

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter* Volume 39, ✦ Number 10 ✦ October 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, OCTOBER 15, 2006**

<b>12:45</b>	<b>Class Period</b>	<b>BASIC: Census Records</b>
<b>1:15</b>		<b>INTERMEDIATE: Coping with Uncertainty in Genealogy presented by John McCoy</b>
<b>2:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Business</b>	
<b>2:30</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>SPEAKER: Debbie Horton Canadian Censuses &amp; Vital Records</b>

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

## SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 29

Guests: 5

## NEW MEMBERS

Dawn ALVAREZ	Newsletter	9/07
Patricia DAVIES	Individual	9/07

## RENEWALS

Martha BAXTER	Individual	9/07
Robert BRASHER	Family	9/07
Marilyn BRASHER	Family	9/07
Barbara BROWN	Newsletter	9/07
Loran BURES	Family	9/07
Tricia BURES	Family	9/07
Barbara CARY	Individual	9/07
Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT	Individual	9/07
Dorothy DUNNING	Individual	9/07
John FOORD	Sustaining	9/07
Kathryn FOORD	Sustaining	9/07
Patricia GLOW	Individual	9/07
Lowell HARRIS	Family	9/07
Inga HARRIS	Family	9/07
Marie HEGWER	Contributing	9/07
Charles HORTON	Contributing	9/07
Bonnie HORTON	Contributing	9/07
Ginny HUMPHRIES	Individual	9/07
Jeanette JONES	Sustaining	9/07
Douglas JORDON	Individual	9/07
Donald KROKUS	Contributing	9/07
Barbara LOURTIE	Contributing	9/07
Christina McKILLIP	Contributing	9/07
Harriet MILLER	Individual	9/07
Charles MITCHELL	Sustaining	9/07
Dagmar MUTHAMIA	Individual	9/07
Elizabeth MYERS	Individual	9/07
Joy PROUST	Contributing	9/07
Elizabeth REIDY	Individual	9/07
Jack RHODES	Individual	9/07
Frances V. SMITH	Individual	9/07
Helene SMITH	Individual	9/07
Christina YANIS	Individual	9/07

## OCTOBER MEETING

For meeting details, please see page 76.

## REFRESHMENTS

**Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432.4908**

Thanks to our September hosts:

Georgie LYONS

Liz MYERS

Tina YANIS

Our October hosts will be:

Sally DAVIS

Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT

Lizzie WHISNANT

Connie WILLIAMS

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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

August Income                      \$ 479.15

August Expenses	\$ 595.23
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Operations Balance	\$8,457.21
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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.*

<b>P R E S I D E N T ' S   M E S S A G E</b>
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## Why Genealogy is Not like a Box of Chocolates by John McCoy

One of the attractions of genealogy is the possibility of discovering something unexpected. Everyone loves a surprise. A recent news item reminded me that such discoveries sometimes have life-changing implications. Sarah Culbertson, a dancer and actress in the Los Angeles area, was challenged in a theater workshop to confront her fears of something unknown. She decided to search for her birth parents. She had been adopted by a loving family in West Virginia, but she still wondered about her biological parents. The answer was stunning: her father was an African tribal chief, who had attended college in the United States. That made Sarah a princess! Eventually she arranged to visit her father in Sierra Leone. The village still bore the scars of a brutal civil war. Suddenly, she saw a new destiny for herself: the welfare of her tribe was now her responsibility. Upon her return to Los Angeles, she set up a foundation ([www.bumpenya.com](http://www.bumpenya.com)) to raise money for a high school in her father's village. A discovery about her roots opened up a completely new chapter in her life, now full of challenges and opportunities.

Few of us will ever discover anything so mind-boggling in our own genealogies, but I think there are more subtle effects. Most American pedigrees are full of rags-to-riches stories, and sometimes the reverse. All of life's lessons are played out in one way or another in the ancestral lives that we document. Who knows what lessons our ancestors have to teach us? How many hardy pioneers are in your background? How many who left their homelands to sail for American shores, in appalling conditions? That sort of pedigree may encourage us to persevere, to accept more challenges.

