

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter* Volume 39. ✦ Number 2 ✦ February 2006

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, FEBRUARY 19, 2006**

<b>12:45</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BASIC: Beginning Family Research</b>
	<b>Period</b>	
<b>1:15</b>		<b>INTERMEDIATE: Genealogical Fraud!</b>
		<b>presented by John McCoy</b>

<b>2:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments</b>
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<b>2:15</b>	<b>Business</b>	
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<b>2:30</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
		<b>Charlotte Smith</b>
		<b>Tracing Our Medieval and Noble Families</b>

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## FEBRUARY MEETING

### BASIC CLASS:

#### BEGINNING FAMILY RESEARCH

For those just beginning their search for family, help is available. Liz Myers or Chuck Mitchell will meet with anyone interested from 12:45 to 1:15 p.m., a half hour before our regular meeting starts. They will be available in the Board Room, which is next to the Meeting Room.

### INTERMEDIATE CLASS: GENEALOGICAL FRAUD!

When your pedigree says that people of little means are actually descendants of nobility, be skeptical! It could be true, of course, but many supposed noble pedigrees have turned out to be fakes! Some were meant to impress; others were long-running scams designed to separate gullible "heirs" of supposed estates from their money. Many more fictional pedigrees are probably more in the line of wishful thinking or innocent mistakes. We will review some of the more famous examples that have come to light.

### SPEAKER: CHARLOTTE SMITH

Charlotte is the Intermediate Instructor at the Orange County, California, Genealogical Society's meetings on the first Saturday of each month at the Huntington Beach Main Library. She has been engaged in genealogical research for thirty years and specializes in the Midwest states and England.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Jeanette (Marcus) JONES (562) 421-5610**

### JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 31

Guests: 2

### NEW MEMBER

Leanora WEBER	Individual	9/06
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### RENEWALS

Martha BAXTER	Individual	9/06
Bettie PERRE	Individual	9/06
Tom SANFORD	Individual	9/06

## FINANCIAL REPORT

**David WERTS (562) 431-7790**

December Income	\$ 60.93
December Expenses	267.44
2005 Income	\$ 3,968.25*
2005 Expenses	3,941.27
Closing Operations Balance	\$10,586.50
Closing Investment Balance	20,564.97

(Note: \*Excludes the final contribution from Betty Marr's estate but includes interest income from her bequest invested early in the year. Our first balanced budget in years, thanks to Betty!)

## REFRESHMENTS

**Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908**

Thanks to our January hosts:

Sally DAVIS	Sandra HOLLANDSWORTH
Liz MYERS	Cheryl TARDIP

Our February hosts will be:

Jeanette JONES	Georgie Peterson LYONS
Elizabeth Johnson REIDY	Marjorie TARBELL

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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.*

P R E S I D E N T ' S   M E S S A G E
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## Sweet Are the Uses of Diversity

The deliberate misquotation of the Bard is not entirely my invention, but it will serve my purpose! February is Black History Month: for some an occasion to pay homage to the role of the slaves and their descendants in our shared history and for others, apparently, merely an opportunity for political lip service. A few commentators, disgusted by the more trivial manifestations of the event, have gone so far as to recommend removing it from the calendar.

Any recognition of the historical significance of the lives of ordinary people, whatever their background, is an important part of our mission of preserving family history. If Black History Month leads even a few people to dig deeper into the lives of their ancestors, then it is worth even the most cynical photo-ops.

The history of America is a history of diversity. Its lesson is that from diversity can come strength. As a nation, we have a shared history full of surprises. From common folk of the most unpromising sort, of every race and creed, have sprung any number of hardy souls who created a new government, tamed the wilderness, invented the tools of progress, founded universities, created new art forms, built skyscrapers, and even hatched the progressive income tax. It is important to remind the next generation what they might make of their lives, regardless of their humble origins, if they apply themselves. Accomplishment is not the birthright of a particular race or social class, and our history proves it.

Family historians have an inclusive view of history. We do not take the view that history only concerns important people. Many of the earliest writers of history used the lives of important people as a vehicle for teaching morality. For the family historian, history includes as well the lowliest laborer on our family tree. From the examples of the lives of our own ancestors, we learn of the possibilities of life. We see that it is possible to survive the challenges of life. We learn, almost inevitably, of ancestors who took the incredible risk of leaving home, traveling for months through unknown territory, and building up a new life from nothing but hard work and ingenuity. We learn of people who overcame overwhelming misfortunes, as well as people who squandered what they had. We learn, too, about character. What was it about the way one person lived his or her life that earned such respect in the community? Why did another never seem to fit in? Why was the prodigal welcomed back into his family? In short, the study of family history teaches us about the human condition in a way that is likely to be more meaningful to us than Plutarch's *Lives*. The lessons of family history are not always comforting, but they prepare us to face our own demons.

