

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 41 ✦ Number 2 ✦ February 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, FEBRUARY 17, 2008

12:30	Class	HELP TABLES: "Forms Used in Genealogy" by Rellen Owen (boardroom) & "Ohio Research" by Liz Myers (parish hall)
1:15		INTERMEDIATE: "Working with Land Surveys in the Public Land States" by Loran Bures
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: ALAN JONES PREMIUM GENEALOGY WEBSITES VIA FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS

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F E B R U A R Y M E E T I N G

SPEAKER: ALAN JONES

“Mugs, my dog, had a pedigree with 16 generations all filled out! I didn’t know my great grandparents. Mom said I was as important as my dog. So there our journey began.”

Alan has 30+ years of genealogy experience (how did he do that when he’s just 29! ha, ha), degrees in computer science and business, and involvement in a wide variety of genealogy activities—including FamilySearch Indexing, BYU’s Immigrant Ancestors Project, beta testing the “New FamilySearch,” Family History Center service, teacher, tester of commercial genealogy software and more.

PROGRAM

Premium Genealogy Websites via Family History Centers

New premium online genealogy services (paid subscriber services) are available to you for FREE through the Family History Center network. These expanded services are in keeping with FamilySearch’s goal to provide increased economical access to records that will assist individuals in family history pursuits. These include Footnote.com, WorldVitalRecords.com, Godfrey Memorial Library online, Kindred Konnections, and Heritage Quest. This presentation will show how to use these resources and point out their strengths and weaknesses.

M E M B E R S H I P R E P O R T
Sally DAVIS (562) 429-7803

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 43 Guests: 2

NEW MEMBER

Christine ELIA Individual 9/08

RENEWALS

Richard HOOVER Sustaining 9/08
Herb LAFFOON Individual 9/08
MayBelle WEST Individual 9/08

F I N A N C I A L R E P O R T
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

December Income \$ 475.95
December Expenses \$ 255.04

For the Treasurer’s Annual Report, please see page 12.

R E F R E S H M E N T S
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our January hosts:

Marilyn BRASHER Sally DAVIS
Floyd FARRAR Linda IVERS
Carole OWENS

Our February hosts will be:

Linda ARTUSO Hazele JOHNSON
Georgie LYONS Linda RYAN

NOTE: Submissions for the March 2008 Newsletter are due by February 24, 2008.

This is leap year. We have one extra day in February to work on our genealogy! Enjoy!

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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 use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS GRAVE MARKERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Submitted and edited by Floyd Farrar

Long Beach Questing Heirs member

Sons of Union Veterans Sr. Vice Cmdr. Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17 Santa Ana-Tustin CA

Note: The article below was written largely from information sent to me by my friend and SUV brother Bob Lowe of El Cajon CA, SUV National Graves Registration officer.

There are currently 469 registrations for interments in Sunnyside Cemetery, next to Signal Hill in Long Beach, CA, in the SUVCWE National Graves Registration Database. How many of them are for GAR members is anyone's guess, as a GAR grave marker is not a clear indication of membership in that Order. Bob has registered hundreds of graves across the country that have GAR grave markers on them, but the veteran died during the war. Go figure!

The majority of the Sunnyside registrations came from 26 boxes of Los Angeles County Veteran Burial Records found by SUVCW Rosecrans Camp 2 past-Commander Linn Hoadley at Patriotic Hall in 2004. They were in a locked storage space, apparently rarely opened or used since the mid-1940s. It seems as if, when the last GAR vet passed away, the door was locked and seemingly forgotten. This ten-story building was built in 1925 to take care of and house many various veterans groups and is located in downtown LA near the Staples center on Figueroa St. and can be seen just south of the 10 freeway. Each box contained about 500 4" x 6" index cards with either handwritten or typed data, one for each veteran. These were apparently old county records, as no card was dated later than 1939.

Bob said he is not sure how long it took him to enter these registrations one at a time, but it was probably over the course of six to seven months. From old records he kept as Dept. Graves Registration Officer some years ago, he found that the above cards produced 405 registrations of the total 469. SUV Brothers and researchers in the area have most likely submitted other grave marker locations. At any given time, the online database has over 700 people from within and outside our Order with active "submitter

accounts." I am not sure, but wouldn't doubt that Charles Beal was among them.*

Remember that anyone can search our database by clicking "search entries" at <http://www.suvcwdb.org/home> for name, unit, cemetery, city, county, state, etc. It is not restricted to SUV members for searches, but submitters must register and create an account.

Most Confederate Army marker submissions are received by our SUV Brothers. As they investigate various cemeteries for Union burials, they may come across some Confederates and submit them online to our database. This form of cooperation shows others of the Confederate persuasion that we do not ignore these "finds" and encourages them to report to Bob the Union burials found in the deep South and in rural areas. We do not intend to be the repository for Confederate grave registration, but do this little bit as a courtesy. The Sons of Confederate Veterans maintain a database of their own, located at their headquarters in Elm Spring, TN. It can be found at:

<http://www.scv.org/genealogy>.

