



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, Number 1 ♦ January 2005

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102  
<<http://www.cagenweb.com/questing/>>



MONTHLY MEETING: third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p. m.  
Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach



SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2005

1:15	Class	<b>THE MYTH OF THE NUCLEAR FAMILY</b> 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	<b>SPEAKER</b>  <i>ANNIE LLOYD:</i> <i>Are you looking for an ancestor but you can't find him?</i>
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## IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Society News — January Meeting Information — Reports</i>	2
<i>President's Message: Best Genealogical Find of 2004, by John McCoy</i>	3
<i>Of Interest</i>	4-5
<i>On the Web</i>	6-7
<i>Calendar of Upcoming Events</i>	8

## SOCIETY NEWS

John McCoy announced at the December meeting that *Questing Heirs* has received a distribution from the estate of long-time member Betty Marr, who passed away in the beginning of 2004. (See the February 2004 issue of this newsletter for a tribute to our former Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor.) The amount we received from this distribution was \$24,000.

Our society has never had to deal with a donation of this size. While there are obviously many ways to spend the money, we will need to use this gift wisely, in such a way as to assure the survival of the society well into the future, and to support the study of history and genealogy in the Long Beach area. We will be evaluating all proposals carefully before acting, and will present more news on this soon.

## JANUARY MEETING

### CLASS:

### THE MYTH OF THE NUCLEAR FAMILY

presented by John McCoy

You don't have to get very far into genealogy to realize that most of our ancestors did not live in a 1950s nuclear family like we saw on "Donna Reed" or "Leave it to Beaver." We will explore the history of the American family in light of recent research by historians and sociologists. Not only does this history help us put our family stories in context, it also may help us think through some of our difficult research problems.



### SPEAKER: ANNIE LLOYD:

### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN ANCESTOR BUT YOU CAN'T FIND HIM?

Where did he go? Are you looking in the right place for him? Some tips on how to do the research.

Annie Lloyd is a Colonial American and Welsh

consultant at the Los Angeles Family History Center. She is a writer, lecturer and genealogist. One of her many interests is American research especially in the areas of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and points west.

Annie will be happy to answer any questions you may have on American or Welsh research.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

### DECEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 23 Guests: 2



### RENEWALS

Martha Baxter	Individual	9/05
Pat Bowers	Individual	9/05
Alice Gray	Newsletter	9/05
Mary Wilkinson	Sustaining	12/05



### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE UP FOR THE YEAR

The average attendance for 2004 was 25 members per meeting, an increase of two members per meeting over 2003.

## REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Our January hosts will be:

Arlene ANDERSON  
Hazele JOHNSON  
Chuck MITCHELL  
Connie L. WILLIAMS

## FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

November Income	\$ 282.27
November Expenses	267.60
Balance	\$ 3,201.83

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Best Genealogical Find of 2004*

**C**an you top this? A missing link in my Swiss research finally turned up, thanks to the efforts of a very distant cousin who has probably not even heard of me.

The story begins in the 1950s, when Genevieve Marcell Davis and her family were vacationing in Switzerland. She knew her Marcel ancestor had come from somewhere near Lausanne, so she inquired at the local archives. She began a correspondence with the archivist, and some of her American relatives joined the hunt. After she died in 1960, someone typed up her research and donated a copy to the Family History Library. Also, some additional research was submitted on group sheets for the International Genealogical Index (IGI). I did not learn about any of this until about 1994.

Most of the clues in the IGI were easy to follow, once I figured out how to read the Swiss church records. A couple of names had been misread or misinterpreted, but I was able to work through those problems and eventually went far beyond the research that had already been done. But there was one marriage I couldn't find: Bernard Mourgue was supposed to have married Marie Margueron about 1700, and neither the IGI nor the original group sheets

provided a source, although Marie's parents were named. The submitters were long dead and no one has so far located any living descendants.

Since 1994, I have dug ever deeper into the vast microfilmed records of Canton Vaud, both in French and in Latin. I had thought that I would eventually find some reference to the missing marriage, perhaps a marriage contract or an *assignal* a document where the husband recognizes the belongings and money that his wife brought with her into the marriage as her own property. By the middle of 2004, I realized that I should have found the proof by now, and that raised the possibility that I had been barking up the wrong family tree. Perhaps Marie's parents weren't who they were supposed to be, and I had assembled information on thousands of people from the wrong ancestral families, in some cases back to the 1400s. Therefore, I changed my research strategy. I started looking for Marie in an area where there were other Margueron families, an area far removed from where she was supposed to be from. I discovered that the two Margueron families seem to share a distant connection, but I did not find Marie. So I kept

looking.

