



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 12 ♦ December 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, DECEMBER 21, 2003

1:15

Christmas Potluck

Bring a dish to share – a salad, a main course, a dessert, or ???.
Plates, cups and utensils will be provided.
See page 90 for more information.

2:30 - GENERAL MEETING

Installation of Officers

Show & Tell

Bring a discovery or a family memento.
Tell us about your family traditions, recent
research discoveries, or genealogical problems.
Inquiring genealogists want to know!



~ IN THIS ISSUE ~

<i>Committee Reports – Society News</i>	90
<i>President's Message: Holiday Greetings – Useful Tips</i>	91
<i>We Get Mail</i>	92
<i>More on Federal Land Records</i>	93-94
<i>A Secret for over Eighty Years, by Jeanette Jones</i>	94
<i>Of Interest – On the Web – At the Long Beach Public Library</i>	95
<i>Calendar of Upcoming Events</i>	96

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

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 26 Guests: 2



RENEWALS

Dorothy Dunning	Individual	to 9/04
Betty Bell Feldman	Sustaining	to 9/04
Patricia S Glow	Individual	to 9/03
Mabelle Little	Patron	to 9/04
Patricia A. Miller	Individual	to 9/04
Jackie Spohr	Individual	to 9/04
Marjorie J. Tarbell	Sustaining	to 9/04
Mary F. Wilikinson	Sustaining	to 12/04
Virginia Wright	Individual	to 9/04

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

October INCOME	\$ 638.65
October EXPENSES	492.90

BALANCE as of October 31, 2003 \$ 3491.89

~ NOMINATING COMMITTEE ~
Mike POWERS (562) 621-6631

QHGS ELECTIONS

At the November meeting, we held our annual elections. Before the voting began, John asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, the ballots were distributed. There were twenty-four members present. The votes were tallied, and the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was elected unanimously. Congratulations to the following:

Linda Artuso	Recording Secretary
Aaron Day	Vice-President
David Werts	Treasurer

These officers will be installed at the December meeting. Many thanks for your willingness to serve!

~ REFRESHMENTS ~

Editor's note: Hazele (Thresher) Johnson informed us on Georgie (Peterson) Lyons' whereabouts at the November meeting. First, she was on vacation visiting with her brother in New Mexico. Then, after she returned, she was involved in a car accident. Luckily, she didn't suffer any major injuries, but her auto was damaged. Sorry to hear about your mishap, Georgie, and we hope to see you back at the meetings very soon.

~ DECEMBER MEETING ~

**QHGS ANNUAL POTLUCK
AND SHOW-AND-TELL**

Join us for a special meeting on Sunday, December 21, when we present our annual potluck and show-and-tell.

The potluck will start at 1:15, taking the place of our usual class time. Several members have already signed up to participate. Please consider bringing a dish in one of four categories: salads, main dishes, dessert, or miscellaneous (something different). Plates, cups, and utensils will be provided. Aaron Day is coordinating the potluck. If you are able to bring something, please contact him by phone at (562) 634-6708 or by e-mail at <adaydec@aol.com>.

At 2:30, our general meeting time, we will have installation of the new officers, followed by the show-and-tell.

~ SOCIETY NEWS ~

QHGS TURNS 35

In 2004, Questing Heirs will be thirty-five years old. Our Vice-President, Aaron Day, has come up with a great idea for celebrating this milestone: a commemorative video. But we need everyone's help. We are looking for pictures and other memorabilia from our past. Most of all, we are looking for people to interview to share their memories. If you would like to be a part of this exciting project, please contact Aaron at P. O. Box 5903, Long Beach CA 90805.

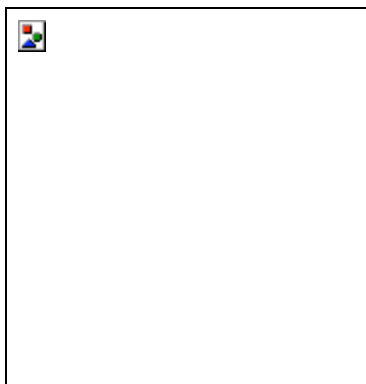
- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

- Holiday Greetings -

To all of our faithful members and correspondents, we offer our warmest wishes for the holiday season and a bountiful New Year.

