

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 6 ♦ June 2004

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS ♦ 1969-2004

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, JUNE 20, 2004

1:15	Class	What It Takes to Do Research in a Foreign Country presented by John McCoy
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2:15	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER <i>CONNIE MORETTI</i>
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~ JUNE MEETING ~

SPEAKER: CONNIE MORETTI

Connie Moretti retired after thirty years as an educator. She learned about land records while earning a California real estate license. She now works as a professional genealogist, with a specialty in American Lineage. She also teaches beginning Internet Genealogy classes and is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Connie has spoken to our group on numerous occasions. Those presentations include "Military Records," "So, You Are Stuck Climbing your Family Tree?" and "Geographic Finding Aids." At press time, we did not have Connie's topic for our June meeting, but her presentations are always fabulous, and packed with much useful information, so we know you won't want to miss her.



**INTERMEDIATE CLASS:
What It Takes to Do Research
in a Foreign Country**

Also at our June meeting, John McCoy will present a review of the resources and preparation that are essential for successful research outside the United States.

~ SOCIETY NEWS ~

QUESTING HEIRS ANNIVERSARY PLANS

Our 35th anniversary is coming up in July.

We have a great meeting planned for our anniversary month. We'll be having a show-and-tell during the first half of the meeting. After the break, Nancy Carlberg will be our guest speaker. Her topic will be "What I Learned from Alex Haley." We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, July 18.

As we reported in previous issues, we would like to put together a commemorative video for this special occasion. If you have anything to add to the video, such as pictures, memorabilia, or memories, be sure to contact Aaron Day at (562) 634-6708.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR CAROLYN BRENT

There will be a SURPRISE 90th birthday party for long-time Questing Heirs member Carolyn Brent on July 10, 2004. The party will take place from noon until 3:00pm at the Cal Bowl at 2500 East Carson Street (between Paramount and Cherry) in Lakewood. There will be a buffet luncheon as well. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Terry Brent, 9132 Orangewood Avenue, Garden Grove CA 92841, or by phone at (714) 636-2886. Gifts are not necessary – your presence will be your gift.

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

MAY MEETING ATTENDANCE
Members: 20

Correction to Roster:
Kay Foord's email address should read:
<kfinlay2@juno.com>

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

Editor's Note: Dave has been on vacation for a month, and will have a full report in time for next month's newsletter.

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

Thanks to our hosts for the May meeting:
John FOORD
Richard HOOVER
Tina YANIS

Our hosts for the June meeting will be:
Linda ARTUSO
Cynthia Day ELLIOTT
Charlotte LLEWELLYN



*My hobby is genealogy.
I raise dust bunnies as pets.*

~PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

At our last meeting, I presented a discussion on this topic, which was well received. It was clear that there is much, much more to be said about the last century as it relates to genealogy. After all, it was the fastest-moving century on record. Everything was bigger, faster, and more far-reaching than in all the previous centuries. (The alert reader will notice I did not say everything was *better*!) At the same time, it was the century we know the most about, the century where our most familiar family stories and events originated.

And that's the challenge! It is so easy to dismiss as mundane the lives of our families in the Twentieth Century, or to assume that they are part of our *present* rather than our *past*, and therefore not worth mentioning when we compile our family histories. It's my opinion, however, that genealogists should take care to preserve today's memories, before they become lost, so that future generations will understand who we were and where we came from. The line between genealogy and history does not really exist; genealogy is family *history*, and history is *everything* that has already happened.

To me, some of the most interesting events of the Twentieth Century were changes in our way of life. It is usually easy enough to record the fact that grandpa served in one or another of the dreadful wars of the Twentieth Century, but we need to go well beyond that fact. I think we should be able to discover how our Twentieth Century ancestors came to grips with the great questions of their times. When faced with serious

challenges – such as the Great Depression, wars, inflation, the decline of the agrarian economy, city life, new technology, new careers, automation, and innumerable social changes – how did they react? Did they resist change? Did they rebel when they found society headed in a direction they found objectionable? Were they victims of their times? Did they shape the times in which they found themselves? Or did they find some way to cope?

When future generations learn about our lives, if they learn anything at all, will they find it strange that people lost their homes in the Great Depression, that families had to beg for food, that grandpa was gassed in World War I, or that this couple divorced while that one kept going in spite of everything? Why was it nearly an earthshaking event when a married woman entered the work force? I expect that they will not understand, because they will know very little about our daily lives. With that in mind, I recommend including the social context in your family history.

