

# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 41 ✦ Number 6 ✦ June 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, JUNE 15, 2008**

<b>12:30</b>	<b>Class Period</b>	<b>HELP TABLES:</b> Help Tables will resume in October.
<b>1:15</b>		<b>INTERMEDIATE:</b> "Planning Tips for a Successful Research Trip" presented by Loran Bures
<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: Connie Moretti</b> <b>Researching Your Civil War Ancestors</b>

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

<i>Reports</i>	42
<i>A Genealogical Code of Ethics</i>	43
<i>Questing Heirs News</i>	44
<i>On the Web</i>	45
<i>Of Interest</i>	46
<i>News</i>	47
<i>Calendar</i>	48

## JUNE MEETING

### INTERMEDIATE CLASS

#### Planning Tips for a Successful Research Trip

We regret that our planned speaker from The Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles (JGSLA) became ill and was not able to attend our May meeting. We will try to reschedule this topic in the future.

This month's class focuses on research trips. A research trip can be very rewarding, but it won't happen without preparation. Loran will be presenting practical tips to help you get the most out of your research trips.

#### SPEAKER: CONNIE MORETTI

##### Researching Your Civil War Ancestors

Connie will show you how to research your Civil War ancestors, whether they served under Abraham Lincoln or Jefferson Davis. What can be found in the pension files, not only about your male ancestors but your female ancestors also?

**Connie Moretti**, a third-generation Californian, developed her love for genealogy from a storytelling grandmother who enrolled her in Knott's 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.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Sally DAVIS (562) 429-7803

### MAY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 43                                  Guests: 5

### NEW MEMBER

Doris DRAGAN                                  Individual 9/08

## FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

April Income                                  \$ 97.01  
April Expenses                                \$ 200.04  
Checking Account Balance                \$2,249.21

## REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our May hosts:

Tricia BURES                                  Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT  
Frena DOMINGUEZ                                  Liz MYERS  
Cheryl TARDIF

Our June hosts will be:

Laurie ANGEL    Robert COLLINS  
Linda IVERS    Connie WILLIAMS

**NOTE: Submissions for the July 2008 Newsletter are due by June 22, 2008.**

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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.

## A GENEALOGICAL CODE OF ETHICS

In the course of the very informative panel discussion at our May meeting regarding when you may want to hire a professional genealogist, a Code of Ethics was mentioned. To give you an idea what is meant by this term, I will quote below from a brochure developed by the Board for the Certification of Genealogists that is available on the organization's website at <http://www.bcgcertification.org>.

First, anyone the Board certifies must take the following pledge.

### **The BCG Pledge**

As a practicing genealogist, mindful of my responsibilities to the public, to the genealogical consumer, and to scholarship. I do hereby pledge

- to strive for the highest level of truth and accuracy in all phases of my work;
- to act honorably toward other genealogists and toward the field as a whole;
- to adhere to the Board for Certification of Genealogist's Standards of Conduct;
- and, if engaged in research for others, to act in my client's best interests, and
- to protect my client's privacy, exclusive access, and proprietary rights in the work that has been commissioned.

### **Standards of Conduct**

#### **To protect the public**

- I will not publish or publicize as fact anything I know to be false, doubtful, or unproven; nor will I be a party, directly or indirectly, to such action by others.
- I will identify my sources for all information and cite only those documents I have personally used.
- I will quote documents precisely, avoiding any alterations that I do not clearly identify as editorial interpretations.

- I will present the purpose, practice, scope, and possibilities of genealogical research within a realistic framework.
- I will delineate my abilities, publications, and/or fees in a true and realistic fashion.

#### **To protect the consumer (client or colleague)**

- I will keep confidential any personal or genealogical information given to me, unless I receive written consent to the contrary.
- I will reveal to the consumer any personal or financial interests that might compromise my professional obligations.
- I will undertake paid research commissions only after a clear agreement as to scope and fee.
- I will, to the best of my abilities, address my research to the issue raised by the consumer and report to that question.
- I will seek from the consumer all prior information and documentation related to the research and will not knowingly repeat the work, as billable hours, without explanation as to good cause.
- I will furnish only facts I can substantiate with adequate documentation, and I will not withhold any data necessary for the consumer's purpose.
- If the research question involves analysis of data in order to establish a genealogical relationship or identity, I will report that the conclusions are based on the weight of the available evidence and that absolute proof of genealogical relationships is usually not possible.

