



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 42 ✦ Number 9 ✦ September 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, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: "Digital Photography for Genealogists," presented by Alice Volkert

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

2:15 Business

**2:30 General SPEAKER: Alice Volkert
Meeting Naming Children in
Colonial New England**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: "Back to Basics," presented by Carole Owens

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS
Digital Photography for Genealogists**

The digital camera is one of the most valued genealogical research tools. It can help you effectively acquire records and preserve documents, save taking notes, cut reproduction costs greatly, achieve more with available time and provide more FUN! And, it does not require a bunch of expensive equipment! This program is a brief run-through of theory and a wide selection of applications.

PROGRAM:

Naming Children in Colonial New England

Naming children in colonial New England was a lot more complicated than you would have thought! It had been thought that there was some 'rule' about first son named for the father's father and first daughter named for the mother's mother—or something like that. But the early colonists made their own rules! Frequently they named their first-born for themselves; sometimes they even made up names. You just have to hear this!

SPEAKER:

ALICE COLBY VOLKERT

Alice has been researching the descendants of Anthony and Susannah Colby of early Massachusetts for 20 years or more—in her spare time—and is researching in preparation for a book on their descendants. She has been taking clients for only a few years, but has been associated with the Regional Family History Library in Orange, California, for many years. She has spoken at the 2008 UGA Family History and Genealogy Conference and at many local genealogy societies. She is on the board of the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Professional Genealogists and hosts at the Orange County California Fair. Alice is also a principal of Sunburst Genealogy Charts.



REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our August hosts:

Sandy BARRUS Terry HAMILTON
Cheryl TARDIF Connie WILLIAMS
Cheryl TARDIF

Our September hosts will be:

Suzanne BOYLES Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT
Linda IVERS Jeanette JONES

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

AUGUST MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 40 Guests: 4

NEW MEMBERS

Roxanne FITZGERALD Individual 9/10
Frances LIEBZEIT Individual 9/10
Barbara NICHOLSON Individual 9/10
Fred SPECKMEYER Individual 9/10

RENEWALS

Please see page 68 for this month's renewals.

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

July Income \$ 3.40
(July meeting income credited in August.)
July Expenses \$ 230.18
Operating Balance \$7,108.97
(Includes Priscilla Nielsen's \$5,000 gift.)

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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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GENEALOGISTS ENCOURAGED TO EMBRACE CHANGE

by Michael De Groot

David E. Rencher encouraged participants at BYU's Conference on Family History and Genealogy to adopt new technology, such as FamilySearch's new online applications. He knows it is a hard sell for some.

"I clearly remember the day when we took the old paper copy of the card catalog out of the Family History Library," Rencher, Family Search's Chief Genealogical Officer, said. "We nearly had a riot on our hands when we began taking those drawers away."

The same thing happened 10 years later when microfiche were replaced by computer indexes. "Change moves on," Rencher said.

Change is to be expected, he explained, as products and services go through a natural life cycle. Several popular family history products and services are at the end of their usefulness as technology provides better solutions.

One of the most popular products being phased out is Personal Ancestral File (PAF), a free family history program that was introduced in 1997. FamilySearch is moving to an Internet-based system, usually referred to as the New FamilySearch. People will still be able to use PAF on their computer and export their data to the New FamilySearch. An additional software program will enable PAF users to import information from the New FamilySearch back to PAF.

Other commercial genealogy software programs will also be able to work with the new system. Rencher likes the idea of using an offline program with the new online system. "You can maintain a working copy of your (family history) file on your own hard drive. For many of us, that is a real comfort zone. That's where I'm at. I like to know that that data is right here on this baby," Rencher said pointing to his laptop computer.

Other products and services being phased out are census records on compact discs, the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and

Pedigree Resource File and compact discs of the Family History Library Catalog. Family Search is eliminating its paper products in favor of instantly updatable online guides.

Microfilm technology is also nearing obsolescence as fewer manufacturers are producing the necessary film to make copies. "We don't really have a choice," Rencher said. "We are not going to have microfilm to distribute to Family History Centers in the foreseeable future. It's going to come to an end, or it's going to become so pricey that we will not be able to afford it."

FamilySearch Indexing, online at indexing.familysearch.org, is rapidly replacing an old method of indexing called the Universal Data Entry (UDE) tool.

For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the New FamilySearch will replace the older TempleReady system for submitting names of ancestors for proxy ordinances in LDS Temples, such as baptism for the dead. The new system will help eliminate duplications and streamline the process.

But not everything is being updated.

FamilySearch couldn't get permission from The Scottish Record Office to put Church of Scotland parish records onto the FamilySearch.org web site. Those records will be available for a fee on another web site. If you want to look at these records for free, you still have to go look at the old DOS-based computer version at family history centers and the Family History Library. "If you think you haven't seen a miracle recently," Rencher said, "look at how long the (LDS) church as made DOS work."

