

QUESTING HEIRS  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 39. ✦ Number 9 ✦ September 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, SEPTEMBER 17, 2006**

12:45	Class Period	<b>BASIC: Getting Started</b>
1:15		<b>INTERMEDIATE: What I Did on My Summer Vacation! presented by John McCoy</b>
2:00	Break	<b>Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments</b>
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	<b>SPEAKER: Caroline Rober Midwest Research</b>

*IN THIS ISSUE*

<i>September Meeting Information –Reports</i>	66
<i>President's Message: End of Summer</i>	67
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	68
<i>Methods &amp; Sources</i>	69
<i>Of Interest</i>	70
<i>On the Web</i>	71
<i>Calendar</i>	72

**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS:**

**What I Did on My Summer Vacation!**

Bring your stories, experiences, and discoveries from your summer projects and travels. Those of us who had to stay home over the summer want to hear about your travels in search of family history! Contact John McCoy (562-437-4337 or [RealMac@aol.com](mailto:RealMac@aol.com)) if you need help preparing slides for your presentation.

**SPEAKER: CAROLINE ROBER**

**Midwest Research**

Caroline Braxton Rober is a professional genealogical lecturer, teacher and researcher. She has been doing genealogical research for 36 years. She is President of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and Staff Training Coordinator for the Orange California Regional Family History Center in Orange, California. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society, New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society. Caroline is a native southern Californian, and her e-mail address is: [crober@adelphia.net](mailto:crober@adelphia.net). Her area of expertise is in United States Midwest and Kentucky Research.

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

Thanks to our August hosts:

Laurie ANGEL                              Linda IVERS  
Cheryl TARDIF                              Connie WILLIAMS

Our September hosts will be:

Georgie LYONS                              Liz MYERS  
Tina YANIS

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

July Income	\$ 93.16
July Expenses	\$ 239.68
Operations Balance	\$ 8,573.99

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

**AUGUST MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Members: 33                                      Guests: 2

**NEW MEMBERS - NONE**

**RENEWALS**

Laurie ANGEL	Individual	9/07
Linda ARTUSO	Individual	9/07
John BALLARD	Family	9/07
Wanda BALLARD	Family	9/07
Patricia BOWERS	Individual	9/08
Howard DAVIS	Family	9/07
Sally DAVIS	Family	9/07
Norma GRADY	Individual	9/07
Carmen GROSS	Individual	9/07
Maryemma HARGRAVE	Individual	9/07
Sandra HOLLANDSWORTH	Individual	9/07
Linda IVERS	Individual	9/07
Charlotte LLEWELLYN	Family	9/07
Georgia LYONS	Individual	9/07
Rellen OWEN	Individual	9/07
Michael POWERS	Family	9/07
Caroline RAINEY	Newsletter	9/07
Mary Ellen SMITH	Individual	9/07
Cheryl TARDIF	Individual	9/07
Leanora WEBER	Individual	9/07
Connie WILLIAMS	Individual	9/07
Linna YOUNG	Patron	9/07

*Copyright © 2006, Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc.*

*Permission to reprint original items from this publication is granted, provided that the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes, and that the following notice appears at the end of the article: Previously published in Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 39, No 9 (September 2006).*

*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

## **End of Summer**

I have just returned from my weekly Saturday expedition to the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center. I spent nearly the whole day with my head in a microfilm machine, attempting to read the early church records of the city of Nyon, Switzerland. From the earliest records in 1590 until about 1800, the parish was served by a succession of pastors who, almost without exception, had terrible handwriting. Sometimes the writing looks more like knitting; the loops, hooks, and curlicues of one letter become entangled with those of the lines above and below. At other times, the pastor used a broad quill and left out as many of the strokes as possible. Right in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, for more than a generation, Rev. Esdras Cornut kept track of everything in a clear, regular handwriting that nevertheless borders on the illegible—he had a peculiar way of forming *every* letter of the alphabet! I must have ordered the same microfilm half a dozen times. This time, I took advantage of the opportunity to put it on permanent loan. And surely enough, today I untangled a few more of those curlicues and discovered a couple baptisms I had missed before. My main genealogical problem in this parish is that there were two girls of the same name baptized less than a year apart, and I still can't prove which one of them is my ancestor. (The marriage record, which might be expected to reveal the name of the bride's father, has never been found.) Will I ever see my way through this thicket? So, that's the story of my summer! Steady progress, some nice finds, and a long, long road ahead.

