

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 38. ♦ Number 10 ♦ October 2005

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

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2005

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---|
| 12:45 | Class | BASIC: Beginning Family Research |
| | Period | |
| 1:15 | | INTERMEDIATE: Giggles from Genealogy presented by Liz Myers |

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 2:00 | Break | Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments |
|-------------|--------------|--|

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--|
| 2:15 | Business | |
|-------------|-----------------|--|

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--|
| 2:30 | General Meeting | SPEAKER JOHN McCoy California Bound: How We Got to California |
|-------------|------------------------|--|

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REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our September hosts:

Linda ARTUSO Howard DAVIS
Sally DAVIS MaryEmma HARGRAVE

Our October hosts will be:

Liz (Stookesberry) MYERS Tina YANIS
Rose (Gallo) LEWIS Richard HOOVER

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| August Income | \$ 44.95 |
| August Expenses | 515.00 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Operations Balance | \$ 5,544.13 |
| Investment Balance | 20,277.20 |

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This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold. Those who are unable to attend our meetings but wish to subscribe to the newsletter may purchase a newsletter-only membership for \$12.00 a year. To join, please contact us using the address on the front page.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610

SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 29 Guests: 0

NEW MEMBERS

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|------|
| Howard DAVIS | Family | 9/06 |
| Sally DAVIS | | 9/06 |
| Marie L. HEGWER | Individual | 9/06 |
| Malinda L. MONGOSA | Individual | 9/06 |

RENEWALS

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|
| Linda ARTUSO | Individual | 9/06 |
| Patricia BOWERS | Individual | 9/06 |
| Betty Jean BRANDT | Newsletter | 9/06 |
| Evelyn M. COLES | Individual | 9/06 |
| Florence DOUD | Family | 9/06 |
| William DOUD | | 9/06 |
| Charles K. HORTON | Contributing | 9/06 |
| Bonnie B. HORTON | | 9/06 |
| Sandra S. HOLLANDSWORTH | Indiv. | 9/06 |
| Carmen GROSS | Individual | 9/06 |
| Hazele JOHNSON | Contributing | 9/06 |
| Christina McKILLIP | Individual | 9/06 |
| Walton McNUTLY | Sustaining | 9/06 |
| Chuck MITCHELL | Sustaining | 9/06 |
| Rellen OWEN | Individual | 9/06 |
| Joy PROUST | Contributing | 9/06 |
| Elizabeth J. REIDY | Individual | 9/06 |
| Jack RHODES | Individual | 9/06 |
| David WERTS | Sustaining | 9/06 |
| Tina YANIS | Individual | 9/06 |

Questing Heirs yearly dues are due September 1st. Please mail in your payment or bring it to the October meeting. Information as to amounts is on the back page of this newsletter.

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| P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E |
|--|

GENEALOGICAL RASPBERRY AWARD

by John McCoy

There are so many new developments in electronic genealogy these days, it has become impossible to keep up! The rush is on to convert everything into digital format. We have been told that the Brigham Young University (BYU) library is adding about 100 titles per day to their collection of digitized family histories. These titles are now linked to the Family History Library catalogue. Even if the figure of 100 titles per day turns out to be exaggerated, there are many other projects in progress. For instance, the thousands of volunteers who brought you the FreeBMD project (indexing the British civil registration records beginning in 1837) have branched out and are now beginning to tackle the censuses and parish registers! The Massachusetts Archives has announced a new index to the Boston passenger lists, 1848-1891. And Ancestry.com has started adding images of the published vital records of Massachusetts, town by town, starting with A and now reaching the letter H. Since the Massachusetts vital records were published many decades ago, on paper that has often deteriorated badly, this is a most important contribution to our hobby.

However, not all these efforts have been successful. As we learned at our September meeting, the BYU project suffers from a poor indexing scheme that will only become worse as the collection grows. The search results are not organized by title, and you will get a hit even if the name happens to match an author's name! Worse, some of the search options seem not to work correctly. The problem of how to search an electronic version of a published genealogy is a very difficult one, still far from a general solution.

But I regret to inform our readers of the worst indexing blunder I have ever seen: the Massachusetts vital records project at Ancestry.com. These records are truly "vital." They are the mainstays of New England research, and they deserve to be completely indexed. It is a boon to researchers to have the digitized images available, and we are grateful for that. But does the index work?