At this point, I spotted a notice on the Internet about new records posted at the web site of the city of Lausanne: transcripts of the minutes of the consistory of the parish of Lausanne, 1703-1798. I recognized the name of the transcriber, François Francillon, whose family figures in my pedigree. The transcripts turned out to be in the form of PDF files, and a quick search turned up many passages that mentioned Bernard Mourgue and Marie Margueron.

Now I understand why there was no marriage record. Bernard had promised marriage, but kept delaying. He had visited the Margueron family home in Lucens and had even addressed Marie's mother as *belle-mère*, or mother-in-law. Marie had yielded to his entreaties on the last Saturday before New Year's Day, 1704, and presently found herself pregnant but still unwed. She came before the consistory of Lausanne suing Bernard for breach of promise, eventually succeeding. The couple stayed together for the rest of their lives and produced several children, among them my ancestor. Whether they ever had a church wedding, I don't know, but at least I know that Marie came from Lucens, and not from Lutry

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or Villette where the other Margueron family settled. Lucens is where the IGI said she was from, and now I have the proof. I

was not barking up the wrong family tree after all!

My goals for 2005 include dusting off my best French and somehow locating François

Francillon (like many Europeans, if he has an e-mail address, he's keeping it private), and thanking him for his unexpected contribution to my genealogy!

- John McCoy

## OF INTEREST

### ABOUT GENEALOGICAL HELPER

About the middle of 2004, the old Everton's Genealogical Helper magazine stopped publication. It had been suffering for some time as a result of a glossy "make-over" that many felt had robbed the magazine of its content. Now, with the November/December 2004 issue, Everton's Genealogical Helper is back!

The press releases suggest that a group of genealogists centered in Logan, Utah realized that Everton's was about to go under, and scrambled to put together a plan to buy the company. Along the way, they managed to get Everton's private library donated to the Logan Public Library.

The new magazine is a bit thin at this point, and the type larger than I remembered (that's a good thing, my vision isn't what it used to be!), but if the readers and the advertisers respond to the appeal, this gambit really could succeed. They need a better proof-reading process, but they were obviously in a great hurry to get *something* out to the public.

The topics covered in the first issue, or suggested for future issues, actually look a lot like a list of the programs that Questing Heirs has done in 2004. This is surely a coincidence, but an interesting one. And I

found a listing for Questing Heirs, as well as my own telephone number, in the list of societies in the back of the magazine!

Among the promises made by the new team, are the following: the magazine will return "the quality of the content, format, and scope," combined with "a unique, unprecedented blend of the popular features" with the "most current, important technological advances." New subscriptions are priced at \$27.00 per year, or \$49.00 for two years. They indicate that a new eleventh edition of the Handybook for Genealogists the most comprehensive revision in years will be published in 2005.

Promises are sometimes difficult to keep, particularly where money is involved, but the new team seems well qualified and eager to make something happen. The venerable Genealogical Helper, in its old format, served an important purpose in helping amateur genealogists develop their research skills. The need is still there, perhaps more than ever, and I wish the reincarnated Helper every success.

- submitted by John McCoy

*If you do nothing unexpected, nothing unexpected happens.*

*F a y W e l d o n*

**O F I N T E R E S T , continued**

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR A GENEALOGIST**

by **Richard Hoover**

As we start a new year, perhaps it is time to think about interviewing those relatives with all those wonderful stories of their lives and family traditions. Or perhaps you need fill in just a few holes in your genealogy. You know the old who, what, where, and when.

And so I would like to share with you a list of suggested questions for interviewing relatives. This list was given me many years ago by a very kind lady from my church. I was just beginning my family research and had no idea where to start. She organized the questions in four main categories. I have presented the list as she gave it to me. The list is not meant in any way to be complete.

Often these questions will prod a memory and generate even more questions and answers.

**HISTORY AND FAMILY BACKGROUND**

- ♦ Who was the first immigrant? When and from what country? What town? What church did your family attend?
- ♦ Did and family members serve in the military? In which wars?
- ♦ Do you know of any family members who have done genealogy?
- ♦ What family traditions do you know?
- ♦ Do you have any written family records (letters, diaries, samplers, newsclippings, deeds, certificates) or photographs?
- ♦ Do you know of any special family reunions or gatherings?
- ♦ Do you know of any other relatives or family friends in the area that I might visit?
- ♦ Do you have the family Bible? Who does?
- ♦ Do you remember your grandparents? Names? Dates? Places? Brothers & Sisters?

**PARENTS**

- ♦ When and where were your parents born?
- ♦ How did they meet? When and where were they married?
- ♦ What occupation did your father and/or mother pursue?
- ♦ What type of education did they have?
- ♦ When and where did your parents die? Where are they buried?
- ♦ Who were their brothers and sisters? Order of their births?