But I know some of our members have managed to get out of town this summer. I know this because I missed seeing you at our monthly meetings! The long days of summer are perfect for visiting the ancient hometowns in USA and Europe. In the USA, we have the great open spaces that we try to race through, cuddled by the scent of sagebrush and the long grasslands. The hometowns usually look like a grove of trees in the distance. When we get there, the Dew Drop Inn or the Humdinger is ready with ice cream and a warm welcome, as if they were expecting us. In the warm afternoons and long sunsets we can stroll through the parks, wondering why our ancestors ever left this place. Even the graveyards are inviting to a genealogist: how often have we stumbled over one of our relatives, now a permanent resident of the place? For a moment, a pang of nostalgia, we are home again in a place we have never seen before.

Some of us are organized. Our supplies are all stowed in order, crystallized into our huge Genealogy Mobile. Our laptops at the ready, our trajectory computed to the umpteenth decimal, we are on target to intercept a long list of county courthouses. With the efficiency of the Borg, we will extract the unique essence of the pre-ordained probate records and deed books and make it our own. If you are one of the cyber-genealogist-warriors, I hope you built in enough time to picnic under the great white oak in the ancestral park, and linger over the sunset! If you are very lucky, these places are relatively free from the sounds of civilization, punctuated only by the song of the wood thrush.

But when our wide-ranging genealogists return to Long Beach, the same problems are always waiting for us: how can I organize all this new information, and which of the many discoveries should I present at the September meeting of *Questing Heirs*? The choice almost doesn't matter; every one of your experiences will say volumes to those of us who had to stay home.

**by John McCoy**

**QUESTING HEIRS NEWS**

**YEARLY DUES REMINDER**

September is the month when our yearly dues come due. Look on your newsletter address label; if it says 9/06 or before, that means you need to pay your dues for the coming year. At the bottom of the blue back page of this newsletter 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 society have gone up. Please be generous.

You may 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Membership

**GERALD A MILLER  
1917-2006**

Gerald A. Miller "Jerry," age 89, was born in Eagle Rock on July 11, 1917 and passed away on August 8, 2006. Jerry was a long time resident of Naples, Long Beach. Jerry started his own company, Starline Engineering, which he and his wife operated for almost 40 years. He was the inventor of the igniting system for the Atlas Missile used throughout our military. Jerry and Pat built their dream home on the peninsula in Long Beach where he spent the last 11 years

enjoying the view of the bay and ocean. Jerry is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patricia Miller; his son, Christopher Miller; daughter, Suzi Halsted; his grandson, Christopher Halsted; sister-in-law, Jeanette; nieces, Peggy, Patty, and Tina; and many other family members and loving friends. Jerry was always the life of the party, just ask anyone who knew him. He was a loving husband, great "Pop," wonderful grandfather and terrific friend. He will be missed by all who knew him.

*Obituary, Long Beach Press-Telegram, 8/12/2006.*

**HELP WANTED**

Storage Space

Need climate controlled, temporary storage space for donated books, etc. Willing to pay reasonable fees.

Wireless Internet Laptop

Looking to borrow, for one Questing Heirs meeting, a laptop able to connect to the Internet via an 'air card.'

Contact ASAP:

Liz Myers  
562-598-3027

**MORE HELP NEEDED**

The Nominating Committee, chosen at our August meeting, consists of:

Dave Werts (562-431-7790)  
Cynthia Day-Elliott (562-427-9663)  
Tina Yanis (562-591-7197)

Please give one of them a call if you can help the Society by accepting the position of President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Membership) or Corresponding Secretary.

Someone also has to fill the unexpired term of our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Program), and since Liz Myers is likely to be busy with one of the above positions, we need someone to take over leadership of the Beginners Classes starting in January 2007.

## METHODS & SOURCES

### A MOMENT ON THE LIPS

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle>

Do you know what came out of your ancestor's mouth when he was asked his name? I don't mean that word eventually written down on the census page or the marriage license, but the sounds he made when asked his name. The pronunciation is key to finding your ancestor in many records.

When I began my own research, I had difficulty finding my Behrens ancestors. I always "said the name in my head" in a way that pretty much rhymes with the word "errands." However, that's not how ancestor Ulfert Behrens said it. In his low-German dialect, his uttering probably sounded closer to the modern pronunciation of "barns." And that explains several variants I located. Now I look for Barnes and other variants in addition to Behrens and similar spellings. The sounds makes a difference...

