

QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 40. ✦ Number 3 ✦ March 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, MARCH 18, 2007

1:15	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research conducted by Rellen Owen
	Period	INTERMEDIATE: Why My Ancestors Left Town presented by John McCoy (postponed from February due to lack of time)

2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
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2:15	Business	
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2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: Paul Lipinski Poland: A Brief History, with Implications for Genealogical Research
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MARCH MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Many of our ancestors migrated great distances. Do you know why? Sometimes it's obvious, sometimes our ancestors told us, sometimes it's a complete mystery. You may discover that your ancestor was part of a larger movement, or that the reasons for migration were entirely personal. Understanding why your ancestor moved is an important part of your research.

SPEAKER: PAUL LIPINSKI

Mr. Lipinski is past president of the Polish Genealogical Society of California, a society in which he has been active since 1994. He is also a volunteer and consultant at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center, where he teaches classes and assists people with their research. His talk will cover a short history of the Commonwealth of Poland which today includes lands now in Germany, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and Russia. It will include border changes and takeovers by different "governments," as well as showing how the history of this area has affected records—with examples of the type of records researchers have to deal with. Poland's system of record keeping has evolved over the centuries. Church and Civil record keeping resulted in the availability of excellent records and, contrary to lore, most of these records have survived.

FINANCIAL REPORT
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

January Income	\$ 1.50
January Expenses	\$ 423.53
Operations Balance	\$ 8,434.43

**All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in our Newsletter. Upcoming deadlines are as follows:
April submissions by March 25, 2007
May submissions by April 22, 2007**

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

FEBRUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE
Members: 41 Guests: 5

NEW MEMBERS

Vivian LINDERMAN	Individual	9/07
Sandra NISSENSON	Individual	9/07
Carole OWENS	Family	9/07
Michael OWENS	Family	9/07
Shirley RATISSEAU	Individual	9/07

RENEWALS – None

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

Thanks to our February hosts:
Sandra HOLLANDSWORTH
Georgie LYONS Cheryl TARDIF

Our March hosts will be:
Linda IVERS Jeanette JONES
Sandy NISSENSON Nancy PERALTA

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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 use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.

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

Working with Census Forms

Census records are undoubtedly the public documents most frequently used by genealogical researchers. Population schedules are essential tools locating our ancestors and their families in a particular geographical area at a specific point in time. Supplemental census documents, such as mortality schedules, slave schedules, and agricultural and manufacturing schedules, provide United States researchers with additional contextual material so they can expand their understanding of their ancestors and their environment.

Over the last half-dozen years, great strides have been made in digitizing and indexing census materials. Companies such as Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest (ProQuest), and repositories such as the Library and Archives Canada, the National Archives (UK), and others, and digitized census materials have made them available online at their Web sites. This is all good news. The result is that original documents' images can be viewed, printed, and even downloaded to our own computers. This provides electronic documentation as well as reference material for future study.

I have found, however, that working with digitized census images can sometimes be confounding and difficult under certain conditions.

The microfilmed documents from which digitized images were made are sometimes dim, cloudy, smudged or otherwise unreadable. Because it is necessary to scroll around a large document to see information entered, always moving away from the column headings, I therefore find myself scrolling up and down and back and forth a great deal just to read the data in one field. After a lot of this, I finally got smart and here is what I did.

The census records with which I usually work are those from the United States, England, Wales, Canada and Scotland.

Before the availability of online digitized census records, we simply used indexes to locate the exact census document page and then we used microfilm to view the images. If we were fortunate enough to have a microfilm printer, we could have a copy of the page for future reference. However, it was more likely that we were dealing strictly with a microfilm viewer and we then transcribed the census information onto printed forms.

Such forms have been available on the Internet for a long time. Perhaps the best ones I have found are those at Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/ancchart.aspx>). Here you will find: United States population schedule forms 1790 to 1930; the 1890 veterans schedule form; the 1850 and 1860 slave schedule forms; the U.K. census forms for 1841 to 1901; the census forms for 1851 Canada and New Brunswick censuses, 1906 Canada and Nova Scotia censuses; and the 1901 Canada census (French and English forms). All of these forms are available as PDF files. As yet, there are no forms specific to Scotland censuses.

I printed a copy of each of the census forms from Ancestry.com. I then organized them in chronological sequence by country and filed them in a half-inch binder with tab dividers.

