

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 40. ✦ Number 6 ✦ June 2007

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102
<http://www.qhgs.info/>

Questing Heirs is a member society of the California State Genealogical Alliance and the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

MONTHLY MEETING: third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p.m. Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2007

12:30	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research
	Period	conducted by Rellen Owen
1:15		INTERMEDIATE:
		Share Your Latest Discoveries
		presented by Questing Heirs Members
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER:
		<i>John McCoy</i>
		BAD HANDWRITING DAY: Why Every Genealogist Needs to be a Paleographer!

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JUNE MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

We'll use this class period for sharing your latest research breakthroughs. Have you finally broken through that "brick wall"? Have you found a new resource that sheds new light on your problem families? Has someone finally answered that query you posted years ago? We want to hear all about it! Presentations will be limited to 5 minutes so that everyone will have a chance to contribute. This is a great opportunity to get some practice in public speaking, before an audience of your friends at Questing Heirs. Contact John McCoy (RealMac@aol.com or 562-423-4962) if you will need to use the digital projector.

**SPEAKER: JOHN McCOY
BAD HANDWRITING DAY**

Genealogists encounter all sorts of handwritten documents that are difficult to read. Paleography is the art of reading old handwriting. The principles of paleography are easy to grasp, and excellent tutorials can be found on the internet. The same principles apply to the problem of reading bad handwriting from all periods. The real work consists of studying enough samples of various handwriting styles to be able to read them fluently. We will present examples of English and American handwriting from a variety of sources and periods. Bring your own favorite examples of illegible genealogical documents that we can discuss during the program.

**REFRESHMENTS
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908**

Thanks to our May hosts:

Hazele JOHNSON Linda RYAN
Lucille STROHBEEN Cheryl TARDIF

Our June hosts will be

Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT John McCOY
Connie WILLIAMS

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

April Income	\$ 61.06
April Expenses	\$ 381.41
Operations Balance	\$ 2,442.05
Special Projects Balance	\$ 269.50

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

MAY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 31 Guests: 2

NEW MEMBER

Gary REID Individual 9/07

RENEWAL

Malinda MANGOSA Individual 9/07

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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 use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.

**All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in our Newsletter. Upcoming deadlines are as follows:
July submissions by June 24, 2007
August submissions by July 22, 2007**

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

My Favorite Historical Map Books and Online Sites

Every genealogist should be aware of and concentrate on history and geography in pursuit of his or her ancestral roots. I am so often asked at conferences, workshops, and in e-mail just what are the historical maps that I use in my research. I can break that into two categories: print and online. Let me share with you the list of my very favorite resources!

Print Resources

Books are essential resources for me. A contemporary world atlas is an important addition to your library. When researching in the United States, I use two books:

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 2000. (Paperback)

(I use this in conjunction with the *Ancestry Red Book*, edited by Alice Eicholz, published by Ancestry Publishing in its 3rd edition in 2005.)

Bahn, Gilbert S. *American Place Names of Long Ago*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1998.

When working on my English research, I use two books:

Humphery-Smith, Cecil R. *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers*. 3rd edition. Chichester, West Sussex, England: Phillimore & Co. Ltd. 2003.

Smith, Frank, compiler. *A Genealogical Gazetteer of England*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 2002.

My Favorite Online Historical Map Sites

There are many, many great map sites on the Internet. Whatever you do, don't overlook those that are accessible through electronic databases at and remotely from your local public library. When you have exhausted those, try these Internet Web sites.

- 1895 U.S. Atlas at <http://www.livgenmi.com/1895>
- American Geographical Society Digital Map Collection at <http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/digilib/maps/index.html>
- Broer Map Library at <http://www.broermapsonline.org>
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection at <http://www.davidrumsey.com>
- Federation of East European Family History Societies Map Room at <http://feefhs.org/maps/INDEXMAP.HTML>
- Library of Congress: American Memory Map Collection at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>
- Library of Congress: American Memory Railroad Maps Collection at <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/rrhtml/rrhome.html>
- National Geographic MapMachine at <http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine>
- Odden's Bookmarks at <http://oddens.geog.uu.nl/index.php>
- Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection – University of Texas at Austin Library Online at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>
- USGS Geographic Names Information Server at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/redirect.html>

In addition, use your favorite browser and type in the name of the place you want to research and the term “historical map” (in quotation marks). For example, type:

prussia “historical map”
“south carolina” “historical map”

You will be pleased to discover the map links to maps on many, many Web sites.