The last name Talliaferro is similar. This name is not usually pronounced "tuh-lee-uh-fair-ohh." Rather it is often said in a way that rhymes with "Oliver" sounding like "toliver." This opens up another set of variant surname spellings for this last name, including Toliver and Tolliver.

I learned of the Behrens pronunciation from my great-grandmother, her grandmother was a Behrens, and great-grandma grew up speaking the same low-German dialect as her parents. For other surnames, consider posting the question to the appropriate ethnic, regional, or surname mailing list; however, I would not recommend finding people with the desired last name in the phone book and asking them on the phone!

*Tips from the Pros: Michael John Neill, 29 June 2006. (Copyright 1998-2006, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.)*

### INDIANA STATE ARCHIVES

For those with Indiana ancestors, the Indiana State Archives contains much helpful information. Its holdings include federal, state, and local records and photographs dating from the U.S. territorial period to the present. Federal records include:

- General Land Office, including tract books and original plats and field notes
- Manufacturing censuses, 1820-1880
- Agricultural censuses, 1850-1880
- Social statistics censuses, 1850-1870

State collections begin in 1784 and include:

- Land sold by the state
- Military records for Indiana veterans from the Battle of Tippecanoe through the Vietnam War
- Records of correctional institutions
- Records of state hospitals, schools and homes

Local records include:

- Naturalizations in county circuit courts
- Physician license books
- Enumerations of eligible voters

Collections are organized by the agency, organization or individual that created the records. The staff has prepared finding aids which provide access to the collections and which are available to the researcher at the Archives. Brochures describing sources on women, major family history sources and major genealogical and historical sources for African-American research are available upon request.

Contact the Archives to learn about its fees and services. It is located at 6440 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219 and can be reached by phone at 317-591-5222 or fax at 317-591-5324. Many databases are available at the Archives' website: <<http://www.in.gov/icpr/archives>>.

**OF INTEREST**

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES HEARING**

Reported by Patricia O'Brien Shawker, CG  
Treasurer, National Genealogical Society

A public hearing was held on Thursday, 3 August 2006 to discuss the proposed cuts in research hours at the National Archives. Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, moderated the meeting.

Professor Weinstein stated that because of the unexpected budget cut of approximately eight million dollars to NARA's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year, it will be necessary to reduce the number of hours of operation available for researchers. Although the press release indicated the proposed reduction in hours would be at the D.C. and the College Park locations, the Archivist stated that the NARA Regional facilities will also have cuts in hours and services. The proposal is to eliminate evening and Saturday hours and have access limited to Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This meeting was held to elicit comments from the public. Nancy Allard stated that a final decision would be made by Professor Weinstein by 29 September 2006.

Following comments [from those attending], Professor Weinstein closed the meeting with the following three points:

1. That NARA was surprised by the passion shown by those who use the National Archives.
2. That they will reevaluate the numbers and the decision would be made on precise numbers.
3. That this decision would not be made lightly and that other decisions will rest upon this base decision.

The comment period for the public on this ruling closes on 8 September 2006. You can submit comments:

1. online at <<http://www.%20regulations.gov>>
2. by fax at 301-837-0319, or
3. by mail at the following address:

Regulations Comments Desk (NPOL)  
Room 4100, Policy and Planning Staff  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

*(Extract from UpFront with NGS, Special Edition, 11 August 2006)*

**HUNTINGTON LIBRARY DATABASE**

From an article by Larry Gordon,  
Times Staff Writer, August 8, 2006

Reclaiming a neglected part of California's past, historians Monday unveiled an immense data bank that for the first time chronicles the lives and deaths of more than 100,000 Indians in the Spanish missions of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

In an eight-year effort, researchers at the Huntington Library in San Marino used handwritten records of baptisms, marriages and deaths at 21 Catholic missions and two other sites from between 1769 and 1850 and created a cross-referenced computerized repository that is now open to public access.

The Early California Population Project, its creators hope, will help bring the state's Spanish colonial and Mexican eras from out of the long shadows cast by the 13 English colonies on the East Coast.

The public can gain access to the database through an Internet link at:

<http://www.huntington.org/Information/ECPPabout.htm>

The project, which cost \$650,000, used records mainly taken from microfilm of the originals. They overwhelmingly concern Indians in the coastal regions from the San Diego to Marin County areas... Some Spanish soldiers and Mexican settlers are included [during the period 1821-1850].