*Who is Charles Beal? He is my SUV brother in our Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17 Santa Ana-Tustin group. He works as a surveyor for the County of Orange. Starting in 1999 and finishing just last year—largely through his efforts, as well as those of many other volunteer assistants—we have succeeded in identifying all Civil War veterans' graves and marker locations in Orange County, CA. Each has been documented and located using modern GPS satellite technology and is accurate to +/- one foot.

Continued on page 14

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Full Year 2007

Income	\$ 5,906.36
Expenses	\$ 5,921.89
From Savings Principal	\$ 15.33
Final Operations Balance	\$ 2,763.87
Final Special Projects Balance	\$ 969.50
Final Investment Balance	\$26,721.96

The income for 2007 included \$1,248.26 interest from our investment account, made up of money from the Betty Marr estate. Without that bequest, we would have had a deficit of \$1,263.59 in 2007.

2008 Budget

Income	\$3,842.32
Expenses	\$5,665.50
Deficit	\$1,823.18

The deficit will be made up from interest and principal of the investment account. The expenses include more expensive programs, a significant rent increase, and escalating printing expenses for the Newsletter. It also assumes an increase in membership dues and money from the Ralph's Community Affiliates program.

You can help balance the budget by:

1. Signing up for the Ralph's program. You can add to our income at no cost to yourself. In the first three months, we earned \$90, and we're planning to add Vons', Pavilions' & Macys' programs.
2. Adding Questing Heirs to your will. The sum you designate need not be as substantial an amount as Betty gave. If one person a year bequeathed \$1,000-\$2000, we could continue to keep the budget intact for many years.
3. By paying your annual dues at the contributing, sustaining, patron or above level. These levels are considered a gift to a (501) (c) (3) organization and are tax deductible. They are also eligible for matching contributions from many companies. Check with your H.R. representative regarding eligibility and details.

PROGRAM PLANS

Loran Bures – 1st Vice President

The program plan for 2008 was presented and approved by the Board of Directors at the planning meeting on January 12.

Program

The program is the main presentation at our monthly meetings, beginning about 2:30 p.m. It will normally feature a professional genealogist, and I would welcome suggestions for topics and/or speakers. As a Program Committee is being formed to assist me, I invite any member who is interested in serving on this committee to contact me.

Education

Education includes any classes or similar activities that offer instruction to our members. An Education Committee is also being formed to assist me; so, again, if you would like to serve on this committee, please contact me.

It has been decided to replace our basic or beginning class with **Help Tables**, which are intended to provide one-on-one, or small group, help to members on different topics. At least two Help Tables will be offered beginning at 12:30 p.m. One, hosted by Rellen Owen, will be located in the boardroom and focus on basic topics. The second, hosted by an experienced member of Questing Heirs, will be located in the parish hall and will focus on different record types or locations.

We are also starting a new series entitled "**Resources for the Family Historian.**" See the enclosed flyer for details about our first event.

Special Events/Projects

The Board has decided to compile and publish in our newsletter and on our website a comprehensive list of all cemeteries and funeral homes within our membership area in October 2008, Family History Month. The Board plans to appoint a committee for this effort at its February meeting. If you are interested in helping, please contact me.

METHODS

DIGITAL IMAGES AND YOUR GENEALOGY

by Arlene Eakle

Photography brought the capacity to edit a scene and unless the editor tells us about the change(s), we usually accept the photograph as reality. Digital imagery expands that capacity into areas we may never dream could be exploited.

Frequently, my own client research leads to comparative analysis:

1. of records based upon reading the original documents,
2. official transcripts made at or near the time of the original,
3. typed transcripts as preparation for printing the record—often many years later,
4. multiple versions typed or scanned for online delivery,
5. index entries that have been substituted for a lost original, and
6. indexes created for English records, many years after the fact, by non-English speaking typists.

In each case, I hope that the originals are available to be examined—not just a copy, not just a transcript. So the announcement by the LDS Church that preservation of records on microfilm will be phased out—and records will be digitized at the courthouse and at the archives—made me shiver. With excitement, to be sure. With *alarm*, of course.

Will the images be untouched? Will they be adjusted for light so that the edges of the documents can be read as well as the center? Can the images be manipulated by the reader—without leaving a trail? In short, can we trust the digital images to represent the records—blotches, frayed edges, and all? And will indexes created for non-indexed sources be compiled by trained native readers?

From Arlene Eakle's Genealogy News Sheet of 15 Dec 2007 at <http://www.arleneeakle.com/wordpress>.

