



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 36 ♦ Number 4 ♦ April 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, APRIL 13, 2003

☞ *NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE* ☞



1:15 – INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Choose the Right Report, presented by John McCoy



2:15 – BREAK

Time for chatting, browsing and refreshments



2:30 – GENERAL MEETING

JOE REYNOLDS :
Identifying Old Photographs



Questing Heirs Board meeting to follow



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~ FINANCIAL REPORT ~

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

JANUARY 2003 – FINAL

Income	\$	58.08
Expenses		616.10
Balance as of January 31, 2003	\$	2734.28
Balance as of January 31, 2002	\$	3392.31

~ MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

MARCH MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 28

RENEWALS

George W. LIENESCH	Individual	to 9/03
Herbert LAFFOON	Individual	to 1/04
Elizabeth MYERS	Individual	to 2/04

~ REFRESHMENTS ~

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thank you to our March Hosts:

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

Our April Hosts will be:

- ◆ Connie (Little) WILLIAMS
- ◆ Mary Emma (Holley) HARGRAVE
- ◆ George JOHNSON
- ◆ Mary M. (White) SMITH

~ MEMBER NEWS ~

Bettie (Dutton) PERRÉ is recuperating from a broken left arm, and hopes to be back soon. Our wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Betty.



We report with sadness that Naydean UPDIKE, long-time *Questing Heirs* member and president from 1978 to 1980, passed away on February 20, 2003.

~ APRIL MEETING ~

☞ Change of Meeting Date – April 13 ☜

For this month only, our meeting will be held on the second Sunday of the month instead of the third Sunday. This is so our meeting date does not conflict with Easter Sunday.

Speaker: Joe Reynolds

Joe Reynolds lives in Dinuba, California. He has been lecturing throughout Northern and Southern California for a number of years. He will be speaking to the group on "Identifying Old Photographs." Members are encouraged to bring old photographs to the meeting.

Intermediate Class: Choose the Right Report

The best format for displaying your research depends on what you want to do with the report. We'll examine some of the most popular report formats to see how well they work in different situations.

Book & Periodical Giveaway

Over the years QHGS has amassed quite a few books and periodicals. Since these aren't doing anyone any good sitting in our storage space, we will have them out at the meeting for you to take home. So come early to the meeting and bring a sturdy bag or two!

~ RESEARCH TRIP NEWS ~

**MaryEmma (Holley) HARGRAVE
(562) 799-8857**

The February 22 trip to the Southern California Genealogical Society Library in Burbank was a great success. The participants met at the Resurrection Church parking lot and carpoled from there. The SCGS collection is impressive and worth consideration for research.

Let us try for a day at the Los Angeles Main Library by Blue Line from Long Beach on Saturday, April 26. We'll meet at 8:15 am in the parking lot of Resurrection Church and carpool to parking near the Blue Line. (Any suggestions for parking appreciated.) Pack a lunch or snack if desired. Drivers are needed for a successful transition to and from. Remember your driver's tip! Let us go-o-o!

~ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ~

FINDING THE TRACT BOOK

You've already checked all the censuses. Your ancestor lived in a particular township, and you think he was probably there when the county was first settled. He lived in one of the "federal land" states, where the first land sales took place at a federal land office. Realizing that those records might mention your ancestor, you check the most accessible index, on the Bureau of Land Management web site at <<http://glorerecords.blm.gov>>. (Even before this step, you've checked a county history or a commercial atlas to find the township and range coordinates that describe the land where your ancestor settled.) You search the BLM web site, but your ancestor's name does not appear in the area where you thought he should be. Also, by sheer luck, the courthouse burned down on February 7, 1850, so there are no early deeds, wills, or marriages!

NOW WHAT?

The key to this puzzle is buried somewhere in the fine print on the BLM website: Not all of the land records are posted yet! Here's the list of what is missing:

- ◆ Credit sales (transactions that started before 1820)
- ◆ Iowa
- ◆ Sales before 1908 for most far-western states
- ◆ Information about other transactions that did not result in issuance of a patent.

Where can you find the missing information? In the tract books!

NOW THE FUN STARTS

The tract books are at the National Archives in Washington, DC. They are also on about 1,300 microfilm reels available through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. But how do you figure out which tract book you need, and what microfilm it is on? This can be confusing, because of the way the contents of each film are described in the Family History Library Catalog. Here's a way to make sense of it all:

1. First find the list of films. The easiest method is a film number search using 1445536.
2. Then list the film notes for the item. The list is organized by state, land office (possibly), then by the legal description of the land.
3. Keep in mind that some states are organized by the name of the land office (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois).
4. Start looking for Township and Range. Find **every** film that contains the combination of Township and Range that you need. There may be several films that cover that combination! Some land offices ran out of room in their main sequence of tract books, and recorded the overflow in unused sections of other volumes!