Questing Heirs is small society, with modest aims and a tiny budget. But we are strong in other ways. We are dedicated to the idea that the story of each family is important, a source of strength and comfort for all generations. We don't make a lot of noise, except in laughter, but we are always ready to offer encouragement. We are persistent in our quest, with the result that we really do find what has been lost or hidden. We are

diligent in our research, having learned through many years of experience the rewards of that



extra little bit of care that turns genealogy into a valuable legacy.

We are especially proud of the

way that our members support the Society. Whether through services, or donations, or research advice, or simple friendship, the gifts that our members bring to every meeting and every newsletter continue to amaze me.

Aaron Day reminded me that Questing Heirs will celebrate its thirty-fifth anniversary in 2004. Those who have been working on genealogy for about that long will understand that we are just getting started. To those who really are just getting started, take our word for it, the best is yet to come!

John♦McCoy

- USEFUL TIPS -

**Census Headings for Easy Reference,
by Jean Chapman Snow**

When I search online census pages, especially the early years where head of household is the only name given, I want to know the age categories so I can quickly tell whether this is "my" Ezekiel or Daniel or not. All census headings are difficult to read on a computer screen, but because my memory boggles at remembering categories for 14 censuses, I used to carry blank copies of each census year with me. I found shuffling through them a nuisance. My final solution was to cut off the top section of blank copies of each census, tape them in chronological order on each side of two sheets of paper. Having them laminated was very inexpensive and now I have two sturdy and easily carried templates to consult and compare with headings I cannot read on the computer.

*Reprinted from Ancestry Daily News
<<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>, 30 October 2003.
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**Mcs, Macs, McSpaces,
McUnderscores, McDots**

Researching in online databases for Irish and Scottish surnames? Watch out for misplaced, inconsistent or improper punctuation such as: O' Hara (space after the apostrophe), O"Hara (double quotes) or O'Hara (with a curly or smart-quote instead of a straight one).

Be heedful of the Mcs, Macs, McSpaces, McUnderscores, and McDots, as in: McFadden, MacFadden, Mc Fadden (space between the C and F), Mc_Fadden [mcunderscore], and Mc.Fadden [McDot].

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: Vol. 6, No. 44, 29 October 2003.



**Genealogy:
Tracing yourself back
to better people.**

- WE GET MAIL -

We received the following from Nancy Anderson, Vice-President and Program Chair of the New Mexico Genealogical Society, and President-Elect of that society for 2004. Nancy has kindly offered to donate several volumes of early New Mexico records to the Long Beach Public Library in memory of our late first President, Molly Molyneaux.

Nancy writes:

"A cousin of mine, Myrtle Wheeler Molyneaux, was a member of your organization for a number of years. I just heard that she passed away on October 10 of this year. She only had two grandchildren surviving in the immediate family and I am about to notify the Texas family.

"Myrtle Mae Wheeler Molyneaux -- what a terrific lady! Molly authored two books, *The Wheeler Family* and *Some Descendants of William Ward of Middletown, CT*. Plus, she had put together quite a bit of information on our Martin Family and I still have the book in my computer. I knew she was going downhill in 1998 as far as memory and several times since have almost picked up the phone to call and tell her that I had found some of our information that she had hunted for long and hard.

"I had started doing genealogy in 1979, but it was in the 1980s that we actually met face-to-face and she really 'whipped' me into shape as far as doing it the right way! That is also the same time she talked me into working with her on my mother's maternal side

of the family. (I had started with my mother's paternal side.)

"Myrtle May Wheeler, daughter of Clarence E. Wheeler and Minnie Myrtle Martin, was born in Hereford, Texas, 7 September 1909. She married 12 June 1931, Wilbur Lyman Molyneaux, Jr., born in Pomona, California 25 November 1905, died at Carlsbad, New Mexico 17 February 1949, son of Wilbur Lyman Molyneaux and Ena Marie Reed.

