



QUESTING HEIRS  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 43 ✦ Number 9 ✦ September 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, SEPTEMBER 19, 2010**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Lessons I've Learned in Cemeteries, by Loran Bures**

**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General Meeting SPEAKER: Alice M. Fairhurst  
DNA and Genealogy—New Options**

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

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**LOOKING AT THE WHOLE FAMILY**  
by **Connie Moretti**

Now that you've got vital records and census entries for your immediate family, it is probably time to stretch out the branches of your tree by including the whole family of each of your ancestors. Have you looked at or ordered marriage and death certificates for all your great or great-great aunts and uncles? This can be important for several reasons:

- Family members who married at different times or in different counties may have been asked for different information. If your grandparents' marriage record does not name their parents, it may be that one of their siblings had to supply those names.
- It may be that a great-grandparent was married more than once, and their children's marriage documents will list different parents—helping you to sort out your own line.
- Death certificates at different times and in different places may require different facts.
- Information on death certificates is dependent on the supplier of the facts, not the deceased; so some family members may have better information than others.

Did you look at and print census entries for all the siblings in a family after they set up their own households? There are also several reasons this can be important:

- Your great-great grandparents may have gone to live with one of their children in later years, one of your great-grandparents' siblings.
- Just like with vital records, different family members may have different recollections of their parents' birthplaces.
- As you work back to the years between 1850 and 1870, siblings' birthplaces can help you to trace the family migrations

even if they married before 1850 and thus are not listed with the parents on that first every-name census.

When you look at the whole family in each generation, many more family facts will emerge. You may even find it useful to identify the children and grandchildren of each of your ancestor's brothers and sisters. Grandparents, especially the very elderly, can be found living with their grandchildren in addition to their children.

Whole-family research can also help to clarify the family dynamics at any given time. Someone once said that each sibling is born into a different family, and we can know our ancestors better when we understand the changes in their families.

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**HONOR FOR AARON DAY**

Questing Heirs member Aaron Day has notified us that he has been chosen to receive one of the President's Awards for 2010 at the NAACP Long Beach Branch Founders Celebration Dinner and Awards Presentation to be held on Saturday, October 16, at The Westin Long Beach, 333 E. Ocean Blvd.

Aaron said, "I am extremely honored to receive this recognition from the NAACP Long Beach Branch. I have been a member for many years and am really proud of the accomplishments of the Organization."

If you are interested in attending, please let Aaron know by calling him at (562) 335-8595 or by e-mailing him at [adaydec@aol.com](mailto:adaydec@aol.com)). A flyer with more information will be available at our September meeting.



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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Howdy,

Suzanne Boyles, Tina Yanis and Penny Nugent accompanied me to the South Orange County Genealogical Society meeting in Mission Viejo. They are a warm, lively bunch of people. After I gave my presentation, we were invited to join them for lunch. As most of you know, it is always easy to talk to genealogists; so, we had a very enjoyable meal. Then we drove to the Mission Viejo Library, where their book collection is housed—although the library made them remove 2/3 of the books. Those books are now in the San Diego Genealogical Society’s new building. The library did have a nice corner with computers and several of the paid sites available, such as Footnote and World Vital Records. They also have a collection of CDs. Driving around with members of Questing Heirs makes for a fun day!

At our August meeting Carole Owens shared news about New York research. She told us about the many different groups that arrived to live in New York and where to find some of the records. She recommended we look at [mynewyorkgenealogy.com](http://mynewyorkgenealogy.com) and also recommended a book on New York by Edward Rutherford.

John McCoy talked about his medieval research. It was interesting to hear John’s adventures in reading Latin, etc., but I don’t think Connie Williams or I will ever live that long! A big thank you to Carole and John!!!

Carole also talked about reading an historical book. I have learned that the richness of the author’s research is beneficial to me in my understanding of the values of the era being explored. I highly recommend looking at these types of books. I just finished *1776* by David G. McCullough. It gave me a greater understanding of how and why our country began. And I have ancestors who lived in Williamsburg and Philadelphia during those times. Now I’m reading *Lewis and Clark* by Stephen Amhurst. People complained about the Louisiana Purchase!! Politics have not changed from 1800 to today.

