



**QUESTING HEIRS**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 43 ✦ Number 2 ✦ February 2010

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, FEBRUARY 21, 2010**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Location, Location, Location, by Paul Lipinski**

**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Paul Lipinski  
Meeting History of Poland [Eastern Europe]**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: "Getting Started," presented by Mike Powers**

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### FINDING YOUR ANCESTOR IN GOOGLE BOOKS by Gena Philibert Ortega

Genealogy library collections hold promise for those researching their family trees. These collections can include books detailing the history of a county, marriage indexes, and even transcribed cemetery listings. But it's not always convenient to travel to research your ancestors. So what's an online library-like website that you can use to begin your search for your ancestors?

Millions of books and periodicals from libraries and publishers are housed at Google Books, <http://books.google.com/books>. The books on Google Books run the gamut of classics and children's literature, as well as various fiction and non-fiction titles. This is the place to find family history surname books, historical journals, transcribed record books and genealogical how-to's.

To search Google Books, you will use the search engine on the website exactly as you would when searching on Google, the search engine. You can enter your ancestor's full name, surname or locality where he lived. Remember to use quote marks around your search term in order to receive better results. So for example, if your ancestor's name is John Smith, type it into the search box as "John Smith." This tells the search engine that you want it to search on that exact phrase. You can also add a locality to that name search by typing in "John Smith" Virginia or "John Smith" "Augusta County, Virginia."

While not all books are digitized on Google Books, those that are allow you the option of reading the book online, downloading it to your computer or using the Google search engine to find a name or a phrase inside the book.

In some cases, books that are no longer copyright protected are fully digitized on Google Books. These books are available for you to download to your computer. In other cases, books that are newer and under

copyright are only available for a preview, a snippet view or no preview. A preview allows you to look at a certain number of pages from the book, while a snippet view only allows you to see a sentence or two that includes the keyword you have searched on.

For those books that are not fully digitized due to copyright restrictions, there is a feature where you can either search in WorldCat to find a library that owns the book or find a bookseller where the book is available for purchase.

As an example, searching on the word "genealogy" brings up books like *The Source, Genealogy Online for Dummies*, and the *Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy*, just to name a few. Use the Google Books search for books about the local history and region that you are researching. Even use it as a way to decide what genealogy how-to books you might like to add to your collections.

The great thing about Google Book is it allows you to conduct an every-word search through all of their collection, which allows you to find your ancestor in a book or journal you would not have previously considered. In one instance when I searched on the name of an ancestor in Google Books, I found him listed in a journal article in the *Journal of Presbyterian History*. Although not a genealogy book, the article had to do with deeds and gave me information about this ancestor and the land he had sold to the father of American Presbyterianism. A great find that would normally have been overlooked.

Google Books is a great free resource for your family history. It just might be one of the best non-genealogy, genealogy websites you can use.





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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hey there everyone!

The year is starting off great! We had an excellent planning meeting, where we started revising our brochure and setting goals for 2010.

One of the things we want to do is get the word out **that Long Beach has a genealogical society!** That is why we are asking for a few people to work on the Publicity Committee to send notices of our meetings to the many Long Beach organizations that send out regular e-mails of activities, such as "I Love Long Beach" and "LimeLight Long Beach."

We also want to exhibit at some community-type activities, like we did last year at the Restoration Fair. I've talked to the Iowa State Picnic Committee about their annual picnic. They don't have any dates set up yet, but I promised to help them with publicity since I can send their notice out to the same groups we're e-mailing. Were you born in Iowa? Come on out to the picnic.

Do you have cable TV in your home? If so, will you look for announcements as to where we can send notices? In Los Alamitos, for instance, they give a Fax number to send the data. Getting out news on cable would also help get the word out.

Questing Heirs was publicized in the *Press Telegram*, *Signal Hill Tribune*, and the *News Enterprise*. I have learned that we can place announcements for free in the *PennySaver*. So please keep a lookout for these notices, and bring them to us.

By the way, we have lost our old records; so, if you have pictures, newsletters, etc., before 2001, please let me know.