The libraries are full of social commentary from the Twentieth Century. The resources are nearly inexhaustible. Did your ancestor participate in the labor movement of the early Twentieth Century? Read the newspapers of the day – start with the *New York Times* – and find out what was going on around the country. Was your ancestor in World War II? Find out what unit he or she was in, where the unit was stationed, what battles they fought, then look for first-

person accounts of these events. Soldiers wrote many letters home from the front, and a great number of these were published in the hometown newspapers. If your family is lucky enough to have snapshots from this or other wars, complete the stories that the pictures tell, by tracking down accounts of others who were there.

Where were your ancestors during prohibition? During the days of the Vietnam draft lottery? When Bonnie and Clyde came through town? During the last days of Nixon's presidency? During the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, the New Deal, the Great Society? Was anyone in your family at Woodstock? Did anyone drive an Edsel? Did anyone get caught up in the amazing food fads and kitchen appliances of the 1950's? Who was the first in the family to get a college education? Travel in Europe after graduation? Play a musical instrument? Win an athletic scholarship? Own a really noisy car? Wear contact lenses? Have a body part replaced with an implant? Future generations will find these stories intriguing!

It is great fun to unearth long-forgotten stories of previous centuries. But don't let the quaint language of your earliest known ancestors blind you to the equally remarkable stories of the Twentieth Century, which has, after all, already passed into the realm of history!

- John McCoy



~FEATURE ARTICLE~

MY FIRST GYMANFA GANU by Michael Powers

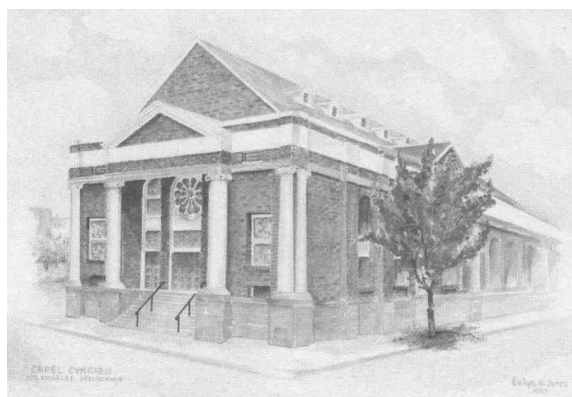
My mother and I took off from Long Beach on a hot, hot day in early May to take part in our first Gymanfa Ganu. (I can already hear you saying: "Your first *what?*" That's Gymanfa Ganu, which means "singing festival" in Welsh. It's pronounced guh-MAHN-vah GAH-nee, and you say it with a rising intonation, as if it were a question. If you think that's hard to say, don't even try the plural, which is Gymanfaoedd Ganu, something like guh-MAHN-vah-oyth GAH-nee.) While there is usually a soloist who may sing secular music, most of the program is made up of hymns. These aren't your mild-mannered, vanilla-flavored "we are more pious than thee" hymns, though. These are great Welsh hymns. The loud ones are majestic anthems, and the soft ones embody devotion. All are meant to be sung with great feeling.

As we sped up the carpool lane of the Harbor Freeway with the air conditioning going full blast, we wondered if our Welsh ancestors were smiling down upon us. My mother's mother, Frances Beryl Llewellyn, was born in 1905 in the coal mining town of Salineville, Ohio, near where Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia meet. It was work in the mines that brought her parents, David Llewellyn (b. 1860, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales) and Sarah Ann Hughes (b. 1862, Rhymney, Monmouthshire, Wales), to Ohio. In turn, my mother's work in the aviation and defense industries had brought us to California. Now we were making a symbolic trip back to the source.

Music is a central part of Welsh life and culture, and true to form, everyone in my grandmother's family sang and played an instrument. My great-grandparents even spoke Welsh as their native language. As my mother was raised

in Akron by her father's sister and her husband, we missed out on a lot of our Welsh heritage. One thing that did get transmitted to us, though, was an intense pride in being Welsh. That is the reason this line has been the main focus of my research, even though at times it has proven to be incredibly frustrating. Researching this family has put me on the path of discovering what it is to be Welsh, and that has definitely made it worthwhile.