*Continued on page 46*

## QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you know what a great job our officers and committees are doing???

Loran Bures is not only handling Programming and Publicity, but he came up with the ideas for our new fundraisers! Your support of them means that we can live within our means and not have to raise the dues.

Sally and Howard Davis are doing a great job of getting the newsletters out. They have even changed out-of-town plans so we can receive program announcements in a timely manner. The Davises also welcome everyone coming in the door to meetings, and right now they are working on preparing a new membership list.

Sandra Hollandsworth, our Secretary, has a hard time writing down everything that's discussed at Board Meetings. Why? Because sometimes we all talk at once! She is real good about getting clarification on what is decided.

David Werts has been our long-suffering Treasurer for many years, and we appreciate the fact that he has not taken the money and run!!

John McCoy, as Past President, put together the May program about using Professionals. His idea of changing from tables to folding chairs was well received, and we will continue with that seating plan. Oh, and John is also our electronics expert.

Linda Artuso is our newsletter editor, and many people have commented to me how much they like our newsletter. She also picks up our mail and accumulates the exchange newsletters.

Rellen Owen has been leading beginners through the basic how-to steps of research. We will miss him at the next couple meetings while he is in Australia.

Tina Yanis is our go-between with the church and also gets refreshments ready for meetings. We appreciate all her efforts—and those of the volunteers who assist with food and cleanup.

Mike Powers has many talents. We benefit from his skills on our website and for designing the logos for our items available from Café Press.

Tina Yanis, Jeanette Jones, Hazele Johnson and I do research free as a community service.

THANK YOU ALL!!!!

*Liz*

### ENROLLMENT IN eScrip

Dave Werts

A new way our members can painlessly contribute to Questing Heirs is by signing up for eScrip. We are now enrolled in this program that, similar to the Ralph's card plan, refunds to our organization a small amount of club members' purchases at various stores.

Many places participate. Below are just a few.

- Macy's
- Pep Boys
- Bristol Farms
- Office Max
- Baja Fresh
- Claim Jumper
- Coco's
- Pick Up Stix

I was surprised at the number of restaurants in our area that participate.

To register, go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "sign up." You will need to indicate that the Organization is Questing Heirs Genealogical Society. Our Group ID is 500017998. I think either will do; you probably don't need both to sign up.

Once you are at "sign up," just follow the directions. I didn't have any of the store credit cards; so, I just bypassed that page and went on to the next, where I registered two credit cards. It only takes a few minutes.

They say this is a secure system; so, you don't have to worry about your credit card number being stolen. And you don't have to remember what places honor eScrip; just use your card and we will get our portion.

## ON THE WEB

### UNDERSTANDING DNA RESULTS

If you've been tested and received the results of your Y-chromosome or mitochondrial DNA test, you may have some questions about what they actually mean. A 28-page eBook titled "I Have the Results of My Genetic Genealogy Test, Now What?" can help answer your questions. It was written by Dr. Blaine Bettinger, who calls himself the "Genetic Genealogist," and you can read or print it for free at his website:

<http://www.thegeneticgenealogist.com>.

### 50 MOST POPULAR GENEALOGY WEBSITES FOR 2008

Kory L. Meyerink, MLS, AS, FUGA, of Pro-Genealogists, Inc., has published his list of the most popular websites for genealogical searching for this year. If there are any on his list that you haven't visited, why not take a look at them and see what you can find. The list is at <http://www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2008.htm>.

### 400 YEARS OF SURREY WILLS

The Surrey Will Abstracts are among the most valuable research sources for the county of Surrey, and for family and social history generally. Dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, these fully indexed abstracts of all 28,000 wills proved in the Archdeaconry and Commissary Courts of Surrey (and known still to exist) are now available online exclusively on British Origins [at <http://www.britishorigins.com>].

They provide a more detailed picture of how our ancestors lived than almost any other genealogical resource. They come from a cross section of society, most testators being people of relatively modest means—artisans, small farmers, tradesmen. Many contain rich details of the testator's property and the value placed upon it—clothes, furniture, tools, land. Even if you don't find any of your own forebears in these records, by searching on date and occupation, you may find people living at the same times and in similar conditions to your ancestors.

