

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 38 ✦ Number 9 ✦ September 2005

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



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



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005

1:15	Class Period	BASIC: Getting Started INTERMEDIATE: Questing Heirs Committee Day 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>Alan Jones</i> <i>Genealogy Sources on the Internet</i>
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IN THIS ISSUE

<i>September Meeting Information—Reports</i>	66
<i>President's Message: Opportunities for Service, by John McCoy</i>	67
<i>Humor: Cobb Weds Corn</i>	67
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	68
<i>Methods</i>	69
<i>On the Web</i>	70-71
<i>Technology</i>	71
<i>Calendar</i>	72

AUGUST MEETING

BEGINNING CLASS: GETTING STARTED

If you don't know how to get started with your genealogy, we have a class designed with you in mind! No matter if you can't tell a family group sheet from a pedigree chart, we can help! Liz Myers and/or Chuck Mitchell will host a "Getting Started" session in the board room next to the meeting room.



**INTERMEDIATE CLASS:
QUESTING HEIRS COMMITTEE DAY**

Would you like to improve our meetings? Involve Questing Heirs in new projects? Plan for our future? Now is your chance! We will review how our society works, and explore some of the challenges and opportunities that we face. Join a committee or suggest a new one if you feel so moved.



SPEAKER: ALAN JONES

Our September speaker Alan Jones gives presentations on a variety of computerized genealogy topics. He has more than thirty years of genealogy experience, degrees in computer science and business, experience in various genealogy roles in societies and Family History Centers.

Here is a little about Alan in his own words:

"As a teenager my pet Pekinese, Charlie, had a lengthy certified pedigree chart but I did not know my great-grandparents. My determined mother drafted me as to accompany her on the trips to a genealogy library near Los Angeles. So started a life long journey."

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

July Income	\$ 86.01
July Expenses	235.10
Operations Balance	\$ 6,014.18
Investment Balance	20,277.20

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

AUGUST MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 30 Guests: 2

NEW MEMBERS

Jeri L. EVERETT	Individual	9/06
Carol JOHNSON	Individual	9/06

RENEWALS

Diane R. BOUVIER	Individual	9/06
Marilyn BRASHER	Patron	9/06
Robert BRASHER	Patron	9/06
MaryEmma HARGRAVE	Individual	9/06
Jeanette JONES	Patron	9/06
Donald J. KROKUS	Contributing	9/06
Georgia LYONS	Individual	9/06
Harriet M. MILLER	Individual	9/06
Caroline F. RAINEY	Newsletter	9/06
Frances SMITH	Individual	9/06

Please see page 68 for an important message about renewing your membership.

REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our August hosts:

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS Mary M. SMITH
Cheryl (Bayless) TARDIF Connie WILLIAMS

Our September hosts will be:

Linda ARTUSO Howard DAVIS
Sally DAVIS MaryEmma HARGRAVE

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This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold. Those who are unable to attend our meetings but wish to subscribe to the newsletter may purchase a newsletter-only membership for \$12.00 a year. To join, please contact us using the address on the front page.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

2005 has been an interesting year for Questing Heirs. We find ourselves properly funded and eager to accomplish more. The limiting factor is no longer money; what we need now is labor. Most of the labor is intellectual, not physical. It's time to give our committee structure a boost!

Starting from the premise that "many hands make light work," I think we need functioning committees or working groups for at least the following topics:

HOSPITALITY: Make our refreshments the best in Long Beach; make everyone feel welcome; provide materials to help our new members get started.

FACILITIES: Improve the physical setup for our meetings; secure our property; determine whether our current facilities meet our present and future needs.

EVENT PLANNING: Identify the resources and lead time we would need in order to produce a

special event, such as a seminar or a lecture by a world-class speaker; identify opportunities to join with other groups to produce such events.

TECHNOLOGY: Identify and evaluate new tools and technologies that may be of use to our members; develop ways to help our members exploit new technologies to further their research; advise the Board on opportunities to enhance our meetings through the application of new technologies.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION: Identify opportunities to preserve vulnerable records in the Long Beach area; preserve the history of our own society; provide guidance and assistance to help our members preserve their own histories and genealogies.

OUTREACH: Help the public discover and preserve their family histories; encourage collaboration with other

organizations in our area who share our interest in history.

