



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 43 + Number 8 + August 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, AUGUST 15, 2010

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Researching New York State
by Carole Owens**

2:00 Business

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: John McCoy
Meeting Going Medieval: Genealogies in the Mist**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: Getting Organized
presented by Mike Powers**

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AUGUST MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

Carole Owens

Carole was born in Lorain, Ohio, and reared in Idaho and Oregon. She served in the US Armed Forces, married and moved to Westfalen, Germany. Upon returning to the US, she attended nursing school and later worked in that field. She has traveled extensively, and in 1977 started working on family history after visiting the family of Mike Owens (her current husband). Carole has also served off and on as an LDS Family History Consultant.

The usual US genealogical tools are effective for researching New York, such as: US Genweb, Ancestry.com, Ellis Island & Castle Garden, NARA, FamilySearch.org, Vital Records (beginning 1880), Cyndislist.com, and the New York State Newspaper project. The Class will include handouts from *Family Tree Magazine* for New York State and the Salt Lake City Family History class on the state.

MAIN PRESENTATION

John McCoy, Ph.D.

John, past president of the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, has over 40 years of experience in genealogy. For the past 15 years, he has concentrated on research in French-speaking Switzerland. During the past several years, he discovered documents that take his Swiss ancestry back at least as far as the 14th Century. He has recently undertaken a study of the history and origins of the "Swiss" settlement of Vevay, Indiana, in preparation for the bicentennial of that city in 2013.

"Medieval genealogy" refers to European genealogical research before about 1600. When your genealogical research takes you back to the 16th Century, to a time when there are no more church records or wills, is that the end of your family story? Probably not! What records were kept in medieval times? Do they include ordinary people, not just royalty and the nobility?

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REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our July hosts:

Pat DANIELS Terry HAMILTON
Kathy LATHAM Frances LIEBZEIT

Our August hosts will be:

Laurie ANGEL Linda IVERS
Jeanette JONES Penny NUGENT

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

JULY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 28 Guests: 0

NEW MEMBER

Sue WATKINS Individual 9/11

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

June Income	\$ 306.24
June Expenses	\$ 639.53
Operations Balance	\$ 349.62
Special Projects Balance	\$ 5,358.00
CD Balance	\$26,374.76
Current interest on 2 accounts: 0.5% & 0.2%	

**Submissions for the
September Newsletter
are due by August 22.**

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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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LEARNING MORE ABOUT YOUR ANCESTOR'S LIFE THROUGH GOOGLE SCHOLAR by Gena Philibert Ortega

Google Scholar is a specialty search engine powered by Google that you can use to find “scholarly” articles on topics including history and genealogy. While you are unlikely to find an article about your particular ancestor, you may just find an article about the place, era, occupation, or religion of your ancestor which can then help you learn more about their life.

According to Google Scholar's About page, *...you can search across many disciplines and sources: peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles, from academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories, universities and other scholarly organizations. Google Scholar helps you identify the most relevant research across the world of scholarly research.*

So what does this have to do with you, the family historian? Everything. This is yet one more tool that can assist you in searching for information about your family. Now, you probably won't find info specifically on your surname; but when researching, you should be looking at the era that your ancestor lived (to better know what other resources would be available to you), the community, and aspects of their lives like occupation. Remember these scholarly articles are going to be by historians, those in the field of religion, sociology, economics, etc. These histories will provide you more understanding of your ancestor's time period and life experiences.

Now in some cases, the articles might be available through services that are subscription based. That's OK—just jot down the title of the article, author, publication title, volume, number and pages. Then go to your local library and explain that you need an inter-library loan on an article. They can then find the article and ask a library that has that journal to copy the appropriate pages for you.

From the Google Scholar page, <http://scholar.google.com>, you can type in your phrase or keyword that you are interested in searching.

If you prefer, you can click on the link ‘Advanced Scholar Search’ and limit and define your search more precisely. Advanced Scholar Search allows you to choose the exact phrase and what words to leave out of a search. You can even specify articles written by a certain person, in a particular journal or in a specific time period. If you want, you can even tell Google Scholar what academic field you want to see articles from. This can be good when using a term like “genealogy” which can have meaning in other fields like philosophy and biology.

I conducted a search on Google Scholar on the subject “Coal Mining” and “Coal Mining History,” and below I've included some of the results. All of these articles would provide some great background information on an ancestor that would help you better understand their life as a coal miner.

