



**QUESTING HEIRS**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 43 ✦ Number 10 ✦ October 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, OCTOBER 17, 2010**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Brick Wall Discussion, led by Liz Myers**

**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General Meeting SPEAKER: Maureen Neeley Discover the History of Your Home**



**4:00 Class BEGINNING: Classes will resume in January.**

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**OCTOBER MEETING**

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS**

**Liz Myers**

**MAIN PRESENTATION**

**Maureen Neeley**

So you live in an older home. Are you curious about its past?

Long Beach is fortunate to have many older homes and neighborhoods steeped in history and tradition. Today's buyers often look forward to restoring, preserving and enjoying the unique touches these houses offer.

Besides the ambiance of a house, though, it is also interesting to discover its *biography*. Who built it? Who lived here? Why was it built in this fashion? What was the neighborhood like? There are many clues to a house's history if you are willing to do a bit of detective work.

Join Maureen Neeley, local librarian and owner of "HouStories" and the Los Altos Neighborhood Association. Through her HouStories business, Maureen has researched over 70 properties in Long Beach. She also writes freelance for various publications about neighborhood histories and local lore. She is a long-time board member of Long Beach Heritage, past recipient of the Preservationist of the Year award, and serves on the Advisory Board for the Historical Society.

She is more than happy to share with others her methodology in researching the history of homes in Long Beach. In this presentation, she will walk participants through the myriad of records, photographs and maps available to those wishing to research local architectural and biographical history.

Handouts will be provided which detail the locations and costs of these records, along with samples and tips on navigating the information found in these forms.

Can't wait for the presentation? Check her website at [www.HouStories.net](http://www.HouStories.net) for more information on how to get started researching your own home.

**REFRESHMENTS**

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

Thanks to our September hosts:

Suzanne BOYLES      Terry HAMILTON  
Barbara NICHOLSON

Our October hosts will be:

Robert COLLINS      Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT  
S. HOLLANDSWORTH      Georgie LYONS

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

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

**SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Members: 30      Guests: 2

**RENEWALS**

*Please see page 76 for Renewals.*

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

August Income	\$ 360.99
August Expenses	\$ 296.44
Operations Balance	\$ 77.22
Special Projects Balance	\$ 5,308.00

**Remember, submissions for the November Newsletter are due by October 24, 2010.**

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*This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold. Those who are unable to attend our meetings but wish to subscribe to the newsletter may purchase a newsletter-only membership for \$12.00 a year. To join, please use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.*



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### INTERNET IS RESOURCE, BUT NOT DO-ALL TOOL by Julie Miller

The Internet has drastically changed how genealogy research is done. The amount of information posted on the Internet is increasing at an amazing pace every day. The ads might say you can find your complete family history by searching a Web site, but even though the Internet has billions and billions of pages filled with information, not everything is on the Internet.

When I started my research more than 30 years ago, I used a notebook, handwritten pedigree charts, Family Group Sheets and a binder for storing my information. I relied heavily on printed publications for methodology and geographic information, and spent hours looking at records on microfilm at libraries and archives.

Today, the Internet has made it easier and more convenient to research records such as censuses, passenger lists and newspapers. Ancestry, Footnote, FamilySearch and the National Archives are just a few of the thousands of sites that contain genealogical data. Some of the information is free and some is on paid subscription sites.

Although these sites have millions of records, they represent only a fraction of the records that have been preserved over the centuries of human record keeping. If only the Internet is used to collect information, the majority of family history will be missed or recorded incorrectly.

The Internet has made genealogy information more accessible to millions of people. With only a minimum amount of data, most people are able to get a quick start on their genealogy by using the Internet. It is an important part of any good research plan. I was recently helping a woman start her family history. She knew little about her family and knew nothing about how to find the information. We were able to gather quite a bit of basic information from

online census records and newspapers. But with only these sources, we were not able to make the connections necessary to continue the research. I told her the next step was to look at land records, probate records and histories (town, county, church). We checked the location where her ancestor lived and did not find the needed records online. She would need to look at microfilmed or original records. Unfortunately, I could not convince her the land and probate records she needed were not online. She searched online for more than two hours, insisting the information had to be there.

You must go beyond the Internet to find some records. Courthouse records, such as deeds, wills, probates and tax records, are just some of the records that are still not readily available on the Internet. Many of the indexes are online, but the digitized records are less likely to be there. These records need to be accessed through the facilities where they are stored or through microfilmed copies.

It would be impossible to give a list of what genealogy information can be found on the Internet because it is changing so rapidly. There are guides, indexes, books, maps and digitized documents. These items might be found on a site dedicated to genealogy, or they might not be associated with genealogy at all. The Internet will help with genealogy research and should be utilized whenever the information is available. But the Internet is one source for information, not the only source.

The misconception that all genealogy information can be found on the Internet continues to persist. Some Internet sites proclaim that everything needed for genealogy research is on their site. Many of these sites are official looking and appear to be run by experts. Do not be fooled into believing the claims.

*Continued on page 78*



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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Hello folks!

I was sick and could not make the September meeting. However, because of our wonderful members, it was a good meeting and everything got covered. Thanks to Loran Bures for stepping up to give an ‘off-the-cuff’ presentation when our scheduled speaker did not arrive. We think it’s possible that one of her family members had a major health situation.

