



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 43 ✦ Number 6 ✦ June 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, JUNE 20, 2010**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: How You Get There Does  
Make a Difference, by Barbara Renick**

**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Barbara Renick  
Meeting Ask & Ye Shall Receive Help Online**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: On the Web, presented by  
Mike Powers**

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### JUNE MEETING

#### SPEAKER:

#### BARBARA RENICK

Barbara Renick began teaching PAF and computer genealogy classes in 1985. She frequently lectures and teaches computer labs at national family history conferences and at the Regional Family History Center in Orange, California. Over the years, Barbara has had many articles published and was a National Genealogical Society contributing editor for eleven years. She co-authored *The Internet for Genealogists: A Beginner's Guide*, made two instructional videos on using the Internet for genealogy, and now publishes instructional videos online at her web site *ZRoots.com*. Her last book, titled *Genealogy 101: How to Trace Your Family's History and Heritage*, was sponsored by NGS for their 100th Anniversary. Barbara has served on the Association of Professional Genealogists' Board of Directors and as secretary for that organization.

#### INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Barbara's lecture titled "How You Get There Does Make a Difference" provides examples from different types of web sites where initial searches failed, but accessing the site in a different way or making the search in a different way brings positive results. Also covered are some differences between commercial genealogy sites, thinking outside the line (by using other media), and ways to overcome the shortcomings of electronic search techniques.

#### MAIN PRESENTATION

The ways in which genealogists get help have evolved right along with the Internet. "Ask & Ye Shall Receive Help Online" covers a variety of web sites that provide genealogy help online, ranging from wikis to training videos to forums and discussion groups to asking librarians around the world for help 24/7.

### REFRESHMENTS

#### Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our May hosts:

Kathy & Larry AKAU      Suzanne BOYLES  
Sandra HOLLANDSWORTH      Linda IVERS

Our June hosts will be:

Linda DONALDSON      Linda RYAN  
Fred SPECKMEYER      Connie WILLIAMS

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

#### MAY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 33      Guests: 1

#### NEW MEMBER

Cheryl CROSHAW      Individual 9/10

#### RENEWAL

Dorothy AHRENS      Newsletter 9/10

### FINANCIAL REPORT

#### David WERTS (562) 431-7790

April Income	\$ 81.84
April Expenses	\$ 403.56
Operations Balance	\$ 651.32
Special Projects Balance	\$ 5,544.50

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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.*



### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION by Connie Moretti

The familiar phrase for real estate holds just as true for genealogy. We cannot find the records of our ancestors if we don't know where to look for them. Most of the records that are useful in our research are held at the county level, for example birth, marriage, death, land, tax and probate records. An old address book may provide specific locations; but if you are not sure of the county where the address is found, you can *Google* the phrase (town) is in \* county (state).

Knowing the precise location where a family lived will help you locate the closest churches, cemeteries, schools, and newspapers, as well as other relatives. The most recent censuses list street names in the far left margin, with the house numbers just before the dwelling number. With this information you can use a mapping service such as [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) to get a map of the exact location. Using a variety of tools will give you information on the surroundings. One of the best sources for county-wide information is [www.linkpendium.com](http://www.linkpendium.com) which has all sorts of links for every United States county.

If your family includes pioneers, especially in the vast mid-western areas, you may want to look for them in the government land records at [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) where the documents for first purchasers are being made available. Armed with the exact township, range and section location, you can then visit [www.earthpoint.us/](http://www.earthpoint.us/) and find Township and Range in the left-hand sidebar. This service works in conjunction with *Google Earth* to pinpoint precise properties. You can also use *Google Earth* with a street address to find a map or photograph of the location. Use the same techniques for locating churches and cemeteries that may contain useful information about your family.

Be aware of a distinction between legal and social locations. The legal location is where

vital records are kept, schools are provided, property is transferred and taxes are paid. The social location includes the voluntary associations of churches & cemeteries, clubs & organizations, and local newspapers. Depending on the precise location where your ancestors lived, these social locations may be in an adjacent county or even across state lines. When your family resided near a county or state line, it is important to look in the nearby area for their social records.

Pinpointing the exact location of an ancestral family will allow you to broaden the scope of your research and help to make sure important information is not overlooked.

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### 2020 CENSUS WILL HAVE AN ONLINE OPTION

Writing in the Washington Post, Ed O'Keefe reports that a team of experts at the U.S. Census Bureau is planning for the 2020 Census even as temporary workers are knocking on doors to complete the 2010 Census. Final answers won't be needed for about eight years, but the team hopes to keep costs below the \$14.7 billion budget for the 2010 Census and to make it possible for at least some Americans to answer census questions via the Internet.

