

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter

Volume 38, † Number 12 † December 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, DECEMBER 18, 2005

* * * * *

Happy Holidays

*Join us for our Annual Potluck,
Sharing, and
Installation of Officers!*

(See page 92 for details.)

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REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our November hosts:
Jeanette JONES Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT
Marilyn (Delonjay) BRASHER Tina YANIS

Our December hosts will be:
Everyone who attends the Potluck! Please see
page 92 for suggestions as to how you may con-
tribute to the feast.

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

October Income	\$ 708.00
October Expenses	351.03
Operations Balance	\$ 6,470.80
Investment Balance	20,277.20

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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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 23 Guests: 4

NEW MEMBER

Alix MAGUIRE Newsletter 9/06

RENEWALS

Catherine ALBERTI	Sustaining	9/06
Darylynn Buras	Individual	9/06
Hazel CLOVER	Sustaining	9/06
Lewis CLOVER	Sustaining	9/06
Aaron DAY	Individual	9/06
Dorothy DUNNING	Individual	9/06
Betty Bell FELDMAN	Sustaining	9/06
Yvonne FOSTER	Individual	9/06
Alice C. GRAY	Newsletter	9/06
Inga HARRIS	Family	9/06
Lowell HARRIS	Family	9/06
Richard HOOVER	Patron	9/06
May Belle LARSON	Individual	9/06
Jo Nell ROOK	Family	9/06
Olas ROOK	Family	9/06
Marjorie J. TARBELL	Contributing	9/06

Questing Heirs yearly dues are due on September 1st. See the back page of this newsletter for membership levels.

BETTY BELL FELDMAN

We were pleased to receive a note from Betty recently when she sent in her membership renewal for the year. She has not been able to attend our monthly meetings for some time because of poor health, but she said she misses everybody and keeps up to date through the Newsletter. We hope she'll be able to join us soon in person.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fond Farewell to 2005

Did you notice? With still one month left, 2005 has already changed the way we do genealogy. More new resources have appeared on the internet than in any previous year. The way we find genealogical information has changed in ways we are only beginning to appreciate. Our hobby has turned a corner!

In fact, most of us are only just beginning to discover the new resources. They are appearing too fast for anyone to keep track of them, and they are not announced at any central location.

The scope of the change is profound. A visit to Ancestry.com will show what has been added to their collections in the past year. Among other things, most of the pre-1850 vital records of Massachusetts, though not indexed, can now be viewed. The original volumes, usually found only in the largest libraries, are disintegrating because of poor quality paper. The World War I draft cards are now completely indexed. Good (though imperfect) indexes are available for all US censuses through 1930. Local records such as histories, genealogies, and directories are accumulating rapidly. All of the resources at Ancestry.com can be accessed free of charge from your local Family History Center.

There are actually two separate processes in play, digitizing and indexing. Digitizing is the conversion of printed materials (books, manuscripts, documents) into a form that can be viewed on a computer. Google leads the pack with its new Book Search service, but there are many other players, such as the Library of Congress, the University of Michigan, and the archives of most of the 50 States. Many of the books are the older ones that are hard to find. Already, they number in the tens of thousands.

Indexing is the process of making all the names and other content in digitized documents available for searching. How do you index a printed page? Where possible, the major players prefer to use OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software, which attempts to convert digitized images into text. Sometimes the process works very well. When it comes to genealogical publications, however, indexing is more difficult. Some genealogies list people with the last name first, others with the first name first. How is OCR supposed to know that? Automated indexing of digitized materials needs more work.

After documents are digitized and indexed, we also need an effective way to search the index and retrieve the desired images. Search technology remains primitive.

These limitations will eventually be overcome. The indexes and the search capabilities will improve. Even now, I find something new every time I look. A long-lost branch of a family from Indiana turns up in Kansas in 1870, and in Illinois in 1880. A distant relative was in politics—his story holds an unexpected clue. A name found in a small-town newspaper reveals the name of a relative in another state. A report to George Washington mentions a family member caught stealing geese. Through such small facts, relationships, movements of families, and life stories are slowly revealed. When this happens, we have gone well beyond the census records that used to be the backbone of an American pedigree!

