

QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 41 + Number 12 + December 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, DECEMBER 21, 2008



Start Christmas week with your friends at Questing Heirs by sharing a delicious meal, learning about their favorite traditions, and seeing the newly elected officers installed.

(Details on page 90.)



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DECEMBER MEETING

TRANSLATION TROUBLES?

John McCoy will be available approximately a half hour before meetings for hands-on consultation about reading and transcribing old documents. The best way to improve your skills is to look at as many documents as possible. Bring any documents that you need to work on, in any language.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION!

Join us to celebrate another great year of genealogy and fellowship at our annual holiday party on Sunday, December 21. By then, the shopping malls will be frightful: what better reason to spend the afternoon with good friends? We will provide a big ham, roast, or turkey; the rest is up to you! Is there a special dish that your family enjoys for festive occasions? Is there something that was missing last year? See below for our recommendations on what to bring.

Does your family have a traditional way to celebrate the holidays? Do you have a cherished memory of how your grandparents celebrated holidays or family events? Bring your stories and pictures to share. If you have pictures in digital format, you can bring them on a CD or on a thumb drive. We will also have a slide show and music—and the new officers will be installed.

John McCoy

REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our November hosts:

Sally DAVIS Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT
Cheryl TARDIF Connie WILLIAMS

Our December hosts will be: YOU!

As John said, if you have a special dish you'd like to prepare, feel free to bring it. Otherwise, please follow the suggested surname scheme below.

A-F = Dessert G-L = Salad
M-R = Hot Dish (spuds, veggies, casserole)
S-Z = Salad

NOTE: Submissions for the January 2009 Newsletter are due by December 28, 2008.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Sally DAVIS (562) 429-7803

NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 34 Guests: 2

RENEWALS

Howard DAVIS		9/09
Sally DAVIS	Family	9/09
Yvonne FOSTER	Newsletter	9/09
Maryemma HARGRAVE	Individual	9/09
Douglas JORDAN	Individual	9/09
Dagmar MUTHAMIA	Individual	9/09
Nancy PERALTA	Individual	9/09
Thomas SANFORD	Individual	9/09
Mary Ellen SMITH	Individual	9/09

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

October Income	\$ 342.01
October Expenses	\$ 844.22
Operations Balance	\$2,427.32

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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.

CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE

Your DNA Autobiography – Part 2 Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD

DNA is the same way. Occasionally a typo or a mutation gets past the genetic spell-checker, resulting in a mutation that is not repaired. If the cell that carries the mutation is a sperm or an egg cell, and the sperm or egg cell is involved in fertilization, and the fertilized egg results in a child, the child will have that mutation. Once the mutation is present, the mistake will be copied as if it were part of the original genome; and the mutation will be carried forward by future generations of the family.

The greater the number of copies that are made of a manuscript, the higher the probability that errors will occur. Likewise, the greater the number of generations that pass in a family, the more likely mutations will occur in the family's genome.

In the reverse sense, noticing a mutation in a certain family line can give you an idea of how many generations had to pass for it to appear. This provides an estimate of how long ago the person with the mutation shared a common ancestor with other family members who do not have the mutation. This is the key to genetic genealogy, since genealogists have to start with information they have about their family in the present and work backwards to deduce information about their family in the past.

This is similar to the method scholars use to compare old manuscripts. To assess how many original versions of a manuscript existed, they don't compare text; they compare typos. Each time a scribe copied a manuscript, he added his characteristic mistakes to the text. The next scribe copied these mistakes not knowing they were errors, adding his own typos to the text, and so on down the manuscript generations.

Manuscripts that share the same copy errors came from the same original version. If two manuscripts are almost identical, probably not many generations have passed since their common manuscript ancestor. If two manuscripts are somewhat the same, but have several differences, they probably had a common ancestor in the more distant past. If two manuscripts have a large number of differences, they probably do not have a common manuscript ancestor.