Now, when I am viewing a digitized census image online or working with a printed copy whose column headings are less than legible, I take out this binder and refer to the printed form for the specific census. I can now read the data in any field, anywhere on the form, by glancing at the printed form in my binder. This little reference file has saved me a great deal of on-screen scrolling and a lot of frustration.

continued on p. 20

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello out there!

If you missed our February meeting, that is too bad. We had a fun exercise for the first hour in order to get acquainted with each other. Then Nancy Carlberg gave a great presentation, and as usual, we laughed and learned.

Five of us cleaned out the cupboard and the newsletters at the church. Those who worked fast and effectively were Cynthia Day-Elliott, Tina Yanis, Laurie Angel, Linda Artuso and Loran Bures. Tina got all the kitchen supplies in one place. We found many census forms, pedigree charts, etc., that we will be using in our classes and when we put on exhibits.

Linda and Loran plowed through all of the exchange newsletters. Now they are ready to be taken to the library, where they will be stamped and placed on the shelves. We will probably schedule that during this month.

As a result of their work, we have extra magazines, etc. Starting this month, these will be available for you to pick up. We would appreciate a donation of \$.05 for each, which will be put into our Library Fund.

We have many new and exciting adventures for this year, and we could use some more help. We will be passing out the sign-up sheets for the various committees, and I urge you to be a part of the growth of this society.

Liz

BYLAWS REVIEW

At the February meeting of the Questing Heirs' Board of Directors, the following members were appointed to the Policies and Procedures Committee:

Loran Bures, Chair
Cynthia Day-Elliott
Betty B. Feldman
Linda Ivers
Liz Myers

The committee's charge is set out in our Bylaws as follows: "A review of these Bylaws shall be made every two years by the Policies and Procedures Committee."

The purpose of this article is to solicit your ideas concerning the organization and operation of Questing Heirs Genealogical Society. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee to offer your suggestions.

Also, if you would like to be considered for an appointment to serve as a member of the Policies and Procedures Committee, please contact me before our next Board of Directors meeting on Sunday, March 18.

If you would like a copy of our Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws, please let me know which document you want, and you will be provided a copy.

We look forward to receiving your input.

Loran Bures, Chair
Policies and Procedures Committee

"Along Those Lines..." continued from p.19
You may want to try this for yourself, along with some of the other forms Ancestry.com has to offer. Certainly, there are other sites on the Internet with census transcription forms. Simply find the ones you like the best, print copies for yourself, make a little binder, and keep it handy.

Happy Hunting!

George

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GET WELL WISHES...

to Betty Perre who is recuperating from a fall sustained in her yard. She is now in Hillcrest Convalescent Hospital following a lengthy stay in Memorial Hospital. She hopes to be back in her home very soon.

METHODS

DATE ESTIMATES: MORE THAN A GOOD GUESS

by Sherry Irvine, CG FSA (Scot)

Most online database websites provide a field for selecting the date range of a search, or the age range of an individual in a particular record. An age range is, in fact, a date range because you are estimating the period of years in which a birth took place. Regardless of the nature of the date estimate or the breadth of years you choose to search, careful analysis should go into the choice.

When searching for an individual take into account what date information you have and where it came from. Can it be considered accurate? What did a record state? Some individuals regularly lied about age, not necessarily with any consistency as to the error. Some records did not require an accurate age, perhaps just an indication the individual was over the age of twenty-one.

A successful search could also depend upon the date when the record was made. This is true of wills. The date of probate is more significant and may have been years after the date of death.

If you choose the Advanced Search at Ancestry, or when a search form includes the date range option, you select a year and then select a number of years either side of it:

- +/- 0 (meaning exact),
- +/- 1 (a three-year span),
- +/- 2 (a five-year span),
- +/- 5 (an eleven-year span),
- +/-10 (a twenty-one-year span), and
- +/- 20 years (a forty-one-year span).

Keep in mind that the year you are estimating from may not be the best middle year for the plus and minus range for the search tool. Sometimes I estimate a birth as after a certain date (e.g., after 1847). In this case I would not set 1847 as the middle year, but choose 1851, plus or minus five to cover the years 1846 to 1856. Some websites ask for a start year and an

end year to set your search, which saves some mental arithmetic.

