

QUESTING HEIRS  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 39. ✦ Number 3 ✦ March 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, MARCH 19, 2006**

<b>12:45</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BASIC: Beginning Family Research</b>
	<b>Period</b>	
<b>1:15</b>		<b>Let's Get Acquainted: Long Beach East Stake Family History Center presented by Terry Argyros, Director</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>Alan Jones</b>
		<b>Evaluating Your Family History Evidence</b>

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**MARCH 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:  
Let's Get Acquainted:  
Long Beach East Stake FHC**

Terry Argyros, who is the Director of the Long Beach East Stake Family History Center, will be our guest at the March meeting. She will acquaint us with the services provided at that center, which is located at 17909 Bloomfield Avenue in Cerritos, and perhaps update us on current projects in the works from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

**SPEAKER: ALAN JONES**

We found Alan Jones's presentation about "Genealogical Sources on the Internet" last September so interesting that we have invited him back this month on a different topic. Mr. Jones has been doing genealogical research for more than thirty years, has degrees in computer science and business, and has experience in various genealogy roles in societies and Family History Centers.

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

Thanks to our February hosts:  
Jeanette JONES      Georgie Peterson LYONS  
Elizabeth Johnson REIDY      Marjorie TARBELL

Our March hosts will be:  
Linda ARTUSO      Sandra HOLLANDSWORTH  
Georgie Peterson LYONS      Tina YANIS

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

January Income	\$ 83.89
January Expenses	521.93
Operations Balance	\$10,230.96

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

FEBRUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE  
Members: 26      Guests: 2

NEW MEMBERS

Loran BURES	Family	9/06
Tricia BURES	Family	9/06

RENEWALS

Harry HOLGATE	Individual	9/06
Mary M. SMITH	Contributing	9/06

*Happy  
St. Patrick's Day*

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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**

## **Living in the Past**

Forty years immersed in genealogy affects your world view. Sometimes just in silly ways. A sign on a building said *A.G.EDWARDS*, but what we perceived was **AGED WARDS** – perhaps a reference to some Dickensian legal dispute whose records would reveal several generations of genealogical information. (Can I find those records on the internet?) A television screen offered information about *weeknights*, but I perceived it as **wee knights**, surely a reference to diminutive Scottish warriors who settled in Northern Ireland and whose descendants immigrated to the colony of Maryland. Perhaps they were the ancestors of my McCoy's.

Another sign that our research has seeped into our consciousness is that we interpret current events in the light of history. After a decade of research on my French-speaking Swiss ancestors, who lived in a territory under the domination of the German-speaking city of Bern, I can only shake my head in disbelief when someone suggests a simple solution to any of the world's political problems. History teaches us that simple solutions almost always fail to take into account the complexities that later historians will discover when they examine the documents. This lesson was not lost on historians of past centuries. Their works are full of accounts that demonstrate how chance events, silly mistakes, and monumental misunderstandings, as well as political cunning, have shaped human destiny. The most successful statesmen have had a keen appreciation of history.

Is the public shocked to learn that a first-person account has been fictionalized? An experienced genealogist would have known better than to trust the written word. Even a student of American literature may have noticed Harriet Beecher Stowe's explanation of how *Uncle Tom's Cabin* could be "true" even though she admitted it contained elements that were invented. And we have seen every sort of fiction masquerading as literal truth in the books and documents that we mine for family history. Sometimes we can even spot the motives behind the lies.

Is the public shocked at the plot twists of *Desperate Housewives*? No genealogist should be surprised when people find themselves in untenable predicaments and find it necessary to improvise desperate solutions. We have seen it all before, when we discover the twists and turns of our family stories. Sometimes we can uncover the entire plot just by comparing successive census readings! Always searching for additional sources, we know who lied about her age, and a few other significant details!

So, here is another benefit if you keep digging: Wisdom in the ways of the world will surely come to you, if you pay attention to what you learn as a genealogist!

**By John McCoy**

## QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We badly need two or three volunteers to help prepare the Newsletters for mailing each month. The printed Newsletters must be folded, sealed, labeled, and sorted for delivery to the post office. This process has been taking about two hours, including travel time to the church where we have been meeting to do this job.