STUDYING THE TRACT BOOK

Beware! Tract books are usually filmed right to left -- the reverse of most other microfilms! Most seem to have page numbers. Each page probably has a heading that shows Section Number, Township, and Range. Scan page by page until you find the township and range combination that you need. Then start looking for names, normally on the left side of each pair of facing pages. Make a photocopy of both the left and right pages, whenever you find a name of interest. Be sure to label each page clearly, because the information you need may run right across both pages!

There are three reasons to make photocopies:

1. It's far easier than trying to write down all of the information.
2. It may take a long time to decode the script and the strange abbreviations.
3. If you send a photocopy to the National Archives along with your request for copies of the land entry case file, the staff will be able to understand more clearly what you are after.

This is a lot of work, but when you have already exhausted the more readily available records, such as censuses, wills, etc., the federal land records may be the next logical step in your research.

John McCoy

~ **NOTES FROM THE JAMBOREE, by Mike Powers** ~

The Southern California Genealogical Society's annual Jamboree was held at the Pasadena Convention Center on Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1, 2003. This was my first time at the Jamboree, and I certainly found out why everyone urged me to go. It's a wonderland for genealogists! I checked out all the exhibitors' stalls, attended a couple of very helpful presentations, got a great deal on some software I'd been wanting, found out about what other local societies are doing, picked up a ton of flyers, talked to quite a few like-minded people, and got to know some of my fellow QHGS members better. Even though I didn't win the trip to Salt Lake City, I definitely got my money's worth! Below is just a little of the information I picked up at the Jamboree.

THE 1890 PROJECT

The Southern California Genealogical Society has just started The 1890 Project, which is an attempt to re-create the population of Los Angeles County in 1890. The project will combine every resource available into a searchable database on CD. Resources will include an every-name index of the Los Angeles Times of 1890, vital records, court records, voter rolls, church and cemetery records, and business and civic rosters. Volunteers are being sought to contribute ideas and help compile this needed new resource for researchers. Meetings are being held at the SCGS Library at 417 Irving Drive in Burbank. For more information, contact the Library at (818) 843-7247.

EVENTS

The SCGS is offering beginner's classes in family history led by Beverly Truesdale at the SCGS Library. Classes will be held every Saturday in April from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Contact the Library for more information.



Also at the SCGS Library, Doni Nelson and members of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic

America will be presenting a seminar entitled "An Introduction to Hispanic Genealogy" on Saturday, April 12 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is an opportunity to learn how to get started, what kind of records are available and where they can be found, and what to do if you don't speak Spanish. Cost is \$20.00 for SCGS members; \$25.00 for non-members. Contact the Library for more information.



The British Isles Family History Society – USA has a couple of events lined up, too, both to be held at the Los Angeles Family History Center at 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. in West Los Angeles.

On Sunday, April 27, the Irish Study Group presents Irish for All, with special guests Dr. Brian Trainor and Mr. Fintan Mullin of the Ulster Historical Society, who promise to bring a variety of lectures never presented before, as well as their dynamic database presentation for those with Ulster heritage. Afternoon tea is included in this event; suggested donation is \$25.00 and \$5.00 for tea. For reservations, contact Nancy Bier at email

<nbierirish@aol.com>. You can also write the society at: BIFHS-USA, 2531 Sawtelle Blvd. PMB134, Los Angeles CA 90064-3124.

Then, on Tuesday, May 6, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, the BIFHS presents An Evening with Dr. Colin Chapman, the noted English lecturer, author, historian and genealogist. He will be speaking on "Sin, Sex, and Marriage," regaling the group with stories of our ancestors from England. Suggested donation is \$15.00; make checks out to BIFHS-USA and mail your reservation to: BIFHS-USA, 2531 Sawtelle Blvd. PMB134, Los Angeles CA 90064-3124. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number, and email address.



The Utah Genealogical Association is holding its annual Family History Conference at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah from Thursday, April 24 through Saturday, April 26. This year's theme is "The Drama, The Dreams." Phone (888) INFO-UGA or see <<http://infouga.org>> for more information.

[continued on next page]

~ NOTES FROM THE JAMBOREE, continued ~

COMPUTER/WEB

RootsMagic is a genealogy program that is sophisticated and powerful, yet easy to use. It is packed with several great features. You can find information about this brand new product at <<http://www.RootsMagic.com>> or by calling toll-free (866) GO-ROOTS.



The Gold Bug says they have the web's best geography/history site. This claim may be a little exaggerated, but if you like maps as much as I do, then you will find that it is an excellent site. The address for this site is <<http://www.goldbug.com>>.