Keep some other factors in mind as you set date ranges. Is the name common or rare? Setting a date range is one way to reduce the number of results, but keep track of what you do in case you must work step-by-step—perhaps ten years at a time—through a long period. Also, when searching a single record, make sure you know its starting date. For example, with civil birth records in England and Wales, the start date is 1 July 1837, and your range of years should include dates that fall after that.

Finally, your estimate may sometimes depend upon historical knowledge. The year a family migrated to North America is a good example. Check into the history of the country of origin, and the particular place. Discovering a year of political upheaval or some years of great hardship could help focus a search.

Tips from the Pros, <http://blogs/ancestry.com/circle>, 5 Feb 2007. (Copyright 1998-2007, MyFamily.com)

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

by Chuck Mason, CG

In “Genealogy News and Issues” Mr. Mason asks, “Are you keeping up with changes in computers and other technologies you use for genealogy?”

Most computers purchased in the last two to three years only came with CD drives unless you specifically ordered other types of drives. They also have USB ports that you can use Flash Drives in.

As technology changes and other methods of storing computer data come along, we need to be sure we keep up and convert our computerized records to the new technology...It is wise to back up information using several methods of storage...It is also wise to make several copies of your discs, flash drives, or other devices.

See the complete article in UpFront with NGS, Vol. 6, No. 2, 1 Feb 2007.

OF INTEREST

**VIRGINIA FREEDMEN EXTRACTION
AND INDEXING PROJECT**

<http://blackhistorymuseum.org/bureau>

On October 26, 2006, Governor Tim Kaine announced that Virginia will be the first state in the nation to participate in an historic project to index and digitize Freedmen's Bureau records, allowing historians and descendants of emancipated slaves, freed Blacks, and Black Union soldiers to access historical data, much of which was never before available. [Note that other southern states will follow.]

The Freedmen's Bureau records are effectively the "genesis records" of African-American identity post Civil War. They provide the earliest major compilation of information on the African-American community, documenting for the period of 1865-1872 names, legalized marriages, educational pursuits, work contracts, and receipt of rations, health care, legal, and other services.

This project is a partnership between the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), and FamilySearch. GSU will scan into digital images the microfilmed records produced by the National Archives and Records Administration. Volunteers will review the images and document the pertinent information in software templates provided by GSU.

The project began officially on January 15, 2007, Martin Luther King Day. We expect the extraction and indexing will be completed sometime within 2007.

For more information, visit the website listed above.

INDIANA MARRIAGE INDEX

Work is now underway to create an Indiana marriage index from 1790-1957. The Indiana Genealogical Society...and the Genealogical Society of Utah...are working together to index the marriage records for every county in Indiana, beginning with the earliest surviving records and

going up to 1957. GSU staff are working to digitize the LDS microfilm that already exists for several Indiana counties, as well as microfilming the original marriage books for all other counties.

Indexers work from home, at their own pace, via an Internet connection (broadband is recommended, because of the large file sizes involved). Once they are signed up with the project, they can login to the indexing site (<http://familysearchindexing.org>) with a username and password and then download a small batch of marriage records, which take just 30-45 minutes to index.

When the Indiana Marriage Indexing Project is completed, it will be placed online as a searchable database that is free to the public. Entries in the marriage index will link to a digitized version of the actual marriage records (including marriage applications, when available).

[To sign up to help with the project, please visit <http://www.indgensoc.org/indexing.html> or direct questions to the coordinator, Shirley Richison Fields, at indexing@indgensoc.org or by phone at (317) 209-0937.]

Originally published in UpFront with NGS, Vol. 6, No. 2, 1 Feb 2007.

DIGITIZED BOOKS

Kirtas Technologies has signed an agreement with The Generations Network that is connecting families to rare historical information found in bound books, including immigration records and city directories that date back to the 1820s... The Generations Network, which includes Ancestry.com, will rely on Kirtas' robotic page-turning technology to archive these critical records and increase the speed of production to almost 7 million images monthly from various source media.

For more details, see Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 12 Feb 2007 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman.

ON THE WEB

FAMILY ROOTS RADIO

<http://www.familyrootsradio.com>

This new “radio program” is one you listen to on your computer. Sponsored by ProGenealogists, Inc., and Genealogy Today LLC, you can listen to it live on the VoiceAmerica Channel which is accessible by anyone who has an Internet connection with audio capabilities. The broadcast airs each Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Pacific time, but you can also download past shows from the above website.

