



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 6 ♦ June 2003

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815 -0102



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 15, 2003



1:15 – INTERMEDIATE CLASS
Useful Web Sites, led by Aaron Day



2:15 – BREAK
Time for chatting, browsing and refreshments



2:30 – GENERAL MEETING
B I L L P R I N C I P E
Unlocking the Mysteries in Vital Records



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

APRIL 2003

March Income	\$ 86.40
April Expenses	182.50
Balance as of April 30	\$ 2358.33

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

MAY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 19

NEW MEMBER

Frances C. Bond New to 5/04

RENEWAL

Ginny T. Humphries Individual to 3/05

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

Thanks (twice!) to our May Hosts:

- ♦ Cynthia (Day) Elliott
- ♦ George Johnson
- ♦ Jeanette (Marcus) Jones
- ♦ Priscilla (Colvin) Nielsen

Our June Hosts will be:

- ♦ Linda Artuso
- ♦ Marilyn (DeLonjay) Brasher
- ♦ Aaron Day
- ♦ Chuck Mitchell

~ SEEKING SUBMISSIONS ~

Your editor is constantly looking for ways to improve the newsletter. One of the best ways to do this is to have it reflect our entire society. So please consider contributing something to the newsletter. Your submission doesn't necessarily have to be big or "important" – it may consist of a story, a favorite resource, a research or computer tip, a query, a joke, a family photo. In fact, it could be just about anything related to our common interest. Contact Mike Powers at (562) 621-6631 or by email at <lunalake@pobox.com>.

~ JUNE MEETING ~

SPEAKER: BILL PRINCIPE

Bill Principe is a Certified Genealogist and Volunteer Librarian at the Sons of the Revolution Library in Glendale. Before becoming a professional genealogist, Bill spent his career as a corporate communications executive with high-tech companies including Wang Laboratories and Infonet Services Corp. Besides his CG, he has a BA degree from the University of California Berkeley and an MBA degree from UCLA. He lives in La Canada with his wife Kathleen, also an enthusiastic genealogist. Bill and Kathleen are also avid birders.

Bill is a member of the Sons of the Revolution in the state of California, the Society of California Pioneers, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, where he has twice been a candidate for Trustee.

Through one grandparent he is a sixth-generation Californian with Forty-Niner and Mayflower descent; his other three grandparents come from Sicilian, Jewish and Portuguese families that immigrated through Ellis Island and settled in California in the 19th Century. This multicultural heritage has given him experience with a wide variety of genealogical sources.

Through a series of short case studies, Bill's talk, "Unlocking the Mysteries in Vital Records," explores some of the pitfall and traps that can snag the researcher. He shows that, although they are among our best sources, published vital records can still be misleading and tricky, and must be used with care.

~ UPCOMING MEETINGS ~

Our Program Chair, Aaron Day, has lined up some terrific speakers for the next few months. We know you won't want to miss hearing these luminaries:

Sunday, July 20	Connie Moretti
Sunday, August 17	Nancy Carlberg
Sunday, September 21	Don Keefer

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

WAS MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME A CAVE?

Y *OU* never know what to expect when digging for ancestors in Indiana. I can't use the early county records – the courthouse burned down – but stories survive from the first settlers. In one case, I'm just about ready to say, "That's *my* story!"

What is it about Indiana that invites generation after generation to tell a story? Something about the rolling hills, the fertile fields, the beautiful woodlands? These things captivated me when I lived there in the 1980s. For about two weeks in the spring, you can still find carpets of bluebells. The long, balmy summer, punctuated by timely thunderstorms for the benefit of the farmers, is followed by two weeks of brilliant autumn foliage before "the frost is on the punkin." About the winter, I have trouble saying anything nice, but that's probably when the stories were told.

The settlement at Vincennes, on the Wabash River, was in turn French, British, and finally American. It became part of the Northwest Territory in 1790, and then Indiana Territory in 1800, but troubles with the Indians impeded settlement. When the Benjamin Turman family reached Vincennes in 1810, conditions were very primitive. The first order of business when they established their homestead was to build a fort. Traveling with the Turman family was their son-in-law Josiah Bryant Jr. Their presence is noted in the records of the Vincennes Land Office, but little else has survived officially. It is the family story, written down in late 19th Century, that preserves the details.

