

The Questers Quick-Guide of Information

- ❖ **The Questers was founded in 1944 by Jessie Elizabeth Bardens**, of Fort Washington, PA. 1st meeting April 6, 1944, and 14 people were to bring a sandwich and an antique. An antique blue syrup jug was the initial item to pique the curiosity of others. Jessie had a collection of tea caddies that is now at Headquarters.
- ❖ In March of 1950, Mrs. Bardens organized six chapters into a national organization and in 1953 incorporated it under the laws of the Commonwealth of PA, as a no-profit corporation. She served as the first National President from 1950-1956.
- ❖ Jessie Elizabeth Bardens died in 1963.
- ❖ **Jessie Elizabeth Bardens quotes:** Jessie's answer to the question of "What is a Quester", her reply: "A Quester is a socially well-adjusted intelligent person who has curiosity, enthusiasm, imagination and a good memory. For the powers of the mind are memory and imagination, for without memory we have no past, without imagination, no future." Also, "A Quester spends time constructively, does research about the history of antiques and collects knowledge. Sooner or later the 'Bug Bites' and they have acquired a hobby and are a collector."
- ❖ **The Questers is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.**
- ❖ **Headquarters** is in a Federal Period 3-story brick building at 210 South Quince Street, in Philadelphia, PA 19107. Built in 1802, it has been certified by the Philadelphia Historical Commission as *Historically Significant to the Area*. The Questers purchased it in 1967.
- ❖ **In 1991, The Questers became an International Organization with chapters in USA and Canada.**
- ❖ **Purposes** of The Questers Organization shall be to educate by research and study of antiques; to promote education in the fields of historical preservation and restoration; to donate funds for the preservation and restoration of artifacts, existing memorials, historical buildings, and landmarks; and to support THE QUESTERS international funds with respect to their tax-exempt activities.
- ❖ **There are 41 states and 2 Provinces with The Questers chapters:** 21 chartered – 22 unchartered
- ❖ **Non-Quester states:** Alabama, Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont.
- ❖ **There are 2 Canadian provinces with chapters:** 1 chartered province, Ontario - 1 unchartered, Alberta
- ❖ **Non-Quester provinces:** British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.
- ❖ **Membership** fluctuates continually, but there are approximately 9,500 members.
- ❖ **Chapter totals** fluctuate, but presently is just over 630 chapters.
- ❖ **Eight people** are required to charter a chapter. A chapter does not lose its charter if membership falls below eight.
- ❖ **10 chapters or 150 members** are needed before a state or province can become **chartered** but it can stay chartered with less. States and Provinces with fewer numbers remain **unchartered** until the minimum numbers are reached.
- ❖ **What's In A Name?** is a story chosen by each chapter from an historic item, person, site or happening which explains the name of the chapter. As an example, here is the story for **Road Runners #1512**, in Arizona: *"The Road Runner is a bird that is native to the Sonoran Desert of the southwest. It is the largest member of the Cuckoo family and is a very fast runner and a good hunter. Road Runners seem to be relatively unafraid of humans and have a reputation for being fearless. We chose this bird as our mascot because it is fast and fearless and we will be the same in pursuing our goals.*
- ❖ **Active Members each pay International dues** of \$28.00 which go to:
 - The International Preservation and Restoration Grant Fund
 - *The Quester Quarterly* newsletter - published 4 times a year

- A per capita allotment of \$7 returned to the Chartered States and Province
- International's Operational Fund and General administrative expenses
- ❖ **Officers:** States/Provinces and International Board are elected for two-year terms. Chapters' officers typically serve a two-year term. All members are encouraged to serve as an officer. Our officers are the true backbone of this organization.
- ❖ **Meetings:**
 - **Chapter Meetings** are usually held once a month, September through May. However, chapters may choose the months, days and time to meet.
 - **State and Provincial Council meetings** are held annually or twice a year in the fall and spring.
 - **International Council meetings** are held annually during the International Convention.
- ❖ **International Conventions** are held annually in the spring with chartered states and provinces taking turns hosting the 3-day convention. The host state or province showcases their region, cultures, historic sites and antiquities.
- ❖ **Preservation & Restoration Grants** are awarded for chapter P&R projects at International Convention in the even years. \$2.50 of the members' annual dues funds the P&R Grants Fund, along with individual donations, honorariums and memorials.
- ❖ **Scholarship and Fellowship:** Voluntary donations provide a two-year scholarship totaling \$34,000.00 for a student accepted into Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation program, and a three-year Fellowship totaling \$40,000.00 to a graduate student accepted into University of Delaware/Winterthur Master of Science Degree Program in Art Conservation. The Columbia Scholarship began in 1973 and the Fellowship in 1997.
- ❖ **Study Papers** are done by the members and are sent in to headquarters. They are reviewed by the Int'l Second Vice President. Some receive a commendation. These papers can be ordered by Quester members from Headquarters for a fee. All Commended Study papers are on our website and can be downloaded for free under Membership Tab, Resources.
- ❖ **Annual Founder's Award** given in memory of Jessie Elizabeth Bardens is the highest honor for research conferred on Questers by fellow members. At the current Convention, the Founder's Award topic for the upcoming year is recommended by the state/province hosting that convention and the Int'l Executive Board (IEB) approves the topic. The Founder's Award winner for that year is announced at the Annual Luncheon as well as the new topic for the upcoming year. The Founder's Award was started in 1962.
- ❖ **Motto:** *"It's Fun To Search, and a Joy To Find"*
- ❖ **Web Site:** www.questers1944.org Use as resource under Membership tab and State/Prov tab, Password protected and Password is founders last name with a Capital B. Look for her name on Home page. For inquiries use the CONTACT webmail. **State/Provincial Web Sites** are linked to the web address above. State/Provincial Newsletters are also on the website.
- ❖ **Facebook:** Become a "friend" to experience an open forum where Questers members can interact to exchange ideas and information in a social networking setting about what their chapters and states are doing. Search for The Questers Facebook page under Groups to request to become a Friend.
- ❖ **Headquarters address:** The Questers, 210 South Quince St., Philadelphia 19107-5534
- ❖ **Office Administrator:** JoAnn Longo
- ❖ **E-mail address:** questers210@questers1944.org
- ❖ **Phone number:** 215-923-5183