None of this will happen, of course, unless we succeed in transmitting our genealogical discoveries to new generations. Clearly, it is not enough to preserve only names and dates. These are basic facts, but they would not induce anyone in the future to undertake heroic deeds. For that, we need biography, and there will be no biography unless all the mundane documentation of the past—letters, newspapers, business records, and all the other ephemera that we regard today as so much clutter—is preserved. What to save and where to put it are big issues for genealogists.

Nothing much will happen, either, if we do not write our genealogies in such a way that they will continue to capture the imagination for generations to come. It is surprising how much art needs to go into a family history, in addition to the required scholarship!

Whoever said that life is like a box of chocolates was mistaken. Whether you get a caramel center or a cherry will not change your life. The consequences of a randomly selected piece of candy are trivial. In real life, however, seemingly random events, daydreams, and even stories from the past can open up whole worlds. That is why genealogy matters: by transmitting the human experience to new generations, it reminds them of life's infinite possibilities.

## QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

### **OCTOBER PROGRAM**

#### **INTERMEDIATE CLASS: Coping with Uncertainty in Genealogy**

You will find all degrees of certainty and doubt in the course of your genealogical research. We will review some of the methods you can use to record and present your results clearly. Keeping track of "facts" that are in doubt may even help you focus your research.

#### **SPEAKER: DEBBY HORTON Canadian Census and Vital Records**

Debby Horton owns and operates Connect-Your-Dots (a genealogical services company); is a distribution specialist for Heritage Books, Inc. (a genealogical internet book store); is vice-president of the Southern California Chapter for the Association for Professional Genealogists (SCCAPG); is the webmaster for the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG); and is the webmaster for the California State Genealogical Alliance (CSGA). Debby's genealogical education includes advanced courses with the National Institute for Genealogical Studies at the University of Toronto in the fields of American, Canadian, English, and German Records. She specializes in internet research, research methodology, and British and French Canadian records.

#### ***"Along Those Lines ..."***

Questing Heirs has made arrangements for George G. Morgan's award-winning genealogy column "*Along Those Lines ...*" (ATL) to appear in the weekly *Signal Tribune* newspaper. The first column was published in the September 14<sup>th</sup> issue, and is scheduled to appear every other week. During October, Family History Month, it will appear every Thursday.

George began writing this weekly online column

in 1998 for the Genealogy Forum on America Online, and exclusively at the Ancestry.com website from January 2000 to March 2006.

If you do not receive the *Signal Tribune*, you can download each issue from their web site <http://www.signaltribune.com> as a PDF document, or send Loran Bures an e-mail to join the "*Along Those Lines ...*" distribution list. You will receive by e-mail a PDF document of the page(s) containing each column as they are published.

George's first column from the *Signal Tribune* is reprinted on page 77. In his column scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>, George writes about Family History Month, and starts a three-part series on using city directories in your family history research. Don't miss a single installment of ATL; join our e-mail distribution list today.

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

### **SLATE OF OFFICERS**

At our September meeting Dave Werts, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of candidates for your consideration:

President – Elizabeth Myers

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Sally Davis

Corresponding Secretary – Jeri Everett

An election will be held at our November meeting, at which time nominations may also be made from the floor (with the nominee's prior approval). The new officers will be installed at our December meeting and assume their duties for two-year terms beginning January 2007.

*A family historian is one who writes  
1706 or 1806 on his checks instead of  
2006.*  
*from Gen Humor*

**“ALONG THOSE LINES...” by GEORGE G. MORGAN**

**Introducing a column to aid in discovering the joy and challenges of ancestry research**

Greetings! My name is George G. Morgan and I am a self-described “rabid genealogist.” In fact, I’ve been working on my family history often since I was 10 years old when my grandmother Morgan and aunt Mary Allen Morgan got me interested in American Revolutionary War ancestors. That’s been well over 40 years ago, and I still learn something new every day.

I am the president of a company called Aha! Seminars, Inc. and my seminar business concentrates on continuing education for libraries, librarians, library consortia, and, of course, genealogists.

You may visit the Aha! Seminars, Inc. website at [www.ahaseminars.com](http://www.ahaseminars.com) for more information about the company, its activities, its catalogs of both library- and genealogical-based presentation topics, a bibliography of excellent genealogical research and reference publications, and upcoming activities for me and for Aha! Seminars, Inc.