Likewise, in genetic genealogy, if two people have the same DNA profile (called haplotype), they likely share a common ancestor in the recent past. If two people are close, but not exact matches, they probably share a common ancestor in the more remote past. If two people have many differences, they do not share a common ancestor, at least in a genealogical sense.

In this way, mutations are useful in sorting out which people with the same surname are related, and can provide an estimate of how long ago their common ancestor was around. Occasionally, genetic genealogy reveals a so-called non-paternity event, where two family members are not genetically related due to an adoption, a name change, or an illegitimacy. Even so, when combined with geographical and historical information, genetic genealogy can lead you down exciting new paths in your search for your family story.

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QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

DUES ARE DUE!

Our membership year starts each September; so, for those of you haven't done so yet, please consider renewing now. You can pay your annual dues at our next meeting, or you can complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail your check to the QH post office box. If you have any questions, you can contact Sally Davis at (562) 429-7803.

NEW OFFICERS

At our November meeting, the following members were unanimously elected to fill positions on the Board:

- ❖ President – Liz Myers
- ❖ First Vice President – Loran Bures
- ❖ Second Vice President – John McCoy
- ❖ Director at Large – Suzanne Boyles

These individuals will be officially installed at our December meeting and will assume their duties on January 1. Thanks to each of them for their willingness to serve our organization.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays to all our members and friends. Well, a great year is wrapping up for Questing Heirs. We have some new people in new responsibilities. Help them all you can. And us 'old-timers' need your support as well.

We have a couple surprises for next year; so, don't miss anything. I won't be able to attend the January meeting because I get to go to Salt Lake City to celebrate my 65th birthday. Now I finally do feel retired and want to do as much research as I can!

See you soon!

Liz



RALPHS SECURE SITE

If you have not yet registered your Ralphs rewards card online, these are the instructions for doing so.

- 1) Log in to www.ralphs.com.
- 2) Click on Sign In/Register.
- 3) Click on New Customer? Sign up today!
- 4) Enter your zip code and click on 'find'.
- 5) Click 'Select' next to the store you primarily shop at.
- 6) Enter account information:
 - a. Your email address
 - b. Your password (Please note the rules next to this field.)
 - c. Confirm your password.
- 7) Subscribe or unsubscribe to email subscription by leaving the check marks or removing them.
- 8) Click Confirm.
- 9) Click on agree to Terms and Conditions.
- 10) Click on 'Confirm'.
- 11) Click on Edit Community Contribution Program Information.
- 12) Enter the card number as shown on your Ralphs rewards card.
- 13) Click on 'Save Changes'.
- 14) Confirm or enter any corrections and click on 'Save Changes'.
- 15) Type in just a part of your organization's name or key in your 5 digit NPO number, and click 'Search'.
- 16) In the 'Select Your Organization Section', click on the bubble next to your organization's name.
- 17) Click on 'Save Changes'.
- 18) Your organization selection will appear on the right side of this page.
- 19) You have now completed your Online rewards card registration AND your Community Contributions registration.
- 20) Click on 'Logout' at the top of the page.

ON THE WEB

Online Genealogy Dictionaries and Lists

I have been collecting URLs (Web addresses) of various online dictionaries and lists that are useful to genealogists. These are useful when trying to decode foreign or obsolete words often found in genealogy work. Here are a few of my favorites:

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy: <http://www.eogen.com> (Disclaimer: This is a site that I created but the data has been created by many different people. In fact, you can also add data to the Encyclopedia of Genealogy.)

Abbreviations Found in Genealogy: FamilySearch has an extensive list at [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Abbreviations Found in Genealogy Records](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Abbreviations_Found_in_Genealogy_Records). Other lists may be found at : <http://www.rootsweb.com/~rigenweb/abbrev.html> and <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sam/abbr.html> and <http://www.genealogy.com/Glossary/glossary.html> and <http://www.geisheimer.org/info/gene/abbr.htm>

A List of Occupations, many of which are archaic. You can discover what your ancestor really did at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dav4is/Sources/Occupations.html> (with emphasis on England and its 16th and 17th century colonies) and <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~rigenweb/ocupaton.html> and <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~genepool/jobs.htm> and <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiashlan/occupations.html> and <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/occupations.shtml>