"None of us can imagine doing a 2020 Census without an Internet option," Census Bureau Director Robert Groves said in an interview...The easiest way to reduce costs in the Census is to reduce manpower," Groves said. "To the extent that we can reduce the number of census worker visits in 2020, we're going to save a lot of money."

*From Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 20 May 2010 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.*



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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Howdy!

I am so excited to have Barbara Renick as our speaker for this month! She has never been to visit us before; so, I hope you can make it to the meeting—even though we are aware that it’s Father’s Day. Barbara is an excellent speaker. She really knows her stuff and shares so much of herself; so, be prepared to sit back and learn! Take a look at her web site too: [barb@zroots.com](http://barb@zroots.com). It contains some wonderful information.

We are working with the Long Beach Main Library to update the genealogy collection. We will be purchasing some books at the Jamboree and hope to get them on the shelves soon. Come by sometime and see what we have been doing!

I have just become a volunteer for *Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness* (<http://raogk.org>). The purpose of this organization is to encourage people to help each other and to help keep genealogy free. Volunteers use one day a month to help others. I just realized that most of the people listed for Los Angeles County want to take pictures in cemeteries! (Our own Floyd Farrar is a member helping with cemetery research.)

I really don’t like to do that; so, I volunteered to look up records for L.A. County, especially Long Beach. Well, I just signed up this week, and I’m already getting a slew of requests. So, if any of you are interested in taking a day to help someone, please sign up! I’m getting overwhelmed.

I want to wish my long-suffering husband of 45 years, Karl, a happy anniversary. He is NOT a genealogist, but he does let me do my thing!

Summer will be here soon, and I have learned to go to an air-conditioned library when it gets too hot in my house. I hope you have a chance to visit with family and add more information to your family history.

*Liz*

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Please add the following new member to your copy of the Membership Directory.

Cheryl Croshaw  
6039 Loynes Drive  
Long Beach, 90803-2331  
Phone: 562-597-0509  
Email: [cherylcro@aol.com](mailto:cherylcro@aol.com)

**Submissions for the  
July Newsletter are due  
by June 27, 2010.**



**ADOPTEE BIRTH RECORDS**

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation on 21 May 2010 allowing adoptees access to their birth records. “Adopted people born in 1945 or earlier now will be able to obtain their birth certificates right away. Adoptees born after 1945 will have to wait until November 2011, to give their birthparents a chance to file an objection, if they want.

“Yet, the law doesn’t guarantee adoptees access to information. Birthparents who want to remain anonymous can do so by filing a request with the state..However, it is the responsibility of the birthparents in that situation to notify the state and then keep any nondisclosure request up to date. Failure to do so would be treated as consent...

“Adoptees still have to go through what’s called a confidential intermediary program, in which a third party acts as a go-between between the adoptee and the birthparents.”

*Good news for adoptees in Illinois, the above extracts are from an article in the Daily Herald by staff writers Barbara Vitello and John Patterson published on 23 May 2010.*



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**SPEAKER: BETH McCARTY**

Summary by Linda Artuso

**Effective Use of  
LDS Family History Centers**

Beth McCarty is the Director of the Orange Regional Family History Center and an expert on English research. Her expertise in both areas was apparent in her presentations at our May meeting.

In her first lecture, she talked about sources you should consult to see what previous research has already been done by other people relative to your genealogical problem.

You can check entries in the Ancestral File, Pedigree Resource File, and Family Group Sheets through the LDS Church—some on microfilm and many now online. Look for published biographies and family histories on your surname of interest and also check with lineage societies such as the DAR, SAR, Mayflower Society, and National Huguenot Society. Of course, you can't just accept the information you find in these sources without verification.

Next, Beth discussed the major indexes that are available at Family History Centers: the International Genealogical Index (IGI), Census Indexes (U.S. and foreign), the Social Security Death Index, as well as indexes to Vital Records, Military Service, Immigration and Emigration, Land Records, and the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) for periodicals. Since these are indexes, your next step is to locate the actual source.

You need to obtain original records to verify and extend the information you have. Look at the Research Outline for the locality you're researching at the FamilySearch.org web site, where you will also find word lists, letter-writing guides, and other aids. Check the Family History Library Catalog for pertinent microfilms you can borrow through your local FHC, and also look at Record Search Pilot at the FamilySearch.org web site to view for free records that have been digitized.

