

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 41. ✦ Number 1 ✦ January 2008

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

Questing Heirs is a member society of the California State Genealogical Alliance and the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008

12:30	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research
	Period	conducted by Rellen Owen
1:15		INTERMEDIATE:
		Finding Living People
		presented by Joan Lowrey
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: Joan Lowrey
		Emigration from Germany

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OUR HOLIDAY PARTY

We never know who will show up, or what they will bring. That's why, on the West Coast, these events are known as "potlucks"—emphasizing the "luck"! The holiday season is always busy, and sometimes there are conflicts with our party. One year, the date conflicted with the Daughters of the Confederacy. This year, our party fell on Beethoven's Birthday, which probably explains the lower attendance this year. That, and a nasty flu bug that kept some of our regulars at home! We appreciate your discretion in not infecting the rest of us! But we had enough luck. The hall eventually filled up, and the two people who brought crock pots had just the right accompaniments for the wonderful spiral-cut hams.

Many of our members know that in Pennsylvania, it's not a "potluck;" it's a "carry-in dinner," emphasizing the process by which everyone makes their way to the event—perhaps from a great distance, over the river and through the woods, in a horse-drawn carriage. And those with Hoosier roots may remember that Indiana has a unique word for the same event. There, it's a "pitch-in"! For me, our party was a true "pitch-in"—an apt description of the energy generated when a room full of genealogists is faced with a task.

Three of us arrived early and saw the need to move all the tables and chairs. No hesitation, no hanging back, we got right to work and finished the job in record time. At the end of the afternoon, the energy was even more impressive. The women cleared everything away from the tables, and within seconds the men had the tables folded and were carrying them away. The whole room was swirling with activity, like a scene from the *Music Man*. Just at that moment, JoNell Rook entered with a broom and swept the entire parish hall as if dancing a fox trot, the others swirling around her. In a couple minutes, it was all over; the room was cleaner than ever and perfectly restored to its original state. The kitchen took only a few minutes longer, and then a parade of genealogists in holiday garb helped

me load the decorations and supplies into my car. My thanks to all of you who pitched in and made this party so easy for me!

Questing Heirs' Ancestral Diversity

At our holiday party, we made a rough inventory of the nations where our ancestors came from. It turned out that two dozen genealogists were researching, or need to research, records from about two dozen nations! Luckily, most of us need to deal with only a few nations apiece, but that still requires a lot of study. Genealogists, as Hank Jones told us once, have to be historians as well. We have to learn the history of the nations where our ancestors lived, in order to know what to look for and how to interpret whatever we find. We have to learn the languages of the nations where our ancestors lived, too. Sometimes, as in Switzerland, we may need to know multiple modern languages, as well as Latin! And when your French, German, or Swiss ancestor turns up in South America in the 19th Century, as some of our ancestors did, you may have to learn Spanish and Portuguese as well!

American genealogists, it seems to me, have a unique perspective in seeing the potential of the diverse city we call home. Our neighbors come from all over, and our own families are full of traditions bequeathed to us by our far-flung immigrant ancestors. When we all can share the best of our traditions—often those having to do with food, celebrations, and hospitality—we make our city a better place.

How do you cope with the discovery of yet another nation and language as you research your family tree? A good first step is to look for the *Research Guide* for that nation, language, or ethnic group at the nearest Family History Center. The *Research Guides* won't solve every problem, and they won't relieve you of the need to study history, language, and culture; but they will save you a lot of time. The *Research Guides* can also be found on the www.FamilySearch.org website.

by John McCoy

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

WELCOME TO FLOYD FARRAR

Floyd Farrar and his wife, Sherry, recently joined *Questing Heirs*; and we enjoyed their participation in our Christmas Potluck meeting. Besides genealogy, Floyd is particularly interested in the Civil War period. He is a member of both the Sons of Union Veterans and Sons of Confederate Veterans of that national conflict.

He is also the Vice President of the Orange County Civil War Roundtable, where history buffs get together to listen to presentations about the war. The Roundtable meets at Carrow's Restaurant in Fountain Valley, and you can find more information about their meetings at <http://www.cwrtorangecounty-ca.org>.



Floyd is also a docent at the Drum Barracks Civil War museum in Wilmington, CA, just down the street from the Banning House. Its website is <http://www.drumbarracks.org>. If anyone is interested in attending living history events, you can learn about them at the following website: <http://relivinghistory.net/index.php>.

WELCOME TO LYNN SHARP

Lynn Sharp of Woodinville, WA, is another new member. She sent in the following query:

Seeking any information on PEDERSEN family living near Long Beach in the 1930-60s. PEDERSEN sisters included Arnolda (Nolda), Jenny, Petra and Rose (HUDSON). Have 1950s-era photo of family reunion including all sisters plus cousin George PEDERSEN; caption on photo back reads "San Pedro, visiting Rose, her home." Nolda was born in Minnesota in 1883. She and her husband, William A. ERICKSON, lived in Bismarck, ND, from 1905-1915 and in Washington State, where they raised 8 children.

Lynn can be reached at PO Box 853, Woodinville, WA 98072 or sparkette283@msn.com.