## ON THE WEB

### DIGITAL GENEALOGIST

<http://www.digitalgenealogist.com>

Liz Kelley Kerstens, CG, CGL was the editor of *Genealogical Computing*, a former publication of Ancestry.com, for seven years. That magazine has been discontinued as of the July/August/September 2006 issue. Liz still believes there is a need for a magazine that focuses on the use of technology in genealogy and all its various applications. Therefore, she is starting a new magazine of her own to be called *Digital Genealogist*.

The first issue is scheduled to be sent out in November 2006. Subscriptions are \$20 a year. The magazine will be sent via e-mail as a PDF, which will require subscribers to have *Adobe Reader* on their computers. An advantage of this method of delivery is that the URLs in articles and ads will be live links.

You may subscribe through PayPal at the above website. If you prefer to pay by check or money order, you can download the subscription form, fill in the blanks, print the form and mail it with your payment to:

Digital Genealogist, LLC  
P. O. Box 6386  
Plymouth, MI 48170-8486

### DOMESDAY BOOK ONLINE

The Domesday Book is one of the earliest surviving public records. It was commissioned in 1085. Domesday is a highly detailed survey and valuation of all the land held by the King and his chief tenants, along with all the resources that went with the land in late eleventh century England. The information in this book is still important to legal affairs, real estate transactions, historians, and genealogists. Even today, the book can be used in court for property disputes.

Domesday is much more than just a tax record. It also records which manors belonged to which estates and gives the identities of the King's tenants-in-chief who owed him military service in the form of knights to fight in his army. The King was essentially interested in tracing, recording, and recovering his royal rights and revenues, which he wished to maximize. It was also in the interests of his chief barons to cooperate in the survey since it provided a permanent record of the tenurial gains they had made since 1066.

If you are successful at tracing English ancestry back to the eleventh century, it is likely that you will find your ancestors listed in this book. [You can also search for a town of interest.]

The U.K. National Archives are making online searches free, but downloads of data will cost £3.50 (approx \$6.50 US). That price will purchase a copy of an original page, featuring a place name and the tenants and property of that place. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday>.

*Extracted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 7 August 2006, at <http://www.eogn.com>. (Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman.)*

### CALENDARS

<http://www.calendarhome.com>

Having trouble figuring out on what day a particular event took place? At the above website you can:

- ❖ Print out a current year's calendar
- ❖ Calculate dates on a 100-Year Perpetual Calendar
- ❖ Calculate dates on a 10,000-Year Calendar

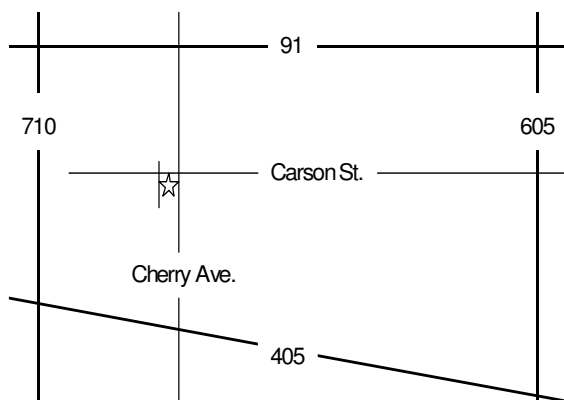
**CALENDAR**

Saturday, September 9. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Lunch and Learn beginning at noon. Jay Holliday speaking on “Kentucky Research-The Basics and More.”

Sunday, September 10, 2:00 pm. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Topic: “Prussia-Part I, The West” (Hannover, Hessen-Nassau, Rheinland & Westphalia) presented by Marilyn Deatherage for Kurt Schroeder.

Saturday, September 16, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: Fran Holt will describe “How Quilts Connect the Past, Present and Future.”

Sunday, September 17, 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 66.



Wednesday, September 20, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Roger Graham will talk about “Writing the Book of Your Life.”

Sunday, September 24, 1-6 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Topic: “Erin Go Bragh: Music and Myths of Irish Immigration” by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Saturday, October 7. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker at 11:00 am: Beth McCarty on “Finding Your Ancestor’s Home in England.”



North San Diego County Genealogical Society

**FALL SEMINAR**

“Case Study Journeys”

Saturday, 16 September 2006 (9 am-4 pm)

Carlsbad City Council Chambers

1200 Carlsbad Village Drive, Carlsbad

Contact: Fred Spong at (858) 453-8469 or

[fspong@san.rr.com](mailto:fspong@san.rr.com)

Registration \$15 for non-members; lunch \$6.



\*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.