

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 40. ✦ Number 1 ✦ January 2007

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, JANUARY 21, 2007

SPECIAL PROGRAM THIS MONTH IN TWO PARTS

FEATURING

JEAN WILCOX HIBBEN, MA, CGsm

FIRST PRESENTATION:

Nathan Wilcox: The Story of a Union Soldier and His Family

SECOND PRESENTATION:

“... Excavating for a Mine”: Songs & Stories of the California Gold Rush

(See page 5 for details.)

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Reports</i>	2
<i>“Along Those Lines...” by George G. Morgan</i>	3
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	4 & 5
<i>Other News</i>	6
<i>Of Interest</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	8

JANUARY MEETING

BASIC CLASS

Since Liz Myers is now busy with her new duties as President of Questing Heirs, she will no longer be able to conduct the Basic Class. So we are looking for a volunteer to take over this function. Many of our members have been re-searching their family history for a number of years. Won't one of you step forward to help anyone who is just getting started on their quest of discovery? Please contact Liz at the next meeting or at (562) 598-3027 if you can help out in this way.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Because of our special two-part program this month, there will be no Intermediate Class.

SPEAKER: JEAN WILCOX HIBBEN

After moving from the Chicago suburbs to Southern California in 1973, Jean obtained her BA and MA degrees in Speech Communication and worked as a professor in the field for 13 years before leaving academia to pursue her passions: folklore and family history.

Jean is active in a number of Southern California music groups, including the Riverside Folk Song Society where she serves as the Membership and Meeting Coordinator. Currently working on her doctorate in folklore, she also volunteers at the Corona CA Family History Center and trains the Family History consultants and staff members there.

She has been involved in family research for over 25 years and has traced her origins to Germany, Denmark, England, and France. A certified genealogist, she is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Genealogical Speakers Guild, various societies in the areas where she does research, and the Corona Genealogical Society, where she serves on the Board of Directors.

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

DECEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 27

Guests: 1

NEW MEMBERS - None

RENEWALS

Hazele JOHNSON Individual 9/07

FINANCIAL REPORT David WERTS (562) 431-7790

November Income	\$ 521.83
November Expenses	\$ 508.42
Operations Balance	\$9,341.05

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

Thanks to everyone who contributed food for our Christmas feast! It was enjoyed by all.

No one is signed up to bring snacks for our January meeting; so, if you feel so inclined, please bring a little something for refreshment time.

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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.

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

Genealogical New Year’s Resolutions

Hello Everyone!

It is difficult to believe another year has almost passed us by. But I hope it also has been filled with great genealogical treasures and discoveries for you.

It’s at this time of year that we make those New Year’s resolutions full of good intentions and promises to ourselves. For those of you looking for some genealogical resolutions for the coming year, in this last “*Along Those Lines...*” of 2006, let me offer a few suggestions.

Education

Make a commitment to expand your personal enrichment and education by making a list of topics you want to learn more about. There are a variety of ways to do this.

READING – Identify three topics you’d like to learn more about and then locate books that will help you do that. My suggestions would include:

- Identify a **PLACE** where your ancestors lived and locate a county or local history book to provide more insight.
- Identify an **EVENT** which influenced your ancestors or in which they participated, such as the Civil War or a diary of a pioneer who migrated by wagon to the place where they settled, and learn about life and conditions at the time.
- Identify a **RECORD TYPE** you’ve never investigated, such as land records or voter rolls, and locate reading material on that.

CONFERENCES – Consider attending a local, regional or national genealogical conference. There is no finer opportunity to learn than from hearing other genealogists speak, while at the same time networking and socializing with other researchers, and shopping and talking with genealogical book and supplies vendors. There are hundreds of events around the country.

The National Genealogical Society (NGS), www.ngsgenealogy.org, and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), www.fgs.org, sponsor the two great national conferences. NGS’s conference will be in Richmond, Va., Wednesday, May 16 to Saturday, May 19, and FGS’s conference will be in Fort Wayne, Ind., Wednesday, Aug. 15 to Saturday, Aug. 18.

Don’t forget the local conferences. I will be at the Southern California Genealogical Society’s 2007 Jamboree from June 8 to June 10.

COMPUTER SKILLS – With the explosive growth of genealogically related information being made available on the Internet, it is important to expand and/or hone our skills in order to access and take advantage of it.

To that end, there are all kinds of classes available to help. Your public library may offer basic PC and Internet training classes, while community colleges and universities offer more comprehensive classes.