Often we are running out of chairs when we have a big meeting; so, John McCoy and Tina Yanis are exploring ways to make more chairs available and to make it easier to see and hear our presentations.

This promises to be a good year for expansion. You are an important part of that when you stop to chat with our visitors and regular

members. Thank you for coming and supporting us.

*Liz*

**HELP WANTED**

**Kitchen Helpers**

Helpers to close down the kitchen after meetings. These persons would help Tina Yanis clean up the refreshment table. Duties include putting food back in containers, washing serving dishes and pitchers, placing supplies in the storage closet, and emptying trash.

**Publicity Committee**

Members to e-mail notices to enlarge our publicity connections. Persons should have e-mail ability and be able to meet deadlines.

**Director at Large**

The Board of Directors needs a Director at Large. Duties include attending and giving input at Board meetings. These are held at 4:00 p.m. after our monthly meetings.

Anyone interested in the above positions, please call Liz Myers at (562) 760-3027.

**FINANCIAL REPORT (continued)**

2009 Expenses: \$5,121.40  
2009 Income: \$3,744.72 (w/o Marr interest)  
Interest on Betty Marr CD: \$629.77  
Deficit: \$746.91  
Priscilla Nielsen's bequest: \$5000.00 (for education)  
End of Year:  
Money in Operations Account: \$1,802.26  
Money in Special Projects Acct.: \$5,744.50  
Money in Betty Marr CD: \$26,328.87  
Total: \$33,875.63

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

Would you like to see more original articles in this newsletter? All members are encouraged to send their queries, ancestor stories, research strategies, favorite websites or other resources to the editor for publication in a future issue of this newsletter.

Submissions are subject to editorial approval and may be edited for content or space. They may be mailed to me at 4170 Elm Ave., #304, Long Beach, CA 90807; e-mailed to me at [linda.artuso@verizon.net](mailto:linda.artuso@verizon.net); or handed to me at a monthly meeting.

Your Editor, Linda Artuso



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### WHEN THE CENSUS TAKER CAME

by Christine Elia

At the January 2010 meeting, Questing Heirs Genealogical Society was treated to a presentation of the 1930 Census, as seen through the eyes of a census taker. This role was created and played by genealogist Diane Wright of Corona. Not only was Diane wearing period clothing, but she stayed "in character" during the entire presentation. She did a wonderful job of holding everyone's attention by slipping in a little "gossip" once in a while. It was obvious to me that she had researched several families and buildings that were included in her Enumeration District.

Her character started by telling us how she obtained the census job and what she was supposed to do. As she talked to folks along the way, if she knew something about them that was different than the "official" answer they gave her, she had to write down what they said. She had to reassure some of them that the information was confidential. Other government agencies and neighbors she met along the way weren't going to find out their answers. Still, some people were hesitant to answer some of the questions, such as how many radios they had, since some thought it could mean they would be taxed on them. (The radio question was collecting info that would later help determine where broadcasting stations should be built.)

Another question that appeared only in the 1930 census was who in the household was in charge of buying things for the home. The answer to this question would later be used for marketing so mail could be addressed to the appropriate person. Anyone who has ever looked at a census record already knows that one person in the household was identified as "Head" and listed first, while the other household members had their relationship listed relative to the "Head" (ie, Wife, Son, Daughter, Boarder, etc.) But then we learned that the person who did most of the household shopping was identified by an "H" after their relationship (ie, "Wife H"). Many of us then

realized we needed to re-check our 1930 census records at home.

The Great Depression was mentioned a few times during the presentation to help put things in context for us. For example, one family who was visited had invited the census taker in, but had no furniture. It was noticed that they used orange crates for furniture. That house had three stories and the census taker was invited to look out over the town from a top-floor window. The view was beautiful, and the ranches on the outskirts of town that she had visited earlier could be seen.

The census takers had to turn in their reports at the end of each day, and the one who had the most names that day would then be mentioned in the newspaper. They were paid 5 cents for each name and had to complete all their home visits within 2 weeks. In Corona, the four census takers counted just over 7,000 people in the 2 weeks.

