

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 39. ✦ Number 11 ✦ November 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

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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2006**

<b>12:45</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BASIC: Internet – RootsWeb, Ancestry, etc.</b>
	<b>Period</b>	
<b>1:15</b>		<b>INTERMEDIATE:</b> <b>Long Beach Historical Society</b> <b>presented by Dr. Geoff Gatley</b>
<b>2:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Business</b>	
<b>2:30</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>SPEAKER: <i>Anne Larkin</i></b> <b><i>Button Down Your Ancestors</i></b>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*The Genealogist's Nightmare: Moving!*

*by John McCoy*

If nothing goes wrong, I should be the proud owner of a new house before our November meeting! The excitement is palpable. So is the anxiety!

The move is only 6 miles, but it might as well be around the world. All of my precious research notes and books have to be packed, moved, and then unpacked. I expect it will be a couple months before everything is out of the boxes.

As soon as I realized the sale was going through, I did the obvious experiment: how many boxes are required to pack the contents of one shelf? Then I multiplied by the number of shelves. The result was staggering: 85 boxes, just for books and papers! I quickly realized I would have to label the boxes somehow, and try to put only like items in each box. I will need to number the boxes, too, to be sure none have been lost in transit.

As of this writing, I have 12 boxes packed. My realtor has 40 empty boxes waiting for me. I have already had to open two of the boxes to locate information needed by my paid researcher in Switzerland. Fortunately, the labels were accurate, and I found the required dates in less than a half-hour.

Already I can see the writing on the wall. The information I need will inevitably be in the box on the bottom of the stack. Long-awaited correspondence will arrive just at the time when the information is least accessible. The most active notebooks, the ones with my most recent research notes and photocopies, will have to stay in the book bag that I carry with me to the Family History Center every week. These notebooks are used so often, it would not make sense to pack them and risk misplacing them at a key moment. I will have them at my side, along with my laptop computer, throughout the chaotic days when I am moving.

Another necessity is to back up my two desktop computers. If they get bumped in transit and fail to start up when reconnected, I need to have my critical files in a form that can be transferred to another computer. Naturally, every computer I have uses a different type of disk! The backup disks will have to stay by my side as well.

The number of loose papers is less than it might have been, because I got into the habit of writing my research notes directly into notebooks. Usually I have one notebook for each major research area. That was the best procedural idea I ever had!

There is an important benefit from my move: I will be forced to review my notes when I unpack them. When the dust settles, I should be better organized than I am now! Another benefit is that my new location is only 1.5 miles from a Family History Center.

If I had kept everything organized from the beginning, I would have no need to be worried. But in real life, information accumulates much faster than I can digest it. I figure you only need to worry when the piles of paper prevent you from moving freely around your office. Look for me at the November meeting. I will probably be dusty and frazzled, but very pleased.

**QUESTING HEIRS NEWS**

**PROCLAMATION**

presented to  
**Questing Heirs Genealogical Society of  
Long Beach**

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**Whereas**, individuals from across our City have embarked on a genealogical journey by discovering who their ancestors were and how various forces shaped their past; and

**Whereas**, within our libraries and archives lie the treasured records that detail the history of our community and our citizens; and

**Whereas**, an ever-growing number of people in our City are collecting, preserving, and sharing genealogies, personal documents, and memorabilia that detail the life and times of families around the world; and

**Whereas**, the study of family history gives individuals a sense of their heritage and a sense of responsibility in carrying out a legacy that their ancestors began; and

**Whereas**, the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society of Long Beach has supported and promoted the collecting and preserving of family history for more than 35 years in our City;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Bob Foster, Mayor of Long Beach and I, Rae Gabelich, 8<sup>th</sup> District Councilwoman, on behalf of the entire City Council do hereby commend the **Questing Heirs Genealogical Society of Long Beach** for their efforts to encourage family history research and education, and do hereby recognize **October 2006 as Family History Month**.

Dated: October 15, 2006



**SOCIETY ELECTION**

The following members have agreed to run for the Board offices to be filled this year:

President – Liz Myers

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Sally Davis

Corresponding Secretary – Jeri Everett

At our November meeting, nominations may also be made from the floor (with the nominee's prior approval). Then attendees will vote for those nominated. Since only paid-up members are entitled to vote, please remember to renew your membership if you haven't done so already.

**SALT LAKE CITY TRIP**

QH members Pat Bowers (562-421-3996) and Liz Myers (562-598-3027) plan to travel to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City on Sunday, November 5, and return on Saturday, November 11. If you would like to join them on this excursion, please let either of them know.

Pat has been to the library several times and is quite knowledgeable about doing research there.