Hosted by well-known genealogical author, speaker and researcher, Kory L. Meyerink, the show will feature a wide range of “how-to” elements designed to assist all people interested in family history, from the novice to the professional.

In addition to answering general questions from listeners, spotlighting important family history news and providing research tips from professionals, the show will include guests from among the most prominent genealogists today. The show will also explore effective ways to use software and the Internet in the pursuit of family history, including spotlighting data-rich websites.

Subjects of the first three shows were:

- “Immigration Sources” with John Philip Colletta
- “Surname Genealogy Websites” with Matt Helm
- “Internet Census Records” with Kathy Hinckley

UTAH DEATH CERTIFICATES

<http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/index.html>

FamilySearch™, in conjunction with the Genealogical Society of Utah and the Utah State Archives and Records Service, recently announced that Utah’s free online index to death certificates is now linked to original images of the historic documents. The integration of the index with free digital pictures of the death

certificates issued from 1905 to 1954 by the state will open doors to additional information for family historians and genealogists with Utah ties. To search the index and view the certificates, users need to go to [the above website].

The online index to more than 250,000 Utah deaths was created by the State Office of Vital Records and Statistics and has searchable information limited to the name of the deceased person, his/her date of death, sex, and where he/she died. The Utah State Archives turned to FamilySearch to help it get the digital images online. FamilySearch digitized the images and provided the technology to link the images of the certificates to the state’s online index...

Users type in an ancestor’s name that died in Utah between 1905 to 1954 and they will be directed to a brief summary of the ancestor’s death certificate with a link to view the original image. Users simply click on the certificate image to see a larger, high quality view of the original death certificate.

From UpFront with NGS, Vol. 6, No. 2, 1 Feb 2007.
<http://www.NGSgenealogy.org/upfront.htm>

WEATHER FOR YOU

<http://www.weatherforyou.com/history>

This website features “Today in Weather History,” as well as allowing a person to search for details about weather events on a particular date in the past that may have affected the lives of one’s ancestors. (It references events in the United States only.)

Men can know more than their ancestors did if they start with a knowledge of what their ancestors had already learned...That is why a society can be progressive only if it conserves its traditions.

Walter Lippman

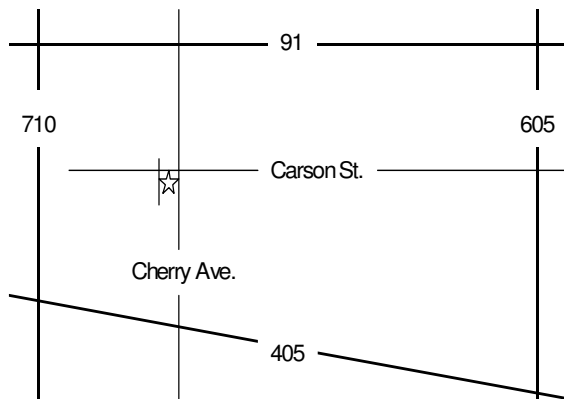
CALENDAR

Saturday, March 10. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Lunch and learn at noon: "How to Publish and Market Your Family History" by Carl Boyer III.

Sunday, March 11, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society at 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. "Johann Adam Holländer from Edesheim, Germany" by Jean Wilcox Hibbens (his great-granddaughter).

Saturday, March 17, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: Wendy Elliott speaking on "Buried Treasure: Techniques in Finding Entries Lost in Indices."

Sunday, March 18, 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.



Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. "Erin Go Bragh: Music and Myths for Those of Irish Descent" by Jean Wilcox Hibbens.

Sunday, March 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles

Family History Society-USA at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.* "Forensic Genealogy: Analyzing Old Photographs" by Colleen Fitzpatrick.

Saturday, April 7. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker at 11:00 a.m.: Caroline Rober on "Courthouse Records for the Serious Researcher."

Southern California Genealogical Society's
38th Annual

Genealogy Jamboree & Resource Expo

June 8, 9 & 10, 2007

Burbank Airport Hilton

2500 Hollywood Way

Burbank, California

Nationally known speakers, exhibit hall, one-on-one consultation available, authors (including George G. Morgan) in the Book Nook.

Contacts for information or registration

by phone 818-843-7247

by e-mail Jamboree@scsggenealogy.com

online www.scsggenealogy.com

*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.