

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 39, ✦ Number 12 ✦ December 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, DECEMBER 17, 2006



Happy Holidays to All

*All members are invited to share in our Annual Potluck,
(See page 90 for details.)
in Sharing their thoughts on topics of interest,
(See page 90 for details.)
and in witnessing the Installation of new Officers.
(See page 92 for details.)*

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DECEMBER MEETING

MEMBER PARTICIPATION

We would like you to think about the following topics.

- A really notable breakthrough in your research during the past year.
- A memorable holiday gathering with your grandparents.
- How your membership in Questing Heirs has aided your research this year.
- Which one of your ancestors you would most like to meet—why and what would you ask him or her?
- Records or sources that you've found especially helpful that you would recommend to others.
- A new relative you've discovered this year.

After dinner, those attending will be invited to stand and speak briefly about one of the above topics for the benefit of all. If you have digital slides or overhead transparencies to accompany your presentation, please let John McCoy know in advance (562-423-4962).

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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

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 30

Guests: 3

NEW MEMBERS - None

RENEWALS

Jean CHAPPLE	Individual	9/07
Evelyn COLES	Individual	9/07
Aaron DAY	Contributing	9/08
George JOHNSON	Sustaining	9/07
Polly JOHNSON	Sustaining	9/07
John McCOY	Patron	9/07
Tom SANFORD	Individual	9/07
Marjorie J. TARBELL	Sustaining	9/07

FINANCIAL REPORT
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

October Income	\$ 288.53
October Expenses	\$ 236.11
October Balance	\$9,275.22

REFRESHMENTS
Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432.4908

Thanks to our November hosts:

Tricia BURES
Jeri EVERETT

Patti DAVIES
Cheryl TARDIF

For those attending the Potluck, please bring food items according to the following alphabetical scheme.

Surnames A-F – A hot dish (potatoes, vegetables, a casserole)
Surnames G-L – Hors d'oeuvres, relishes, rolls
Surnames M-R – Dessert
Surnames S-Z – Salad

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

The Adventure Continues...

When I wrote last month's column, I was in the process of buying a house. I was beginning to pack a vast accumulation of genealogical research notes and books. But as some of you with recent experience must have guessed, these things take time!

Today, I am just three days away from moving day. Almost everything is in boxes. What remains to be done falls mainly in the categories of kitchen, tools, garden stuff, and computers. On the other end of the move, I have already painted a bedroom, installed appliances, and mowed the lawn. I always use a push mower, though you have to look hard to find them today. The last time I used one was about 20 years ago. Mowing my lawn always brings to mind my stay in Indiana. There I was, one fine summer day, mowing my little lawn, while my neighbor fussed over his gas mower, which kept backfiring and stalling. I was almost finished; my neighbor still hadn't got started, when suddenly there was a loud *BANG* from his mower. I looked up just in time to see a piece of it whiz past me and land in the street, halfway down the block. Sometimes the old technology is all you need.

While packing, I came across a reminder of a particularly ancient technology: the box that my old Panasonic KX-P2123 dot-matrix printer came in, in 1993. The printer itself is long gone, replaced at least three times over. The main selling point for the KX-P2123 was that it was *Quiet*, compared with what preceded it. Its output was measured in minutes per page, and you had to tear off the little strips of perforations and then separate the pages along the dotted lines. Today we expect pages per minute and high-resolution color printing, without all those inconvenient little perforated strips. But the old box is still serviceable.

Even while I am packing, genealogy continues. Only yesterday, an e-mail arrived detailing the files mentioning the Gachet family in the archives of Canton Vaud, Switzerland. The next time someone volunteers to visit the archives for me, I will know exactly what to ask for. Another e-mail was from someone in France who must be a distant cousin of another correspondent. It is always fun to put cousins in touch with each other! Packing has also uncovered papers that got covered up by other papers, sometimes years ago.

When everything is finally moved, I see a long excavation ahead, as I attempt to impose some order on dozens of boxes of research notes. I know I have mentioned it before, but the sight of this mountain of boxes really brings the point home: organizing files is a never-ending task for the genealogist!