2005 brought tremendous advances in the availability of genealogical information. But just wait, 2006 is only days away. I predict it will be an avalanche by comparison!

John McCoy

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

DECEMBER MEETING

Our Potluck...

For the main course, roast beef will be served. Beverages will also be provided. We would like those attending to bring other food items to round out the meal. So that we don't wind up with too much of the same thing, we are suggesting the following alphabetical scheme.

Those whose surnames start with:

- A-F could bring a salad,
- G-L could bring a hot dish (potatoes, vegetables, a casserole),
- M-R could bring hors d'oeuvres, relishes, or rolls, and
- S-Z could bring a dessert.

We could also use help with setting up the tables, decorations, etc. If you are able to help out in this way, please let John McCoy know (562-437-4337) and plan to arrive about 12: 45 p.m. Thanks.

Our Sharing...

Think about the following questions:

1. What first prompted you to start searching for your ancestors?
2. What is the most important thing you've learned about research by joining Questing Heirs?
3. Who is your most illustrious or interesting ancestor?
4. If you could meet one of your ancestors, which one would it be? Why? What would you ask him or her?
5. Is there a memorable winter journey in your family's history?
6. Is there a special holiday tradition that has

come down in your family through the generations that you could share with us?

After dinner, each person will be invited to stand and speak briefly about one of the above questions for the benefit of all. If you have digital slides or overhead transparencies to accompany your presentation, please let John McCoy know in advance (562-437-4337).

Our New Officers...

The main business of our December meeting is the installation of:

- Chuck Mitchell as 1st Vice President
- Mike Powers as Recording Secretary
- Dave Werts as Treasurer

They will serve in these offices for the next two years.

ROBERT L. SMITH 1921 – 2005

Our society offers its condolences to Questing Heirs member Mary White Smith on the death of her husband of 59 years, Bob Smith.

Bob was born in 1921 in Camden, New Jersey, and grew up in the Finger Lakes Region of upstate New York. He served in the 8th Air Force during World War II and spent nineteen months in a prison camp after his plane was shot down.

In 1948 he came to Long Beach where he first worked for Harvey Aluminum and then for 34 years with Martin Marietta. He taught Machine Tool at Long Beach City College for a few years and volunteered with Meals on Wheels, Redevelopment, and other organizations.

Bob died on the 2nd of November and was interred at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes on the 8th.

METHODS

LOOK FOR NEIGHBORS

An Ancestry.com Quick Tip submitted by Staff Writer, Geoff:

After reading Susan Zmrzel's tip of looking at neighbors for relatives while searching census records, I was reminded of a method I've used successfully a number of times. For hard to find people in census records, try using neighboring families even if they aren't related.

Let's say you've found a family in the 1910 and 1930 censuses, but not in 1920. Pick a neighbor and search for them in 1920. If your family doesn't appear on the same page, check a couple of pages either way.

Don't give up with just one try, either. Use several of the neighbors. If you have no luck working forward from the 1910 census, try going back in time from the 1930 census, especially if they are in different locations.

When selecting a neighbor, make sure they are of an age that would be likely to be in the census you're searching. For example, don't choose centenarians with great expectations of finding them ten years later.

It might help to choose people who owned their residence, as opposed to renters, with the idea that homeowners are more likely to be [sic] remain in one place longer. It may also help if you can find a surname you recognize, as families often migrate in packs and there could be a relationship you're not aware of.

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

Mark Twain

CHUCK'S TOOLBIN AND BONEYARD

Definition of Boneyard: a modern blacksmith's scrap collection or storage of unfinished and recyclable projects capable of reuse or revival.

Definition of Tool: a home online use of the Long Beach Public Library Data Base at Heritage Quest.

Steps in Method:

1. Obtain LBPL card with unique personal (14 digit) code number and (4 digit) access code.
2. Google to LBPL site.
3. Go to Electronic Databases.
4. Go to Heritage Quest.
5. Enter 14-digit library code number.
6. Bring up the five possible searches.

