



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 42 ✦ Number 11 ✦ November 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, NOVEMBER 15, 2009

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Time for QH members to discuss their research and speaker interests.

2:00 Business

2:15 Break Time for chatting, browsing, and refreshments

**2:45 General Meeting SPEAKER: Elaine Alexander
Ports of Our Past**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: "Sharing Your Successes" with Mike Powers

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GOOGLE YOUR ANCESTORS by Gena Philibert Ortega

Many of us are familiar with Google as a search engine. Google allows you to have the world at your fingertips in a matter of seconds. Have you ever heard anyone say “Just Google it”? Well, googling your ancestors can provide you with valuable information to begin your family history research.

A search engine is like a card catalog system for the Internet. You choose a search engine and then type in a word, phrase or a series of words and wait to see what web pages match your search. There are different types of search engines but, according to the website Howstuffworks, <http://www.howstuffworks.com/search-engine.htm>, they all basically do the same three things: search the web for words, keep an index of words and where they find them, and allow users to look for words or phrases in their index.

From Google’s home page, www.google.com, you can type in a word, series of words or a phrase and then click on the “Google Search” button or the “I’m Feeling Lucky” button. The “Google Search” button will bring up page/s of website links that match what you have typed, also called “hits.” It may not be a perfect match or what you are looking for, but it will be websites that contain the word/s that you have typed. The “I’m Feeling Lucky” button will just bring up a website and not a list of “hits.” This feature is not really applicable for family history research.

To receive better results, place your search term or phrase in quotation marks. This tells the Google search engine that you want to search on an exact phrase. For example, if you are searching for your great aunt Sarah James, placing the name in quotations “Sarah James” you will get results that contain those two words together instead of websites that have the name Sarah and the name James somewhere on the page, but not necessarily together. You can also search for Sarah and

her husband by typing “Sarah James” “John James” in the Google search box.

You can click on the Advanced Search option to make your search term even more specific. You can tell Google to search certain words or a phrase or even eliminate words. Eliminating words is useful when the surname you are researching is a noun or a verb. When your surname is Home, or Love, or Free, it can be difficult to find websites. For example, maybe you want to search for Boone County but do not want hits for Daniel Boone. Through the Advanced Search, you can specify what words to eliminate from your search. Advanced Search also allows you to specify how many hits are shown on each page, what language to display results in, and the ability to conduct a search within a specific website.

For more information about getting the most of your Google search, check out Kathi Reid’s article entitled *Tips for using Google in Genealogy Searches* on the website Ancestor Search at <http://www.searchforancestors.com/archives/google.html>. I also recommend the book *Google your Family Tree* by Daniel Lynch for more tips on conducting a good Google search. You can read more about the book at the author’s website, <http://www.googleyourfamilytree.com/>.

.....
All organisms that have ever lived...can
look back at their ancestors and make the
following proud claim: Not a single one of
our ancestors died in infancy...Not a single
one of our ancestors was felled by an en-
emy, or by a virus, or by a misjudged foot-
step on a cliff edge, before bringing at least
one child into the world. Thousands of our
ancestors’ contemporaries failed in all these
respects, but not a single solitary one of our
ancestors failed in any of them.
.....

*River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of
Life* by Richard Dawkins



QUESTING HEIRS NEWS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This is the time of year when we stop to say Thanks for all of our blessings. I feel blessed because of the success of Questing Heirs. Thanks to John McCoy for setting up the projector and sound system for our speakers. He also does a good job of keeping me in line at Board meetings. Vice-President, Susanne Boyles, has taken on the job of Programming with enthusiasm and conscientiousness. Our Membership Chairman, Terry Hamilton, was thrown into that job and has handled it gracefully. As Secretary, Sandy Hollandsworth does an awesome job of keeping track of writing the minutes. Dave Werts, our Treasurer, has done an excellent job of keeping track of the money and seeing that it is available when it is needed.

Poor Tina Yantis is our Director at Large PLUS opening and closing the kitchen every meeting, being our Historian, and doing research for people who write in to our web site! Chris Elias has volunteered to be the second Historian. So Tina and Chris will be collecting two sets of documents for our Society’s history. Thanks to both of them!

