

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 3 ♦ March 2003

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, MARCH 16, 2003**



**1:15 – INTERMEDIATE CLASS**  
**What's in a One-Name Study?**  
presented by John McCoy



**2:15 – BREAK**  
Time for chatting, browsing and refreshments



**2:30 – GENERAL MEETING**  
**WANDA BALLARD :**  
**The Process of Writing a Family History**



Questing Heirs Board meeting to follow



*~ IN THIS ISSUE ~*

<i>Committee Reports – Society News</i>	18
<i>President's Message: In Praise of Literacy, by John McCoy</i>	19
<i>Article: A Sense of Belonging, by Mike Powers</i>	20
<i>Of Interest – Queries</i>	21-22
<i>On the Web</i>	23
<i>Calendar of Upcoming Events</i>	24

~ **FINANCIAL REPORT** ~

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

**DECEMBER 2002**

Income 186.79  
Expenses 282.50  
Balance as of December 31, 2002 \$3139.70

**TOTALS FOR 2002**

Income 3184.50  
Expenses 3417.90

**JANUARY 2003**

Income 115.00  
Expenses 616.10  
Balance as of January 31, 2003 \$2,638.60

~ **REFRESHMENTS** ~

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

**Thank you to our February Hosts:**

- ◆ Linda ARTUSO
- ◆ Marilyn (DeLonjay) BRASHER
- ◆ Hazele (Thresher) JOHNSON
- ◆ Jeanette (Marcus) JONES

**Our March Hosts will be:**

- ◆ Bruce BRIGHTMAN
- ◆ Georgie (Peterson) LYONS
- ◆ Joy PROUST
- ◆ Tina YANIS

~ **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** ~

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

**FEBRUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Members: 21 Visitors: 4

**NEW MEMBER**

YANIS, Christina Individual to 9/03

**RENEWALS**

McLAUGHLIN, Richard Individual to 9/03  
PLANK, Beverly (Little) Individual to 9/03  
POWERS, Michael Individual to 9/03

*Thanks to everyone for your support and a big welcome to our new member Tina!*

~ **MARCH SPEAKER** ~

**WANDA BALLARD:  
The Process of Writing a Family  
History**

Wanda Ballard, a QHGS member, has just written a book about one of her family lines. Join us on Sunday, March 16, as she discusses that process.

Wanda was born in Torrance, California. She began actively researching her family history many years ago. She has been with the Whittier Area Genealogical Society for more than ten years, and is also a past president. Her husband John shares her interest in genealogy, and helps organize programs for that organization.

~ **MARCH INTERMEDIATE CLASS** ~

**What's in a One-Name Study?  
presented by John McCoy**

Why I ever decided to untangle the Swiss Dutoit family is something I don't clearly remember! But if nothing else, I can explain exactly how genealogists can become confused, and how we can sometimes overcome difficult obstacles.

~ **OPEN POSITIONS** ~

As you may have noticed on the front page, there is no basic class scheduled for March. We have had to suspend our basic classes for the time being, due to the lack of a volunteer to lead them.

We have a few other open positions, as well. Please consider helping your society by filling one of the following positions:

- ◆ Recording Secretary
- ◆ Member-at-Large
- ◆ Hospitality Committee Chairperson
- ◆ Computer Group Leader
- ◆ Basic Class Instructor

The time involved is not great, but the payoff is! If interested, please contact John McCoy at (562) 437-4337 or <RealMac@aol.com>.

~ *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE* ~

## IN PRAISE OF LITERACY

*After* spending another evening poring over the day books of a Swiss notary, circa 1600, an odd insight began to form in my brain: it occurred to me that, for most of us, genealogy is an exercise that depends on *written communication*. Specifically, messages sent from the past, to an uncertain future.

