

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 41 ✦ Number 3 ✦ March 2008

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, MARCH 16, 2008**

|              |                        |   |
|--------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>12:30</b> | <b>Class Period</b>    | <b>HELP TABLE: "Genealogy Research Circle" by Rellen Owen (boardroom)</b>               |
| <b>1:15</b>  |                        | <b>INTERMEDIATE: "Some Tools for Urban Research" by Loran Bures</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: Questing Heirs Panel<br/>Professional Genealogists—<br/>Who Needs Them?</b> |

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <i>Reports</i>   | 18 |
| <i>Attending the 2008 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy</i> | 19 |
| <i>Questing Heirs News</i>                                 | 20 |
| <i>Methods</i>   | 21 |
| <i>Of Interest</i>   | 22 |
| <i>On the Web</i>  | 23 |
| <i>Calendar</i>  | 24 |

**MARCH MEETING**

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS  
Some Tools for Urban Research**

Among the tools we will look at are Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Find out some ways the family historian can use these maps in their research. Also find out what "F.B." means on a Sanborn map.

**PROGRAM  
Professional Genealogists—  
Who Needs Them?**

What is a professional genealogist? How does someone become a professional genealogist? Do they have a code of ethics? What does CG, CGL, FASG and AG after a person's name mean? Why would someone need a professional genealogist? How do you find one? How do you go about hiring one? What should you expect from a professional genealogist? Our panel will answer these questions and more.

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

**FEBRUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE**  
Members: 39                                      Guests: 5

**NEW MEMBERS**  
Donna CLARK                                      Individual    9/08  
Terry HAMILTON                                  Family        9/08

**RENEWAL**  
Sandra LAWRENCE                                Newsletter 9/08

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

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| January Income           | \$ 173.45  |
| January Expenses         | \$ 738.63  |
| Checking Account Balance | \$3,105.19 |

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

Thanks to our February hosts:  
Linda ARTUSO                                      Hazele JOHNSON  
Georgie LYONS                                      Linda RYAN

Our March hosts will be:  
Tricia BURES                                        George JOHNSON  
Barbara LOURTIE                                      Cheryl TARDIF

**NOTE: Submissions for the April 2008  
Newsletter are due by March 24, 2008.**



*Copyright © 2008, Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc.*

*Permission to reprint original items from this publication is granted, provided that the reprint is used for non-commercial, educational purposes, and that the following notice appears at the end of the article: Previously published in Questing Heirs Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 41, No. 3, March 2008.*

*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.*

**ATTENDING THE 2008 SALT LAKE INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY**

Contributed by Jeanette Jones

For the last four years I have started out my genealogy year with a great experience! I have attended the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy which is held the first full week of January at the Radisson Hotel, located just a block from the main Family History Library, in Salt Lake City. The Institute is sponsored by the Utah Genealogical Association.

The Institute runs for five days—starting with a breakfast on Monday morning and ending with a banquet on Friday evening. These two meals are included in the basic tuition which, in 2008, was approximately \$300 (depending on membership in the Utah Genealogical Association). All the coordinators of the ten courses that are offered are experts in their fields, and many are well-known lecturers and writers in the genealogical community. Every year nine courses are offered—each with a specific focus. Some of the subjects in 2008 were “France and her Former Colonies,” “Welsh Research,” “Western U.S. Research,” “Producing a Quality Family Narrative,” “Advanced Methodology,” and “American Records and Resources: Focusing on Families.” These subjects vary from year to year.

For the nine courses, there are classroom lectures of about one hour in length for about four hours a day. The rest of the time students are free to go to the library to try some of the sources or methods they have just learned about. During the four hours of lectures each day, the coordinator lectures about half the time and brings in other experts to fill the balance of the time. These experts may be other coordinators, personnel from the Family History Library, or other genealogists from among the abundance of those who are available in the Salt Lake City area. A workbook is provided for every separate course that contains a brief outline of each lecture and a listing of sources that the lecturer mentions.

There is also another course that is offered every year called “Research Methodology: Genealogical Problem Solving” that many people take year after year. This course requires a good deal of work before you even arrive. In early November a participant must submit a thesis question that states what they are seeking to find or prove, as well as documentation for all the research that has been done so far—with copies of maps, time lines, census forms, pedigree charts and family group sheets. All negative results must also be submitted. The three experienced genealogists who coordinate this course then review all your material beforehand and already have many suggestions ready for you on the first day of class. In fact, in some cases, they contact you before the course starts and ask you to bring more information.

In addition to all that goes on in the daytime, there are also lectures in the evening on various subjects. If you haven’t learned enough during the day, you can also attend these lectures. A fee is charged for them, however, as they are not included in the basic tuition.