**“ALONG THOSE LINES...” by GEORGE G. MORGAN**

**City Directories Can Provide Great Clues  
Part 1 of 3-part series for Family History Month**

“Family is forever!” With those words, I began my book, *How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy* (McGraw-Hill). Our family provides us with an anchor, a form of stability, especially in this tempestuous time in history. I believe, too, that this has always been the case.

October has become “Family History Month” in the United States, annually declared such by an Act of Congress and the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation.

October is a great month for commemorating our ancestors’ lives and celebrating the joys of our own family. Summer is ended and autumn

anticipates the coming of the holidays. Those holidays evoke memories of years past and the family traditions passed down from generation to generation. Family historians and genealogists also begin to buckle down to learn more about the family and to share information with relatives and friends.

Let’s all commit to celebrating Family History Month this October! And there is no better way than to begin discussing where we can learn more about our families. I begin a three-part series about city directories this week and the excellent clues they can offer.

**Using City Directories in Place of Other Records**

The most frequently used record type amongst American genealogists is undoubtedly U.S. federal census records. Federal census records extend from 1790 to present.

However, because of privacy laws, the public only has access to those census records through 1930. In addition, the majority of the 1890 federal census population schedules were destroyed by fire and water in the Commerce Department building in Washington, D.C., in 1921.

Since the federal census is taken only every 10 years, we have a significant gap between those enumerations in which to obtain information to help us physically locate our ancestors and their relatives.

We therefore have to take advantage of alternative record types that help place our ancestors in a particular place and time in between those censuses. Among those alternative records are city directories, land and property records, tax rolls, jury lists, voter registration records, driver’s licenses, and numerous other record types.

As a little background, you should know that city directories have been around for a very long time. In some places in Europe, there are city directories dating back to the 1600s.

If you visit London, you will find city directories in the London Metropolitan Archives, at the Society of Genealogists Library, at the Guildhall, at the venerable British Library, and other research venues.

In the United States, some larger places produced city directories even before the American Revolution. However, the publication of city directories became very common in American cities and towns in the 1800s and 1900s. Even with the introduction of the telephone and telephone directories, city directories remained in production for many years.

Next time we’ll discuss how to make use of city directories in your research.

Happy Hunting! *George*

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**OF INTEREST**

**NARA HOURS**

The National Genealogical Society reported (in their online newsletter *UpFront with NGS* dated 1 Oct. 2006) that, due to budget cuts, National Archive hours in Washington, D.C., and College Park, Maryland, are now 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Once a month they will have extended hours on a Thursday and Friday (9:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.) and Saturday (8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.).

A check with the website of the Regional Archives at Laguna Niguel indicates that the hours at that branch are now 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on only the first Saturday of each month. There are no longer any evening hours.

**ANNIE MOORE:  
A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

On January 1, 1892, 13-year-old Annie Moore [from Ireland] was the first immigrant to enter our country via Ellis Island. She tripped down the gangplank, along with a pair of younger brothers, and was greeted with much fanfare. Officials welcomed her arrival and presented her with a \$10 gold coin in commemoration of the special event. Her statue stands at Ellis Island.

Not until the 1990s when Ellis Island was refurbished and opened to the public did we learn what happened to Annie after Ellis Island—how she ventured to New Mexico, married a descendant of an Irish patriot, had a handful of children, was widowed, became a business-woman, and died in an accident.

But genealogist Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak accidentally discovered that this Annie was born in Illinois. She launched an online contest with a \$1,000 prize for the first proof of what became of the right Annie. At a press conference in New York City on September 15, with some of Annie's descendants in attendance, the prize was awarded and the true story told.<sup>1</sup>

It seems Annie spent the rest of her life on Manhattan's Lower East Side. She married a German immigrant named Joseph Schayer, who worked at the Fulton Street Fish Market. The couple had 11 children though not all survived birth and early infancy. Annie Moore died of heart failure in 1923 at the age of 47 [and] now lies alongside six of her children in an unmarked grave in Calvary Cemetery, Queens, just a few miles from Ellis Island. A fund to pay for a headstone has just been established.<sup>2</sup>

You can find more details at <http://www.irishecho.com/newpaper/story.cfm?id=18112>.

<sup>1</sup>Press release by Southern California Genealogical Society, 7 Sep 2006, at [CA-SCGS-L@rootsweb.com](mailto:CA-SCGS-L@rootsweb.com).

<sup>2</sup>Extract from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, 23 Sep 2006, at <http://www.eogn.com>. (Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman.)

**THE EVERTON COLLECTION**

The Everton Genealogy Collection has found a home at last in the Logan [Utah] Library. It was opened to the public on Tuesday, October 10, and will be open from 5-9 p.m. Tuesdays, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday thru Friday and 1-5 p.m. the second Saturday of each month. You may reach the library by phone at 435-716-9143 or by e-mail at [genealogy@loganutah.org](mailto:genealogy@loganutah.org).

