

**QUESTING HEIRS**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 40. ✦ Number 10 ✦ October 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, OCTOBER 21, 2007**

<b>12:30</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BASIC: Beginning Family Research</b>
	<b>Period</b>	<b>conducted by Rellen Owen</b>
<b>1:15</b>		<b>INTERMEDIATE:</b>
		<b>Discussion of Genealogy News</b>
		<b>led by John McCoy</b>
<b>2:00</b>	<b>Break</b>	<b>Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments</b>
<b>2:15</b>	<b>Business</b>	
<b>2:30</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>SPEAKER: LISA SCHUMACHER</b>
		<b>COMPARING GENEALOGY</b>
		<b>DATABASE PROGRAMS</b>

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## **OCTOBER MEETING**

### **INTERMEDIATE CLASS**

So much is happening in the world of genealogy these days that we thought we'd take some time to catch up. John McCoy will be leading the discussion, but we'd like to hear from members, too. If you've found a particularly helpful new source of information or new research tool, please share it with the other attendees.

### **SPEAKER: LISA SCHUMACHER COMPARING GENEALOGY DATABASE PROGRAMS**

Learn about today's Genealogy Programs including PAF, Family Tree Maker, Legacy, and The Master Genealogist. What are their similarities and differences? Lisa will show examples of data entry, report formats and helpful research tools to help you choose a program.

**Lisa Schumacher** has thirty years of experience in the computer field and is currently a self-employed Technical Support Consultant. Her interest in Family History began over twenty years ago with a focus on computer programs for genealogical research. Lisa is a board member and FGS delegate of the South Bay Cities Genealogical Society. She was a staff supervisor and instructor at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center for seven years.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT Sally DAVIS (562) 429-7803**

**SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE**  
Members: 42                                  Guests: 1

**NEW MEMBERS**

Floyd FARRAR	Family	9/08
Sherry LOPEZ	Family	9/08

### **RENEWALS**

Please see renewals on page 76.

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

Thanks to our September hosts:  
Laurie ANGEL                                  Linda IVERS  
Sandy NISSENSON

Our October hosts will be  
Tricia BURES                                  Robert COLLINS  
Sally DAVIS                                  Connie WILLIAMS

## **FINANCIAL REPORT David WERTS (562) 431-7790**

August Income	\$ 488.49
August Expenses	\$ 323.75
Operating Balance	\$ 2,302.13
Special Projects Balance	\$ 969.50

**NOTE: Submissions for the November Newsletter are due by October 28, 2007.**

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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**

**Finding Clues in Property Tax Bills  
Part One – Examine the Contents of a Typical Tax Bill**

The tax bill can, in fact, be one of the most important pointer documents of all. Look for them at home among family papers as well as at the tax assessor's office. As a collection of clues, the following items can often be deduced from an original tax bill:

Determine, first, **the issuing county and government office.** This would be the place to look for property records from that time period in order to locate a copy of the deed or to obtain information pointing to the original deed.

**Name and address of the person(s)** whose name(s) appear(s) on the property tax roll for the year in question. While there may have been a change in ownership at some time during the year, the person whose name appeared on the roll at the time the tax bill was typed and mailed is what was included here. Amendments were often made by hand on the original tax bill if they were needed, such as an ownership change a short time before the tax bills were generated and mailed.

**Address of the property** for which the tax bill was created.

**Legal description of the property.** The Section, Township, and Range reference numbers are listed. In addition, further descriptors of the Lot and Block numbers refer to the specific location of the property. (By locating the map used for the specific real estate tax year and for the county in question, you can easily locate the precise location of the property. Don't forget to use city directories to help with this task.)

The Volume and Item numbers (123-456) and the descriptor found on a typical tax bill refer to the specific tax roll for this property. For example, you would look for the real estate tax books for [the] township listed in the legal description in that tax year, and then specifically for Volume 123 and listing 456.

