



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 42 ✦ Number 7 ✦ July 2009

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, JULY 19, 2009

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Questing Heirs' Fortieth
Anniversary Celebration**

2:00 Break Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments

2:15 Business

**2:30 General SPEAKER: Jean Wilcox Hibben
Meeting This is not Your Grandma's Genealogy**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: "On the Web" with Mike Powers

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JULY MEETING

PROGRAM:

This is not Your Grandma's Genealogy: Making the Move from Paper to Electronic Record Keeping

The computer age can be intimidating to those who have been keeping their genealogical records on paper. This presentation gives some tips to those who have not yet been convinced that modern technology has a viable place in the field of family history. The topics cover the advantages and disadvantages of computer over paper but do not detail all the "hows" of operating a computer. Discussion includes the basic value and use of many forms of technology, including printers, scanners, PDAs, and more.

SPEAKER:

JEAN WILCOX HIBBEN—PhD, MA, CG

A Board Certified genealogist, Jean Wilcox Hibben has been involved in family research for over 30 years. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, various societies in the areas where she does research, the Association of Professional Genealogists (serving as president of the Southern California Chapter), and the Corona Genealogical Society (where she serves as president). She is also the Membership and Meeting Coordinator for the Riverside Folk Song Society.

A native of the Chicago suburbs, Jean moved to Southern California in 1973 and obtained her bachelors and masters degrees in Speech Communication. After teaching for 13 years in the field, she left academia to pursue her passions of family history and folklore, and now holds a doctorate in the latter. As a national speaker in both areas, Jean is known for her entertaining, as well as informative, presentations. She is a monthly contributor to the on-line magazine, *GenWeekly*, and a frequent writer for other genealogy publications.

More about Jean, her presentations, CDs, projects, etc., can be found at her website: www.circlemending.org.

REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our June hosts:

Tricia BURES Robert COLLINS
Linda IVERS George & Polly JOHNSON

Our July hosts will be:

Laurie ANGEL Charlotte LLEWELLYN
Penny NUGENT Jeannie SUKOW
Cheryl TARDIF

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

JUNE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 31 Guests: 4

NEW MEMBERS

Alicia ALLGOOD Newsletter 9/09
Sandy BARRUS Individual 9/09

RENEWAL

Norma GRADY Individual 9/09

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

May Income	\$ 264.79
May Expenses	\$ 372.44
Operating Budget Balance	\$2,798.93
Priscilla Nielsen Gift:	\$5,000.00
Betty Marr Gift, balance	\$25,979.63

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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.



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IT TAKES DETAILS TO BRING YOUR ANCESTORS TO LIFE
by Sharon Tate Moody, CG

People new to genealogy often are surprised to learn they can't "do their family history" on the Internet in a weekend. In fact, those of us who have been working on our families for 30 or 40 years know it might take more than one lifetime to get it all done.

The main reason it takes so long is that the records we need to prove activities and relationships were never created or have been destroyed.

The government didn't always require birth and death certificates. Doctors and midwives delivered children in the mother's home without creating any legal record of the event.

When a family member died, often the women washed the body and laid it out on a table for neighbors to pay their respects. Then they buried the deceased on the family farm, perhaps with a piece of wood to mark the spot. No death certificate and a rotted grave marker equal no records.

Marriage records were created with regularity, but most researchers aren't surprised when they can't find one for an ancestor. Even when documents were created, they disappeared in courthouse fires or were tossed when the clerk ran out of room for new ones.

Despite the obstacles, most of us manage to piece together the born, married, died and begats of our ancestors.

There's a real reason, though, that I'll probably never get all my ancestors tracked down. I get sidetracked by the ancestors themselves and become obsessed with learning about what life was like for them.

I'm not satisfied to learn the Civil War battles where each of my ancestors fought. I get bogged down in the details: What was the weather like? What did they do between battles? What did they eat? The questions never stop and the genealogical research halts while I explore social and cultural atmospheres, geography, and countless other fascinating aspects of my ancestors' lives.

