

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 7 ♦ July 2004

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS ♦ 1969-2004

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, JULY 18, 2004**

**1:15 Program Stand-Up Genealogy**

**2:15 Break Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments**

**2:30 General Meeting SPEAKER**

*NANCY CARLBERG*  
*What I Learned from Alex Haley*



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~ JULY MEETING ~

**QHGS TURNS THIRTY-FIVE**

This month, we mark our thirty-fifth anniversary, and we have a great speaker and a fun program lined up to celebrate. We hope everyone can join us on Sunday, July 18 to celebrate this milestone for our society.



**SPEAKER: NANCY CARLBERG**

Nancy is a former librarian, author of numerous books, lecturer, and genealogy teacher throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties. After five years as a hobby genealogist, she became a serious professional, and has now been working in the field for over twenty-five years.

She is also currently a cataloguer at the Los Angeles Family History Library in Santa Monica and President of the British Isles Family History Society. For several years she led the Orange County Genealogical Society research trip to Salt Lake City and has traveled extensively doing research for herself and others throughout the United States, Great Britain and Europe. She is a specialist in Scandinavian Records.



**PROGRAM:  
STAND-UP GENEALOGY**

Like karaoke, but without the music! Here's your opportunity to present an account of your latest discoveries or your most challenging research problem. We can accommodate only very brief presentations, so please organize your material and limit your presentation to **five minutes or less**. The overhead projector will be available, as will our new wireless sound system. Contact John McCoy at (562) 437-4337 or at <RealMac@aol.com> to reserve a place in this exciting program.

~ SOCIETY NEWS ~

**SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY  
FOR CAROLYN BRENT**

There will be a **surprise** 90th birthday party for long-time Questing Heirs member Carolyn Brent on July 10, 2004. The party will take place from noon until 3:00pm at the Cal Bowl at 2500 East Carson Street (between Paramount and Cherry) in Lakewood. There will be a buffet luncheon as well. If you are planning to attend, please contact Terry Brent, 9132 Orangewood Avenue, Garden Grove CA 92841, or by phone at (714) 636-2886. It is not necessary to bring gifts – your presence is your gift.

~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~

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

JUNE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 24    Guests: 2

RENEWAL

Jack & Vivian Marks    Family    to 9/05

~ FINANCIAL REPORT ~

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

*Editor's Note: Dave is out of town again, but he promises he will have a really good report in time for next month's newsletter.*

~ REFRESHMENTS ~

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

Thanks to our hosts for the June meeting:

Linda ARTUSO  
Cynthia Day ELLIOTT  
Charlotte LLEWELLYN

At press time, we did not have hosts signed up for the July meeting.

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*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.*  
*Marcel Proust*

~ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~

GENEALOGISTS & LIBRARIES

**G**enealogists swarm around libraries like moths around a flame. I think most people understand that libraries are an important source for family history. But the role of libraries in genealogy is not quite that simple, as a true anecdote will illustrate:

My mother spends a lot of time at the Seattle Public Library, which has an extensive collection of books and microfilms. One afternoon, she was poring over county histories when a woman arrived at the Genealogy Department, visibly out of breath. "My husband is double parked," she said. "I want to get my family tree!"

Some of the largest libraries have collected hundreds of compiled family histories. While important, these volumes are not the main attraction for serious genealogists. The vast majority of family trees have never been studied, much less published. What most genealogists really need is primary sources. Genealogists don't just look up their family trees; they assemble them, piece by piece. The raw material for most genealogical research in America is government documents and compiled local history.

This month, *Questing Heirs*

celebrates its thirty-fifth anniversary. Over the years, we have donated many volumes to the genealogy collection at the Long Beach Public Library. Most of them have been the basic resources that will be of greatest use to family historians, such as census indexes and county histories. The collection continues to grow, and as it does, it will become more useful.