COMMUNICATIONS: Continue the high quality of our newsletter; expand our Internet presence for the benefit of our members and the public; make our publicity more effective.

According to our by-laws, committee chairs serve on the Board of Directors. In most cases, we already have identified a position on the Board, although some of these positions are currently vacant. But times have changed: our financial health has improved, the way we do genealogy has changed significantly, and we have many new members whose ideas need to be harnessed. I believe our society is ready to do more. Now is your chance to make a difference! Be sure to join us at the September meeting for a discussion of how the society works, and the important role you can play in it.

— *John McCoy*



HUMOR

This wedding announcement in the Excelsior Springs (Missouri) Weekly Call newspaper, dated 11 November 1915, was submitted to RootsWeb Review by Barbara Chisler of Vibbard, Missouri:

MR. COBB WEDS MISS CORN

Miss Margaret Corn was married to Mr. Stanley Cobb recently at El Paso, Texas at the home of the bride's parents. The marriage license clerk at the courthouse refused to issue the license, thinking it was a joke. When he convinced the clerk that it was on the level, Cobb shelled out for the license.

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QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

YEARLY DUES REMINDER

September is the month that our yearly dues come due. Look on your newsletter address label—if it says 9/05 or before, that means you need to pay your dues for the coming year. At the bottom of the blue back page you will see the various levels of membership:

Individual	\$ 18.00
Family	27.00
Newsletter Subscriber	12.00

You will also note that there are three other levels:

Contributing	\$ 35.00
Sustaining	50.00
Patron	100.00

Please consider writing your check for one of the three top levels. Our basic dues have not been raised for years. However, our basic costs for running the club have gone up. Please be generous.

Bring your check to the September meeting or mail it to our post office box. If you have any questions about your dues, please call me or see me at the September meeting.

And of course, thank you to the members whose dues we have received so far.

— Jeanette Jones
2nd Vt, Membership

**QUESTING HEIRS
ELECTIONS**

Our annual elections are coming up in November. Open positions are: First Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Here is the timetable for the

elections:

- ◆ August meeting: Nominating Committee formed.
- ◆ October meeting: Nominating committee presents its slate. Nominations for qualified candidates may also be made.
- ◆ November meeting: Nominations may be taken from the floor. Elections are held.
- ◆ December newsletter: Winners are announced.
- ◆ December meeting: New officers are installed.

At the August general meeting, the Nominating Committee was formed. Members of the committee are: Liz Myers, Mary Emma Hargrave and J.J. Jones.

Please consider how you can help in the success of our society. Contact one of the committee members if you have a suggestion or if you wish to be considered for any of these positions.

**QHGS CO-SPONSORS
BEGINNING GENEALOGY
CLASSES AT LBPL**

Liz Myers reports that Questing Heirs and the Long Beach Library are co-sponsoring beginning genealogy classes during October's Family History Month.

We will be at the following libraries on the following days:

El Dorado	Oct. 8	2-4pm
Main	Oct. 14	10am
Los Altos	Oct. 18	6-7:30pm
Bay Shore	Oct. 22	2-4pm
Bach	Oct. 25	6:30pm

Questing Heirs has also been

asked by two of the branches to participate in Library Week, March 12-18, 2006. The theme is "My California."

Dates for these presentations are:

Bay Shore	Mar. 16
Bret Harte	Mar. 18 2pm

Please contact Liz if you can help out on one of these dates. Give her a call at (562) 598-3027 or email her at <lizstookes@cs.com>.

**QHGS WEB PAGE
HAS NEW ADDRESS**

The Questing Heirs web page has a new domain name: <www.qhgs.info>. This address will re-direct web surfers to our existing web page at <www.cagenweb.com/questing>.

We hope that this will make it easier to remember how to get to our site and to share it with others.

MEMBER SURVEY

How and when did your family come to California? John McCoy is collecting information for a presentation entitled "California Bound: How We Got to California." Contact him by phone at (562) 437-4337 or by email at <RealMac@aol.com>.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR
SOUGHT**

We are still looking for a newsletter editor, as Mike won't be able to do the job much longer.

For more information, please contact Mike Powers by email at <lunalake@pobox.com>, or by phone at (562) 621-6631.

METHODS

CENSUS OCCUPATIONAL CODES

*An Ancestry.com Quick Tip,
submitted by Mary Grindol:*

I was looking at a relative's enumeration in the 1930 census. It was difficult to decipher part of the occupation. I thought it said "laborer" at "Consumers Bank." That seemed a little odd and I wondered if it was "laborer Consumers Power."