"Myrtle received a Bachelor's degree from West Texas State University in 1937 and a Master's degree from California State University at Long Beach in 1965. She taught school for three years before marrying, the first in a one-room rural school. She resumed teaching in 1937, completing ten years before moving to California. During World War II, she worked for the government as projects services advisor in a public housing project, overseeing the social and educational functions of 1300 families. In 1948, she began teaching for the Los Angeles City Schools, retiring in 1972. The last ten years she was a training teacher for California State University of Long Beach. During her time in the latter system, she was given two years of sabbatical leave for traveling in the States, Europe and the Near East.

"She served as president of the Harbor Area Teachers' Association, president of the Realette Toastmistress Club, and vice-president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies for eight

years. She helped organize and was charter president of the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society in Long Beach.

"In 1983, she published a small book, *Some Descendants of William Ward of Middletown, CT* and in 1992, she completed a family book, *The Wheeler Family of Cranfield, England and Concord, Massachusetts and Some Descendants of Sgt. Thomas Wheeler of Concord*. She had also started compiling allied families of the Martin family and passed that work on to cousins to finish.

"Myrtle, Mollie to friends and family, became interested in genealogy through an aunt, Daisy Martin Currie, during the late 1930s and early 1940s. She has taught many how to hunt for their ancestors and passed along the 'addiction.'

"When her memory began to dim in 1998-99, many of us felt the void. She left so many memories behind that she will never be forgotten, just missed!"

O

Love and faithfulness will meet; justice and peace will embrace. Humility's loyalty will reach up from the earth, and God's justice will look down from heaven.

P salm 85:11-13

- MORE ON FEDERAL LAND RECORDS -

Editor's note: At the November meeting, John McCoy gave a talk on Federal Land records. Here is a summary of that talk, along with the correct form numbers to use for ordering records.

"Federal land records" are the records generated by the U.S. Government during the process of selling federal land. The records for each individual sale are called "land entry case files." Most of them are housed at the National Archives in Washington, DC. "Federal land" covers only land sold by federal land offices. It does not cover land that originally belonged to the thirteen colonies, for example.

The government has operated land offices since the early 1800s. Land sales are controlled by the Congress, which has changed the rules from time to time. Before 1862, land could be purchased in specific areas for cash or credit. While there are records relating to such transactions, they usually contain very little information. However, there are surprises. You might find an ancestor's middle name spelled out in full, or his previous place of residence may be listed. The ancestor who received the land patent may have been an heir of the person who started the transaction. If you have mysterious ancestors who bought federal land before 1862, don't overlook the land entry papers!

Records became more interesting in 1862, when the Homestead Act was passed. A person who was the head of a family could

live on a tract of land for five years, build a house, cultivate some of it, and then obtain title to the land for a small fee. By 1872, the requirements had been eased; Union Civil War veterans could subtract up to four years of their military service from the five-year residency requirement. The process of obtaining a homestead patent generated additional records. Details of military service, number of children in the family, names of some of the neighbors (who might be relatives), and other details are usually in the "land entry case file." Because of the residency requirement, it was now more likely that the original homesteader would die before the process was complete, in which case an heir might take over the claim, resulting in more paperwork. The claim might be contested or run into some other bureaucratic problem, generating still more paperwork. While most of the files contain perhaps half a dozen pages, sometimes they are much larger. There is no way to tell in advance! The very largest files are those for people who tried to buy the land, but failed to meet some requirement and contested the decision. Finding these rejected claims is a little harder, see below.

The "official" way to obtain land entry case files is by filling out NATF Form 84. You need the *name* of the purchaser and at least the *state*, *township*, and *range* of the land. The state name refers to the modern state boundaries. For many states, you can find this information on the Bureau of Land Management website. Most

of the patents that resulted from the land sale process are stored in digital format on the BLM web site itself, but the land entry case file will contain all the *other* papers that relate to the transaction. For other states, and even for early (pre-1820) sales in some states such as Indiana, you may have to use other methods to identify the land. Sources include: inquire at the current Bureau of Land Management office serving the area where the settler lived; look for a record of the patent at the appropriate county courthouse; read county histories, etc. California patents for federal land have been posted on the Internet in several places, but I notice all of the township and range numbers have an extra 0 tacked on the end! When in doubt, consult a modern atlas that shows the township and range numbers to be sure the location is correctly described. Records for Iowa are not on the BLM website yet, but they may be added in 2004.