Per Leland Meitzler at the *Everton Publishers Genealogy Blog* (<http://www.genealogyblog.com>) 4 Oct 2006.

**TUTTLE ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS**

The entire inventory of this long-time genealogy book retailer has been sold to:

De Wolfe and Wood  
P. O. Box 425  
2 Waterboro Rd., Rt. 202  
Alfred, Maine 04002

Their website is <http://www.dwbooks.com>.

*Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, 12 Sep '06.

## ON THE WEB

### **WorldCat: Best Thing Since Sliced Bread**

by Dale Talkington

For the kind of FUN hobby work that I do, Google and the brand-new beta WorldCat have become my most important aids to research.

Google is easily accessed, but WorldCat's locations of 1.3 billion items in 10,000 libraries around the world previously have been available only through institutional access.

It's become available to the public here and now. It's FREE and simple to use. Just type in a book name or author and it shows which library holds that book. <http://www.worldcat.org>

Try it - - you will like it!

*Previously published in Rootsweb Review: 16 August 2006, Vol. 9, No. 33.*

### **GenDisasters**

#### **Events that Touched Our Ancestors' Lives**

<http://www.gendisasters.com>

This is a new website that specializes in making available articles and/or photographs of various types of disasters such as fires, floods, tornadoes, train wrecks, earthquakes, hurricanes, ship wrecks, explosions, etc. Take a look and see whether any such events took place in the area and time period that your ancestors lived.

### **Roots Television**

#### **Where History Meets Heritage**

<http://www.rootstelevision.com>

This is a new website and a new concept. "Roots Television™ is by and for avid genealogists and family history lovers of all stripes. Whether you're an archives hound, a scrapbooker, a cousin collector, a roots-travel enthusiast, a Civil War re-enactor, a DNA fan, a reunion instigator, a sepia-toned photos zealot, an Internet-junkie, a history buff, an old country traditions follower, a cemetery devotee, a story-teller, a multicultural

food aficionado, a flea market and antiques fanatic, a family documentarian, a nostalgia nut, or a mystery-solver, Roots Television™ has something for you -- and that "something" is quality programming."

Note: You will need an Internet connection faster than a regular land phone line to view the programs.

### **THE INFLATION CALCULATOR**

<http://www.westegg.com/inflation>

S. Morgan Friedman has created this calculator to let you compare an amount of money you may have found listed in a census or other document between 1800 and 2005, adjusted for inflation, to any other year in that range. The pre-1975 data are the Consumer Price Index statistics from *Historical Statistics of the United States* (USGPO, 1975). All data since then are from the annual *Statistical Abstracts of the United States*.

### **GOOGLE NEWS ARCHIVE**

<http://news.google.com/archivesearch>

"News archive search provides an easy way to search and explore historical archives. Users can search for events, people, ideas and see how they have been described over time. In addition to searching for the most relevant articles for their query, users can get an historical overview of the results by browsing an automatically created timeline. Search results include both content that is accessible to all users and content that requires a fee. Articles related to a single story within a given time period are grouped together to allow users to see a broad perspective on the events."

Features include:

- Search sources
- Browse timelines
- Identify key time periods
- Discover various viewpoints

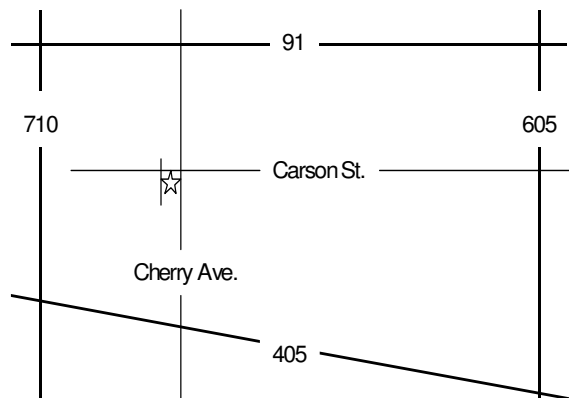
**CALENDAR**

Sunday, November 12, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Topic: "Underutilized Genealogy Resources" presented by Norma Storrs Keating.

Wednesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Speaker: Elaine Alexander on "Finding Naturalization Records."

Saturday, November 18, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: "Analyzation – A Key to Further Research" by Caroline Rober.

Sunday, November 19, 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 82.



Sunday, November 26, 1-3 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Topic: "Sharing Your Family History Experiences."

Saturday, December 2. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society Note: No meeting this month.



**Whittier Area Genealogical Society**

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar

Saturday, February 24, 2007

7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA

**Speaker: Curt B. Witcher**

Manager of the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**Topics:**

- Back to Basics: A Research Plan
- Using Government Documents
- Germans to the Midwest
- Doing the History Eliminates the Mystery

For information:

<http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>

Barbara Wilks (562-696-5915) or

barbwilks@earthlink.net



\*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.