During the presentation, I looked over the audience a few times and saw that everyone's gaze was riveted on Diane and the role she was playing. This was definitely a different type of presentation, but one that everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy. Thank you, Diane, for sharing the information in the way that you did!





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### USCIS GENEALOGY PROGRAM

<http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>

The United States Customs & Immigration Service (USCIS) has a fee-for-service genealogy program. It offers two services:

- ◆ **Index Search:** Using biographical information provided by the researcher, USCIS searches its historical immigration and naturalization record indices for citations related to a specific immigrant. Search results (record citations) are returned to the researcher, along with instructions on how to request the file(s) from USCIS or the National Archives. Fee: \$20.
- ◆ **Record Copy Request:** Researchers with valid record citations (USCIS file numbers gained through an Index Search or independent research), may request copies of historical immigration and naturalization records. Fee: \$20 for a copy of a file on microfilm or \$35 for a copy of a textual file copy.

You may submit requests using form G-1041 (*Genealogy Index Search Request*) and G-1041A (*Genealogy Records Request*). Both are available at the website above.

### HAMILTON CO., O., DOCUMENTS

...“More than 1 million Hamilton County documents—some dating to 1791—[are] now available online from the Probate Court that will be a boon to genealogy buffs, history researchers and anyone trying to see what happened to great grandpa’s belongings when he died...

“The newly available documents, some 219 years old, include birth, death, marriage, estate, naturalization and other records.

“ ‘There are many, many folks who wish to trace their genealogy. By doing this, people will not have to come to our office in Cincinnati,’ [Judge] Cissell said.”

*Excerpted from an article by Kimball Perry of the Enquirer at Cincinnati.Com on 29 Dec 2009.*

Note: To access the records, go to <http://www.probatect.org>. Click on Record Search and then on Archive Search.

### GENEALOGY ITEMS ON eBAY

Dick Eastman explained in a recent blog how to use a search on eBay to assist your genealogy research.

“The process for creating an automated search is simple. Go to <http://www.ebay.com> and create a free account. There is no obligation.

1. From the top of any page, enter the item you’re looking for in the search box and click the Search button.
2. On the search results page, click the Save this search link near the top of your results.
3. A Save this search box will appear with a suggested name for your search and the option to receive email notifications when new items match your search. Clear the Email me daily when new items match my search check box if you don’t want to receive notifications. You can also select a different time period from the drop-down menu if you’d like to receive more or less frequent updates.
4. Click the Save button. Your search will be saved on your My eBay page.

“To have the daily report of new items of interest sent to you in email:

1. Click My eBay at the top of most eBay pages.
2. From the Activity tab, in the Organize section, click the Saved searches link.
3. From your list of saved searches, find the search you want.
4. Click the arrow next to Edit search on the right side of the page, and then select Sign up for emails.
5. Make the Email me daily when new items match my search for: check box is selected, and then select a time period from the drop-down menu.
6. Click the Save button.”

*From Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 9 Jan 2010 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.*



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### GENEALOGY ON TV

“Who Do You Think You Are?” is finally scheduled to be aired on NBC at 8:00 p.m. on Fridays starting March 5, 2010!



In February, PBS will premier a four-part series called “Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates Jr.”

“The special, which builds upon the Harvard University professor’s popular documentary series ‘African American Lives’ parts 1 and 2, traces the genealogical histories of 11 luminaries of various races and backgrounds. The list includes author Malcolm Gladwell, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, television actress Eva Longoria and Oscar-winning legend Meryl Streep.” Also figure skater Kirsti Yamaguchi and novelist Louise Erdrich.