All of the points listed above are clues to point you to tax rolls, maps, and to a deed for the property.

If you locate a tax roll containing a listing for an ancestor, it probably will not tell you how long he/she/they owned the property. You might need to trace back year by year.

However, with a legal description in hand, you can generally visit the county courthouse's land and property division and obtain a history of the ownership of a piece of real estate. (This is what title insurance people do on a piece of property in order to determine that the title on the property doesn't have any legal encumbrances on it, such as a tax lien, outstanding mortgage, or legal judgment.) There may also be information on file regarding the name of the financial institution holding a mortgage, the name of an insurance company linked to the property, and/or the date of the discharge of a mortgage or other indebtedness.

Watch for names of other relatives who might have been involved in the transaction(s) in some way.

Look also for other information on the tax bill. The assessed valuation of the property may tell you the relative financial status of the person or family.

The total tax on a piece of property may tell you something about the neighborhood's roads, schools, libraries, sewers, and other utilities that affected the quality of life for the people at the time.

Look, too, to see if the tax bill was paid on time or not. This might indicate financial solvency or troubles. Once you know what you are looking for, you may hit a stride and make connections with a number of important records.

Continued on page 79

## QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Laurie ANGEL	Contributing	9/08
Wanda BALLARD	Family	9/08
Joy BURAS	Newsletter	9/08
Hazel CLOVER	Sustaining	9/08
Howard DAVIS	Family	9/08
Sally DAVIS	Family	9/08
Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT	Individual	9/08
Elaine FLEMING	Individual	9/08
Helen GORING	Individual	9/08
Norma GRADY	Individual	9/08
Carmen GROSS	Individual	9/08
MaryEmma HARGRAVE	Individual	9/08
Charles HORTON	Contributing	9/08
Hazele JOHNSON	Individual	9/08
George JOHNSON	Sustaining	9/08
Polly JOHNSON	Sustaining	9/08
Jeanette JONES	Sustaining	9/08
Charlotte LLEWELLYN	Family	9/08
Christina McKILLIP	Individual	9/08
John McCOY	Patron	9/08
Harriet MILLER	Newsletter	9/08
Liz MYERS	Individual	9/08
Sandra NISSENSON	Individual	9/08
Rellen OWEN	Individual	9/08
Beverly PLANK	Contributing	9/08
Michael POWERS	Family	9/08
Gary REID	Individual	9/08
Elizabeth REIDY	Individual	9/08
Linda RYAN	Individual	9/08
Michael SCULLY	Individual	9/08
Frances SMITH	Individual	9/08
Lucille STROHBEEN	Individual	9/08
Susan STUDEBAKER	Individual	9/08
David WERTS	Sustaining	9/08
Tina YANIS	Individual	9/08

### NEW FUNDRAISER

The Questing Heirs Board has decided to replace our long-time 50-50 drawing with the Ralph's Club card plan as a fundraiser. Just by registering your card number, a percentage of the cost of the groceries you purchase at this supermarket chain will be donated by Ralph's to our society; and it won't cost you a thing!

You can participate by taking the following steps.

1. Go to [www.ralphps.com](http://www.ralphps.com).
2. Click on Community Contribution (at the lower left of your screen).
3. Click Sign Up Participant.
4. Click Agree.
5. Enter our NPO #84877 and fill in your information.
6. Click Submit.
7. Print the confirmation screen for your records.

You will need to re-register each year; so we will remind you when the time comes.

If you would like to sign up but don't have a computer, please let Cynthia Day-Elliott know at our next meeting.



### NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

John McCoy is heading this year's Nominating Committee, assisted by Cynthia Day-Elliott and Jeanette Jones.

They are looking for volunteers to fill these positions:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- 3 Directors at Large

The Directors at Large are new positions provided for in our revised Bylaws (that will be presented to you in October). They will provide more flexibility for the leadership of our society. So, if you don't feel that you can fill one of the traditional offices, perhaps you can contribute your talents in a different capacity.

