



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 1 ♦ January 2004

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, JANUARY 18, 2004

1:15	<i>Classes</i>	Basic (by request)	GETTING STARTED
		Intermediate	AM I ORGANIZED YET? presented by John McCoy
2:15	<i>Break</i>	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments	
2:30	<i>General Meeting</i>	PRESENTATION	
			<b>RANCHO LOS CERRITOS:</b> <i>The Roots of Long Beach</i> (rescheduled from November 2003)



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

DECEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 22                      Guests: 4

AVERAGE MEETING  
ATTENDANCE IN 2003:

24



NEW MEMBERS

Jewell LaMoure            Individual            to 9/04  
*Jewell was a member years ago. She is rejoining.*



RENEWALS

Patricia Bowers	Individual	to 9/04
Betty Jean Brandt	Newsletter	to 9/04
Alice Gray	Newsletter	to 9/04
Sandra Lawrence	Newsletter	to 12/04
Georgie Lyons	Individual	to 9/04
Walton McNulty	Sustaining	to 9/05
Chuck Mitchell	Individual	to 9/04
Martha Morgan	Newsletter	to 9/04
Connie Williams	Individual	to 9/04

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

November INCOME	\$383.25
November EXPENSES	\$185.10

BALANCE as of November 30, 2003    \$3,492.69



PRELIMINARY 2003 RESULTS

INCOME	\$3,673.68
EXPENSES	\$3,624.89

*A profit of \$48.79!! Thank you, members and donors.*

- REFRESHMENTS -

Thanks to all who made last month's potluck a big success! Photos of the event can be found on page 4.



- SOCIETY NEWS -

Our sincere thanks go to Nancy Anderson, who donated books from the New Mexico Genealogical Society in memory of Myrtelle May Wheeler Molyneaux. The books will be added to the Questing Heirs Collection at the Long Beach Main Library. As you will recall from Nancy's and our recent tributes in our November and December 2003 issues, Myrtelle, the first President of Questing Heirs, passed away recently.



Don't forget that our 35th anniversary is coming up in June. As we reported last month, we are putting together a commemorative video. If you have anything to add to the video, such as pictures, memorabilia, or memories, please contact Aaron Day at (562) 634-6708.

- JANUARY MEETING -

PRESENTATION

**Rancho Los Cerritos: The Roots of Long Beach**

This slide program traces the history of Rancho Los Cerritos from its origins as a Spanish land grant to its transformation into the city of Long Beach. This presentation touches upon the history of this National, State and Local Historic Landmark, its current public and educational programs, as well as its plans for the future. *This presentation was originally scheduled for our November 2003 meeting.*



INTERMEDIATE CLASS

**Am I Organized Yet?**

Take stock of your record-keeping system. Can it be improved? Has your data outgrown your ability to keep track of it? John McCoy will lead the discussion; members will be invited to share their own experiences in keeping orderly records.



BASIC CLASS: Getting Started

A basic class will be given by request; that is, we will ask at class time if anyone would like to learn about how to get started in genealogy.

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE -

## How I Found a Lost Cemetery in Iowa without Leaving Long Beach!

*Well, actually, I did leave Long Beach, but only to read microfilms*

*at the Los Angeles Family History Center.*

*Here's what happened:*

**D**uring my research on the John B. Smith family of Davis County, Iowa, I learned one of the daughters had married Hugh Abernathy in 1835, in Rush County, Indiana. There were other Abernathy connections in Davis County as well. The relationships were unclear, so I decided to study the microfilmed Davis County deed books. One parcel of land, the W ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 13, Township 68 North, Range 12 West, passed from James Abernathy to his son William T. Abernathy in 1848. Some years later, in 1855, William sold the land to a neighbor. In that deed, there was an additional clause: the tract was being sold, *except for a graveyard* about ½ acre in size.