I will be teaching a Beginning Genealogy class at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on Fridays, October 8 to December 3, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at Long Beach State. Come join us! You can find more information at <http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/chhs/centers/olli>.

Well, summer is supposed to be almost over, but I think we’re in for more hot days. Just hang in there, and we’ll be enjoying fall before we know it.

*Liz*

**RENEWALS**

Larry & Kathy AKAU	Family	9/11
Dorothy DUNNING	Individual	9/11
Norma GRADY	Individual	9/11
Harry HOLGATE	Individual	9/11
Sandy HOLLANDSWORTH	Individual	9/11
Patrick HORAN	Individual	9/11
Charles HORTON	Sustaining	9/11
Donald KROKUS	Contributing	9/11
Liz MYERS	Individual	9/11
Penny NUGENT	Sustaining	9/11
Helene SMITH	Individual	9/11

**RE-REGISTER FOR RALPHS**

It’s that time again! Every year you must re-register to continue your participation in the Ralphs program by which a percentage of the cost of your purchases at one of their stores is contributed to community organizations like Questing Heirs. This is an easy way to raise money for our society.

September 1 is the magic date. On or after that date you must register (if you haven’t already) or re-register for the new term. You can’t do it before September 1; so even if you only recently registered, you’ll need to do it again. Go to [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) or use your scanbar letter (if you have one) at the register.

**Remember, submissions for the October Newsletter are due by September 26, 2010.**



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## SAVING YOUR FAMILY ALBUMS

by Maureen Taylor

A reader expressed concerns about her twentieth-century black and white pictures:

*“I have my grandmother’s photo albums and some family pictures. The albums are black construction paper sandwiched between heavy black cardboard and held together by a string.”*

Some of you may be nodding your head in agreement, murmuring, “I’ve got one of those.” In this case the images date from 1918 through the 1930s. She wonders what to do. She’d love to move the images to another album but then she’d lose the captions.

These albums present multiple issues. First there is the construction of the albums. The pages and the covers are made with acidic paper, and the creator of the album used glue to affix the images to the page. The other problem is that the black paper may not be color-fast which means, if these pages ever got wet, the color would leak out of the paper.

Back in the 1920s, few were concerned about the longevity of pictures. At that time the majority of nineteenth-century images in family collections were holding up pretty well. Daguerreotypes still sparkled in their cases, paper prints hadn’t yet become yellow and tintypes remained pristine. What was there to worry about? It was the color disaster of the 1960s (when color prints began to shift colors and fade away) that brought to everyone’s mind the future of their precious family pictures.

The acidic papers in these albums get brittle with time. The adhesive begins to seep through the print, staining the image on the front and making it nearly impossible to remove pictures from the pages.

Removing images from albums is not advised. You want to retain the original order of the prints and not lose any information. Albums are put together by an individual in a particular order for a specific reason that often

tells a family history story. Plus you don’t want to lose the captions.

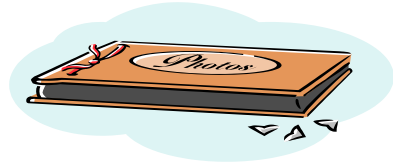
There are things that you can do to save these albums! The simplest solution is to wrap the whole album in a piece of unbleached muslin and store it in an acid- and lignin-free box. That way you won’t lose any pieces.

Another option is to interleave the pages with either thin polyester sheets (sold in specialty shops like *Light Impressions*), or you can use acid- and lignin-free paper available in stationary and art supply shops. The biggest problem with this method is that added volume may break the binding of the album.

Don’t remove the pictures; scan them instead. If you try to take them off the page, it’s highly likely that you’ll tear the images when trying to remove them. Even if you use a product for dissolving adhesive, there could be unforeseen problems. Instead, invest in an inexpensive scanner and copy each of the pages. Print out the images on a photo printer using acid- and lignin-free paper and high quality inks such as Epson’s Durabrite, HP’s Pixma, and Canon’s Vivera. You can also print out the captions. Then, reassemble images and captions in an acid- and lignin-free album and wrap the original as mentioned above. You can then rest easy knowing that this family history treasure isn’t being subjected to any more handling.