It starts with John Van Meter, whose will was probated in 1745 at Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia. His daughter Magdalena had married Robert Pusey or Puzey. Robert Pusey and his wife were held captive by the Shawnees for four years. Their daughter Prudence was "away at school" at the time, and later, thinking her parents were dead, she sold the land that became Harper's Ferry for her lifetime. (Apparently, she intended it to revert to her father's heirs at her death.) Prudence Pusey married, first a Mr. Harper, presumably the one that ended up with the Ferry, by whom she had four children, and then she married

Thomas Flowers, by whom she had ten children. One of them, Sarah Flowers (1765-1814) married Benjamin Turman (1762-1818), and it was their daughter Mary (1791-1889), wife of Josiah Bryant (1784-1884), who preserved the story. Robert Pusey and his wife, finally released by the Indians, lived with the Turmans until they died, as did their daughter Prudence Flowers, who died in 1816. "And thus it was, at her death, when the claims fell, or the land reverted back to the rightful heirs, that the owner or lawyer came with the old Will, to have Father sign away *his* right to the land. Father thought he would never take the time to look the matter up, signed away his right, and if I am not mistaken, Bryant and I signed ours away also."

For some reason, no one has ever ridden up to me on a horse bearing the will of a long-lost great-great-grandfather. Such things only happen in stories from Indiana.

Benjamin Turman was a spy and hunter in the Revolutionary War. "He went with his family from Virginia to Boonesboro, Kentucky on a visit where their grandfathers Puzzy and Flowers were." Then Benjamin and his young daughter Mary were captured by Indians and taken to Chillicothe, Ohio, followed by more breathless adventures before they returned to Boonesboro. About 1809, the Turman family moved briefly to Miami County, Ohio, where Mary was "courted in a barn," and then married Josiah Bryant against her parents' wishes. In 1810, the Turman family sold their land in Ohio and headed for Indiana.

A section about the Bryant family looks like the clue I need:

"Josiah Bryant, husband of Mary Turman, was the son of Josiah Bryant (Sr.) and his wife Lydia. Josiah (Sr.) was born and raised in South Carolina. He moved to Virginia and again to Kentucky and lived near Mammoth Cave. He had five sons and two daughters: Gabriel, Ambrose, William, John, and Josiah. Have not the daughters' names. [...] Josiah Bryant, son of Josiah and Lydia Bryant, born March 9, 1784,

[continued on next page]

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Montgomery Co., VA. He was raised in Kentucky near Mammoth Cave. When a boy, he would go bear hunting and often spent the night in Mammoth Cave in a bed of leaves, with his dogs. [...] Josiah and Mary Bryant moved to Sullivan Co. IN with the Turman family in the summer of 1811. They went to Kentucky to visit his people. While there, their oldest child was born Sept. 24, 1811. When the baby was two weeks old they started for their home in Indiana. [...] A panther followed them. A brother of Josiah Bryant was with them. The men walked and led the horses. The panther was killed the next morning.”

Here we need to consult the records of the Vincennes Land Office and the U. S. Census. The land settled by the Turmans in Sullivan County adjoins several parcels entered by Josiah Bryant, and these lands surround a tract of 80 acres entered by William Bryant in 1828. William and Josiah appear

there on the 1820 census. There were no other Bryants in the immediate vicinity. Apparently, the brother of Josiah Bryant who accompanied him back to Indiana in 1811 was my ancestor William Bryant, who remained there until he died. The settlement of his estate was not complete when the courthouse burned down in 1850, so a couple documents still exist naming his heirs-at-law, including his daughter Elizabeth, who married my great-great-great grandfather John Baird.

All of this leads me to think my Bryant family must have lived close enough to Mammoth Cave to hunt there, perhaps one or two days' journey away. This is as close as I have ever come to understanding the origins of my Bryant family. I can't be sure how accurate the story may be, but as the cave is mentioned several times, that is the landmark that now guides my search. My old Kentucky home, a cave!