At our December meeting, my term as President of Questing Heirs will come to an end. I am happy to pass the gavel (yes, there is one, I found it while packing) to Liz Myers. It has been my great pleasure to work with all of you over these years. Our little group has been blessed with so many warm and generous members. Even when I arrived at the meetings tired and out of sorts, you always buoyed my spirits. I have always felt better by the end of the afternoon. I look forward to seeing all of you every month, for years to come!

by John McCoy

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The following members were unanimously elected at our November meeting:

President – Liz Myers

2nd Vice President – Sally Davis

Corresponding Secretary – Jeri Everett.

They will be installed at our December meeting and take office as of January 1, 2007.

Neena R. Strichart, publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Signal Tribune*, will be honored as the first recipient of the “Friend of Questing Heirs Genealogical Society” award for outstanding service to the Society and the genealogy community.

MEMBER PLANNING MEETING

All Questing Heirs members are invited to join old and new Board members in a 2007 Planning Meeting on Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Watch our January Newsletter for location and other details. Reservations are due by Sunday, January 7. Please call Liz Myers (562-598-3027) with any questions and to reserve your place.

FOOTNOTE.COM

by Dave Werts

Back in September, we received a notice that Dick Eastman was looking for people in the Long Beach and Orange County areas to review a new genealogy website. I volunteered. Dick and a group of people from Footnote.com came to my house so I could work in my normal environment, with any genealogy notes I might need. I was booked for a time in early November.

When Dick and five of the people from Footnote came to my house, we all crowded into the room where my computer and genealogy stuff are. The people included, as I recall, the project manager, the graphics designer, the web designer, the marketing manager, and the database designer. (Dick was just the “name” that

got them entry into the house; he had little to say for the rest of their stay.) They showed me how to find the website, then suggested that I just go ahead and use it for awhile.

Footnote is putting millions of pages of scanned genealogy books and databases online, all searchable. There will be a charge for use of the system, but the amount is still to be decided. Current databases include Civil War Pensions, documents from the Southern Claims Commission, Investigative Reports of the FBI (1908-1922), Papers of the Continental Congress, and the Pennsylvania Archives. The latter alone is huge and worth a lot to anyone searching for early Pennsylvania ancestors.

As I worked, I didn’t always use the tools the way they thought people would, and I did find some problems in the software. After a period of time, they suggested that I try some of the capabilities I hadn’t used yet. During this time, they frequently asked if there were ways they could make the site easier to use, or if there were capabilities missing that would help my search. At the end, they asked how much I would be willing to pay for the services. We spent quite a bit of time discussing that point.

They were at my house over an hour. I felt that we both benefited from the experience. (My benefits include a one-year free subscription.) I was just one of several people they were to see in Southern California, and they will also travel to other parts of the country to have other genealogists try it. This is a novel way to run a “beta test,” in my experience.

The team is busy putting more data into the database. They expect to be operational around the end of the year. That seems optimistic to me, but the software is certainly far along and being well wrung-out. I am anxious to see what new data they will add. In the meantime, I think I’ll go back and do some more work in those Pennsylvania Archives...

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

Listen to Those Family Stories

My family has shared lots of stories over the years. Some of them made sense and fell nicely into place with other evidence I'd already discovered. Other stories just seemed too off-base or outlandish to be true. I always listened to the stories. While I sometimes took those less likely stories with the proverbial grain of salt, they still sometimes haunted me. And more often than not, the stories have come to be provable after all.

Write the Stories Down

Fragmentary pieces of information so often prove to be pieces of the puzzle that ultimately fit into place that they deserve to be recorded. I don't mean that you should add these fragments to your genealogy database as fact. However, you may want to prepare a file folder for every surname, write down the scrap of information and its source, and then file it away. Periodically you can go back into the file and reexamine what you have. It may fit into place after all. Let me give you two examples.

The Train Ticket

The story about one of my great-grandfathers was that he was taken sick in the railroad station in Atlanta while on his way to North Carolina to visit my grandmother (his youngest daughter) and my grandfather. Supposedly, another daughter traveled to Atlanta to accompany him home where he died the next day.

It was not until I went into my great-grandfather's probate file and read the detailed inventory of his estate that the story of the train ticket came back to me. In the inventory was an entry, "Partially used train ticket between Rome, Georgia, and Mebane, North Carolina." This was the ticket of family story. And, according to the report by my great-aunt, the executrix of the estate, the ticket was redeemed for cash with the

Southern Railway and the refund became part of the estate.

