

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 40, ✦ Number 7 ✦ July 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, JULY 15, 2007

12:30	Class	BASIC: Beginning Family Research
	Period	conducted by Rellen Owen
1:15		INTERMEDIATE:
		Name that Town!
		presented by John McCoy
2:00	Break	Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments
2:15	Business	
2:30	General Meeting	SPEAKER: Connie Moretti
		Sharing your family history with family members who couldn't care less: using a computer presentation program for digital scrapbooking.

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JULY MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

John will identify sources and strategies for finding place names that are obsolete, spelled wrong, or otherwise garbled. There are excellent sources for locating "lost" towns. Sometimes learning the correct name of a town requires an additional exercise, "Name that Parish," when the church records are not filed under the name of the town. There are excellent sources for this problem, too.

SPEAKER: CONNIE MORETTI Digital Scrapbooking

Taking advantage of the fact that even people who aren't interested in family history can't seem to tear themselves away from a computer screen, Connie will present a how-to program with hints on creating an effective digital scrapbook. She uses Corel Presentations, but the same principles can be used with other presentation programs such as PowerPoint. She will show the scrapbook she created for her own family, which they loved.

A third-generation Californian, Connie developed her love for genealogy from a story-telling grandmother who enrolled her in Knotts Berry Farm's Covered Wagon Club at age nine. After thirty years as an educator, she started her own consulting business and now works as a professional genealogist. Connie teaches genealogy classes for South Bay Adult School and also served as editor of the South Bay Cities Newsletter for five years. She is the co-author of two genealogy books: *Stepping Stones to Genealogy* and *On the Road: Day Trips to Local Genealogy Research Sites*. Connie is also the author or co-author of *Around the South Bay with Kids*, *Dixie Manor Days*, and *Tyree H. Bell: Forrest's Fighting Lieutenant*. She is a member of APG, NGS, NEHGS, VGS, NSDAR, USD1812 and was Historian General of the United Daughters of the Confederacy 2004-2006.

REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our June hosts:

Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT John McCOY
Connie WILLIAMS

Our July hosts will be

Sally DAVIS Carole OWENS
Cheryl TARDIF

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

May Income	\$ 531.37
May Expenses	\$ 235.32
Operations Balance	\$3,625.10

(Note: \$347.82 of the income is from the sale of George G. Morgan's books, most of which will be returned to Mr. Morgan.)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Sally DAVIS (562) 429-7803

JUNE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 30 Guests: 1

NEW MEMBER

Terry GILLIS Individual 9/07

RENEWAL

Sandra BOURASSA 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.

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

Your family’s religious historical context

Throughout history, religious organizations have provided strength, stability and support in their communities. Beyond the spiritual aspects of their activities, they also have provided a focal point for social interaction. Members have formed strong common bonds with one another, often resulting in marriages between families. Sometimes large numbers of the congregations’ members relocated to other geographical areas for a variety of reasons or split from their original group to form a new congregation.

Your family may have been part of a religious group that migrated from one area to another. One of my own ancestors came from Scotland to America in the early 1700’s and settled in Cecil County, Md.

They were Presbyterians and, in the 1750’s, they migrated through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and to Mecklenburg County in the southern part of North Carolina. He was accompanied by his parents, two of his brothers and their families, his minister and at least 20 other families I have been able to document. They settled and established a new church in that area which, over time, resulted in two other Presbyterian churches in the vicinity.

These people went on to build their community and to become active in civil affairs, including the organization of resistance and rebellion against the English crown. Published histories of the congregations detail the founding of these churches and recount the activities of its members throughout the centuries.

Not every church or synagogue has a history filled with extraordinary events, but their role in their communities is no less significant.

A book titled “Pressing Toward The Mark,” written by Bill Page and published in 1991 by the First Baptist Church of Mebane, N.C., was published on the 90th anniversary of the founding of the church.

It contains a history of the church and its place in the historical context of that area. It provides membership statistics, detailed biographical information about every pastor, the names and details of a number of prominent members, the names and terms of pastors, clerks, treasurers, Sunday schools superintendents, and directors of the Women’s Missionary Society/Union, as well as the names of all members at the time of publication. In addition, there are photographs included of pastors, groups, individuals and significant events in the church’s history.

I found my own grandfather in a photograph of the 1947 groundbreaking ceremony for a new sanctuary building. As a result, I was able to conduct some additional research to learn more about my grandparents’ membership and activities in the church, as well as details about my mother and her sisters.

Locating the Histories

Some congregations’ histories may be formally published in book form while others may only be typed and photocopied. You are sure to find a copy in the church or synagogue library, and chances are good you will find a copy at the local public library.

Other sources for such histories are the national or regional administrative locations for the religious group, the state archives or state library, and genealogical and/or historical societies.

