.castlegarden.org>>

The sesquicentennial of the opening of this immigrant depot in New York City was celebrated August 1 with the launching of a new website by CastleGarden.org. It includes a searchable database of 10 million names.

Led by Dr. Ira Glazier, former director of the Center for Migration Research at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies and Immigration (now part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania). CastleGarden.org promises to be a vital resource for genealogists, the general public, and for scholars interested in the history of immigration through the Port of New York.

Researchers might also find helpful the Castle Garden ships passenger lists, 1855-1890, available at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/ships/castle-garden.htm>>.

*Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 3 August 2005, Vol. 8, No. 31. Reprinted with permission.*

### CANADIAN 1911 CENSUS ONLINE <<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/>>

The Library and Archives of Canada has posted the newly-released 1911 Census of Canada online at its ArchiviaNet website <<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/index-e.html>>. The images can be viewed using the MrSID plug-in, which can be downloaded free from the site, or as a PDF file, using Adobe's free Acrobat Reader.

Although it is not indexed by name, it can be searched geographically. A list of Census Districts and Sub-Districts is available by province to help users locate the correct geographic area for searching. Maps are also available for each district through this tool (also using the MrSID viewer).

ArchiviaNet includes other databases, including other enumerations. For more information, see <[http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/0201\\_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/0201_e.html)>.

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ARTICLE

SO WHY LOCK UP THE BIRTH RECORDS?, by Dick Eastman

*Editor's Note: While we recognize that identity theft is a serious problem, and we try to remain neutral on potentially volatile topics, this article, submitted by Richard Hoover, points out quite strongly that efforts to control identity theft by restricting access to vital records are for the most part ineffective and misguided.*

It seems that every week we hear of one more situation in which some politician or bureaucrat is trying to restrict access to public domain vital records. Everybody is trying to lock out everyone, including genealogists. Our right to access to public domain birth, marriage, and death information is being threatened constantly under the guise of "preventing identity theft."

Balderdash! (That's as strong a word as I will use in this family-oriented publication.)

I am sure that the politicians love the limelight back home when they can brag that they have taken action to "prevent identity theft." Heck, nobody is in favor of identity theft, right? Therefore, just proclaiming to have taken some token action under the smoke screen of "preventing identity theft" is sure to win a few more votes in the next election.

"Facts? What facts? Don't bother me with facts, I've got a re-election campaign to win."

Well, now a new study has provided genealogists with some hard facts. These facts should serve as pinpricks to any inflated claims

of preventing something that never existed.

A new survey of 4,000 consumers, about 500 of whom were identity theft victims, was recently conducted by Javelin Research and the Better Business Bureau for CheckFree, Visa, and Wells Fargo Bank. This study is based on cold, hard facts, not rhetoric or conjecture of someone who makes pronouncements not grounded in reality.

According to the people who were victims of identity theft, here are the eight most common sources:

1. Lost or stolen wallet: 29%
2. Fraud that occurs during an in-store or telephone transaction: 12.9%
3. Corrupt employees: 9%
4. Stolen mail: 8%
5. Spyware on the computer: 5%
6. Sifting through garbage: 2.6%
7. Computer viruses: 2.2%
8. 'Phishing' through fraudulent e-mail: 1.7%

Take a close look at the above. Please note the rating for "obtained a record from the vital records department." Do you see it? I don't.

The full report is quite lengthy. Here are a few other random facts extracted from the Better Business Bureau's announcement:

- ◆ Among cases where the perpetrator's identity is

known, half of all identity fraud is committed by a friend, family member, relative, neighbor or in-home employee—someone known by the victim.

- ◆ A wide variety of metrics confirm that identity fraud problems are NOT worsening. In fact, the total number of victims is declining. The number of identity fraud victims dropped from 10.1 million in 2003 to 9.3 million in 2004.
- ◆ The median value of identity fraud crimes remained unchanged at \$750; however most identity fraud victims incurred no out-of-pocket costs.

You can read the full report at <<http://www.bbb.org/alerts/article.asp?ID=565>>.

The next time someone claims that access to public records needs to be restricted in order to "reduce identity theft," let's ask that person to read the facts as proven by Javelin Research and the Better Business Bureau report.

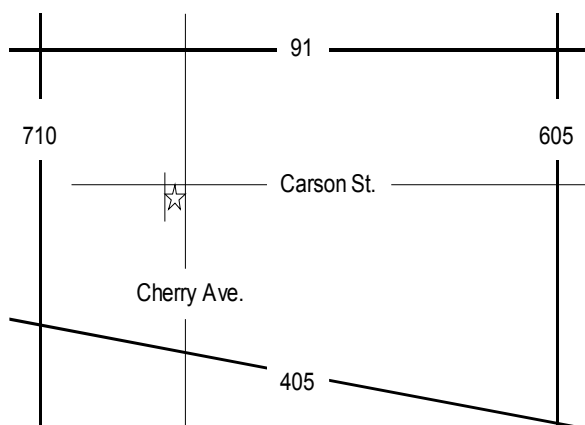
Here's a bit of advice to politicians and bureaucrats: please focus on real issues where there is a demonstrated need. Otherwise, someone may just deflate your balloon.

My thanks to Peter Parkhurst for alerting me to the results of this new study.

*Reprinted with permission from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, Volume 10, Number 9, 28 February 2005.*

CALENDAR

- ◆ Saturday, August 13, 9:30am. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: an all-day workshop on Scottish Research. Speaker: Sam Gibson.
- ◆ Wednesday, August 17, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Speaker: Liz Stookesberry Myers.
- ◆ 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.pgscs.org>>, or phone Janice Lipinski at (310) 378-0877.
- ◆ Saturday, August 20, 12:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.
- ◆ Sunday, August 21, 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 58.



- ◆ Sunday, August 28, 2005, noon–6:00pm. British Isles Family History Society–USA general meeting. Los Angeles Regional FHC\*. Open

Research Day. Nancy Carlberg will assist you with your research.

- ◆ Saturday, September 3, 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 “Preparing to Go the Family History Center in Salt Lake City,” presented by Joan Rambo. There is a \$5.00 charge for all workshops, except for Basic Genealogy.
- ◆ September 7–10. FGS/UGA Conference. Salt Lake City. For more information, see our July issue, visit <<http://fgs.org>>, or phone toll-free (888) FGS-1500.

*Know of an upcoming event that might be of interest to your fellow genealogists? Contact Mike Powers by phone at (562) 621-6631 or by email at <[lunalake@pobox.com](mailto:lunalake@pobox.com)> for inclusion in the newsletter.*

*\*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 Regional FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LARFHC 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.*