The very act of writing something down requires faith that someone – *anyone* – will be around to read it. Things are written because someone believed they mattered. Information about debts was recorded in the belief that the debtor would meet us as he had promised, on the next St. Martin's day, cash in hand, and that if he didn't, the written record would suffice to compel him or his heirs to pay up. Or, he might contract to take three of your cows, two red and one white, to their summer pastures, and pay you for their use by sharing half of the cheese made from their milk at the end of summer. You could buy grain, or wine, or a cartload of firewood on credit, if your transaction was recorded by the notary. Marriage contracts were recorded to provide for the rights of the surviving spouse and the children in the event that the husband or wife might die. Even in times of plague, when the notary informs us that Marguerite dictated her testament through an open window, the witnesses remaining outside for fear of contagion because she was dying of the plague, her words were written down in the belief that there would be someone left to carry out her wishes. These are some of the poignant details that have come down to us through the centuries.

Sometimes we read of scandal. A document from the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century, in Latin, recounts a monetary settlement with a neighboring family because of the *defloracion* of the neighbor's daughter. In France, some of my ancestors were hauled before the protestant consistory for playing cards, singing, or dancing on a Sunday evening. To think that my ancestors got together with their neighbors of an evening to play gin rummy endears them to me.

I read of an ancestor who was struck dead by lightning in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. She had been walking up the lane by her farm in the south of France. The account was

entered in the protestant parish register as a remarkable occurrence, a strange happening whose meaning is as inscrutable today as it was then. In another register, I read of a Swiss soldier who was escorting a prisoner to the city of Bern. The prisoner escaped, whereupon the soldier died suddenly, then and there, from the shame of losing his prisoner, according to the minister.

All manner of people have contributed their messages from the past. Some wrote neatly, others scribbled. We can follow the hand of the notary from youth to old age. The writing starts out strong and clear, and as the notary ages, changes gradually to a marvelous obscurity. Or we can see the handwriting of the aging John Calvin, once insightful and authoritative, now trembling with infirmity. Those ancestors who could write have sometimes left us their signatures, sure signs of their individual personalities.

It is only the ancestors who could not write, and who lived in a society where little was written down, who are mute to us, or nearly so. Sometimes we can find their X marks on deeds and contracts! Some of them still managed to transmit stories, or to be portrayed in writing by someone else. A few left examples of their crafts. But what we know about our ancestors is mainly limited to what has been written down, by people who glimpsed what humanity might one day be able to accomplish. The written word, more than almost any other form of human expression, has proved to be the most durable.

In the future, genealogists will have to contend with electronic media from the past. The day is near when it will be possible to store every word one person could ever speak or write in his or her entire lifetime, whether truthful or not, on a device smaller than a soda cracker. Literacy has never been higher, and it should soon be possible to dictate directly into your personal electronic gadget, eliminating the need to write or type anything. We probably won't have to

[continued on page 24]

~ *ARTICLE* ~

## A SENSE OF BELONGING

by Mike Powers

**M**y last trip to Ohio was in August of 2002. I was born in Akron, and my father, my brother and my four sisters all live there, so I go there often to visit. I always try to sneak away to do some research while I'm there, too.

The high point of this last trip was meeting my second cousin Deanna and her family. We are related through my mother's mother, Frances Beryl Llewellyn. My mother was raised by her father's sister and her husband; we had some, but not a lot of, contact with the Llewellyns.

This was one of the reasons I got involved in researching my family history. I knew so little about this part of my family, and I was keen to know more. Indeed, this family has been where the focus of my research has remained. I have been able to find a lot of information about them in the last couple of years, but in a single afternoon I got a real sense of belonging to this family.

Deanna and I had spoken on the phone a couple of times already. We hit it off right away, and I was looking forward to meeting her in person. Since she lives about two hours away, we arranged to meet at the house of her mother Winona in Akron. When my mother, my sister, and I arrived, she and her mother and her brother Dale greeted us so warmly I immediately felt like part of the family.

We went inside and sat down in the living room. They had a tape cued

up in the VCR, which turned out to be the family's home movies from the 1930s to the 1960s, transferred to video. There were the people I remembered from my childhood -- my grandmother, her sister Mildred, and their nephew Gordon. There was my mother at the age of 15 -- just a girl, really. There were many other people in the movies, too, people I had learned about but wondered if I'd ever get to see. There was even footage of my great-grandfather David Llewellyn, who came over from Wales in the 1880s!