Even in the fast changing world of technology, some things just refuse to change.

This article was published on 30 Jul 2009 at MormonTimes.com, which is produced by the Deseret News in Salt Lake City, Utah. Copyright © 2009 Deseret News Publishing Company.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! What a wonderful group you all are!!! As asked, people pitched in to help close up the kitchen after our last meeting. That was really appreciated. We had such a nice meeting that I forgot a couple of things. I was supposed to ask Georgie Lyons if enough people signed up for September refreshments. They did. Then I was supposed to ask Terry Hamilton, our Membership Chairman, to introduce guests and new members. We did have guests and new members, but you will just have to wait until September to be introduced to them. Sorry! I guess I parked my brain Sunday morning, Saturday morning, Friday morning, etc., etc.

We need some other help and hope you will consider lending a hand. Tina Yanis is now our Historian, but we need another person to help collect our mementos so we don't lose anything.

We also have two open positions that need to be filled. We are looking for a Library Liaison. Now that Glenda Williams has been appointed as Library Director, we can contact the Long Beach Public Library and work with them on building up our collection. The other position is that of Parliamentarian.

Carole Owens has agreed to cover Mike Powers' Beginning Class in September since he will be away on a cruise. It will be a basic "how-to-start" class for those of you who may have missed it before.

We are working on a new membership directory; so, please let us know if you have changed your e-mail address or phone number. When we had to cancel the May meeting, we found that some information in our current roster was not up to date.

You all are a wonderful group of warm, friendly people, and I look forward to being with you every month!

Liz



TIME TO RENEW

September is membership renewal month for Questing Heirs members. You can pay your annual dues at our September meeting, or you can complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail it with your check to the Society's Post Office Box. Membership levels are also listed on the back of the newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Chair, Terry Hamilton, at (562) 596-9382. Thanks for your continued support.

THIS MONTH'S RENEWALS

Loran BURES	Family	9/10
Tricia BURES	Family	9/10
Frena DOMINGUEZ	Individual	9/10
Elaine FLEMING	Individual	9/11
Patrick HORAN	Individual	9/10
Douglas JORDAN	Individual	9/10
Georgie LYONS	Individual	9/10
Harriet M. MILLER	Newsletter	9/10
Penny NUGENT	Contributing	9/10
Lynn A. SHARP	Contributing	9/10
Frances SMITH	Individual	9/10
Mary Ellen SMITH	Individual	9/10

NOTE: Submissions for the October 2009 Newsletter are due by September 27, 2009.



**NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2009**

The impetus for National Grandparents Day originated with Marian McQuade, a housewife in Fayette County, West Virginia. Her primary motivation was to champion the cause of lonely elderly in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. President Jimmy Carter, in 1978, proclaimed this day would be celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day.



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FOUR-STEP ORGANIZATION by Juliana Smith

One of the more challenging aspects of family history is keeping everything organized. Records, computer prints from online collections, and notes can quickly add up and turn into piles that threaten to take over your workspace. Nothing will bring your research to a screeching halt like not being able to locate that one piece of information you need. Let's take a look at a few steps we can take that will lead to more productive research.

1. Devise a filing scheme.

Whether you use file folders or binders, the most important step you can take is to have a consistent filing scheme. You may choose to keep the files for each person separate, filed alphabetically. Color-coded folders or paper can help make certain branches easy to pick out.

Perhaps your system is more family-oriented, with each family in a separate binder. When an ancestor moves out of their parents' home, they get their own binder. Siblings and other collateral relatives get their own divided section at the back of the family's binder. Arranging records chronologically within each section allows you to see events unfold as you page through the records.

Choose a system that will be easy for you to keep up. With folders or binders that are easily accessible, you'll be more likely to stay organized as you go along.

2. Start sorting.

If you've got a huge stack of papers waiting to be filed, don't try to put everything in its place all at once. You can make your project more manageable by doing a quick pre-sort. Sort all of the papers by surname first, and then once they're all separated, you can pick one pile and start incorporating them into your file system. You'll only need to work with a small set of folders or binders, and staying focused on one family allows you to do a little reviewing as you go along. Keep your to-do list handy because you're sure to run across some new leads.

3. Update your electronic files.

Once we find a record, we'll do that little happy dance, and then put it in its proper place. But don't overlook your electronic files. Make sure you update your electronic files at the same time that you file the physical pages. Keeping your online tree current allows you to check details quickly without having to pull out your files. Online trees have the added benefit of being an offsite back-up of your family history in case of disaster.