If you are researching a congregation that is no longer in existence, contact the office of a congregation that still is in existence and request the name, address and telephone number of their national or regional administrative offices. Those offices can usually tell you if a congregation has dissolved or merged with another and where to locate older records. Sometimes originals or copies of records are sent to a headquarters location for storage.

Continued on page 54

SEARCH BY QH MEMBERS CAROLE AND MIKE OWENS

Carole submitted the following article detailing their search for the link of the Owens and Kelly families to Ireland. Perhaps it will give others some ideas for research.



Our research began in 1978 with a visit to family members in St. Louis, Missouri, and Cleveland, Ohio. On our trip to visit Mike's family, we visited aunts, uncles, cousins, parents, and brothers—completing a pedigree chart and family group sheets as we went along. In St. Louis we obtained the birth records of Mike's mom, dad, and aunts. We also looked for the marriage records but were unable to find them. Mike's father's birth certificate gave the grandparents' names: Thomas Owens and Martha Schultz. In Cleveland we visited with Mike's parents and brothers. More details were added to the pedigree chart and family group sheets. We were excited when Mike's mom produced the marriage certificate for herself and Mike's dad, and another one for her parents. We felt the time spent visiting with the family members was successful in our genealogical search.

Time lapsed. Mike and I worked on other genealogical and family research. We went to the LDS Family History Center in Los Angeles, making copies of the census records relating to the Owens family. We sent for his grandfather's birth certificate in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. We located an 1880 census with the Owens family members in Madison and found Mike's grandfather, Thomas Owens, living with his parents, Thomas and Jane Owens, brother Timothy, and sisters Mary and Catherine.

About 2000 we started attending the OCCGS meetings and joined. Many of the lectures were very informative.

On Ancestry.com we eventually located the family in the 1900 census in St. Louis, Missouri. All the family members were there except for Timothy. The record indicated that Thomas and

Jane Owens had been married 32 years, providing a date to look for their marriage record. Also, the record indicated that Jane came to the USA in 1864, and Thomas came in 1860.

We made a trip to the Salt Lake City Family History Library in Utah. Being naïve, we went to the Ireland floor and asked for assistance in locating Mike's Irish ancestors. We knew approximate marriage date, ages and arrival dates in the USA. We were told that we could search the passenger lists on the computer. We spent two days trying to figure out which Jane Kelly and Thomas Owens were Mike's relatives. We had no idea how many people there were with the names Jane Kelly and Thomas Owens with about the same ages and arrival dates.

After proudly bringing our findings to the help desk, we were told by another person that the information was not that informative. We were told we should get the death certificates of Jane Kelly Owens and Thomas James Owens.

We went home clueless as to just how to find a death date or certificate. Attending more lectures, we learned that the St. Louis Catholic cemeteries had just placed on the internet a list of those buried at each cemetery. We were so excited when we found Jane Owens and two men named Thomas Owens. We sent for their death certificates.

After receiving and reviewing the death certificates, we found that Jane Kelly's parents were Catherine Manion and John Kelly. Thomas's parents were Mary Graham and Timothy Owens. We also got more accurate birth dates; birthplaces were listed as Ireland.

As we read Jane's information, she seemed to be our Jane Kelly Owens. Thomas's information didn't seem quite right, and Timothy didn't seem to fit the Irish naming pattern. But, looking at the 1880 census again, we found that Jane and Thomas's first son was Timothy and thus the naming pattern fit.

To be concluded next month.

NEWS

ANCESTRY.COM AND SORENSON GENOMICS

PROVO, UTAH (June 18, 2007) – A new partnership seeks to reunite families through science. The Generations Network, parent company of Ancestry.com, has announced it will combine its unrivaled collection of online family trees and historical documents with Sorenson Genomics' precision ancestral DNA testing. This unique partnership promises to revolutionize family history by allowing people to trace their roots and connect to distant cousins through DNA at the click of a mouse.

Ancestry.com boasts more than 14 million users and the world's largest collection of online family trees. In the last 12 months alone, more than two million people have built family trees on Ancestry.com. Sorenson Genomics is one of the world's foremost laboratories for genetic genealogy testing services, and has been helping genealogists extend branches of their family trees through DNA analysis since 2001...

By taking a simple cheek-swab test and comparing results against DNA profiles in a test-results database, virtually anyone can uncover genealogical associations unimaginable just a few years ago. Users can easily connect with and discover lost or unknown relatives within a few generations, as well as gain insight into where their families originated thousands of years ago.

In the coming months, Ancestry.com will release technology that captures DNA test results in an ever-expanding, searchable database. Using this database, users can easily identify distant cousins and tap into thousands of hours of already-completed genetic genealogical research, breaking through family tree dead-ends or barriers such as missing or inaccurate records and name changes. Ancestry.com is also developing technology that will allow users to integrate DNA results with the historical documents already in their online family trees...