Genealogy is a hobby for the masses. Formal study is not required! There are important skills that can be taught – that's why *Questing Heirs* exists – but for the most part, genealogy consists of individual, self-directed study. That's exactly what libraries are for! Think of what can be done in a well-stocked library. Starting with just about any family that can be found on the 1850 United States Census, an experienced genealogist can usually track down one hundred years of that family's story, and possibly much more, in a few hours. It will probably be a story that has never been published. In other words, genealogy is creative. It is original historical research. Multiply the story of one family by thousands of amateur genealogists, and you will realize that family history makes an enormous

contribution to the public's understanding of history. In turn, our understanding of history influences our understanding of national values and aspirations.

Until recently, libraries consisted almost entirely of books. Today, the books are supplemented by the resources of the Internet and other electronic media. For the moment, the Internet has not replaced the library, but it has made the library more useful. More and more of the raw materials of genealogy have been digitized and indexed on the Internet. For example, most of the U.S. censuses have been indexed by Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest (available free of charge at the Long Beach Public Library), and great collections of other documents can be accessed through the Library of Congress web sites. The library will not become obsolete any time soon, though. Instead, libraries are becoming more efficient at delivering information.

The well-stocked library remains the best place for general genealogical research. I know the Long Beach Public Library can count on the continued support of *Questing Heirs*.

– John McCoy

~ GENE THE GENEALOGICAL CHURCH MOUSE ~

- ♦ I was happy to hear Aaron Day say that the Long Beach Public Library has Internet access to Heritage Quest. There are some things I would like to check on. I am going to have to find a way to get down there some night. Maybe a good night would be the night of the reception for the new Genealogy Section of the Library. That night there should be some crumbs left from the refreshments also.
- ♦ I can only use the computer and Internet here at the church when they forget to log off at night. After reading last month's newsletter I got all excited about trying out the Linkpendium Internet site, but I couldn't get into it using the address in the newsletter. By "googling" I found out the correct address was linkpendium.com – not .org.

~ FEATURE ARTICLE ~

## A GENEALOGISTS' WONDERLAND

by Michael Powers

### Introduction

On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., my mother and I took a break from sightseeing and visited the National Archives. We hadn't expected to have time for any research during our five days in the nation's capital, as there is so much we wanted to see there, but we took advantage of a cold and windy day to rest our tired bodies and to do a little research. It was good that I had taken some information along with me "just in case," and that I had taken a look at the National Archives web page before I left, as we discovered there just how important it is to come prepared.

### What's Available

Here are just some of the records you can find at the National Archives, many of which you will only find at this location: compiled military service records from the Revolution, indexes to military service records from the Revolution to the Philippines, compiled records not on microfilm, pensions, bounty land warrants, WWI draft registration cards, census mortality schedules, and passport applications.

### Location & Hours

The National Archives building is located at 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, between 7th and 9th Streets NW. The research entrance is on Pennsylvania Avenue. The research room is open Monday through Friday from 8:45am to 5:00pm. It is open late on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings until 9:00pm. The Microfilm Room is also open Saturdays from 8:45am to 4:45pm.

### Getting There

As you may know, Washington has a legendary subway system. The MetroRail Yellow and Green lines stop at the Archives/Navy Memorial station, directly across the street from the research entrance. You can also take the

Orange or Blue line to Federal Triangle station, and walk a couple of blocks down Pennsylvania Avenue toward the Capitol. (See the MetroRail home page at <http://www.wmata.com> for information and a map.) It might be worth it to go this way, so you can stop and see the Old Post Office building and take an elevator ride up the tower for a spectacular view of the city. The main floor of the Post Office building has some great food stands, too, which make it a perfect place to stop before or after your visit to the National Archives. (See <http://www.nps.gov/opot/> for more information.)

### Getting In

As you would expect in a repository of priceless documents of immense historical value, security is very tight. Like most places in Washington now, you must pass through a security checkpoint at the door. Then

you see another guard to sign in, fill out a form to register any electronic devices you may have, and get a security badge to wear while you are inside the building. Once you have gotten through security, you will see the Research Room directly ahead. There is an information desk in the center of the room where you can register and get information. Several computers are to the right. The microfilm room is past the desk on the left side.

