



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 12 ♦ December 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, DECEMBER 19, 2004

Questing+Heirs+Holiday+Party

1:15

+Potluck+

2:30

**Installation+of+Officers
+Open+Microphone+**



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

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 29 Guests: 1



NEW MEMBER

Rose G. Lewis Individual 9/05



RENEWALS

Cathy Alberti	Sustaining	9/05
John Ballard	Family	9/05
Wanda Ballard	Family	9/05
Billie B. Beeler	Individual	9/05
Irene Brewer	Newsletter	9/05
Barbara D. Brown	Newsletter	9/05
Evelyn Coles	Individual	9/05
Cynthia Day-Elliott	Individual	9/05
Douglas Grant	Individual	9/05
Bernadette T. Keene	Individual	9/05
Jewell LaMoure	Contributing	9/05
Charlotte M. Llewellyn	Individual	9/05
Chuck Mitchell	Individual	9/05
Priscilla Nielsen	Patron	9/05
Beverly J. Plank	Individual	9/05
Michael E. Powers	individual	9/05
Joycelyn Proust	Contributing	9/05
Jack W. Rhodes	Individual	9/05
Tom Sanford	Individual	9/05
Mary Ellen Smith	Individual	9/05
Phyllis Strawn	Individual	9/05
Linda Wittman	Individual	9/05

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

Thank you to our November hosts:
Arlene Anderson
Jeanette Jones
Sandy Hollandsworth Swanson
Tina Yanis

Our December hosts will be:
You!

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

October Income	\$ 1665.52
October Expenses	152.60
Balance	\$ 2945.40

~NEWSLETTER~
Mike POWERS (562) 621-6631

We are still desperate for submissions to the newsletter. Your article doesn't have to be long or serious or scholarly – just in your own words.

We'd also be happy to print notice of any upcoming events you know of that would be of interest to family historians, as well as your own triumphs or personal milestones.

~DECEMBER MEETING~

The members of Questing Heirs get their chance to shine at our December meeting!



POTLUCK

Our annual holiday party will kick off at 1:15 pm with a potluck luncheon. Please bring a dish that reflects your family or your heritage. A card with your name and the name of your dish, along with a little background information on it, would be a real bonus.

If you have any questions, please contact Georgie (Peterson) Lyons by phone at (562) 432-4908.



OUR MICROPHONE IS OPEN FOR YOU!

Most of our December meeting is reserved for you, our members. Do you need help with a genealogical problem? Have you made a recent discovery that you want to share? Have you acquired an unusual heirloom you would like to show? Do you have an idea for the future of Questing Heirs? Then take advantage of our open microphone! The only condition is to keep it brief so that everyone will have a chance to contribute.

~P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E ~

✦A✦Project✦for✦Questing✦Heirs✦

Have you noticed? The resources for genealogical research on the internet are growing faster than ever. True, not all the information is reliable, and sometimes resources disappear almost as soon as we discover them. The index to Indiana marriages that I used to great effect last year has already been removed from the Indiana State Library website! So, we have to stay alert and make the best use of the information that becomes available.

One result of the explosion of information on the internet is that census research has been greatly simplified and extended – provided you can get past quirky search engines and transcription problems. But that was true even when we had to use microfilms of the Soundex cards and indexes published in books. Before that, in the days when there were almost no indexes at all, the task was even more daunting. Today,

there are more ways than ever to locate people in the US Censuses. Many of them are “completely” indexed by Ancestry.com or Heritage Quest. If the census indexes fail, there may be other resources, such as directories, state censuses, or transcriptions for the USGenWeb project.

While most of our members have probably found the census information they need for their research, there will always be exceptions. Real people (our ancestors) don't always obey the laws or our expectations. They may be listed under unexpected names, or they may have eluded the census-taker with more or less success. I know of a man who seems to have escaped detection on three successive censuses! He was an immigrant from French Alsace, so perhaps he was suspicious that the main reason for conducting a

census was to find men who could be drafted into military service or to impose new taxes on them. Another research problem was solved when a diary revealed that the family was traveling in 1860, and left town seven days before the census-taker arrived. Most of the time, however, our ancestors eventually can be found in every census, or else we can find a good reason why they were not counted.