**Reference Tools & Indexes  
for English Research**

Beth provided a handout with an extensive bibliography of sources, in various categories, that can be helpful in locating information about your English ancestors.

**Guidebooks**—The Family History Library has a Research Outline for England, and the Public Record Office also has topical information sheets at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). Published guidebooks include those such as *In Search of British Ancestry* by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards.

**Gazetteers and Atlases**—Two helpful books in this category are *Phillimore's Atlas & Index of Parish Registers* by Cecil R. Humphrey-Smith and *Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of England*.

**Historical Background**—Always important for successful research are books providing background information. One is *The Lives & Times of Our English Ancestors* by Frank Smith. Also, the Victoria County Histories are online at <http://British-history.ac.uk>.

**Nationwide Indexes**—Besides the IGI and the Vital Records Index for the British Isles (the latter now on Record Search Pilot), *Indexes to the Civil Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, England & Wales, 1837-1980*, is available on film and also at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>.

**Other Tools & Guides**—Beth's bibliography also includes:

- Tools for using the census,
- Guides to military records,
- Tools for finding probate records,
- Tools for using church records,
- Finding newspapers,
- Guides to archives and libraries, and
- Guides to printed histories & pedigrees.



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## WHERE WAS IT WRITTEN?

by Michael John Neill

In theory, the genealogist locates every scrap of paper they can for an ancestor. The reality is different. When obtaining everything is not possible, it may be helpful to ask, “What record could contain the information I am looking for?” This week we look at taking that approach and the opportunities and limitations that come with it.

We will start with Nancy Newman, born in 1846 in Rush County, Indiana. Where can I find a proof of that date and place? First of all I need to consider:

~**Civil birth record.** *Red Book* by Ancestry Publishing could provide information on the civil records in this time and place. A variety of websites could also provide similar information. The key is to make certain information about the availability of records is accurate. Generally speaking websites of state archives, state departments of health, or county and town offices of vital records are good places to start. Google searches or references on county and state USGenWeb pages are excellent ways to locate these sites. None are available for the state and time period.

~**Church records.** The family was Baptist, and the chances that church records mention her birth are slight.

~**Newspapers.** Birth announcements were rare during this time period in this location.

These types of records are most likely ones to be sources of primary information about Nancy’s birth—information recorded by someone with firsthand knowledge of the event closely after the date of the event.

Other possible primary sources of information about Nancy’s birth would be letters or diaries written close to the time of the event. A letter written by a cousin one hundred or even ten years after the fact by someone who had never lived near Nancy’s family would not be considered a primary source. However, most of us do not have letters and diaries.

Consequently, we need to expand our searching to other records that might provide information on Nancy’s birth. Unfortunately, this type of information usually becomes secondary and not primary.

### Secondary Sources

It is necessary to know where Nancy and her children lived, married, and died. It is possible that records for Nancy’s children may provide information about her. Nancy was married and died in Illinois, as did most of her children (two died in Minnesota). I need to become familiar with records in these states for the correct time period.

Nancy died in 1923. Her death certificate could provide information on her date and place of birth. Her obituary could also provide the same information. Even if the death certificate and obituary “agree” on the birthplace, it does not mean I give more weight to the information. It is likely that the same person provided the information for the death certificate and obituary. Multiple sources may have had the same original human source.

### The Husband(s)

Nancy married Riley Rampley in 1867. It is possible that a biography of Riley in a county history may contain information on his wife. In this case, Riley’s Civil War pension file contains significant biographical information on Nancy. Records on Nancy’s sons-in-law should also be referenced. It could be that a biography of one of them in a county history mentions their mother-in-law.

### The Children

Seven of Nancy’s children died in Illinois after 1916, when deaths were required to be recorded and birthplaces of parents were listed.

Nine of Nancy’s children married in Illinois after 1877 when (outside of Cook County) marriage applicants were asked for the names

*Continued on page 7*



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### ANCESTRY MAGAZINE

In February we reported that *Ancestry* magazine would cease publication with the March-April 2010 issue, but all past issues are now available free online at Google Books.

#### Ancestry.com Wiki

Ancestry has now started a Wiki. Its content will include:

- *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*,
- *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*,
- Other books, how-to information, and original articles written by experts, and
- Input from users of the site.

The wiki is currently in beta (so all the bells and whistles are not yet in place), but it is free and welcomes input and suggestions from anyone interested.

