

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 38, ✦ Number 11 ✦ November 2005

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102
<http://www.qhgs.info/>

MONTHLY MEETING: third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p.m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach

✦

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2005

12:45	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research
	Period	
1:15		INTERMEDIATE: Evaluating Evidence presented by John McCoy

2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:15	Business	
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2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER <i>Beth McCarty</i> <i>Hidden Sources for British Research:</i> <i>Using Smith's Inventories</i>
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IN THIS ISSUE

<i>October Reports</i>	82
<i>President's Message: Patience and Persistence by John McCoy</i>	83
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	84
<i>Methods</i>	85
<i>On the Web</i>	86
<i>Of Interest</i>	87
<i>Calendar</i>	88

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

Thanks to our October hosts:
 Liz (Stookesberry) MYERS Tina YANIS
 Rose (Gallo) LEWIS Richard HOOVER

Our November hosts will be:
 Jeanette JONES Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT
 Marilyn (Delonjay) BRASHER Tina YANIS

FINANCIAL REPORT
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

September Income	\$ 1,087.50
September Expenses	71.64
Operations Balance	\$ 6,559.99
Investment Balance	20,277.20

We are pleased to announce that we have just received our portion of the final distribution from Betty Marr's estate, which amounts to another \$3,896.38.

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This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold. Those who are unable to attend our meetings but wish to subscribe to the newsletter may purchase a newsletter-only membership for \$12.00 a year. To join, please contact us using the address on the front page.

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

OCTOBER MEETING ATTENDANCE
 Members: 30 Guests: 3

NEW MEMBER
 Dagmar MUTHAMIA Individual 9/06

RENEWALS

Barbara CARY	Individual	9/06
Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT	Individual	9/06
John FOORD	Sustaining	9/06
Kathryn FOORD	Sustaining	9/06
Helen GORING	Individual	9/06
Norma GRADY	Individual	9/06
Douglas GRANT	Individual	9/06
Patrick HORAN	Individual	9/06
Ginny HUMPHRIES	Individual	9/06
Douglas JORDAN	Individual	9/06
Brenda KNEPPER	Individual	9/06
Charlotte LLEWELLYN	Individual	9/06
John McCOY	Patron	9/06
Priscilla NIELSEN	Patron	9/06
Beverly PLANK	Individual	9/06
Michael POWERS	Individual	9/06
Jacqueline SPOHR	Individual	9/06
Cheryl TARDIF	Individual	9/06
James WESTON	Individual	9/06
Connie WILLIAMS	Individual	9/06

Questing Heirs yearly dues are due on September 1st. See the back page of this newsletter for membership levels.

DON'T FORGET TO
*** V O T E ***
NOVEMBER 8TH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE

by John McCoy

Some of the long-standing questions in my research were answered recently. “Long-standing” means over 30 years, in some cases, back when a long-lost cousin contacted me with information about my McCoy ancestors in Brown County, Illinois. I should rephrase that—*they* were not lost; it was my branch of the family that had failed to keep in touch for about the past three generations! My cousins presented me with a set of Bible records for the family of John Wingate McCoy (1794–1877) and his wife Elizabeth Smith (1810–1880), as well as those of the family of Elizabeth’s parents, Reuben Smith (1767–1840) and his first wife Sarah Beach Clark (1773–1834). Reuben and Sarah arrived in Adams County, Ohio, about 1803 from somewhere in Pennsylvania. We wondered where they had come from, and so I took on the task of tracing the descendants of their eleven children who survived to adulthood, in hopes of turning up some clues.

These Smith’s were hard to find! Their marriages were all in the early records of Adams County, Ohio, but some of them left the area soon after, and most of them had common names. Even when the family still had some excellent clues, as in the case of John B. Smith (1792–1849), it took years of research before I finally picked up the trail. Now, the last of the children of Reuben and Sarah has been found.