Prior to the current partnership, Sorenson Genomics provided DNA testing and database

matching services through its direct-to-consumer genetic genealogy division Relative Genetics. This new partnership agreement brings former customers of Relative Genetics and its DNA database under the Generations Network's umbrella. Sorenson Genomics will now provide DNA testing services for The Generations Network, and Ancestry.com will market DNA testing and database-matching services for genealogy purposes. Results of the Relative Genetics' DNA database will be included in Ancestry.com's growing database.

You can read the complete announcement and access FAQs regarding its implications for customers of Ancestry.com and Relative Genetics at <http://www.relativegenetics.com/relativegenetics/news.htm>.

FamilySearch INTERNET INDEXES

FamilySearch is beginning to publish the digitized microfilm from their vaults to the Internet. These records are being indexed by volunteers via www.FamilySearchIndexing.org. FamilySearch is now testing the searching capabilities of the records that we have been indexing. Some of the current projects that are now either browsable or searchable include:

- 1880 & 1900 United States censuses
- 1930 Mexico census
- New York Passenger Arrival Lists
- World War II Draft Registration Cards
- Freedman Bank Records, 1865-1874
- England, Diocese of Durham Bishops' Transcripts ca. 1700-1900
- Ontario Deaths, 1930-1932
- U.S. Social Security Death Index

How to Begin

At the Family Search Labs site, click on the **Register to use Record Search** link. You may be selected to participate. If you are, you will have free access to the above records where you can help FamilySearch test their services and provide feedback. FamilySearch plans to make their records available for free to the public. Visit: <http://search.labs.familysearch.org> to get started.

METHOD

CALENDAR CHANGE DATES

In his presentation on Bad Handwriting at our June meeting, John McCoy called attention to a year in a manuscript that was “double-dated” (such as 1733/34). That practice was necessitated by a change in the calendar that researchers should be aware of when they’re dealing with records of events that occurred between 1 January and 25 March between 1582 and 1752.

Julius Caesar introduced what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar in 46 B.C. His year began on 1 January and consisted of 365 and $\frac{1}{4}$ days based on a solar system. It specified that April, June, September and November should have 30 days and February 28, except in leap years. Still the Julian Calendar was about six hours too long each year.

By the sixteenth century this error amounted to 10 days. So in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII introduced a new calendar (thus called the Gregorian Calendar) to rectify the errors in the Julian Calendar. To put the vernal equinox back to March 21, he ordered that 4 October 1582 be followed by 15 October, and he specified that years ending in hundreds be leap years only if they are divisible by 400. Another wrinkle in this puzzle was that, with the spread of Christianity, many countries considered 25 March—the day celebrated as the Feast of the Annunciation—to be the beginning of the year. The pope reinstated 1 January as the beginning of the year.

Since it was a pope who made these changes, Catholic countries readily accepted them; but Protestant countries did not. England (and her colonies) didn’t adopt the Gregorian Calendar until 1751. By then “old style” (O.S.) dating was 11 days ahead of “new style” (N.S.). So Parliament provided that 2 September 1752 would be followed by 14 September, and 1 Jan would be the first day of 1752.

From the reign of Henry II (1154-1189), England considered March to be the first month

of the year and February the twelfth. So, with this change, 25 March was the first day of 1751 and 31 December the last day of 1751. There was no January or February or 1-24 March in 1751. In order to clarify the year, dates between 1 January and 25 March were often written as “1733/34”—i.e., 1733 O.S. and 1734 N.S.

Computer programs can help you with conversions. PAF, for example, includes a Date Calculator.



“**Along Those Lines...**” continued from p. 51

As you can see, the history of a religious organization may shed some insight on your ancestors’ membership and details of their role in the life of the group and the community. You may find that your ancestors’ arrival in an area coincided with the establishment of a church and, by tracing the origins of other founding members, it may be possible to trace your own ancestors to a previous place of residence. Good luck with your research!

Happy Hunting!

George

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LIVING WITH THE IN-LAWS

I needed to find my wife’s great-grandparents who I had good reason to think were in the 1860 census of Washington Co., Maryland. I went through the census records several times using the family name—without success. Then I tried looking for her great-grandfather using his given name. I found the family living with his father-in-law under their last name. I was able to confirm the find since I had the names and ages of their children at that time. This also confirmed the family name of her great-grandmother. I had previously found a marriage record but did not know if it was for the correct couple. Search using given names if all else fails! *Quick Tip by Bill Shook, 25 May 2007 at <http://blogs/ancestry.com/circle>. (Copyright 1998-2007, MyFamily.com)*

OF INTEREST

History Lessons

By David Kahn, Op-Ed Contributor to *The New York Times*, March 19, 2007

Everybody knows how to use a library. You look up the card catalogue in the computer, type in the subject, find the Dewey Decimal System number, walk to the shelf and get the book.