Some of my Smith's had died nearby between 1849 and 1853. Were they buried in this graveyard? I searched the internet, and found a Davis County "Cemetery Project" <<http://www.davisco-cem.com/>>. Carol and Willis Hoffman had

collected as many cemetery transcripts as they could find, and built a searchable database to house their results. The location given in the deed was not on their list of known cemeteries.

I sent the Hoffmans an email. Had they heard of this cemetery? A few days later, I got their reply. They did not know about the cemetery, but they got in the car and drove out into the countryside right away to find it. From the road, they spotted a lone tree with a stone resting against the trunk. They stopped to inquire. The farmer said there was a stone with the name Abernathy, but they weren't dressed to hike through the snow that day.

When the weather cleared, they went back to investigate. There was only one stone, but it had broken into several pieces. They were able to make out the inscription: James Abernathy, December 10, 1783 – February 24,

1853, "In the midst of Life is Death." My Smiths still haven't been found; James Abernathy seems to be the only resident of this little cemetery.

With further research, I've found an opportunity for this story to repeat itself. When James Abernathy sold his farm in Rush County, Indiana, before moving to Iowa, the deed mentions *another* cemetery. Once again, it's not one of the known cemeteries. So far, no cemetery enthusiasts have turned up in Rush County who might be able to search for it, especially in the middle of winter. But I think I know who will be found there, if a gravestone still stands. It will be Elizabeth, wife of James Abernathy, who died between 1831 and 1835 on her husband's farm.

This example shows it is possible to do some research without traveling, thanks to the growing community of internet genealogists.

*- John McCoy*

- QUERY -

### Searching for Ulysses House

#### African-American Musician working and living in Long Beach area from 1939 to 1941

*Gail Jackson of the Descendants of Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes writes:* One of our members needs help finding information about an ancestor. We don't believe he is the Ulysses House near Alhambra, nor do we believe he is related to I. B. House or Daisy House of Long Beach. We have a lot of House families here in Oklahoma, but the only one we are certain of with Oklahoma connections is the U. S. House in Alhambra, but the age does not fit! In exchange for your help, I would be glad to do a Dawes Roll search. Gail M. Jackson, 3224 N. Tulsa Ave., Oklahoma City OK 73112-3150. Email: <[GeeJackson@msn.com](mailto:GeeJackson@msn.com)>. Website: <<http://www.freedmen5tribes.com>>.

- QHGS POTLUCK PHOTOS -

The Questing Heirs annual potluck was held on Sunday, December 21, 2003.  
Here are some photos of the event.



All was ready  
at the corner  
of Carson &  
Gardenia.



Spotted outside:  
a bumpersticker  
that read  
"Genealogists  
never die –  
they just lose  
their census."



Putting the  
finishing touches  
on the table.



We spared  
no expense  
in decorating  
the hall.



This is what it's all about --  
gathering together to share.

- OF INTEREST -

**PLANNING MY GENEALOGICAL NEW YEAR, by Paula Stuart Warren**

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*Subscription information available at <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>.*

I am looking forward to the end of 2003 and the beginning of a New Year. That means I can start with a fresh calendar and a brand new list of events. It also means that I have to remember to write "2004" on checks when I pay bills.

I will be updating the family events date list for my father and adding another year to everyone's age. My genealogy year needs planning also. It is much easier to accomplish some of my genealogical goals if they are already on my calendar.

**MY "HOME"  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

My home society is the Minnesota Genealogical Society. I check the website, <<http://www.mngs.org>>, and the most recent newsletter. Then I add the dates of the quarterly meetings to my calendar so I won't miss them. I check the schedule for the library (so I don't go there to research on a day it is closed) and add any closed dates to my calendar.

**MAJOR GENEALOGICAL  
EVENTS**

I add major genealogical conferences and other events. Since I belong to several other genealogical organizations, I check the newsletters for the dates. I already know that I will be at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy in January <<http://www.infouga.org>>, at the National Genealogical Society conference in May <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>>, and the Federation of Genealogical

Society's conference in September <<http://www.fgs.org>>. Yes, I will be lecturing at these events, but will check the programs of NGS and FGS for other sessions I want to attend for my own enrichment.