Mary Ann Smith (1805–1892) was born in Ohio, the ninth child of Reuben and Sarah. She married Thomas McCoy in 1825, but which one? I searched the census records and found at least four different Thomas McCoy’s nearby. None had a wife Mary Ann in the 1850 census.

So, how did I finally locate the correct Thomas McCoy family? It was a coincidence. I was reviewing Y-chromosome DNA profiles for the McCoy surname when I happened to find two samples that matched closely enough to be considered related. One was from a descendant of a Thomas McCoy of Highland County, Ohio, and the other from somewhere in South Carolina. Now, if someone had traced his ancestry back to a Thomas in Highland County, I figured I should be able to find the details on the internet. Surely enough, the family was in the RootsWeb “World Connect” project. But while searching for a Thomas from Highland County, I found another one whose wife was Mary Ann Smith! Not only that, she had the right birth date! Now it was clear why I had not been able to find them earlier. The family did not stay put. They had moved around Ohio, and then to Clark County, Illinois, and adjacent Vigo County, Indiana---the same area where parts of my Bryant family lived. Right there under my nose the whole time! That McCoy family seems not to know Mary Ann’s parentage. As soon as I can track down a living descendant, I look forward to telling them about the rest of the family!

There was enough information on Thomas McCoy to assure me that he is probably not related to my John Wingate McCoy. I have not yet searched for an obituary for Mary Ann; so it is too early to know if her family preserved any details of her origins. But I feel a sense of accomplishment. Yes, it is even possible, with sufficient patience, to track down a Smith family. One of the basic tenets of genealogy is shown once again to be true: *Everybody has got to be someplace!* If you are persistent enough, if you maintain the search long enough, they will turn up!

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

NOVEMBER MEETING

BEGINNING CLASS

This class will be held at 12:45 p.m. in the board room again this month for those who need help getting started with their genealogical research.

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS:
EVALUATING EVIDENCE**

John McCoy will tell us what to do when we receive a packet of genealogical papers collected by someone long dead. Gain first-hand experience in dealing with this common problem. Join us for a group exercise using recently discovered research notes for a DAR application from the 1920's.

SPEAKER: BETH McCARTY

Beth McCarty holds a Bachelors Degree in Education from Cal State Long Beach and a California teaching credential. She is Past President of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is currently Director of the Orange Regional Family History Center. She has been researching English records for over 20 years. Her ancestry comes from England, Ireland, Denmark and Norway.



VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Sandra Hollandsworth for volunteering to help with preparing the monthly newsletters for mailing.

Now we would like to find some volunteers with creative ideas to plan our holiday party at the December meeting.

ELECTION

At the November meeting we will be electing three officers to serve for the next two years. Currently, the following members have been nominated:

- First Vice-President: Chuck Mitchell
- Recording Secretary: Mike Powers
- Treasurer: Dave Werts

Nominations will be accepted from the floor, but any candidates must agree in advance to stand for election and must meet qualifications set forth in the Society Bylaws.



T-SHIRTS

For those of you who were not able to pick up your "My Roots Are Here" t-shirts at the October meeting, Cynthia will have them available again at the November meeting.



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL FHC

Using a form on their website (www.larfhc.org) you can now order microfilms to be used at their center through the mail. If you want to use this option, John McCoy has an improved (and approved) form you can use in Microsoft Word format; so you can just type in the required information, print the form, attach a check, and put it in the mail. This is an experiment that might not be continued; but from the patron's point of view, it is a great step forward. We're still waiting for the day when you can just select items from the Family History Library catalog and have the rental fees charged to your credit card without stopping to fill out paper forms. The LARFHC will be closed Thanksgiving Day but open at 10:00 a.m. on November 25.

METHODS

CALCULATING BIRTHDATES

Frequently you will find the age of the deceased on a tombstone or in an obituary, but you will be left with the task of figuring out when the person was born.

