

**QUESTING HEIRS**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 40. ✦ Number 2 ✦ February 2007

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, FEBRUARY 18, 2007**

<b>1:15</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>INTERMEDIATE:</b>
	<b>Period</b>	<b>Why My Ancestors Left Town</b> <b>presented by John McCoy</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:</b> <b>Nancy Carlberg</b> <b>Where Do I Go Now?</b>

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

## **Genealogy Blogs: Journaling made easy**

Web logs, also known as “blogs,” are a highly popular means of communicating one’s personal interests and thoughts these days. A blog is really a journal, or an online diary, to which a person publishes his or her thoughts or informative materials for others across the Internet to read. The “Along Those Lines...” column is a blog, but there are thousands of others on many, many topics.

Genealogists quickly jumped into blogging. Whereas in the past few years it has been popular to publish one’s family tree on a personal Web page—and most genealogy database programs now provide the ability to generate the HTML language to do this, genealogists are publishing their own research logs and other materials in blogs.

There are some excellent blogs on the Internet these days. One of the best has been created by Steve Danko at [www.stephendanko.com](http://www.stephendanko.com) and he regularly posts information about his extensive Polish ancestral research, both in the United States and overseas. He has included great details about his own research as well as images of documents and photos he has acquired that substantiate his research.

Drew Smith and I recently interviewed Steve on The Genealogy Guys Podcast of October 23 and I know you’ll find his interview insightful. Dina Scheel has also published genealogy blogs for some of her lines.

Take a look at her Parisi Genealogy blog at [parisigenealogy.blogspot.com](http://parisigenealogy.blogspot.com) for another excellent example of genealogy blogs and links to her blogs about her Scheel, O’Keefe, and Villalba-Barios family blogs.

Creating a blog is a simple process. There are any number of websites offering free basic blog hosting services and built-in software to create them. If you plan to have a really massive blog

with lots of graphics, there is usually a nominal charge for the extra storage space.

Some of these blog hosting services [are] Live Journal ([www.livejournal.com](http://www.livejournal.com)), Blogger ([www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)), Zanga ([www.xanga.com/](http://www.xanga.com/)), Yahoo 360° ([360.yahoo.com](http://360.yahoo.com)), and others.

Typically you can choose a background look for your blog to suit your personality or the purpose of the blog.

LiveJournal, for instance, offers scores of backgrounds. You simply type the text, just as you would with a word processor. You can use bold, underscore, italics, colors, etc. You can add images, hyperlinks, and more.

If you are conversant in HTML and Web page design, you can even use the advanced functions to create a special look and feel to your site.

Once you’re finished entering information, you can spell-check the document and then publish it for all to see.

In addition, you can arrange to submit your blog to an online blog catalog, such as BlogCatalog ([www.blogcatalog.com](http://www.blogcatalog.com)) where people can search for and locate blogs. You can use Google’s Blog Search ([blogsearch.google.com](http://blogsearch.google.com)) to search for blogs on genealogy and other topics in which you are interested.

If you want to publish your own blog about your genealogical research and your family history, you may want to check out other people’s blogs to get some ideas and then start your own. It’s a great way to share information with others!

Happy Blogging!

*George*

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## QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello!

During the first part of our February meeting, we will be having a special program entitled: Who are we? Come to the meeting to find out what that means!

Our main speaker will be Nancy Carlberg, who has an interesting and unique way of sharing her experiences in genealogy. I know you will enjoy and learn from her. She has self-published more than a few books, and they are usually available to buy after her lectures.

During February we plan to get our exchange newsletters onto the shelves of the Long Beach Main Library. We will arrange them by society and take them to the library. We then need to stamp them with the library stamp. Finally, they will be put in magazine holders labeled with each society's name. Then you will be able to go to the Genealogy section and look at as many of these newsletters as you like!

#### Upcoming Events

At our March meeting, Rellen Owen has volunteered to teach the beginner class; and the intermediate class will be taught by our ever-popular John McCoy!

On Mother's Day weekend, we will be in Lakewood for a community event. One of our goals is to increase our society's visibility in the community. We want people to KNOW who and what Questing Heirs Genealogical Society is!

