

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 39. ✦ Number 4 ✦ April 2006

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, APRIL 23, 2006

12:45	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research
	Period	
1:15		INTERMEDIATE: Recent Finds!
		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:
		Sharon Deveaux
		Preserving All Those Photographs
		...from the very old to the very new...

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APRIL MEETING

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!

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**BASIC CLASS:
BEGINNING FAMILY RESEARCH**

Liz Myers or Chuck Mitchell will meet with interested beginners from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. in the Board Room, which is next to the Meeting Room.

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS:
RECENT FINDS!**

John McCoy will lead a session of “crowing” about our recent discoveries, especially those made possible by “new technology.” Has the Internet given you instant genealogical gratification? Share your success with us! Please limit your contributions to recent discoveries only; we’re trying to illustrate how the new technology has changed the way we work.

SPEAKER: SHARON DEVEAUX

Sharon has worked as a photographer for many years with film and paper and now with digital and computer. As a photographer she has done much copy and restoration work of old photographs for individuals. She worked as the photographer at the National Maritime Museum and as photographer’s assistant at the Asian Art Museum, both in San Francisco. She has a Masters of Art degree in Museum Studies with an emphasis in preservation of historical photograph collections. She is currently the Archivist for the Secular Franciscan Order in the USA, which has many types of photographs associated with archival documents.

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

February Income	\$ 151.28
February Expenses	399.35
Operations Balance	\$ 9,982.89

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

Thanks to our March hosts:
Linda ARTUSO Sandra HOLLANDSWORTH
Georgie Peterson LYONS Tina YANIS

Our April hosts will be:
Lizzie COOK Liz MYERS
Cheryl TARDIF Connie WILLIAMS

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

MARCH MEETING ATTENDANCE
Members: 34 Guests: 6

NEW MEMBER
Peggy L. BOYD Individual 9/06

RENEWALS
Patricia M. KINGSLEY Newsletter 9/08
Jackie RILEY Newsletter 9/07

**HAPPY
EASTER**

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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.

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

Notes from the Genealogist's Workshop

As soon as our March meeting was out of the way, I declared a genealogical emergency. Vast amounts of information arrived all at once from several different states and two foreign countries. Order is only now being restored, and the stacks of papers waiting to be filed have reached a precarious height.

What happened is instructive. Thanks to e-mail and the Internet, we can work with distant genealogists in new ways. We can get results faster than we can process the data. I can e-mail my researcher in Bern, Switzerland, with new information I found only a few minutes ago on the Internet sites of the archives in Fribourg, Lausanne, or Basel, pointing to an important 16th Century manuscript at the Burgerbibliothek in Bern. The very next day, my researcher was at the library copying as much as she could (the manuscript could not be photographed). Twenty-four hours later, I had a stunning compilation of new data in German and Latin about my Gachet family, including a long list of relatives from many of the important families of Bern and Fribourg. With the new names, and precious marriage and death dates recorded nowhere else, I could finally put more of the pieces together. I went through my research notes on the records of the notaries in French-speaking Switzerland to find all of the previously mysterious passages that now made perfect sense. I sent my findings back to my researcher, so she would have the whole picture.

Meanwhile, in France, an enthusiastic researcher was copying old books and papers for me. Her package arrived in short order, and I was surprised to recognize her ancestral families in the same 16th Century manuscript that involved my Gachet family. That led me back to the Internet and the microfilm collection of the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center. I had uncovered a web of relationships that involved many of the important families of the day in four different Swiss cantons, all linked by marriage.

At the same time, a cousin in Westminster traveled to Washington, DC, to explore the DAR library—more discoveries! Another cousin made contact with a relative who agreed to submit a DNA sample for our Bryant family. Another cousin stepped up to donate a sample for our Baird family. Still another cousin made a quick trip to Indianapolis and e-mailed obituaries for our Moore family. More microfilms arrived, and I was knee-deep in French and German church records from a town in Alsace.

It would be almost reasonable to have this much information coming in every week, if I did not have a job and if I were of a selfish nature. But in the event, each new batch of data required me to send out my analysis, Ahnentafel, or register report, as well as update my web sites. I have come to believe there is such a thing as too much genealogical information! Those papers must absolutely be organized and filed!