Genealogy programs, such as Personal Ancestral File, provide a tool for calculating birthdates, and you can also use the following websites for that purpose:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigreen/BirthdateCalculator.htm>

<http://www.timeanddate.com/date/calculatoruses.html#findbirth>

<http://www.longislandgenealogy.com/birth.html>

If you have to do the calculating on your own, try this method...

When age is given in years, months, and days, subtract age at death from the date of death. For instance, if a person died July 10, 1899 at age 87 years, 6 months, 3 days:

Year	Month	Day	
1899	7	10	
- 87	- 6	- 3	
1812	1	7	= born January 7, 1812

When days and/or months are less than age being subtracted, borrow one month and/or year. Suppose a person died March 18, 1882, age 96 years, 6 months, 25 days.

In this case, March = 31 days. Borrow 31 days from the month column, leaving 2 months. The days, 31 + 18, are then 49. Subtract a year from 1882, and add those 12 months to the remaining 2 months. Then 14 months - 6 = 8th month, August.

1881 1882	12+2=14	31+18=49	
- 96	- 6	- 25	
1785	8	24	= born August 24, 1785

Taken from *The Treeseacher*, vol. XXIV, #1, Spring 1982.



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

With all the disasters around the world in the news recently, have you thought about how you would protect the genealogical research you've worked on so diligently for so many years? Do you have the most important things identified and placed where you can get hold of them quickly? Have you placed copies of pedigree charts, family group sheets, etc., in safe places away from your home? Think about it!

ON THE WEB

DEATH INDEXES & RECORDS

<http://www.deathindexes.com>

This website is a directory of online death indexes that includes death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, probate indexes, and cemetery and burial records.

It contains links for every state, and at each state link you will find other links to records at the state level and also links to records at various county levels where they exist.

FAMILY GROUP SHEETS ONLINE

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usfgs>

Rootsweb provides a site for the U.S. Gen Web Family Group Sheet Project where you can submit information on an Electronic Group Sheet Form. These sheets are filed under the father's name; so they also encourage you to submit a sheet for your mother's surname, too. There are coordinators for every state.

The project does not accept GEDCOMs, but a link is provided where you can download a free version of the Legacy genealogical program and instructions for converting GEDCOM files into family group sheets.

You can also Search the site for family group sheets pertaining to surnames in which you are interested.

NET SNIPPETS

[<http://www.netsnippets.com>](http://www.netsnippets.com)

An Ancestry.com Quick Tip by Staff Writer, Tom:

I ran across a really useful piece of software for doing research on the Internet. Often, when you run across a site with good info you bookmark it, and then later you can't remember why it was of interest. Another problem occurs when you

copy a bit from a website into a document, but forget to record a reference to the original URL and cannot find it again.

I just discovered a program called Net Snippets that solves these problems and makes it easy to organize your Internet finds "on the fly." It becomes especially useful when you are searching for info on one fact or person and run across something unrelated to the current search that you want to be able to follow up later.

Net Snippets lets you copy a bit from a page for later reference along with the URL of the page, and to add your own comments, all in one convenient place for later reference. The saved references can be organized in folders to make them easy to find.

It functions from within your browser and works with IE, Netscape, Mozilla, and Firefox. Not only that, a snippet save via one browser is available for reference from any of the others. Best of all, there is a free version of the program that includes enough features to make it a really useful research tool.

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An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't.

Anatole France

OF INTEREST

IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS PROJECT

<<http://immigrants.byu.edu>>

“The Immigrant Ancestors Project,” sponsored by the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University, uses emigration records in emigrant home countries to locate the birthplaces of immigrants which are missing on many port records and naturalization documents in arrival countries. Volunteers working with scholars and researchers at Brigham Young University are creating a database of millions of immigrants based on these emigration records. Student interns from Brigham Young University work on the identification, classification and acquisition of emigration records from European countries available in archives in Europe and in other libraries and repositories. Volunteers receive, via Internet, a batch of digital copies of emigration documents to extract using software provided by the Immigrant Ancestors Project. They, then, send the extracted batch back to IAP staff for verification. Once verified, the data is added to a database of emigrants. IAP is comprised now of eight country projects dealing with records from the following countries: England and Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and Portugal.”