Please give John a call at (562) 423-4962 if you would like to discuss any of the openings. The slate of candidates will be presented at our October meeting; nominations will also be accepted from the floor at that time (with the nominee's prior approval, of course).

**KENNETH SAW'S DISCOVERIES CONTINUE (Part 2)**

**Dedicated to my daughter, Linda...**

To continue with my life story, on June 20, 1940, I enlisted in the Canadian Army Signal Corps. A year later to the day—after training at the Signal Corps school in Kingston, Ontario—I was on my way overseas to England. Then I was posted to Canadian Military Headquarters in London.

During my 3½-year tour of duty in and around London—except for the buzz bombs and German air raids—it was, for this former farm boy, like one long holiday. Headquarters staff had to find their own “digs,” and I ended up marrying my landlady’s daughter. Every three months I had a week’s furlough, and I used those times to visit all my many aunts, uncles and cousins in various parts of England. Although they weren’t my blood relatives, they all treated me royally.

It amazes me now that I didn’t use any of that time to research my roots. I guess I wasn’t into genealogy, never even having heard the word. And all that information was just waiting for me at Somerset House! Plus, I probably had accepted what my foster mother, Florrie, had told me: that my birth mother had died when I was a year old. Then later she told me my father, Leonard Mason, had died when I was a year old so she had married Albert Saw in order to give me a home. I hate to use the word lied; so, let’s just assume she was misinformed.

I returned home to Winnipeg in September, 1945, and was discharged on January 15, 1946. Vera, my war bride, couldn’t join me for another couple months. She arrived in Winnipeg on March 10, 1946, which was our first wedding anniversary.

In March 1956 we decided to move to Southern California with our three children. During our application for visas, more information about my background was required; so, Vera got her mother to go to Somerset House in London and get a copy of “An Entry of Birth” for me.

Remember, up until then all I had was a bare-bones “Certificate of Registry of Birth” for Peter Kenneth Arnold—nothing about parents. The new document, dated January 4, 1956, gave the address where I was born as 7 Elm Grove, Camberwell, Peckham, in the County of London. My father’s name was Charles Arnold; my mother’s name was Pamela Louise Arnold, formerly Heath; my father’s occupation was Hairdresser Assistant; and my birth date was May 9, 1921.

This was a monumental piece of information, but it raised more questions than it answered. Still I didn’t do anything about solving the big puzzle. Sadly, I don’t think we even shared the news with Florrie and Albert.

By December 1979, Florrie and Albert were both long gone; but Florrie still had a brother in Dayton, Ohio, and a sister in Vancouver, Canada, and we still exchanged Christmas cards with those two. Up until this time I had never questioned any of the family members about my background. I could never talk to Florrie about it. I don’t know what prompted me to ask Uncle Len in Dayton if he knew anything about my early years and what happened to my birth parents. He didn’t answer me directly but forwarded the questions to Aunt Lily in North Vancouver. Her response was that “your mother died when you were a year old, leaving your father with you and an older brother. Your father then left for the U.S.A., taking your brother with him and leaving you with Aunt Florrie. She never heard from him nor saw him again.”

Wow! That was really something! I reasoned that my father would probably be at least 87 and possibly deceased by that time, but there was a good chance my brother would still be alive. My problem was how to go about finding him. I didn’t know his first name nor his age and had no expertise in that area. I visited Winnipeg briefly in July 1980. Vital Statistics had no record of Pamela Heath’s death.

To be continued next month

## NEWS

### FAMILY STORIES WANTED

To Genealogists of all levels,  
As many know, I am working on my doctorate and have reached the dissertation phase. I am collecting family stories that can be used for my project. If you have a story that has been passed from one generation to the next and then to a third (or more), and that story is American in origin (immigration stories—to America—are also acceptable), it may be one I can use. It needs to be a story that has somehow had an impact (however small) on the future generations. To see examples of what I am talking about and/or to submit your family story, please go to my website: <[www.circlemending.org](http://www.circlemending.org)> and click on “**Dissertation.**” Explanations are all there. But here’s the most *exciting* part: I will donate \$1/story (that meets the criteria listed) to the genealogical society identified by the submitter! Stories can be submitted right from the form on the website...*no snail-mailing required*, just don’t forget to identify the genealogical society of your choice!

