



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 43 ✦ Number 7 ✦ July 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, JULY 18, 2010

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: American Indian Genealogy
by Sue Watkins**

2:00 Business

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Sue Watkins
Meeting Greek Genealogy**

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

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JULY MEETING

SPEAKER:
SUE WATKINS

Born in Washington State, Sue Watkins has traveled to almost all U.S. states and several foreign countries (both east and west) meeting and learning from people of many cultures.

History and history's mysteries have been her love since childhood; and she has taken that love to a college degree in history, with additional studies in anthropology and archeology. Also, her experience as a former police officer, special deputy officer of the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribal Police and Bureau of Indian Affairs, and having been a private investigator, solving mysteries is much more than just a hobby for her.

About 23 years ago, Sue started finding out about her family tree and discovered that she had a knack for genealogy. Since then she has been helping all kinds of folks find out about their roots.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

These days it is easy to prove one has Native American blood in their veins through DNA testing, but to discover just who the ancestors were that contributed that blood and what tribe they belonged to can be a very daunting challenge due to the tumultuous history involved, as well as the many hundreds of Tribal groups involved from both the past and present. Sue will examine various means and methods available for attempting to discover those ancestors, as well as to explore what it takes to obtain enough solid evidence required to obtain Tribal membership.

MAIN PRESENTATION

Finding ancestors from countries like Greece can pose problems, such as dealing with a foreign language, possibly "Americanized" names, and different naming conventions for children. Each country of origin has its own unique set of difficulties when searching for ancestors, and Sue will explore those unique to Greece.

REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our June hosts:

Linda DONALDSON Linda RYAN
Fred SPECKMEYER Connie WILLIAMS

Our July hosts will be:

Pat DANIELS Terry HAMILTON
Kathy LATHAM Frances LIEBZEIT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

JUNE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 35 Guests: 8

NEW MEMBERS

Wayne DROUILLARD Individual 9/10
Steve GABEL Individual 9/10
Gladys SUMNERS Individual 9/10
Richard TROTTER Individual 9/10

RENEWAL

Caroline RAINEY Newsletter 9/10

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

May Income	\$ 309.21
May Expenses	\$ 137.44
Operations Balance	\$ 530.55
Special Projects Balance	\$ 5,494.50

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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.



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THE TINIEST DETAIL by Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD



Sometimes the best clue for analyzing a photo is something that is subtly out of place or unusual. Such a clue can be an inconspicuous feature that requires a bit of observation and thought, yet can be the most important piece of a photo-puzzle.

When Lynda Barlow asked us if we could identify the building in this photograph, I thought we had met our match as photo-sleuths. She told us that the picture had been in her family for many years and that she liked it very much. Yet she did not know what it was.

I spent a lot of time searching for images of skyscrapers using Google Images, but failed to find a picture of the building. Although the sign to the right of the structure advertises the “Hotel Seward”, indicating that the structure is probably located in the Pacific Northwest, I still could not identify it. There were many websites for hotels named “Seward”, most of them located in Alaska, but none of them located near a skyscraper like the one in the picture.



I was about to admit defeat when I noticed something unusual—a set of irregularly spaced vertical lines appearing in the distance. Telephone poles would be in an equally-spaced array; factory chimneys would not be so numerous. These lines seemed scattered and randomly positioned. What could they be?



How about ships’ masts? There is a light triangular patch of grey in the distance behind the lines that could be a body of water, perhaps a bay or a sound. Beyond that, there is a darker area that could be the opposite shore. I wondered if the location of the picture could be Seattle, the largest port in the Pacific Northwest.

Bingo!

It took me only a few moments to locate a picture of the Smith Tower, located at 506 Second Ave. at Yesler Way in downtown Seattle. When it was completed in 1914 at a cost of \$1M, the Smith Tower was one of the tallest

Continued on page 55

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello!

We had a wonderful meeting on Father's Day, with Barbara Renick sharing a lot of information about the beta version of the Family Search website at fsbeta.familysearch.org. Try it out for yourself. It is wonderful, thanks to the LDS church and the hard work of the indexers that keep these resources free.