I would like to propose a project for 2005. Let's apply our talents to helping our members find those unfindable census records. If you have an ancestor who stubbornly refuses to be found in one or more US Censuses, especially 1850 and later, please bring your research problem to our next meeting, or send us an e-mail or a letter.

✦John✦McCoy✦

~S O C I E T Y N E W S ~

QUESTING HEIRS ELECTIONS

In accordance with our by-laws, elections for three members of the Executive Board were held at the November meeting.

The Nominating Committee, made up of David Werts, Marilyn Brasher, and Cynthia Day-Elliott, had presented its slate of candidates at the October meeting. The slate consisted of:

- ◆ President: John McCoy
- ◆ Second Vice President – Membership: Jeanette Jones
- ◆ Corresponding Secretary: Elizabeth Myers

There were no other nominations from the floor at the October or November meeting. The elections were held, and we are glad to report that the slate was accepted unanimously by the membership.

The newly-elected officers will be installed at the December meeting.

We salute the outgoing board members for their service, and we thank the new board members for their continued willingness to serve Questing Heirs.

~ OF INTEREST ~

GIVING TREE FOR GENEALOGISTS
by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG

You know what we tell our children and grandchildren: "It is better to give than to receive." Here are some ways that we genealogists can give back to this wonderful hobby of ours:

- ◆ Donate genealogy books, CDs, and periodicals to our libraries.
- ◆ Give our time and talents and provide financial support to local genealogical and historical societies. They depend on us.
- ◆ Index a genealogy book or records compilation -- especially old county histories.
- ◆ Share our knowledge about research in a particular locality by posting the information on Web pages, message boards, or to genealogy newsgroups.
- ◆ Help a newbie online discover the joy of genealogy.
- ◆ Make copies of those family photographs and old home movies to share with our cousins.
- ◆ Create a family cookbook of old favorite recipes to give as a present to family members.
- ◆ Compile a family history and publish it in 2005.
- ◆ If that is too large a project, compile what we have on one of our grandparents or great-grandparents and share that chapter of the family history with our relatives.
- ◆ Start or join a surname mailing list and share our data with others.
- ◆ Update our GEDCOMs to make sharing easier and faster in 2005.
- ◆ Create a personal home page on the Web and post our genealogy data to make it easily accessed by online genealogists.
- ◆ Join the "Friends of _____" (state archives and libraries).
- ◆ Compile some (any) records that a genealogist might use and publish them -- in print or electronically or both.
- ◆ Do random deeds of kindness to librarians, archivists, county clerks and other officials with whom we come in contact this year in pursuit of our roots.

Previously published in Missing Links, Volume 2, Number 2, 19 December 1997. Subscription information available at <<http://www.petuniapress.com>>.

CREATE A FAMILY CALENDAR

An Ancestry.com quick tip, submitted by Joseph Burke II:

For the past three years, I've been preparing a family calendar for my parents for a Christmas present. I make them on the computer and print it out on my printer. Each year has become a little fancier. The first year, I just had family photos for each year, but last year, I added birth dates and anniversaries to the calendar, along with different quotes for each month, that go along with something that may be happening that month. For example, July included a patriotic saying from Benjamin Franklin and each month would be different.

I have received many compliments on the calendars from people who have seen them. The only problem is what I'll do to make the next calendar different, bigger, and hopefully better. They make great Christmas presents and are fun to make.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATION

Another Ancestry.com quick tip, submitted by Jane Lynch of Battle Ground, Washington:

I greatly enjoy the quick tips and they always seem to come in handy. I have another idea to share when it comes to identifying photographs. We took a family photo at my grandmother's 100th birthday party several years ago. Everyone got an 8x10 enlargement as a keepsake. I wanted to remember who was there but didn't want to write on the back of the photo, so I slipped the photo into a plastic sheet protector. With a black marker I outlined everyone's head and numbered them on the sheet protector. Then, on a separate piece of paper, I wrote everyone's names corresponding to their number and slipped that in behind the photo. That way I always know who is who and don't have to endanger the photograph by writing on it.