John McCoy

- THINGS HAVE CHANGED DEPARTMENT -

MORE MANNERS & CONDUCT (1921)

Do you know that table manners proclaim at once your social training?

Never use a toothpick at the table or in the presence of others. If it seems absolutely necessary to use one at a table, cover your lips with your napkin; elsewhere, with your handkerchief.

Never should your table knife be used for conveying food to your mouth.

You find your small bread and butter plate and butter spreader at your left. Never spread at once an entire slice of bread; break off a half or a quarter and spread it on your bread and butter plate, - not on the palm of your hand.

When your plate is passed for a second helping, let your knife and fork remain on it, side by side; also, when you have finished. Never rest your knife or fork partly on the table and partly on your plate or your napkin ring. Avoid mixing your food on your plate.

Use a fork when eating vegetables and salad, - and ice-cream, if an ice-cream fork is provided.

Make the least possible noise in chewing, and none at all in taking food from a spoon. Sometimes, in eating crisp toast, for example, it is very difficult to avoid a crunching sound, but eat slowly, taking very small mouthfuls, and you can avoid noise.

Don't drink from a cup while it holds a spoon. When not using your teaspoon, let it lie on the saucer. Do not drink from your saucer. Stir quietly, and lay your spoon in your saucer at once.

Eat a little less of everything than you might. Shrink from the slightest appearance of greediness.

Between courses avoid lounging back in your chair; keep your spine straight, your body poised a little forward, and your mind occupied with the conversation which you are helping to make pleasant.

Submitted by Richard Hoover

~ **FEATURE ARTICLE** ~

FINDING YOUR VETERAN'S RECORDS

by **Dahlia Wyllarde** <dahliaywyllarde@yahoo.com>

Looking for information about a deceased family member who served in World War I or later? Contact the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132, or visit its web page: <http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis.html>.

If you are the next of kin, request a copy of the service member's personnel records. While a fire at this repository in 1973 destroyed many records, some have been reconstructed and others have been found that supplement the lost ones.



All of the services have outstanding home pages. The URLs are:

Air Force <<http://www.af.mil/>>

Army <<http://www.army.mil/>>

Coast Guard <<http://www.uscg.mil/uscg.shtm>>

Navy (includes Marine Corps) <<http://www.navy.mil/>>

Vietnam Veterans Home Page <<http://www.vietvet.org/>>



The National Archives has an easy online option for ordering NATF Form 80 to request a search in pre-WWI military service and pension records. These forms are free and you can order several at time. Find them at <http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/>.

They have other military-related records that may be of interest to family historians. They include:

♦ Application for Headstones (1879-1903). Arranged on cards, alphabetically by soldier's surname. Most applications are arranged by place of burial and then by cemetery. Soldiers buried in foreign countries are arranged alphabetically by name.

♦ Card Records of WWI-era Soldiers Who Died Overseas: 1917-1922. These are arranged alphabetically by name of soldier or name of cemetery and are mainly grave registrations of Americans buried in European (including Russian) chapels.

♦ List of Soldiers Missing in Action: 1923-1960. Name of missing soldier, units in which served, date of disappearance. Arranged chronologically.



The Cemetery Service, National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20422 has records from 1861 to present. Its records identify almost all soldiers buried in national cemeteries and other cemeteries under federal jurisdiction. These records are arranged on cards alphabetically by name of soldier.



Don't neglect local sources. These include:

♦ Adjutant General's Office in the individual's state of residence for those who served in World War II, Korea, or Vietnam.

♦ Newspapers published in the city or county where the individual is presumed to have lived prior to entry into service.

♦ Local post of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans of World War II for information on local men and women who survived.



You might find additional family information in the records of your ancestor's siblings, uncles, or other family members. It pays to be thorough in your research for military records. They are valuable documents of your family's history.

