



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 43 ✦ Number 4 ✦ April 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, APRIL 18, 2010

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Keeping a Timeline...and Why
by Nancy Huebotter**

2:00 Business

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Nancy Huebotter
Meeting Researching Cemetery & Mortuary Records**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: There will be no class this month.

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APRIL MEETING

SPEAKER:

NANCY HUEBOTTER

Our speaker, a nationally recognized lecturer on various genealogy topics, has spent over 30 years researching her family history. Along with her parents, Nancy researched, wrote, and published a family history book entitled *Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Carroll and Ellis Miller*, a 395-year history of her mother's lines. She is currently writing her father's biography, especially highlighting his military service and subsequent imprisonment in a German POW camp during World War II.

By profession, Nancy is in the midst of a 34-year career with Raytheon Company (formerly Hughes Aircraft Company) where she is a senior technical writer and an instructor.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

The purpose of developing a timeline for an individual family member, or a family in its entirety, is to place them in history, to track their movements, and to look at various historical events that may have had an impact on their situations.

Bring a pencil, family group sheets (at least a small selection of a contiguous family) and your thinking cap. You will be given other supplies and information to assist you in developing a timeline example.

MAIN PRESENTATION

Searching cemeteries and their records is one of the most valuable supplementary sources for obtaining family history information. This presentation is designed to acquaint the researcher with the tools available to ensure a cemetery search is successful, including:

- What should you know about the cemetery prior to visiting it?
- What should you know about grave markers, headstones, and tombstones?
- Who keeps the information on the cemeteries and where are the records kept?
- What about Funeral Homes and the information they provide?

REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our March hosts:

Linda DONALDSON Frances LIEBZEIT
George & Polly JOHNSON Linda RYAN

Our April hosts will be:

Frena DOMINGUEZ Terry HAMILTON
George & Polly JOHNSON Penny NUGENT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

MARCH MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 39 Guests: 0

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

February Income	\$ 26.27
February Expenses	\$ 351.03
Operations Account	\$1,039.64
Special Projects Account	\$5,694.50

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MAY

NEWSLETTER ARE DUE BY

APRIL 25, 2010.

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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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NEVER WAVE GOODBYE
By Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD

Would you like to be recognized as a crack forensic genealogist? It's easy...all you have to do is to solve an apparently unsolvable mystery. May I suggest one of my favorites?

There are dozens of hidden Jewish children who survived the Holocaust who have not been able to regain their identities. They were placed in Christian homes under assumed names by parents who disappeared and never returned to retrieve them after the war. Many of these children have spent their lives not only trying to discover who they are, but also searching for relatives who may have survived the Holocaust. To read fascinating stories about these individuals, please visit the Missing Identity website at www.missing-identity.net.



Michelle Annette

One of my favorite "missing children" is Michelle Annette, born 1938-1939 in France. She only remembers that her mother's first name was Catherine and that she had a grandmother in Normandy. During the war she stayed in the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) children's home in Montmorency, France. OSE is a French Jewish humanitarian organization that saved hundreds of refugee children during WWII. It was founded in Russia in 1912 and transferred to France in 1933.

Between August-September 1941, Michelle Annette was brought to New York from France, probably through Spain and Casablanca in Morocco. When she arrived in the US, her foster parents renamed her Mary and tore up her identity papers, essentially kidnapping her from her past.

Over the years, Mary found nothing about her early life until April 2008, when she discovered a book called *Never Wave Goodbye* by Philip K. Jason and Iris Posner (Publisher: Greenwood Publishing House). The book tells the story of about 1,000 children brought from Europe to the States between 1934-1945, who were between the ages of 14 months and 16 years old. In the book Mary noticed a picture of a group of children waving at the Statue of Liberty as they arrive in New York Harbor.

She was shocked to recognize herself as the little girl in the arms of the woman on the right; she has a photo taken in late 1940 at her American foster parents' house, where she is wearing the same dress. Since this discovery, she has been able to narrow down the date of her arrival through a second photo taken in August 1940 where she appears at the birthday celebration in France of the OSE home's director Dr. Ernest Papanek. Since the children on the boat are wearing light clothing, she must have arrived between August and September 1940.