Ancestry.com quick tips are copyright 1998-2004, MyFamily.com Inc. and its subsidiaries. Subscription information at <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>.

~ O F I N T E R E S T , c o n t i n u e d ~

**SAHYUN LIBRARY
SANTA BARBARA**

In the Central Coast area, the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society's Sahyun Library has a rapidly expanding collection. One of their latest acquisitions is microfilm of the "Emigrant Savings Bank Records 1841-1945." This bank in New York City served primarily Irish immigrants, but other ethnicities used their service as well. The eight rolls of film purchased by the library are the principal ones of interest to genealogists. Information in the records is likely to include: birth date, place of origin, parents' names, siblings names, etc. The Sahyun Library has the only set west of Denver and Salt Lake City. (These films do not circulate from the Family History Library to Family History Centers.)

The Sahyun Library also has probably the best State of Maine collection for genealogists in Southern California, numbering over 300 volumes of vital records, town histories, cemetery listings, etc. for the state. An even larger collection exists for Massachusetts.

For Scandinavian researchers, the library has the two-CD set of indexes to Swedish emigrants from nine Northern European ports.

The British section contains over two hundred volumes of English records published by the Harleian Society.

Also of special interest are the twenty volumes of abstracts of the Hungarian Land Census for 1828,

which will be catalogued soon.

The Sahyun Library is located at 316 Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, and is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00am to 3:00pm, and Sundays from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Their phone number is (805) 884-9909.

Posted 24 Feb 2004 to the RootsWeb California State Genealogical Alliance mailing list <CSGAIL@rootsweb.com> by Jan Cloud. Submitted by Liz Myers.



**SCGS 1890 PROJECT
NEEDS YOUR HELP**

Chuck Mitchell received an email from Paula Hinkel of the Southern California Genealogical Society, a portion of which is reprinted here:

"We are spearheading an effort to recreate the 1890 Census for Los Angeles County. Our project will involve an every-local-name index of the Los Angeles Times for the entire year, similar projects for the Pasadena and other local newspapers, city directory, immigration, vital records, cemetery listings, etc. It's a huge project and we are hoping that other area organizations will be interested in working on records in their particular part of the county. Long Beach is a perfect partner for our project."

If you would like to get involved in this project, or if you would simply like to know more about it, please contact Paula Hinkel at

<phinkel@pacbell.net>.



**ONE GENEALOGICAL
TASK A DAY**

I often get overwhelmed with all that I want to accomplish in my research and find that my time is limited. To keep the ball rolling, I have made it a priority to complete one genealogical task a day. It can be writing a letter, making a phone call, filing a paper, or just browsing through one of my binders. It may only seem like a little step, but together they add up to bigger ones over the span of a week or so.

An Ancestry.com quick tip, submitted by Pam Sanchez of Oregon. Reprinted from Ancestry Daily News, 27 January 2004. Copyright 1998-2004, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Subscription information available at: <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>.



**LOS ANGELES F. H. C.
TO BE CLOSED
OVER THE HOLIDAYS**

If you are planning to do any research at the Family History Center in West Los Angeles over the holidays (as I was!), John McCoy has heard that they will be closed for several days. So be sure to check their hours before you go. You can reach them by phone at (310) 474-9990, or visit their web page at <<http://www.lafhc.org/>>.

~ O N T H E W E B ~

QUESTING HEIRS MAILING LIST
<CA-LONG-BEACH-QHGS-L@rootsweb.com>

We have created a RootsWeb mailing list for Questing Heirs. The name of the list is CA-LONG-BEACH-QHGS-L. (It's clunky, I know, but we are hoping that including our location will help people find us. And you'll only have to type it once!)