[BOOK] *Coal is Our Life: An Analysis of a Yorkshire Mining Community*. N Dennis, F Henriques, C Slaughter—1969—Tavistock Publications Ltd.

[BOOK] *History of the Coal-mining Industry in Ohio*. DL Crowell—1995—Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey.

[BOOK] *The History of the British Coal Industry*. MW Flinn—1984—Clarendon Press.

[BOOK] *The Coal Industry of the Eighteenth Century*. TS Ashton, J Sykes—1929—Manchester University Press.

As you may have noticed, the results I show above have a [Book] tag in front of them. This indicates that the item is a book; and if it is linked, it will take you to the book in Google Books, where you can read it or download it and save it on your computer. In some cases there may just be a title and links to see who has cited that publication, related articles and related websites. If the title of the publication is not “linked,”

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I will be at the **Iowa State Picnic** on August 14, wearing my Questing Heirs tee-shirt and hoping to meet some local people interested in joining our society. Anyone want to join me?

I want to give a huge thanks to Jackie Riley and Walton McNulty! They found and sent me issues of our newsletters from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s!!! It is so interesting to read about changes of meeting locations, working with the Long Beach Main Library, Family Bible records, members' Ahnentafel charts, as well as helpful articles and hints. We have asked Mike Powers to put them on our website so they are preserved permanently.

I was surprised to read that Questing Heirs had a Book Selection Committee that bought books and placed them on the shelves of the Long Beach Main Library. Bob Brasher even cataloged the books for the Library! At that time Bob was working in the library at Cal State Long Beach, but then became our Library Liaison when he retired. While Bob was retired, Marilyn Brasher was working downstairs in the Government section of the Library. Bob and Marilyn are a special couple to me and our society. Bob is home now, but unable to attend our meetings. We miss seeing them!

Almost monthly the newsletter put out a list of what had been added to the collection. So, I went to <http://www.lbpl.org/default.asp> to see if the books were still there. I'm sorry to say that many of the books we purchased, or our members donated, have been discarded. For example, in the July 1980 newsletter, 60 books were added. Only 22 of those books are not currently listed in the catalog. That means that **37%** of those books are no longer available to a family researcher.

The May 1986 newsletter reported that \$4,000 was spent for purchases for the Long Beach Public Library over the years 1983-1985! Now, I would really like to hear from our members as to what we should do. Do we want to continue supporting the Long Beach Public Library? Do we want to place the books I have collected (and am keeping in my

garage) to another facility? Where? Do we want to forget the collection and support the one in Huntington Beach, Torrance, the Regional FHC in Orange or the FHC in Cerritos? Please let one of the Board members know what you think we should do about this situation.

Liz

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS!

The Nominating Committee seeks a slate of candidates for the following offices: President, First Vice President (Program), Second Vice President (Membership), and one Director at Large. The election will be held at our November meeting. The candidate for President needs to have served at least one year on the Board of Directors. If you have been sitting on the sidelines for awhile, please consider stepping forward now. The responsibilities are not particularly difficult, but they do require a modest investment in time. This is an excellent way to expand your knowledge of genealogy and to help shape the future of our society. Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: John McCoy, Jeanette Jones, Cynthia Day-Elliott.

John

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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

Sue Watkins
3171 Kalmia Street
San Diego, CA 92104-5417
Phone: 619-282-1539
Email: gilgunn2003@yahoo.com

REMINDER

When our new membership year begins on September 1, 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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SPEAKER: SUE WATKINS

Review by Linda Artuso

GREEK GENEALOGY

Sue began by pointing out that the research techniques for finding your Greek ancestors are 99% applicable to any other national group.

You have to start by learning all you can about them in the United States. Interview relatives, videotaping the conversation if you can. Check local and state sources for birth, marriage and death certificates for yourself, your parents and your grandparents—and obtain copies. Church records may also contain this information.

You need to determine where in Greece your ancestors lived. Ships passenger lists may help with this, but you'll need to know at what port your ancestors entered this country. Records of naturalization may contain helpful information. Also, find out where your surname is most prevalent in Greece.

Study the history of Greece so you'll know under whose jurisdiction records were kept. For instance, it did not become a country until 1830. Learn what records may have been destroyed over the years. Learn the customary naming patterns for children.

When you reach the point of accessing original records in Greece, you will need to become familiar with the language. There are some translation sites on the Internet, and you may be able to find a human translator by contacting a Greek ethnic organization.

