

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 40, ✦ Number 5 ✦ May 2007

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102
<http://www.qhgs.info/>

Questing Heirs is a member society of the California State Genealogical Alliance
and the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

MONTHLY MEETING: third Sunday of the month at 1:15 p.m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2007

12:30	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research
	Period	conducted by Rellen Owen
1:15		INTERMEDIATE:
		Let's Get Acquainted: Randy Seaver
		President, Chula Vista Genealogical Society
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER:
		<i>Randy Seaver</i>
		<i>Finding Your Elusive Ancestors</i>
		<i>in the Census Haystack</i>

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Reports</i>	34
<i>"Along Those Lines..." by George G. Morgan</i>	35
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	36
<i>Other News</i>	37
<i>Of Interest</i>	38
<i>Profile of the Polish Genealogical Society of California</i>	39
<i>Calendar</i>	40

MAY MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Randy Seaver is a San Diego native, a retired aerospace engineering manager and an avid genealogist. His ancestry includes many colonial New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania families of English, German and Dutch heritage. Since 1988, he has pursued his ancestry and produced two self-published books. He is a member of several San Diego area and national societies, and is presently President of the Chula Vista Genealogical Society. Randy enjoys helping others with their genealogy research, and writes the Genea-Musings blog at <http://randysmusings.blogspot.com>.

SPEAKER: RANDY SEAVER

Have you found ALL the census entries for your ancestors? If not, why not? Probably because they were not enumerated or indexed correctly – and they are lost in the haystack of millions of census entries. The chances of finding your elusive ancestors in the census have improved since the days of printed name indexes, Soundex card searches, and microfilm cranking at the Archives or the FHC.

This presentation will briefly survey the available census records, discuss the census taking process, examine the change from microfilm to online access to the census records, and describe methods to effectively search for your elusive ancestors using online census indexes and images.

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

Thanks to our April hosts:

Tricia BURES	Sally DAVIS
Polly & George JOHNSON	Tina YANIS

Our May hosts will be

Hazele JOHNSON	Linda RYAN
Lucille STROHBEEN	Cheryl TARDIF

FINANCIAL REPORT
David WERTS (562) 431-7790

March Income	\$ 201.93
March Expenses	\$ 343.11
Transferred to CD	\$ 4,000.00
Operations Balance	\$ 2,697.90
Special Projects	\$ 969.50
Investment Balance	\$25,637.17

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

APRIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 38	Guests: 2
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NEW MEMBERS

Frena DOMINGUEZ	Individual	9/07
Paula LANE	Individual	9/07
Louise WORTHY	Individual	9/07

RENEWAL

Betty PERRE	Individual	9/07
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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.

All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in our Newsletter.
Upcoming deadlines are as follows:
June submissions by May 27, 2007
July submissions by June 24, 2007

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

Utilizing census information

Genealogical data comes into our possession in many forms: books, documents, journals and magazines, family heirlooms, oral stories, letters, photographs, journals, diaries, Internet databases, correspondence with other researchers via e-mail, message boards, mailing lists and in other formats.

Seldom do these resources arrive as an entire, completely documented and accurate genealogy. These things arrive in pieces and, when they do, it is our responsibility to assess the quality of the source material and evaluate it in context with other evidence and what we already know or have hypothesized.

Because all these items come to us in different forms and at different times, it is important to periodically invest the time to reread and reevaluate everything again.

Information on a document that seemed to have no relevance to our research when we first found and evaluated it may, after having done other research, suddenly contain precisely the missing link you were seeking all along. Let me give you a couple of examples from a commonly used source document.

A Census Example

Consider the ubiquitous census population schedule.

We all use census records to locate our ancestors and family members. In 1850, the U.S. census population schedules began listing the names of every member of the household. Any slaves were then listed in slave schedules. In 1880, the relationships of persons in the household to the head of household were listed, providing a great boon to us.

When you look at census schedules prior to 1880 for persons who are also alive in 1880, you can backtrack to the earlier censuses to

determine the familial relationships. Have you tried doing this?

It is common advice we hear about paying attention to the neighbors in both directions from our families. Do you do this? If not, go back and look at the census schedules again. People interacted closely with their neighbors, often using them as witnesses for deeds and wills, and neighboring children often married one another. You may just find now that your ancestors married next-door neighbors or neighbors a few houses away.