Therefore, we praise any effort that puts people in touch with their true roots. We would like to get beyond "black history" and "white history" to an "American history" that encompasses all the wonderful diversity that made us a great nation. We know full well that "black history" cannot be relegated only to the month of February; but for the possible benefit of all who still fail to grasp the lessons of this history, we say, leave the calendar alone!

by John McCoy

## QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

### CALL FOR NEWSLETTERS

We are trying to accumulate as complete a set of past *Questing Heirs* Newsletters as possible—for our own historical purposes and because we occasionally receive requests from other groups for copies of past issues.

Currently, we have most issues from January 1997 but are missing the following:

2001 - Jan thru July; Nov & Dec

2002 - Jan & May

2003 - July

If anyone has one of these issues, we would appreciate your bringing it to our next meeting. We would like to borrow it to photocopy and will then return it to you.

If anyone has issues prior to 1997, please let us know that, too.

### WEST VIRGINIA VITAL RECORDS

<http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/vrrhandout.html>

The website above provides information about the West Virginia Vital Research Records Project that intends to provide data online about birth, marriage and death records for the state.

Births and deaths were first reported to the counties in 1853, marriages from the inception of the county. All three types are still reported to the county. Those available online are the county records that were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah.

The state started collecting birth and death records in 1917, and the statewide records to be displayed online are those selected for release by the state Division of Vital Statistics. Currently deaths for all 55 counties are available for 1917-1954.

County records are only available for Calhoun, Gilmer, Hardy, Harrison, Mineral & Pendleton.

### DOUGLAS L. WAIDE

1921 – 2005

Douglas Lowell Waide passed away peacefully with his family at his side on December 5, 2005. He was 84 years old. Doug was born in Minneapolis, MN, on February 26, 1921. He was raised in the city of Wakefield, in the upper peninsula of Michigan, primarily by his grandmother, Wilhemina Mottonen and his cousins, the Ahola family. After high school graduation, he attended Duluth Junior College, then transferred to, and graduated from, the University of Redlands. Due to WWII, he actually had to miss his graduation ceremony but was invited to participate in the ceremony held in 2002. Doug later completed his Master's Degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1947. Doug was a pilot during WWII, flying hundreds of missions in the European theater. After the war, he married Katherine Rice. They had two sons and a daughter. Doug spent his professional career as a school teacher at Paramount High School, Cerritos Jr. College (becoming its first faculty president), and several other area junior colleges. He also owned a variety of small businesses ranging from an insurance agency to a sales lead service. Doug was very involved in the Unitarian Church in Long Beach, CA, spearheading its Endowment Fund, and becoming the founder and chairman of the ongoing Long Beach Mozart Festival. Douglas is survived by his sons, Jim and Richard; daughter, Patricia; daughter-in-law Lisa; granddaughters, Monique and Katherine, and great grandchildren, Brittany, Jocelyn, Adam and Amanda. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, January 7, 2006 at 4 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, 5450 Atherton St., Long Beach, CA.

*Thanks to Patricia Waide for sending us the obituary above. Her father served as QH President 1989-90 and volunteered with Bob Brasher at the Long Beach Public Library.*

## NEWS

### FILM RENTAL INCREASE

As of January 15, LDS Family History Centers have increased their charge for the rental of microfilms. The loan fee per roll has increased from the base rate of \$3.25 to \$5.50. This cost includes postage but, for those of us living in California, is subject to a "Film Use Tax" that amounts to 45¢. So, the total cost per roll is now \$5.95. Renewals, originally ordered for \$3.25, will be renewed after January 15 at the new rate. Individual Family History Centers may also add a small fee for notifying patrons if they choose. Microfiche fees remain the same.

### GODFREY MEMORIAL LIBRARY

[<http://www.godfrey.org>](http://www.godfrey.org)

Because HeritageQuest is available at no cost through many public libraries, after January 1, 2006, this service will no longer be provided by the Godfrey Memorial Library online. Current Godfrey Scholars may continue to access it through the 2079 Portal until their subscriptions expire or until the end of this year. New subscribers will enter a new 3079 Portal.

In the absence of HeritageQuest, many new sites have been added to the 3079 Portal. Following are two new features.