Records used include:

- Passport Register Books
- Passport Application Files
- Official Provincial Bulletins
- Passenger Lists
- Emigration Police Case Files
- Consular Records
- Municipal Emigration Requests and Approvals
- Municipal Emigrant Registers and Forms
- Emigration Consents
- Captain-Passenger Contracts
- Individual notarized documents

By Leandro Soria, 2005 FGS/UGA Conference Syllabus, pp. 231-232.

U. S. NEWSPAPER PROGRAM

<<http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html>>

The United States Newspaper Program is a cooperative national effort among the states and the federal government to locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present. Funding is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Technical assistance is furnished by the Library of Congress.

The USNP has supported projects in each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Each project is conducted by a single organization within a state or territory, usually the state’s largest newspaper repository. A project’s staff inventories holdings in public libraries, county courthouses, newspaper offices, historical museums, college and university libraries, archives, and historical societies. Catalog records are entered into a national database maintained by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and accessible through more than 43,500 dedicated computer terminals worldwide. Microfilm copies of newspapers are generally available to researchers anywhere in the country through inter-library loan.

In addition to state projects, the Endowment has funded the cataloging of newspapers at eight national repositories: American Antiquarian Society, Center for Research Libraries, Kansas State Historical Society, Library of Congress, New York Public Library, New York Historical Society, Rutgers University, Western Reserve Historical Society, and Wisconsin Historical Society.

The above website provides links to each state so you can find out what historical newspapers are available in the area of your interest.

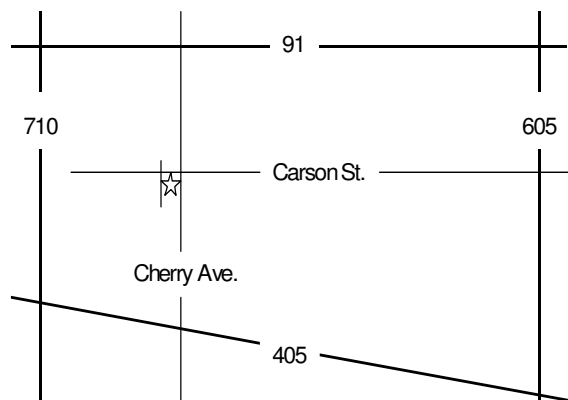
C A L E N D A R

Saturday, November 12, program at 1:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society, SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: "Forensic Genealogy" by Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD.

Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. The general meeting of the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society features Dr. Roland King on "California's Participation in the Civil War." Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., in Torrance.

Saturday, November 19, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Program: "Pioneer Cuisine of California: 1800s to early 1900s" by Elizabeth Cox.

Sunday, November 20, 1:15-3:30 p.m. Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. Parking and entrance on Gardenia Avenue, one block west of Cherry Avenue. See map below. For meeting information, please see page 84.



Sunday, November 27, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society–USA general meeting. Los Angeles Regional FHC*. "Sharing Your Family History Experiences"

Saturday, December 3, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main program: "Researching Military Records" by Randy Thompson of the National Archives.

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WAGS SEMINAR - FEBRUARY 25, 2006

The Whittier Area Genealogical Society is sponsoring its annual all-day seminar on the above date with Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, head of the Genealogy Department of the Dallas, Texas, Public Library, as the speaker. His four topics will be:

- When You Can't Find Birth and Death Records
- Citizenship Issues in the British North American Colonies
- Lesser Used Genealogical Records
- From German Villages to American Settlements, 1683-1783

Greenleaf Masonic Temple; advance registration fee \$30 before 2/18. For more information, contact Barbara Wilks at 562-696-5915 or by e-mail at barbwilks@earthlink.net.

*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 Regional FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LARFHC 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.larfhc.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.