The National Archives takes several weeks or even months to process requests for land entry case files. You may be able to get faster results either by visiting the Archives in person (the main Washington, DC facility), or else by engaging a professional researcher or "record retriever" who can almost certainly provide faster service, and often more cheaply.

For land entry papers for rejected homestead applications, you have to look at the Tract Books for the

[continued on next page]

- MORE ON FEDERAL LAND RECORDS, continued -

[continued from previous page]

area where you believe they tried to buy land. The Tract Books kept by the land offices are organized by state, township, range, and section. They are available on microfilm from the Family History Library, but they are tricky to find and use. They tend to be hard to read, full of abbreviations and inserted notations. You just scan section by section, looking for your ancestor's name, and then try to make sense of the description of the land that he or she tried to buy. It might be

helpful to send a copy of that page of the tract book along with the order form you send to the Archives — that way, they are less likely give up if they have trouble locating the file. The more complicated the notations in the tract book, the more likely it is that the case file will contain a lot of information.

Something you can't do: If your ancestor was a Civil War veteran, and you don't know where he lived, you can't use the land entry case files to find him. Unfortunately, there is no name

index to these records! However, if you know the state and unit in which he served, you can search for a pension file, and that will probably tell you where he lived, in turn leading you to a homestead record. In such a case, the homestead file may contain a copy of the veteran's discharge papers, which may have information that wasn't in the pension file!

We will have a few blank forms available at the December meeting of *Questing Heirs*.

-- Submitted by John McCoy

- A SECRET FOR OVER EIGHTY YEARS -

by Jeanette Jones

My over-ninety-year-old mother and I were sitting in the patio of the nursing home where she was spending the last days of her life. A woman with curly hair walked by. My mother said, "She reminds me of my sister Mary." All I had ever known about her older sister Mary was that she had curly hair and had died while a teenager in the flu epidemic in 1918.

My mother then continued the conversation by saying, "I remember the last time I saw her in the hospital."

I thought to myself that even in 1918 surely they did not allow children to visit flu-infected patients. I didn't say anything because I had learned that it was impossible to actually carry on a meaningful conversation with her, due to her senility and deafness.

"That butcher killed her -- she bled to death."

Was I hearing correctly? The first thing that leapt to my mind was an abortion. Despite my hesitation about asking and little hope of getting an answer, I

asked her: "Do you mean she died from an abortion?"

"Yes, and it almost killed Mama when she died."

I could get no more details out of her that day or after that. Needless to say, I went home and immediately sent for Mary's death certificate. I had been intending to do so anyway, as part of building the genealogical history of my mother's family. When I received it, the cause of death was given as *Illegal Operation*. Yes, it was in 1918, and poor Mary was only fifteen years old.

This was a secret that was kept for over eighty years. When I questioned my cousins to see if they knew anything about it, they were as surprised as I was. Of course, I would have found out when I eventually got around to sending for the death certificate. However, if my mother hadn't told me in a moment of clarity, I would have always wondered if she actually knew the truth herself, or if it had been kept from almost everyone.



**Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not;
a sense of humour to console him for what he is.**

- Francis Bacon

- OF INTEREST -

**NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHING
QUERIES**

A list of newspapers that publish genealogical columns can be found in Anita Cheek Milner's Newspaper Genealogical Column Directory, 5th edition (Bowie, MD, Heritage Books, 1992). You would use this directory to get the addresses of newspapers which publish queries for the area of the country in which your ancestor resided.

If the newspaper for the area you wish to research does not have genealogy columns as such, it may include social notes, advertisements, announcements, obituaries, and other items of interest to you. If any of these items are about your ancestors, you may find a vital link.

You might need to search page-by-page as there may not be an index.

