

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 39. ✦ Number 7 ✦ July 2006

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, JULY 16, 2006**

**1:15 Program PANEL OF QUESTING HEIRS MEMBERS:**

*American Military Records (Part 1)*

**2:00 Break Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments**

**2:15 Business**

**2:30 Program PANEL OF QUESTING HEIRS MEMBERS:  
(Con't.)**

*American Military Records (Part 2)*

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**JULY MEETING**

**PANEL OF Q. H. MEMBERS:  
“American Military Records: What They  
Contain and Where to Find Them”**

From the Revolution to today’s news, American men and women have served in the military. Have you found all the records for your family’s military service? Probably not! With the Fourth of July celebrations fresh in your mind, join us to review the records generated by our many wars: the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, and several more. Our panel of Questing Heirs volunteers will discuss the records created in each war. (We already have more material than we can use for the Revolution and the Civil War. If you have military or pension records for one of the lesser-known wars, and wish to be a presenter, please contact John McCoy (562-437-4337 or RealMac@aol.com).

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
David WERTS (562) 431-7790**

May Income	\$ 724.80
May Expenses	\$ 1,304.71
Operations Balance	\$ 8,913.61
 Seminar Income:	
Refreshments	\$ 18.00
Donations	96.00
New Members	<u>110.00</u>
Total	\$224.00
 Seminar Expenses:	
Speaker	\$873.60
Church Rent	200.00
Flyers	7.14
Brochures	167.23
Mailings	36.66
Beverages	<u>64.78</u>
Total	\$1,349.41

**REFRESHMENTS  
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432.4908**

Thanks to our June hosts:  
Linda ARTUSO Charlotte LLEWELLYN  
Georgia LYONS Cheryl TARDIF

Our July hosts will be:  
Tricia BURES Sandra HOLLANDSWORTH  
Jeri EVERETT Lizzie WISHNANT

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT  
Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610**

JUNE MEETING ATTENDANCE  
Members: 33 Guests: 2

NEW MEMBERS - NONE

RENEWALS

Hazel S. CLOVER	Sustaining	9/07
Louis L. CLOVER	Sustaining	9/07
Sandra L. LAWRENCE	Newsletter	12/06
Mary Ellen SMITH	Individual	9/06

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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

## Genealogy, the Missing Dimension of History

Historiography is the study of how history is written. It is not a word you probably encounter in everyday life! But if you compare histories of the same period, such as the Renaissance, written at different dates, you might begin to understand that there are different ways to approach history. Genealogists have something to say about historiography.

The goal of history, as we understand it today, is to describe and explain how change happens. Most historians tell us about the roles of great men and especially of great generals. When the great leaders are of royal blood, the book will often contain family trees showing how the royal families are connected. In modern times, it became popular to present history in a more “scientific” format, with graphs illustrating the price of grain over time, demographic data, the number of immigrants crossing the Atlantic each year, and so forth. Histories in this style sometimes fail to name individuals at all, but they tell us about social and economic conditions that influenced the course of civilization. Often, history is written as if it had a plot, leading from barbarism to an inevitable flowering of liberty and justice, or perhaps just leading in a circle, back to barbarism again.

But what if historians were also genealogists? I have a case study before me now. My Gachet family flourished in the city of Payerne, Switzerland, in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. They have been extinct for nearly two centuries. Recently, I enlisted a researcher in Bern to look for more information on this family. In spite of the fact that the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century, including the Renaissance and the Protestant Reformation, has already been the subject of countless histories, we are developing a new view of what happened. Among the families of the 13 known brides of the seven Gachet brothers, and the godparents and spouses of the next generation, we have identified most of the key players in the adoption of the Protestant reforms in Bern. Where family members held official positions, we see that the previous officeholder was usually the father-in-law.

We also found that collections of genealogical notes in the city library of Bern are full of errors. In almost every case, the parentage and birthdates of the wives has turned out to be wrong! This is hard to understand, since one of the Gachet sons left a book of notes about his life and his family.