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*Welsh Presbyterian Church
1153 Valencia Street, Los Angeles*

Ever since hearing about the Gymanfa Ganu, I had been looking forward to attending one. This one is held twice a year, in May and November, at the Welsh Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles. The church is in a very old part of L.A., on the northwest corner of 12th and Valencia, just west of the Convention Center. Its history is long and eclectic: the building started out in 1909 as Sinai Temple, the first Conservative synagogue built west of Chicago.¹ In 1926, it became the permanent home for the Welsh Presbyterian Church, which had outgrown its previous home at 436 Crocker Street.² The congregation now shares the building with Victory Outreach, a church that ministers to Latinos.

[continued on next page]

¹ *A Delegate's Guide to Jewish Downtown*, by Jerry Friedman-Habush. *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, 10 August 2000. <<http://www.jewishjournal.com/archive/08.11.00/convention1.08.11.00.html>>. Accessed 14 May 2004. This guide is a fascinating tour of Jewish sites all over Los Angeles.

² *Welsh Chapel Restoration Projects*. <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtwags/ChurchRestoration.html>>. Accessed 14 May 2004.

~FEATURE ARTICLE, continued~

[continued from previous page]

Signs of its history pervade the place. Wonderful stained glass windows feature the Star of David. Small plaques on the ends of the pews, showing benefactors to the church, bear good Welsh names: Davies, Jones, Thomas, Williams, Hughes. In a really nice touch, the church has incorporated the Star of David, along with the red dragon of the Welsh flag, into the banners which hang in the chapel.

The church choir has an illustrious history, too. According to the Welsh-American Genealogical Society web page:³

“The Welsh Church choir sang at the World's Fair in San Diego in 1935 and competed at the World's Fair of 1939 which celebrated the opening of the Golden Gate Bridge. One of its proudest achievements was having participated in the 1941 Academy Award winning film, 'How Green Was My Valley.' The beautiful choral music was provided by the outstanding singers who were members of the church choir. They portrayed coal miners and villagers in this poignant story of a South Wales coal mining family. The 'Welsh Village' was constructed on the 20th Century Fox Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains. The work was so realistic that many of the homesick singers reportedly burst into tears.”

Upon entering, we were greeted warmly at the door, and given a program and the music for the hymns that were going to be sung. The important thing to know is that you don't go to a gymanfa ganu to listen, but rather to participate. Inside the chapel, there were sections in the front marked for (from left to right) tenors, altos, sopranos and basses. This being our first gymanfa ganu, and not being too sure what we were getting ourselves into, we asked if we could sit together. They told us we could if we sat toward the back. They also let us know that it doesn't matter if you feel you can sing or not.

(The famous Welsh ability to sing was one of the things that definitely did not get passed down to me!) They assured us several times that what was important was to sing with feeling.

After some introductory remarks and a prayer in Welsh – also known as "the language of heaven" – the fun began. If you've ever wondered what it's like to be in the midst of a great choir, this is your chance to find out. These people can sing! It was thrilling to stand in the middle of it all – it felt as if the church was about to lift off the ground, as if all the joy and the glory of the music being sung would raise the entire building closer to heaven.

We tried our best to sing along. I could pronounce the Welsh words,⁴ but don't sing very well, so I just droned away. My mom has a fine voice, but couldn't pronounce the Welsh as well, so she la-la-la'ed through it. Many of the hymns were sung with some verses in Welsh and some in English, which made it easier for those of us who aren't fluent (yet!).

The hymns were interspersed with performances by the soloist and the conductor. They sang some fine pieces, including a really sweet version of *Panis Angelicus* by César Franck. The program went on for almost three hours, but didn't seem nearly that long. I felt sorry for the conductor and the soprano soloist, though. They were from Wales, and must have been suffering terribly from the heat. The average high temperature there in August is only 68 degrees, and it was over 100 in Los Angeles that day!

There was a te bach (tea) afterwards, with sandwiches and Welsh cakes. The food was good, but the best part was being able to connect with our people. Though it was our first time at the church, we felt quite welcome. Everyone was friendly and cheerful. They even looked like us! It was almost like getting to talk to my mother's Aunt Midge or to her cousin Gordon again.

