

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 37 ♦ Number 9 ♦ September 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, SEPTEMBER 19, 2004

1:15	Class	THE 100 MOST-USED BOOKS 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 TOM UNDERHILL: Photography for the Family Historian
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~SEPTEMBER MEETING~

SPEAKER: TOM UNDERHILL

Tom Underhill is the owner and senior designer for Shumway Publishing/Creative Continuum Family History Services, a book design and publishing company specializing in high-quality short-run and micro-run family history books. Tom's background includes extensive graphic design, marketing and project management experience. Tom and his company has created custom-designed books and printed over 1.5 million pages. Tom is the author of Family History Publishing Basics and Scanning and Photo Retouching Basics, two primers geared to demystify much of the technical jargon surround image acquisition and publishing.

Mr. Underhill's theme will be "Photography For The Family Historian." It places emphasis on us historians of today, and the pictures we take for future historians.



CLASS: THE 100 MOST-USED BOOKS

Every Family History Center has this collection on microfiche. Have you used it? What's included? Why are these books so important? In light of the growth of genealogy since this collection was assembled, should it be revised?

~FINANCIAL REPORT~

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

July Income	\$ 44.25
July Expenses	262.20
Balance	\$1,655.39

~REFRESHMENTS~

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thank you to our August hosts:

George & Polly JOHNSON Jeanette JONES
 Connie (Little) WILLIAMS Tina YANIS

Our hosts for the September meeting will be:

Linda ARTUSO Marilyn BRASHER
 Aaron DAY Phyllis STRAWN

~MEMBERSHIP REPORT~

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

AUGUST MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 27 Guests: 1



NEW MEMBERS

Kathleen Ann Clifton (Covey)
 Individual 9/05



RENEWALS

Linda Artuso	Individual	9/05
Marilyn Brasher	Patron	9/05
Robert Brasher	Patron	9/05
Raye Fairchild	Individual	9/05
Norma Grady	Individual	9/05
MaryEmma Hargrave	Individual	9/05
Jeanette Jones	Patron	9/05
May Belle Larson	Individual	9/05
Harriet Miller	Individual	9/05
Helen H. Smith	Individual	9/05
James A. Weston	Individual	9/05
Linna Young	Sustaining	9/05



YEARLY DUES REMINDER

September is the month that yearly dues come due for most members. Look on your newsletter address label -- if it says 9/04 or before, that means you need to pay your dues for the coming year. At the bottom of the back page you will see the various levels of membership: Individual \$18.00, Family \$27.00, Newsletter Subscriber \$12.00.

You will also note that there are three other levels or categories: Contributing \$35.00, Sustaining \$50.00, Patron \$100 or more. Please consider writing your check for one of these amounts. While our basic dues have not been raised for years, our basic costs for running the club have. PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

Bring your check to the September meeting or mail it to our post office box. If you have any questions about your dues, please call me or see me at the September meeting. And of course, thank you to the people whose dues we have received so far.

~PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE~

How Names Change! A Cautionary Tale!

For many years, I've been trying to connect my Isaac Slaughter of Orange County, New York to other members of the family in that county. Isaac's Revolutionary War pension file says he was born in Orange County in 1758, but does not give the name of his father. A couple generations later, the story says, someone's wife was a fastidious housekeeper and found moths in an old horsehair trunk that contained family papers. She took the whole thing outside and burned it! The best possibility for a family connection so far is that Isaac may have been the brother of a Dennis Slauter baptized at the Reformed Dutch Church of New Hurley, Ulster County, New York. At least, that's what I was told.

Now comes an email from Claudette Maroldo, a descendant of Dennis Slaughter, trying to document her own family. She saw the imposing picture of her ancestor Stockley Slaughter, taken in 1861, in his Civil War uniform. The picture was enough to make her start digging, and in due time she had her family back to Orange County, New York, in the part of the county that had earlier belonged to Ulster County. She did not find the expected baptism of Dennis Slaughter, but she did find one for a Duncan Slaughter, son of John

Slaughter and Martha Loeis (or possibly Lewis), on October 10, 1773. After both of us checked the records again and again, we finally realized that the child baptized as Duncan had married Elizabeth Roosa and baptized their child Rachel, and from that point forward Duncan was known exclusively as Dennis! We found the same Rachel mentioned as the daughter of Dennis in the records of his estate, among other places.