It's different with an archive, where unpublished memorandums, reports, notes and letters are organized not by topic but by the agency that created them. You have to know which agency did the work you are interested in, and whether more than one was involved. The complexity of government means first-time archive users need help.

Alone among the world's great archives, the National Archives of the United States has offered such assistance to visitors. At Britain's Public Record Office, for instance, a courteous official points to rows of volumes listing the contents of files for the Admiralty, the Foreign Office, Scotland Yard. After that, you're on your own. It is much the same at France's Archives Nationales and Germany's Bundesarchiv. Only at the big modern Archives II building in College Park, Md., will an archivist sit down and guide a user through the maze.

But that precious advantage is being lost—and it's all started to change in the last few months. More than a million cubic feet of documents, nearly enough to fill the Washington Monument, need to be organized, described and filed. This "document surplus"—a term the archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, prefers to "backlog"—was caused in part by the wait for a new archives building and by a new emphasis on electronic records. But mainly, with no increase in its budget in years, it comes down to a lack of money.

As a result, the archives have hired less-experienced personnel to organize the records, often resulting in people having to hunt longer for what they need. And although 50 profes-

sionals have recently been moved to processing, that has left only 22 archivists to deal with the public—and with records they do not know well. Moreover, instead of conferring at their desks, with reference books at hand, the archivists now answer the questions of walk-ins in a glass-enclosed room on the busy main research floor.

Written requests for information should be answered in 10 working days, something the archives once did 95 percent of the time; this year it is 75 percent. In the military and civil branch the backlog of unanswered letters used to be 15 to 30; now it is 115 to 130. The financial squeeze has also cut off-peak hours to two nights and one Saturday each month, making research difficult for visitors from afar, and for anyone who works a 9 to 5 job.

Why does this matter? Because the National Archives does more than display the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. From its astonishing riches emerge not only the records of one's immigrant grandparents but the documents and images that produce books and telecasts about this country. Without the services of the archives, the nation risks amnesia and loses direction. The president should ask for the few millions the archives needs to do its job right, and Congress should appropriate it. American must not forget itself.

David Kahn is the author of *The Codebreakers*.

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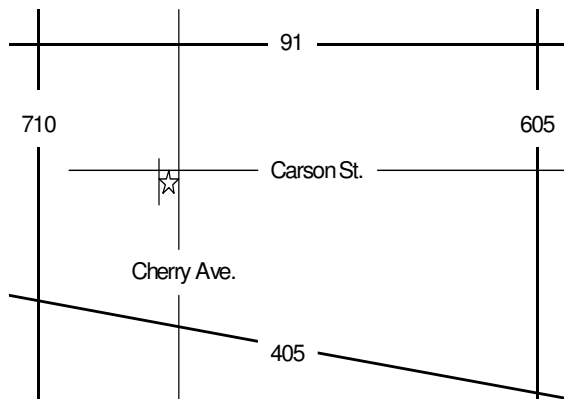
All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication in our Newsletter. Upcoming deadlines are as follows: August submissions by July 22, 2007 Sept. submissions by August 26, 2007

CALENDAR

Saturday, July 7. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. The main speaker at 11:00 a.m. in Rooms C&D is Gena Philibert Ortega on "Finding Female Ancestors."

Sunday, July 8, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting. 1310-B W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "Eastern Europe after the Communists" by Marilyn Deatherage. A joint meeting with the IGS Pommern Special Interest Group.

Sunday, July 15, 1:15–3:30 pm. Questing Heirs Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Parish Hall, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1900 East Carson Street, Long Beach. Parking and entrance on Gardenia Avenue, one block west of Cherry Avenue. See map below. For meeting information, please see page 50.



For a Dime It Is Mine!

Don't forget to check out our surplus magazines and newsletters that will be available for just a dime each.

Wednesday, July 18, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: "Exploring Every Branch" by Joan Lo Pear.

Sunday, July 22, 1:00-6:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting. Open Research Day at the LARFHC.*

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA

Family History Seminar
Saturday, August 11, 2007
9:00 a.m. Check-in to 5:00 p.m.
Weingart Senior Center
5220 Oliva Ave., Lakewood

Lectures by **Ceil Wendt Jensen, CGRS** on:

1. Strategies for Locating Ancestral Villages
2. Understanding Migration and Immigrant Communities
3. Professional Techniques for the Family Genealogist
4. Planning a Trip for Polish Research

Registration for non-members \$50 (\$60 after 7/28) includes morning snack and catered Polish luncheon. Send check payable to PGS-CA with registration form to: PGS-CA, c/o Janice Lipinski, 5319 Via del Valle, Torrance, CA 90505-6239.

Information: by phone 310-378-0877
by e-mail President@pgsca.org
website www.pgsca.org

*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.