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Our society received \$80.76 for the three months of December 2009 through February 2010 from Ralphs community contribution program. This is an easy way for our members to add income to Questing Heirs. If you have not yet signed up for this Ralphs program, just go to www.ralphs.com and follow the instructions. Our number is 84877. Thanks for your support.

Remember, we're still looking for a Publicity Chairman. Contact Liz Myers if you can help in this capacity.

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A thrilling sight after dodging enemy subs

If she can only identify the ship she arrived on, she may be able to obtain her original family name from the passenger manifest. Perhaps there is other personal information about her on the manifest such as her date and place of birth.

To help Michelle Annette to regain her identity, all you have to do is to determine which ship she arrived on. I have already found that Dr. Papenek arrived in New York from Lisbon on the Nea Hellas on Sept 3, 1940. Although I searched this passenger list for a little girl about 2 years old who might be accompanying him, I came up blank.

I throw this mystery out to those of you who aspire to become forensic genealogists. With all the clues in the photograph to the ages of the children on the ship, and with all the hints to probable groups of siblings, it must be possible to find the answer. Perhaps you can be recognized as the forensic genealogist who helped Michelle Annette regain her identity.

This article was contributed by Colleen Fitzpatrick PhD on 25 Mar 2010. Copyright © 2010. All rights reserved.

ROSTER CHANGES

Add new member:

Ronald Janus
299 Cherry Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90802-3902
(562) 437-5562
rjjanus@aol.com

Correct Sandy Nissenson's e-mail address:
nissensonjosandy@gmail.com



Happy Easter to all from your QHGS Board of Directors!



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Evaluating Online Genealogical Data—To Accept or Not to Accept? by Joan Young

If I had a dollar for every time I heard someone complain that an online family tree or database is “garbage,” error-ridden, or sloppily compiled, I wouldn’t have to worry about the state of the world’s economy. Some researchers even claim that they would never stoop to looking at online user-submitted data (such as RootsWeb’s WordConnect database). Let’s take a look.

Should you consider and accept user-submitted data?

Don’t automatically discard user-submitted data. Information you find online, regardless of the source, may provide the very answers you need. I once found a will mentioned in a WorldConnect tree that provided the maiden name of an immigrant ancestor’s wife I’d been seeking for years. The submitter sent me a copy of the woman’s father’s will which provided conclusive proof. Part of family history research is being a sleuth. Don’t merely copy another researcher’s file perpetuating errors. Verify and evaluate the evidence you find online.

Issues to consider in reviewing user-submitted data:

1. Did the submitter include his sources? If so, how reliable are the sources? Is the data based upon a birth certificate, marriage record, deed, or other document with a relatively high degree of accuracy? Or, did Susie Submitter copy or merge the information from other files (possibly unsourced) she found online? Obtain original copies of the documents used as evidence where possible, especially if you have reason to suspect there may be an error, misinterpretation, or even a typo.
2. If sources are not listed, look for a contact address for the submitter so that you can ask about his evidence and conclusions. Once again, verify the information yourself.
3. Does the submitter’s data agree with information you have already gathered or

found elsewhere? Conflicting data requires a careful analysis to establish what the best evidence or the preponderance of evidence indicates. Look for the evidence recorded nearest the event it supports and provided by someone in a position to know. Consider whether the person would have had any reason to falsify data (such as a young bride claiming to be marriageable age or a man wanting to show he is old enough to enlist in military service).

4. Is the data logical or are there blatant errors in the tree such as children born to women in their late fifties, marriages at age five, or other unlikely events or inconsistencies? Look for red flags such as a tree that links (or merges) two individuals of the same name, without regard for dates and ages. Watch out for incorrect assumptions that two same-name individuals in different locations are the same person, unless there is evidence to support a move from point A to point B. Genealogical leaps of faith connecting individuals or generations could well be erroneous.
5. Remember that finding the same information online in multiple databases doesn’t ensure accuracy as others may well have copied or merged the information without verification.
6. Pay no attention to who submitted the data, but rather to the evidence itself. Even respected genealogists make errors occasionally and may not have access to all the information you possess.