This annual Institute is truly a valuable addition to your genealogical research. It brings you up to date on what is happening in the genealogical world, what is happening in the Family History Library realm and, most of all, stimulates one to try a new avenue of approach in their particular ancestry research. One gentleman I met, who has gone for years, told me he can hardly wait for Christmas and New Years to be over so he can go to Salt Lake City for the Institute.

*History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.*

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 BC)

**QUESTING HEIRS NEWS**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Wow, have we started out with a bang! Your Board is working hard to make this a memorable year for our members; so, invite someone you have met through your genealogy to our meetings. The more the merrier!!

We have already received some money from the Ralphs card program, making it a great resource for our treasury. We hope to add other similar programs to take advantage of our grocery shopping and book buying. Dave Werts and Loran Bures are working on that.

We had a good response to our visit to the Long Beach Family History Center, and I hope you will learn more about what is offered at the Long Beach Main Library on Saturday, March 22. We will become reacquainted with the genealogy books, the map collection, and the Long Beach collection.

Set the date of May 31 for a visit to the Long Beach Historical Society to learn about their resources for the Long Beach area. The society is now settled in its new location at 4260 Atlantic Avenue.

We have set up committees for some of the officers and for projects. Loran Bures is head of the Programming Committee, with assistance from Richard Hoover, John McCoy, Liz Myers, and Howard Davis. They are open to your ideas.

The Cemetery Committee plans to work with local funeral directors and cemeteries to gather information to share. Its members include Jeanette Jones, Liz Myers, Polly Johnson, Tina Yanis, George Johnson, and Laurie Angel.

Last, but not least, welcome to our new members, Donna Clark and Terry Hamilton!

Happy Hunting.

*Liz Myers*



**LONG BEACH FHC VISIT**

As Liz mentioned, our first "Resources for the Family Historian" outing to the Long Beach Family History Center at 3701 Elm Avenue was a resounding success. Twenty-five members gathered at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 9, for an hour's orientation to the library. Many stayed on after 10:00 a.m. to explore its potential further and to receive individualized help with their genealogical research problems.

This Family History Center is currently open:

- Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Thursday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evenings)
- Saturday 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Please come back again. Normally the center is not crowded, and there are enough computers and microfilm viewers for all patrons.

**H U M O R**

Origin of the Human Race

A little girl asked her mother, "How did the human race appear?" The mother answered, "God made Adam and Eve. They had children and, so, was all mankind made."

Two days later she asked her father the same question. The father answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race was developed." The confused girl returned to her mother and said, "Mom, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Papa says it was developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about the origin of my side of the family while your father told you about his side."

*Contributed by Liz Myers*

## METHODS

### HESSIANS!

by John McCoy

By “Hessians”, we usually mean German soldiers who served on the British side in the Revolutionary War. They were not all from the region known as Hesse, though most were. One of the big problems with a Hessian ancestor is finding, and proving, his origins in Germany.

Some success has been reported, thanks to a project undertaken in Germany in the 1970s to index as many of the original muster rolls and other records as could be found. Some of these records include the soldier’s birthplace in Germany. The result is a set of six volumes known as “HETRINA”—the name being an acronym for the German name of the indexing project. If you are lucky enough to have a Hessian ancestor whose name is uncommon, and whose full name and date of birth are known, you may be able to locate likely candidates in HETRINA. Then you can search the church records of the villages indicated, and thereby spot your man.

Since your ancestor evidently stayed in the U.S. after the Revolution, you should also check to be sure that the man you found in the German church records really left—that he did not (a) die in Germany or (b) marry and raise a family there when he was supposed to be in the U.S.!

The first five volumes of HETRINA are available on microfilm through the Family History Library (film numbers 1320516 and 1320542). The first of these films is at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center. There is also a “mailing list” on RootsWeb.com (AMREV-HESSIANS-L) with its own website full of helpful resources at:

<http://freepages.military.rootsweb.com/~bonsteinandgilpin/index.htm>

### MAIDEN NAME PLACE HOLDERS

by Sarah Loft

I have large numbers of women without known maiden names in my family tree. I don’t substitute married names for unknown maiden

names because that introduces some confusion as well. So, when trying to find a given person in an index, if the name is a common one like Nancy or Mary or Elizabeth, it can be nearly impossible to pick out the right candidate, especially if other identifying information (such as dates or birthplace) is scarce. In order to make my life simple, I have invented pseudo surnames that serve as temporary place holders until I can find out a maiden name (if ever) and also carry identifying information without creating the kind of confusion substitution of married names does. The pseudo surname, in lower case, indicates a relationship such as Jane wifeofJosephBMerrill or Mary wifeofJesseWilliams. When I look up “Jane wife” in the index of my Ancestry tree, all the Janes turn up, each connected to the right husband. If at some point I discover that Jane was a Jones, it’s easy enough to blank out wifeofJosephBMerrill and substitute Jones.