Genealogy is history, too. The characters of great men and women are formed in families, and their closest associates generally come from their own families. History cannot be understood without reference to the role of the family. Historians need to be genealogists, just as genealogists need to be historians.

by John McCoy

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

QUESTING HEIRS IS 37 THIS JULY!

**WEBMASTER'S REPORT**

If you haven't visited the Questing Heirs web page lately, please take a look at it. You can find it at <http://www.qhgs.info>. I recently finished a major update of the page, hoping to make it clearer, more readable, and easier to navigate. Links on the left of the page will take you to the different sections of the site, while the links on the right help you navigate within a section.

Feedback and suggestions for further improvement of the site are welcome. I will be happy to include any photographs of recent Questing Heirs events you'd like to share, links to your own genealogy pages, or other links that you find essential to your research. Please contact Mike Powers by phone at (562)621-6631 or by e-mail at [lunalake@pobox.com](mailto:lunalake@pobox.com).



**MANY THANKS**

A special thank you to long-time member Helen L. Goring. Although now inactive, Helen joined Questing Heirs in 1982 and has made a very generous donation to our Society. She placed no restriction on this gift, and we will certainly put it to good use. Since Helen is a former librarian, we may use part of her donation to buy reference books for the Genealogy Section of the Long Beach Public Library.

Also, we want to thank Marie Wilkinson Johnson who made a donation in memory of her mother, Mary F. Wilkinson. You will remember that Mrs. Wilkinson, a long-time member of our Society, passed away on February 24 this year. (See her obituary in the April issue of our Newsletter.)

**ROBERT JOHNSON  
1923 – 2006**

Questing Heirs members offer their sincere condolences to Hazele Johnson on the death of her husband, whose obituary follows.

Robert H. Johnson, a resident of Seal Beach, passed away June 3, 2006 in Los Alamitos Medical Center from complications of pneumonia. He was born October 28, 1923 in Davis City, Iowa. Bob served honorably in the Navy in both WWII and the Korean conflict and attended the University of Oklahoma. He retired from Ford Motor Co. as an Industrial Engineer in 1979 after 32 years to enjoy his favorite hobby, playing golf. He was an avid golfer taking up the sport when he was 13 years old. Bob is survived by his wife, Hazele of nearly 60 years; son, Robert B. and daughter-in-law, Anne; 2 grandchildren, Steven and Valerie; niece, Kris Ritmire and nephew, Steve Johnson. Service will be held Friday, June 9 at 11:00 am in Green Hills Chapel; Burial in Green Hills Memorial Park, Rancho Palos Verdes. In lieu of flowers, make a donation in his memory to your choice charity.

**MY ROOTS T-SHIRTS**

Just a reminder that Cynthia Day-Elliott still has extra rhinestones that she brings to meetings. If you bought a T-shirt and have discovered ancestors in new states, she'll be glad to add more rhinestones to your shirt for you.

*AUTOGRAPH CORNER*

*Remember A,  
remember B,  
but most of all  
remember me.*

## METHODS

### CHECK LARFHC SITE

Member, Marie Hegwer, suggests that with the increased cost of renting microfilms from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City it is a good idea to check first to see whether the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center may already have the film you want.

It is easy to do from your home computer or from a computer at your local FHC.

1. Determine the **number** of the film/fiche you want from the Family History Library Catalog.
2. Go to the LARFHC **website**:  
<http://www.larfhc.org>
3. Scroll down the page to the link for:  
**“Film and Fiche Holdings Search”**
4. Clicking on that link takes you to a page titled  
**“Microfilm and Microfiche Search”**
5. Scroll down to the **input box**, and type in the number of the film/fiche you want.
6. Click on **Submit Query** (or hit Enter on your keyboard).

You will then see a page that states the film you requested either is **Found** or **NOT Found** at the LARFHC. In either case, the numbers of films before and after that of the number you were looking for will be listed. This feature is particularly helpful when you're interested in a series of films.

### SAME NAME SIBLINGS

...within certain naming traditions the strong desire to pass down a name often resulted in re-using a given name for a newborn baby if a previous child with that name had died. They just kept trying until finally a child with that given name would survive.