The First of My Parents' Two Marriages

I'd heard that my parents eloped to be married about two years before their so-called "official" marriage date. It was a family fable but, after my mother's death in 1993, I got curious. I asked her last living sister about it and she recalled that my parents had, indeed, eloped to Danville, Virginia, in 1931 and that their father learned of the elopement about 18 months later and made the couple get married again "for decency's sake in the community" where they lived. I already had their 1933 marriage record from North Carolina but decided to write the Virginia Department of Vital Statistics to inquire about a marriage recorded there between 1930 and 1932. Sure enough, there was a marriage record. It was actually illegal because my mother, at age 17, had lied about her age to state that she was 18 and able to be married. I obtained the Virginia certificate and now have proof for the family story.

Don't Disregard the Strange Family Tales

The stories we hear that don't sound plausible or that don't seem to fit may have some truth in them after all. It's worth checking them out, if only to disprove them. However, you may find that the truth is there all along.

Happy Hunting!

George

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OF INTEREST

MALCOLM H. STERN NARA GIFT FUND

This fund finances finding aids and the micro-filming of valuable research materials from the holdings of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. These microform copies, produced without government funding, are distributed to National Archives Regions nationwide. The films are also available through any LDS (Mormon) Family History Center worldwide.

The fund honors Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern (1915-1994), who contributed to genealogy over a 44-year period as an author, speaker, and active member of many influential national boards, including the Federation of Genealogical Societies. The Federation administers the fund and accepts suggestions from anyone in the genealogical community for items to be considered for preservation on microform.

Million Dollar Project – This project seeks to raise funds to microfilm two major collections of the National Archives. The first project is the War of 1812 pensions and bounty-land warrant records, which includes both indexed and unindexed files. In addition to veterans of the War of 1812, a number of Revolutionary War veterans appear in these records. The second project is to fund microfilming of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) Compiled Service Records.

How to Donate – Donations can be designated for one or both of these projects, or given to the general fund. Individual contributions are always welcome. But FGS encourages you to work through your local society. An ongoing collection is taken by FGS-member (and several non-member) organizations to secure one dollar per year from each of their members, then forward the total amount in one check to the Federation.

To donate, send your contribution marked “Stern NARA Gift Fund” and designate its placement. Mail to FGS Business Office, NARA Gift Fund,

P.O. Box 200940, Austin, Texas 789720-0940; or donate online at www.fgs.org.

FGS FORUM, Vol. 18, No. 3, Fall 2006, p. 18.

STATUE OF LIBERTY PICTURE CONTEST

In celebration of the Statue of Liberty’s 120th anniversary, The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation is sponsoring a picture contest for elementary school children (Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade) during the 2006-2007 school year and home-schooled students in the same age group. Entries must be sent along with an Official Contest Entry Form signed by a parent or adult guardian. Each student may submit only one picture, and it must be submitted no later than January 31, 2007.

For more details regarding submission requirements, the official rules, and prizes—as well as to download an Official Contest Entry Form—visit the following website.

www.Statueofliberty.org/Statue_of_Liberty_Contest.html

FAMILY HEALTH PORTRAIT

<https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>

To help Americans develop a picture of their family’s health history, the U.S. Surgeon General’s office has created an online tool called “My Family Health Portrait.”

It is a web-enabled program that runs on any computer that’s connected to the web and running an up-to-date version of any major Internet browser. It helps users to organize their family history information and to print out a graphical representation of their family’s generations and health disorders which they can show to their doctor or share with other family members. It is a good predictor of illnesses for which they should be checked. In order to protect the user’s privacy, no user information is saved on any government computer.

You can try this program at the above website.

SOURCES

NORTH CAROLINA RESEARCH

<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/archives>

The following record types are available at the North Carolina State Archives.

- County Records such as bonds, census, court records, land, estates, marriage, tax, and wills.
- State Agency Records such as those of the Governor, Secretary of State, Adjutant General, Treasurer, Supreme Court.
- Veteran's Records
- Privately created records such as Bibles, maps, newspapers, academic records.