We envision the list as a way to communicate with members between newsletters, and as a place for members to keep in touch between meetings.

To subscribe to the list, all you need to do is send an email to <CA-LONG-BEACH-QHGS-L-request@rootsweb.com>. The body of the message should contain the word "subscribe" (without the quotes) and nothing else.

If you prefer to subscribe in digest mode, where all the messages for one day are sent in a single email, then address the email to <CA-LONG-BEACH-QHGS-D-request@rootsweb.com> instead.

If all goes well, you'll receive a message welcoming you to the list and containing further instructions on how to post, unsubscribe, etc.

You can also write to the list administrator at <CA-LONG-BEACH-QHGS-admin@lists5.rootsweb.com> if you need any further help.



**QUESTING HEIRS
WEBSITE UPDATED**
<<http://www.cagenweb.com/questing/>>

Our web page has a new look! Visit <<http://www.cagenweb.com/questing/index.html>> and see for yourself.

We can use your help in making our web page better. We would like to expand our links page – especially the "personal pages" section. So if you have any of your genealogical work already online, please give us the URL and we'll link to your site. See Mike Powers at the meeting or write to <lunalake@pobox.com>.

WASHINGTON STATE DIGITAL ARCHIVES
<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/>

Visitors to the site can see returns from the first election in Washington Territory in 1854 and census records from 1847 to 1892. Also available are some historical prison records and a list of the bodies moved from McNeil Island and buried in other cemeteries in 1937 and 1938. The only modern data on the site currently are recent marriage records from Chelan, Snohomish and Spokane counties. Other county records, including property information, will be added later, according to officials. The archives' digital storage system, which could eventually grow to 800 terabytes – the equivalent of 200 billion pages of text – was developed by Microsoft and EDS (Electronic Data Systems).

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 13 October 2004, Vol. 7, No. 41.



NATIONAL DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROGRAM
<<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/ndnp.html>>

The Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities recently signed a memorandum of understanding to work cooperatively towards the goal of developing a national digital resource of select public domain U. S. newspapers. This new National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) will combine the legacy of the highly successful United States Newspaper Program (USNP), a catalog of over 140,000 newspaper titles, 450,000 union list holding records, and more than 65 million pages microfilmed through the participation of more than 50 different institutions, with new technology to digitally convert from microfilm and freely deliver to users 30 million newspaper pages published between 1836 to 1923.

The NDNP will build on the USNP foundation by creating rich digital newspaper content with high research value and broad geographic and temporal coverage. It represents an expansion of the American story begun by American Memory at the Library of Congress. The NDNP will complement the Library's work by drawing on the vast number of newspapers only collected at the state and local level.

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

**CENTRAL DATABASE OF
SHOAH VICTIMS' NAMES**
<<http://www.yadvashem.org/>>

A remarkable database has just been added to the Internet. It is a collection of detailed information about more than three million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. Called the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, but for the tragedy that created it, it is a genealogical gold mine. It was developed by Yad Vashem, the principal Holocaust memorial and archives located in Jerusalem.

The majority of documents in the database are known as Pages of Testimony, a manuscript collection created over the past fifty years by Yad Vashem from family members who stated (gave testimony) that their family member was murdered in the Holocaust. The submitter was asked to provide the victim's name, maiden name if a married woman, year of birth, name of parents, place of birth, place of residence before the Holocaust, place of death, name of spouse including maiden name, and names and ages of children who perished. It is virtually a three-generation chart. The document also includes the name and address of the

submitter and relationship to the deceased.

Jewish genealogists throughout the world already are discovering in the database family members who perished in the Holocaust that were previously known only by familial relationship (e.g., a grandfather's brother). They are also finding that the persons who submitted the Pages of Testimony are sometimes family members previously not known to have survived.

There are two search facilities: the basic search that appears on the initial screen and an advanced search. The basic search permits the user to search by last name, first name and place. The advanced search allows access to most fields on the Page of Testimony.