**RESEARCH TRIPS**

I already know the dates of upcoming genealogical research trips. Those get added to the calendar and I add "wish" trips. If someone hands me a check for a million dollars I want to be ready for my dream trip! I note days when I plan to research at my state historical society or the local Family History Center. No matter how many people place information, records, and indexes online, I still need to use other records for more details and to verify what I find posted. Plus, it is exciting to hold an old book in my hands or turn the pages of an old volume in a courthouse.

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS  
AND EVENTS**

When I know about a wedding, graduation, or new baby, I add that event to the calendar. I remind myself that those will be opportunities to gather some new family details and that I will need to update my family group sheets. I note the family birthdays and do my best to schedule my genealogy events around family dates. I am also planning on dates when my grandchildren can stay overnight with me or I can go to visit the two who live a few hours away. Their parents seem to enjoy a night or

two off and I get to spoil the kids a bit (well, maybe a lot!).

**PHOTOGRAPH  
ORGANIZATION**

My ten-year-old granddaughter, Kaylene, is staying with me tonight and is sitting next to me as I write this. She is working on a memory project as part of her homework and we needed to find some pictures to jog our memories. I had to admit some were still in boxes and that I had neglected them. We made dates to work on these together in February and again over the summer. We are working on her very own family tree chart and need to put that project on the calendar.

**MY OWN FAMILY NEEDS  
MORE COMPUTERIZATION**

I am setting aside time in several months to work on entering more of my own family details into my genealogy software program. I have been working on a family history gift for my niece and her new husband and have been entering much of that into the computer, but have neglected the "other" side of my family. I would prefer to do this family data entry more often, but earning a living interferes! My calendar includes dates to revisit sites such as Ancestry.com <<http://www.ancestry.com>>, RootsWeb.com <<http://www.rootsweb.com>>, and other sites to see if anything has been added on my family.

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- O F I N T E R E S T, continued -

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**CONTACTING FAMILY**

A cousin recently sent me the transcription of a story his mother wrote when she was in high school. The story was about her father (my grandfather). I learned many new things about Grandpa. This reminded me that I need to write some more letters to cousins and other relatives. It has been a long time since I have done this. I will ask them if they have old letters, pictures, scrapbooks, or other family memorabilia. I may copy some family records to send to them to butter them up before I ask what they might have! Several months have this reminder listed on my calendar. I will also add notes early next winter when I send out my 2004 Christmas cards.

**NEW YEAR'S EXERCISE**

The New Year brings about resolutions. For many people (including me) that means a promise to be more vigilant about

exercise. In the cold weather I often drive the short distance to the Mall of America and walk around that enormous mall. What connection does that have to genealogy, you ask? I take along an audiotape of a genealogy lecture and listen to it on my headset. I exercise and learn at the same time. An extensive list of genealogy audiotapes is at Repeat Performance's website <<http://www.audiotapes.com>>. One bit of exercise advice: avoid the area of your mall that has the wonderful aroma of fresh cinnamon rolls.

**DON'T IGNORE YOUR FILING**

I have listed a few months to catch up on my filing. I continue to use some of my "Lazy Days Organizing Tips for the Family Historian" that I shared previously in the "Ancestry Daily News" in October <<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prod/redir.asp?sourceid=831&key=A772001>> but need extended time to get

things into the file drawers and to weed out some old files.

**FINAL BITS OF ADVICE**

Add the renewal dates for your genealogical and historical memberships and subscriptions to your calendar. On January 1st, 2004, set aside time to work on your genealogical new year planning. If you don't do it then, the months will slip away. While you are at it, look ahead to 2005 so that it will be somewhat planned when that new year arrives. Plan a day each month to review your 2004 genealogy calendar and see if you have been adhering to what you posted, whether you need to schedule "catch-up" time for any items, and if there are new genealogy tasks and events to add. I better get back to my 2004 genealogy calendar and get scheduled to move forward on my family research.

I wish you all a peaceful and Happy New Year.