Stockley C. Slaughter (1828-1863)

We checked with Nancy Carlberg, whose recent book on names, nicknames, and misspelled names does indicate that "Duncan" has been known to turn into

"Dennis." Though it is odd, this seems to be a case where the Dutch neighbors turned the unfamiliar name Duncan into something that sounded like a nickname for Dennis, and then finally it stuck! Dennis even named a son Dennis.

We are still looking for the connection amidst a welter of Slaters, Slaughters, Slauters, Sluyters, Sluiders, etc. in the church records of Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess Counties. The names continue to challenge us. The area was settled first by the Dutch, then by the English and Scots, and in the early 1700s by Germans from the Palatinate. We found someone named Jeemes (James), someone else with the surname Mektonol (McDonnel). Some of the names are so fractured, we can't be sure what was intended. Baptisms for one family are apt to be scattered among three or four parishes.

When names can be subject to such extreme transformations, genealogists will have to be extra careful! In these records, two people with apparently different names could be the same person, but it is at least as likely that two occurrences of the same name might actually refer to different people!

-- John McCoy

~GENE THE GENEALOGICAL CHURCH MOUSE~

I certainly envy those Mormon church mice. (Or would they be temple mice?) They have access to so much more material and all their families do so much more research and keep good records. Actually, not all of my ancestry is Lutheran. Some thirty generations back (mice generations have a much shorter span than humans), the Baptist church some of my ancestors were living in burnt to the ground. My ancestors had to flee for their lives and ran into a Lutheran church down the street. These are the types of events that create such problems for genealogists to document and prove.

~ SOCIETY NEWS ~

OVER EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE

At the August meeting of Questing Heirs, Bob Brasher announced his retirement from his position of Library Liaison. We are pleased to recognize his many years of service to our society, after which he surely deserves a break! His cheerful temperament and steady dedication continue to inspire us. His note to our president is worth sharing:

August 15, 2004

Dear John:

This is my letter of resignation from responsibility as Library Liaison with Questing Heirs after some 18 years plus two and a half months in the position.

It is a small other anniversary, as my military unit was part of the "Dragoon" invasion, so called, off the coast of Southern France, on 15 August 1944. Of course, being a clarinet player in the 45th Infantry Division Band was my job then. I was also the band company clerk, and found out later that my roots were near Avignon where three Brasher brothers lived. They were Huguenots.

We'll still be QH members, Marilyn and I.

Robert



LIZ MYERS BACK FROM OHIO

My drive to Ohio and back was great! However, I learned a few things that I thought I would pass along:

- ♦ *I'm sad:* I packed too many shoes and notebooks that I never used.
- ♦ *I'm mad:* Because I did not fully check out my scanner and laptop. The manual to the scanner was missing and I couldn't do "pay bills online." So I did not get the family pictures I wanted.
- ♦ *I'm glad:* That I brought along a knife, fork, spoon and cutting knife. I used them when I had the refrigerator and microwave in the motel room and ate frozen dinners.

- ♦ *I'm sad:* I didn't need to bring a big ice chest. Plenty of places on the highway to stop and get ice cold drinks.
- ♦ *I'm glad:* That I had a cell phone. I was able to keep in contact with my husband in Los Alamitos, and my daughter in Seattle. I was also able to pull over and call motels for the best price instead of walking into each one.
- ♦ *I'm glad:* For AAA. I used their maps, triptik, tour books and Emergency Road Service (had a flat tire in Denver, Colorado).
- ♦ *I'm glad:* That I found out the hours and locations of research libraries before I went and that I called to verify because the hours keep changing.
- ♦ *Finally, I am sad:* So many ancestors and so little time! I guess I will need to go back!



LDS CHURCH FILMING IN OHIO

Liz Myers also reports that the LDS church has been in Ohio for the past year filming. They were in Carroll County when she was there in July. Next stop is to be Jefferson County. They are filming as many court house records they can get their hands on. So be sure to keep checking the Family History Library catalogue for availability.



ELECTION TIME AGAIN

The time is approaching for our annual election of Board Officers. The positions to be filled this year are: President, 2nd Vice President, and Corresponding Secretary.

A Nominating Committee is being formed to present a slate of candidates by our October meeting, at which time nominations may also be made from the floor. All nominees must give consent before their names are put into nomination, however. The election will follow in November, and the elected officers be installed in December.

Please consider volunteering for one of the available positions.

– Submitted by Linda Artuso

~PHOTO GALLERY~

Photo from the
Questing Heirs Seminar
held on October 24, 1992
showing "The Four Marys:"

Mary Yearwood
Mary Claypool
Mary Smith
Mary Davis

*Editor's note: Please see
next page for a notice of
the passing of Mary Claypool.*

Photo courtesy of Mary Smith.