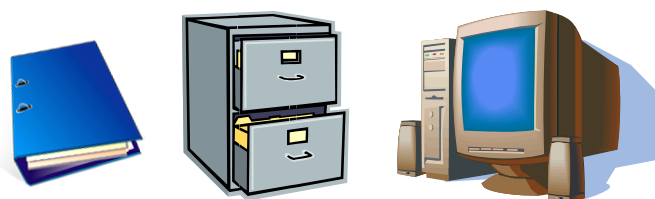
4. Find a home for the "maybes."

As you research, you're going to stumble across other people in the areas in which your ancestors lived who may be related. Of course you don't want to discard these "maybes," but saving them means extra papers lying around. Find a home for them until you can prove or disprove a relationship. Start a "Maybe" or "Misc." section at the back of a binder. Or perhaps give them a binder of their own, with dividers that separate each surname. Giving them their own place will make it easier to lay your hands on their records when you run across that detail that finally connects them to your tree.

Time for Fun

Now that you've organized your files, it's time for some fun. You probably have a list of items you want to investigate, and if not, just give your newly organized files a quick review. New content continues to be added to online collections, so what are you waiting for? It's time to dig in and start searching for those ancestors.

This article appeared in the Ancestry Weekly Discovery of 29 Jun 2009. Copyright © 2009 by The Generations Network, Inc.





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DO YOU WIKI? by Carolyn L. Barkley

Drew Smith's *Social Networking for Genealogists* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2009) defines a wiki as "a website that provides an easy way for multiple individuals to create and edit the pages of the site without having to know any specialized formatting language." We all may have consulted an entry in *Wikipedia*, the "free encyclopedia that anyone can edit," but we may not have thought about how wikis might impact our genealogical research.

Wikis have different formats. *The Encyclopedia of Genealogy*, a wiki founded by Dick Eastman, provides "a free-content encyclopedia created by its readers, people like you." As such it is similar to *Wikipedia*. Need to define "Bright's disease," or understand what "chancery" means? Consult eogen.com. If you need a quick definition of a word or phrase and do not have a genealogical or other type of dictionary at hand, this site will be helpful.

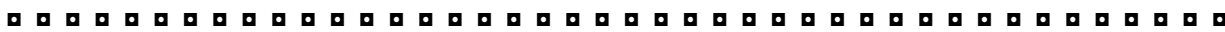
I was, however, more excited by the type of wiki found in sites such as WeRelate.org. If there is one genealogical wiki to explore, WeRelate is it. Proclaiming itself to be the world's largest genealogy wiki, it is sponsored free of charge by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy in partnership with the Allen County Public Library and sustained by tax-deductible donations. It provides access to over 2,000,000 person and family pages, and in 2008 *Family Tree Magazine* included it in its list of 101 best web sites. Be sure to view the "helicopter tour" to gain an overview of the site's possibilities; additional tutorials cover specific processes used to create and edit wiki content. Registration is free and uncomplicated and is necessary to add or edit content. The strength of this site is the ability to provide the exact same information to any individual interested in a specific person or family. Everyone is, literally, "on the same page." I found a page for a person in a collateral family in my husband's Barkley line, and as I have documented information

not currently included on the page, I can now add my information. By choosing to become a "watcher" of this page, I will be notified when information is added or edited. Notification is provided within the site so that personal email addresses do not have to be provided or kept up-to-date...Pages can include photographs; scanned documents; birth, marriage and death information; and stories about individuals, with the opportunity to provide source citations for each...Data may be viewed on six-generation pedigree charts, a map of life events, or a timeline. Research guides are available...

One of the newest wikis is the FamilySearch wiki, a "free online encyclopedia of genealogy information." As with other wikis, content can be added and edited by registered users. Other content includes "how-to guides, expert tips, archive information, church information, maps, gazetteer, news and events," as well as "links to helpful databases and websites, and discussion forums"...More information about volunteering for specific projects is available at the Community Portal at wiki.familysearch.org. Be sure to view the video tutorials and demos. Still other wikis have been created by individuals who share information about their specific family or research. Additional wikis may be located through Cyndi's List...

Wikis offer a significant opportunity to share our genealogical information with others, while gaining from their knowledge. I recommend beginning with a review of the wiki chapter in Drew Smith's *Social Networking for Genealogists*. In addition, you will want to decide if a personal wiki meets your needs, or if participation in a large project such as WeRelate will be more useful. Either way, wikis will play a significant role in our genealogical research.

This entry was posted on 11 Jun 2009 in the "Genealogical Tips" category at <http://www.genealogvandfamilyhistory.com/?p=101>. It may be viewed in full there.



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CRISIS FACING THE LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

by Shirley Gage Hodges

I would like to share with you the crisis that is facing the Library of Michigan and the genealogical community.

When Michigan's Governor Granholm released her executive order on July 13th, the family history research community was in shock! It has taken years and many donation dollars to build the Library of Michigan collection into one of the ten largest collections in the United States...