- O N T H E W E B -

**A S T I M E G O E S B Y . . .**, by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

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As New Year's Day approaches, it seems a good time to reflect on the past . . . but sometimes we need a little help doing that! I thought it might be fun – and with a bit of luck, helpful – to poke around the Internet looking for tools that help us understand or remember how it was "way back when." So here's a collection of sites that, in one way or another, provide perspective on the past.

**HOW MUCH IS THAT TODAY?**

Some popular genealogical documents include dollar figures. Passenger arrival records may tell us how much money Grandma had in her pocket when she arrived at Ellis Island. A will might inform us of the sum our great-great-grandfather left his wife to subsist on when he passed away. Or we might find land records with purchase values. But how much is

that in today's terms? Were our ancestors wealthy, middle class, or just scraping by?

The EH.net calculator <<http://eh.net/hmit/ppowerusd/>>, which compares the purchasing power of money in the U.S. (or colonies) from 1720 to any other year (including the present), can help you find an answer.

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- O N T H E W E B , c o n t i n u e d -

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And by the way, that \$25 Grandma brought with her in 1902 would be worth \$522 today.

**WHAT WAS IT LIKE BACK THEN?** Want to know what Grandma could have bought that same \$25? Visit the dMarie Time Capsule <http://www.dmarie.com/timecap/> and enter "01/01/1902" to learn that it would have purchased 625 loaves of bread (they were four cents each) – or that it only represented about four percent of the average income of \$681 per year. Browse the other results to see that Theodore Roosevelt was president, that the new-fangled toy that year was the Teddy bear, and that as she absorbed the sights and sounds of her new homeland, Grandma might have heard the strains of "Won't You Come Home, Bill Bailey?" or "Pomp and Circumstance," both among the top songs for 1902.

**WHAT DID OUR ANCESTORS SEE?** Perhaps you're curious to look at the world through your ancestor's eyes. Thanks to the American Memory Collection of the Library of Congress <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/>, now you can. This site offers more than seven million digital items from more than one hundred historical collections, and, as I discovered, a little experimentation can go a long way.

For instance, I tried one of the more unusual names from my family – Nelligan – and was rewarded with a photo of Gertrude Nelligan from Chicago being weighed by county officials. I don't know what she did

to merit this unwelcome attention, but as it happens, a branch of my Nelligan's settled in Chicago, so now I'll pursue this possible lead. Another ancestor of mine worked as a gardener for the first mayor of Jersey City, Dudley S. Gregory, and typing in Dudley's name revealed handwritten correspondence with Abraham Lincoln. Yet another search for the small town of Piermont, New York, popped up some old photos. If you play with both personal and place names, there's an excellent chance you'll catch some glimpses of scenes and people that would have been familiar to your forebears.

**DO YOU REMEMBER?** What about your own life? Can you remember all or even most of what's occurred in your lifetime? If you were to make writing a memoir one of your goals for the new year, could you use a little help with memory prompters to bring back some magical moments from your past? If so, you're in luck because there are plenty of nostalgia-oriented sites.

One of my favorites is the Center for Life Stories Preservation, which has terrific pages for triggering memories <http://www.storypreservation.com/triggers.html> and historical events and dates <http://www.storypreservation.com/dates.html>. Be sure to spend some time just browsing, though, as it has plenty of entertaining and useful links you'll want to bookmark. You might also want to try the About.com Nostalgia

site <http://seniorliving.miningco.com/cs/nostalgia/> for recollections from 1941 to 1972.