Group photo from
the Questing Heirs
35th anniversary party,
held on July 18, 2004.

*Photo courtesy of
Mike Powers.*

What makes the desert beautiful is that somewhere it hides a well.
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

~OF INTEREST~

**Plumbing Emergency
at Los Angeles Family History Center!**
☞ **Genealogical Disaster Narrowly Averted!** ☞

By the most fortunate coincidence, there were people at the Los Angeles Family History Center on Sunday, August 1. While the library is closed to the public on Sundays, a few of the staff members and volunteers were there working on personal research and on-going projects. There was also a group of Hispanic genealogists having a meeting. Suddenly, someone noticed water pouring through the ceiling in the microfilm room, right over the microfilm cabinets! Those present sprang into action. Sam Gibson, famous for his dedication to Scottish genealogy, as well as his formidable accent, ran upstairs and was able to trace the source of the water, a broken pipe in a restroom. Everyone pitched in to empty the cabinets.

As it happened, the microfilm boxes in those cabinets were almost waterproof. Someone had started a project to provide new, easy-to-read labels and to re-inforce the boxes. As a result, they were virtually covered with strong, transparent tape. So, while a few films got damp, they were all rescued in time. Once they were all laid out on the library tables, away from the water, it became clear that no permanent damage had been done.

After most of the water had been cleaned up, huge fans were brought in to dry out the carpet, and the library remained closed Monday and Tuesday while order was restored -- including the tedious business of arranging the jumble of microfilms

in numerical sequence! By Saturday, everything was back to normal.

Each cabinet holds hundreds of microfilms, purchased through the kindness of patrons at ten dollars apiece over the space of many years. It is too painful to compute the damages if no one had been in the library that afternoon.



**NATIONAL ARCHIVES
TO PRESERVE OMPFs**

On July 8, 2004, during an important ceremony in the Jefferson Room of the National Archives Building, Under Secretary of Defense David S. C. Chu, and John W. Carlin, Archivist of the United States, signed an important agreement under which the National Archives will preserve the Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of 56 million veterans who served the nation since the late 1800's. This milestone event ensures that the records of our military service veterans will be protected and ultimately enshrined in our nation's archives.

The modern military personnel files occupy over 1.5 million feet of shelf space at a federal storage facility in St. Louis. The earliest files date back to 1885, when the Department of the Navy and the United States Marine Corps were the first to create individual personnel files to chronicle in one place all aspects of a service member's military career. The

War Department followed this model early in the twentieth century with the development of the "201 File." Today in St. Louis, there are 56 million files, over 5 billion pages, for Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard veterans.

As a result of the Records Schedule signed on July 8, all OMPFs will be designated as permanent and will be transferred from the Military Services to the National Archives 62 years after separation or discharge from service. Pre-1960 records are arranged alphabetically and will be accessioned in groups based on filing dates.

Protecting the files is important because they contain essential evidence needed by veterans and their families to claim life-long rights and entitlements that accrue from military service. Preserving the files for future generations is equally important so that family members, genealogists, biographers, and historians can research the history of those who served and often sacrificed for our country.

Approximately fifty people attended the ceremony, including four members of NGS. The others in attendance were not part of the genealogical community.

After the ceremonial signing of the Records Schedule, attendees were invited to view a special display of some of the significant Military Personnel Records that will be preserved and protected by the agreement.

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~WE REMEMBER~

MARY ALICE CRIPPEN CLAYPOOL



Mary Alice Crippen Claypool, a beloved and faithful member of Questing Heirs, died suddenly on July 25, 2004. She was born October 22, 1919 in Ontario, California, and grew up in the country near Corona. She married Donald Chal Claypool in 1946; he preceded her in death in 1982. In later years, she suffered from Alzheimer's.

In the words of Richard Hoover, former QHGS president, "Mary's devotion to family and family research is a model for us that will stand forever."



VIRGINIA REYNOLDS WRIGHT



Virginia Reynolds Wright was born April 6, 1937 in Springdale, Utah, and died July 14, 2004 at Memorial Hospital in Long Beach after a battle with breast cancer. She married Roger M. Wright in 1958; he passed away in February of this year. They had two children: Douglas Bently Wright and Tisha Diane Wright.