Linda Artuso, another Director at Large, is our talented newsletter editor. So many people have commented on how much they enjoy each issue. Jeanette Jones has filled in as Program Chairman and Director at Large. I am thankful for Jeanette’s advice and experience. Penny Nugent has taken on the huge responsibility of Publicity and Public Relations. We had a great response to Penny’s letter to the editor recently. Maybe one of these days we won’t hear, “I didn’t know we had a genealogical society in Long Beach.”

Our web master and gifted graphics person, Mike Powers, seems to also be popular as a leader of the Beginners Class after our regular meetings. Our newsletters are folded and sorted before taking them to the Post Office by Sally and Howard Davis. Many others of you just step in when you see something is needed or answer my call for help. So I am very thankful for each and every one of you. Because, of your friendliness and willingness

to participate, we are filling up the church social hall!

At the next meeting we will be asking for your feedback on possibly changing our meetings from the third Sunday of the month to the second or first. Please give it careful consideration because changing the day might give us opportunities to attend various community events.

We will try changing the location of the refreshments table to give us more room during meetings. The food will be on the long table in the other room (by the bathrooms), and the exchange newsletters and any announcements Linda picks up at the post office will be on the table with the name tags. It is fun to look over the exchange newsletters and see what other societies are doing.

Liz

BOARD NOMINEES

As John McCoy announced at our October meeting, the following members have agreed to continue in their current positions.

- Secretary-Sandra Hollandsworth
- Treasurer-David Werts
- Director at Large-Linda Artuso
- Director at Large-Tina Yanis

They will be voted on at our November meeting. Needing to be confirmed at that time are two appointed members:

- 1st Vice President-Suzanne Boyles
- 2nd Vice President-Terry Hamilton

THIS MONTH’S RENEWALS

Terry ARGYROS	Individual	9/10
Marilyn BRASHER	Patron	9/10
Robert BRASHER	Patron	9/10
Evelyn COLES	Individual	9/10
Norma GRADY	Individual	9/10
Charles HORTON	Contributing	9/10
Linda IVERS	Individual	9/10
Walton McNULTY	Sustaining	9/10
Michael POWERS)	Family	9/10
Charlotte LLEWELLYN)		
Beverly PLANK	Contributing	9/10
Joyce PROUST	Contributing	9/10
Kenneth SAW	Individual	9/10



ESTIMATING EFFECTIVELY

By Juliana Smith

Estimating. We do it all the time, sometimes without even realizing it. We may estimate how much money we'll need for groceries, how long it will take to reach a destination (add an hour during construction season!), or how much extra yard work we'll have to do to work off that piece of carrot cake we ate at last week's conference!

...I thought it would be a good idea to take a closer look at some of the ways we can make effective use of estimates in our family history.

Estimated Dates

The first thing that comes to my mind when we mention estimates is dates. By analyzing the clues we have in various records, we can often estimate the dates of events for which we currently don't have a record. Perhaps the most common being the estimate of a date of birth, using an age found on a record created at a later date. But we can take our date estimates further, using information we have to estimate marriage, immigration, or death dates as well.

Using my infamous Kelly ancestors as an example, I have dates and places of birth from census and death records. I know Mary A. Kelly was born around 1815 in Ireland. The next sibling, Jane, was born 6 June 1819 in New York City. Using this information I can deduce that the Kellys arrived in New York sometime between 1815 and 1819.

We may find ourselves "guess-timating" that our ancestor died around the time that they disappear from city directories or census schedules, but this type of estimate should be treated with care. There are other possibilities that might explain their disappearance, such as moving out of town or moving in with children. In some cases their disappearance may coincide with a wife being listed as widowed, making the estimate a bit more certain.

Sometimes it's also possible to estimate a marriage date based on the birth of the oldest

child, but this too is an area where we need to tread carefully. There may have been previous births of children who died in infancy or very young, or the older children may have been from a previous marriage or even orphaned cousins brought into the home. If the mother passes away, the children from the first marriage would still have the same surname as any children from the latter marriage, and I have two cases in my family where the father died and the ancestor (or ancestress in one case) took on the name of the stepfather.

And of course, while we might like to think that our ancestors held to societal norms, we may find children being born out of wedlock or "prematurely."

Estimating Locations

At times, we may need to estimate where our ancestors lived or came from. We may use the backgrounds of family members, neighbors, or other associates as clues to determine our ancestors' origins. Some surnames may be associated with a particular area, and it may be possible to determine origins by observing distribution patterns for the time period in which your ancestor lived there.