When I asked the opinion of my husband, who is not usually interested in genealogy, he pointed out the four-digit code number next to the occupation. I had always ignored the occupation codes in the census because I had no "key" to know what they meant. He said, "look for someone else with the same code and you'll be able to figure it out!" I discovered some other people who clearly worked at "Consumers Power Co" had the same last two digits "62" but one was a machinist and one was a bookkeeper and the first two digits differed. Finally, about six pages later, I found another laborer for Consumers Power Co with the same 7862 code. Returning to my relative, I could see that it *did* say "Power Co." I learned two things from this: first, I learned something about the codes and second, that another person's fresh look at something can help a lot!

Ancestry Daily News Editor's Note: Steve Morse has created a site for deciphering these codes at <<http://stevemorse.org/census/ocodes.htm>>. According to the site, 78 is the code for the occupational level "laborers" and 62 is the

industry code for an "electric light or power plant." He also has a form to decipher "Language and Nativity Codes" and "Indian Codes" which can be accessed through <<http://stevemorse.org/census/codes.html>>.

VISIT LOCAL MUSEUMS

*An Ancestry.com Quick Tip,
submitted by Brenda Cain of
Wichita, Kansas:*

During this year's family reunion, I visited the small museum in the town where my father was born. They have a small research room and a part-time researcher. What a wealth of information in two small rooms.

A short summary of what I found:

- ◆ Original marriage licenses and affidavits dating back to before 1880.
- ◆ An alphabetized obituary collection starting about 1890 to the present.
- ◆ Scrapbooks for different surnames (including two of mine).
- ◆ Cemetery records.
- ◆ Old school pictures (my grandfathers graduation class was there).

Those were only the records we had time to find since I didn't get to town until after lunch time and she did not work the next day.

The museum was full of items donated by the community and some had been donated by my

family members. What a lot of history was stored in that small building!

So don't only stop at the courthouses and libraries; check out the museums as well.

GO TO THE SOURCE

*An Ancestry.com Quick Tip,
submitted by "Jerry:"*

When my father wrote to New Jersey to get a copy of his birth record, they sent him the original. Years later when he went looking for it, he couldn't find it so he wrote to New Jersey to get a copy. Of course they replied "not found."

Years later I was on vacation in the area where he was born and went into the local government office. I looked for "records" on the directory, and went to a room with the sign, "Dog & Cat Licenses." I asked if they had any birth records, and they pulled out an old book held together by two rubber bands. I found my father's certificate and made a copy. Sometimes you've got to go to the source.

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FLOOR (n.): The place for storing your priceless genealogy records.

ON THE WEB

LINKPENDIUM

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

The following article was submitted by Pat Bowers. Even though we mentioned this site in these pages a while back, we feel it is such a useful site that it ought to be featured again!

For U.S. genealogy or history web sites and resources, Linkpendium is the place to look. Karen Isaacson and Brian Leverich—the same two people who began RootsWeb—started Linkpendium. There are more than two million genealogical links at Linkpendium. This is not like Cyndi's List which has a broad mix of categories. Rather, it covers places in the U. S. and surnames worldwide.

1600s AMERICAN ANCESTORS DATABASE

<<http://www.firstfamilies.org/db/>>

Those of you who are working on your lines back to your 1600s American ancestors will find the 1600s Ancestors Data Base to be of great help.

America's First Families has recently posted several hundred new ancestors to the database, bringing the total to over 29,000 entries of both men and women.

Also listed are several national societies that have proven many of the ancestors you will find here. There are also a few new reference works that contain many more lines.

The entries are coded to indicate to which society or reference work has at least one of their proven lines. Several of the national societies have over twenty different lines from a single ancestor.

When you enter the 1600s Ancestors database, be sure to look at the top of each data page for the link that takes you to the Database Information page. There you will find the list of codes and how to use them. This is *must* reading if you are to understand the database and how to use it.

America's First Families is constantly updating the database with additional ancestors and references as time permits. More work has been devoted to updating listings of female ancestors by going back

and including marriage dates. This takes much time and we still have a lot of work to do there.

Everyone has free access to the database and to all posted pages.