I tested the indexes for five towns that were posted on Ancestry.com between July 27 and September 22. The towns were Bellingham, Chester, Deerfield, Essex, and Haverhill. I did a simple search: find the births for the surname "Smith." I was amazed that none of the indexes found the Smith births! I also looked at actual pages in the records of each town and then checked the names found there against the indexes. When the actual page contained births for the "Chase" family, for example, the index found no such records. In short, the indexes seem to have detected almost no names, and completely failed to notice the large surname headings that identify each section of the published records. Searching for a given name was no better; only two pages were identified as having the name "John" in all of Essex! It is my understanding that the indexes were created electronically, using "optical character recognition" (OCR). While OCR can be very accurate, it was clearly not so in this case! I searched for other explanations. Was the "index" only a list of "other persons mentioned"? No, there was no such index in the original volumes. Did the OCR program simply fail to understand which names were the surnames? No. If that had happened, there should have been hundreds of hits for the surname "John," but I found none.

Therefore, my pick for the Genealogical Raspberry Award, the most misleading and unhelpful innovation in genealogy for the entire year 2005, goes to Ancestry.com. Our members need to be aware that when they search Ancestry.com and do not find a name in the Massachusetts vital records, they have not actually searched those records.

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

OCTOBER MEETING

BEGINNING CLASS

This month Liz Myers and/or Chuck Mitchell will be available to help those just getting started with their family history research at 12:45 p.m. instead of the usual 1:15 p.m. The class will be held in the board room, which is just next to the meeting room.



INTERMEDIATE CLASS: GIGGLES FROM GENEALOGY

Liz Myers will entertain us with some funny things she has found while doing her genealogical research. She also invites members to bring to the group's attention any points in their research where they are stumped and up against the proverbial "brick wall." Perhaps others in the audience will have some suggestions to help them move past their problem.



SPEAKER: JOHN McCOY

In observance of Family History Month, we celebrate the one story that all of our members share: somehow, our families found their way to the Golden State. The story of our migrations is fascinating and well documented. The immigrants came from all over the world in search of a variety of dreams. Sometimes the dreams were realized and sometimes not, but every one of them enriched our state. Join us as we celebrate our California roots. From Gold Mountain to Hollywood and the Dot.com bubble, from ranchos to condominiums, from loggers to tree-sitters, there has never been a place like California!

T-SHIRTS ARE IN

Cynthia Day-Elliott has announced that the "My Roots Are Here" t-shirts are in. She will have them at the October meeting. She will also have fabric glue and "sparkles" available for anyone who wants to add them to their shirt.



QHGS CO-SPONSORS BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASSES AT LBPL

Remember that Liz Myers and Chuck Mitchell will be conducting beginning genealogy classes at five of the Long Beach Public Library branches on the following dates:

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| El Dorado | October 8 | 2-4 p.m. |
| Main | October 15 | 10 a.m. |
| Los Altos | October 18 | 6-7:30 p.m. |
| Bay Shore | October 22 | 2-4 p.m. |
| Bach | October 25 | 6:30 p.m. |

They would appreciate some support from our members. Try to stop by on one of those days.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Have you been thinking about how you can help make Questing Heirs more effective by joining one of the following committees?

- Hospitality
- Facilities
- Event Planning
- Technology
- Historical Preservation
- Outreach
- Communications

And the Nominating Committee is still looking for a Recording Secretary. Contact Liz Myers at (562) 598-3027 if you're interested.

METHODS

BRITISH CERTIFICATES

As you may be aware, you can now purchase birth, marriage, and death certificates from the General Register Office (GRO) website using your credit card. You will be charged the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars. See their web site for additional information:

[<www.gro.gov.uk>](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

If you prefer not to use your credit card online, there is an alternative. Antony Lambert will obtain the Civil Registration Certificates for you, and you can mail him a personal check in U.S. dollars. He will also obtain parish records and census copies. Visit his website at:

[<www.certificates.fsnet.co.uk/certificates.htm>](http://www.certificates.fsnet.co.uk/certificates.htm)

His mailing address is:

Certificates

52 The Ladysmith

Ashton Under Lyne

Lancashire, England OL6 9AR

INTERNET LOG

An Ancestry.com Quick Tip submitted by Staff Writer, Elaine:

I create a Word document each month, saved as "Internet July 2005," "Internet August 2005," etc. When I'm ready to go online for research, I first open the current month's document and shrink it to the tool bar at the bottom of my screen. Then, as my internet search turns up information of possible interest, I highlight the data, copy, and save it on my monthly word document. Remember ALWAYS to note the source of the data in the word document! At my leisure, I print the monthly "gleanings" to determine what is useful and make appropriate entries in my genealogy files. We are often traveling in our motor home, away from a high speed internet link. During these times it is particularly nice to have a collection of materials stored away to work with.