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING January 12, 2008

As we did last year, we will be meeting at the offices of SCS Engineers, 3900 Kilroy Airport Way in Long Beach from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

This meeting is particularly for Board members, but all society members are welcome to attend. We need your ideas and suggestions on how to accomplish the goals we will be setting for the next year. We will discuss what we have done in the past and what we would like to do in the future. We will be looking for ways *Questing Heirs* might work together with other genealogical and historical societies. We also want to make people in the Long Beach area know that we're ready to help them find the missing pieces of their family history.

Please let Liz Myers know if you can attend or if you need directions to the meeting place.

NOTE: Submissions for the February 2008 Newsletter are due by January 27, 2008.

SOURCES

Did Your Ancestor Obtain a U. S. Passport?

What is a passport?

A passport is a formal document issued by an authorized official of a country to one of its citizens and usually necessary for exit from and re-entry into the country that allows him to travel in a foreign country and requests protection for him while abroad.

Obtaining a passport

United States passports are issued by the Department of State and may be obtained by visiting a passport agency, the clerk of a federal, state or probate court, or a specially designated postal employee. You must provide proof of U.S. citizenship, two identical recent photographs, and identification showing your signature and photo.

Historical Perspective

Except for a short time during the Civil War, passports were not required of U.S. citizens traveling abroad before World War I. However, travelers frequently obtained them for the added protection they afforded. This was particularly true for naturalized citizens returning to their country of birth for a visit.

Contents of a passport application

A passport application varies in content, information before the Civil War being less detailed than afterward. In the 1920s, for a person claiming citizenship through naturalization, an application contained the following items:

- Name
- Date and place of birth
- Year of immigration and residence
- When and where naturalized
- Current U.S. address
- Name of father
- Whether having a previous passport
- Purpose for leaving the country
- Description and photo

If a man was traveling with his wife and/or minor children, information on them was also included.

Locating a copy of a passport application

The National Archives has passport applications received by the Department of State, with related records, 1795-1925. Those less than 75 years old may not be used without permission.

You can request copies of passport applications prior to 1925 by writing to:

National Archives & Records Administration
Archives I
Research Support Branch (NWCC1)
700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Include your name and mailing address; the passport applicant's name, year of birth, place of residence at the time the application was made, and the approximate year of travel. If they locate the records you request, they will send an order form and instructions for ordering copies.

The LDS Family History Library also has copies of National Archives microfilm publications M1371, M1372, and M1490 (Passport Applications, 1795-1925; Indexes, 1830-1831, 1850-1852, 1860-1923). You can locate appropriate film numbers by using a Subject search for PASSPORTS, then choosing PASSPORTS – UNITED STATES, and next PASSPORT APPLICATIONS.

A third-party request to the Department of State, Passport Services, for passport applications issued since 1925 must include the owner's consent, proof of guardianship, a death certificate or court order requesting release of the records. See <http://travel.state.gov/passport/services/copies> for more details.

Also, Ancestry.com recently released the collection of U.S. Passport Applications from 1795 to 1925 on its website. If you don't have a personal subscription to Ancestry.com, you may be able to view the collection at one of the Regional Family History Centers or a public library.

ON THE WEB

ChicagoAncestors.org

The Newberry Library announced on November 13, 2007, a new interactive, map-based Web site – ChicagoAncestors.org. Developed by staff from the Local and Family History department at the Newberry, this online map makes searching and sharing historical information easier than before.

“There is a huge amount of local historical information about Chicago in books and on the Internet,” said Jack Simpson, co-director of the project and curator of local and family history at the Newberry Library. “We’re trying to help researchers find that data by allowing them to search by proximity of a particular address or intersection.”

Data on the map includes historical church locations, neighborhood bibliographies and historical homicides. The site links to resources on the Internet, including historical photographs of Chicago. The Web site also allows visitors to research the history of a particular address or Chicago neighborhood and identify Newberry Library resources along with relevant educational institutions and places of worship. By creating a saved profile, users can share their research with other family members or fellow researchers. Registered users of the Web site can add comments to map points, or map their own historical and genealogical information.

The complete article is available at Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 15 Nov 2007 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman.

CALIFORNIA DIGITAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

<http://www.cdnc.ucr.edu>

The Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research, University of California, Riverside (UCR), has received two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), 2005-2009, as well as three grants from the Library Services and Tech-

nology Act from the California State Library to create a California Digital Newspaper Collection at UCR.

The NDNP is a joint venture of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to create a national digital newspaper resource representing papers from all states published between 1836-1922. The program is projected to last twenty years. The first grant covered newspapers published between 1900-1910. The Center digitized over 100,000 pages of California newspapers for this period: the San Francisco Call, the Amador Ledger, the Imperial Valley Press, and the Los Angeles Herald. The Center will be digitizing an additional 100,000 pages for the second grant, which targets newspapers published 1880-1910.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection at UCR will include all papers digitized for the national program and additional historical California newspapers, the Daily Alta California, in particular.