The Surrey Will Abstracts provide one of the best sources of any kind for identifying family members. The average will contains the names of ten people and often many more, most of whom are related.

The abstracts include all personal names (testator, beneficiaries, executors, witnesses, overseers and others) with their relationships, place names, occupations, monetary and other bequests, and descriptions of lands. The indexes include the name of every person mentioned—over a quarter of a million people. Searches can be made on name and date or by using the "free text" search facility to look for any word in the abstracts.

*The above announcement from Origins.net was reprinted in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 14 May 2008. The newsletter is copyright by Richard W. Eastman and is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*

### PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGISTS

As requested of the panel at our May meeting, here are the internet addresses of three organizations that can help you find a professional genealogist.

- Association of Professional Genealogists at [www.apgen.org](http://www.apgen.org).
- Board for Certification of Genealogists at [www.bcgcertification.org](http://www.bcgcertification.org).
- International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists [ICAPGen] at [www.ICAPGen.org](http://www.ICAPGen.org).

The Board for Certification of Genealogists has been discussed elsewhere in this newsletter. The Association of Professional Genealogists also has additional links and helpful information on their "Publications and Resources" page. While these organizations are based in the U.S., they have members around the world.

A few extra copies of the panel's handout will be available at the June meeting if you missed the discussion in May.

**OF INTEREST**

**WE LIVE LONGER THAN OUR ANCESTORS**

Life expectancy in the United States has increased to almost 78 years, the country's highest on record, amid a downturn in deaths from heart disease, cancer, and stroke, according to new federal estimates.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics said in a report that a child born in the United States in 2005 can expect to live 77.9 years, up from 77.8 in 2004 and continuing a rise dating back decades. U.S. life expectancy was 75.8 years in 1995 and 69.6 years in 1955.

While the numbers are better than they used to be, the United States sadly doesn't take as good care of its citizens as most other industrialized nations. The citizens of 41 other countries live longer than do U.S. citizens. The U.S. infant mortality rate is also higher than many other rich nations.

*The above article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 18 Sep 2007 and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.*



*Continued from page 43*

- If I cannot resolve a research problem within the limitations of time or budget established by contract, I will explain the reasons why.
- If other feasible avenues are available, I will suggest them; but I will not misrepresent the possibilities of additional research.
- I will return any advance payment that exceeds the hours and expenses incurred.
- I will not publish or circulate research or reports to which the consumer has a

proprietary right, without prior written consent of the consumer; I will observe these rights, whether my report was made directly to the consumer or to an employer or agent.

**To protect the profession**

- I will act, speak, and write in a manner I believe to be in the best interests of the profession and scholarship of genealogy.
- I will participate in exposing genealogical fraud; but I will not otherwise knowingly injure, or attempt to injure, the reputation, prospects, or practice of another genealogist.
- I will not attempt to supplant another genealogist already employed by a client or agency. I will substitute for another researcher only with specific written consent of and instructions provided by the client or agency.
- I will not represent as my own the work of another. This includes works that are copyrighted, in the public domain, or unpublished. This pledge includes reports, lecture materials, audio/visual tapes, compiled records, and authored essays.
- I will not reproduce for public dissemination, in an oral or written fashion, the work of another genealogist, writer, or lecturer, without that person's written consent. In citing another's work, I will give proper credit.

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*The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual* is also available for purchase at their website. It contains helpful information on Research Standards and sample reports. Even though we may be doing our own research, we still want to produce reliable and well documented results.

*The Editor*

## NEWS

### CIS RECORDS

Two years ago the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (CIS), formerly called the INS, proposed rules to establish a fee-for-service genealogy program. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on May 15, 2008. You may view/download the final rule at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-10651.pdf>. The final rule goes into effect on August 13, 2008.

The reason for the rule was to streamline and improve the process for acquiring genealogically relevant historical records of deceased individuals. Due to the demand for documents which created a backlog, requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) took months if not years to complete.

As a result of the comments made to the proposed rule the amount per index or record/file request (from a microfilm) will be \$20 and \$35 for a textual record. The original proposal was a range of \$16-\$45 for an index search and \$16 to \$45 for a record/file microfilm request and \$26 to \$55 for a copy of a textual document.