The system automatically uses a synonym feature that is very valuable. Yad Vashem has compiled a list of both last and first names and determined which are synonyms of the other. In one example, searching for a person whose name was Rose, identified women whose given names were Raizel, Reize, Riscl, Raizela, Royze, Roza, Roze and Ruza. The last-name search feature automatically

includes searching for maiden name. You can even search by submitter name.

Originally published in UpFront with NGS, The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society, Volume 3, Number 23, 1 December 2004. Contributed by Gary Mokotff. Subscription information at <<http://www.NGSGenealogy.org/upfront.htm>>.



**1840 U. S. CENSUS INDEX
LINKED TO IMAGES**
<<http://www.ancestry.com>>

Ancestry.com has created a new index for the 1840 U.S. Federal Censuses. Ancestry.com has now replaced the AIS indexes that were previously available, and we believe these new indexes represent a significant improvement in accuracy and coverage. Images are linked to the new indexes and can now be viewed using the Ancestry.com Advanced Viewer.

Reprinted from Ancestry Daily News, 30 November 2004. Copyright 1998-2004, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

~ H U M O R ~

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS -- GENEALOGY STYLE

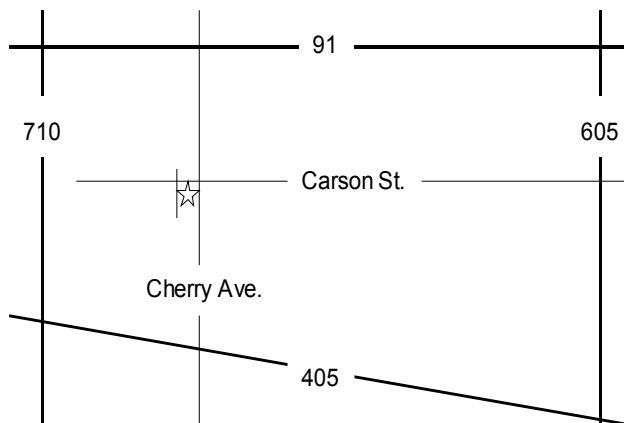
On the Twelfth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me:
Twelve census searches,
Eleven printer ribbons,
Ten e-mail contacts,
Nine headstone rubbings,
Eight birth and death dates,

Seven town clerks sighing,
Six second cousins,
Five coats of arms,
Four GEDCOM files,
Three old wills,
Two CD-ROMs,
And a branch in my family tree.

Submitted by Liz Myers, who found it on the RootsWeb GenHumor-L mailing list. To subscribe to this list, send an email with just the word "subscribe" (without the quotes) in the body to <GenHumor-L@rootsweb.com>.

~CALENDAR~

- ◆ Friday, December 10, 5:30 – 8:00pm. British Isles Family History Society - USA Annual Holiday Potluck Party. Los Angeles FHC.* See <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/meetings.html>> for more information.
- ◆ Saturday, December 11, 11:00am – 4:00pm. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California. Annual meeting and celebration of their 40th anniversary.
- ◆ Saturday, December 18, 12:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Annual Christmas Potluck Luncheon and Show & Tell. Contacts: Registration & Food: Miriam, phone (562) 695-5431. Show & Tell: Stephen Yung, phone (562) 928-9004, email <stefyung@aol.com>.
- ◆ **Sunday, December 19, 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 more information, see page 90.
- ◆ Saturday, January 8, 2005, 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. There is a \$5.00 charge for all workshops, except for Basic Genealogy.
- ◆ Monday, January 10 – Friday, January 15. Utah Genealogical Association presents the tenth annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Wyndham Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- ◆ Thursday, January 20 – Saturday, January 22. National Genealogical Society Conference. Wyndham Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix, Arizona.
- ◆ Saturday, February 26, 2005. 9:00am – 4:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society presents its 22nd annual Seminar. Guest speaker Dr. Gary Shumway, Ph. D., historian.
- ◆ Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14, 2005. Southern California Genealogical Society presents its 36th annual Jamboree & Resource Expo at the Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel & Convention Center.



*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.