Search and browse functions and the user interface are in development. More newspaper issues and additional features are forthcoming. You can now search the San Francisco Call and the Daily Alta California with a beta version. The beta is best viewed with the Firefox Web browser.

AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL ROLLS

Ancestry.com has recently made Australian Electoral Rolls, 1901-1936 (with the exception of South Australia) available on its website: <http://www.ancestry.com.au>. These rolls are particularly helpful since, because of privacy law restrictions, censuses are not available for this time period.

Electoral rolls were compiled by each state during election years to determine the number and names of individuals eligible to vote. They usually include the following information: number, name of voter, gender, address and occupation.

NEWS

NEW ACCESS TO ANCESTRY.COM

On 19 December 2007, Family Search and The Generations Network, Inc., parent company of Ancestry.com, announced an agreement that provides free access to Ancestry.com for patrons of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the thirteen largest regional family history centers. Our nearest regional family history centers are located in Los Angeles (10741 Santa Monica Blvd.) and Orange (674 S. Yorba St.).

The complete announcement is available at <http://www.familysearch.org>. Click on the "News" tab.

SISKIYOU COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATES

The Genealogical Society of Siskiyou County, California is offering certificates for anyone who had ancestors living in Siskiyou County between the years of 1850-1880 and 1881-1910. The Pioneer Certificate will be for the 1850-1880 years and the Centennial Certificate for years from 1881-1910. These certificates will be suitable for framing and would make a great gift.

In order to qualify for either certificate you must prove that your direct ancestor lived in Siskiyou County during those times.

Siskiyou county was created March 22, 1852 from parts of Shasta and Klamath Counties. Because the county seat was such a far distance from the Yreka area, the residents decided to split from Shasta County and form their own County—thus Siskiyou County was formed in 1852.

Then in 1874 residents of the eastern portion of Siskiyou (now Modoc) wanted to split and form their own county. So between the years of 1850-1874 pioneers living in that area are considered Siskiyou County residents and their descendants are qualified to receive a Siskiyou County Pioneer/Century Certificate...

In order to receive a certificate you must provide the Genealogical Society of Siskiyou County with:

- A family descendant chart direct from you to your ancestor.
- Documentation to prove lineage.
- Proof of ancestor's residence in that time period.

Documentation can include birth certificates, census (state or federal), voter registration, school records, deeds, etc...

You may obtain a certificate for yourself or another person, i.e., your children, sister or other relative, but you must be able to connect the lineage...The cost is \$15 for the first certificate and \$8 for an additional certificate using the same ancestor...

Posted on Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 13 Dec 2007 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman.

Are you from Arkansas?

Some Long Beach residents from Arkansas are organizing a local group of those whose roots hail from Arkansas.

The goal is to organize a group picnic in Long Beach. For information, call Autrilla Scott at 562-591-6030.

Contributed by Tina Yanis

NATIONAL ARCHIVES TEST OF ERA

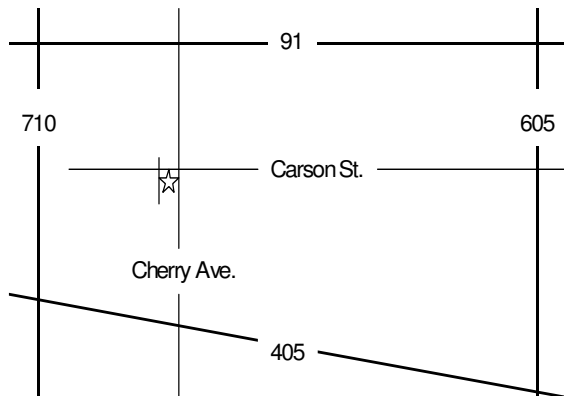
In a 13 December 2007 press release, the National Archives indicated that it successfully completed testing the first phase of its Electronic Records Archives (ERA) system. The software developer is Lockheed Martin Corp., and ERA is NARA's strategic initiative to preserve and provide long-term access to uniquely valuable electronic records of the U.S. Government, and to transition government-wide management of the lifecycle of all records into the realm of e-government. NARA hopes to put the system into operation by the end of June 2008.

The press release may be seen at <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2008/nr08-38.html>

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 19, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: “Clue to Clue: Tracking a Family Over Time and Miles” by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Sunday, January 20, 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 2.



Saturday, February 2, 2008, 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): Doug Ayer on “German Sources in America.”



Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Society and the City of Hemet

Saturday, February 16, 2008
Upper Floor of the Hemet Public Library
300 E. Latham Ave., Hemet

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak will be speaking on four topics:

- Jump-Starting Your Eastern European Research
- Trace Your Roots with DNA
- Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Loved Ones
- Remembering Our Ancestry

Besides Megan’s talks, two rooms will be showing episodes from the PBS “Ancestors” series, her books will be on sale, and there will be handouts and raffle prizes. This seminar and workshop runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with registration starting at 8:30 a.m.

A catered lunch is included in the registration fee of \$35.00; however, registrations must be postmarked by February 8 for the lunch to be provided.

Flyers will be available at our Questing Heirs January meeting, or for information you can go to <http://www.hsjgs.org>.

*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.