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~ OF INTEREST ~

**CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
BUDGET TO BE CUT BY 38%**

Excerpt of an email dated May 7, 2003 from Iris Carter Jones of the CSGA Legislative Network. To be added to the mailing list, send your name, name of your organization, and e-mail address, stating you wish to be added to the Legislative Network, to Iris at <ijones@accessbee.com>.

The Governor's proposed budget will cut the operating cost of the State Library by \$35.7 million dollars. This is a 38% cut in funding. There will be no funding for any acquisitions.

There will be 60 library staff laid off. This is a major loss, leaving the Library so understaffed that many programs will be cut. Just reshelving materials will become a major problem.

Just the impact of the proposed cuts has already cost the Library staff as people have left and not waited to be laid off. To make up for lost funding, the Governor has proposed, 'State Library Service User Fee' will charge patrons for a library cards for using the Library. Earlier researchers were told that fee COULD be as high as \$100 a month. The figures I am hearing now are much greater. Remember that this will include Sutro Library. It is part of the State Library system. Even when Sutro is moved to the University, it will still be part of the State Library and be manned by Library Staff.

While everyone expects cuts, this is outrageous. This is our State Library. This will create problems which will take years to rectify. Entire departments could be shut down and moth balled for years. By charging extremely high fees for use of our own State Library, it will put the public's ability to use the library out of reach for thousands. Write the Governor and your State Representatives (Senate and Assembly), today.

Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-445-4633
<governor@governor.ca.gov>

**DON'T OVERLOOK RELATIVES
IN RELIGIOUS SERVICE**

My mother had two great-aunts that were Catholic nuns. One was born in Poland, and the other in Chicago. On a whim, I contacted the convent where they both had lived last -- what a bonanza. I received copies of their birth and baptismal certificates (the one from Poland gave me a location to search from), a complete record where both had taught and received their education, and the best thing I received was a copy of their father's naturalization papers. Since the one nun was born in Poland, American citizenship had to be proven in order for her to enter the convent. Most people would not think to investigate records of nuns, since they would not have had any descendents.

My father's aunt also was a Catholic nun. I contacted people at her last known residence. From there I received her teaching history, names and addresses of living relatives while she was there (turned out to be very helpful), and a darling little autobiographical sketch she wrote upon entering the convent. Turns out she had one more sibling we had heard about but were unsure of -- one that had died as an infant.

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PRUNING THE FAMILY TREE

Reading an online family tree that contained information on one of my lines, I made a shocking discovery. Martha, a Quaker girl, had the misfortune to become pregnant by her second cousin James, who, upon hearing the news, eloped with someone else. Martha reported the sad circumstance to the Quakers and both Martha and James were DISMEMBERED!

I do hope they were actually only excommunicated.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: Vol. 6, No. 22, 28 May 2003. Submitted by Nancy Jones.

~ ON THE WEB ~

VETERANS' HISTORY PROJECT

<<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets>>

The Library of Congress is sponsoring a project to collect the stories of the veterans of WWII, as well as the stories of the few surviving veterans of WWI. What a gift to future generations! WWII was probably our most colorful war. It brought Americans face to face with people from all over the world, and we have never been the same since. We have WWII to thank – or blame – for so many changes. I think even the dismal science of project management may have come out of WWII.

The Veterans' History Project assumes that you, the ordinary citizen, are going to go out and interview a veteran. This is the only misgiving I have about the project. The veterans that I know are perfectly capable of writing and editing their own stories. All they need is a little encouragement, so they know their stories are important. It is demeaning to suppose that they are so out-of-touch, incapacitated, and senile that they need to be interviewed! Perhaps whoever dreamed up the project belongs to a much younger generation.

The stories that the project is trying to collect include not only those of the soldiers, but also those who participated in the war effort on the home front, including "Rosie the Riveter," victory gardens, etc. Seems to me we have at least one Rosie and several veterans in our membership. 'Nuf said! Start writing!

Submitted by John McCoy.