I found a newspaper article written in 1900. The paper's editor interviewed who he identified as the heads of the first five families to settle in the area more than a half-century earlier. Among them was my ancestor.

If you take the romantic view, you might see him as a leading citizen, riding around town in a fine carriage and going home to a fancy house.

I went to read diaries, newspapers, history books, court records: anything that might give me insight into the everyday life of my 1840s north Georgia ancestor.

I learned the fancy house probably was a one-room log cabin with a dirt floor and no windows.

Residents of great-great-Grandpa's little community took an entire day to walk to town and another to walk home. They ate what they killed or grew from the rocky ground.

Even if I could find all the relevant official records digitized on the Internet, would that be enough? No! Conducting genealogical research isn't just getting the dates and places and full names for vital events; it's about the quest and the thrill of "the find."

I want to walk the fields my ancestors plowed (assuming they haven't been paved). I want to spend time sitting under a tree at the end of a battlefield where my ancestor fought and perhaps died. I want to spend time at the cemetery, taking a moment to appreciate the lives of those who put loved ones in the ground there.

I swear I am not a romantic about this. Learning about reality is much more powerful and moving. So take my advice, don't get wrapped up in how many names you collect for your database. Take the time to make some real discoveries: the awe and appreciation for lives that led to you.

The author is a correspondent for the Tampa Bay [FL] Tribune, and this article appeared in Tampa Bay Online (www.tbo.com) on 24 May 2009.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Can you believe that 40 years ago a small group of people gathered to share their Southern States research? And now here is *Questing Heirs* in 2009! We are planning a special celebration at the July meeting, and you are cordially invited to join us! We have a special program planned and a couple of surprises.

As announced at our June meeting, we have some new officers. Suzanne Boyles is taking over as 1st Vice President and Terry Hamilton as 2nd Vice President. Penny Nugent has volunteered to Chair the Publicity and Public Relations Committee, and we’re looking for another volunteer to help her with that job. One position remains VACANT: Library Liaison. We really need someone to coordinate between our society and the Long Beach Public Library. Please contact me if you think you could help out in this position.

Saturday, June 27, I taught a beginners class at Ruth Bach Library. We had a nice group of people who were interested in looking up their family trees, and we hope to see some of them at our next meeting!

The next day *Questing Heirs* exhibited at the Restoration Fair held at Burbank School. Suzanne Boyles and her teacher-daughter made up a great poster. We had a door prize drawing for some beginner genealogy books, and we gave away genealogy magazines. Mike Powers and John McCoy designed bookmarks to hand out. (You’ll see them at our July meeting.) The people who entered the drawing will also be receiving a few complimentary copies of our newsletter.

We heard, “I didn’t know that Long Beach had a genealogy society.” So I think we should participate in more local exhibits like that one to get the word out! A big Thank You to Penny Nugent, Terry Hamilton, Jeanette Jones, Linda Artuso, Laurie Angel, and Suzanne Boyles for sitting at our table and talking to people. It turned out to be a delightful day!

Liz

NEWSLETTERS SANS STAPLES

You may be wondering why there is no staple in your newsletter this month. Post Office personnel have informed us of new rules whereby our newsletter cannot be run through their equipment with a staple in the corner. So, we are using seals on each open edge instead.

WEB MEETING NOTICE

When our May meeting had to be cancelled unexpectedly, we were not able to reach quite all members via telephone or e-mail. To provide another means of communication, in the future our webmaster, Mike Powers, will put a notice on the *Questing Heirs* website in case such a situation should arise again. Check on the “News” link at the left side of the main page or “Meetings” and then “Upcoming Meetings” for late-breaking announcements about future meetings.



CALIFORNIA MARRIAGE RECORDS

Assembly Bill 130 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee very soon. It was introduced by Kevin Jeffries (Republican) of the Temecula area. The bill was presented at the request of the Recorders Association of California. They want to be able to handle marriage records the way they do birth and death records. That means that the County Recorder can black out the mother’s maiden name if he chooses. The Recorder also has the option of sending out an informational copy only.

As we know, the unfounded fear of ID theft is a worry to legislatures on the state and national levels. Yet, research shows that ID theft is caused by data hackers or items stolen by a friend or acquaintance!