- *American National Biography Online* that includes profiles of more than 18,000 men and women from all walks of American life.
- *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography Online* that includes 50,000 biographies of people worldwide, both ancient and modern, who have shaped British history.

*Per Richard E. Black, Director, Godfrey Memorial Library, 29 Dec 2005.*

### NEW MAGAZINE

[<http://www.internet-genealogy.com>](http://www.internet-genealogy.com)

James M. Beidler, of the Lebanon (PA) Daily News, reported on 26 December 2005 that Halvor Moorshead, the publisher of *Family Chronicle*, is launching a new magazine entitled *Internet Genealogy*. A 24-page preview is available at the site above. In introducing this preview Moorshead said, "The future of genealogy has already been shown to us—the image is not totally clear, it is not complete, but that route needs a road map. We see the job of *Internet Genealogy* to act as that map."

The magazine will be published bimonthly at a subscription price of \$28. A regular feature will be a Case Study "showing step by step how a particular individual's information was sniffed out by using the Internet."

Besides using the site listed above, you can contact the magazine for subscriptions by calling 1-888-326-2476 or by writing to P. O. Box 194, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

### FREE OFFER

[<http://www.progenysoftware.com>](http://www.progenysoftware.com)

Not quite free, but for a \$6.00 shipping and handling charge Progeny Software will send you the following two CDs:

- The SSDI (Social Security Death Index) of 61-million names through June 1999, regularly priced at \$29.95.
- World Place Finder that contains over 3.3 million place names from around the world, regularly priced at \$14.95.

The offer expires on February 28, 2006, so don't delay if you'd like to take advantage of this offer.

## ON THE WEB

### IRISH CENSUS RECORDS

The following is an announcement from the Heritage Ministry of Ireland.

Details of two 100-year-old Irish censuses are to go online for an estimated 70 million people around the world who claim a connection with the country, Irish Heritage Minister John O'Donoghue has revealed.

Under a new cultural agreement between the Irish and Canadian archive offices, all the details of Ireland's census in 1901 and 1911 are to be indexed and made available for free on the Internet.

The websites for Canada's 1901 and 1906 censuses receive an average of 41,182 visits per month. With 13 percent of Canadians claiming Irish ancestry, there is expected to be a strong interest in the Irish census data.

Records of a forebear's household, family, social circumstances and location 100 years ago will be available online from December 2006, when the first phase of the 1911 Dublin census records will be released. The whole project will take three years to complete.

The records detail the name, age, sex, marital status, occupation, county and country of birth of everyone listed in every domestic dwelling, prison, hospital and industrial school. They include people's literacy level, ability to speak Irish, the number of years women were married and total number of children born.

The 1901 census is the earliest surviving such document for all the 32 counties of the island, including the six in British-ruled Northern Ireland.

*From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 7 Dec 2005. Copyright 2005 by Richard W. Eastman. Available at <<http://www.eogn.com>>.*

### NORTH DAKOTA VITAL RECORDS

<<https://secure.apps.state.nd.us/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>>

The North Dakota Division of Vital Statistics has now placed its public death index online. The searchable database includes all recorded death certificates for the state from 1881 up to about 2004. The search terms can include Last Name (required), First Name, Date of Death (required, a range of up to 10 years may be entered) and county of death. The results may be ordered by: Name, Birth Date, Date of Death or County.

Since North Dakota has a small population, it is generally best to not add the county to the search terms. Many small communities did not (and do not now) have medical facilities, so the county of death may be 100 miles or more from the county of residence. Also, since the population is so low, it is often best to search an entire decade with last name only. Using my family name, Engel (not rare, but not too common), the results for some 10 year periods only resulted in 1 or 2 matches.

The results list: Name (Last, First, Middle), Date of Death, County of Death, Gender, Age, Date of Birth, State of Residence, County of Residence and Action. Action allows you to place an order for a copy of the death certificate.

This search may also, at times, find death certificates for you[r] relatives from Minnesota. The large hospitals that serve northwest Minnesota are in Fargo and Grand Forks, ND. The hospital in Williston, ND serves parts of NE Montana. The hospitals in Bismarck, ND serve parts of northern South Dakota.

*Ancestry Quick Tip by Staff Writer Monte, 9 Dec 2005. Copyright 1998-2005. MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. <<http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>>*

## OF INTEREST

### FGS 2006 BOSTON

This year's Conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies will be held in the "Birthplace of American Genealogy," Boston, Massachusetts. It will be hosted by the New England Historic Genealogical Society which is the oldest in the United States. The Conference will take place from Wednesday, August 30, through Saturday, September 2, at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center located in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood.