Why won’t Rootsweb (and other online hosts) remove error-ridden databases?

Companies such as RootsWeb are not the genealogy police or Judge Judy and cannot be expected to evaluate the accuracy of data submitted (and owned and controlled) by family historians. Submitters have the right to be wrong.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, IN

<http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us/lh>

If you have ancestors in Montgomery County, Indiana, the Crawfordsville District Public Library has a number of databases available online. Some are indexes; some link to actual document images.

DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1776

<http://www.theggg.org/DOR.stm>

The National Society of the Daughters of the Revolution of 1776 was organized in 1891 and incorporated in the State of New York as an organization national in its work and purpose.

It was founded to provide a society whose terms of membership would be based on direct descent from Revolutionary War soldiers and statesmen of the Revolution. The Society was governed by a system of State Societies and local Chapters.

When the Society disbanded in 1983, all of the records of the national society were donated to the Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead, New York.

The database at the URL above consists of an index of all the applications submitted by prospective members of the society. They include the direct genealogical descent from the patriot to the applicant, as well as a description of the patriot's service.

If you find an ancestor in the database, you can print a form to request a copy of his application from the Suffolk County Historical Society. You will need to enclose a copy of the Printable Version of your Results page, along with a \$10.00 fee and an SASE.

HathiTrust

<http://www.hathitrust.org>

“HathiTrust [pronounced ha-tee] is a bold idea with big plans.” It provides a digital repository for the nation’s great research libraries. Current participants are a collaboration of the thirteen universities of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation and the University of California system.

“Growing the world’s largest library won’t happen overnight. You’ve heard of other digital libraries. This one is different in concept and scale. Its greatest promise—and challenge—rests in defining how to serve researchers in the digital age. Together we will develop and refine the services needed to search and use such a large digital collection, and realize collectively our greatest potential as a library community. Together we will make HathiTrust available to everyone, anywhere, any time.”

ROOTS TELEVISION

<http://rootstelevision.com>

Megan Smolenyak, creator of Roots Television, planned to close it in March because it was a one-person company and becoming expensive to run.

Because of the many messages she received from fans after her announcement, however, Megan has decided to continue RTV. Some individuals and organizations even offered to adopt it.

The solution to the financial problem will be adding commercials to the site She’ll try to make them “as painless as possible.” And she is also looking for companies or organizations interested in running banner ads on RTV.



Continued from page 29...

What is the best way to combat errors found in online databases?

1. Contact the submitter by e-mail if possible.
2. Add a Post-em Note (user-added note) indicating the error and any corrections and evidence you have.
3. Upload your own database so that researchers who find the incorrect data in a search will also find your file. The only database for which you are responsible is your own.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 10 June 2009, Vol. 12, No. 6.



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TARTAN DAY

Everyone knows that March 17 is St. Patrick's Day when the Irish celebrate their special day, but did you know that April 6 is Tartan Day when Scottish heritage is celebrated?

"In 1982, under the auspices of the New York Caledonian Club, New York State Governor Hugh Carey and New York City Mayor Ed Koch declared July 1, 1982, as Tartan Day, a one-off celebration of the 200th anniversary of the repeal of the Act of Proscription of August 12, 1747, the law forbidding Scots to wear tartan.

"In the United States it is estimated that there are 6 million people who claim Scottish descent. Little was done to follow up the New York event in 1982. In 1998 the National Capital Tartan Day Committee, a coalition of Scottish-American organizations, successfully lobbied the Senate for the designation of April 6 as National Tartan Day 'to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States.' Senate Resolution 155 passed on March 20, 1998...

"On March 9, 2005, the United States House of Representatives unanimously adopted House Resolution 41, which designates April 6 of each year as 'National Tartan Day.'"

Information from Wikipedia

GRO RAISES FEES

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/gro>

If you order birth, marriage, or death certificates from England's General Register Office, be aware that the fees for these certificates will be going up on 6 April 2010.

A certificate, with or without a reference number, will then cost £9.25 when ordered from the GRO. Certificates ordered from a Local Registration Office will cost £9.