Please notify the Senate Appropriations Committee and your State Representatives of your feelings about access to these public records. Remind them that these records help us to find family and determine if an inherited disease is running through family lines.

Continued on page 54



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The Media Corner

by Penny Nugent

Were any of your ancestors employed by the United States Government? If they were, the two web sites profiled below may solve some of your genealogical puzzles.

Be sure to check out the web site at www.usps.com if one or more of your ancestors worked for the United States Postal Service (called the United States Postal Department pre-1972). This site isn't simply zip codes, stamps and mailing information. Click on "About USPS & News" (it's the last choice on the white bar near the top of the home page). When this page opens, go to the "Who We Are" section at the bottom of the page and look at the selections listed under "History & Fun Facts." If your ancestor was a postmaster or postmistress, click on "Postmaster Finder." He/she may be listed on that link along with the location(s) where and the years in which they served in that position (this is an on-going project and not all postmasters/postmistresses are listed yet). Click on "Postal History," and when that page opens click on "Research Sources." This page will offer you links to many interesting web sites to go to for information. Click on "Photo Galleries" and you will be able to view old, historic photos. All of the other selections under "Postal History" are interesting to explore as well, and many of the articles are available in PDF format; so give the USPS web site a look—who knows what you'll find?!



Another source of helpful information about ancestors who worked for the Federal Government is www.archives.gov/st-louis/ the National Personnel Records Center's web address. NPRC is a branch of the National Archives and Records Administration, and it maintains personnel records from the mid-nineteenth century to the present for federal employees whose service ended after c1910. When you go to the home page, click on the

"Civilian Personnel Records" option in the middle of the page above the picture of the NPRC facility. When that page opens, click on the "Request Access to Records" selection in the left-hand sidebar under "Civilian Personnel Records—For The Public." When the Request Access page opens, click on the "Official Personnel Folders (OPF)" option at the top of the list and you will get detailed instructions on how to apply for information from your relative's folder. Personnel folders may reveal a birth date, employment date, salary earned, and location of employment, giving you information about what your relative did and where he/she lived while working for the government.



[NOTE: On June 12 the NPRC opened more than 6 million individual personnel files of former civilian employees from the mid-1800s through 1951. *Editor*]



Continued from page 52

Go to www.senate.ca.gov and click on Committees. Go to Standing Committee for Appropriations. There you will see information on the members of the committee and staff. Call or write these committee members and let them know how important changing this rule is to genealogists worldwide!

Go to www.legislature.ca.gov to find your local representative. When this bill goes to the Senate and Assembly Floors, we will need to jump in and let them know how important access to these records is to us!

We have been advised by Jan Meisels Allen, of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and Chairperson of the Public Records Assess and Monitoring Committee, to "write to the governor as...the way this bill is moving it won't take long for it to pass both houses on the floor. Urge the governor to veto the bill..." (<http://gov.ca.gov/interact#contact>).

Liz Myers



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NARA TO CLOSE LAGUNA NIGUEL

From a NARA Staff Bulletin dated May 2009:

Adrienne C. Thomas, Acting Archivist of the United States, stated “We are moving out of the massive Chet Holifield Federal office building, which formerly housed both the FRC (Federal Records Center] and the Archives, as well as many other Federal agencies. The Holifield building cannot be renovated to meet standards. In addition, visitorship and usage is low and does not justify the very high rent. Therefore, the archives will rejoin the FRC at its new facility in Riverside, which is about 50 miles from Laguna Niguel. The move is expected to be complete by spring 2010.”

The above announcement was reprinted in Dick Eastman’s blog on 7 June 2009 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2009 by Richard W. Eastman.

SORENSEN MOLECULAR GENEALOGY FOUNDATION

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

Information at the “Why Participate” tab on the Sorenson website indicates that the project has reached its original collection goal of 100,000 participants and has now transitioned into the next phase, which consists of targeting specific populations and lineages which are under-represented in the current data, continuing the analysis of samples already collected, and developing applications for genetic genealogy research.