It would be a pity if you had a week like this and couldn't tell anyone about it! Therefore, at our meeting on April 23rd, we will use the intermediate class period for a session of “crowing” about recent finds, especially those that happened as a result of “new” technology. Please use your new technology to contact me at RealMac@aol.com, or call me at 562-437-4337, if you want to participate!

by John McCoy

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

**MARY FRANCES
REGER WILKINSON
1909-2006**

Mary Frances, a long-time resident of Belmont Heights, died in Long Beach at the age of 96 on February 24, 2006. She was born in Davis City, Decatur County, Iowa on October 17, 1909, a descendant of pioneer families.

She and her brother, Charles Kenneth Reger, began their education in a one-room rural school in Decatur County, being taught by their Aunt Lois Rudibaugh Shelton. In 1924 the Reger family moved to Iowa City, where Mary Frances attended Iowa City High School, graduated from the University of Iowa, and subsequently earned a Masters Degree in Social Work. She was affiliated with the Kappa Delta National Sorority for over 75 years.

From 1930-36, she was with the Iowa City Unified School District and, from 1936-42, the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station at the University of Iowa. From 1942-46, she was involved in the World War II effort with the American National Red Cross (Military and Naval Welfare Dept.) and later with the Long Beach American Red Cross Home Service. She retired in 1974 after 27 years of service with the Los Angeles County Children's Services and the California Department of Social Welfare (Adoptions).

After her retirement, Mary Frances became deeply involved in various volunteer services (26 years with Long Beach Memorial Hospital) and genealogy research. [She was a member of *Questing Heirs* from 1985 until her death.] She compiled the *Ancestral Record Book—Reger Ellis/Rudibaugh Craig and Those Who Joined by Marriage*, which she donated to the Leon Public Library in Decatur County, Iowa, on her 90th birthday.

The above from her obituary in the Press-Telegram.

HANK JONES LECTURE

On May 21 *Questing Heirs Genealogical Society* will be presenting our first “Betty Marie Marr Memorial Lecture,” featuring Henry Z. (“Hank”) Jones, Jr.

Hank Jones started climbing his family tree when he was eight years old and has been a professional genealogist since 1965. You may have recognized his name from his 25-year career as an actor in films and television. Having earned a BA in Communications from Stanford University in 1963, he went on to appear in a number of Walt Disney films, as well as others. Beginning his television career on the *Tennessee Ernie Ford* show, roles followed in *My Three Sons*, the *Patty Duke Show*, and a number of comedies in the 1960's and 1970's.

In 1981 Hank retired from “on-camera acting” to devote more time to his first love of genealogical research. Perhaps his greatest contribution to genealogists has been his extensive work on the background of German immigrants from the Palatinate—first those who moved to Ireland and then the 847 families who settled in colonial New York. In all, he has written 7 books, which will be available for purchase on May 21.

Currently he is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists (FASG), a distinguished title limited to 50 worldwide. He has received an Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society, is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and a charter member of the Genealogical Speaker's Guild.

We will need a few volunteers to keep things running smoothly on the day of the lecture, which will begin at 1:15 p.m. at the Resurrection Lutheran Church. We will need helpers to direct guests from the parking lot to the church sanctuary, to assist in setting up Hank Jones' book table, to help with refreshments, etc.

N E W S

CYNDI'S LIST IS TEN

<http://www.CyndisList.com/decade.htm>

On March 4, 1996, *Cyndi's List* started out with 1 page, 1,025 links, a handful of categories, and just one caretaker. Today, 10 years after its creation, *Cyndi's List* has:

- 251,235 total links
- 242,672 categorized links
- 8,563 "What's New" links submitted by visitors
- 684 individual web pages
- Visits through the front page: more than 43 million
- An average of 2 million page hits each month
- 1 part-time employee, Michele
- 1 periodic dabbler and caffeine-delivery person, Mark
- 1 full-time caretaker, Cyndi

To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the site I have given *Cyndi's List* an all-new layout with streamlined navigation. Now there is less white space with the content being moved up and to the left on each page. There is now a Google search box at the top of each page. Hopefully the rest of the navigation is more intuitive than in the previous version. The indexes, categories, sub-categories, and web page addresses are all the same. I have many more ideas and plans for things that I would like to do on the site. Michele and I have a big to-do list that we are whittling away at a little at a time. Come back and visit the site often to see how we progress.