“Cousinship” - What is a second cousin twice removed? This and other cousin relationships are explained at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/02/what-is-second.html

Cyndi's List of Medical Terms: <http://www.cyndislist.com/medical.htm>

Archaic Medical Terms, Diseases and Causes of Death:

<http://www.antiquusmorbus.com/Index.htm> and <http://rmhh.co.uk/illness.html> and the MedTerms Dictionary with both modern and obsolete terminology at <http://www.medterms.com/script/main/hp.asp> and <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~billinh/disease.htm> and <http://cancerweb.ncl.ac.uk/omd/> and <http://www.neonatology.org/classics/old.terms.html> and <http://www.genealogy-quest.com/glossaries/diseases1.html>

Glossar: Die Familie: An annotated English-German glossary of terms frequently found in genealogy research: <http://german.about.com/homework/german/library/blfamilie.htm>

Meanings and origins of first names - an etymology (the origin of words) and list of the most popular names: <http://www.behindthename.com>

Old handwriting in genealogy research (with images of handwriting samples): <http://www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>

Old Style Abbreviations - Proper Names (with images of handwriting samples): <http://www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/x-prop.html>

Continued on page 95

METHODS

BACK TO BASICS

This article is intended for our new members who are just beginning to search for their ancestors and don't quite know where to start.

Start at Home

The first place to start is in your own home, and perhaps in those of your immediate relatives. Look in attics, garages, closets, etc., for items that may have been left by your parents or grandparents. They might include:

- Bibles
- Diaries
- Letters
- Photographs
- Newspaper clippings
- Insurance papers
- Social Security papers
- Employment records



List Your Finds

When you come across an item that provides a bit of information about one of your predecessors, assign it a number. The order in which you list them doesn't matter. You will want to start a Research Log to keep track of your finds—listing the item number, the date, a brief description of the item, where it's located, and any necessary remarks.

Store Your Finds

Some researchers file their data in file folders, others in notebooks, and others scan them into

computer files. They can be organized by surname and then broken down into families as your research progresses. If a document contains information about more than one person, you can photocopy it and place a copy in each person's file. If it is an object, such as a trophy, indicate where it is now kept in your Research Log.

Record Genealogical Data

The two basic forms you need to record the facts you find are:

- A Pedigree Chart and
- A supply of Family Group Sheets.

On the Pedigree Chart, put yourself in the first position and fill in the applicable information, then do the same for your parents (positions 2 and 3), then your grandparents (positions 4, 5, 6, and 7), and so on. One chart leads to the next as you extend your lines back in time.

You will need to create a Family Group Sheet for each of the couples on your Pedigree Chart, entering the information for the husband and wife of that marriage and all their children.

Be sure to document each "fact" you fill in on your forms so you will know where you got that data. (For more about that topic, see "Why Cite Your Sources?" in the September 2008 issue of the QH Newsletter.) In the beginning the data you fill in may be based on your personal knowledge, what your parents have told you, or what you've learned from aunts, uncles, cousins, and others; but you will want to back it up with hard evidence in the form of birth/marriage/death certificates.

You can freely download a variety of the forms mentioned above by Googling the phrase "Genealogy Forms," or ask Linda Artuso or Liz Myers for samples at a future meeting.

The Editor

OF INTEREST

Continued from page 93

Abbreviations on Gravestones: http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/grave_symbols.shtml

Military Abbreviations Found on U.S. Grave Markers:
http://genealogy.about.com/od/military_records/a/abbreviations.htm

Cemetery Junction Directory - A directory of more than 20,000 cemeteries, arranged by state. Search by cemetery and family name. Links to obituaries and genealogical societies in the U.S, Australia, and Canada: <http://daddezio.com/cemetery>

Where to Write for Vital Records - Addresses and guidelines for contacting each U.S. state or territory for vital records and documents: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/howto/w2w/w2welcom.htm>

There are many, many more such lists online. You should be able to find them with any search engine. However, the above is a list of the ones I keep handy.