### First Impression

Since we visited the National Archives on a Saturday, only the microfilm room was open. Therefore we were unable to order any records. However, there was plenty to keep us occupied! The long hallway to the room is filled on both sides from floor to ceiling with microfilm cabinets. It is like a glimpse of heaven – the cabinets are white and gleam in the fluorescent light. The microfilm room itself is huge. It seems to contain a hundred readers and ten printers. More microfilm cabinets line the entire perimeter of the room. The staffers are like angels – friendly and helpful.



*National Archives Building, view from Constitution Avenue.  
The Old Post Office Tower is visible on the left.*

~ FEATURE ARTICLE, continued ~

### What We Looked At

I had consulted the National Archives web page at <<http://www.archives.gov>> before we left on our trip, and determined what records I could consult there and nowhere else. My original plan had been to look for service records. Before I left home, I pulled together all the information I had already gathered from indexes and cemetery trips, and listed everything in a spreadsheet. This was simple to create, and kept all the information I needed clear and easy to read. But since we were unable to order records, we decided that the WWI draft registration cards on microfilm would be a good way to get a better picture of some of our family members. Luckily I had created a spreadsheet for this purpose, as well. I sorted it first by state, then by county, and finally by last name. It served us very well at the Archives, giving us a clear list of names to look for.

### An Amusing Anecdote

We learned from my mother's grandfather's draft registration card that he had false teeth. This triggered a memory from her that later in life he had a glass eye, as well, and that one time he was on a ladder and his glass eye came out, falling on the floor and breaking into pieces.

### A Happy Accident

There is an alcove in the microfilm room containing many helpful handouts on what records are available, what interest they might have for genealogists, and how to find them. While looking through them, I came across one covering the Papers of the Continental Congress. In describing some of the contents, the handout mentioned some letters concerning some South Carolina soldiers who were being held prisoner by the British aboard a ship in Charleston harbor in 1781. Since I knew that ancestors of mine on my father's side, Colonel Edward Barnwell and Major William Hazzard Wigg, were held aboard the ship *Torbay* in Charleston harbor in 1781, my interest was piqued. I checked in the printed index, and

was able to find the corresponding microfilm rolls easily. The letters turned out to be written by Edward Barnwell's brother Robert; they contained lists of the names of the men being held on the ship, and provided information about how they had been taken prisoner, and about how they managed to escape.

### The Rotunda

I highly recommend taking an hour or so to see the Rotunda, where the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are kept. To enter,

you go outside and around the building to the entrance on Constitution Avenue. We were surprised to see how much these precious documents have faded over the years. Behind glass and in the dim light of the Rotunda, they looked like the faintest microfilm images we've ever seen! Other documents of historic importance are shown here on a rotating basis, as well. On the day we visited, we saw a petition from the Quakers to the new government of the United

States for the abolition of slavery and a page from the Supreme Court's *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. Like many of the things we saw in the capital, we did not expect to be as deeply moved as we were to see these amazing documents. The Rotunda is open daily at 10:00am. It closes in fall and winter at 5:30pm, in spring at 7:00pm, and in summer at 9:00pm.



*View of the interior of the Rotunda, showing the cases where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are displayed.*

### Some Extra Tips

- ♦ Best bet for a quick bite: the cafeteria in the basement. The club sandwich was yummy, we didn't have to take much time off from research, and it was fun poking around in the labyrinthine basement of the monumental building.
- ♦ Best spot for unwinding after a day of research: the National Gallery Sculpture Garden, across the street from the Rotunda entrance, offers a tranquil spot with a coffee bar and an immense fountain great for cooling your feet.

~ O F I N T E R E S T ~

**RECEPTION FOR NEW GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT  
AT LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The reception and ribbon-cutting for the new Genealogy Department at Long Beach Public Library took place on Monday, June 28.

The affair was a huge success. Many people showed up eager to find out about the new Genealogy Department.

Jeanette Jones did a fine job of making people feel welcome and at ease in signing in and picking up literature.