My “**Along Those Lines...**” column has appeared in the *Ancestry Daily News* for almost nine years, during which time I also wrote columns for Sony Entertainment’s Emazing.com and Singapore-based ChineseRoots.com. I’ve written four books and literally hundreds of magazine and journal articles for companies and genealogical societies across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. I’m currently at work on a new book, whose working title is *The Official Guide to Ancestry.com*.

I’m a frequent presenter at the local, regional, national, and international levels, and lead an annual research tour to London.

I produce *The Genealogy Guys Podcast* each week with my partner, Drew Smith, at [www.genealogyguys.com](http://www.genealogyguys.com). It is the longest-

running, continuously-produced genealogy podcast in the world, and I hope you’ll take advantage of listening to this free online broadcast every week.

I am very pleased that the *Signal Tribune* has agreed to publish the “**Along Those Lines...**” column.

You will find that the column contains a great deal of informative information about the genealogical research methods and record types that may help you in furthering your personal family history research.

In addition, I enjoy sharing details about conferences, book reviews, person experiences, and that illustrate solid research techniques, and news from the genealogical world. In the meantime, I think you will find that the column is fun and entertaining as well as informative.

This column is made possible through the efforts of the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society of Long Beach. For more information about that society, please visit [www.qhgs.info](http://www.qhgs.info) on the Web. I would like to thank Loran Bures of that society for helping make this possible.

I sincerely hope you enjoy the column, and that it helps you along your family history odyssey. I also hope you will provide feedback to the *Signal Tribune* and its editor, Neena Strichart.

We really want to hear what you think and, if you enjoy the column, please spread the word so that your friends, colleagues, and other researchers can take advantage of the information shared here.

Happy Hunting!  
George.

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## METHODS

### FINDING FEMALES

In areas whose legal systems derive from the English common law—such as the United States, much of Canada, and the United Kingdom—a name change usually does not require legal action, because a person can choose to be known by any name (except with intent to defraud) without taking any legal action.

In many jurisdictions whose legal system derive from the civil law—such as France, Spain, the province of Quebec, and the state of Louisiana—however, the default position is for a woman's "legal name" to remain the same throughout life. Women there who wish to change their names legally usually must apply to do so via the same formal procedure as any other citizen who wishes to change a name.

When searching ship passenger lists, especially for your Italian, Dutch and French female ancestors, look under their maiden names. That's how they may be recorded even though they were married at the time.

*Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 16 Aug 2006, Vol. 9, No. 33.*

### CONTACTING FUNERAL HOME DIRECTORS

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle>

Thinking of approaching a funeral home director for help with your roots? Not all are keen on genealogists (and some have privacy policies), but many are very helpful. Try calling first to learn the basics – whether they respond to requests, what details are needed to conduct a search (their records might be organized by name or date, and they often have a card or computer file that leads them to more detailed records – a multi-step process for them), and any fees that might be involved. Then follow up with a letter as instructed – and be specific about

what you'd like. It used to be common practice for funeral homes to place obituaries, so some have family fact sheets on the deceased, but they're not apt to send a copy unless you request it. At a minimum, ask for the cemetery involved, names of survivors, and the person who paid for the funeral.

Be patient, as some long-established homes may store older records in a basement or even offsite. And don't give up if the funeral home you seek no longer exists. Try calling a couple of the other local funeral homes, as well as cemeteries and libraries in the area, to see what might have happened to their records. The files you want may well be in the possession of a former competitor (mergers are common) or at the local historical or genealogical society.

Finally, be nice! Remember, another genealogist might want to contact the same funeral home director, so send a thank you note to let them know their assistance is appreciated.

*Tips from the Pros: Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, 14 April 2006. (Copyright 1998-2006, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.)*

### DON'T KNOW THE COUNTY?

When you know a town and state but don't know what county the town is in, there are several ways to find out online.

- At <http://www.familysearch.org> enter the name of the town and state in a Place search. The answer will include the county's name.
- Type in the name of the town and state at: <http://resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/town/county.cgi>.
- Or go to the U.S. Geological Survey site <http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**In celebration of October as Family History Month, the following special programs will be presented.**

### NORTH ORANGE COUNTY

The Genealogical Society of North Orange County is teaming up with local libraries to present the following list of free classes.