I spent some time with Stephanie Spika, Librarian at the Long Beach Main Library, recently. We will have to wait for our Library Liaison, Vivian Linderman, to help us get the new books on the shelves. Our society wants to update the collection and encourage people to use it. Right now, we place the exchange newsletters we receive each month on the magazine shelves once a year.

I let the library give out my phone number to people who have genealogy questions, and I get about 7-10 calls per year from that source.

Stephanie called my attention to the new Digital Archive on the library's website at <http://www.lbpl.org>. It includes city directories, yearbooks, and pictures. She particularly showed me a collection of pictures from World War I. Take a look at any of the pictures; and if you recognize someone, let Stephanie know. It would be neat to identify everyone in them!

She also showed me the Crowell Library site in San Marino at <http://crowellpubliclibrary.org>. Check its online sources, such as the "Newspaper Archive" and the "LA Times," and look at CA-Long Beach-Press Telegram. Great resources!!

Summer is a time to catch up on genealogy research and calm down before the big holidays. I hope you are able to find new cousins and enjoy these "lazy days of summer."

Liz



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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

Wayne Drouillard
13260 Fairfield Ln. #171A
Seal Beach, CA 90740-3552
Phone: 562-493-8344
Email: wayne.wrd@verizon.net

Steve Gabel
480 Edford Ct.
Long Beach, CA 90803-6264
Phone: 562-498-7419
Email: steven.gabel@verizon.net

Gladys Summers
1521 Golden Rain Rd. 92f
Seal Beach, CA 90740-4908
Phone: 562-342-9401
Email: gsummers@roadrunner.com

Richard Trotter
4501 E. Colorado St.
Long Beach, CA 90814-3024
Phone: 562-439-0828
Email: samsonrlt@aol.com

Submissions for the August Newsletter are due by July 25, 2010.

PLEASE BE AWARE...

that as of September 1 when our new membership year begins, Questing Heirs is revising its annual membership levels as follows:

- ◆ Individual \$20.00
- ◆ Family \$30.00
- ◆ Sustaining \$50.00
- ◆ Patron \$100 or more

There will no longer be a Contributing or a Newsletter Only category. Only members will receive the monthly newsletter.



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HOW YOU GET THERE DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Summary by Christine Elia

Our June speaker was Barbara Renick, who is a nationally recognized author and speaker, former NGS officer, and volunteer at the Orange FHC. She packs a lot of information into a presentation, while giving concrete examples that are understandable. Her web page at ZRoots.com contains links that she uses for the various topics she discusses, and she encourages others to make use of it, too.

The Granite Mountain (underground vault) in Utah stores 2.5 million rolls of microfilm. The Mormons started digitizing these records a few years ago to move away from microfilm. Two-thirds of the original record owners have given permission for their records to be digitized from the microfilm. When digitizing began ten years ago, it was estimated that it would take 100 years; but with a change in how the photographing is done (several cameras are lined up in a row so that a long strip of microfilm can be photographed all at once), it is now estimated that the digitizing will be done in seven or eight years.

The familysearch.org website is being re-built to accommodate digitized records, their indexing, and learning about various genealogy topics. You can preview the new beta site at: <http://fsbeta.familysearch.org>. A beta site means it is available for users to try out and give feedback before it is formally released. (To report bugs or make suggestions, click on the "feedback" box currently hanging on the right edge of most pages.) This also means it is subject to change at any time, and I have seen features appear and disappear in the last few months.

If your goal is to search with minimal input, you will, of course, find more records that meet your search criteria than if you were more specific. However, each collection you search may have different fields abstracted and searchable. Barbara emphasized several times **that it is better to search by collection** (i.e., record group) than to search all the collections at once.

To illustrate HOW a search is done will affect the results, Barbara showed us the results when one of her place names was searched by place only. Then she searched by putting the same place name in the keyword field and obtained more results. Her "rules" are when you do a place search, also put the place in the keyword field. When a surname is searched, also search by keyword, title, author, and subject.

She also showed us how to search for call numbers in the library catalog. In effect, this shows you what books are on the shelf next to one you are already interested in. To do this, search by title or author or subject for a book of interest. Make a note of the call number. Then do another search for the call number but leave off the last digit.

Be sure to visit ZRoots.com for links to these and other areas you want to explore!