Continued on page 44

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, folks, we are halfway into our year, and we are doing very well! We have a great board of officers doing a wonderful job!

Hope to see you at the Jamboree in Burbank this month. We will have a professional display for *Questing Heirs* where we will sell George G. Morgan's books! Have you put your order in yet?

We are working with Long Beach's Main Library by placing our newsletters on the shelves and evaluating the genealogy collection. Mary Smith and Pat Miller are donating material and books to our collection. Plus we are getting books from our late member, Tom Billingham. We have the use of some storage space from Cynthia Day-Elliott. Now we need a truck to move the boxes, a bookcase and a file cabinet.

CAN ANYONE HELP?

Rellen Owen, John McCoy and I are talking about teaching Beginning Genealogy to a larger, public venue. More details later.

So keep informed by coming to our meetings and other activities!

Liz

AN EVENING WITH THE GENEALOGY GUYS

Questing Heirs is hosting a special event on Sunday evening, June 10, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the China Buffet, 4074 Hardwick Street in Lakewood. (Hardwick is located west of Lakewood Blvd. between Del Amo and Candlewood—west of the Lakewood Center Mall.)

The cost for dinner is \$10.99 plus tax per person, seniors (65 and older) \$9.89 plus tax.

George G. Morgan and Drew Smith will answer general genealogy questions submitted in advance. E-mail your questions to Loran Bures.

Also, so we can have a head count, please RSVP to Loran or Liz Myers. See the blue page for their contact information.

"Along Those Lines..." cont'd. from p. 43

Five Steps for Using Maps in Your Research

A simple but effective methodology for using maps in your research entails a comparison of contemporary and historical maps, and conducting other historical research about the location in question. There are five steps you can use to accomplish this.

1. Determine where your ancestor lived at a specific time. You can do this through the use of census records, land and property documents and their descriptions, tax bills, voting precinct/polling maps, and other sources.
2. Locate that place on a current (contemporary) map or atlas. Determine the current county, province, parish, canton, or other such geopolitical area. Make careful observations and note the positions of administrative boundaries, surrounding towns, cities, rivers and shorelines, mountains, and any other natural features.
3. If you cannot find the place name of the location where your ancestor lived, consult a gazetteer (also known as a place name dictionary). If you cannot locate the place name, make contact with a state library or archive, or with the Library of Congress to request assistance in determining where the place was located.
4. Locate a historical map from the time period when your ancestor lived in the area. Carefully compare the current and historical maps, the towns, cities, and natural physical features of the area on both maps. Then, try to pinpoint where your ancestor lived and that location's relationship to the historical boundary lines. Ancestry's "Red Book" is great for this in the United States and other similar books will help you determine exact dates of boundary changes.

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OTHER NEWS

NEW FamilySearch PROGRAM

“FamilySearch [historically known as the Genealogical Society of Utah] announced today [May 14] its Records Access program to increase public access to massive genealogy collections world-wide. For the first time ever, FamilySearch will provide free services to archives and other records custodians who wish to digitize, index, publish, and preserve their collections. The program expands Family Search’s previously announced decision to digitize and provide online access to over 2 million rolls of copyrighted microfilm preserved in the Granite Mountain Records Vault. A key component of the program allows FamilySearch and archives to team with genealogy websites to provide unprecedented access to microfilm in the vault. The combined results ensure a flood of new record indexes and images online at www.FamilySearch.org and affiliated websites.

“The plan combines the assets and experience of the Genealogical Society of Utah with the state-of-the-art technology resources of Family Search—all under the single brand name of FamilySearch. The Records Access program allows records custodians to publish their data online by themselves or with the assistance of FamilySearch or affiliate genealogical websites and historical societies...