**CHILDHOOD AND HOME LIFE**

- ♦ When and where were you born?
- ♦ Who are your brothers and sisters and when were they born?
- ♦ How many times have you moved and where have you lived?
- ♦ What was your home like?
- ♦ What schools did you attend? How many years? College?

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE**

- ♦ Where and how did you meet your significant other?
- ♦ What kind of person is your spouse? When and where born? Parents?
- ♦ When and where were you married?
- ♦ Where was your first home?
- ♦ Where else have you lived since your marriage and for how long?
- ♦ How many children do you have? What are their names and ages?
- ♦ What is/was your occupation?
- ♦ What special events have occurred in their lives? In your lives?
- ♦ What special talents or hobbies do you have?
- ♦ Have you served in the community in any way?

## ON THE WEB

### HONORING OUR ANCESTORS: "ELLIS ISLAND RE-LAUNCHES"

by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak

Many of you are familiar with The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation's (SLEIF) site (<http://www.ellisland.org>) and recall the excitement when it first launched in April 2001. Since then, the Ellis Island database (EIDB) has received a whopping 6 billion hits, so we're obviously making heavy use of it. But like good twenty-first-century citizens, we've already come to take this tremendous resource for granted. Sure, you were finally able to find grandpa's passenger arrival record during a pajama-time surfing session, but what has the Foundation done for you lately?

#### NEW AND IMPROVED

In celebration of Family History Month in October, SLEIF announced a re-launch of its site. The re-launch involved a series of improvements, but I'd like to focus on a few that are the most meaningful for gung-ho genealogists.

First and foremost, the search capability has been improved. Mind you, this is a work in progress. If you visit the site, you'll find a note stating that the Foundation is still testing and fine-tuning the new features, but they all seem to be operational. If you're familiar with Steve Morse's white, blue, and gray forms (<http://www.jewishgen.org> or <http://www.stevemorse.org>), you'll

recognize a lot of the new features. While the main page allows you to search by first and last name, approximate year of birth, and gender, you can widen your options to include the following by selecting "passenger search" and then "advanced search" from the menu bar at the top:

- ♦ First Name of Passenger (by: is, starts with, or contains)
- ♦ Last Name of Passenger (by: is, starts with, alternate spellings, or sounds like)
- ♦ Gender (by: any, male, or female)
- ♦ Approximate Year of Birth of Passenger with Year Range (+ or -: 1, 2, 5, or 10 years)
- ♦ Approximate Year of Arrival with Year Range (+ or -: 1, 2, 5, or 10 years)
- ♦ Town/Village of Origin (by: is, starts with, or contains)
- ♦ Name of Passenger Ship (by: is, starts with, or contains)
- ♦ Ethnicity (select as many as you like from a menu of about 170 ethnicities)

#### TRYING IT OUT

I was keen to put this new functionality to the test, so I went to the Advanced Passenger Search to experiment. I frequently use my own surname to tinker with databases because it makes for a rigorous test. Smolenyak is a rare name (with a

common Soundex) that invites misspelling. Consequently, I've found it handy for revealing both the strengths and shortcomings of databases. I had already tested the EIDB with Smolenyak, though, so I decided to put myself in the shoes of a couple of friends whose surnames share the same qualities. Njegomir and Nakashian, it seemed to me, would challenge any database as well as my own name.

I tried first with Njegomir. I didn't have a particular Njegomir in mind, so I wanted to get the big picture. First I tried a general search for passenger last name is Njegomir. This produced nine hits. But surely this name could be misspelled, so what if I tried passenger last name starts with Njeg? There were seventy-two hits for me to scan seeking Njegomirs who might have been hidden by variations in the last two syllables.

A search for alternate spellings turned up only two candidates Njegomic and Njegomiz but when I checked the original ship manifest of each, I was rewarded with an additional pair of Njegomirs, who had been slightly masked by the interpretation of a single letter at the end (and yes, they did look as if they ended in c and z, respectively).

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What about sounds like? This netted me 794 hits more than I cared to wade through for my little experiment, but probably worth it if I were looking for my elusive Njgomir great-uncle.

I repeated the experiment with Nakashian. There were 11 exact matches, 12 alternate spellings (including Nacashian and Nakkashian), and 794 sounds-like hits. I realized this would be a good name to try out the ethnicity menu with, since virtually all Nakashians are Armenian. I tried entering passenger last name starts with Nak and limiting the results to just those identified as Armenian. This tactic seemed especially productive, as it resulted in 57 names, most of which were clearly variations of Nakashian (e.g., Nakeshjian, Nakichian, etc.) that I would have been hard pressed to imagine.

I still hadn't played with the town/village of origin option, so I reverted to one of my own names for this purpose and looked for Motyczkas from Barwinek, Poland. I decided to search for passenger last name sounds like Motyczka, coupled with town/village of origin starts with barw (since the names of our villages are just as prone to misspelling as our surnames). This gave me a list of eleven passengers, seven of whom were obviously Motyczkas from Barwinek, although I doubt I would have thought to search on Maatyczka.