Next October, Loran Bures has arranged for us to conduct a program for the Girl Scouts that will include cemetery work.

Many exciting activities are being planned, and we will be inviting you to participate. Keep looking for them. We appreciate your support.

*Liz*

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

### QH NEEDS YOUR HELP

We need a storage place to keep donated books, family papers and society documents. Can you help us? Do you have an unused closet? A small room with access? Any ideas welcomed; we are desperate!

#### CD LOOKUPS

by Linda Artuso

I own the following ten CDs and will be happy to do lookups on them for anyone who thinks the information they contain might be helpful to their research.

- Marriage Index: IL, IN, KY, OH, TN, 1720-1926 (#2)
- Marriage Index: Selected Counties of MD, NC, VA, 1624-1915 (#4)
- Mortality Index: United States, 1850-1880 (#164)
- Immigrants to the New World, 1600s-1800s (#170)
- Marriage Index: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV, 1728-1850 (#229)
- Census Records: Indiana, 1860 (#304)
- Census Index: Colonial America, 1607-1789 (#310)
- Census Index: U.S. Selected Counties, 1790 (#311)
- Census Index: U.S. Selected Counties, 1800 (#312)
- Census Index: U.S. Selected Counties, 1810 (#313)

My phone number, e-mail address, and postal address are listed on the blue page.

*Getting grounded in what one's people went through is not to determine what one will be, but it is a reminder not to throw away what has been done, given, prayed, and paid for in human experience.*

Thulani Davis in *My Confederate Kinfolk: A Twenty-First Century Freedwoman Discovers Her Roots*

## METHODS

### A TECHNIQUE TO ORGANIZE AND SAVE ONLINE INFORMATION

by Janet A. Alpert

This morning I was doing one of my usual reviews of this month's online newsletters and thought I should share a technique I use.

We all read online newsletters and say, "I'd like to save that brief article, but I don't want to print six pages—how will I ever find it later?" Each newsletter has a multitude of unrelated topics. I developed the following technique when I was working full time, so I could read the newsletters quickly but save the information that was important to me for a more thorough review later.

I use AOL and have more than thirty e-mail folders set up under the AOL section "Saved on my PC." I have these folders categorized by topic, such as surnames, geographic locations (states and countries), research techniques, military, naturalization, etc. Then when I read a newsletter and find a topic I want to save, I copy and paste the information into a new e-mail with a "subject" that helps me identify the information. I then send the e-mail to myself and save it in the appropriate folder. When I was working, I only had weekends to work on genealogy, so each weekend I could go back and review the e-mails I had sent myself, try some of the Web sites suggested, and save each in the appropriate folder.

You can also set up the folder on your C drive and copy it into a Word document, but I have found it easier for me to save information from online lists and newsletters in my AOL file and my other research on my C drive. If it is something I found online, I save it online, so I know to look there first.

However, once in a while I have to go back and review those folders and discard outdated information.

*Published in UpFront with NGS, Volume 5, Number 12, 1 Dec 2006.*

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

by Peter Kerr

I have noticed from several message boards that people researching their ancestry often get confused over locations and the relationships between them. I have used the following strategies with great effect in my research.

A very useful map site is [www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk) which, as well as allowing you to see an old and modern map of a place (plus an aerial view, but not in Scotland!) has the added benefit of giving you the modern postcode.

You can then use the postcodes of two locations to use a facility such as that provided by the [Route Planner at [www.theaa.com](http://www.theaa.com)] to establish geographical links between places. This is particularly useful for those overseas because getting a sense of scale for the British Isles is not always easy.

One other tip is NOT to trust the spelling of place names even when looking at the original census returns from Scotland as these were completed by English 'speakers' ignorant of the Gaelic spelling of many place names.

However, if you search for a place name within a census it will provide you with an indication of the size of the settlement, and scrolling through the inhabitants can save time as other relations can often be located with ease.

That's three quick tips for the price of one!