You'll definitely see me at the next Gymanfa Ganu, which is scheduled for November 6, 2004.⁵

³ *Welsh Chapel Restoration Projects. Welsh-American Genealogical Society/Cymdeithas OIrbain Achau Cymry America, Janice B. Edwards, webmaster. <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~vtwags/ChurchRestoration.html>>. Accessed 14 May 2004.*

⁴ *Those interested in hearing Welsh can watch the news, listen to the radio, and find excellent lessons online, all for free on the BBC Wales web page at <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/>>.*

⁵ *The Welsh Church of Los Angeles web page at <<http://www.geocities.com/lawelsbchurch/>> has more information on the church, services, and upcoming events.*

~ O F I N T E R E S T ~

**RECEPTION PLANNED FOR NEW
GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT AT LBPL**

The Genealogy Department will be moved to a new location on the first floor at Main Library. Two very important support groups for the library will co-host a reception of the grand opening at the Main Library, 101 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, California 90822. The program is scheduled for Monday, June 28 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. There will be a short program, light refreshments, and a tour of the Genealogy/History area.

The Questing Heirs Genealogical

Society is promoting its latest Genealogy Collection, entitled "The Questing Heirs Honor/Memorial Books Collection."

The African American Genealogical Council of Long Beach is promoting its latest Genealogy Collection, as well. It is entitled "The Roots Collection of African American Genealogy."

Members and friends are asked to consider donating a book or books,

in honor or memory of someone, to one or both of the collections. A bookplate will be added to the book with the name of the collection, the donor's name, and the name of the person being honored.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Day by email at <adaydec@aol.com>, by phone at (562) 634-6708, or by mail at P. O. Box 5903, Long Beach, CA 90805-0610.



~ G E N E T H E G E N E A L O G I C A L C H U R C H M O U S E ~

- ♦ I am really getting upset with all the moving around of Questing Heirs material that is stored at the church site. I do refer to this material quite often for information in conducting my research. I just have it all calculated how I can access the material easily, and then it is piled or stored in a different place and order which makes me so frustrated!
- ♦ I think John McCoy provides excellent material for the intermediate classes. In fact, I am thinking of giving him suggestions for something a little more in the rodent line. However, I am worried about him getting burn-out if he always has to do the intermediate class. I know that many other members have expertise and could be sharing their knowledge with the group.
- ♦ HURRAH! for Richard Hoover and the sound system he made available. Richard, "just aim it a little more toward the floor."

~ B R A I N T E A S E R ~

This is the sort of puzzle that keeps me awake nights.

Nicolas Dutoit, son of François Dutoit, married in 1585 to Louise, daughter of Antoine Pache at Moudon, Switzerland. The marriage contract was recorded by a local notary, and still survives. It mentions several family relationships:

- ♦ Nicolas, the groom, had an uncle, Jaques Dutoit, who was present. Jaques was the son of Claude Dutoit.
- ♦ Jaques Dutoit refers to the groom as his nephew, but he also refers to the bride as his sister-in-law.

What's going on here? Can you work out all the relationships between these parties?

The solution can be found on page 47.

~ O N T H E W E B ~

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES
WWII ARMY DATABASE**

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/title_list.jsp>

The U. S. National Archives has put up a new database of nine million people who enlisted in the Army in World War II. Please be aware that it is not complete. The database is called: World War II Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File. When you get there pull down the subject search menu to "World War 1939-1945," then click "submit." For more information about the database see: <http://www.archives.gov/aad/whats_new.html>.

Posted by Joe Beine <joe@genesearch.com> on the Association of Professional Genealogists mailing list <APG-L@rootsweb.com> on 25 May 2004.



**ACCESS TO ARCHIVES
<<http://www.a2a.org.uk/>>**

A2A is a useful resource for family historians looking for references to their ancestors in catalogues of the Archives held in record offices and other places in England. Among other things, it includes naturalizations, denizations, and material from some of the more important "peculiar" jurisdictions. This is already a major site, and should become even more useful in the future.

Submitted by John McCoy.



LINKPENDIUM

<<http://www.linkpendium.org>>

One of the wonderful things about the web is that every once in a while you can still come across something that just blows your mind with its simplicity and usefulness. Linkpendium is one of those sites. Imagine having links to all the best genealogy sites listed on a single page by geographic location, and then sorted under such headers as: Cemeteries, Census Records and Indexes, Directories, Genealogies, History, Libraries/Museums/Archives, Lookups, Lists/Boards, Maps/Gazetteers, Projects, Societies, Surnames, and Vital Records. The pages even have a link to the Cyndi's list page for that county.