#### THEY'RE LISTENING

With the site's new features, it's clear that some elusive ancestors will now be easier to find, but what else is new? A Genealogy Learning Center (which includes a few free downloadable forms) will be of interest to folks who are new to their roots quest, but I was more taken with other features, such as Famous Arrivals (just click on "Genealogy" and "Famous Arrivals" on the top menu). Here I could view the passenger arrival records of Bela Lugosi, Bob Hope, and Sigmund Freud, among others.

Perhaps my favorite feature and yes, this reveals the geek in me is the transcription error option. Because I've written on Ellis Island quite a few times in the past, I've received a number of e-mails from folks who believe that their ancestor's record has been transcribed in such a way that will make it difficult for others to find. Of course, you could always send an e-mail about this to the Foundation, but with competing priorities, it was unclear what happened with these messages.

Now when you do a search and click through to the Passenger Record (from the initial list of candidates), you are taken to a page with basic data supplied in certificate form (also available for purchase). If you look to the right of the certificate in the third brownish box, you'll see a note inviting you to submit any transcription errors you may

have spotted. When you click here, the site automatically generates an e-mail for you. This e-mail already includes all the pertinent details of the passenger's arrival, so all you have to do is type any suggested corrections next to the original transcription and hit the send button. One line in the e-mail reads, "Thank you for notifying me by e-mail when the changes have been made," so it won't be necessary to check the site each week to see if any modification has been made.

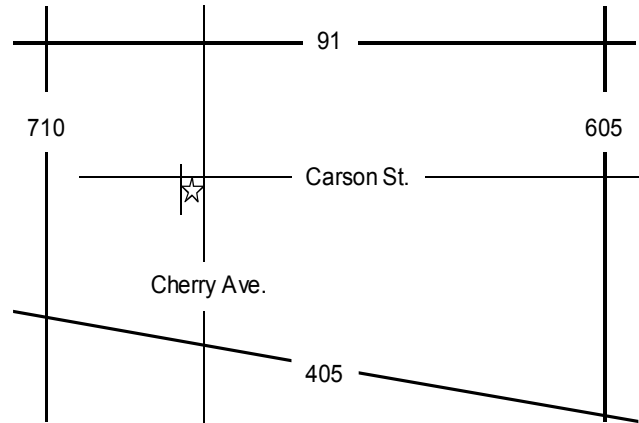
#### ELLIS ISLAND SAILS AGAIN

These latest modifications will undoubtedly benefit the lucky 40 percent of us who claim one or more Ellis Island ancestors, but even if you don't have Ellis Island roots, you might want to take a peek. Your ancestors may have come pre-1892, but it's unlikely they were the only Reynolds to ever come from Mohill, Ireland (feel free to substitute your surname and village). A search of the EIDB just might lead you to a few second, fifth, or eighth cousins who came later, left a better paper trail, wound up with the family Bible, or sport the Y-DNA you're looking for. Why not get a cup of hot chocolate and that favorite robe and curl up for an evening of immigrant-surfing?

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## CALENDAR

- ♦ Saturday, January 8, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm. Orange County, California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations. There is a \$5.00 charge for all workshops, except for Basic Genealogy.
- ♦ Monday, January 10 – Friday, January 15. Utah Genealogical Association presents the tenth annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Wyndham Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- ♦ Saturday, January 15, 12:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Speaker: Everett Ireland. Topic: “Age of Majority – How Old Was That Ancestor?”
- ♦ **Sunday, January 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 at right. For more information, please see page 2.
- ♦ Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, corner of Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: Chris Velline. Topic: “Burned Courthouses.”
- ♦ Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance. Ted Gostin speaking on “What to do When there are No Vital Records Available.”
- ♦ Thursday, January 20 – Saturday, January 22. National Genealogical Society Conference. Wyndham Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix, Arizona.
- ♦ Sunday, January 23, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society – USA. Los Angeles Family History Center, 10741 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Los Angeles. Speaker: Nancy Bier. Topics: “Poor Laws” and “The Parish Chest - Its Wonders and Gifts.”
- ♦ Saturday, February 26. 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society presents its 22nd annual Seminar. Guest speaker Dr. Gary Shumway, Ph. D., historian.
- ♦ Friday, May 13 & Saturday, May 14. Southern California Genealogical Society presents its 36th annual Jamboree & Resource Expo at the Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel & Convention Center.



*Know of an upcoming event that might be of interest to your fellow genealogists? Contact Mike Powers by phone at (562) 621-6631 or by email at <lunalake@pobox.com> for inclusion in the newsletter.*