Have you wondered about your 19th and early 20th century ancestors' arrival in the United States? Well, head back to look at the 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 census population schedules. There is a citizenship column in which their response to a question about the year of arrival in the United States is listed. Gee, that's pretty easy but so many people skip over that column.

Adjacent to that column is another about citizenship. If someone was born in the United States, the column is blank. If not, there are three possible codes entered there:

- AL meant they were an alien;
- PA meant that they had filed papers to begin the naturalization process;
- NA meant that they had been naturalized.

These codes can indicate that you should start looking for naturalization documents. The Declaration of Intention document (or first papers) will tell you the exact date of arrival, the port of arrival, the name of the ship on which they traveled, and the name of the country whose citizenship they are renouncing in order to begin the naturalization process.

Continued on page 37

QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello!

Did you hear? **Ancestry.com is back in the Long Beach Libraries!** Hooray! So now we can go to any Long Beach library and access Ancestry. Also, they have increased their hours!! So let's show the library how much we appreciate having these marvelous resources and hours.

Have you seen <http://clusty.com>? It is a search engine that groups results into topics, or "clusters," making for better search and discovery. Clusty queries several top search engines, combines the results, and generates an ordered list based on comparative ranking.

I have found sources on my surnames that I have not seen on any other search engine. So I invite you to look into it.

Have a good month! Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Liz

ORDERS FOR GEORGE G. MORGAN'S BOOKS

Remember to mail or turn in your orders for George G. Morgan's books by our May meeting. Order forms were provided in your April Newsletter, or we will have them available at the meeting. Loran Bures can also e-mail you a copy if you contact him at loran.bures@verizon.net.

Copies of *English Genealogical Research in the Major London Repositories* and *Your Family Reunion: How to Plan It, Organize It, and Enjoy It* were available for your inspection at our April meeting. Copies of *How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy* and his latest book, titled *The Official Guide to Ancestry.com*, will be available at our May meeting so you will be able to see them before you buy.

You can pick your books up at our booth at the Jamboree or at our June meeting.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT

We now have over four years' worth of past newsletters posted on our web page, thanks to the efforts of Linda Artuso and Loran Bures. The issues date from October 2002 to November 2006, and there are more on the way. You can find them on our Past Newsletter Issues page at <http://www.qhgs.info/newsletter-past.html>.

APRIL'S PROGRAM

We really didn't mean to mislead you about our speaker for April. Wendy Elliott was scheduled to speak to us later this year, but because of last-minute scheduling difficulties, she presented her program titled "Buried Treasure—Lost in Print" at our April meeting. Her handout listing various ways that letters of the alphabet may be mistakenly indexed has been put on our society website; so you can find a copy of it there. If you don't have internet access and would like a copy, let either Mike Powers or Loran Bures know; and they will provide a copy for you.

We look forward to John McCoy's presentation on "Why Every Genealogist Needs to be a Paleographer!" in June.



*Happy
Mother's
Day*

Mother's Day in the United States was first proclaimed around 1870 in Boston by Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation, and Howe called for it to be observed each year nationally in 1872. As originally envisioned, it was a call for pacifism and disarmament by women.

OTHER NEWS

NHPRC THREATENED

<http://www.archives.gov/nhprc>

What is the NHPRC? This acronym stands for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the arm of the National Archives and Records Administration that “supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources, created in every medium ranging from quill pen to computer, relating to the history of the United States.” For examples of currently funded projects, see the website shown above.

The NHPRC needs funding in the fiscal year budget for 2008 of \$12 million--\$10 million for its grant program and \$2 million for staffing and administrative costs. The Administration’s budget, for the third year in a row, provides **no** funds for the organization. Anyone interested in the preservation of our country’s heritage needs to urge his/her Congressional Representative and Senators to provide adequate funding for the NHPRC.

You can find much background information on the organization, an Issue Brief and Fact Sheet, as well as talking points and guidelines for writing to members of Congress at the website of the National Coalition for History:
<http://www.h-net.org/~nch>.