John McCoy has been coordinating the operation; so please let him know if you can help. You may contact him by phone (562-437-4337) or by e-mail ([RealMac@aol.com](mailto:RealMac@aol.com)). Thanks for your support.

### SCGS JAMBOREE

As noted in the January issue of this Newsletter, Southern California Genealogical Society's 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Genealogy Jamboree and Resource Expo will be held this year on May 5 and 6 at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center. It is located at 2500 Hollywood Way in Burbank.

The hours are as follows:

Friday, May 5 – 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 6 – 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Forty-five different presentations will be available from more than thirty of genealogy's most popular and knowledgeable speakers—including our own Aaron Day. Of course many exhibitors will be on hand, too.

Non-members may register for \$35 per day before March 31 and \$40 per day after that time. Registration forms will be available at our March meeting for anyone interested in attending. A listing of the speakers and their topics will also be available for your perusal.

For additional information, you can go to: [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com).

### TONGUE TWISTER

*As I came through Arkansas, I saw a saw that could out saw any saw I ever saw and if you saw a saw that could out saw the saw that I saw, I would like to see the saw that you saw that could out saw the saw that I saw as I came through Arkansas.*

*Contributed by Kay Foord*

### AREAS OF INTEREST

Below are the results of the questionnaire that was passed around at our February meeting asking members what research areas they were pursuing.

#### United States

Indiana (3)

Iowa

Kentucky

Maryland (2)

Michigan (2)

Missouri (3)

New York (2)

North Carolina

Ohio

Pennsylvania (2)

Tennessee (2)

Texas

Utah (Salt Lake City)

#### International

Canada (Quebec)

Crete

Greece

Sweden

Wales

We will keep these interests in mind when planning future programs and considering articles for inclusion in the Newsletter.

## N E W S

### FindUSA SHUTS DOWN

FindUSA was a very popular online service to help you find missing relatives and old friends. You could search for living or recently deceased Americans. The searches returned a lot of information, such as full name, date of birth, addresses for the past 30+ years, property records, court records, links to every person who lived at those addresses for the 30 years, and much more. Typical reports provided links to individuals, their parents, spouses, and adult children. Apparently the service was a bit too successful and too powerful.

Citing concerns about privacy, FindUSA is being removed from public access. The company states that a business decision was made to discontinue the FindUSA database service to libraries effective immediately. Apparently the database will still be available to private detectives, credit reporting bureaus, insurance companies, and law enforcement officials, but it will not be available to the general public.

*From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 3 Feb 2006. Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. Available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*

### HERITAGE CREATIONS BANKRUPT

*Bad news from Leland Meitzler in a genealogy blog dated 5 Feb 2006.*

This is a blog I never expected to ever write, but circumstances have dictated that I do so today.

Put in simple terms—I'm broke and am in the process of filing for Chapter 7 personal bankruptcy.

As most of you folks know, I bought back Heritage Quest Magazine, and much of the Heritage Quest retail operations from ProQuest three years ago. It was offered to me by ProQuest as a "silver lining" to the fact that Patty and I were

both being laid off, after 10 years with AGLL, Sierra, and ProQuest. Although I knew that the operation was losing a lot of money, in my arrogance, I thought that I could turn it around and make it profitable...

On a slightly brighter note, I'm quite sure that Heritage Quest Magazine and Genealogy Bulletin will find a new home, and the subscribers will get what they paid for. The subscriber-base of these two publications is substantial.

### 1906 SAN FRANCISCO QUAKE

A new book by Dorothy Fowler, a researcher and volunteer at the California Genealogical Society, was published on 14 January this year entitled *A Most Dreadful Earthquake: A First-Hand Account of the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire*.

Fowler was on hand when a ribbon-bound packet of forty letters was discovered in the archives of the California Genealogical Society in 1998. They were written by Miss Sarah Phillips to her fiancé, George Westinghouse Jones, in Schenectady between February and July 1906. Her account of the quake begins in the early hours of April 18.