ORGHC CLASSES

The Orange Regional Family History Center at 674 S. Yorba Street in Orange is presenting a number of informative classes in the month of October.

Wednesday, October 5, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

"Scottish Research" by Kathleen Ferguson Kane

Tuesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

"Memoirs and More" by Tom Underhill

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"Family History Time Capsules—A Fun Class for All Ages!" by Patricia Munton

Friday, October 14, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

"Tips & Tricks for Using FamilySearch.org" by Barbara Renick

Wednesday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

"Research Basics and Organization" by Caroline Rober

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

"Using PAF & Other Programs to Organize and Print a Book" by Wynn Christensen

Friday, October 21, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

"Vital Records for England and Wales After 1837" by Beth McCarty

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

African American Genealogy Group (Room 22)

Thursday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

"Beginning Your Genealogical Research" by Wynn Christensen

Friday, October 28, 11:00 a.m. to Noon

The same as above by Celia Christensen

ON THE WEB

SCGS WEBSITE UPDATES

<www.scgsgenealogy.com>

The complete Library Catalog of books, manuscripts and family histories has been added to the SCGS web site. The catalog holds information on over 30,000 genealogical reference items held in the library. The collection includes materials from every state in the U.S., as well as extensive special collections (e.g., French-Canadian, German, Hispanic, etc.).

If you live in the neighborhood, or are planning a trip to the library soon, use the catalog to organize your next visit from the comfort of home. Or if you're not able to visit the SCGS library in person, search online for materials that will help complete your family's history and request lookups from our Research Team for a nominal fee.

The Library is open to the public for research:
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Weds., Thurs., Friday
10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 3rd & 4th Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 1st & 2nd Sunday

L.A. COUNTY ASSESSOR

<<http://assessormap.co.la.ca.us/mapping/viewer.asp>>

At the County Assessor's web site you can find out where your ancestor lived and what is at that address now. If you enter a street name, you will see a list of all properties on that street, an intersection, a particular address or property ID number.

Some of the interesting pages will tell you the Property Tax ID (Assessor Identification Number), its location (street address), the age of the building on the lot, and even an exact "surveyor's map" (localized to the neighborhood) in addition to the general colored neighborhood map. Unfortunately, the L.A. Assessor's web site does NOT have photographs of each

property, as counties in some other states do.

If you can't find a particular street address, also check the USPS ZIP+4 website. If that site lists the address with a carrier route (but it can't be found on the County Assessor site) it may mean that an apartment building has a second entrance, only the "official one" being listed in the Assessor's site. Or maybe multiple houses on adjoining lots were replaced by a larger condominium or office building.

L.A. COUNTY GENWEB

<<http://www.cagenweb.com/re/losangeles>>

This site opens to a page containing a list of links to other sites.

One webpage contains a list of private books (county histories, lists of prominent people, etc.) or public resources with a list of people willing to do lookups (free or for a fee). One of the fee-based researchers does L.A. City Directory lookups for \$3.00 per name—very reasonable, although there is no guarantee of results. If you think all public data should be freely available, stop to think about it. What county or state has spare money available in this tight economy to budget digitizing records or hiring staff to do free lookups?

Sometimes fee-based researchers charging modest fees (less than \$10.00) may just get you over a "brick wall" at no more cost than getting records through the state or county, usually with the same risks (i.e., upfront fee, no guarantee of success, and based solely on the spellings and information you provide).

Fee-based researchers are devoting their time to analyze or simply take your provided information and often have to pay for parking and transportation, photo or postage fees, which are passed on to you. Genealogy is an expensive hobby, if we all fully document our research from original records and personal field trips.