I would like to warn though of an often dangerous assumption. If you find two (or more) children with the same given name in one family, that does not automatically mean that the oldest child passed away before the second child was born. In some regions in the Netherlands the traditions of naming children after relatives (first of all their grandparents) were followed very strictly, especially in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. If for example both grandfathers were named Cornelis, this could indeed result in two brothers by that name, both of whom may have reached adulthood and lived happily after all. In the records, you will sometimes—but not always—find additions like “de jonge” (the younger one) and “de oude” (the older one) behind their family names to distinguish the two brothers. Without these additions, only the context of the records may reveal who is who. So if you find several siblings with the same name, do not instantly assume that only the youngest child may have survived. If you cannot find death records, make sure you at least know the local traditions.

An extra warning: references like “de jonge” and “de oude” were sometimes also used for other situations (e.g. father and son, two cousins) where people had the same name and lived in the same community.

*Ancestry Quick Tip from Marcel Verolme of Zoetermeer, The Netherlands, 16 Feb 2006. Copyright 1998-2006. MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>*

In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage—to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness.

Alex Haley

## OF INTEREST

### FAMILY SEARCH INDEXING

<http://ldsindexing.org>

You have heard about the LDS Church's effort to digitize the holdings of its vast genealogical collection. While this project is progressing faster than originally anticipated, the records will not be very useful until they are indexed.

You can help with the indexing! If you go to the website above, you can learn more about the project and see what computer requirements are recommended. You must fill out a registration form. In order to do the indexing you will download the FamilySearch Indexing program, use a username and password, and accept the User Agreement. You can choose which of the current projects you want to work on and download a small batch of images, which can usually be indexed in 30-60 minutes.

### PROQUEST ACCESS

ProQuest is the company that provides Heritage Quest Online, a collection of online databases that contain images of original U.S. census records, Revolutionary War pension applications, more than 20,000 local and family history books, Freedman's Bank records, and more.

There are essentially three ways to access the data at HeritageQuest Online:

1. By using a computer at a local public library that subscribes to the service,
2. On your home computer if you have a library card with a subscribing library that offers remote access, or
3. On your home computer if you belong to a genealogy society, historical society, or private genealogy library that subscribes and offers remote access.

Today [June 6], ProQuest announced that the company is dropping option #3 above. The company will no longer offer remote, in-home access to the members of genealogical or historical societies.

Each society has a contract with Pro-Quest for these services. The termination date of the remote access service will be on whatever date that contract expires.

*Extract from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 6 June 2006, at <http://www.eogn.com>. (Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman.)*

### POPULAR NAMES

<http://www.census.gov/genealogy/names/>

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the ten most common surnames in the United States in 1990 were:

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. Smith    | 2. Johnson |
| 3. Williams | 4. Jones   |
| 5. Brown    | 6. Davis   |
| 7. Miller   | 8. Wilson  |
| 9. Moore    | 10. Taylor |

The most common female given names were:

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Mary      | 2. Patricia |
| 3. Linda     | 4. Barbara  |
| 5. Elizabeth | 6. Jennifer |
| 7. Maria     | 8. Susan    |
| 9. Margaret  | 10. Dorothy |

The most common male given names were:

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. James   | 2. John    |
| 3. Robert  | 4. Michael |
| 5. William | 6. David   |
| 7. Richard | 8. Charles |
| 9. Joseph  | 10. Thomas |

*Source: U. S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Population Analysis & Evaluation Staff*

## ON THE WEB

### MONTREAL CITY DIRECTORIES

*Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec* has added a new online collection of interest to anyone researching ancestors in Montreal. The Lovell directories of Montreal and its suburbs (1842-1999) are now available online.

The collection contains images of the original city directories. The web site claims that the online directories are available through the year 1999 although I could only find those through 1992 on the site. That is still much later than any other collection of city directories that I have ever seen. This collection is a great resource for anyone interested in the genealogy, social history, the history of a building or in the urban geography of Montreal.