EARLY CANADIAN DOCUMENTS

Ancestry.ca, the largest Canadian family history website, and Canadiana.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving access to early Canadian publications, today [29 March] announced a partnership to digitize and bring online nearly 300 years of Canadiana.org’s early historical records spanning from the 1600s to the 1900s. The new collection includes more than 6,200 publication titles and 1.6 million pages of family histories, local histories, biographies, civil service records and other early historical documents.

The Genealogy and Local History Collection to 1900 will be available online through

Ancestry.ca within the next year. Canadiana.org will also offer these images through its digital library, ECO, at a later date.

From a press release by The Generations Network, Inc., per Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 29 Mar 2007. (<http://blog.eogn.com>). Copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman.

“Along Those Lines...” continued from p. 35

Look further on some of the census records to the places of birth of the individuals and their ancestors. You definitely can use these as clues, but remember that geopolitical boundaries changed. Native tongue or language spoken at home can help tell you about national or ethnic origin. And don’t forget occupation. A person’s occupation may shed light on where they came from before and possibly the occupation they performed in a previous place.

Reorganize and Re-read Everything

It is always useful, as tedious as you think it may be, to file everything you have on an individual. If you organize evidence, notes, documents and citations in chronological order, you can then sit back and re-read everything.

Now you are placing the person’s life into chronological sequence and then are reading it as if it were a biography. The difference is that you’re looking at everything on the documents, no matter how obscure. The knowledge and insights you have gained about this person--and others--since you first acquired a piece of evidence may now have changed your perspective and the way you evaluate the information. You may suddenly see a great deal more than ever before, and the persons you’ve been researching start to come to life more vividly than ever before.

Try this technique, especially with your “brick wall” ancestors, and you may be surprised how much you had all along!

Happy Hunting!

George

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OF INTEREST

**ORANGE COUNTY FAIR
GENEALOGY BOOTH**

The award winning and very popular genealogy booth will be back again this year at the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa from July 13 to August 5. Fairgoers come from Orange County and the surrounding four counties. Those who are interested in learning more about their “roots” receive information about how and where to attend genealogy meetings, find resources and libraries in the area, and get assistance from knowledgeable researchers.

Sponsors of the booth are asking for volunteers from the major genealogy groups in Southern California to assist in staffing the booth during the run of the fair. A general knowledge of genealogy is all that is needed, since most of the people who stop at the booth are looking for basic information. Staff is there essentially to hand out resource materials and answer general questions, not to act as a genealogy tutor or assist people in their research. The reward is being able to see others getting excited about something we all already acknowledge as a passion! Many of last years’ volunteers mentioned how much fun they had staffing the booth, meeting people and sharing their knowledge.

Volunteers work a four or four and one-half hour shift and have the rest of the day to enjoy the fair. Free parking and fair entry are provided for each day a volunteer works at the booth. A free shuttle is provided between the volunteer parking lot and the fairgrounds. The fair is open from 10 a.m. to 12 midnight on Saturday and Sunday, and from 12 noon to 12 midnight on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The theme of the fair this year is “Cowabunga! The Year of the Herefords, Surfers and Sand.” The genealogy booth theme is “Cowabunga! Catch the Wave of Family History.”

Each participating genealogy society will have the opportunity for free advertising by displaying a banner at the booth and/or providing

handout materials about their group’s meetings and activities. This is a great opportunity to reach thousands of people with little cost to each society

Help spread the word about how much fun family history can be! Questions? Or to volunteer now, please contact Norma Keating: normakeating@earthlink.net or 714-319-5994

The shifts are as follows:

Tuesday thru Friday

First shift: 11:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Second shift: 3:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Third shift: 7:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

First shift: 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Second shift: 2:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Third shift: 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

1911 CENSUS OF ENGLAND

On 11 April [2007] The National Archives (TNA) announced that Scotland Online would partner the UK government’s official archive in the forthcoming project to put the 1911 census for England and Wales online.

The census, which is huge, is being digitized. It will not be made available in microform nor will public access be allowed to the original returns. From 2009 there will be a phased release of the information in the 1911 census starting with the major conurbations [i.e., urban communities]. This will include images and transcription data, but with sensitive data redacted in line with the Information Commissioner’s recent ruling. From 3 January 2012 the public will have full access to the entire 1911 census, including the information not accessible in 2009. Researchers anywhere in the world will be able to search across the fields of the census by name, address or The National Archives reference, and download high-resolution digital images.