ETHNICITY vs. NATIONALITY

by Jacqueline Buzbee Davis

Don't confuse ethnicity with nationality. Virtually all nations, even the seemingly most homogeneous, are made up of more than one ethnicity. Ethnicity implies a certain cultural heritage. That may or may not change with movement to a different country.

Case in point, the Scots-Irish. Ethnic Scots, for various reasons, were induced to move to Ireland. The English government evicted the ethnic Irish to lease the land to the incoming Scots. After going on about 200 years in Ireland, groups of these ethnic Scots immigrated to the New World to escape economic and religious discrimination by the English authorities in Ireland. In the United States, we usually call them the Scots (or Scotch)-Irish. The ones left in the Old World are known as the Ulster Irish. While in Ireland, these ethnic Scots had few dealings with the ethnic Irish. They had different religions, different customs, and a huge difference of opinion about who should be occupying that land. In close to 200 years, the ethnic Scots became Irish in nationality, but not in ethnicity.

During World War I, inductees into the Army were interviewed on their racial, national, lingual, religious, and family backgrounds. The interviewers were instructed that if an inductee said his parents were from Ireland and his religion was Catholic, to list the inductee's national background as "Irish." If the inductee's parents were from Ireland and his family was Protestant, the inductee was "Scottish." (And if you were a Jew, no matter what country your parents came from, your national background was "Jewish.")

So just because your Glasgow ancestors came from Ireland, that doesn't necessarily mean they were "Irish."

A Quick Tip from The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 24 Dec 2007. Copyright © 2007, The Generations Network, Inc.

OF INTEREST

A LITTLE ABOUT ALSACE

[Joan Lowrey's presentation on German emigration inspired John McCoy to submit this additional information on Alsace-Lorraine.]

The region called Alsace is today mostly in the French "départments" of Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin (hint: the s, h, and t in these two names are silent in French!). Historically, Alsace and Lorraine have much in common, including language (almost everyone speaks German and French), religion (far more protestants than elsewhere in France), and sources of immigrants. The region known as Lorraine corresponds roughly to the modern French "départments" of Meuse, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Moselle, and Vosges. Most importantly, both regions have been thoroughly trashed by invading armies numerous times since the 16th Century—whole towns being burnt to the ground and later re-established by immigrants from other areas, such as Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, etc. As a result, Alsatian genealogies are full of immigrants, who brought with them all the religions of their times. Because of frequent changes in local politics, members of particular denominations were sometimes forced to move to another village where their religion was (at least temporarily) accepted.

How do you find your ancestor's birthplace when all you know is that he was from "Alsace"? There are no general indexes. If you know the ancestor's exact birth date and name (making allowances for languages, spelling, etc.), you could search the church records of each village, but you would have around 1,000 villages to deal with.

The best approach is FIRST to gather as much information as you can in the U.S., or wherever your Alsatian ancestor ended up—exact name, exact birth date, names of any relatives, religious denomination, passenger lists, etc. THEN you attempt to locate your ancestor in one of the large (but still incomplete) indexes such as the

IGI (International Genealogical Index), the Ancestral File, or GeneaNet.org. This method has a chance of succeeding because an enormous number of genealogists have been extracting or indexing church records throughout Alsace. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City also has a very large collection of published indexes for the church records of many Alsatian villages, with more being published all the time.

When times were good, immigrants poured into Alsace. When times were bad (often only a few years later), people flowed out of Alsace, frequently to far-away places like the U.S. or even Russia, depending on the economics and politics of the time. Finding your Alsatian ancestors can be very challenging, but with perseverance and patience, it can usually be done.



Civil War Grave Markers – *Cont'd. from p. 11*

This project has identified the following known Civil War Veteran graves:

1. Grand Army of the Republic (GAR): 701
2. Confederate States of America (CSA): 89

There are a total of 790 known Civil War Veteran graves located in Orange County, CA. Last night (1-17-2008), at our every-other-month meeting, I found out from Charlie that they have been finding more each month; so these figures are increasing. Some have markers and some don't. The ones that don't have markers will get a proper one and a dedication, courtesy of our SUV camp. The Sedgwick Granger camp 17 link is <http://home.earthlink.net/~suvcw/sedgwickgranger17.html>.

Charlie found that the grave of the last Civil War veteran in Orange County, who passed away in December 1945, did not have a marker. This veteran was Pvt. Wm. Crandall of Company I, 52nd New York Infantry regiment who died indigent. We obtained a marker for his grave and did a proper dedication in November 2006 at Anaheim Cemetery.

ACTION ITEMS

MEGAN'S 100TH GRANT

by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

Some of you may be aware that I run the Honoring Our Ancestors Grants Program. This is a program I started almost eight years ago when I decided to try to make a go of it as a professional genealogist. I figured that genealogy had been good to me, so I'd give a little something in return. I decided right from the beginning to give a grant every month to some deserving genealogist, society, project or whatever—just something related to family history...