The author, 100 years after the quake, details her painstaking search to find out more about Sarah and three other correspondents as the events of that hectic summer unfolded.

### PA-ROOTS NEWSLETTER

Those of you with Pennsylvania ancestors may have visited the PA-Roots website. This group has just started a monthly Newsletter. To subscribe, you can send an e-mail to:

[pa-rootsfriends-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:pa-rootsfriends-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

or visit their website at:

<http://www.pa-roots.com/friends/index.html>.

*Nathan Zipfel, President*

## ON THE WEB

### 1911 CANADIAN CENSUS

<http://www.ancestry.ca>

Ancestry.com has opened a new site for Canadian records. It is part of the World Deluxe package and is also available through a new Canada Deluxe membership. Images of the 1911 Canadian census may be accessed through an every-name index. Also, Steve Morse has already created a search engine to make finding names in the index easier. You will find it at: <http://stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.html>.

Other records available on the Canadian site are:

- Ontario Birth Index, 1869-1907
- Ontario Marriage Index, 1858-1899
- Ontario Death Index, 1869-1932
- Ontario, Canada Census Index, 1871
- Ontario & Nova Scotia Census Records, 1800-1842
- Canadian Genealogy Index, 1600s-1900s
- Canadian Address & Phone Directories, 1995-2002

### CANADIAN PLAT MAPS

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas>

Today's article [30 Nov 2005] in the Ancestry Daily News talked about PLAT maps in the U.S. Similar maps are available in Canada as County Atlases. Of particular interest is the Canadian County Atlas Digital Project, digital versions of atlases that were originally printed between 1874 and 1881, including a searchable database of names. In some cases the property reference may contain a link to a portrait (drawing) of the owner and/or the property. If you can find an ancestor or relative on one of these, it often gives a starting point for further research, such as into land records that may establish other details such as when the individual bought and/or sold the property (thereby narrowing further searches).

*An Ancestry Quick Tip by Tom Aman, 16 Dec 2005.*

### BRITISH DATABASE

<http://www.spatial-literacy.org/uclnames>

A new online database may help many people trace their family roots one step further. The Surnames Profiler database contains information on the size and geographical distribution of 25,630 family names across Great Britain. There are plans to expand that number to 280,000 surnames.

Developed by the Economic & Social Research Council, the Surnames Profiler shows the origin of surnames, their frequency, and geographical distribution, tracing the movement of people with the same names from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to today. Information is displayed on a color-coded map of Great Britain, showing the distribution of the surname being searched.

In addition to mapping surnames across the UK, the project has uncovered where common surnames can be found within the country, giving another clue to the origins of each name.

This is not a true genealogy site although it can often offer genealogy clues. It is especially useful when genealogists have no idea where to look for records since this free database lists where the names are commonly found. The rarer the name, the more useful the hints.

The information in this database is based upon census records from 1881 and from modern-day surname records extracted from the credit history database of Experian.

Smith remains the number one surname in the UK, used by more than half a million people, and is most concentrated in Lerwick, Shetland. Almost 400,000 people are named Jones, with Williams and Brown in third and fourth position.

*This excerpt is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 17 Jan 2006 at <http://www.eogn.com>. Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman..*

## TECHNOLOGY

### LONGEVITY OF INKJET COLORS

After reading the tip on using colored ink in place of black, I'd like to add a comment. Many inkjet printers still use dyes that fade quickly and do not have the longevity of more permanent pigmented inks. I have called HP and found out that their black inks are always pigmented. By switching to colored inks to print out genealogy data, you take the risk of it fading and not even being there to read in a few years.

If you have one of the better inkjet printers, whose colors have passed the tests of longevity, then using color is fine. Otherwise, stick to black.

To review ink test results on a variety of desktop inkjet printers, go to:

[www.wilhelm-research.com](http://www.wilhelm-research.com).