Keeping Track

One of the keys to using estimates effectively is keeping track. Whenever you enter an estimate, whether it is in a chronology or in your database, be sure to note it as such. Estimated dates are often labeled as "circa" or with its abbreviation, "ca." About, before, and after can also be used to qualify estimates.

In addition to noting them as estimates, it's also critical to make note of the records and information that led to the estimate. Once upon a time, I wasn't very diligent with noting sources, and to this day I am still kicking myself. I can't tell you how many times I look at a date on a timeline or in some notes and wonder where the heck I came up with it! Now I make sure I make detailed notes, including all of the sources used to come up with the estimate.

Continued on page 86



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SURNAME TIMELINES ON GOOGLE

You probably know that, if you go to www.google.com and enter a search for your surname followed by “family history” (no quotation marks), you will get a list of hits for many people with that surname. But did you know that, if you scroll down to the bottom of the page (or maybe pages if you have a common name), you’ll find a list of timelines involving people of your chosen surname. Clicking on “More timeline results” will bring up an extended list of events over many years.

Try it; you may find some interesting facts!

COMMUNITY TREES

<http://histfam.familysearch.org/learnmore.php>

“Community Trees are lineage-linked genealogies from specific time periods and geographic localities around the world. The information also includes the supporting sources. Most of the genealogies are joint projects between FamilySearch and others who live locally or have expertise in the area or records used to create the genealogies. Each Community Tree is a searchable database with views of individuals, families, ancestors and descendants, as well as printing options.

“The scope of partner projects may be a small, grass roots village or township working together to form a family tree of all the known residents of its community for a given time period. Some are genealogical and historical societies working with FamilySearch to index several sources of data to link them to common, lineage-linked genealogies of a targeted geographic area of interest.

“The scope could also be focused on a particular record set and locality. The goal may be to identify and reconstitute all families of a particular place from a village, county, or even a country. Many of the current projects were produced by FamilySearch’s Family Reconstitution team and date back to the medieval times. One even has the audio of the oral genealogies attached.

“GEDCOM downloads of the community trees may be available depending on any

records access restrictions. No living information is available in this public view. Edits and corrections to these databases are usually restricted by the partners, but please contact them to offer suggestions, corrections and new information. Some partners may have additional information or enhanced versions of the genealogies on their own website. These databases will be updated if they are a work in progress.”

[You can see a list of current collections at the website identified above. You can search the trees by going to <http://histfam.familysearch.org>.]

IRISH 1911 CENSUS

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>

All thirty-two counties are now available at the National Archives of Ireland’s free 1911 census website. These records are unusual in that the original household manuscript returns survive. These forms were filled out and signed by the head of each household on census night.



Continued from page 85...

Reassessing Estimates

Just as the estimate that guy gave you at the auto repair shop can be “off a bit,” so can our research estimates. Sometimes when we’re at one of those brick walls, it’s a good idea to review any estimates we’ve made. How much of it is based on known information and how much is pure speculation? If you have conflicting records, which record is more reliable? Typically you would favor original records created closest to the event in question, with information provided by participants in the event.

While care needs to be taken, estimates can be extremely helpful in helping you zero in on the records you need to fill in the blanks on your family tree.

This article appeared in the Ancestry Daily News of 16 Jun 2006. Copyright © 2006 by The Generations Network, Inc.



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LATEST UPDATE ON WDYTYA

“Who Do You Think You Are?” is a 42-minute show with commercials, and producers are working closely with a team of historians and genealogists to trace back celebs’ roots. Seven episodes have been made for the series that is set to air on NBC in primetime starting in January.

NBC.com is working on a partnership with online genealogy powerhouse Ancestry.com to create a cross-platform interactive Web site to coincide with the launch of the series.

The above information was extracted from an article in The Hollywood Reporter of 5 Oct 2009.

WORLD ARCHIVES PROJECT vs. FAMILYSEARCH INDEXING

[Kimberly Powell commented on this subject in her Genealogy Blog at about.com on 5 Sep 2008. She was interested in learning which project an individual might want to participate in and which would most benefit a society.]

“According to Tim Sullivan, CEO of The Generations Network, Ancestry.com and FamilySearch do not view their respective volunteer indexing projects as ‘competitors.’ Instead, each feels that they bring a ‘win-win’ offering to the genealogy world, and their respective businesses. And a business it is—there is a goal on the part of both organizations to grow through this model.