At any rate, I was playing catch-up the other day...and decided to take stock. It was then that I learned that I had been at it for more than seven years. But what really caught my attention was the fact that February 2008 would be my 100th grant! 100 months of grants!...

So here's the thing. I'd like the 100th grant to be special in some way. I have no idea what that might be, but in order to maximize the chances of finding an especially inspiring initiative, I'd like to ask for your help spreading the word about the grants program and encouraging as many people as possible to apply. I'm thinking that if I can get tons of applications, there will almost have to be a gem among them! Folks can apply here. [http://honoringourancestors.com/apply_grant.html] Also, the site provides summaries of all the other grants I've awarded over the years, so it might be worth taking a browse.

The process is the same as it's been since the beginning. Anyone with an idea and five minutes can apply, and once a month, I print out all the latest applications and add them to all the other current ones (they stay active for six months). Then my husband and I abscond to a coffee shop where we debate the relative merits of the assorted applications. Finally, we pick a winner, notify them and send a check. It's that simple.

From Megan's Newsletter of 4 Jan 2008.

PENNSYLVANIA DEATH RECORDS

by Liz Myers

As many of us have discovered, we can only request copies of the Pennsylvania death records IF we can prove direct relationship. Or you do have the option of paying \$34.00+ for an extended search for a ten-year window. The PaHR-Access (which stands for "People for Better Historical Records Access") is making the basic proposal that the death certificates that would be accessible online by the public would have to be at least 50 years old. Currently that would mean that only the death certificates of persons who died before 1958 would be made accessible. As each year passes, the next year in line would be made accessible online to the public.

The genealogical group advocating Pennsylvania death records online has a website at <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access> that includes FAQ. The National Genealogical Society has provided "People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access" a letter of support. You will find much additional there.

Everyone, including out-of-state residents, should write, phone or at the very least e-mail GOVERNOR RENDELL.

Contact information for Governor Rendell:

Governor Edward G. Rendell's Office
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Telephone: 717-787-2500

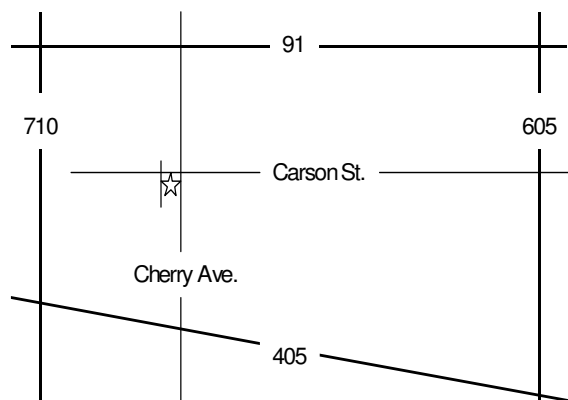
Facsimile: 717-772-8284

E-mail: http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Governor/govmail.html

I urge you to take a minute and write to Governor Rendell. Let him know how useful such a database would be in your efforts to discover more about your Pennsylvania heritage. Only when he realizes how many of us are concerned, and how the state of Pennsylvania will benefit by our use, will any changes be made.

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 17, 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 10.



Wednesday, February 20, 7:00 pm. **Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California** monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: “A Child in the Midst of Battle” by Evelyn Empie.

Sunday, February 24, 1:00-3:00 pm. **British Isles Family History Society-USA** monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Program: “Digital Photography for Genealogy” by Michael Reagan.

School for the Soldier

On Saturday, February 16 (9am-5pm) and Sunday, February 17 (9am-3pm) there will be a FREE Civil War re-enactment (no battles) called the “School for the Soldier.” It will feature living history displays and demonstrations, including an authentic Civil War cannon, with many folks on hand to explain and demonstrate the exhibits. This event will be held at the Park Pavilion Picnic Center (located next to Independence Hall) at Knott’s Berry Farm. Come experience the sights and sounds of a Civil War army camp. *Submitted by Floyd Farrar*

**UPCOMING SEMINARS
Genealogical Society
of North Orange County California**

Saturday, March 8, 2008
Brea United Methodist Church
480 N. State College Blvd., Brea

“Finding Kin in Court Records”
presented by Cheryl Cook Singleton, Don Ray,
and Penny Feike.

Pre-register by March 1. For more information,
call (714) 777-2379 or go to www.gsnocc.org.

North San Diego County Genealogical Society

Saturday, March 29, 2008
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine St., Carlsbad

“Finding Ancestors with GPS: Genealogical
Problem Solving” presented by Christine Rose.

Topics: Genealogical Proof Standard
Military Records for Problem Solving
County Land Records in Depth
Little Known & Neglected Sources

Register early; seating is limited. For informa-
tion, contact Nina Anderson at: (760) 599-9958
or ninaanderson@sbcglobal.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 from 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.