You can even add your own comments to the new album, making it a multi-generational genealogical document; and since you have scans, you’ll be able to make duplicates for other interested family members.

*This article by Maureen Taylor, known as The Photo Detective, was published in The Ancestry Weekly Journal of 14 Jan 2008. Copyright © 2008 by The Generations Network, Inc.*





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## THE COMING GENEALOGICAL DARK AGES

by Michael De Groot

PROVO, Utah—With all the genealogical information being made accessible on the Internet, some might think this is the golden age of family history. To Curt B. Witcher, however, we may be entering a new dark age where vital records and the memories of people alive today are lost forever.

“At the same time we have more (technological) ability we are losing interest and focus on keeping the thoughts and the words for future generations,” Witcher said.

Witcher, the manager of The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind., was the plenary speaker at BYU’s Conference on Family History and Genealogy on Wednesday [28 July].

“I believe we have a crisis in our midst,” Witcher said. “We have left the care of our written records largely in the hands of disinterested strangers.” He said these records include everything from birth records to tombstones—and more and more they are disappearing.

Libraries are limiting hours and public access to materials. Courthouses are engaging in “radical sampling,” where they take a few samples of large collections of old records and destroy the rest. “This is going on now,” Witcher said.

Witcher gave several specific examples of the problem. The Ohio State Library gave away all its genealogical materials to a local library. The Library of Michigan was getting rid of genealogical items that are not directly related to Michigan. The Boston Public Library is contemplating making its vast collections of newspapers inaccessible to the general public. Seventy-nine percent of reporting U.S. Federal agencies believed their records were at high or great risk of being lost.

“At every turn there is a threat,” Witcher said.

Records are also disappearing on a personal level. “Who is writing letters anymore?”

Witcher asked. “When was the last time you received a letter?”

But even if letters are a thing of the past, Witcher worries about e-mail. “Do you organize your e-mail well? All those Christmas greetings? All those family stories that have been exchanged through e-mail? How are you doing with that file management? It’s a part of living history.”

To counteract the trend, Witcher encouraged people to write. “Write as you never have written before.” This writing can be about memories, describing a family photograph or center on themes such as a family’s rituals.

After something is written, Witcher said to share it with others. Otherwise, he said “many of those precious pieces of living history go into landfills.”

Witcher said to publish—locally to family or even on a website such as [werelate.org](http://werelate.org). Just be careful with personal information of living individuals. The object is to create a record that will be there for descendants.

“We have an awesome responsibility ahead of us,” Witcher said. “In so many ways, we have history in our hands. What are we going to do with it? If we wait, if we relegate for someone else to take care of, we are endangering that history—that history may be lost.”

*This article was published in the Mormon Times on 29 July 2010.*



Liz Myers brought to the Editor’s attention a meeting of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists that will be held on Saturday, 23 October 2010, at the LDS Church located at 17130 E. Bastanchury Road in Yorba Linda. This meeting is open to anyone with an interest in professional genealogical research, and Liz is planning to attend. Let her know if you would like to join her



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**NEW NEHGS WEBSITE**  
[www.AmericanAncestors.org](http://www.AmericanAncestors.org)

On 19 August 2010, the New England Historic Genealogical Society announced the launch of its new website, AmericanAncestors.org. This site “will contain all of the Society’s New England and New York content, features, articles and resources, as well as weekly updates and databases in a variety of regional and ethnic specialties, such as sources for mid-Atlantic, Irish, and African American research.

“AmericanAncestors.org provides online access to some of the most important research tools and resources available, and includes a new image viewer, faster navigation and search results time, and more unique content. This expanded scope allows greater opportunity for NEHGS to bring unique content to its members and the public while establishing new and beneficial collaborations with likeminded non-profit organizations and important commercial entities...

“In addition, NEHGS is inviting people to sign up for the NEHGS “Guest User” program. This free registration gives anyone access to the popular weekly news stories as well as special access to a variety of databases, resources, articles, and other tools to help with their research.”