Thinking of the Genealogists of 2082

<http://blogs.census.gov/2010census>

"In the year 2082, if current laws continue, the individual records of the 2010 census will be released for genealogical research. This has

happened for several decades now. After the forms were processed in prior censuses, they were placed in the highly secure confines of the National Archives. After 72 years passed, the individual records of a census were released. (The 72-year figure was chosen to assure that the vast majority of the persons covered by a census would have died by that time. It will be interesting to see whether that logic should be re-evaluated given modern life expectancies.) The latest census to be so released was the 1930 census.

"The digitization of old census records has been a wonderful boon to those trying to rediscover their roots. The construction of family trees has been greatly aided by the ability to search for the names of ancestors.

"Our paper forms for the 2010 census are being processed by very high speed optical scanners, which create a digital image of our forms exactly as we filled them out. Those machines also create a numeric data record that is used for the statistical aggregation of answers from all persons in the census.

"One decision we had to make was whether to save both the numeric data record (for statistical purposes) and the digital image (to aid the genealogists of the future). We've decided to save the digital images and transfer them to the National Archives for safekeeping until 2082. This means your descendants many years from now, if they're interested in seeing traces of their ancestors, can see your own writing that you used in filling out the 2010 census. You might want to keep them in mind when you complete your form."

ANCESTRY.COM BOOKS

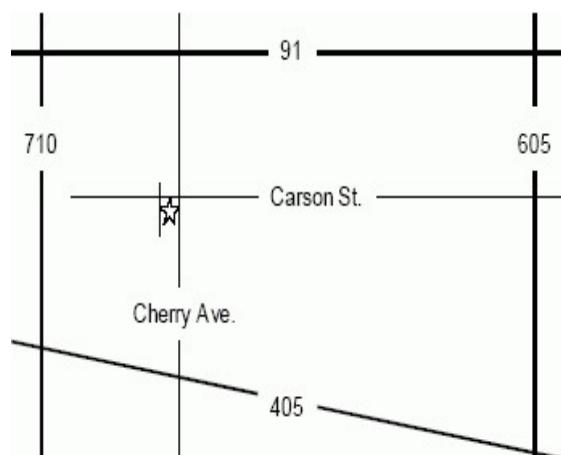
On 23 March 2010, Ancestry.com announced an agreement whereby Turner Publishing will take over most existing inventory and related publishing contracts for Ancestry Publishing, a division of Ancestry.com. Turner has produced more than 800 titles since 1984 and will now acquire 100 more from Ancestry Publishing, including *The Source*, *Red Book*, *1-2-3 Family Tree*, etc.



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Sunday, April 11, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: A no-fee presentation by Arlene Eakle on “Genealogical Evidence in Emigration-Immigration Sources for Ancestors Leaving Northern Europe for America.”

Sunday, April 18, 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 26.



Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting in the Katie Geissert Meeting Room at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: Submit your research problems for review by a panel of experienced society members. For details, see www.rootsworld.com/~casbcgs.

Sunday, April 25, 1:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society monthly meeting at the Wardman Library, 13406 Philadelphia St., Whittier. A Day of Research in the Whittier Area Genealogical Society collection.

Saturday, May 1, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Rooms C&D: “What Was Great Grand-pa Really Like?” by Paula Sassi.

Upcoming Events

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY JAMBOREE

Friday, June 11 thru Sunday, June 13, 2010
LA Marriott Burbank Convention Center
2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank

Besides 102 different lectures to choose from over the three days of the conference, other special opportunities will be provided.

- ◆ You can sign up for 15 minutes of free scanning by Ancestry.com.
- ◆ You can take mini-course and computer labs. Registration online begins on May 1.
- ◆ You can use several free and fee-based online databases for free in the Tech Zone.

The cost for Early Bird Registration (on or before April 30) is \$80 for members and \$95 for nonmembers. For more information or to request a registration packet, you can call (818) 843-7247, send an email to jamboree@scsgsgenealogy.com, or go to their website at www.scsgsgenealogy.com.

*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.