END OF AN ERA

"One of the time-honored traditions at national genealogical conferences has been the audio tapes of the sessions. Those unable to attend in person often ordered audio tapes of the presentations. While not as good as attending 'in person,' the audio tapes added a lot of value to those unable to attend the live events. Sadly, the

practice is disappearing. The reason apparently is because of dropping sales of the tapes.

"For years, most of the tapes at the U.S. National Genealogical Society (NGS) and Federation of Genealogical Societies' (FGS) conferences have been recorded by AudioTapes.com. Yet a search of the company's web site...shows no genealogy conference tapes recorded after May 22, 2004. The company is not offering audio tapes recorded at more recent genealogy conferences. To my knowledge, no other recording company has stepped up to make the recordings..."

Other organizations also used to tape presentations. A comment on the above article indicated that another reason for discontinuing the practice is that tape players are going out of use.

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 8 March 2006. Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. Available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

NEW AT ANCESTRY.COM

Starting on March 27 *Ancestry Daily News* and the *Weekly Digest* were replaced by the *Ancestry Weekly News*, which will combine many of the elements of these previous online publications plus a few new surprises. The weekly newsletter will be available in either HTML or text-only format, and Juliana Smith will continue as newsletter editor.

Also, you will find a new way of keeping up on your "daily dose of genealogy" at *24-7 Family History Circle*, where you can find announcements about new Ancestry.com content and features, informative how-to articles, family history tips and anything that grabs Juliana's interest.

Ancestry Daily News, 8 Mar 2006. Copyright 2006. MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. <http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>

ON THE WEB

WISCONSIN BIRTH INDEX

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/vitalrecords>

The Wisconsin Historical Society has created an index to Pre-1907 Birth Records that includes approximately 500,000 names entered on the records between 1852 and September 30, 1907. After a birth was recorded at the county level, local officials forwarded that information to the state. Wisconsin law has required counties to register these events since 1852, but the law was not strictly enforced prior to about 1880.

In addition, the index includes 27,000 delayed birth records—those that were filed many years after the event, often for Social Security or military reasons. These records were indexed by the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

The index may be searched by name (last name required and first name optional) or by county and year. Or you can enter the month, day, and year you think the person was born on when you are not sure of the name.

The Society is also in the process of producing indexes to pre-1907 marriages and deaths.

BUTLER COUNTY, PA, OBITS

<http://www.bcfls.org/butler/Obitmain.htm>

The Butler Area Public Library in Butler, Pennsylvania, has made available free of charge an online obituary index. The database includes 100,000 obituaries published in Butler County newspapers from 1818-2000. Over 600 rolls of microfilm for eleven newspaper titles in the library's collection have been indexed.

Note that the obituaries for surnames beginning with R thru Z have not yet been included. Also obituaries for 1960 thru 1990 have not yet been indexed but are in the process of being abstracted. When the project is complete, the database will include 31 more newspaper titles.

MISSOURI ARCHIVES

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources>

This site has a number of helpful databases, which include those listed below.

- Archives' Online Catalog containing bibliographic records from their book, microfilm and archival collections.
- Birth & Death Records, an abstract of the birth, stillbirth, and death records recorded before 1909 and that are available on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives.
- County and Municipal Records on Microfilm, a roll-by-roll listing of over 55,000 reels that contain records of deeds, marriages, circuit court and probate court materials.
- Land Patents Database, 1831-1969, is an ongoing project to transcribe information from the state-issued land patents useful in placing an individual in a specific location at a specific time.
- Naturalization Records Database, includes name, native city &/or country, date of record, court of application, and microfilm location for copy of entry.
- Soldiers Database: War of 1812 – World War I, a comprehensive database abstracted from individual service cards and listing more than 576,000 Missourians who served in the military from territorial times through World War I.

Missouri State Archives staff does limited research for patrons who are unable to visit in person at no cost, except for copying fees. Patrons may request information via telephone, e-mail, or postal mail.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CONEJO VALLEY SEMINAR

The Conejo Valley Genealogical Society will hold its Annual Seminar on Saturday, April 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church (Alton Hall), 1049 S. Westlake Blvd., Westlake Village (at Hampshire and Agoura Road). The Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey will be presenting talks on the following subjects:

- The Treasure of Church Records
- Royal Bastards
- Gene-alogy—DNA & You
- Brick Walls or Brick Foundations?