*A Quick Tip from The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 4 Feb 2008. Copyright © 2008. The Generations Network, Inc. Note that the following week Samuel Kraus wrote in to say that he uses the same strategy for Parental Place Holders—e.g., “John’s father” or “John’s mother,” with a question mark for the mother’s maiden name.*

### SEPARATING DOCUMENT PAGES

by Jennie Vertrees

[When working with pages from the original 1880 census of Mercer County, Missouri] I ran into some pages that were so tightly stuck together that I couldn’t get them apart short of tearing them, which I didn’t want to. So I asked the person in charge of these old documents if she knew how to get them apart without damaging them. She took a sheet of acid-free paper and “see-sawed” it gently between the two sheets of the document; they came apart without much effort. She stated that the sheet of paper had to be acid-free or it wouldn’t work. I’ve tried it since then and it has worked every time for me.

*From an article appearing in RootsWeb Review: 9 Jan 2008, Vol. 11, No. 2.*

**OF INTEREST**

**PART OF TENNESSEE BELONGS  
TO GEORGIA?**

Chattanooga is in the wrong state, according to Georgia lawmakers. So is Lookout Mountain.

Lawmakers in Georgia now say that a survey that was done in the early 1800s incorrectly marked the state's border with Tennessee. Now Georgia wants the land back.

The border is supposed to be the 35<sup>th</sup> parallel, but an 1818 survey put it just about a mile south of the correct location. "I think 190 years of uncertainty needs to come to an end. I'm not seeking to move the border, I simply want to have the border accurately surveyed and correctly marked," said Georgia state Rep. David Shafer.

It's no secret that Georgia has had some water woes, and if the border is moved, it will annex a portion of the Tennessee River. "The Tennessee River clearly flows south of the 35<sup>th</sup> parallel and through Georgia," Shafer said.

Lawmakers in Tennessee said they have no intention of allowing parts of Tennessee to become a part of Georgia.

Georgia is serious about the proposal, and all 56 state senators have signed on as sponsors for legislation to move the boundary to the 35<sup>th</sup> parallel. However, any such change would have to be approved by both states' Legislatures as well as by Congress, and Tennessee lawmakers say that is not going to happen.

*Posted on Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 12 Feb 2008 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2008 by Richard W. Eastman.*

**SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS**

<http://www.sog.org.uk>

The Society of Genealogists, in England, is home to a library of family histories, civil registration and census material, and the widest collection of county sources in the country.

The Society just announced they will be partnering with Frontis Ltd. to publish transcribed records, digitized documents, book facsimiles, and more from their library on their own website...

*This news appeared in RootsWeb Review: 6 Feb 2008, Vol. 11, No. 6.*

**FAMILY KNOWLEDGE SURVEY**

A survey conducted for Ancestry.com found the following interesting facts:

- Young Americans are looking to their roots—83% of 18- to 34-year-olds are interested in learning their family history. Following closely are the 35- to 54-year-olds at 77% and Americans ages 55+ at 73%.
- Half of Americans know the name of only one or none of their great-grandparents.
- Twenty-two percent of Americans don't know what either of their grandfathers do or did for a living.
- Although America is known as a nation of immigrants, 27% don't know where their family lived before they came to America.
- Seventy-eight percent of Americans say they are interested in learning more about their family history.
- Fifty percent of American families have ever researched their roots
- In comparing regions, Southerners know the least about their roots. Only 38% know both of their grandmothers' maiden names, compared with 50% of Northeasterners. Also, only 47% of Southerners know what both of their grandfathers do or did for a living, while 55% of Northeasterners know both grandfathers' occupations.

*Source: zOmnibus Survey, MarketTools, February 2007 as reported in FamilyCircle 24/7, 6 Dec 2007. Copyright © 2007, The Generations Network, Inc.*

**ON THE WEB**

**VIRGINIA RESEARCH**

On 14 February Arlene Eakle launched a new blog geared to Virginia research. You can access it at <http://viriniagenealogyblog.com>.

In her announcement of this blog, she commented “if I had my druthers, I would only do family research on Virginia problems—including Kentucky, West Virginia, parts of North Carolina, parts of Pennsylvania, parts of Ohio, parts of Tennessee, all of which were claimed at one time by Virginia, because ‘In the Beginning, All Was Virginia.’