For details, see the MARS (Manuscript and Archives Records System) Online Catalog.

For those living outside the state, research requests may be submitted by letter or by printing an online form mailed to:

North Carolina State Archives
4614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4614

A number of Archives Information Circulars are also available.

<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/affiliates/fnchs/fnchs.htm>

Links to "Members" or "Maps" on the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies site will take you to information about the organizations in the county of your interest.

<http://www.ncecho.com>

The North Carolina ECHO (Exploring Cultural Heritage Online) website is a doorway to the special collections of North Carolina's libraries, archives, museums, historic sites, and other cultural institutions. It is an evolving statewide, collaborative access to special collections and digitization projects. With it, you can:

- Search an online directory of the cultural repositories of the state and
- Explore online resources created by those institutions.

<http://www.ncgenealogy.org>

The North Carolina Genealogical Society is open to all who are interested in genealogical or historical research in this state. You can print an application-for-membership form from this site and mail it to:

NCGS Membership
P. O. Box 1492
Raleigh, NC 27602-1492

An individual membership costs \$40 per year, which entitles you to receive the NCGS News (2 free queries per year) and the NCGS Journal, a quarterly publication.

The Society provides a "Members Only" website that lets you create your user profile and enter your own queries. It also has a "Please Help Me" committee with volunteers who can answer specific questions for a \$5.00 fee, and member requests are honored first. They also have various publications for sale.

<http://vitalrecords.dhhs.state.nc.us/vr/requests>

See the above site for information regarding birth certificates and death, marriage or divorce records. The fee for a search for one name in a five-year-period and one copy of the record if found is \$15.00. Requests can be processed online, by fax or phone. Mail requests should be addressed to:

North Carolina Vital Records
1903 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1903

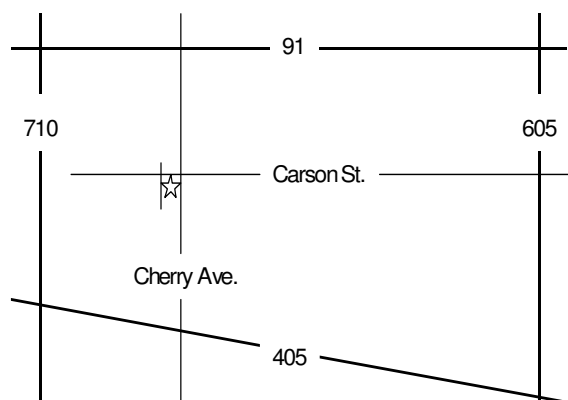
<http://www.usgenweb.com>

This site provides access to statewide and county archives and projects, as well as links to university library catalogs, state archives, newspapers, directories, military links, etc.

Also, don't forget to check Message Boards and Mailing Lists for the state and for counties of interest, such as those at rootsweb.com.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17, 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 pages 90 and 92.



Saturday, January 6, 2007, 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 features Dr. Lloyd Budwig on “So You Have Your DNA Data, Now What?”

*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.

The Genealogy Guys’ 2007 RESEARCH TOUR TO LONDON 14-24 July 2007

Are you researching English ancestors? Consider joining The Genealogy Guys (George G. Morgan and Drew Smith) on an eleven-day tour of London’s research facilities.

They will assist your research in London at:

- Family Records Centre
- Society of Genealogists
- National Archives in Kew
- British Library
- London Metropolitan Archives
- Guildhall Library

You will have access to specialty genealogy research staff at all archives, and George Morgan has prepared a 40-page London research guide that will be mailed to you prior to departure for your study and preparation.

You may also participate in a narrated cruise of the River Thames and historical and walking tours in London. On one day you can also travel beyond London to Bath, Stonehenge, or York if desired.

Reservations include round-trip coach service on British Airways from Orlando, Florida, to London, motor coach service in London, nine nights lodging at the Thistle City Barbican Hotel, and a traditional English cooked breakfast each morning.

For more information:

Call toll-free 877-776-1700

FAX 515-955-1983

E-mail: coaches@nwitour.com

Send reservation requests to:

Bob Oliver

Northwest Iowa Transportation

P.O. Box 911

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

coaches@nwitour.com