Attendees will be treated to more than 370 educational opportunities in the form of classes, workshops, and luncheon presentations made by speakers from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Canada, as well as the United States.

In celebration of its tenth Anniversary, the USGenWeb Project is sponsoring a full track of twenty events, including classes on various aspects of website creation and management.

To keep up to date on preparations for the Conference, visit:

[www.FHSConference.blogspot.com](http://www.FHSConference.blogspot.com)

You may register online at:

[www.fgs.org/2006conf/conf-order.asp](http://www.fgs.org/2006conf/conf-order.asp)

A discount is available for early registration. By mail, the address is:

Federation of Genealogical Societies  
P. O. Box 200940  
Austin, TX 78720-0940

### NHPRC FUNDING

*Kathleen Roe, Immediate past-president of the Council of State Archivists, wrote on 3 Jan 2006:*

We'd like to update you on the fate of restoring funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and in particular thank you for all the efforts on its behalf.

We have finally gotten the word that the President signed off on the funding for NHPRC for this fiscal year at a level of \$5.5 million for grants and \$2 million for program administration. We want to share this good news with you and the genealogical communities with whom you shared earlier requests for letters and support for restoring the funding when it was zeroed out of the budget. Most of all, we want to express our deep appreciation to all of you who wrote letters, made calls, and signed the electronic petition. We heard repeatedly that members of the House and Senate were well aware of the interest of their constituents because of the contact from individuals and organizations—they heard the message loud and clear, and responded with the restoration of funding during a time when that was very difficult to accomplish.

Our sincere appreciation to all who contributed to the advocacy effort—the commitment and energy of your communities are greatly appreciated and very respected. Thank you!

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### GEORGE WASHINGTON WAS NOT BORN ON FEBRUARY 22, 1732.

George Washington was born on February 11, 1731. Twenty years later, in 1752, England and its colonies dropped the inaccurate Julian calendar (which had fallen behind the Earth's orbit around the Sun by a year and eleven days) and adopted the more accurate Gregorian calendar. To regain the lost eleven days, the day after September 2, 1752, became September 14, 1752. To regain the lost year, New Year's Day, which had been celebrated on March 25, was moved to January 1. March 24, 1751, was followed by March 25, 1752, then December 31, 1752, was followed by January 1, 1753. George Washington continued celebrating his birthday on February 11. (*Contrary to Popular Belief* by Joey Green, p. 154)

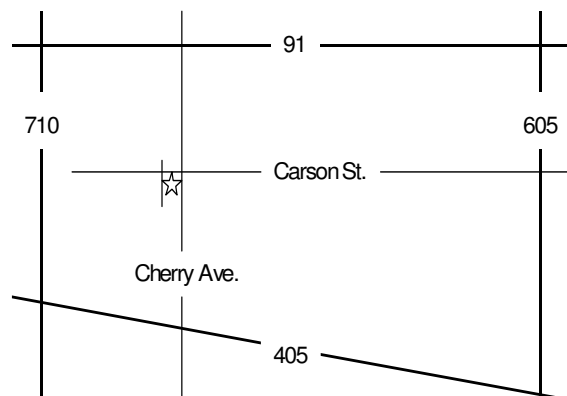
## C A L E N D A R

Saturday, February 4, 9:00 am-1:30 pm. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Several classes, interest groups, and presentations. Main program by Bob Spidell: "Researching New England Ancestors." There is a fee of \$5.00 for all workshops, except Basic Genealogy.

Saturday, February 11, 9:30 am. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Main program at noon: Chuck Mitchell on "Virginia: Genealogy, Regions, Repositories & Experience."

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County. Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Topic: "Miscellaneous Items at NARA" by Randy Thompson.

Sunday, February 19, 1:15-3:30 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 below. For meeting information, please see page 10.



Saturday, February 25, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society. Annual Seminar featuring Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier.

Sunday, February 26, 1:00-3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Topic: "Genetics, Migration and Family Lines" by Norma Storrs Keating, RN, BSN.



### SPRING SEMINAR

The North San Diego County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar, featuring John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. on "Making Dead Ancestors Come Alive," will be held at the Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave., Carlsbad, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday, March 18, 2006. For more information, contact Fred Spong at:

858-453-8469 or [fspong@san.rr.com](mailto:fspong@san.rr.com).



\*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.larfhc.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.