*From a news release at <http://www.newenglandancestors.org> on 19 Aug 2010.*

**ANCESTRY.COM & GENLINE.SE**

On 15 July 2010, Ancestry.com announced its acquisition of Genline.se, the leading Swedish family history website.

“Genline currently has more than 17,000 paying members with access to 26 million pages of digitized Swedish church records spanning more than 400 years from the 17th to the 20th century...

“Brett Bouchard, Managing Director Europe for Ancestry.com Inc., comments: ‘The combination of the Ancestry.com family of websites and Genline.se will benefit users of all Ancestry sites by offering access to a

greater amount of important historical content and broadening the active member community vital to researching family history.’ ”

*Dick Eastman posted the complete announcement on his blog (<http://blog.eogn.com>) on 15 July 2010. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.*

**NEWBERRY DIGITAL ATLAS**  
<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp>

On 14 July 2010, the Newberry Library in Chicago announced “the completion and release of its Digital Atlas of Historical County Boundaries, a dataset that covers every day-to-day change in the size, shape, location, name, organization, and attachment of each U.S. county and state from the creation of the first county in 1634 through 2000.

“Nearly every aspect of American life can be described, analyzed, and illuminated through data gathered and organized by county or available in county records, and knowing how and when boundaries changed is often the key to finding and understanding great quantities of historical data...

“The data are organized by state and are available online in four versions:

- Viewable, interactive maps (electronic analogues to printed maps) on which the historical lines have been plotted against a background of the modern county network
- Downloadable shapefiles for use in geographic information systems (GIS)
- Downloadable KMZ files for use with Google Earth
- Downloadable and printable PDF files (each full-page frame shows a map of a different version of each county, with the historical boundaries displayed against a background of the modern county network)

“Supplementing the polygons and maps for each state are chronologies, commentary on historical problems, long and short metadata documents, and a bibliography...”

*This announcement appeared in Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter on 14 July 2010. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.*



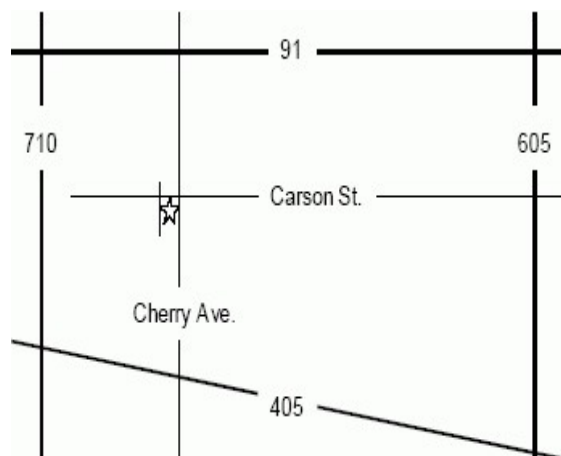
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Saturday, September 11, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Programs: “Genealogy and World War II and Korean Casualty Records,” by William L. Beigel, plus “Military Research,” by Liz Myers.

Wednesday, September 15, 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: “Patronymic Practices: A Portal to the Past,” by George Prothro Coulter.

Wednesday, September 15, 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: “Digital Photography for Genealogists,” by Alice Volkert.

Sunday, September 19, 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 66.



## Upcoming Events

### NARA OPEN HOUSE

23123 Cajalco Road  
Perris, CA 92570-7298  
Wednesday, 15 September 2010  
9:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Meet David D. Drake, the Regional Administrator, and learn about their services to genealogists, among others. RSVP by Sept. 1 at (951)956-2000 or [riverside.archives@nara.gov](mailto:riverside.archives@nara.gov)



### NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, 25 September 2010  
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
Carlsbad City Council Chambers  
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive  
Carlsbad, CA

This seminar, titled “The Immigrant Experience”, features speakers Wayne Anderson, Margaret Read, and Marge Kealey.

Contact Nina Anderson at (760)599-9958 or [ninaanderson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ninaanderson@sbcglobal.net) for information.

\*FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FHCs are open free of charge to members of the general public interested in doing genealogical research. Volunteers are on hand and will gladly give you assistance. Regular hours for the Los Angeles 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.