*My grandmother Frances (on right) and her sister Mildred with their beaux, ca. 1925.*

Next we went into the kitchen, where there were books and boxes stacked on the table. The boxes were full of family photographs and papers. One of the books turned out to be my great-grandmother Sarah

Hughes' bible, which contained even more papers and photos. I pored over every bit, wanting to take it all in.

Then I came across a photo I had sent to her, a photo of my mother and her three children. Deanna told me she had put it in the bible and would always keep it there, so that we would always be part of the family.

We spent the rest of the afternoon looking over the photos and talking about the people in them. We joked and laughed and reminisced, and shared stories of our own lives, too. When it came time to leave, none of us wanted to go; we could have easily stayed a few hours more.

Deanna then brought out some more boxes. They contained some belongings of my mother's aunts that she was giving us. How wonderful it is to have a tangible connection to these people who now live only in our memories.

After we parted, many things fell into place. I realized that much of what I am has been passed down to me from this family. Everyone looks a lot younger than their age; Winona and I both have a wicked sense of humor; Gordon and I share a gigantic forehead and an interest in languages. I hope that just a little of the warmth, kindness, and generosity that they showed that day has passed down to me, as well.

~ OF INTEREST ~

**FINDING OUR FAMILIES,  
FINDING OURSELVES**

This multimedia show, called "an exhibit of remarkable scope and imagination" by the Jewish Journal, is now open at the Museum of Tolerance in West Los Angeles. You may have seen it featured recently on the Oprah Winfrey television show.

The following description is from the web page <[www.findingourfamilies.com](http://www.findingourfamilies.com)>:

"The newest and largest multimedia immersive exhibition in the ten-year history of the Museum of Tolerance, *Finding Our Families, Finding Ourselves*, showcases the diversity within the personal histories of several noted Americans: poet, best-selling author, historian and educator Dr. Maya Angelou; award-winning actor, comedian and director Billy Crystal; multiple Grammy winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Carlos Santana; and National League MVP and Manager of the four-time World Series Champions, the New York Yankees, Joe Torre. Their individual, distinctive, and illuminating journeys examine the stories, lives and dreams of those family members that inspired them.

"*Finding Our Families, Finding Ourselves* also includes the participation of other outstanding American sports and literary figures including NBA athlete and Basketball Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; award-winning author, poet, and screenwriter Sherman Alexie; figure skating champion Michelle Kwan; noted journalist, talk show host and author Cristina Saralegui; and NFL Player of the Year and Super Bowl champion quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, Steve Young. The exhibition ultimately celebrates the shared experiences common to being part of an American family and encourages visitors to seek out their own histories, mentors and heroes.

"Rafael Guber is the genealogist behind *Finding our Families Finding Ourselves*. Guber tells people how to make the genealogical journey both more interesting and more fruitful. Guber has written for internationally recognized publications and concentrates on how to develop the focus and problem-solving skills needed to reconstruct the

lives of those you wish to rediscover and memorize for future generations."

The Museum of Tolerance is located at 9786 West Pico Boulevard. For more information, phone 310-553-8403, or visit <[www.museumoftolerance.com](http://www.museumoftolerance.com)>. It is strongly advised to call ahead to check their hours and to reserve tickets in advance.



**U. S. CENSUS BUREAU REPORT  
TRACKS 100 YEARS OF CHANGE**

At the start of the 20th century, most of the U.S. population was male, under 23 years old, lived outside metropolitan areas and rented their homes. Nearly half lived in a household with five or more other persons.

One hundred years later, most of the population was female, at least 35 years old, lived in metro areas and owned their homes. Most lived alone or in a household with one or two other people.

These are some of the broad-scale changes included in a Census Bureau special report released today. The report analyzes data gathered in eleven censuses stretching from 1900 to 2000. The subjects covered are from the Census 2000 short-form questionnaire. Titled *Demographic Trends in the 20th Century*, and released during the bureau's 100th anniversary year, the report tracks trends in population, housing and household data for the nation, regions and states.