Sue provided an extensive list of Internet sites that deal with Greece, such as:

<http://www.cyndislist.com/greece.htm>

<http://www.greekfamilies.com>

<http://www.dimitri.8m.com/surnames.html>

<http://www.daddezio.com/genealogy/ships/index-gr.html>

<http://www.homestead.com/gpapa/files/greekgen.htm>

AMERICAN INDIAN GENEALOGY

Sue pointed out that it's fairly easy to determine whether you have American Indian ancestors these days through a DNA test. If you decide to take such a test, be sure to use a reputable company and inquire into the size of its database and exactly what the test will tell you. If the test results are positive, though, the real problem is to identify what tribe your ancestors belonged to.

To prove that you have Indian ancestry you need to identify a specific ancestor that you believe was Indian—have a specific name and find him or her recorded somewhere as an Indian. It was not always popular to be an Indian in the United States. A person who is descended from someone who declared himself to be Mexican, for instance, can no longer prove their Indian ancestry.

Family stories may give you an idea of what tribe an ancestor belonged to or where they lived, but where might you find the ancestor recorded?

Federal censuses (especially those that enumerated Indians) are a good place to start. A well known source is the Dawes Rolls. In 1898 the Dawes Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes enrolled individuals as citizens of one of those tribes (Cherokee, Seminole, Creek, Chickasaw or Choctaw). These rolls are available on microfilm from the LDS Family History Library. The final roll is the most important as its cards contain the most information.

You can check with the regional National Archives facility (now located in Riverside County) to see what records it has on western tribes.

New documents come to light all the time; so keep looking. Some tribes have websites. Try Googling the tribe name. Try searching a census or roll by surname first, and then by the first name.



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NEW LAPL SCHEDULE

The Los Angeles Public Library has made another change in its hours of operation. Starting on 18 July 2010, it began a five-day-a-week schedule at the Central Library and all 72 branch libraries.

Central Library service hours:

- Tuesday & Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Closed Sunday, Monday & holidays.

The History & Genealogy Department will also be open during these hours.

Branch library service hours:

- Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Closed Sunday, Monday & holidays.

SENATE APPROVES NHPRC

On 12 July the Senate passed Bill S.2872 to reauthorize funding at \$10 million per year for the NHPRC (National Historical Publications and Records Commission) through 2014.

The NHPRC provides grants to State, local and tribal governments; colleges and universities; non-profit organizations; and non-Federal entities and institutions across the Nation. The grants support a wide range of efforts to preserve, publish and encourage the use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States. The NHPRC is affiliated with and augments the work of NARA (the National Archives and Records Administration).

Congress established both NARA and the NHPRC in 1934 and gave them different, but complementary, missions. NARA seeks to preserve and protect only records of the Federal Government. The NHPRC, in contrast, aims to preserve and publish non-Federal records that capture vital parts of the American story.

The Commission is composed of 15 members, representing the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of our government, and is chaired by the Archivist of the United States.

1940 CENSUS TRAINING FILMS

“The 1940 census will be released in less than two years...The information contained in that census has been described in a number of places. Now you can see the training films that were shown to the 1940 enumerators (census takers) before they created the records.

“Four short films were created by the US Census Bureau prior to 1940 to train enumerators on their general duties and responsibilities, as well as the correct procedures for filling out the 1940 census. Those films have now been digitized and are available online.

“The films describe the three main parts of the census, including the population, agriculture, and housing schedules, and delve into the background of the census and the reasons behind the questions. The duties of the enumerators are also reviewed, highlighting the three major principles of accuracy, complete coverage, and confidential answers.

“...I was intrigued by the clothing and hair styles...Notice, too, that everyone uses fountain pens. When was the last time you saw that?

“You can watch the 1940 census training films at <http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives#grid/user/9C64D8D2FD4C281D>.”

From Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 10 July 2010 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.



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What do they tell us about the lives of our ancestors? How do we deal with ancient languages (Latin) and script? Were surnames used? How can we determine whether a “medieval genealogy” is correct or not? Where are the original documents? The answers to these questions may surprise you! Not only is genealogical research in medieval times possible, it is also a fascinating endeavor that is becoming more accessible every day, as more and more documents become available through modern technology.



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FAMILY HISTORY KIDS

<http://www.familyhistorykids.com>

Maureen Taylor, a well known genealogist who also answers to the name of The Photo Detective, has developed the above website to get kids interested in family history. If you have a young person in your family that you'd like to get "hooked" on our favorite pastime, take a look and see what she has to offer.