From a post by Ryan Jackson, Database Manager of America's First Families, on the RootsWeb mailing list for Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania on February 27, 2005. Submitted by Elizabeth Myers.

CASTLE GARDEN DATABASE
SEARCH TOOLS

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

Stephen Morse's One Step web site now features two search tools for the new Castle Garden database.

Browsing through Castle Garden Passenger Records in One Step can be found at <<http://www.stevemorse.org/ellis/cgbrowse.html>>.

This utility lets you browse through the Passenger Records in the Castle Garden database. Each Passenger Record has an associated Passenger ID, or PID. You can go to a specific PID, or to the first PID for a specific letter. Once there, you can step in various increments to another PID.

Searching the Castle Garden Database in One Step is at <<http://www.stevemorse.org/ellis/cg.html>>.

This allows several search and sort options. It covers the years 1830 to 1912 and may include the following:

- ◆ 1830 to 1855: pre-Castle Garden
- ◆ 1855 to 1890: Castle Garden
- ◆ 1890 to 1891: Barge Office
- ◆ 1892 to 1912: Ellis Island

From a post by Steven Siegel on the APG mailing list <APG-L@rootsweb.com> on August 4, 2005.



Diligence is the mother of good luck.

Benjamin Franklin



Questing Heirs members at the SCGS Jamboree, May, 2005.

ON THE WEB, continued

TAXING TREASURES ONLINE
by Doug Storie

I recently discovered a previously unthought-of resource for historical info and the occasional photograph. While it is almost universal that we do not like the taxman (er, taxperson, to be politically correct) we nonetheless must deal with them.

Imagine my surprise when I found an aunt of mine on the 1930 census in Chicago. The address meant nothing to me nor was there a description to the home. A local librarian suggested I search the Cook County, Illinois Assessor's website at <<http://www.cookcountyassessor.com/index.asp>>.

After a few trials and errors there it was in color, the three-story walkup apartment that used to be home to my aunt, uncle, and cousin. It was 75 years old and just like I remembered many homes in Chicago to be—long, narrow, with minimal yards or grass.

Taking this idea I searched other counties that family and ancestors had lived in during the past century.

Many homes were still standing. So if you want to know what the house looked like that Uncle Bob or Grandma Jones lived in, try the county assessor's office, maybe they have a website with pictures.

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TECHNOLOGY

ADVICE ON COPYING NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

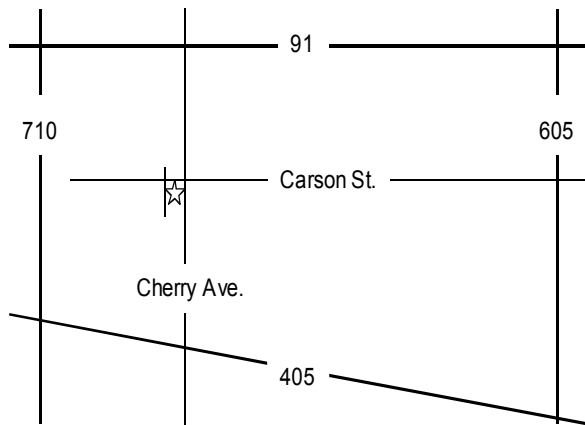
An Ancestry.com Quick Tip, submitted by B. B. Gill:

When copying newspaper articles, I have found that when placing a black piece of paper over the backside of a newspaper article before copying it will prevent the printing on the backside of the article from bleeding through.

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CALENDAR

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Saturday, September 10, 9:30am. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank.
- ◆ Saturday, September 17, 12:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Program: Dr. Gary Alan Dickey speaking on “Breaking Through Your Dead Ends.”
- ◆ **Sunday, September 18, 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 66.



- ◆ Wednesday, September 21, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Speaker: Colleen Fitzpatrick, MD. Topic: Forensic Genealogy.
- ◆ Sunday, September 25, 2005, noon–6:00pm. British Isles Family History Society–USA general meeting. Los Angeles Regional FHC*. Speaker: Kay Ronald Devonshire. Topic: Strategies for the

Intermediate Researcher Doing Scottish Family History.

- ◆ Saturday, October 1, 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 “How the Dead Can Speak: Family Genealogy Research From Cemetery, Funeral and Tombstone Records,” presented by Rev. Lou Carlson. There is a \$5.00 charge for all workshops, except for Basic Genealogy.

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 <lunallake@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.*