This 240-page report, including graphs, maps and tables, may be purchased from the Government Printing Office through the Census Bureau's Customer Service Center at 301-763-4100. It may also be accessed on the web in .pdf format for no charge at:  
<<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/censr-4.pdf>>.



If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton,  
you may as well make it dance.

George Bernard Shaw

~ *OF INTEREST, continued* ~

**FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY THREATENED**

Florida Governor Jeb Bush has announced a budget proposal to eliminate the 150-year-old State Library of Florida and the State Archives and disperse their contents to other state departments. In response, Pam Cooper, president of the Florida State Genealogical Society has issued the following message:

“The Florida State Genealogical Society has uploaded a brand new website with the society's response to the Florida Governor Jeb Bush's plan to eliminate the State Library.

“It includes up-to-date information and can be found at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/statelib.html>>.

“Time is very important to the people of Florida and across the U.S. Every library in Florida will be affected by this, as will any library outside of Florida that requests an interlibrary loan from Florida.

“We are desperately trying to save our State Library and Archives and we must have your help. Email, call, or fax every legislator. Go to the meetings in Tallahassee. Pass this message on to everyone immediately.”

The next legislative session begins March 3. Governor Bush can be contacted at:

Governor Bush  
PL 05 The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
Phone (850) 488-4441  
Fax (850) 487-0801  
Email: <[Fl\\_governor@eog.state.fl.us](mailto:Fl_governor@eog.state.fl.us)>

**BARBOUR COLLECTION  
PUBLISHING PROJECT  
COMPLETE**

The Barbour Collection of Connecticut town vital records at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford is one of the last great genealogical manuscript collections to be published. Covering 137 towns and comprising 14,333 typed pages, this magnificent collection of birth, marriage, and death records to about 1850 was the life work of General Lucius Barnes Barbour, Connecticut Examiner of Public Records from 1911 to 1934. In the summer of 2002, Genealogical Publishing Company reached a major milestone with the release of the final volumes in this series -- Volumes 51-55. The Barbour Collection is now the single largest series of books ever published by GPC.

In all the volumes, the entries are in strict alphabetical order by town and give name, date of event, names of parents (in the case of births and sometimes deaths), names of both spouses (in the case of marriages), and sometimes such items as age, occupation, and specific place of residence.

The Barbour Collection is available from:

Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc.  
1001 N. Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3897  
Orders: (800) 296-6687  
Other inquiries: (410) 837-8271  
Fax: (410) 752-8492 or (800) 599-9561  
Web: <http://www.genealogical.com/>  
Email orders: [sales@genealogical.com](mailto:sales@genealogical.com)  
Email info: [info@genealogical.com](mailto:info@genealogical.com)

~ *QUERIES* ~

TRAINOR - CUMMISKEY. Michael Trainor b. ca. 1817 in Ireland; died, with wife Mary O'Neil, in a fire in Bradford Co., Pennsylvania ca. 1860-1861. Daughter Catherine (b. ca. 1858) adopted in Bradford Co. by James Cummiskey, b. ca. 1810, in Aughtnamullen, Monaghan, Ireland. What is relationship between Michael Trainor and James Cummiskey? Mike Powers, 1009 Coronado Ave. #1, Long Beach, CA 90804, email <[lunlake@pobox.com](mailto:lunlake@pobox.com)>.

*We print queries from members for free; non-members are charged \$2.00.  
Please print clearly and limit your query to 50 words.*

~ ON THE WEB ~

**NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL &  
BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OFFERS  
HERITAGE QUEST ACCESS**

<[www.nygbs.org](http://www.nygbs.org)>

The NYG&B is now offering remote access to HeritageQuest™ and to the ProQuest® Historical Newspapers New York Times database to their members through the NYG&B website. In addition, more ProQuest® offerings are being planned.

Other benefits of membership include access to all of the library's collections (books, manuscripts, and microforms); subscriptions to two quarterly publications, the Record and the Newsletter, and discounts on other publications; four free queries per year in the Newsletter (also reprinted on their website); access to the NYG&B Community Bulletin Board; and reduced fees for educational programs and the NYG&B library's record search service.