*-- Submitted by Robert Brasher,
Library Liaison*



- ON THE WEB -

Here are the web pages compiled by Aaron Day and Jeanette Jones for their presentation on DNA and Genealogy at the November meeting:

- ♦ BBC – Beyond the Broadcast: Surnames, Genes and Genealogy
<www.bbc.co.uk/education/beyond/factsheets/surnames/surnames_home.shtml>
This five-part series explores the link between genes and genealogy.
 - ♦ Cyndi's List: Genetics, DNA & Family Health
<www.cyndislist.com/dna.htm>
Find links to articles, mailing lists, and more.
 - ♦ Genealogy-DNA Mailing List
<lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/Miscellaneous/GENEALOGY-DNA.html>
Talk to other genealogists interested in genetics.
 - ♦ The Molecular Genealogy Research Project
<www.smgf.org>
This research group aims to create “the world’s most comprehensive correlated genetic and genealogical database.”
- Ybase
<www.ybase.org>
Search this company’s Y-chromosome database for long-lost relatives who have had their DNA tested.
- DNA Vendors
- ♦ Family Tree DNA <www.familytreedna.com>
 - ♦ Relative Genetics <www.relativegenetics.com>
 - ♦ Oxford Ancestors <www.oxfordancestors.com>
 - ♦ Gene-Tree <www.genetree.com>
 - ♦ DNA Print <www.dnaprint.com>
 - ♦ African Ancestry <www.africanancestry.com>

- AT LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY -

FINDING NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS

The Boston Transcript, a newspaper, published a regular column of genealogical queries and answers from 1896 to 1941. These genealogical columns have been indexed in the American Genealogical-Biographical Index, published by the Godfrey Memorial Library of Middletown, Connecticut. The columns themselves are available on microfiche in many genealogy libraries, such as the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The columns are also available in the Long Beach Public Library. The queries were clipped from the Transcript, pasted onto 3" x 5" cards, and filed alphabetically by surname in a card catalog cabinet in the Genealogy Department. If you have ancestors from Massachusetts or other New England state, see this file for a possible link to your ancestor.

-- Submitted by Robert Brasher, Library Liaison and Volunteer at Long Beach Public Library.

~ **OF INTEREST, continued** ~

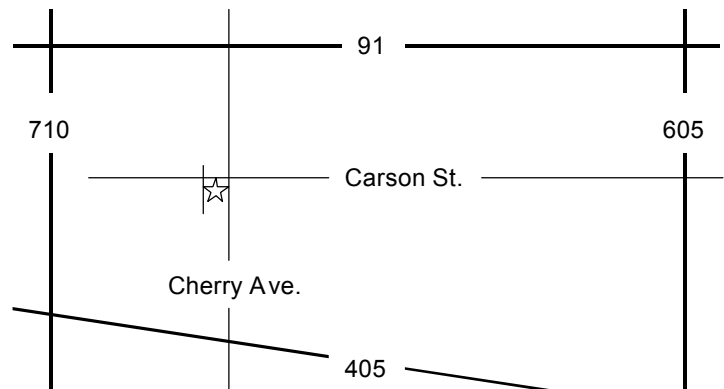
FRENCH-CANADIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA SCORES A COUP

After eighteen months of negotiations, and with the outstanding assistance of Marc T. Boucher, the Quebec Delegate in Los Angeles, the marriage and death records for the Province of Quebec for 1926-1996 have arrived. The records are on CDs and are maintained at the Southern California Genealogical Society Library in Burbank, California. This is the only library in the United States that possesses this valuable Canadian resource.

~ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ~

♦ Saturday, December 20, 12:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society annual potluck and show-and-tell. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.

♦ **Sunday, December 21, 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 at right. Program information on page 90.



♦ Saturday, January 3, 2004, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.

♦ Monday, January 12 – Friday, January 16. Ninth Annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, presented by The Utah Genealogical Association. Wyndham Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah. For information, call toll-free (888) 463-6842 or visit <<http://www.infouga.org/slig2004/slig2004.htm>>.

♦ Friday, April 16, 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm & Saturday, April 17, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. Thirty-fifth annual Genealogical Jamboree and Resource Expo, presented by the Southern California Genealogical Society. Pasadena, California. Information available at <<http://www.scsgenealogy.com>>.

♦ Wednesday, May 19 – Saturday, May 22. National Genealogical Society Conference. Sacramento, California. Theme: A Golden Prospect. Information available at <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>>.



*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.