RUTH ADELIA HAUGAN ANTHERS

Although we mentioned the passing of Ruth Anthes last month, we would like to reprint her entire obituary below. It was sent to us by her son John of Cedar Crest, New Mexico, at his mother's request. In his letter he said, "Mom indicated to me that her association with the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society was very energizing and helpful at conducting her own family history. She related how she was surprised and delighted to trace her ancestors back in time to qualify as a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. And Mom discovered a Foote Family Arms going way back also on her Mother's side....She was 84 years young on July 11th."

From the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* of July 30, 2005...

"I knew this was going to happen and I am ready now. I'd like to thank my mother, father, and all my previous ancestors for good health and a rich long life." Ruth passed away peacefully on July 20, 2005 at home in Cerritos, CA. She was born July 11, 1921 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Ruth graduated from Oshkosh HS in 1939 and received a BS in elementary teaching from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh in 1946. She married Jacob Anthes in June 1946 and subsequently raised a loving family of five children. Ruth moved to California in 1964 and has been a resident in Cerritos since 1971. She is survived by children, John in Cedar Crest, NM, Richard in Redding, CA, Susan in Colorado Spring, CO, Thomas, in Greenwich, RI, James in Cerritos, CA; and four grandchildren, Jason, Julie Sumner, Sarah Harpst, and Rachael. Ruth taught in the Long Beach Early Education program at numerous schools, retiring with 16 years of rewarding memories with her "extended" family in 1987. She was an active participant in the Lakewood Senior Citizens Club where she was known as the "Sunshine Lady." Ruth was a 61 year lifetime member of the Order of Eastern Star, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sons of Norway. Services will be held Saturday, July 30th, 2 PM, at Miller-Mies Mortuary 11015 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241."

Immersed in the past, I begin to perceive time as the thinnest and most insubstantial of walls. Lives shine for me like a cluster of stars on a clear winter night. I cannot distinguish between those that are presently living and those that have been inactive for thousands of years. Everybody is a star, in other words; each life gives off a particular energy and light. Though one may shine more brightly or burn hotter than others, none ever completely goes out, as long as an historian is around to detect it.

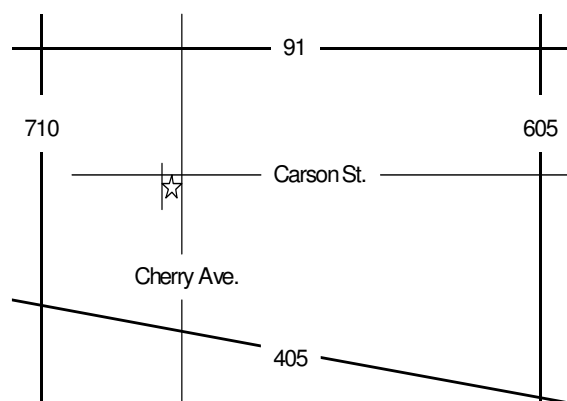
By J. Kent Calder, Editor of the
Indiana Historical Society's magazine,
Traces, Winter 1996.

CALENDAR

Saturday, October 8, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society is hosting a Genealogy Workshop at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., in Torrance. Admission is free.

Saturday, October 15, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting, Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier. Program: Colleen Fitzpatrick on "Analyzing Those Genealogical Clues."

Sunday, October 16, 1:15–3:30 p.m. 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 meeting information, please see page 76.



Wednesday, October 19, the Genealogical Society of North Orange County is meeting at the Orange Family History Center, 674 S. Yorba St., in Orange for a program entitled "Using the Orange Family History Center." Check with the Center (714-997-7710) for the time.

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society is hosting a Seminar at their Library, 417 Irving Dr., Burbank, entitled "Ensuring Your Place in History." Speakers: Andy Pomeroy and Tom

Underhill. Cost \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members. Phone registration at 818-843-7247.

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. South Orange County Genealogical Society is hosting a Family History Seminar at the Mission Viejo City Hall, Saddleback Room, 100 Civic Center Drive, LaPaz & Marguerite, Mission Viejo. The speaker is Lloyd Bockstruck. Flyer available. Preregister by October 19, cost \$20.00

Sunday, October 23, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society–USA general meeting. Los Angeles Regional FHC*. Speaker: Colleen Fitzpatrick on "Forensic Genealogy."

Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main program: "Breathe Life into Your Life Story," by Dawn and Morris Thurston.

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 <lunalaque@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 Regional FHC are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LARFHC 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.