The cost for non-members before April 18 is \$40. For questions:

Phone (818) 880-1505 or

E-mail carolsatt@sbcglobal.net

ORANGE COUNTY FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

The Orange County Family History Library is presenting “Capturing Your Past with the Tools of Today” on Saturday, April 29, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 674 S. Yorba Street in Orange. Barbara Renick will be the keynote speaker and five sessions of seven classes each are available. The classes are free; the syllabus is \$10.00.

Pre-registrations must be received by April 19. For information, call (714) 997-7710. You may also print out a registration form from their website at <http://www.zroots.com/OFHC.htm>.

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR

Liz Myers submitted this article because she wanted to let us all know what a good time she had last year working at the Genealogy Booth at the Orange County Fair.

“I had signed up to work a regular morning shift of 4 hours. I received directions and a parking

pass from Norma Keating in the mail. Directions were so good that I had no problem in finding the parking lot, jumping on the free shuttle, and walking onto the fairgrounds with free entry ticket. I easily found the Orange County Building for non-profit groups. I was able to visit the rest of the fair exhibits before or after working the booth. Some people met friends or family to enjoy the rest of the fair together.

“The Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists coordinates the booth. It contained genealogical society flyers, professional flyers and information sheets about the location of collections and ethnic research. LDS also provided material with a Family History Computer set up for quick research. I was greatly impressed how nicely planned and organized the booth was. I was very surprised that many visitors traveled from Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties!

“It was a great feeling to be able to talk to people, answer their questions, and direct them further along with their searching. I urge you to volunteer for a 4-hour shift at this year’s fair! It is from July 7th to the 30th. We need shift coverage on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12 noon to 11:00 p.m. and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. This year you may wear clothing that one of your ancestors wore in their occupation, a time period or in their native dress. The Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists is accepting donations to defray costs. The cost of the booth is over \$300 for rental and decorations. Donations may be made to SCCAPG, P. O. Box 9486, Brea, CA 92822.

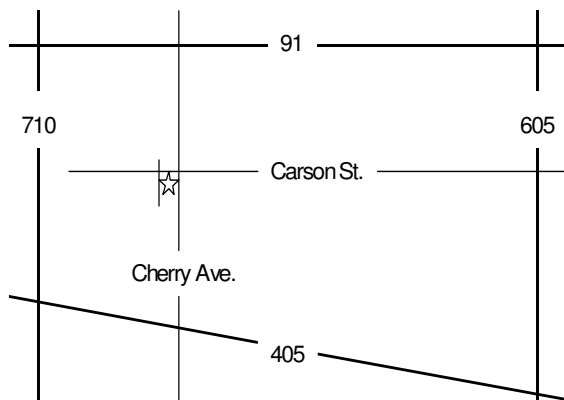
“Please contact Norma Keating at (714) 970-7040 or normakeating@earthlink.net to sign up or ask questions. You will be rewarded by your participation. Who knows, maybe you will find another missing cousin!!!”

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 9. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Topic: "Immigrant Origins! Which Ancestor is Lurking in the Library on Magnolia Blvd.?" presented by a panel of researchers. Questions? Call (818) 348-6444.

Saturday, April 19, 8:30 am-3:30 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County. Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Topic: "Making Your Own Family Tree with Photos" by Cynthia Gilbert.

Sunday, April 23, 1:15-3:30 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 below. For meeting information, please see page 26.



Sunday, April 23, 1:00-3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Topic: "Family History Library Resources" by Lisa Schumacher.

Wednesday, April 26 (Note change in meeting date.), 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance.

Topic: "Bringing Your Civil War Ancestor Back to Life" by Jean Wilcox.

Saturday, May 6. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. A variety of workshops are offered for which a fee of \$5.00 is charged, except for Basic Genealogy, for non-members. Main program topic: "Newspaper Research" presented by Beth Wilson.



DON'T FORGET THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S JAMBOREE

It takes place Friday, May 5, from 1-7 pm and Saturday, May 6, from 8:30 am-8:30 pm at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center, 2500 Hollywood Way in Burbank.

You can register online or download a form to mail in at www.scgsgenealogy.com. For information, you can also call (818) 843-7247.



*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.