*The above excerpt was from an article written by Mekeisha Madden Toby for The Detroit News (detnews.com) on 14 Jan 2010.*

### AF RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO ARCHIVES

“Approximately 177,000 official military personnel files from the Air Force were recently transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration, making the historical documents part of the public record. As Air Force personnel files continue to reach maturity at 62 years, they will be transferred to National Archives ownership. The ownership of these records by the National Archives now makes them open to the public. While the Privacy Act no longer applies to archival records, exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act continue to protect the personal privacy of the members and their families, and Social Security numbers are redacted before release. For more information and to request copies of records from the National Archives, visit the National Archives’ eVetRecs website. (source: Military Report, Military.com)”

*An e-mail from eugenemelvin.roots@comcast.net on 7 Jan 2010; forwarded by Liz Myers.*

### ANCESTRY MAGAZINE DISCONTINUES PUBLICATION

“For 25 years, *Ancestry* magazine has been a valuable, timely resource for family history professionals, hobbyists, and novices alike. For a variety of reasons, the time has come for us to discontinue publication. Over the last few years, we have found that with the expanded accessibility of terrific family history content published online at Ancestry.com we can reach a larger and broader audience than the limited distribution of a print publication.

“The March/April 2010 issue will be the final issue of *Ancestry* magazine. Subscribers to *Ancestry* magazine with current subscriptions that will not be completed by the mailing of the March/April 2010 magazine will receive prorated refunds. Subscribers will find a letter enclosed with their final issue informing them of these details. We are also no longer selling new magazine subscriptions nor renewing those that have expired. Single copies of past issues, including the upcoming March/April issue, will be available for purchase in our online store.

“With *Ancestry* magazine we have loved the opportunity we’ve had to write about the best of what we found in the world of family history. We thank our readers and contributors for sharing our enthusiasm for all things genealogy.

Sincerely,  
The *Ancestry* Magazine Staff”

*Announced at <http://www.AncestryMagazine.com> on 15 Jan 2010.*

*I am glad my ancestors arrived on the Mayflower, but I am gladder that there are nine generations between us.*

*William Lyon Phelps  
Journalist & Professor (1865-1943)*



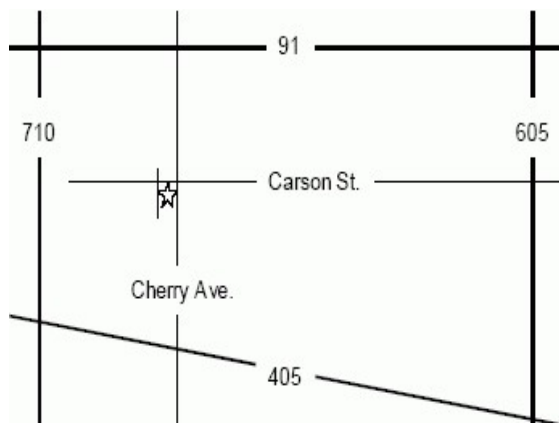
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Saturday, February 13, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: “Razzle Dazzle ‘Em: Using Technology to Present Your Family History Research with Pizzazz,” by Leron Kornreich

Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Program: “Be Mine: Early American Marriage Customs,” by Connie Moretti.

Wednesday, February 17, 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: “Antiques and You: How to Relate to Elderly Inanimate Objects,” presented by Hal Horrocks.

Sunday, February 21, 1:15-4:00 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 10.



Sunday, February 28, 1:00-3:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting will explore the research facilities at the Orange Regional Family History Center, 674 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA.

## Upcoming Events

### GEN. SOC. OF NORTH ORANGE CO.

Saturday, March 13, 2010 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
Brea United Methodist Church  
480 N. State College Blvd., Brea

**Arlene Eakle** will be speaking on:

- \* Family History for Fun and Profit
- \* Tracing a Southern Pedigree
- \* Tracing the Ladies on Your Pedigree
- \* The Appalachian Triangle

Non-members \$30, box lunch \$9. For info: (714)777-2379 or [www.gsnocc.org](http://www.gsnocc.org).

### NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY G. S.

Saturday, March 27, 2010 (9 a.m.-4 p.m.)  
Carlsbad Senior Center  
799 Pine St., Carlsbad

**Family Tree DNA & You** is the topic, with four sessions presented on various aspects of DNA testing. Discounted kits will be available to seminar registrants.

Non-members \$30, box lunch \$8.50. Contact Nina Anderson at (760)599-9958 or [ninaanderson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ninaanderson@sbcglobal.net) for information.

\*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.