There you will find information on their program AniMap 2.5. This is the program I got a \$10.00 discount on at the Jamboree. I paid \$69.00 instead of the regular \$79.00 – a little steep, but it's definitely worth it. I've been wanting it since Connie Moretti mentioned it last year at one of our meetings, since it sounded like something I really needed.

The program comes on a CD that contains over 2,300 maps. The maps show the changing county boundaries for each of the 48 contiguous states for every year since colonial times. There are also maps of the entire U. S. showing the changes in state and territorial boundaries from 1776 to the present. You can overlay watercourses and railroad lines – and even township & range grids – onto the maps. You can even export the maps as bitmap files to use in word processing and graphics programs.

The SiteFinder database, also on the CD, contains listings for nearly 800,000 places, both current and historical. You can pluck items from the database and plot them directly on a map. They will remain in place when you switch the map to different years. This is invaluable for making sense of those crazy-making boundary changes.



The new online Genealogy Warehouse at [genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com) offers books at 40% to 50% off. You can find by going to <<http://www.genealogical.com>>,

and then clicking on "Genealogy Warehouse."

RESEARCHERS

Heritage Consulting and Services of Salt Lake City offer help in getting military records from the National Archives quickly. They also feature their seminars on CD for only \$20.00 each. For more information contact them toll-free at (877) 537-2000 or take a look at their web site at <www.heritageconsulting.com>.



The SCGS Research Team is a group of highly qualified volunteers who conduct specialized research for a nominal fee for their patrons. Some of the areas they specialize in are: Revolutionary and Colonial Wars, Massachusetts Town Records, Colonial Virginia Records, French-Canadian Research, Cornish Records, The California Gold Rush, and of course Los Angeles County. Contact the SCGS Library by phone at (818) 843-7247 or by email at <scgs@earthlink.net>.

~ TESTING YOUR SKILLS ~

Can you make sense of this microfilm description from the Family History Library Catalog?

Film 1445538: Vincennes Land Office, Indiana: Vol. Z Twp 7-12N, Range 12W Vol. Z Twp 1-2N, 4-15N, Range 1-2W, 4-11W Vol. 1 Twp 1-4S, Range 1W Vol. 1 add'l Twp 1-8S, Range 1-15W.

There are four items on this film, as shown more clearly below. Which item would contain land sales

for Township 8 north of the baseline, Range 10 west of the principal meridian?

- ◆ Item 1: T 7-12N, R 12W.
- ◆ Item 2: T 1-2N, 4-15N, R 1-2W, 4-11W.
- ◆ Item 3: T 1-4S, R 1W.
- ◆ Item 4: T 1-8S, R 1-15W.

The answer can be found on page 30.

~ **OF INTEREST** ~

USED BOOK STORES

At the February Whittier Area Genealogical Society meeting, a discussion was held concerning used books and the value that they contribute to genealogists. Below is a list of used bookstores in our area:

The Little Old Bookshop
6546 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 698-1934

Friends of the Whittier Public Library
S.W. Corner Comstock and Bailey
Whittier, CA 90601
(562) 696-4498

Acres of Books
240 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA
(562) 437-6980
web: <<http://www.abebooks.com/home/acres/>>

The Bookman
840 N. Tustin Avenue, Orange, CA
(800) 538-0166
web: <<http://www.ebookman.com/>>

BookBaron.Corn
1236 S. Magnolia Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804
(714) 527-7022
web: <<http://bookbaron.com/anaheim.htm>>

Reprinted from the Whittier Area Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 22, Number 10, March 2003.

◆
FAMILY TALK

I have been keeping a list of all the expressions, odd words, or just plain funny things that my ancestors have said.

I never knew my grandparents, but my father and his three sisters were born in the 1890s and the whole family spoke German until the parents died. As a result, our family vocabulary included some very interesting expressions and words.

As I remember a word or phrase, I write about the person who used that expression as well as the meaning and whatever background information comes to mind. As I continuously write my family history, I am creating a whole 'family vocabulary' to leave for my five children to enjoy.

I am also including words and phrases from their great-grandmother and her sister and brother on their father's side, as my children were all very small when these interesting people died. A word or phrase can bring back so many wonderful memories, and I can paint a 'word picture' for my children.

Lois Doonan, Simpsonville, Kentucky

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECORDS

The cost of ordering certificates from the Los Angeles County Registrar has been increased. Birth certificates are now \$18.00, and Death certificates are now \$13.00. Most of the increase in fee will go to the state of California to finance a comprehensive Vital Records database.

Reprinted from the Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society News, January 2003.

~ **TESTING YOUR SKILLS – ANSWER** ~

[continued from page 29]

Item 2 would include any transactions for Township 8 N of the baseline and Range 10 west of the principal meridian. However, there is no guarantee that the transaction you want will be there, because the sales relating to this area at the Vincennes Land Office were scattered in several different volumes!