NEWS BULLETIN

The 110th Annual Iowa State Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Lawn Bowling Club, 1109 Federation Drive, Long Beach, CA 90804.

At about 11:30 a.m. the potluck will start. Bring a dish to share, your own beverage, and your own eating utensils. Please let Liz Myers know if you are coming by:

Phone at (562) 421-0726 or

E-mail at stookesberry@gmail.com

The Lawn Bowling Club has several picnic tables, is handicapped accessible, and has plenty of parking space; however, extra chairs may be needed.

Take East Anaheim Street west, go left on Park Avenue, and left on Federation Drive. Or, take the 22 Freeway-West that turns into 7th Street. Then take 7th Street west, and turn right on Federation Drive.



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THOUGHTS ABOUT THE 2010 JAMBOREE

Several Questing Heirs members attended the Jamboree this year and are sharing their impressions of the event.

First-time attendee, **Suzanne Boyles**, thought the workshops were well done and the speakers knowledgeable. With so many topics available, there was something for everyone. She was especially impressed by the dinner speakers. The nephew of Alex Haley (of *Roots* fame) gave a lively presentation about his family and how he had found some relatives through DNA testing. Megan Smolenyak made a moving presentation on her findings about the lineage of Michelle Obama and the family's migration to the North. The entire dining room was silent during her talk.

And besides that, Suzanne won the door prize: a registration to next year's Jamboree!

Liz Myers was surprised to learn that e-mails are not so popular anymore. Now, using blogs and Twitter or Facebook to keep in touch with people is the way to go.

Geoff Rasmussen of Legacy Family Tree talked about the importance of using Timelines in your research to bring attention to gaps or mistakes in your records. Liz once discovered that she had erroneously listed the name of a county that didn't exist at the time.

She also enjoyed a lecture on City Directories by Lisa B. Lee, who was an excellent speaker and shared funny stories that everyone enjoyed. City Directories started about 1880 before telephones came into use. They usually included the names of anyone over 21 years of age, along with their home address and where they worked. You can find these directories in the Los Angeles and Long Beach Public Libraries collections, by googling 'online city directories,' or at www.DistantCousin.com/Directories.

Liz hopes by studying Pennsylvania's Land Records she can prove a relationship in her Stookesberry family. The speaker provided a website address where the master index to warrants, surveys and patents are online.

To begin with, **Nancy Peralta Fermazin** learned that it's fun and relaxing to ride the train to Burbank. [Someone commenting in one of our exchange newsletters found this to be true, also. *Editor*]

Nancy is into social networking and was pleased to find that she could walk around the conference and see people that she knew. She met many people from the blogging community at the conference—such as Randy Seaver, Footnote Maven, Thomas Mac Entee, Jean Hibben and Miriam Robbins Midkiff. Nancy's goal is to blog at least once a week, and she started two new blogs when she got home.

Also, Nancy signed up for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies course through the University of Toronto and joined the Southern California chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists while at the Jamboree.

She enjoyed all the classes she attended and particularly liked those by John Humphrey on German Genealogy and Pennsylvania research. She found the bookstore to be superb. Nancy commented that it was the first time she'd been able to come home from a conference and use what she'd learned right away.

Dave Werts thought the general quality of the displays was good, and he came home with a couple subscriptions and a bit of material to explore further.

He found the speakers to be plentiful and their subjects interesting. He was amazed at the number of people at each program, considering how many were going on at the same time. However, he found that most of the ones he attended were either not what he expected or didn't have much depth.

Dave thinks maybe he's attended too many conferences for too long and become jaded. He did think the Jamboree was fun, and it restarted his genealogy engine (which is one of the reasons for going), but he thought the registration fee was a bit high.



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WHAT RELATION IS MY COUSIN'S COUSIN'S NIECE'S GRANDFATHER?

“Figuring out relationships, especially levels of ‘cousinship’ can be confusing. Third cousin? Some number of times removed? What is all that? Now the Wolfram/Alpha search engine can figure those relationships for you.

“The Wolfram/Alpha blog shows examples, starting off with “my cousin just had a son, what relationship is the son to me?” To find out, simply enter: “Cousin’s son” into the box. The relationship (first cousin once removed) is even displayed visually.”