“Working with the records custodians, Family Search can leverage its extensive microfilm and growing digital image collection to create digital images for affiliate genealogical websites at a fraction of the cost. The affiliate genealogy organization will create indices of the digital images and then publish the images and the indices on its own website, the archive’s website, or a jointly published site. A copy of the index will also be made available for free on the popular FamilySearch website, which will help drive traffic to record images on the custodians’ or affiliates’ sites. Full free access to both the indices and images will be provided to family history centers, FamilySearch managed

facilities, and the archives. If the record custodian seeks revenue to sustain operations, a small fee may be required to access images outside FamilySearch managed facilities or the archive.”

The preceding was extracted from an article by Dick Eastman published in his Online Genealogy Newsletter of 14 May 2007. The entire article may be found at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman.

The following organizations have already agreed to partner with FamilySearch.

- Godfrey Memorial Library’s online services will be available to Family History Center patrons, and the Library will greatly increase public awareness of its services.
- Footnote.com and FamilySearch will begin by combining resources to digitize and make available some 3 million U.S. Revolutionary War Pension files in their entirety.
- The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., World Vital Records, Inc., and FamilySearch will make the Ellis Island passenger arrival records freely available to www.worldvitalrecords.com and www.familylink.com websites.
- WorldVitalRecords.com is providing its vast collection of genealogical materials including vital, land, immigration and military records; newspapers; international databases; and a collection of reference material to FamilySearch.
- Heritage Quest/Pro Quest will make its databases available to 1,400 family history centers in North America. Check with your FHC to see if it provides this service.
- Kindred Konnections has pedigrees maintained by individual patrons, as well as birth, marriage, death and census databases available for searching.

OF INTEREST

**ORANGE COUNTY FAIR
GENEALOGY BOOTH**

The award winning and very popular genealogy booth will be back again this year at the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa from July 13 to August 5. Fairgoers come from Orange County and the surrounding four counties. Those who are interested in learning more about their “roots” receive information about how and where to attend genealogy meetings, find resources and libraries in the area, and get assistance from knowledgeable researchers.

Sponsors of the booth are asking for volunteers from the major genealogy groups in Southern California to assist in staffing the booth during the run of the fair. A general knowledge of genealogy is all that is needed, since most of the people who stop at the booth are looking for basic information. Staff is there essentially to hand out resource materials and answer general questions, not to act as a genealogy tutor or assist people in their research. The reward is being able to see others getting excited about something we all already acknowledge as a passion! Many of last years’ volunteers mentioned how much fun they had staffing the booth, meeting people and sharing their knowledge.

Volunteers work a four or four and one-half hour shift and have the rest of the day to enjoy the fair. Free parking and fair entry are provided for each day a volunteer works at the booth. A free shuttle is provided between the volunteer parking lot and the fairgrounds. The fair is open from 10 a.m. to 12 midnight on Saturday and Sunday, and from 12 noon to 12 midnight on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The theme of the fair this year is “Cowabunga! The Year of the Herefords, Surfers and Sand.” The genealogy booth theme is “Cowabunga! Catch the Wave of Family History.”

Each participating genealogy society will have the opportunity for free advertising by displaying a banner at the booth and/or providing

handout materials about their group’s meetings and activities. This is a great opportunity to reach thousands of people with little cost to each society

Help spread the word about how much fun family history can be! Questions? Or to volunteer now, please contact Norma Keating: normakeating@earthlink.net or 714-319-5994

The shifts are as follows:

Tuesday thru Friday

First shift: 11:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Second shift: 3:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Third shift: 7:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

First shift: 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Second shift: 2:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Third shift: 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“Along Those Lines...” cont’d. from page 44

5. Finally, determine what government entity was in power and issuing official documents at the time your ancestors lived there. Also try to determine what religious institutions were active in the area at the time. These are the entities you will contact to try to trace records of your ancestors.

It’s a simple methodology in theory. You will, of course, need to learn more about the history and geography of the area in the process. This, too, will make you more knowledgeable about your ancestors’ lives and times.

Happy Hunting!

George

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The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future.
Stephen Ambrose, 1936-2002

PROFILE OF THE BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY – U.S.A.