To focus efforts on these objectives, SMGF is no longer collecting new samples through its website but rather through affiliate organizations.

If you have donated samples to SMGF in the past, “be aware that it may take an extended period of time for your data to be posted in the SMGF online databases...Please be assured that we are completing the DNA testing as quickly as our funding and research priorities allow.”

“You can purchase your personal SMGF DNA test results...at \$49.50 through www.genetree.com.”

THE LIFE-SAVING SECRETS IN YOUR FAMILY TREE

by Anna Wilde Mathews

“Heredity plays a strong role in many health problems, ranging from Alzheimer’s disease to macular degeneration and immune-system disorders like Crohn’s disease. Though scientists have discovered genetic markers tied to many illnesses—and tests have been developed to determine which patients have such markers—these currently account for only a small portion of the risk for some diseases. That’s the case with maladies such as stroke, most types of epilepsy and schizophrenia.

“Many doctors say that keeping track of your family history can be a better way to gauge your risks than getting genetic tests. Family records might turn up correlations that tests can’t yet fully explain...

“In putting together a family health history, it’s helpful to gather information about at least three generations. Seek out older relatives, possibly at family gatherings. You should be asking about health problems, including conditions that may not seem serious such as benign colon polyps, and cause of death. Diagnostic information such as the date of onset or the type of cancer can be important...

“Several Web sites can help people put together a family history. The Office of the Surgeon General recently relaunched its online family history tool, available at familyhistory.hhs.gov...

For more background on creating your history, also check sites from the Genetic Alliance at geneticalliance.org/familyhealthhistory and the CDC at cdc.gov/genomics/fhix.htm.

“Patients should bring a printout of a family history to a primary-care checkup and discuss with their doctor questions that seem important...It can also be useful to talk about family health history with a genetic counselor...”

Extracts from an article that appeared in The Wall Street Journal on 11 Jun 2009, p. D1. Copyright 2009 Dow Jones & Co., Inc. All Rights Reserved.

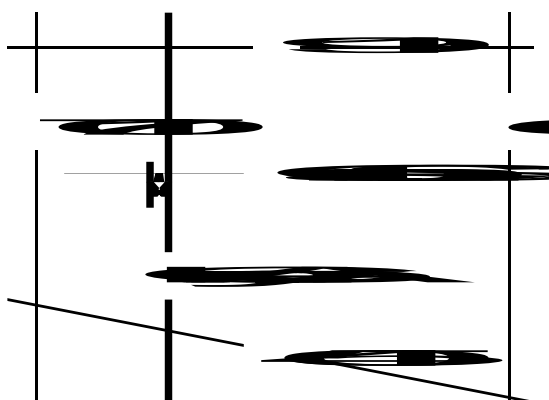


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Sunday, July 12, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society workshop at 1310B Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. A joint meeting with The Pommern Group at which Carolyn Casperson will recount her May trip to Pomerania.

Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Hwy. & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "Using Maps Effectively for Genealogical Research" by Norma Keating.

Sunday, July 19, 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 50.



Sunday, July 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the UCLA Research Library. See <http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/meetings.html> for directions. (While the LARFHC is closed, the society is exploring other libraries in the Los Angeles area.)

Saturday, August 1, 12:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave, Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Room C): Jean Wilcox Hibben on "Deduction vs. Induction in Genealogical Research."

Upcoming Events

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CALIF. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Family History Seminar
Saturday, October 17, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saddleback Room, City Hall
100 Civic Center Drive
Mission Viejo

Paula Stuart-Warren will be speaking on "Locating Those Illusive Ancestors." Topics:

- Untrodden Ground: Sources You May Not Have Encountered
- The U.S. Federal Government: 13 Underutilized Resources
- Genealogy on the Internet: Make It Work for You
- Organizing Your Genealogical Materials

Sales Tables and Displays, Refreshments, Door Prizes and a Drawing for a Handmade Quilt will be available.

Pre-register before October 14 for \$20.00. A box lunch may be purchased for \$9.00. For more information and a registration form, call (949) 492-9408 or visit the SOCCGS website:

*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.