According to QHGS member Barbara (Revo) Brown, who had been friends with Virginia since junior high school, she had an inquiring mind and a sense of adventure. She often said she'd have to live to 125 to get everything done that she wanted to do.

Virginia's volunteer spirit was legendary in the community. She served Questing Heirs as its auditor.

~EVENTS~

Several events of interest to genealogists are coming up in the area in the next few weeks. Here is information on some of them:

- ♦ Saturday, September 11, 10:00am – 4:00 pm. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California. All-day tag-team program on Scotland.
- ♦ Saturday, September 18, 9:00am – noon. Mini-seminar on digital imaging led by Karen Ristic. Topics covered include computer hardware, scanners, scanning pictures, graphic file formats, digital cameras, repairing photos, organizing photos, and showing photos. Held before the Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Cost: \$8.00 for members, \$10.00 for non-members, plus \$5.00 for the handout. For more information, email <nerak2000@earthlink.net> or phone (626) 919-1713 .
- ♦ Saturday, October 2. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Family History Workshop. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.
- ♦ Saturday, October 16, 9:00am – 3:30pm. South Orange County California Genealogical Society third annual Family History Seminar. Saddleback Room, Mission Viejo Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive, Mission Viejo. Speakers: Bill Dollarhide and Leland Meitzler. Cost: pre-registration \$20.00; at the door \$25.00. For more information, phone at (949) 581-0690 or visit <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~casocgs/seminar-2.html>>.



Need a speaker for your club or organization? October is Family History Month, so Questing Heirs has speakers to present a humorous, fact-filled presentation on "Finding and Knowing our Kooky Kinfolk." For further information, call Liz Myers at (562) 598-3027.

~ C A L E N D A R ~

♦ Saturday, September 4, 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 Joan Rambo speaking on “Researching at the Mormon Family History Library” and “Preparing to Go to the Family History Library.”

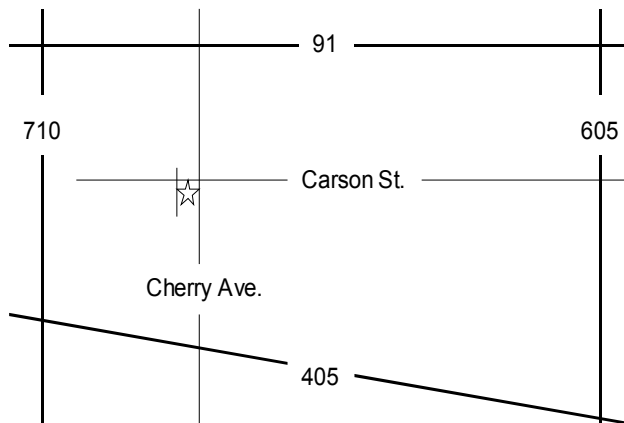
♦ Wednesday, September 8 – Saturday, September 11. Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference. Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas. Theme: Legends Live Forever: Researching the Past for Future Generations. For more information: <www.fgs.org>, phone 888-FGS-1500, email <fgs-office@fgs.org>.

♦ Saturday, September 11, 10:00am – 4:00 pm. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, California. All-day tag-team program on Scotland. Speakers: Al Lewis (Clan Macleod), Fran Bumann (Clan Ross), and Nellie Graham (Clan Graham).

♦ Wednesday, September 15, 7:00pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.

♦ Saturday, September 18, 1:00pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Speaker: Andrew Pomroy speaking on the basics of Internet research and the logic needed to find virtually anything online. Before the meeting, WAGS is sponsoring a mini-seminar on digital imaging led by Karen Ristic. Please see page 71 for more information on this event.

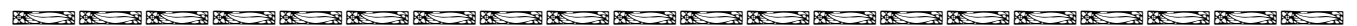
♦ **Sunday, September 19, 1:15pm. Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting.** Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. Parking and entrance on Gardenia Avenue, one block west of Cherry Avenue. See map below. For more information, see page 66.



♦ Sunday, September 26, 1:00pm – 3:00pm. British Isles Family History Society monthly meeting at the Los Angeles FHC.* Speaker: Ivan C. Johnson. Topic: Constructing the Lives of Our Ancestors in 19th Century England.

♦ Saturday, October 2. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society Family History Workshop. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance.

♦ Saturday, October 16, 9:00am – 3:30pm. South Orange County California Genealogical Society third annual Family History Seminar. Saddleback Room, Mission Viejo Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive, Mission Viejo. Speakers: Bill Dollarhide and Leland Meitzler. See page 71 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, 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.