**British Isles Family History
Society – U.S.A.**

Mailing Address:

2531 Sawtelle Blvd., PMB 134
Los Angeles, CA 90064-3124

Website:

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

Dues: \$25 annually (individual membership)

Meetings: Monthly (except December and seminar month), 4th Sunday, 1:00PM, at:
L.A. Regional Family History Center
10741 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025-4799
(310) 474-9990

The British Isles Family History Society-U.S.A., a non-profit educational organization, was founded in 1988. Its purposes are to

- promote an interest in family history relating to ancestry in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man;
- encourage and educate through publications, lectures, consultations, etc.;
- maintain a collection of British Isles family history materials for research use; and
- facilitate the acquisition and exchange of family history research information.

BIFHS-USA is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS).

Publications

The society publishes a bi-monthly newsletter and bi-annual journal. Newsletters contain a calendar of local, national, and international events; information about our programs and seminars; society news; brief book reviews; and the latest research tips. Journals contain informative articles on connecting your immigrant ancestor to the British Isles; English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh research sources and record repositories; book reviews; and member queries. The journal is exchanged with societies worldwide.

Research Collection

The Society's collection of British and Irish research materials is housed at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center (LARFHC). BIFHS-USA regularly acquires books, microfilm, and microfiche to augment the collection. Also included are journals from societies around the world, the tables of contents of which are available on the Society's website.

Meetings

Monthly meetings feature guest lecturers, study group workshops, and the opportunity to do personal research. Members and non-members are welcome.

Study Groups

English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Colonial Connections Study Group leaders hold periodic workshops focusing on research and history.

Annual Seminar

An annual seminar, typically held in summer, features speakers highly respected in the field.

Surname Register

The surname register is a list of members' interests, giving names, places and dates of people researched as well as submitters' contact information. Updates are published in the journal; the cumulative list is published on the society's website.

Membership

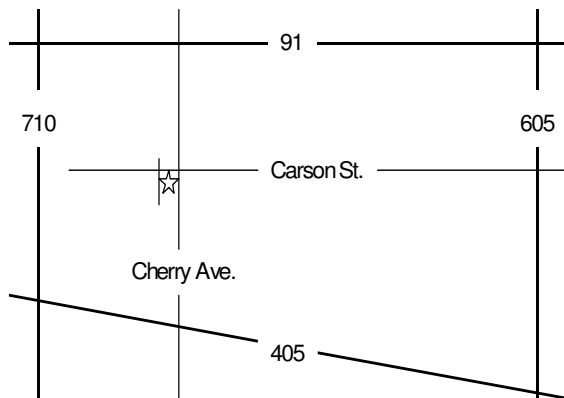
Renewable annually, membership is open to individuals, families, or institutions. Individual and family life memberships are also available.

CALENDAR

Sunday, June 3, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting. 1310-B W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “New Sources and Prospects at the LARFHC” by Liz Carlin.

Saturday, June 16, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: “Understanding Cemetery and Mortuary Records” by Nancy Carlberg.

Sunday, June 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 42.



Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: “Caring for Tombstones” by Lou Carlson.

Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: “Seven Ways to Get Naturalization Records” by Elaine Alexander.

Sunday, June 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting. Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Program: “Time

Lines—A Tool for Family Historians (English and Scottish)” by Kay Ronald Devonshire.

BRITISH ISLES FHS-USA

19TH Annual Seminar

Saturday, August 25, 2007

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Complex

4117 Overland Ave., Culver City

The keynote speaker, presenting four lectures, is **Dr. Arlene H. Eakle**. This is her only appearance in Southern California this year. Nancy Carlberg and James McNamara will also be making presentations.

The cost for non-members (before July 21) is \$65 or \$75 (July 22-Aug 10), which includes a seminar syllabus and lunch. You can print a Registration Form at the society’s website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa>.

For questions, telephone Lydia Jeffrey at (626) 359-1729 or e-mail Annie Lloyd. Her e-mail address is vp-programs@bifhsusa.org. (Please mention “BIFHS-USA Seminar” in the subject line.) Flyers available at our June meeting.

*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.