*A Quick Tip from <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle>, 15 Jan 2007. (Copyright 1998-2007, MyFamily.com)*

#### **Leap year does not occur every four years.**

February 29 is added to the calendar year only when the number of the year is divisible by 4—except in centenary years not divisible by 400. For instance, the year 2000 was a leap year, but the year 2100, while divisible by 4, will not be a leap year because it is not divisible by 400.

*From Contrary to Popular Belief by Joey Green (New York: Broadway Books, 2005), p.31.*

**OF INTEREST**

**UPDATE ON ANNIE MOORE**

Yes, Annie Moore's back again! Yesterday, I had the pleasure of participating in a virtual conference of sorts that permitted me to speak to a roomful of folks in Co. Cork, including no less than the mayor of Cork. The occasion was the announcement of some brilliant detective work done by Tim McCoy's class of film students—mostly 10- and 11-year-olds.

The class settled on Annie as the topic for a film they'll be making this school year, and in the course of their preparation, they managed to uncover quite a bit more about our girl—including the fact that she was older than we all thought.

There was always confusion on this matter, as the manifest has her as 13, while the newspaper accounts of the day have her as 15. Well, it turns out she was 17. And Philip and Anthony, the little brothers who traveled with her, were also older than previously thought. In fact, it would probably be appropriate to add a few inches to the height of all three of the siblings in the statue (located at the Cobh Heritage Centre).

As to the exact date of Annie's birth, she's still left us with a lingering mystery. The civil Registration matches the day and month given on her death certificate—May 30<sup>th</sup>—but her baptism record claims that she was born on May 25<sup>th</sup> and cleverly christened on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Guess she's not quite ready to give up *all* her secrets!

*Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak's blog, 21 Dec 2006 at [www.rootstelevision.com/blogs/megans-rootsworld.html](http://www.rootstelevision.com/blogs/megans-rootsworld.html).*

**GENEALOGY LIBRARY CENTER, INC.**

Arlene Eakle, president and founder of the Genealogic Institute, has established the Genealogy Library Center, Inc., in Tremonton, Utah. It is a non-profit library intended to:

- help you preserve your personal manuscript genealogy files and supporting

books, maps, and other genealogy materials and

- make these precious and valuable data available to genealogists who share common genealogy ancestry.

At this time access to the library is available by personal visit or by research inquiry through letter, e-mail or phone. Ms. Eakle will accept whatever you want to preserve—printed books, handwritten notes, family files, computer discs & printouts, maps & atlases, periodicals you've subscribed to, correspondence, photographs, etc. These materials will be stored, preserved, and made available to the public under monitored and controlled circumstances.

The library is located at:

56 West Main St., Suite B  
Tremonton, UT 84337

The mailing address is:

Arlene H. Eakle, PhD  
P. O. Box 40  
Garland, UT 84312  
Phone: 800-377-6058  
E-mail: [arlene@arleneeakle.com](mailto:arlene@arleneeakle.com)

**CENSUS BUREAU STATISTICS**

On the occasion of the U. S. population's reaching 300 million on October 17, 2006, the Census Bureau published some interesting statistics comparing 2006 with 1967 when we reached 200 million and 1915 when we reached 100 million.

Cost of a first-class stamp

2006: 39 cents  
1967: 5 cents  
1915: 2 cents

Life expectancy at birth

2006: 77.8 years  
1967: 70.5 years  
1915: 54.5 years

Average household size

2006: 2.6 people  
1967: 3.3 people  
1915: 4.5 people

**ON THE WEB**

**IOWA LAND PATENTS**

by John McCoy

Iowa patents for federal land sales have finally been added to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) web site <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>. Ever since the BLM web site was started, records from Iowa were not quite ready. They had been promised “by the end of 2004,” and a notice to that effect remained on the web site until almost the last day of 2006!

Did you know? Federal land patents often contain clues about your ancestors, including sometimes their previous place of residence. The patents were usually NOT recorded in the county deed books, and they may tell you approximately when your ancestor arrived in the area. You can get a very readable image of the original document on the web site, and you can search by name or by the legal description of the land (excellent method to learn the names of your ancestor’s neighbors!).