*An Ancestry Quick Tip by Staff Writer Carol, 5 Jan 2006. Copyright 1998-2006. MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. <http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>*

### LIFE EXPECTANCY OF CD DISKS

Do you regularly back up your genealogy data to a writable CD-ROM disk? *Computerworld* has published an interview with Kurt Gerecke, an IBM storage expert and physicist who claims burned CDs only have a two- to five-year life span. From the article:

“Unlike pressed original CDs, burned CDs have a relatively short life span of between two to five years, depending on the quality of the CD. There are a few things you can do to extend the life of a burned CD, like keeping the disc in a cool, dark space, but not a whole lot more.

“The problem is material degradation. Optical discs commonly used for burning, such as CD-R and CD-RW, have a recording surface consisting of a layer of dye that can be modified by heat to store data. The degradation process can result in

the data ‘shifting’ on the surface and thus becoming unreadable to the laser beam.”

Gerecke recommends magnetic tapes to store pictures, videos and songs. However, he avoids any discussion of all the problems with tape.

*From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 10 Jan 2006. Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. Available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*

### DIGITAL COPIES

I no longer decide which pages are important enough to copy, or pay for bad photocopies. When I'm in the library, I simply photograph the pages with a digital camera. Not only are the pages printable, but each is automatically “scanned” and ready to store on my computer. It works great for oversized books.

I use an average 4 megapixel Canon PowerShot S400. I set it to its highest resolution, and switch to manual to avoid the flash. It works best holding it about 18 inches from the page. After taking the shot, I zoom in on the photo to be sure there was no movement. If so I delete it and try again. When I'm finished, I insert the memory card into my laptop, and I have all my digitized pages ready to store. No more killing trees for research, and best of all, no more breaking the spines of books in flat photocopyers or scanners.

Now I need to try it on microfilm readers.

*An Ancestry Quick Tip from Bill Draper, 20 Dec 2005. Copyright 1998-2005. MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries. <http://www.ancestry.com/dailynews>*

Technological progress has merely provided us with more efficient means for going backwards.

Aldous Huxley  
[1894-1963]

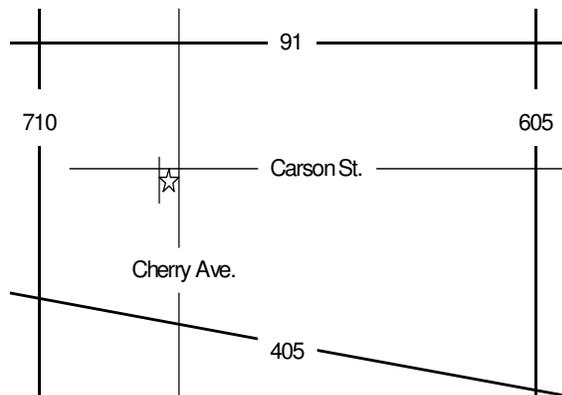
**C A L E N D A R**

Saturday, March 4. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Workshops will be held at 9:00 am and 12:30 pm with a fee of \$5.00, except for Basic Genealogy, for non-members. In place of the main lecture there will be a free **Book Faire** from 9:30-11:30 am.

Saturday, March 11. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Main program at noon: Lois Burlo taking "A Look at Courthouse Records."

Saturday, March 11, 8:30 am-3:30 pm. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, Spring Seminar featuring Kory Meyerink, Wendy Elliott, Beth McCarty & Norma Keating at the Community Room, Placentia Linda Hospital, 1301 N. Rose Dr., Placentia. For info, call 714-777-2379 or visit their website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cagsnocc>.

Sunday, March 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 18.



Saturday, March 18, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: Thelma Montgomery explains how to "Write Your Own Story."

Sunday, March 26, 1:00-3:00 pm. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Topic: "Protecting and Maintaining Your PC" by Jim McNamara.



**CHAPMAN FAMILY**

The Chapman Family Association will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> annual convention and reunion June 2-4, 2006, at the DoubleTree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Plaza, San Jose, CA. Info is available at their website: [www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html](http://www.chapmanfamilies.org/conv.html) and also from Liz Codding at [lcodding@aol.com](mailto:lcodding@aol.com) or 3109 Touchmark Dr., Edmond, OK 73033.



\*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.