Thank you,  
Jean Wilcox Hibben, MA, CG (soon to be PhD)

*Reprinted from the Corona Genealogical Society Newsletter of August 2007.*

### NARA DIGITIZING PLAN

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is seeking public comment on its draft **Plan for Digitizing Archival Materials for Public Access, 2007-2016**. This draft plan outlines our planned strategies to digitize and make more accessible the historic holdings from the National Archives of the United States.

The document is divided into several sections. The first section, INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND, provides information on NARA’s mission, our archival holdings, and our past experience with digitization...Section II, PLAN OVERVIEW, describes our planned goals, activities, and priorities for digitization. Sections III through V provide listings of current digitization activities being carried out by

NARA and through partnerships to digitize and make available archival materials. Appendix A contains draft operating principles that we are using as we enter into partnerships and Appendix B references relevant NARA guidance that applies to handling of archival materials being digitized and the technical guidelines for image creation and description. We particularly invite your comments on Sections II, III, V, and Appendix A.

Comments are due November 9, 2007, and may be sent to [Vision@nara.gov](mailto:Vision@nara.gov) or faxed to 301-837-0319.

*From an announcement at <http://www.archives.gov/comment/digitizing-plan.html> on 10 Sep 2007. You can access the Draft Plan from this URL.*

### NEW AT ANCESTRY.COM

Ancestry.com has recently added three new national-language sites.

- 1) <http://www.ancestry.fr> [France]
- 2) <http://www.ancestry.it> [Italy]
- 3) <http://www.ancestry.se> [Sweden]

In August Ancestry.com and the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) announced their collaboration to provide joint access to important family history information. It is planned to include special membership opportunities that combine Ancestry.com’s databases with titles of some of NEHGS’s genealogical publications and services.

*See Dick Eastman’s article regarding Ancestry.com’s and NEHGS’s collaboration at <http://blog.eogn.com> for 21 Aug 2007. Copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman.*

### TimesSelect

Starting 19 September, TimesSelect will be no more, replaced by free access to the *New York Times* archives back to 1987. Articles from 1851-1923 and for the last 20 years will be free, but there will be a fee to access stories published between 1923 and 1986.

*E-mail from Joy Rich to [APG@rootsweb.com](mailto:APG@rootsweb.com) dated 18 Sep 2007.*

OF INTEREST

**Correspondence: A researcher in Alaska with roots in Long Beach and Switzerland**

Uranie Campiche Rollier came from Moudon, Switzerland, to the United States with her youngest daughter, Jeanne, in 1894. The older children—Rachel, Paul, and Antoine (my great-grandfather)—immigrated two years prior, along with Augustin Bovey, a family companion. The 1900 census listed Augustin as a servant, but family wittings indicate she was more like a sister. She was an orphan who had attended the school for the deaf at Moudon where Uranie and her husband, Emile Rollier, served as directors.

In 1900 all but Paul are listed at the same address in Denver, CO. By the 1910 census, they had all made their way to Long Beach. Paul, Jeanne (who spent most of her adult life in India with the Christian Missionary Alliance), and Augustin never married or had children. Rachel did marry. Her married name was Harwick; and she had two children, whom I believe were her step-children, Yvonne and Harland Hardwick. Antoine Rollier married Mary Ganshorn (a Russian immigrant of German descent). They had two children, my grandmother, Marie, and her sister Julie. Many of the family connections and much of the history were lost after the deaths of Mary (1919) and Antoine (1924).