“Business aside, however, there is also a genuine goal for both projects to do their part in preserving our history. We all know that FamilySearch, the genealogy arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is interested in the preservation of historic and genealogical records, but Tim Sullivan says that Ancestry.com is in this for the same reason—to help local societies preserve those records which are being lost each year to floods, fires, neglect, disinterest, or even lack of storage space at the courthouse.

“So what then is the underlying difference between the two projects? Not much that I can see. Both projects promise free access for

everyone to the indexes created by the volunteer indexers. Both do not plan, however, to offer free access to the actual images themselves. FamilySearch, at least so far, is offering free access to the images online, but they have stated that in their future collaborations with societies and other organizations that not all images will be available free on their Web site. Ancestry.com also does not plan to offer online access to the images for free, although they are offering free image access to frequent contributors (currently volunteers indexing 900+ records per quarter). Both organizations will handle the expensive digitization of the records, and provide an online indexing tool which makes it easy for society members to participate in indexing the records. Both provide participating societies with a copy of the index and the digitized images for their own use (to put up on their Web site as a tool to attract new members, for example).

“One apparent difference that did come out of my conversation with Tim Sullivan, is that Ancestry.com plans to actively promote the societies that participate in the World Archives Project. They have templates and a variety of tools already in place to help societies recruit volunteers and actively promote their work, in order to leverage these new online records to increase their membership. On the other side of the coin, FamilySearch Indexing is more established, with a 3-year track record, versus two months of private beta for the World Archives Project.

“Overall, there are probably good reasons for societies to participate in either of the projects—it really comes down to which appeals to your organization more. Which one can meet your timeline? Which indexing tool do you find easier to use? Which can offer better promotion for your organization? And for volunteer indexers, there are good reasons to index for either project—it’s really a matter of personal preference. The fact that both are available to us is definite a win for everyone!”

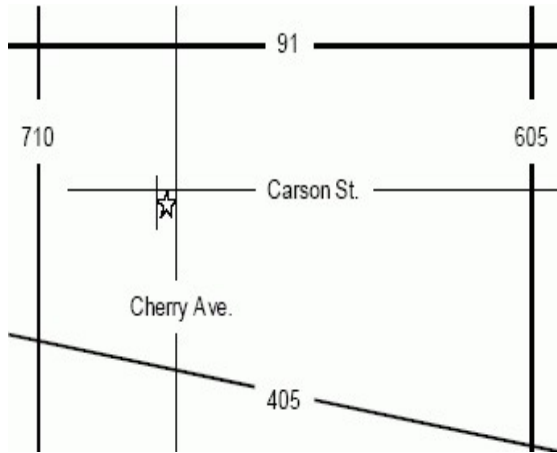




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Sunday, November 8, Noon-5:00 p.m.
Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310B Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "Put It Together," a summary of their series on how to use the IGS library.

Sunday, November 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 82.



*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. [Note that this facility is currently closed for renovation. We will notify you when it re-opens.] There are smaller FHCs nearby—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. We recommend calling the local centers before you visit, as their hours may change from time to time.

Upcoming Events

2010 SALT LAKE INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY

11-15 January 2010
Radisson Hotel
215 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah

You can choose from ten courses taught by nationally known expert genealogists, as well as the Personal Project Problem Solving course. In the evenings, 15 optional classes will be presented that are open to anyone for a minimal fee. Plus, research time is available at the Family History Library.

For non-members of the Utah Genealogical Association, the cost for course registration is \$320 **by 16 November**—after that it's \$345. This fee includes course materials, an orientation breakfast and the Friday night banquet. Evening classes and additional dinner tickets are extra. For more information and to enroll online, go to www.infouga.org.

2010 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

28 April-1 May 2010
Location the same as above.

The conference theme, "Follow Your Ancestral Trail," will focus on migration across the United States and researching your worldwide roots using the international records at the Family History Library, which will have extended search hours during the conference.

Special workshops will be held on research in Norway/Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Hispanic Countries and Eastern Europe at no additional fee; but since seating is limited, you will need to pre-register for them.

You can access the conference announcement by going to www.ngsgenealogy.org, clicking on Conferences & Events and then Annual Conference. Registration brochures will be available online 1 November 2009. To request a print copy, you can send an e-mail to registration@ngsgenealogy.org.