

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 39. † Number 8 † August 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

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006

1:15	Class	INTERMEDIATE:
	Period	What is a Genealogy?
		presented by John McCoy
2:00	Break	Time for <i>chatting</i>, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: JOAN E. RAMBO
		Hidden Treasures in the Huntington Beach Collection

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

Thanks to Intrepid Genealogists

Our members are a tough bunch. Our July meeting was surely the hottest on record, but there you were, an eager crowd wiping the sweat from your foreheads with one hand while taking notes with the other. If the day had been any warmer, we would have had to cancel. The next weekend broke all local records. Our heat wave has gone on so long that we can scarcely recall what normal Long Beach weather is supposed to feel like.

The subject was military records. When Chuck Mitchell first discussed his idea for this program with the Board of Directors, we knew at once it was a topic that must be presented. But we had no idea what we had created until it was finished. We had imagined that the genealogist simply needed a reminder that many of our ancestors served during one or more wars, and that their service created records that we might find useful. While this statement is true as far as it goes, it does not begin to explain what those records have to tell us.

Did you notice how young the soldiers were? Most of them were not even old enough to vote. They were barely out of childhood, mostly ignorant of life's lessons and life's possibilities. Consequently, much of what they saw came as a shock. It will come as a shock to future generations, too, if you are careful to mention how young your soldier ancestors were when they experienced the events recounted in their pension applications and letters, when you write their history.

The sights and sounds of battle stayed with them, like a vivid nightmare, for the rest of their lives. Decades later, they could recount every skirmish, speaking of the friends they had lost as if it were yesterday. They told their stories so often that their aged widows were able to enumerate all the battles when they applied for their measly little pensions that eventually reached \$20 a month. The pension applications of the soldiers and their widows frequently sound like they were written while the battle still raged.

History books tell the summary of the battles. They leave out both the pain and the adrenaline. They leave out the profound shocks of injury, death, and the enormous insanity of the whole pageant. To recover the human dimensions of war, you need to hear the individual accounts. You need to hear that your ancestor paid someone to serve in his place, and that the substitute was scalped by the Indians. You need to hear that your ancestor, from a tiny, isolated farm town in Illinois, saw the horrors of Dachau with his own eyes. You need to hear how your ancestors' lives changed as a result of the events they witnessed. As genealogists, you need to tell those stories.

The records of our ancestors' war-time experiences are so important; I think it is our duty to try to publish every diary, letter, and pension application. Let none of them be lost! When you discover long-forgotten war stories, first make sure they are preserved and then find a way to make them accessible. The reality of war is an important lesson. We know there will always be wars, but we want to be sure no one can ever use the excuse, "We didn't know what we were getting into."

by John McCoy

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

NEWSLETTER MAILINGS

Once our monthly newsletters have been printed, several steps are required before they reach your mailbox. They have to be folded, sealed, have an address label affixed, be sorted into various groups by zip code, and delivered to the post office. Jack and Kay Foord handled this process for many years. Since they are no longer able to do the job, four volunteers have been getting together, usually at the church, to ready the newsletters for mailing each month.

Would one of our other couples who are members be willing to take over this task? It could then be done in your own home at your convenience. If any of you are interested in helping out our society in this way, please contact the editor, Linda Artuso, at 562-424-0068 or at lartuso@pcmagic.net.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Our First Vice-President, Chuck Mitchell, has resigned because he will be moving to northern California this fall. Liz Myers, currently our Corresponding Secretary, has graciously volunteered to take over Chuck's duties as Program Chairman. Also, Loran Bures has volunteered to take over the vacant position of Publicity Chairman.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

<http://www.qhgs.info>

Some exciting changes are underway for the Questing Heirs web page. Our new Publicity Chairman, Loran Bures, has scanned the QHGS publication *Some Early Southern California Burials*. The book covers Wilmington, Sunnyside and Long Beach Municipal Cemeteries to 1920. This 96-page book was originally published in 1974 and is now out of print. However, in keeping with our mission to collect, preserve and publish data relating to genealogy, we

have converted it to PDF format and made it available for free download. You can find a link to the file on our Publications page or on our new Downloads page.

The other big news is that we have started a Members' Interests page. Questing Heirs members will be able to post the families they are researching and, we hope, to hook up with others researching the same families. You can find this page at:

<http://www.qhgs.info/members-interests.html>.

If you would like your research interests to be included, please send them to me by e-mail at lunalake@pobox.com. In the interest of readability, we would like to keep the listings as simple as possible. However, you may list several different lines if you wish. Please include the family name, the time period and the place in your listing. For example:

Llewellyn
1881-present
Northeastern Ohio

Also, please include your name and e-mail address. If you are concerned about privacy, we won't post your e-mail address on the page. Instead, if someone contacts us about your interests, we will use our address as a contact and then pass their message along to you.