The above information was taken from an article in the Federation of Family History Societies ezine of April 2007.

PROFILE OF THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA



**Polish Genealogical Society
of California**

Mailing address: PGS-CA; PO Box 307;
Buena Park, CA 90621-0307

Website: <http://www.pgscs.org>

Dues: \$20 annually

Meetings: The 4th Saturday of January,
March, May, July, September
and November, at the:

LARFHC

10741 Santa Monica Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 900025-4799

310-474-2202 or 310-474-9990

The Polish Genealogical Society of California, a non-profit educational organization, was founded on July 17, 1989. Our purpose is to promote the research of Polish family history. Our goals are to help members research and record their family history, to collect and preserve records of our ancestors, and to preserve historical & biographical material. In support of our purpose, we hold bimonthly meetings, publish a quarterly *Bulletin*, hold seminars and workshops.

Publication

Polish Genealogical Society of California BULLETIN, ISSN 1056-568, is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. The purpose of the Bulletin is to educate and inform our members of research aids and

sources. A 10th Anniversary Issue was published in December 1999.

Library Collection

The Society has collected many books and periodicals on genealogy, family history, Polish history, geography, and heraldry. These have been acquired through donations of members, friends, and purchases by the Society. A listing of the collection was published in 1996 and updated in 2004. It can be found on our website. The collection is housed at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center. Additionally, we have added hundreds of microfilms of Polish records to the LARFHC collection.

Meetings

PGS-CA provides a forum for members to learn how to research their ancestral lines. Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November at the LARFHC. Between 9:30–11:30 a.m. key members are available to assist those needing help with research problems and translations. Board meetings are held from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Class on Polish research is at 1:00 p.m. and our general meeting, with a guest speaker, begins at 2:30 PM.

Surname Database

In 1996, the first results of our Surname project were published. In 1997 the surnames being researched by our members were added to our website. A listing of Surnames that members are researching has been compiled. The latest version will be added to our website this year.

Membership

Society membership is open to anyone interested in Polish family history, education, and promoting the knowledge of research techniques. Membership categories are: Individual, Family, Life, Sustaining, and Resident of Poland.

CALENDAR

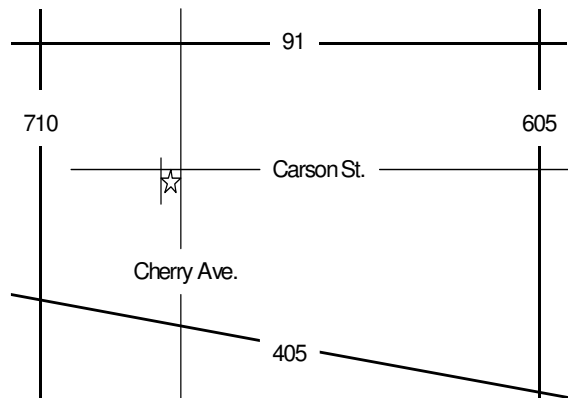
Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway and Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "DNA: Using a Different Approach" by Colleen Fitzpatrick.

Wednesday, May 16, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: "Family Research Sources at the Torrance Civic Center Library" by Michael George.

Saturday, May 19, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. (at Mar Vista), Whittier. Program: "Important Sources at the Carlsbad Library" by Judy Michaels.

Sunday, May 20, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting. 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "Genetic Genealogy—What Is It All About?" by Doug Miller.

Sunday, May 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 34.



Sunday, May 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting. Los Angeles Regional FHC.* Program: "Researching Immigration into Canada" by Debby Horton.

Saturday, June 2. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society, NO MEETING THIS MONTH.

Don't forget to join us at this year's **Genealogy Jamboree & Resource Expo**. As a reminder, it is being held at the Burbank Airport Hilton at 2500 Hollywood Way in Burbank on:

Friday, June 8, Noon-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 9, 8:30 a.m.-7: p.m.

Sunday, June 10, 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Questing Heirs will have booth No. 129 and George G. Morgan, who is among the speakers, will be selling and autographing his books at our booth.

*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.