I'm really not sure what I like best about this site: the sheer number of links, the useful way in which they are presented, or the clean interface, which has no advertising, other than a blurb at the top asking users to spread the word about the site. It makes me yearn for the days when the web was for information, not for selling things. It is so refreshing to be able to work without being constantly bombarded with distracting flashing ads.

Here is some more information directly from the Linkpendium site:

Linkpendium is being developed by Karen Isaacson and Brian Leverich, founders of the extremely popular RootsWeb genealogical community site. At the time of its merger with Ancestry in June, 2000, RootsWeb had about 600,000 registered users, was serving about 100,000,000 Web page views monthly, and was delivering about 160,000,000 pieces of email monthly to the subscribers of its 18,000 mailing lists. Linkpendium's first public facilities are in production now, and they expect to be rolling out further functionality at a rapid pace.

~ S O L U T I O N T O B R A I N T E A S E R ~

At first, I thought the marriage contract must be in error. How could Jaques be the uncle of the groom and the brother-in-law of the bride at the same time? I kept digging, and eventually figured out that Jaques and his nephew Nicolas

Dutoit had married the Pache sisters, Marie and Louise, respectively. Louise, wife of Nicolas Dutoit, was therefore the sister-in-law of Jaques Dutoit. Because of these relationships, I now understand that Nicolas was the son of the François

Dutoit who was the son of Claude, and not the François who was the son of Claude's brother Pierre Dutoit. Thus, there were two François Dutoit's who were first cousins.

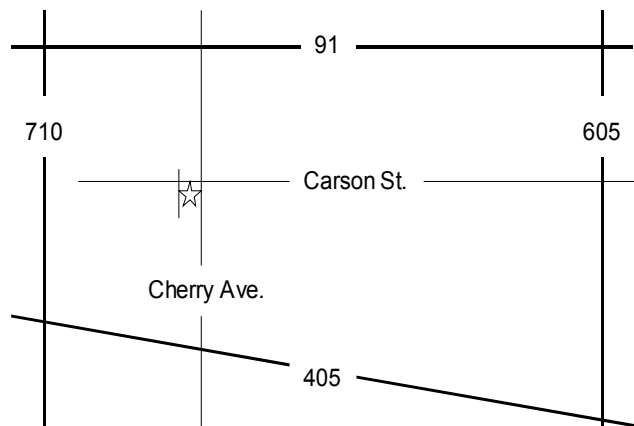
Submitted by John McCoy.

~ C A L E N D A R ~

- ♦ Saturday, June 5, 9:00am – 1:30pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations, including Gregory Rager speaking on Historical Photography Processes.
- ♦ Wednesday, June 16, 6:30pm. Genealogy Society of North Orange County California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, corner of Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda.
- ♦ Wednesday, June 16, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Guest speaker: Debra L. Wiley, C.G., speaking on becoming a Certified Genealogist.

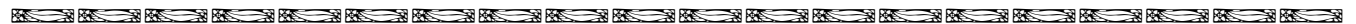
- ♦ Saturday, June 19, 1:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Guest speaker: Norma Stors Keating. Topic: Genetics, Migration, and Family Lines.

- ♦ **Sunday, June 20, 1:15pm. 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, please see page 42.



- ♦ Sunday, June 27, 1:00 -5:00pm. British Isles Family History Society general meeting. Los Angeles FHC.* Speaker: Lew Carlson. Topic: The Wild Geese in Support of the Crown.
- ♦ Wednesday, September 8 – Saturday, September 11. Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference. Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas. Theme: Legends Live Forever: Researching the Past for Future Generations. This genealogical extravaganza will be co-hosted by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Texas State Genealogical Society, and the Austin Genealogical Society. For more information: Federation of Genealogical Societies, P. O. Box 200940, Austin TX 78720-0940, <www.fgs.org>, phone 888-FGS-1500, email <fgs-office@fgs.org>.

Any events coming up you'd like others to know about? Please contact the newsletter editor, Mike Powers, by phone at (562) 621-6631 or by email at <lunalake@pobox.com> for inclusion in the newsletter.



*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, 10 am to 7 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> 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.