The program began in the meeting room on the lower level of the Main Library. It was opened by Claudine Burnett and Aaron L. Day. Eleanore Schmidt, Director of Library

Services, was there to welcome everyone, and Laurel Prysiany, acting manager of the Main Library, also addressed the group.

The guest speakers were Indira Hale Tucker, president and co-founder of the African American Society of Long Beach, and John McCoy, president of the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society.

Robert Brasher was presented with a special award in recognition of his tireless efforts.

The group then went to the main floor of the library for the ribbon-cutting for the new Genealogy Department, which faces Ocean

and Pacific. It is quite beautiful. The tour was filled with much joy and a lot of picture taking!

Aaron Day was outstanding in organizing the whole event. He was a wonderful host and showed people around the area. He had a microphone and interviewed people about their experiences with genealogy.

The event was a lot of fun. An array of delicious refreshments were provided and they were enjoyed by all. There was a lot of information given to make anyone interested in all aspects of genealogy.

– Submitted by Charlotte Llewellyn



**TRANSLATE THE SURNAME**

This tip is an adjunct to Michael John Neill's column of possible multiple spouses. I had been trying to find out if a family member had married twice. The 1900 census record in upstate New York showed a family member John married to a woman whom I knew to be Belle Wells and one of the children listed was Moses born in July 1887.

I had also been searching through Quebec parish records and came across the baptism of Moise (Moses) in July 1887, whose parents were listed as what appeared to be the same family member John and spouse Isabelle Dupuis.

The different last name made me wonder if John had married someone else, but the timing did not make sense. There were other children older and younger than

Moses whom I knew to be offspring of John and his wife Belle Wells.

Recently, I was searching in the Dupuis website and put in the name "Wells." Lo and behold, several notes came up indicating that the translation for "Wells" in French was "du Puits" and many French people with the surname of Dupuis often anglicized it to Wells. Mystery solved! So if one is searching for relatives where another language is involved, translating the surname might help.

*An Ancestry.com Quick Tip, submitted by Judy Watson of Salisbury, Massachusetts. Reprinted with permission from the Ancestry Daily News, 13 May 2004. Copyright 1998-2004, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Subscription information available at <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>.*

I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.

~ ON THE WEB ~

**GOOGLE YOUR ANCESTORS**

**<www.google.com>**

Don't forget to "Google" the names you discover in your quest – even if they are not family members. I have had a great deal of success with the ministers who married my ancestors. Often there will be some information about the church, as well the minister.

Information like this adds depth to your research, and I find it is helpful in getting relatives interested. For example, I discovered that my third-great-grandparents were married by Rev. Robert Lowry, who wrote the hymn, "Shall We Gather At the River?" It makes for a great little tidbit.

*An Ancestry.com Quick Tip, submitted by Carol Clarke. Reprinted with permission from the Ancestry Daily News, 10*

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**LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**

**<www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/>**

The Library of Virginia has digitized over one million pages of material from its collection and posted them online. They include land records covering 370 years (1623-1992), and more than 6,000 family Bible records.

*Reprinted from the Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter, Number 242, May 2004. Originally found in the Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County Newsletter, January 2004.*

~ THINGS HAVE CHANGED DEPARTMENT ~

**FASHION NOTES – MARCH 1871**

**from the Nashville Journal**

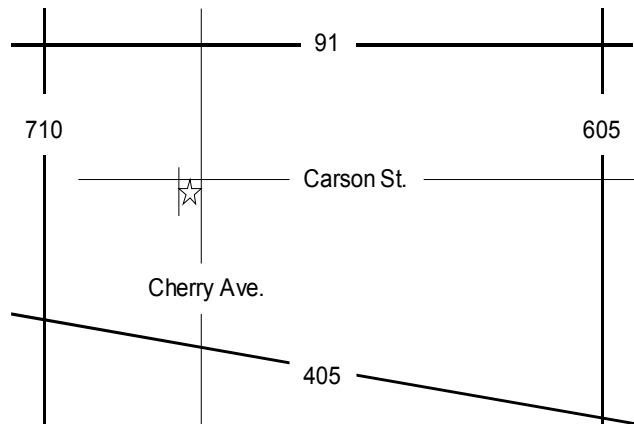
**Nashville, Washington County, Illinois**