Go to <http://blog.wolframalpha.com>, click on the “Examples” tab, next “People & History,” then “Genealogy.” Then you can go to <http://www.wolframalpha.com> and enter some relationships yourself.

This site was brought to my attention by Dick Eastman’s blog of 24 Jun 2010 (<http://blog.eogn.com>).

DIGITAL LIBRARY OF GEORGIA UNVEILS NEW BLOG

by Jean Cleveland, UGA Libraries

“The Digital Library of Georgia (DLG) is excited to unveil its own blog. With over two hundred collections from sixty institutions, an ever increasing archive of historic Georgia newspapers, a public domain repository of government publications, and the ground breaking Civil Rights Digital Library, the DLG is large, diverse, and truthfully a bit difficult to “grasp.”

“We hope to introduce the student, the scholar, and the simply curious to the profound and the familiar-but-perhaps-forgotten. We also plan to keep you updated on new projects at the DLG, and to let you know when new resources are available.”

See <http://blog.dlg.galileo.usg.edu>.

From UpFront with NGS, 22 Jun 2010.

Continued from page 51...



buildings in the world outside of New York City, and the tallest building west of the Mississippi River. It was built by Lyman Cornelius Smith who, like his competitor Philo Remington, had made his fortune in the manufacture of small firearms through the Ithaca Gun Company (not Smith and Wesson). Following the example of F. W. Woolworth, the Singer Sewing Machine Company, and Metropolitan Life, Smith saw the potential of the publicity bonanza afforded by the new skyscraper, that he hoped would boost the sales of his new product, the typewriter. At 522 feet high, with 38 floors, the Smith Tower easily dwarfed its then nearest competitor, the 247-foot clock tower of the King Street Station.

When we posted the picture as a weekly photo quiz on our Forensic Genealogy website at www.forensicgenealogy.info, our readers in Seattle recognized the Smith Tower immediately, even though the Seward Hotel is long gone and few of the ships in Puget Sound have masts. The Smith Tower has long since been eclipsed by taller and more well known skyscrapers, yet it is still an important feature of the Seattle horizon. In 1987 the Smith Tower was designated by the city’s Landmarks Preservation Board as a Seattle Landmark.

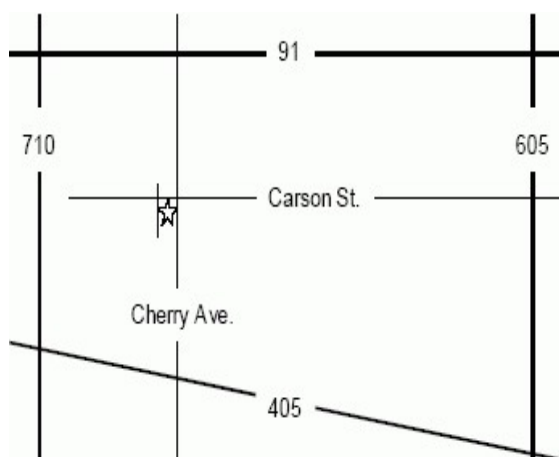
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Sunday, July 11, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “History of Poland with Maps,” by Paul Lipinski.

Sunday, July 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 50.



Wednesday, July 21, 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: “Finding Your Elusive Ancestors,” by Randy Seaver.

Saturday, August 7, 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, Rooms C&D: “Orange County’s Dead and Famous,” by Michael Barry.

Registration for the 2011 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy opened on June 10 online at www.infouga.org. Early registration is suggested as all classes are expected to fill to capacity. The Institute will be held at the downtown Radisson Hotel in Salt Lake City from January 10-14, 2011. Additional information is available at the above website.

Upcoming Events

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH GENEALOGY

July 11-16, 2010
JW Marriott Hotel
900 W. Olympic Blvd., L.A.

You will find detailed information about the programs, speakers, and registration at <http://www.jgsla2010.com>.



BRITISH ISLES FHS-USA

Saturday, August 14, 2010
Pasadena City College
1570 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena

Titled “Come to Your Census,” this seminar focuses on census research in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and early U.S. There will also be presentations on uploading data and images to your genealogy program and finding misspelled ancestors.

Registrations received by July 25 will be \$45 for members and \$55 for non-members. Flyers will be available at our July meeting.

*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.