As a genealogist I cannot express what the loss of this collection would do to generations of Michigan residents throughout the years. Once a collection like ours is lost, it is gone forever. As a citizen of Michigan I see the loss of the State Library as something that our State has had that brought us great respect in other states and communities. When we are at national conventions, Michigan is held up as a positive example of a state that is doing everything possible to preserve the records and heritage of its people. Since Michigan was one of the great melting pots of our nation, people all over our country are aware of our great facilities and many have traveled great distances to come and use them and to bring tourist dollars into our area. Many of them have become supporters and donors.

I personally don't believe that they have taken into consideration what closing the library will do to the economy of the Greater Lansing area. Our library draws hundreds of people each year who come to do research. They stay in our hotels, use the restaurants and greatly help the local economy.

Governor Granholm dissolved HAL (Dept. of History Arts & Libraries). If her order #36-2009 is not stopped, the 180+ years of collecting Michigan History materials will be lost.

Please write to the governor. Ask your friends to write. Share this news item and information about the governor's executive order #36-2009. Our legislators have only 60 days to veto her order...or it takes effect automatically.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P. O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
PHONE: (517) 373-3400
FAX: (517) 335-6863

...Check out the Michigan Genealogical Council's website every day or two...You will also find addresses for Michigan Representatives and our State Senator. If you live out of state and have traveled to Michigan to use this collection, be sure and let them know that. For non-Michigan residents, write Senator Jason Allen.

Please get on board. If we can lose this wonderful facility, it can happen in your location also.

Shirley Hodges is an experienced and popular genealogical educator and lecturer. She is also a columnist for Canada's The Global Gazette (globalgenealogy.com), in which this article appeared on 22 Jul 2009.

CALIFORNIA GENEALOGY AND HISTORY ARCHIVES

<http://calarchives4u.com>

This website was developed by Peggy Hooper and Michael Harris in 2008. They are collecting and putting online all types of California records—including Bible, Cemetery, Civil War, Directories, Marriages, Taxes, Wills, etc.

"We are a FREE site storing thousands of records and photos for YOU the researcher. We will continue to add records, but we need YOUR HELP to grow in this cooperative project and welcome any and ALL VOLUNTEERS to join us in adding data. We encourage you to share whatever you feel is appropriate ~ something that has already been transcribed, and/or to help with any of the sites current projects. Your help is an essential part in the growth of this site and will be greatly welcomed and appreciated!

"All materials submitted must be records in the public domain, or research you have compiled on your own. All persons donating to this site retain the rights to their own work."



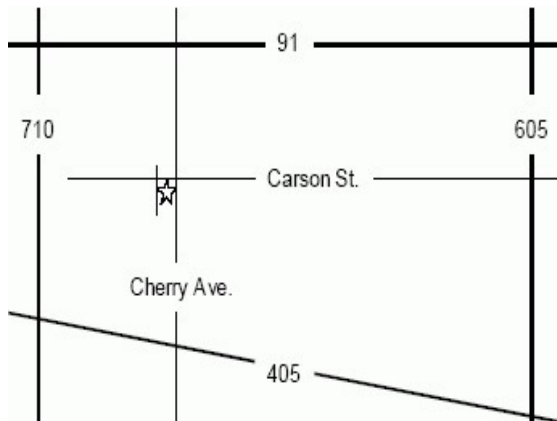
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Saturday, September 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: Sam Ward demonstrating “Creating Genealogical Tools Using Microsoft® Excel.”

Sunday, September 13, Noon-5:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society workshop at 1310B Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. “How to Use the IGS Library—United States.”

Wednesday, September 16, 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: “Skeletons in Your Closet” by Dawn Thurston.

Sunday, September 20, 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 66.



Saturday, October 3, 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave, Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C & D): Elaine Alexander speaking on “Doors to Naturalization Records.”

Upcoming Events

NO. SAN DIEGO CO. GEN. SOC.

Saturday, September 26, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Carlsbad City Council Chambers
1200 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad

“Unexpected Journeys” with speakers Dorothy Miller, Wayne Anderson, Margaret Read and Carol Baird. Registration fee for non-members \$20, lunch \$8.50. For information, contact Nina Anderson at 760-599-9958 or by e-mail at ninaanderson@sbcglobal.net.

BRITISH ISLES FHS-USA

Saturday, October 10, 2009
12:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Noski Auditorium, CSU Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge

Judith Eccles Wight AG will be speaking on British censuses, Poor Law records, and Estate Records. Registration fee for non-members by Sept. 14 is \$35. For info and flyer, contact Kay Ronald Devonshire at 310-399-3188 or kaydevonshir@verizon.net. The society’s web site is www.bifhsusa.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.