This article was posted by Dick Eastman in his Online Genealogy Newsletter of 17 Nov 2008 that can be found at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright 2008 by Richard W. Eastman.

CANADIAN RESEARCH

Several projects have been announced recently that will aid those researching Canadian ancestors.

In September Ancestry.ca added a new database of "Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935," a collection that includes about 7.2 million names. This database contains passenger lists of ships arriving in various Canadian ports, as well as a few eastern U.S. ports, during that time period. Information listed in these records includes: name of passenger, age, gender, marital status, birth country, nationality, occupation, and religious affiliation.

During November Library and Archives Canada (LAC) announced the launch of "Immigrants to Canada," a database containing immigration records held at LAC. Many relate to immigrants from the British Isles arriving in Quebec and Ontario, as well as settlers in other provinces. Researchers can access references to lists of immigrants and other types of records that were created before 1865. You can reach this new database from LAC's home page at:

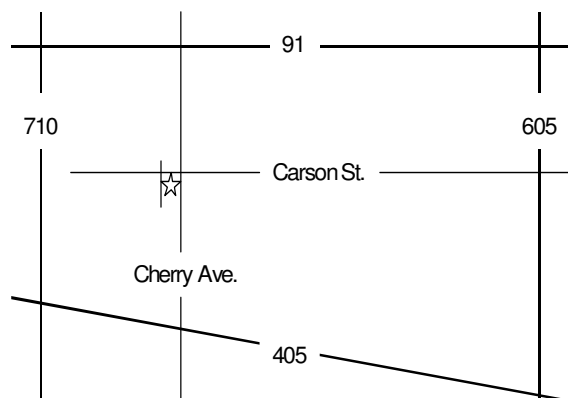
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca.

LAC has also announced that it will partner with Ancestry.ca, which will allow the two organizations to provide unprecedented online access to the most comprehensive collection of Canadian historical records available. Ancestry.ca will digitize and index microfilm and original records held by LAC and make these available to Ancestry.ca members. All of the digitized records will eventually be available free of charge to users of the LAC website.

Ancestry.ca has also announced a new partnership with FamilySearch to digitize and index existing Canadian censuses. FamilySearch will digitize and index Canadian census records that Ancestry.ca has acquired. These images will then be available to Ancestry.ca members on its website, and in time they will also be available to the public at FamilySearch.org—free to qualified FamilySearch members and at all Family History Centers. FamilySearch will provide images and indexes to Ancestry.ca for the 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1916 censuses to launch online in 2009, and Ancestry.ca will provide images and indexes to FamilySearch for the 1851, 1891, 1901 and 1906 censuses.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 21, 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 90.



Saturday, January 3, 2009, 11:00 a.m. **Orange County, California, Genealogical Society** monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): “US Military Uniforms & Records” by Chris Hansen.



**HEMET-SAN JACINTO GEN. SOC.
SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP**

Saturday, February 21, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Hemet Public Library (Upper Floor)
300 E. Latham Ave., Hemet

Jana Sloan Broglin will speak on the following topics:

- Hot Off the Press (old newspapers)
- The Keys to the Courthouse
- Hooker’s Crooks & Kooks (Black Sheep in the Family—in Costume)
- Land Records of the Old Northwest Territory

The pre-registration price (postmarked by 16 February) is \$25, with a catered lunch available for \$8. For more information and a registration form, you can go to <http://www.hsjgs.org>.



**GEN. SOC. OF NORTH ORANGE CO.
2009 FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR**

Saturday, March 14, 2009
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Brea United Methodist Church
480 N. State College Blvd., Brea

Stephen Morse, Ph.D., creator of the One-Step website, will speak on the following topics:

- One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools
- One-Step Webpages: A Hodgepodge of Lesser Known Gems
- From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask
- Playing Hide and Seek in the US Census

Pre-registration (by 6 March) for non-members is \$30, box lunch available for \$9. For more information, call (714) 777-2379 or visit their website at www.gsnocc.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.