QH ROOTSWEB MAILING LIST

One of the services provided to members of Questing Heirs is our RootsWeb Mailing List. This list provides a way to communicate with members between newsletters and a place for members to keep in touch between meetings. To take advantage of this service, subscribe to the list at <http://www.qhgs.info/contact.html> and follow the instructions.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mike Powers or Loran Bures, whose contact information is on the Newsletter's blue page.

METHODS

IMAGINARY TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY

by Dave Werts

Do you have a pile of genealogical information that has to be filed, but you just can't find the time? Is there information that you collected at the library that needs to be entered into your database, but there are too many home and garden tasks you need to do first? Do you need to review data you have collected in the past to find clues for an elusive ancestor, but haven't been able to get around to it?

We all have problems like this. But we find time to go to the library for a day. We go on vacations of a week or two, and manage to find the time. You may have even gone to Salt Lake City for a week to do research. You were able to squeeze that into your busy schedule with a little advance planning.

I have been at the point in documenting the descendants of my great-grandfather where I needed to call living cousins, second cousins, and third cousins to get information. I decided to take an "imaginary trip to Salt Lake City."

About a month before my imaginary trip, I picked the week and put it on the calendar. I didn't schedule anything for that week, as if I would be out of town. And I told my wife that I wasn't going to be available on that week. A few days before the start of the week, I got out the materials that I wanted to work on and made a list of tasks.

After breakfast on Monday of my imaginary trip, I told my wife I was going to the library, and went up to the den. I started making my phone calls, collecting information, and then putting it into the genealogy program. It usually raised some questions that required going to Rootsweb or Google to look up details. I found that I could make two to three calls a day. I took a break for lunch and dinner, but otherwise

worked, just like I do when I'm in Salt Lake City. At 9:45 p.m. there was a knock on the door, and my wife said, "The library is closing in fifteen minutes!" It was time for an hour of TV to unwind.

I was able to keep this up for the entire week. In fact, it got easier as I got on a roll. I was able to justify going out for dinner with friends one evening, an event that had been planned long before, because I worked on Monday evening when the LDS library is usually closed. And I made great strides in the family history.

You can do this, too. Plan well ahead, and make preliminary preparations, just as you would before going on a vacation or to Salt Lake City. Allow yourself a break when necessary. Let people know that you're not available that week. Let the e-mails pile up. Read only the most important mail.

You don't have to do this for a whole week. You could also have an imaginary weekend at a genealogical conference, or an imaginary day at a local library. Determine how much time you need to accomplish the tasks you want to finish. Good luck in making progress on your family history—right there at home!

NGS ONLINE LEARNING CENTER

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/Courses>

The National Genealogical Society has a number of online genealogical courses, such as:

- Introduction to Genealogy
- Federal Population Census Schedules
- Special Federal Census Schedules
- Transcribing, Extracting, and Abstracting Genealogical Records.

Members receive a discount on the price of courses. There is generally a time limit of six months to complete a course. For more details on course descriptions and Frequently Asked Questions, visit the website listed above.

OF INTEREST

SCGS NEWS

The 38th Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree and Resource Expo will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 8, 9 and 10, 2007, at the Burbank Airport Hilton.

The first publications to be generated by the 1890 Committee have just been released. *The Naturalization Index of the Superior Court for Los Angeles County, California* includes every “naturalization transaction” with each alien that occurred in this court only between 1852 and 1915. The index includes more than 40,000 entries, with close to 27,000 unique names and more than 350 countries or combinations of countries of origin, i.e., Hungary-Canada-Great Britain. Compiled by the 1890 Committee of the Southern California Genealogical Society. Soft-bound. The three volumes are available for purchase individually or as a set and can be ordered through the SCGS web site at: www.scgsgenealogy.com/catalog.

The Historical Los Angeles Times newspaper database is available online at the SCGS Library in Burbank. Unfortunately, due to restrictions placed by the owners of the content, The Tribune Companies, we are unable to make this database available for use from home. However, SCGS members are welcome to come to the Library and use the database at no charge.

From the Federation of Genealogical Societies, contributed by Liz Myers, 26 June 2006.

HOW VALUABLE ARE GENEALOGY AND HERITAGE STUDIES?

The next time your village, town, county or other political division is thinking about boosting the local economy, you might suggest the promotion of genealogy.

How much money do genealogists and other “ancestral tourists” contribute to a local economy? One recent study says that Scotland earns millions today from ancestral tourists, and that figure is expected to increase to £300 million (\$565 million U.S.) per year within the next five years.

VisitScotland says that international visitors tracing their Scottish roots make 250,000 trips per year, an industry which is presently worth £153 million to the Scottish economy.

Alan Rankin, the chief executive of Scottish Tourism Forum, said, “The biggest plus point of ancestral tourism is that it takes overseas tourists to virtually every single part of Scotland It’s clearly a market that has a huge potential with overseas Scots, not just in North America but across the world?”