“...Now don’t say to me, ‘I have no Virginia ancestors and no interest in research there.’ Why? Because the strategies, the **new sources** I have discovered are now available, and the research process I use to trace Virginians applies to research in the majority of states and countries. Even Eastern Europe. You will learn a great deal of new stuff that will directly apply to your own ancestry...”

**SCGS VIRTUAL SURNAME WALL**

If you have attended past Southern California Genealogical Society Jamborees, you probably noticed (and may have contributed to) their Surname Wall. It has now been rolled out on the Internet as a Virtual Surname Wall and can be accessed at <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/SurnameWall.htm>.

This database is available to the public free of charge. You can search it for surnames, and you can add your own surnames of interest. To participate:

- add up to 10 family names, with spelling variations;
- include pertinent geographic area; and
- an associated time period.

Your contact information will not be displayed. SCGS will forward a requestor’s contact information to you when it receives an inquiry, or you can authorize SCGS to release either your e-mail address or complete contact information when someone responds to your listing.

**GERMAN SCRIPT TUTORIAL**

<http://script.byu.edu/german>

The Immigrant Ancestors Project at Brigham Young University has developed an excellent tutorial to help with the reading and transcribing of old documents in German. The tutorial has four sections: Getting Started, Handwriting & Typefaces, Extraction Guidelines, and Transcription Tests.

Other such tutorials are in the works for the Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese languages.

**SCAR ORGANIZATION & WEBSITES**

by Nancy Lindroth

SCAR stands for the “Southern Campaign of the American Revolution,” an organization that collects and disseminates published and unpublished information about this aspect of the conflict. If your ancestor fought in the South during the American Revolution, you should visit their website at:

<http://www.southerncampaign.org>.

SCAR publishes a quarterly magazine-type newsletter that includes scholarly articles about battles, leaders, pensions, ongoing research, and maps; letters to the editor; a calendar of events; and so forth. The website also contains helpful links, and you will find transcriptions of over 2,000 Revolutionary War pensions at:

<http://www.southerncampaign.org/pen>.

*From an article appearing in RootsWeb Review: 16 Jan 2008, Vol. 11, No. 3.*

**CYLINDER RECORDING PROJECT**

<http://cylinders.library.ucsb.edu>

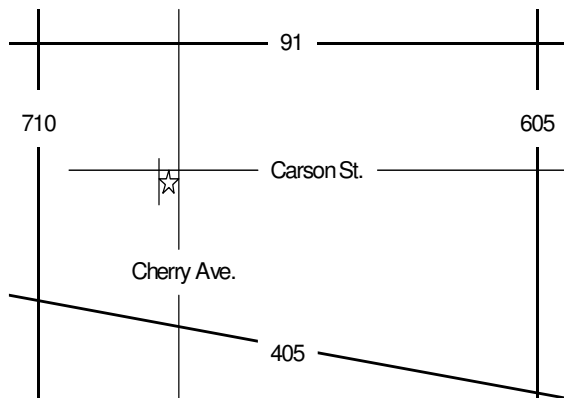
UC Santa Barbara has created a digital collection of nearly 8,000 cylinder recordings. As documents of American cultural history and musical style, cylinders are an audible witness to the sounds and songs through which typical audiences first heard the recorded human voice. Take a listen to some of the songs your ancestors heard around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at the above website.

**CALENDAR**

Saturday, March 8, 1:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting. SCGS Library, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: "Beginning DNA: Genetic Genealogy, What Is It All About?" by Doug Miller.

Sunday, March 9, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting. 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "Surviving the Holocaust!" by Jack Nierob.

Sunday, March 16, 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.



Saturday, April 5, 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 Barbara Renick on "My Links Page and My Web Site and How Those Links and Pages Help Me as a Genealogist."

**NOTE:** The library of the Whittier Area Genealogical Society has been moved to the Bonnie Bell Wardman Library at 13406 Philadelphia on the campus of Whittier College.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Conejo Valley Genealogical Society  
ANNUAL SEMINAR**  
Saturday, May 10, 2008  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
1600 E. Hillcrest Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak presenting: "Reverse Genealogy," "Cases That Made My Brain Hurt," "Find That Obituary," and "Remembering Our Ancestors."

Non-members pre-register before April 21 for \$40 (includes syllabus, box lunch, door prizes).

For information, you can call (805) 379-2067 or e-mail: [cvgs2008seminar@aol.com](mailto:cvgs2008seminar@aol.com)



**39<sup>th</sup> GENEALOGY JAMBOREE**  
Southern California Genealogical Society  
Friday thru Sunday, June 27-29, 2008  
Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel, Burbank

Register online at [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com) or write for an application to SCGS Jamboree, 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, CA 91504-2408.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*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.