#### END OF THE 3.5 INCH FLOPPY

Technology marches on. Sony has announced on its Japanese website that the company will be ending sales of the classic 3.5 inch floppy disk in the country in March of 2011. Whether you still have a 3.5 inch floppy drive in your computer or not will make little difference if you cannot purchase the disks.

Sony introduced the 3.5 inch disk to the world in 1981, but the disks did not become popular until the 1990s. Sony has been one of the last major manufacturers to continue shipments of the disk type they helped develop...Sony noted the demand, or a lack thereof, as the reason for discontinuing manufacture and sales.

*From Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 25 Apr 2010 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.*



*Continued from page 6...*

of their parents and their places of birth. Nine more places to locate information on Nancy's place of birth.

If the information provided by the children is consistent, accuracy is not necessarily implied. Consistency implies consistency only. A marriage or death certificate of someone's

child typically is not a primary source of information on the parent. If the data obtained on the mother from these records agrees, it likely means the children were told the same thing about their mother and repeated that information to the record clerk.

So far, I have approximately twenty places to locate information on Nancy's place of birth, but I am not yet done.

#### The Census

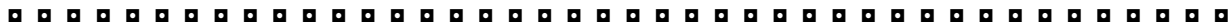
Nancy should be enumerated in the censuses beginning in 1850 through 1920. In each of these seven enumerations at least her age and state of birth should be given. While census ages can be incorrect, these ages should at least be relatively consistent. And the earliest one (when she was approximately four years of age) should be the most accurate. We need to remember that who the informant was on any of these records cannot be stated with any certainty.

#### Summing It Up

Generally speaking, it is important to learn about the records that were created in the area(s) where your "problem" ancestor and any children lived. This provides you with the ability to know what records are likely to provide the desired information. A good question to ask is, "Where might the fact I want to know be written?" Get away from the ancestor and your direct lineage for a moment.

Many of the pieces of information obtained during this process will be secondary. They will need to be evaluated individually based upon your perceived accuracy of the record and the knowledge of the likely informant. It also is necessary to get beyond local government records and consider church records, business records, and state and federal records as well. And it may be worth remembering that in some cases, a primary source of information may never be located—although you should always keep your eyes open to the possibility.

*This article appeared in the 24 /7 Family History Circle of 27 Apr 2008. Copyright © The Generations Network, Inc.*



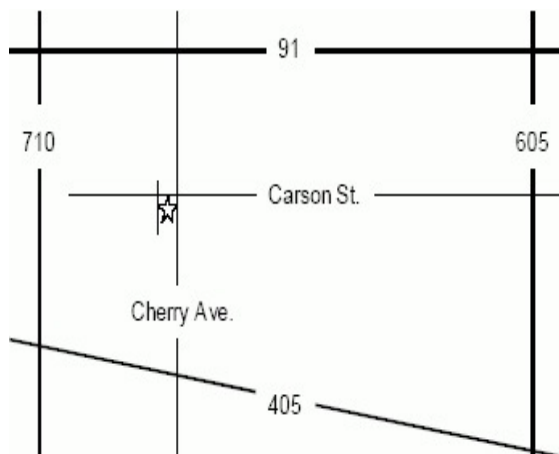
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Sunday, June 6, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “Analyzation and Research Strategy for the Family Historian,” by Caroline B. Rober.

Wednesday, June 16, 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: “What Was Grandpa Thinking,” by Judy Cook.

Wednesday, June 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: “Social Networking and Genealogy,” by Gena Philibert Ortega.

Sunday, June 20, 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 42.



Saturday, July 3, 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, Rooms C&D: “Finding Your Genealogy in Digitized Books,” by Gena Philibert Ortega.

## Upcoming Events

### FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

August 18-21, 2010  
Hilton Knoxville  
501 W. Church Ave.  
Knoxville, Tennessee

### Rediscovering America’s First Frontier

Co-hosts are the East Tennessee Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society.

Besides a wide variety of lectures each day and an Exhibit Hall to visit, some special activities include an Open House at the East Tennessee History Center on August 17 and a team of experts answering research questions for attendees on the 17th and 18th. Ancestry.com will also be available to scan family photos and documents for free.

A few brochures will still be available at our June meeting, or you can contact FGS by phone at 888-347-1500 (toll free), by email at [fgs2010@fgs.org](mailto:fgs2010@fgs.org), or by viewing their website: [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.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 Family History Library are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm, and Friday and Saturday 9 am to 5 pm. The LAFHL 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.