And who said that genealogists don’t spend much money?

Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter, 5 Jun 2006, at <http://www.eogn.com>. (Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman.)

THE NAME SMITH IS NOT SHORT FOR “BLACKSMITH.”

Surnames are usually based on a place of residence, an ancestor’s given name, or an occupation—such as Baker, Carpenter, Cook, Miller, and Taylor. The most common surname in the English language is Smith. A smith is a person who works with metal. The word *smith* originated before the word *blacksmith*. A blacksmith is actually a type of smith who works with iron. A whitesmith works with tin.

From Contrary to Popular Belief by Joey Green (New York: Broadway Books, 2005), p. 24

ON THE WEB

SURNAME PROFILER

<http://www.spatial-literacy.org/UCLnames/default.aspx>

A recent research project based at University College London (UCL) has investigated the distribution of surnames in Great Britain, both current and historic, in order to understand patterns of regional economic development, population movement and cultural identity. The website above allows users to search the databases that have been created and to trace the geography and history of their family names.

The following information is displayed:

- Geographical Location
- Frequency and Ethnicity
- Map of Distribution in 1881
- Map of Distribution in 1998

If you have ancestors in Great Britain, and particularly if the surname is not too common, this site can be very helpful in determining where your ancestors lived.

PRIMARY SOURCES ON THE WEB

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/RUSA>

More and more primary source materials are available online—e.g., documents, letters, maps, and photographs. Users of primary sources have always needed to examine their sources critically, but now with the proliferation of electronic resources from a wide variety of web site producers, evaluation is more important than ever before. Users of web resources must now consider the authenticity of documents, what person or organization is the internet provider, and whether the electronic version serves their needs.

In this very informative article you will find a discussion of the following topics:

- What are Primary Sources?
- Finding Primary Sources on the Web
- Evaluating Primary Source Web Sites
- Citing Web Sites

Written by the Instruction & Research Services Committee of the Reference and User Service Association History Section in the American Library Association.

FIND A COURTHOUSE ADDRESS

http://www.ncsconline.org/D_KIS/info_court_web_sites.html

Looking for the address of a particular courthouse? The [above] web site of the National Center for State Courts can help.

The web site lists judicial branch links for each state, focusing on the administrative office of the courts, the court of last resort, any intermediate appellate courts, and each trial court level.

...If you click on the list of letters that represent the first letter of the state, you will then see a list of links. The exact list of links will vary from one state to the next, depending upon the court systems within that state. Clicking on [a link] will then display a list of all those courts in that state.

For instance, I clicked on “M” for Maine, then clicked on “Probate Courts.” I then could view a listing of 16 probate courts, one in each of Maine’s 16 counties. The listings only show street addresses, not telephone numbers.

From Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter 30 May 2006. (Copyright 2006 Richard Eastman)

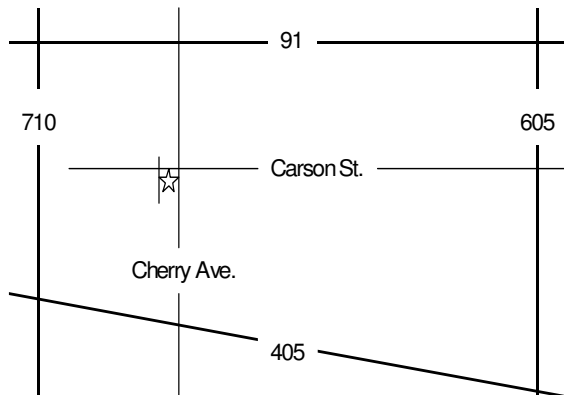
CALENDAR

Saturday, August 12. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Lunch and Learn beginning at noon. Bill Principe speaking on “Sources of Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers.”

Wednesday, August 16, 7:00 pm. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Elaine Alexander will speak on “Seven Ways to Get Naturalization Records.”

Saturday, August 19, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: Kathleen Travena on “Crossing a Continent: Migration between the Revolution and the Civil War.”

Sunday, August 20, 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 58.



Sunday, August 27, 1-6 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting: Open Research Day at the LARFHC.* Nancy

Carlberg and Anne Lloyd will assist with your research.



AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY
“Discovering Your Roots and Branches”

This 6th Annual West Coast Summit will be held October 21, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The day includes 4 sessions, with 4 or 5 topics at each from which to choose. “Road to Las Vegas” [from Lower Arkansas] is the topic of the luncheon speaker, Richard Ledbetter.

The registration fee is \$85.00. Checks payable to NAAGS should be mailed to:

NAAGS, Brenda Harris
341 Rossmoyne Avenue
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Room reservations at the Tuscan Hotel Casino are available at a group rate of \$109 thru Sept. 20. Phone: 877-887-2261; Group Code 1139CQ.



*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.