The reason the USCIS must charge for the documents and any search for the records is due to other regulations by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB rule form 1993) all government offices are required that user fees recover the full cost of services provided. USCIS is also mandated to charge a fee to recover the full costs of providing research and information due to the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The types of historical records available under the new program are:

- Naturalization certificate files (C-files) from September 27, 1906-April 1, 1956 (from all federal, state, municipal courts and more);
- Microfilmed alien registration forms from August 1, 1940 to March 31, 1944;

- Visa files from July 1, 1924 to March 31, 1944;
- Registry files from March 2, 1929 to March 31, 1944;
- Alien files numbered below 8 million and dated prior to May 1, 1951.

More information on each of these is contained in the final rule.

To request records under this new program, a special form must be used: Form G-1041 for index or Form G-1041A for records request. I did not find the new forms posted as yet to the USCIS website. Once the program begins, requests may be submitted electronically on the electronic forms through its site <http://www.USCIS.gov>. When requests are made online then payment form used MUST be a credit card.

Information that must be contained on the form is included in the new rule. When submitting a written request, the only form of payment accepted is a cashier's check or money order in the exact amount. As genealogical request information may only be obtained on deceased individuals, the subject is presumed dead if their birth date is over 100 years old. For those less than 100 information (primary or secondary document—such as death record, published obituary, etc.) must be provided to the satisfaction of the USCIS that the individual is indeed deceased.

Jan Meisels Allen  
Director, IAJGS and  
Chairperson, Public Records  
Access Monitoring Committee

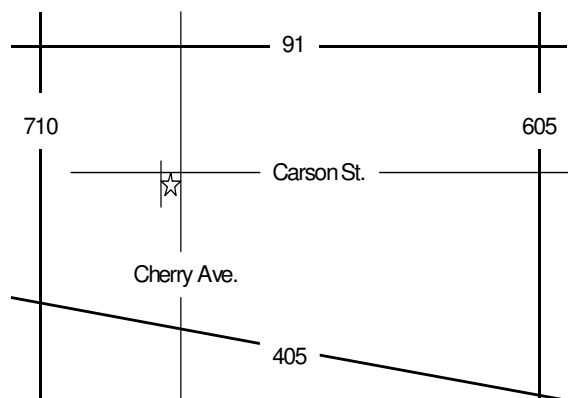
*Submitted by Liz Myers with Mr. Allen's permission.*

*Those who do not look upon themselves as a link, connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world.*

Daniel Webster

**CALENDAR**

Sunday, June 15, 1:15–3:30 p.m. **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 42.



Wednesday, June 18, 7:00 p.m. **Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California** monthly meeting. Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Highway & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: “Finding Towns for Our Immigrants” by Natasha Crain.

Wednesday, June 18, 7:00 p.m. **South Bay Cities Genealogical Society** monthly meeting. Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: “Dating Old Furniture” by Ben Dunk.

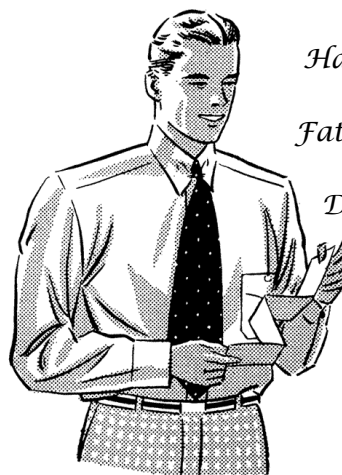
Sunday, June 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **British Isles Family History Society-USA** monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Regional FHC.\* Program: “Learning to Know Our Ancestors Through Their Handwriting” by Sheila Lowe.

Saturday, July 5, 11:00 a.m. **Orange County, California, Genealogical Society** monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): “Intro to New Premium Websites” by Alan Jones.

**NOTICE**

The British Isles Family History Society annual seminar that was to be held on Thursday through Saturday, August 7-9, 2008, on the Queen Mary in Long Beach has been canceled due to a slower than expected registration rate.

However, one of the speakers, Michael Gandy from England, has agreed to come and will present several talks on Saturday, August 9. Details will be forthcoming later, according to BIFHS’s President, Ivan C. Johnson. The event will be open to the public, with a minimum suggested donation to help defray the costs of this event.



*Happy  
Father’s  
Day*

\*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.