I’ll be offering a definitive “Genealogical Research on the Internet” class through the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa and its Continuing Education division. My *Introduction to Genealogy* (Monday, Feb. 12 to Sunday, March 11) and *Genealogical Research on the Internet* (Monday, March 26 to Sunday, April 22) classes are updated and expanded from those I taught for MyFamily.com before all their classes were discontinued.

WRITING SKILLS – Consider taking a creative writing class to help in organizing and effectively writing your family history. And don’t forget to learn (or refresh) those citation skills so that you document your sources for your readers who wish to follow your research trail.

USF also offers a wealth of writing and memoir skills at their site as well. And don’t forget your
(continued on page 5)

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

DECEMBER AWARDS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we were pleased that Neena Strichart, publisher and editor-in-chief of the *Signal Tribune*, was able to join us at our Christmas Potluck to accept the first "Friend of Questing Heirs Genealogical Society" award for outstanding service to the Society and the genealogy community. The award was a clock mounted in a lovely crystal etched-glass frame and inscribed to Neena.

Certificates of appreciation were also presented to long-time Society members Hazele Johnson and Jack and Kay Foord who have volunteered many hours of time and effort to the Society. Hazele has helped for many years with the setting up of refreshments for our meetings, and the Foord's handled the preparation and mailing of our monthly newsletters for over twenty years. A big vote of thanks to these three!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

It is an honor and privilege to take the gavel and sounding block from the very capable hands of John McCoy. I only hope I can do half as well in leading us through the next two years. We are a great group of family researchers with a great Board of Directors. They will be fun and mind-expanding years to look forward to!

The first thing on our agenda is the planning meeting on Saturday, January 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is open to ALL members. We need your ideas and suggestions on how to accomplish the goals we will be setting for the next year. We will discuss what we have done in the past and what we would like to do in the future. We will be looking at ways of promoting Questing Heirs to other Genealogical and Historical Societies, as well as how the groups can work together. We want people in the Long Beach area to know we are here—ready to help anyone find the missing pieces of their family history. We already have plans to work with George Morgan at the Jamboree in June and the

Girl Scouts in October, as well as with the local cemetery and Main Library.

So please give me a call to let me know you're coming on the 13th so we have a proper count for lunch and can arrange to get you into the building ASAP. The meeting will be held in the Kilroy Center.

Liz Myers

JACK & KAY'S ANNIVERSARY

We also learned at the Christmas dinner that the Foord's will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on January 26, 2007. The assisted living community where they live in Cerritos is having an open house for them on Sunday, January 28, at 3:00 p.m.

The address is "Avalon of Cerritos" at 11000 New Falcon Way, which is off Studebaker between Alondra and Artesia. The open house will be held in the Activity Room on the second floor. Just sign in, and you will be directed to it.

Everyone is invited to drop by and say hello, but they request NO GIFTS, PLEASE. Entertainment and light refreshments will be provided.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Be sure to mark February 18, 2007, on your calendar! Nancy Carlberg will be back to help us get past some of those "dead ends" in our research. The tentative title for her presentation is "Where Do I Go Now?" The program is intended to give you ideas for new directions in your research, after you have tried the standard sources such as census records, vital records, and so forth. Nancy would like you to submit your research problem in, if possible, the form of a completed family group sheet and a brief description of the problem—including what you have already tried! She will address as many of your problems as time allows. More details will appear in the February newsletter, but in the meantime, please forward your research problems **no later than February 10** to John McCoy at RealMac@aol.com.

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS - Continued

JANUARY PROGRAM

Here are the details of Jean Hibben's presentations.

Nathan Wilcox: The Story of a Union Soldier and His Family

Born and raised in New York State, Nathan Wilcox was a man who must have been a nomad at heart. In his less than 65 years of life, he moved a minimum of eight times, not counting all of his movement during his almost three years in the Missouri Engineer Regiment of the West during the Civil War. Ending his life in the Southern state of Tennessee, this New York Yankee experienced the antagonism of the confederates as he helped to reconstruct the South. His story, told in first person by his wife, Irene Freeman Wilcox, gives the audience a look at the hardships endured by those who chose to pioneer new territories. The story is followed by an examination of how the family's migration was tracked, including a reminder about verifying family folklore with document examination and an emphasis on the value of on-site research.

"...Excavating for a Mine": Songs & Stories of the California Gold Rush

The days of the California Gold Rush did not last as long as the songs immortalizing that part of history. This program emphasizes the songs of the era, but also includes stories of the event. Although there was a lot of violence during that time, there was a lot of humor as well; the latter is emphasized in this presentation. It is relevant to the genealogist whose roots are connected to California history; and for genealogy groups located in California, it provides a light-hearted look at some of this state's history.