MISSOURI SLAVE LAWSUITS

<<http://www.stlcourtrecords.wusl.edu>>

State archivists invited to restore and preserve some four million court documents left unexamined for over a century in file cabinets in the St. Louis Courthouse have found nearly 300 lawsuits by slaves seeking their freedom between 1809 and 1865.

Missouri enacted legal safeguards to protect slaves from retaliation if they sued, and set aside tax monies to pay for legal counsel. There were three grounds for suits: claims that they were free and kidnapped into slavery;

that slaves had previously bought their freedom or that they had been set free by their masters.

Notable among the cases discovered is the pleading filed by Dred Scott in 1846, alleging that with his master, an Army surgeon, he had lived in free states for years and could not become a slave again when he was brought to Missouri. Scott won his case, but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1857 that since he was African American and not a citizen, he had no right to sue.

Excerpt of an email posted by Joan Best <joanbest@earthlink.net> on May 13, 2003 to the RootsWeb Genealogical Methods mailing list <GENMTD-L@rootsweb.com>. Reprinted with permission.



**READING ADDRESSES
ON A CENSUS**

Sometimes, it's hard to read the name of the street when perusing the census record in Ancestry's Images Online Viewer. The fact that the street name is often obscured, combined with the census taker's scrawl in the narrow column makes determining the name of the street a trying task.

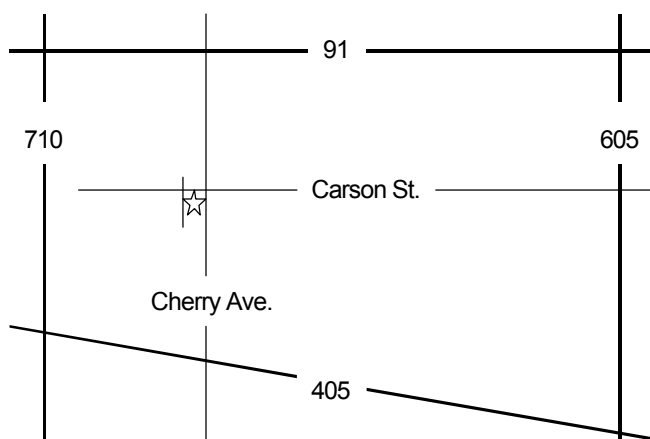
One way to deal with this is to look for a nearby street whose name you can read. Pick an address at random from that section of the census. Then, open up a browser window and go to one of the "map" sites (<<http://www.mapquest.com>> for example). Enter the address. When the browser window displays a map of the area around that address, zoom in as far as you can. You'll be able to see the names of all the streets the neighborhood. More often than not, you'll be able to find a street that matches the one you're looking for.

In my case, what looked like "Sudden" became "Seddon" and "Odl?????" turned out to be "Idlewood." Of course, this only works if the street names haven't been changed and the houses haven't been re-numbered. But it's worth a shot.

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~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

- ♦ Saturday, June 7, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Elaine Alexander speaking on “United States Naturalization Research.”
- ♦ **Sunday, June 15, 1:15 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 program information, see page 42.



- ♦ Wednesday, June 18, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Nancy Ries speaking on “British Isles Research.”

- ♦ Wednesday, June 18, 7:00 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, Yorba Linda. Nancy Carlberg speaking on “Court House Records.”
- ♦ Saturday, June 21, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Connie Moretti speaking on “Learning to Love Pre-1850 Census Records.”
- ♦ Sunday, June 22, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.* Ilene Miller speaking on “Illustrating a Family History.” Study group will be the first Family History Table presentation by Glen Earl Knoblock. More information available at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa>>.
- ♦ **Sunday, July 20, 1:15 pm. Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach.
- ♦ Sunday, July 20, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Le Pique-Nique Traditionnel Americain, an old-fashioned, American Bar-B-Que presented by The French Canadian Heritage Society of California. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. RSVP to Leo Myers <ltmyers@earthlink.net> by June 30.
- ♦ Thursday, July 24. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society SET bus trip to Southern California Genealogical Society Library. \$22.00. Contact Mike Cleary at <Sakmc1@aol.com>.



*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 FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LA FHC 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.lafhc.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.