- ♦ Hoop skirts are growing smaller.
- ♦ The glove muff is neither useful nor ornamental.
- ♦ The material this season for ladies out-doors suits is velveteen.
- ♦ Pearl ornaments for brides are gradually superseding diamonds.
- ♦ A sealskin overcoat was sold last month on Broadway for four hundred dollars.
- ♦ Nilsson collars, of fine lace, worn over light ribbons, are considered beautiful.
- ♦ Kid gloves, of heavy textures, are worn by sensible women for the promenade.
- ♦ Nothing but the script style is in vogue for wedding invitations and visiting cards.
- ♦ Very beautiful articles in lace are now made without any ground. No network is used.
- ♦ The stylish slipper for gentlemen is made of fine black cloth, with a light embroidery in gold.
- ♦ Chinchilla, beaver and melton overcoats are made sacque shape, and with small velvet collars.
- ♦ English weddings and breakfast parties find favor among our people, and will be numerous this season.
- ♦ Flat gold opera chains are one of the latest holiday novelties produced by jewelers. Pretty, but rather expensive.
- ♦ Very useful and convenient is the new invention just patented; a wire spring to hold ladies' veils to their bonnets.
- ♦ High-heeled boots for ladies are still the fashion, although they are made somewhat broader and have metallic tips.
- ♦ German lace caps are worn in the morning by young married ladies. They are jaunty, stylish, and generally becoming.
- ♦ "King William" overcoats have been introduced in this city and in London. They have a deep circular cape and collar.
- ♦ "Jennie June," who is authority on fashions, says: "No lady will promenade or appear on the street without a trail to her dress." Jennie is right.
- ♦ The very latest idea of ultra-fashionable ladies is to have their boots and shoes padded at the instep, so as to give the foot, at that point, a high and graceful curve.
- ♦ Ladies' fur slippers imitate ferret, fox easel, and other small heads. The tip of the foot is the nose (made of black satin), two enamel eyes shine out on either side and there is a pretty bow on the instep. These slippers have no heels and are lined with quilted satin.

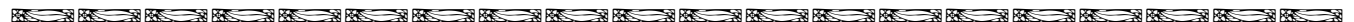
– Submitted by Richard Hoover

~ C A L E N D A R ~

- ♦ Saturday, July 3, 9:00am – 1:30pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations, including Geographic Finding Aids, Parts I & II with Connie Moretti.
- ♦ Saturday, July 17, 1:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Speaker: Lisa Schumacher. Topic: Finding your Family in the 1930 Census.
- ♦ **Sunday, July 18, 1:15pm. 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, please see page 50.
- ♦ Wednesday, July 21, 6:30pm. Genealogy Society of North Orange County California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, corner of Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda.
- ♦ Wednesday, July 21, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ♦ Sunday, July 25, 1:00 -5:00pm. British Isles Family History Society general meeting. Los Angeles FHC.\* Speaker: Mary McKinnon. Topic: The Luck of the Irish, Good and Bad. Irish Study Group led by Nancy Bier.
- ♦ Wednesday, September 8 – Saturday, September 11. Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference. Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas. Theme: Legends Live Forever: Researching the Past for Future Generations. This genealogical extravaganza will be co-hosted by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Texas State Genealogical Society, and the Austin Genealogical Society. For more information: Federation of Genealogical Societies, P. O. Box 200940, Austin TX 78720-0940, <www.fgs.org>, phone 888-FGS-1500, email <fgs-office@fgs.org>.



*Any events coming up you'd like others to know about?  
Please contact the newsletter editor, Mike Powers, by phone at (562) 621-6631  
or by email at <lunalake@pobox.com> for inclusion in the newsletter.*



\*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, 10 am to 7 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.