* * * * *

Note: This program provides an opportunity for our members to invite their friends and neighbors to an entertaining afternoon and one in which we will be learning different techniques. It is sure to be a wonderful afternoon!

"Along Those Lines..." (continued from p. 3) own local colleges and universities' educational outreach programs concerning writing topics too.

Become a 'Joiner'

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES – Join a genealogical society in your area, regardless of whether you have ancestors from there or not. Lots of people are from other places too, but the joy of gathering and sharing with others with the genealogy addiction is wonderful.

You will learn from others' experience and you can help others. There are projects and training opportunities in which you can get involved.

Also, don't hesitate to join a remote genealogical society in a place in which your ancestors lived. Membership fees are reasonable and the newsletters and/or journals they publish carry lots of information to help you put your family into geographical and historical context. Another benefit may be that you can place queries in their publications and ask other members to help you with on-site research and look-ups.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – If you want to help others, even by just sharing your experiences and your expertise with an area, a record type, and your own unique research methodology, you might consider volunteering a little time to your public library to help organize their genealogy collection or to help other people with their research. It can be a fun way to contribute to the community and to learn more while helping others.

You're in Control

Making resolutions can be intimidating. You're making a commitment to yourself. But you are in control. You can make as many or as few commitments as you want. However, I just want to remind you there are no limits except those you place on yourself.

Happy Hunting! George

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OTHER NEWS

PROQUEST TO SELL HERITAGEQUEST

ProQuest, the parent company of HeritageQuest Online, has announced that it is selling its ProQuest Information and Learning Company subsidiary which includes the HeritageQuest Online genealogy services. The following is taken from the announcement.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Dec. 15, 2006 – ProQuest Company (NYSE: PQE), a publisher of information and education solutions, today reported that ProQuest Company (the “Company”) and its subsidiary, ProQuest Information and Learning Company, have signed a definitive agreement with Cambridge Information Group (CIG) providing for the acquisition of the ProQuest Information and Learning segment for approximately \$222 million...

Under the agreement, CIG will combine its Bethesda, Maryland-based CSA subsidiary with Ann Arbor, Michigan-based ProQuest Information and Learning to create a new, privately held independent company. The new company plans to continue operations in both locations...

The transaction with CIG is subject to customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals, including expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvement Act of 1976. The transaction is expected to close after receiving regulatory approvals and is also subject to financing conditions.

For the complete announcement, see Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 17 Dec 2006 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. (Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman.)

MYFAMILY NOW GENERATIONS

PROVO, Utah, Dec. 19 – MyFamily.com, Inc., the leading online network for connecting families across distance and time, today announced that it is changing its name to The Generations Network, Inc., effective immedi-

ately. The company will continue to serve families online through its portfolio of leading brands and websites.

Ancestry.com, Ancestry.co.uk, Rootsweb.com, and Genealogy.com together form the No. 1 network of family history websites in both the United States and United Kingdom; Ancestry's OneWorldTree(SM) is the world's largest online family tree...

“The Generations Network has a powerful mission to connect families across distance and time,” said Tim Sullivan, the company's President and CEO. “Our company was founded over two decades ago as a publisher of genealogy products. Today, we are a multi-brand company focused on providing families with unique, interactive online experiences that help them research their family history, share and publish their stories, and find and stay connected to family members throughout the world.

“We felt now was a good time to establish a company identity expansive enough to encompass everything that we do, but also completely focused on the family...across the generations. Over the past year, we've improved Ancestry.com through the addition of millions of new records, enhanced tree-building and family networking technologies, and by giving our members the ability to save and store their precious family photos and memories online. We've grown rapidly in the UK and expanded our presence into new international markets.

“In 2007, we are looking forward to the upcoming relaunch of MyFamily.com, an exciting new release of Family Tree Maker, and our plans to make Ancestry.com even more mainstream and indispensable to families around the world. And we're thrilled to be moving forward as The Generations Network.”

From <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle>, 19 Dec 2006 (Copyright 1998-2006, MyFamily.com, Inc. and its subsidiaries.)

OF INTEREST

GENDER GAP, EVEN IN DEATH

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

I found an interesting editorial online at the *Chicago Tribune* website yesterday that I want to share with you. It cites the statistic that "...about 73 percent of the *Tribune's* obituaries are about males." What creates this disproportionate representation?

The article goes on to give various possible reasons for the disparity, including the propensity to include "men of accomplishment" who are typically business executives, and also cites the fact that women often live longer than men, and for this reason, at their death, the memory of many of their accomplishments may have faded.