In 1918 the couple and their two girls (6 and 8 years old at the time) sold their home in Long Beach and left for Africa as missionaries from the Long Beach Grace Brethren Church. They arrived in Africa at the beginning of 1919. Mary died in the Congo later that same year. Antoine and the girls left Africa and came back to Long Beach in 1921, but he died within three years of their return. At some point he remarried. The girls' stepmother, Margaret Boyd, died shortly after Antoine; and the girls were then raised by the stepmother's two single sisters. I am not sure why they did not go to live with the Rollier family, as we have numerous letters between Antoine and his siblings in which they all speak so lovingly and fondly of each other, as well as very wonderful references to the Ganshorn

family (who settled in Seward, Nebraska, and Regina, Saskatchewan). My father remembers visiting aunts, uncles and cousins in Nebraska and Saskatchewan, but he has not had contact with them in his adult years. Nor has he had any contact as an adult with Rachel Rollier Hardwick's children.

My grandmother, Marie Rollier, married and moved from Long Beach to Granada Hills where she raised her family. Her children also raised their families in Granada Hills. My sisters and I left California for jobs and school and settled in new places far from each other and the rest of our family. Long phone conversations and emails are just not the same as dropping over on the way home from the grocery store! Perhaps that is why I feel this desire to bridge the distance even with the family that has gone on long before us. Alaska is a wonderful place to raise a family, but I want my kids to know and feel a strong connection to family.

Linda Wies  
Fairbanks, Alaska

*Contributed by John McCoy.*



**“Along Those Lines...”** continued from p. 75  
In the next column I will talk about different types of tax records and go over the tell-tale clues that can be gleaned from tax exemption records

**Happy Hunting!**

**George**

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*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.*

*Marcel Proust (1871-1922)*

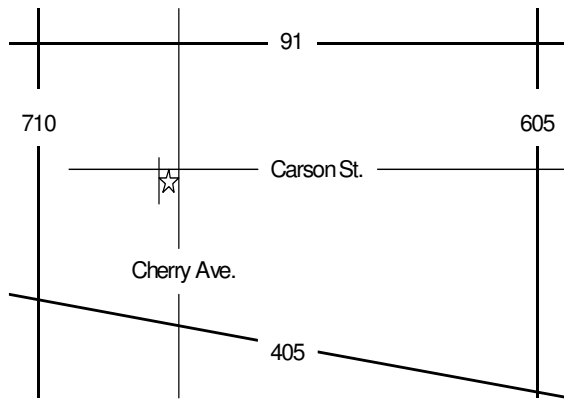
Listed at <http://www.quotationspage.com>.

**CALENDAR**

Sunday, October 14, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting. 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: Carolyn Casperson “Connecting the Norwegian Dots.”

Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center, 4501 Casa Loma Ave. (at Imperial Highway). Program: “Internet Basics (How to Use Your Most Important Tool)” by Barbara Renick.

Sunday, October 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 page 74.



Sunday, October 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting. Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Program: Travel and research experiences from his trip to the British Isles by Jim McNamara.

Saturday, November 3, 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. The main speaker (in Rooms C&D) is Dawn Thurston speaking on how to “Breathe Life into Your Story.”

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**WHITTIER AREA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar  
February 23, 2008  
Greenleaf Masonic Temple  
7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier

**Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck**, head of the Genealogy Department of the Dallas (Texas) Public Library, will discuss the following topics:

- 243 Years of Migrations: 1607-1850
- Before Civil Registration: Using Church Records
- The Power of the Press: Newspaper Genealogy
- Finding Maiden Names of Female Ancestors

Registration \$32 before Feb 16; \$35 at the door. Cost of box lunches ordered before Feb 16 = \$8. For information or registration, contact either:

JudyPoole at (909) 985-6657;  
[judypoole@verizon.net](mailto:judypoole@verizon.net)  
or John Hergesheimer at (562) 941-3184;  
[hergwerk@earthlink.net](mailto:hergwerk@earthlink.net)

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\*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.