Anecdotal Experience:

1. Census Search - No response to single name (surname and given) attempts. Conclusion: Not indexed. Try Browse function for State, County, and Post Office. Result: 5 images of 1870 households of ancestors.

2. Revolutionary War Records - Supplied name and state. Result: 8 pages of Probate, Pension Claim, and Land Warrant documents. Conclusion: Hoorah!

Submitted by Chuck Mitchell

INDIVIDUAL CHRONOLOGY

One way to keep your research for an ancestor on track and in perspective is to create a time line for that individual. Just make a chronological list of the facts you have discovered about him or her--showing the date, the type of event, the locality where it took place, and a brief description of where you found the information. This exercise will help you see gaps that require further investigation and possible discrepancies between sources.

ON THE WEB

NEW AT ANCESTRY.COM

The World War I Draft Card database was completed for Veterans' Day. It includes three registrations:

- 5 June 1917 – for un-enlisted men born between 6 June 1886 and 5 June 1896
- 5 June 1918 & 24 Aug 1918 – for un-enlisted and un-registered men born between 6 June 1896 and 24 Aug 1897
- 12 Sep 1918 – for all un-enlisted and un-registered men born between 11 Sep 1872 and 12 Sep 1900

Included in these registrations were about 24 million men, and they were not required to be citizens.

Excerpt from Juliana Smith's column in Ancestry Daily News, 14 Nov 2005. Copyright 1998-2005, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

The 1851 Census of England and Wales was recently added to Ancestry's site, and it includes an every-name index. Now the English censuses from 1851 through 1901 can be searched in one place.

Fast Fact from Ancestry Daily News, 18 Oct 2005. You may subscribe to this online newsletter by visiting its website at:

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

STEPHEN MORSE

<http://stevemorse.org>

You have probably heard about the search forms Stephen Morse has developed to make it easier to find immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island. Now he has similar forms available for searching Castle Garden arrivals, as well as much more:

- Other Ports of Immigration
- Census and Soundex
- New York Census

- Births, Deaths, and other Vital Records
- Calendar, Sunrise/Sunset, Maps
- Dealing with Hebrew and Russian Characters
- Holocaust and Eastern Europe
- Creating your own Search Forms, Search Engines, and Databases
- Miscellaneous

NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH

The *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692* by James Savage can now be accessed online at no cost thanks to David Blackwell. It is available at: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/newengland/savage>.

Per Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 11 Nov 2005. Copyright 2004 by Richard W. Eastman. Available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

CENSUS TOOLS ONLINE

<http://www.censustools.com>

The developer of this website has created a variety of spreadsheets to make recording and analyzing your extracted research data easier, and they're free. These spreadsheets were created with MS Excel and saved in Excel 97 format. A version of MS Excel for PC or MAC at least as recent as 97 is required to use them. PDF versions are also available for anyone who doesn't have access to MS Excel.

Spreadsheets are available for the following topics:

- U.S. Federal Census 1790-1930, as well as Slave and Mortality Schedules, and others
- Some State and International Censuses
- Cemetery Data
- Research Log
- Family Group Report

OF INTEREST

GENEALOGICAL CREDENTIALS

The Board for Certification of Genealogists has announced its consolidation of three research categories into one. Those currently holding a credential as Certified Genealogical Records Specialist, Certified Lineage Specialist, or Certified Genealogist will now be designated as a Certified Genealogist. The Board also established application requirements for this single credential and voted to continue the existing renewal requirements for those already certified.

Connie Lenzen, CG, explained that the change has been made for two reasons. "First, regardless of the type of work they do, all genealogists have the same skills. Second, having three research categories was confusing to both the genealogical community and the general public. The categories were different, but the differences were not well understood. We expect that the public can now more easily hire a certified person without being concerned about the differences. The one thing that will not change is the Board's commitment to excellence in genealogical work."