Several obituary writers are quoted, and Trevor Jensen notes that obituaries should be "interesting stories that also reflect a part of society and the community."

It struck me that we, as family historians, are in essence obituary writers too—and really good ones at that. As we pull together the pieces of our ancestors' lives, we are preserving a record of their accomplishments and the impact their lives had, even generations later.

Hopefully, there is no gender disparity in our work, as the lives of our female ancestors can be just as fascinating, and sometimes more so than the males.

The obituary editor of the *New York Times*, Bill McDonald, is quoted as saying, "...the obit page is not a reflection of the times in which we live. It's a mirror on the past that is slipping away." As family historians, we are helping to ensure that, although a person's life may slip away, their life story can live on. We should feel good about that.

By Juliana Smith, 14 Nov 2006. (Copyright 1998-2006, MyFamily.com, Inc and its subsidiaries.) The Chicago Tribune article was written by Timothy McNulty, 13 Nov 2006. See the paper's website for the entire article; free registration required.

CD/DVD ARCHIVAL MEDIA

<http://tinyurl.com/ycowgr>

Almost all computer users need to preserve data occasionally, and probably the most common method is to write the information onto CD or DVD data disks. For most computer users, preserving data for a year or two is sufficient. In fact, many people are only concerned with preserving data until next year's tax season. However, genealogists, historians, archivists, and a few others are concerned with much long preservation. We often think in terms of decades or even centuries.

Patrick McFarland [at the website above] has written an in-depth article that describes CD and DVD recordable media, explaining the various formats and their strengths and weaknesses. He points out that most of today's "record-at-home" CD and DVD disks will only last a few years. However, certain brands are expected to be useable for at least 70 years, and one manufacturer's products may last for up to 100 years.

McFarland explains the differences between "pressed" CDs (made by the thousands in a factory) versus "burnt" CDs (recorded one at a time on a computer). He then focuses mostly on CD and DVD disks recorded (burnt) on computers. His article describes the advantages and shortcomings of the different blank disks that you can buy in a local computer store, online, or by mail order. He also tells why DVD+R disks are much better than DVD-R...

Unlike pressed CDs/DVDs, 'burnt' CDs/DVDs can eventually 'fade,' due to five things that affect the quality of CD media: sealing method, reflective layer, organic dye makeup, where it was manufactured, and your storage practices (please keep all media out of direct sunlight, in a nice cool dry dark place, in acid-free plastic containers; this will triple the lifetime of any media.)

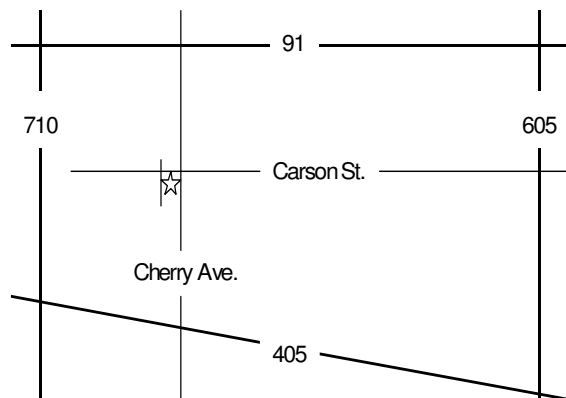
Taken from <http://blog.eogn.com>, 21 Dec 2006. (Copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman.)

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 14, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Jean Nepsund leading a workshop on "More Practice with Old Script."

Saturday, January 20, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: "Evaluating Your Family History Evidence" by Alan Jones.

Sunday, January 21, 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 2 and 5.



Sunday, January 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA general meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Irish Topic.

Saturday, February 3, 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 at 11:00 a.m. features Alan Jones on "Genealogical Sources on the Internet: Solving Brick Walls."

North San Diego County Genealogical Society

Spring Seminar

Saturday, March 24, 2007 (9:00-4:00)

Carlsbad Senior Center

799 Pine Avenue

Carlsbad, CA

Speaker: Sharon DeBartolo Carmack
"Prescription for Genealogical Addiction"

Topics:

Flesh on the Bones

The Silent Woman

The Immigrant Experience

Love Letters, Diaries & Autobiographies

Registration for non-members \$25; lunch available for \$6 per person. For information, contact Fred Spong by phone at (858) 453-8469 or by e-mail at fspong@san.rr.com. The mailing address is NSDCGS, P.O. Box 581, Carlsbad, CA 92018-0581.

*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.