~ ON THE WEB ~

WEB SITES WORTH A VISIT

<<http://www.memory.loc.gov>>

The American Memory Project of the Library of Congress has over 7 million digitized records available.

<<http://www.moa.undl.umich.edu>>

The Making of America collection at the University of Michigan contains digitized books and journals from the antebellum period through reconstruction.

<<http://www.newspaperabstracts.com>>

Newspaper Abstracts, a searchable archive of newspapers published in the United States before 1923.

<<http://www.nps.gov/>>

The National Park Service offers brief descriptions of battles at the various battlefield sites.

<<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>>

The National Park Service is also is the site of the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System database.

Reprinted from the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 26, No. 3, March-April 2003.



MISSOURI DATABASE

<<http://www.sos.state.mo.us/archives/resources>>

The Missouri State Archives has a database of over 185,000 records of births, stillbirths, and deaths in the state of Missouri prior to 1909.

Reprinted from the Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter, No. 228, March 2003.



**ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES
ONLINE DATABASES**

<<http://www.ilsos.net>>

The genealogy column in the Terre Haute Tribune Star mentioned this database on the Illinois State Archives Web site. It contains the original land plats of all of the townships in the 102 counties of Illinois, 3,478 hand-drawn plats that resulted from federal surveys of the land done between 1804 and 1891. Go

to <<http://www.ilsos.net>> and select the link to the Federal Township Plats of Illinois. Hope this will be of help to someone.

Other Illinois State Archives Online Databases
<<http://www2.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html>>

Previously published in Missing Links, Vol. 8, No. 9, 2 March 2003. Submitted by Ruth Frey. Subscription information at <<http://www.petuniapress.com>>.



GERMAN WEB SITE IN ENGLISH

<www.gcnealogienetz.de/genealogy.html>

Here are some topics you can explore at Genealogy.net:

- ◆ Resources for various German-speaking areas
- ◆ 30 German genealogical societies
- ◆ Gedcom databases
- ◆ Translation help
- ◆ Dialect information & maps
- ◆ Aids for finding places
- ◆ Emigration
- ◆ Sample letters
- ◆ Conversions of area, volume, weight, speed, money, etc.
- ◆ Terminology translations
- ◆ Database of home pages worldwide
- ◆ Computer genealogy
- ◆ Local histories available
- ◆ Parish books
- ◆ and much more

Reprinted from the Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter, No. 228, March 2003.



The most aggravating thing about
the younger generation is that
I no longer belong to it.

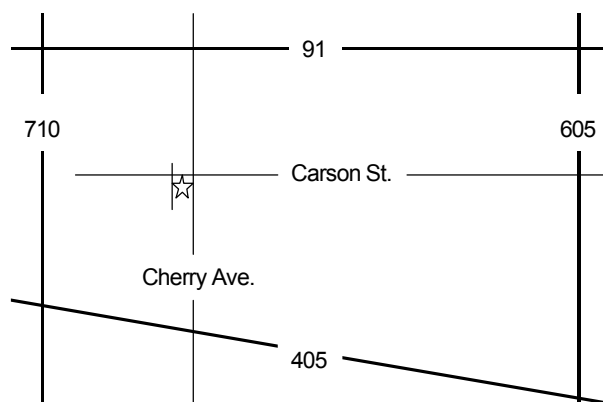
Albert Einstein

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

- ◆ Saturday, April 5, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Bill Principe speaking on “Unlocking the Mysteries in Vital Records” and “Utilizing the Sons of the Revolution Library, Glendale.”
- ◆ Saturday, April 12, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Southern California Genealogical Society Seminar. An Introduction to Hispanic Genealogy, by Doni Nelson and members of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America. SCGS Family Research Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. See page 28 for more information.

☞ **NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE** ☜

- ◆ **Sunday, April 13, 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 at right. For program information, see page 26.



- ◆ Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ◆ Saturday, April 19, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Norma Keating speaking on “Interpreting and Evaluating Evidence.”
- ◆ Thursday, April 24. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society SET bus trip to the Huntington Beach Central Library. \$23.00. Contact Mike Cleary at <Sakmc1@aol.com>.
- ◆ **Saturday, April 26. Questing Heirs Genealogical Society outing to the Los Angeles Main Library.** See page 26 for more information.
- ◆ Sunday, April 27, 12:00 – 6:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA Irish Seminar at the Los Angeles FHC.* Guest speakers: Dr. Brian Trainor and Mr. Fintan Mullan of the Ulster Historical Foundation. See page 28 for more information.
- ◆ Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 – 9:00 pm. BIFHS-USA lecture at the Los Angeles FHC.* An Evening with Dr. Colin Chapman. See page 28 for more information.



* 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.