Excerpt from a BCG Press Release, 18 Oct 2005.

FAKE FAMILY TREES

A new scam is on the Internet: a piece of software that will create bogus family trees to be uploaded to your web site. Why would anyone want to do that? The complete answer is a bit convoluted, but the short answer is to boost your web site higher in the search engine ratings so that gullible people will see the ads on your site. In fact, the program's advertising boasts that you can "create unique, non-duplicate content that millions of people search for, AND that neither humans not search engines can tell is 'real' or not."

FakeFamily.com is very open about its purpose. After purchasing this software for \$75, you are advised to create a bogus genealogy site and put affiliate ads on it to defray the expenses. Then you upload fantasy family trees created by the FakeFamily.com software. As the web site says:

Fake Family will generate content that is 100% unique. The content created is seen by people as being REAL. There is no dispute about that. And, SO WILL THE SEARCH ENGINES.

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 2 Nov 2005. Copyright 2004 by Richard W. Eastman. For the complete article, see <http://www.eogn.com>

ISOGG

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

The above acronym stands for the International Society of Genetic Genealogy. Its purpose is "to advocate for and educate about the use of genetics as a tool for genealogical research, and promote a supportive network for genetic genealogists."

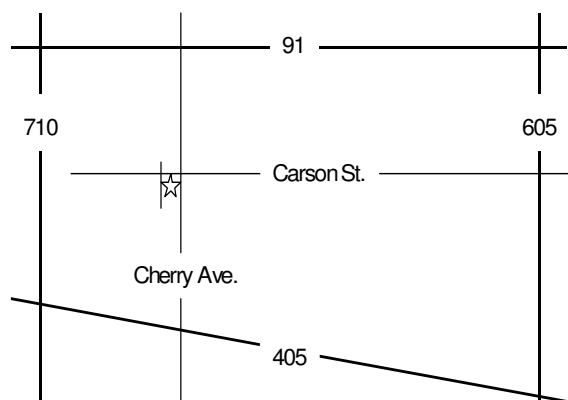
Educating can mean the educating of members, but also educating the genealogical world on the subject. This can be done through workshops, the website, a speaker's bureau, and meetings.

The society is non-commercial and non-profit. Many of its founders are DNA project administrators, but that is not a requirement for membership. It has no dues or fees to join. Members choose the extent to which they wish to participate, and may just join to learn and network. They have access to a Yahoo Group mailing list.

In addition to members living in the United States, ISOGG currently includes members residing in twenty-one countries around the world.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 18, 1:15–3:30 p.m. 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 92.



Saturday, January 7, 2006, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main program: “Be Prepared for Successful Research” by Joan E. Rambo.

*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.larfhc.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.

SALT LAKE INSTITUTE

The 2006 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, sponsored by the Utah Genealogical Association, will be held on Monday, January 9, through Friday, January 13, at the Radisson Salt Lake City Hotel Downtown.

Tuesday’s Featured Speaker will be Jay Verkler, whose responsibilities include the Family History Library, local FHCs, FamilySearch.org and Internet Services. The Banquet Speaker will be John Phillip Colletta, Ph.D., FUGA, on the subject of the differences in meanings of words today and in our ancestors’ time.

The following 10 courses are available:

1. American Records & Research: Focus on Families
2. Mid-Atlantic States
3. Scottish Research
4. Eastern Europe
5. Tracing Immigrant Origins
6. Power Tools for Internet Genealogy
7. Advanced Methodology
8. Land & Court Records
9. Beyond the Family History Library
10. Research Methodology: Genealogical Problem Solving

For more information, contact:

1-888-INFO-UGA,
institute@infouga.org, or
<www.infouga.org>.

WAGS SEMINAR - FEBRUARY 25, 2006

Reminder of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society’s Seminar featuring Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck. For topics, see last month’s Newsletter. The event will be held at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. The registration fee before Feb. 18 is \$30.00 and lunch reservation \$6.00. Call or e-mail Barbara Wilks for more details at (562) 696-5915 or barbwilks@earthlink.net.