Monday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m. Fullerton Library  
Norma Storrs Keating Getting Started

Thurs., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Canyon Hills, Anaheim  
Beth McCarty Family History Library System

Weds., Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m. Brea Library  
Wendy Bebout Elliott Basic Resources

Weds., Oct. 18, 7 p.m. Yorba Linda Com. Ctr.  
Barbara Renick Internet Basics

Mon., Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Placentia Library  
Caroline Braxton Rober Local Resources

Mon., Oct. 30, 7 p.m.-Haskett Branch Anaheim  
Laureen Tywoniuk Documentation

For more information, call 714-996-9511.

### SOUTH BAY/TORRANCE

On Saturday, October 21, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society and the Torrance Family History Center will provide a free seminar and workshop at the Torrance LDS Stake Center, 22605 Kent Street in Torrance.

The seminar, entitled "Tending Your Family Tree," includes a choice of five classes each presented at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Individual help and a computer lab are also available. For a list of classes and additional information, you may:

call the Torrance FHC at 310-791-6256 or visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~casbcgs>.

### WHITTIER

The Whittier LDS Stake and the Whittier Area Genealogical Society are jointly sponsoring a Whittier Area Family History Fair entitled "Roots and Branches: Links to the Past" on Saturday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the LDS Church, 15265 Mulberry Drive in Whittier.

Bonnie Petrovich will make the keynote address from 10 a.m.-11 a.m., and two sessions (each with three classes to choose from) will be held from 11 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-2 p.m. The event is free, and a complimentary lunch is provided. Other instructors will be Caroline Rober, Michael Brady and Joseph Leavitt.



### 2007 SALT LAKE INSTITUTE

The Radisson Hotel in Salt Lake City will host the next Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy from January 8-12, 2007.

Ten courses will be available, each including 17-20 classes. One of the courses is "Research Methodology: Genealogical Problem Solving," which provides individual help for participants and, therefore, requires an extra consultant's fee of \$65.

To download a brochure with the course details and to register online, go to the following website: <http://www.infouga.org>. Or you can request information and a registration form by writing to:

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy  
Utah Genealogical Association  
P. O. Box 1144  
Salt Lake City, UT 84110

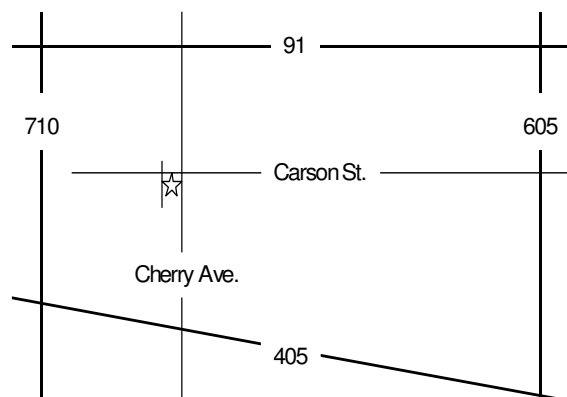
For a discounted rate, register before Oct. 30.

## CALENDAR

Sunday, October 8. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. 1 p.m. Annual Bratwurst lunch; bring a side dish. Topic at 2 p.m.: "Prussia- Part II, The East" presented by Kurt Schroeder.

Saturday, October 14, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Genealogical Society of Hispanic America-Southern California celebrates Viva La Familia Fiesta at the Hellman-Quon Building, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, 125 Paseo de la Plaza (across from Union Station).

Sunday, October 15, 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 76.



Saturday, October 21, 1:00 pm. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: "Pio Pico, The Last Mexican Governor of California and Early California History," by Fred Andrews (Park Ranger Interpreter at the Pio Pico State Historic Park).

Sunday, October 22, 1-3 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Topic: "Using

Ancestry.com for English and Welsh Research" by Nancy Carlberg.

Saturday, November 4. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker Barbara Renick. "Advanced Tools and Techniques for Census Searching" at 11 a.m.; "Beyond Creative Census Searching" at 12:30 p.m.



### NEW HOURS AT LOCAL FHC

The Long Beach Family History Center, located at 3701 Elm Avenue, has a new Director, Ginger Attwood, and its hours have changed. They are currently:

Tuesday	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wednesday	6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Since hours are subject to change, however, please call ahead before visiting.



\*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.