Once you know that your ancestor purchased federal land in a particular place, you can also study the “tract book” where his purchase was recorded. The tract book will give you the date when your ancestor bought the land at the local federal land office, and you may discover additional details. The tract books also show transactions that did not result in issuance of a patent (because the transaction was not completed, or because the original purchaser died and the patent was issued to an heir). The tract books are in the Family History Library catalogue arranged by state, range, and township. Find the catalogue entry by searching microfilm number 1445277.

**BRITISH PASSENGER LISTS**

<http://www.findmypast.com>

The above web site (formerly known as “1837online”), in cooperation with the National Archives, has introduced a new database called “ancestors onboard.” It permits you to search the BT27 UK Outbound Passenger Lists. Records

now available cover people leaving the UK on long-distance voyages between 1890 and 1899. Ultimately these records will cover the period from 1890 to 1960, but the next set of data to be made available will cover 1900 to 1909. To monitor their progress, you can visit the new web site at [www.ancestorsonboard.com](http://www.ancestorsonboard.com).

Records vary, but transcriptions usually tell you name, age, occupation, destination, travel and ship details as well as other people of the same name traveling on the ship. To view the records you need to buy pay-per-view units. Viewing a transcription costs 5 units, while viewing the actual high resolution color image costs 30 units.

**NEW ANCESTRY.COM SITE**

On January 9, 2007, Ancestry.com announced the addition of more than six million names from German port and census records to its historical records collection, making it the central online source for German family history. The German records launched simultaneously on Ancestry.de, Ancestry.com’s first foreign-language, international sister-site.

The German historical records collection features records such as passenger lists, census and vital records, sailors’ registry, ships crew lists, and family and local histories. The Hamburg passenger lists, which are the highlight of the new collection, includes records of more than five million people who sailed from the German port of Hamburg between 1850 and 1934...

Ancestry.de is The Generations Network’s fourth international site. Others include Ancestry.co.uk in the United Kingdom, which features the only complete online collection of England and Wales census records, Ancestry.ca in Canada and Ancestry.com.au in Australia.

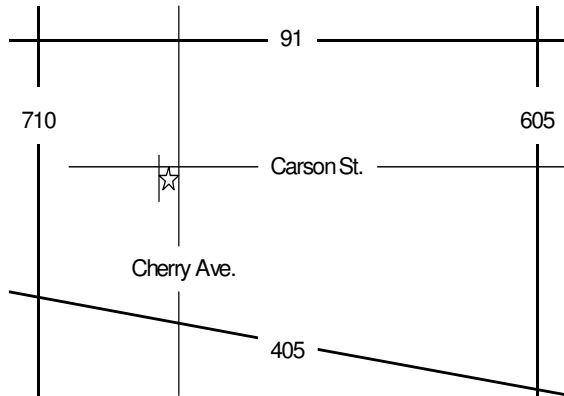
*The above information was taken from the Press Release from Provo, Utah, of 9 Jan 2007 as reprinted at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle> on that date. (Copyright 1998-2007, MyFamily.com)*

**CALENDAR**

Saturday, February 10. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Brunch and a movie at 10:30 a.m. “Southeastern United States—DC,DE,FL,GA,MD,NC,SC,VA,WV”

Saturday, February 17, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: “World War II Military Research” by Bill Beigel.

Sunday, February 18, 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 10.



Wednesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Speaker: Roger Graham on “165 Years of Dating Your Pictures.”

Sunday, February 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* “British Names (Given, Surname & Nickname)” by Nancy Carlberg.

Saturday, March 3, 9:30–11:30 a.m., Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central

Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. OCCGS Bookfaire (free admission to all).

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**Genealogical Society of  
North Orange County California**

Spring Seminar  
Saturday, March 10, 2007 (8:30-3:30)  
Community Room  
Placentia Linda Hospital  
1301 N. Rose Drive  
Placentia, CA

**“Uncle Sam Wants You to Discover  
Military Records”**

Presenters: William Beigel, Nancy E. Carlberg, Wendy Elliott, Rosalind Heaps, Jean Wilcox Hibben, Norma Storrs Keating and Caroline Braxton Rober

Pre-register before March 1—non-members \$22; box lunch available for \$8. More information or registration form available by calling (714) 777-2379.

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\*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.