**FRANKLIN FAMILIES GENETICS PROJECT**

<<http://www.roperld.com/FranklinGenetics.htm>>

L. David Roper, whose mother's Franklin family has a tradition that they were related to Benjamin Franklin, has initiated a Y-chromosome DNA testing project for the male Franklin lines, in an effort to create a way to easily determine if someone is in fact related to the great American statesman. You can read all about the work that has been done so far and find out how Y-chromosome testing works at this web page.

*Submitted by Richard Hoover.*



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE DIALECT SURVEY**

<<http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~golder/dialect/>>

Uses a series of questions, including rhyming word pairs and vocabulary words, to explore words and sounds in the English language. There are no right or wrong answers; by answering each question with what you really say and not what you think is "right," you can help contribute to an accurate

picture of how

English is used in your community. The test is designed for speakers of North American English, but speakers of all varieties of English are welcome to participate.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
ADDS NEW DATA TO ARC**

<[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/arc/](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/)>

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has added the following to its Archival Research Catalog (ARC):

- ◆ World War II Army and Army Air Force Casualty List
- ◆ World War II Navy, Marine and Coast Guard Casualty List

Names are listed by state, county, and then alphabetically by surname. For each individual serial number, rank and type of casualty is given.

ARC is the replacement for the National Archival Information Locator (NAIL) and currently describes about 20% of NARAs holdings, including those in Washington, DC, regional facilities and presidential libraries.

To view the WWII Casualty lists, as well as other data including the Guion-Miller Roll Index and the Index to the Final Rolls (Dawes), go to:

<[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/arc/](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/)>.

For more about genealogical research at NARA, see the genealogy page at:

<[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/genealogy/](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/)>.

*Reprinted from Ancestry Daily News, 21 February 2003, <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews/>>. Copyright 1998-2003, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.*



An investment in knowledge always  
pays the best interest.

-- Benjamin Franklin

~ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued** ~

*[continued from page 19]*

read very much, either. There will be so much data, we could never read more than a small part of it, so we will depend on increasingly sophisticated and powerful search engines, and besides, the little gadget will talk to us directly. I suppose genealogists of the future could even tell their personal search engines to scan through all the world's databases and retrieve their genealogies. The search engines will be busy while the genealogists sleep!

But when the genealogists of the future work back to the 20th Century, they will be missing out on the best part if they do not put away their personal electronic gizmos and study the hand-written records of their ancestors, lovingly drawn letter by letter, and bequeathed optimistically to a marvelous future that they knew must come some day.

- John McCoy

~ **HUMOR** ~

With all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person which almost went unnoticed last week. Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote the song "The Hokey Pokey," died peacefully at age 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin.

They put his left leg in -- and then the trouble started.

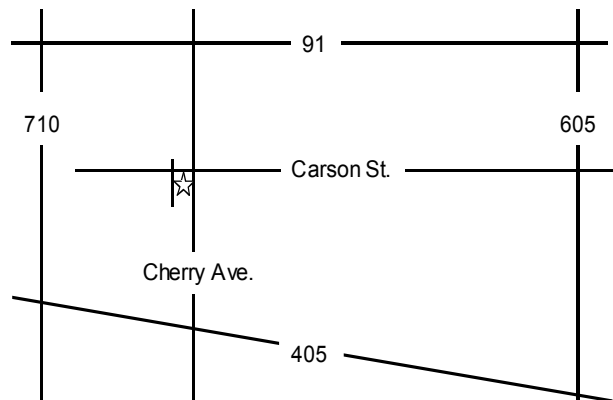
*Previously published in Missing Links, Volume 8, Number 5, 3 February 2003. Subscription information at <<http://www.petuniapress.com>>*



\* 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, 9 am to 9 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>> details 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 change from time to time.

~ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ~

- ◆ **Saturday, March 1, 9:00 am-1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue.
- ◆ **Saturday, March 15, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting,** Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier.
- ◆ **Sunday, March 16, 1:15 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 program information, see page 18.



- ◆ **Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ◆ **Sunday, March 23, 1:00 pm. BIFHS-USA monthly meeting** at the Los Angeles FHC.\*