The web site is in French but the early directories were printed only in English. Later directories contained both English and French pages. All the images are of the original directories. I had no difficulty navigating this site even with my limited knowledge of French.

Montreal City Directories are available to all at no charge at:

<http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/lovell>

My thanks to Guy Lamarche for telling me about this great resource.

*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 15 May 2006, at <http://www.eogn.com>. (Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman.)*

### ONTARIO MARRIAGE DATABASE

Ancestry.com has recently updated a collection of approximately 2.8 million marriages recorded in Ontario, Canada between 1857 and 1922. The indexes contained in

this collection were created by two agencies—Ancestry and the Genealogical Research Library in Brampton, Ontario.

Indexed by Ancestry (includes images):

- Registrations of Marriages, 1869-1922 (MS 932, Archives of Ontario)
- Division Registrar Vital Statistics Records, 1858-1930 (MS 940, Archives of Ontario) [only a few marriages in this record set]
- Marriage License Books, 1907-1910 (MS 945, Archives of Ontario)
- Delayed Registrations of Marriages, 1892-1916 (MS 948, Arch. of Ont.)

Indexed by Genealogical Research Library (no images available):

- Registrations of Marriages, 1869-1919 (MS 932, Arch. of Ontario)
- Marriage Registers (microfilm, Family History Library)

Information usually found includes names of each spouse, ages of each spouse, residences of each spouse, birthplaces of each spouse, names of both spouses' parents, marriage date, marriage place (county), and the source of the information.

*Found at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle>, 31 May 2006. (Copyright 1998-2006, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.)*

### BEGINNERS' LATIN

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov/uk/latin/beginners>

John McCoy recommends this site for anyone researching English documents between 1086 and 1733 when Latin was the official language used. No previous knowledge of Latin is required. This tutorial is suitable for everyone who wants to learn. Documents to practice on are provided.

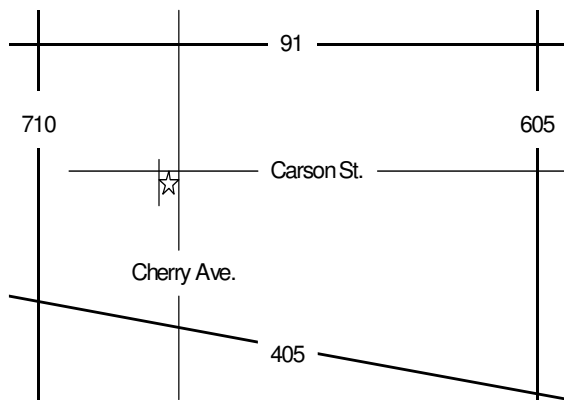
**CALENDAR**

Saturday, July 8. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Lunch and Learn beginning at noon. Elaine Alexander on “Castle Gardens, the 1<sup>st</sup> Immigrant Processing Center.”

Saturday, July 15, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: Jean Wilcox Hibben, M.A. presenting “The Story of a Union Soldier and His Family.”

Saturday, July 15, 8:00am-4:00 pm. 18<sup>th</sup> Annual British & Irish Family History Seminar featuring John M. Kitzmiller II, AF, FSG, FRSAL, FSA. Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. Sponsored by the British Isles Family History Society – USA.

Sunday, July 16, 1:15–3:30 pm. 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 19, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Speaker Beth Wilson; no topic given.

Saturday, August 5. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Workshops 9:00 am (\$5 fee for non-members except for “Basic Genealogy”); General Meeting 10:00 am; Speaker Joan Lowery on “German Genealogy on the Internet, Parts 1 & 2” 11:00 a.m.



**SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY GEN. SOC.**

presents A Family History Seminar on Saturday, Oct 21, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, featuring Dr. George K. Schweitzer at Mission Viejo City Hall, Saddleback Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, LaPaz & Marguerite. Topics:

Scots-Irish Genealogical Research

Virginia Genealogical Research

Finding Your Ancestors’ Parents

Preregistration \$20 before Oct 18; \$25 at door.

For information:

Call (949) 581-0690 or see

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



\*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.