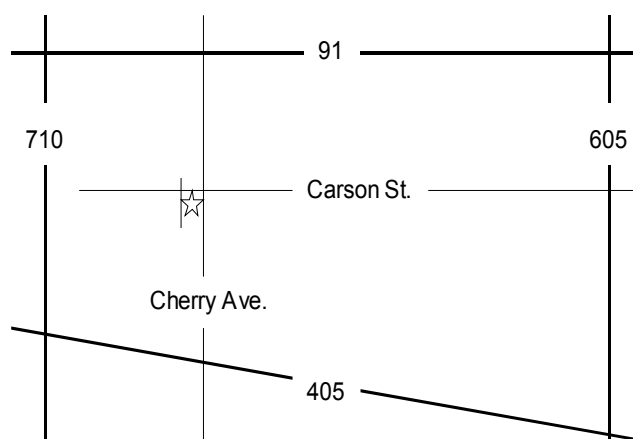
**HOW OLD WAS I WHEN . . . ?** Need more help putting your own life into perspective? Then you might want to visit the Age Gauge <http://www.frontiernet.net/~cdm/age/bd.html> and enter your own birth date. You'll quickly learn how much older or younger you are than assorted celebrities and how old you were when Kennedy was assassinated, man first walked on the moon, the Berlin Wall fell, or 9/11 occurred.

**REMEMBER THE OLD DAYS ON THE INTERNET?** And finally, although it's hard to believe, we already have occasion to be nostalgic about what used to be on the Internet. Fortunately, the Wayback Machine <http://web.archive.org/collections/web.html> helps bring at least some of it back. I amused myself (but also made myself wince) by taking a peek at the early days of my own website. To see how far we've come, try entering <http://www.ancestry.com> and take a look at the October 28, 1996 version. You'll be impressed how far we've all evolved in cyberspace in less than a decade!

**BACK TO THE FUTURE** While the New Year is a great time to look forward, we as genealogists know that there's always value in looking to our past. I genuinely hope that some of these tools will contribute to your research endeavors in 2004 and I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year!

~UPCOMING EVENTS~

- ♦ Saturday, January 17, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Beginner/Intermediate Class at 9:00 am; Computer Interest Group at 10:30 am.
- ♦ Sunday, January 18, 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. For program information, see page 2.



- ♦ Wednesday, January, 21, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Warren Weimer speaking on "Molecular Genealogy, a DNA Approach," addressing how each of us can eliminate some brick walls and gain insight into who our true ancestors are through DNA testing.
- ♦ Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 pm. Genealogy Society of North Orange County California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, corner of Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda.
- ♦ Saturday, February 7, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach.
- ♦ Saturday, February 21, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Sixth Annual Genealogy Seminar. Redondo Beach Community Center, 350 Knob Hill Avenue, Redondo Beach. Henry (Hank) Jones, Jr. will speak on four major topics: When Sources are wrong!; Tracing the Origins of Early Eighteenth Century Palatine and Other Emigrants; Family Tradition: How to Separate Fact from Fiction in Genealogical Research; Genealogy in the New Millennium: Where We've Been and Where We're Going. Fee: \$25.00 if received by 17 February, or \$30.00 at the door. Registration form available at the SBCGS website or by mailing your check to: 2004-Seminar, South Bay Cities Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 11069, Torrance CA 90510. For online information, email <sbccgs@hotmail.com> or visit <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~casbcgs>>.
- ♦ Saturday, March 20. Genealogy Society of North Orange County California annual seminar. Featured speaker Melinda Kashuba, Ph. D. will discuss methods to get around brick walls, find people in the twenty-first century, and reconstruct neighborhoods as a way to assist root diggers. More information available by calling (714) 528-4977 or on the GSNOCC website at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cagsnocc/>>.
- ♦ Friday, April 16 & Saturday, April 17. SCGS Genealogical Jamboree and Resource Expo. Westin Pasadena, 191 North Los Robles, Pasadena. This two-day event draws speakers, exhibitors, and vendors from throughout the country who provide participants with classes, displays, demonstrations and items of interest to the family history researcher. For more information, phone (818) 843-7247, write to: Southern California Genealogical Society, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank CA 91504-2408, email <[scgs@earthlink.net](mailto:scgs@earthlink.net)>, or visit <<http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com>>.
- ♦ Wednesday, May 19 – Saturday, May 22. National Genealogical Society Conference. Sacramento. Theme: A Golden Prospect. Information available at <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>>.