ANOTHER TIMELINE SITE

<http://www.ourtimelines.com>

This site can create a timeline for you with a span of 5 to 140 years, from 1000 AD to the present. It will show how your life (or the life of anyone else you choose—for instance, your descendants and ancestors) fits into history.

You can generate as many timelines as you like, and you can insert up to ten custom, color-coded personal time segments (events or ranges) into them. Such additions could include schooling, marriages, jobs, military service, etc. You can also generate a list of notable people who were contemporary with the subject person of your timeline on the "My Peers" page.

Timelines help you to understand what was affecting your ancestors at various times, as well as helping to better direct your research.

VIGO COUNTY [IN] RECORDS

<http://www.vigo.lib.in.us/subjects/genealogy>

The Vigo County Public Library in Terre Haute, Indiana, makes available on its website an index to nearly 35,000 marriages recorded between 1818 and 1951. It also has an index to obituaries that appeared in Terre Haute newspapers from 1900 to the present. Copies of the obits cost \$5.00 for non-residents.

SHETLAND ISLANDS ARCHIVES

<http://www.shetland-museum.org.uk>

If you have ancestors from the Shetland Islands, you can search the catalog of the Shetland Islands Archives at the above URL. If you find a relevant document, you can contact the staff to verify the original or order a photocopy.

SLAVE RECORDS COLLECTION

<http://www.footnote.com>

Footnote.com and Lowcountry Africana, on 19 July 2010, announced the launch of a new free collection of historical records from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History containing estate inventories and bills of sale for Colonial and Charleston, South Carolina, from 1732 to 1872. FamilySearch International donated the copies of the microfilm of the original historical documents.

Charleston was an important port of entry for slaves during the Atlantic Slave Trade; so, many thousands of African Americans may have ancestors who came from, or through, South Carolina.

Lowcountry Africana (<http://www.lowcountryafricana.net>) has established an online volunteer program to create a searchable index for this collection. To learn more about this volunteer program or to sign up to be a volunteer, visit their website.

From Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter of 19 July 2010 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.



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that means that the actual document is not online; so you will need to access it through interlibrary loan. To learn more about what each part of the Google Scholar result means, check out Understanding a Search Result in Google Scholar at: <http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/help.html>.

While Google Scholar is not specifically a genealogical source, it can definitely help you gain some knowledge about your ancestor's life.

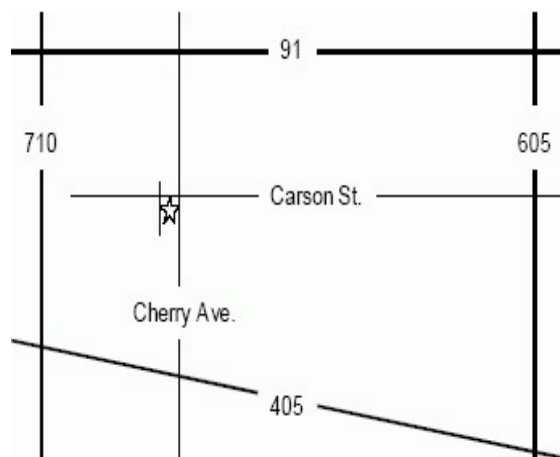
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Saturday, August 14, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: “Computers Don’t Bite: Learning Basic Computer Terminology and Computer Skills,” by Cecil Brower.

Sunday, August 15, 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 58.



Wednesday, August 18, 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: “Documenting the Death,” by Betty Fenton.

Wednesday, August 18, 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: “Family Stories: Genealogy Beyond Just the Dates,” by Linda Serna.

Saturday, September 4, 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, Rooms C&D: “Who is That? Why did Your Ancestors Associate with Apparent Strangers?” by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Upcoming Events

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CAL. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, October 16, 2010

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

City Hall, Saddleback Room

100 Civic Center Drive

(Corner La Paz & Marguerite)

Mission Viejo, CA

This seminar is titled “Our Patriotic & Adventurous Ancestors” and will feature **Dr. George K. Schweitzer**—in full costume as usual. His topics will be “Revolutionary War Genealogy,” “German Emigration, Immigration, and Migration Patterns,” and “Rivers to Trails to Roads to Canals to Trains.”

There will be sales tables and displays and door prizes, including a drawing for a handmade quilt. Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Pre-registration (received by Oct. 13) is \$20 or \$25 at the door. An optional box lunch is \$9.

For information and registration forms, call (949) 492-9408 or visit their website at <http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocccgs>.

*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.