Thanks also to Suzanne for being there and filling in for me! Tina was at the Renovation Fair; so, Frena Dominguez and several other people helped open and close up.

The Los Angeles Family History Library is getting ready to open again. If you go to their website at <http://www.lafhl.org> you can learn more about it. I have learned that many of the books in their collection have been given to the Southern California Genealogical Society in Burbank and to the Santa Barbara Genealogical Society. The books on family names seem to have been kept. They plan on having more computers, but it is probably easier to just go to your local Family History Center.

**\*\*\*\*HELP WANTED\*\*\*\***

**BEGINNING CLASS:** Mike Powers can no longer present the Beginning Classes; so, we are looking for someone to replace him. In the meantime, we will not have this class until January.

**PUBLICITY:** We need a couple of people to handle publicity. It is a simple task of sending individual e-mails to the different newspapers. It is easy to do because the papers only let us give date, subject and place. I can always send you the information, and you can forward it.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you want to have some fun, take a look at Colleen Fitzpatrick’s website and her weekly quiz at <http://www.forensicgenealogy.info>.

See you in October!

*Liz*

**RENEWALS**

Catherine ALBERTI	Individual	9/11
Linda ARTUSO	Sustaining	9/11
Loran & Tricia BURES	Family	9/11
Robert COLLINS	Individual	9/11
Frena DOMINGUEZ	Individual	9/11
Jeri EVERETT	Individual	9/11
Douglas GRANT	Individual	9/11
Terry HAMILTON	Individual	9/11
Maryemma HARGRAVE	Individual	9/11
Linda IVERS	Individual	9/11
George & Polly JOHNSON	Sustaining	9/11
Jeanette JONES	Sustaining	9/11
Kathryn LATHAM	Individual	9/11
Georgie LYONS	Individual	9/11
Christina McKILLIP	Individual	9/11
Walton McNULTY	Patron	9/11
Barbara NICHOLSON	Individual	9/11
Michael & Carole OWENS	Family	9/11
Kenneth SAW	Individual	9/11
Mary Ellen SMITH	Individual	9/11
Cheryl TARDIF	Individual	9/11
Richard TROTTER	Individual	9/11
Maybelle WEST	Individual	9/11
Connie WILLIAMS	Individual	9/11

**DIRECTORY UPDATE**

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

Jacqueline Spohr  
 3773 McNab Avenue  
 Long Beach, CA 90808-2258  
 Phone: 562-429-8246  
 Email: [persistentlady@juno.com](mailto:persistentlady@juno.com)

**RALPHS REMINDER**

To refresh your memory, it’s easy to register/re-register at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com) for their community contribution program. Just:

- Log onto your Account.
- Click on the “Community Award Information” link.
- Click “Edit.”
- Type in Questing Heirs Genealogical Society (or our organization #84877).
- Check Questing Heirs at “Select Organization.”
- Save Changes.



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**MISSISSIPPI ANCESTORS?**

The Department of Archives and History has begun a year-long, \$100,000 project that will help ensure irreplaceable historical documents in the state’s oldest counties will be properly preserved for future generations. The MDAH Local Government Records Office will direct the project to identify and inventory records in Mississippi’s fourteen territorial counties. The project is funded by a grant to the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory board from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The Mississippi Territory was organized in 1798. In 1817 the territory was split in two, with the western half forming the State of Mississippi. Most of our pre-statehood counties—Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Franklin, Greene, Hancock, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Pike, Warren, Wayne, and Wilkinson—maintain records that date back to their formation more than two hundred years ago...

Over the last thirty years, both MDAH and the Genealogical Society of Utah have micro-filmed selected older records at many counties throughout Mississippi. As a part of this current project, LGRO staff will identify and inventory those records held by each county, and evaluate the microfilm collection held at the state archives.

*From the Mississippi Department of Archives and History website at <http://mdah.state.ms.us>.*

**ALIEN FILES FIND NEW HOME**

As we reported last August, in June 2009 the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a news release announcing the transfer of alien registration files (A-files) to the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the predecessor agency of USCIS, began issuing aliens Alien Registration numbers in 1940, and on April 1, 1944, began using this number to create the A-Files. These files contain an abundance of relatively

modern immigration documents in one file, making them a rich source of biographical information. A-Files are eligible for transfer to the National Archives when 100 years have passed since the birth date of the subject of a file.

An announcement early this month indicates that more than 300,000 case files on alien residents who were born 1909 and prior have now been received by the Kansas City, MO, Regional Branch of NARA, with many more to come. They are open to the public, and copies of the files may be ordered for a fee. For information on requesting a file, see <http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/aliens/a-files-kansas-city.html>.



**MISSPELLED WORDS**

Have you noticed how often words that we use in genealogy are misspelled? See how many you can find in the following paragraphs.

When I became interested in my family history many years ago, I asked my grandparents what they knew about their ancestors. Unfortunately, they didn’t know very much; so, the fun (and frustration) of learning about my ancestry has been left up to me.

I’ve visited cemeteries to find where they were interned. I’ve looked at church records to learn when they were baptized and puzzled over calendars to figure out on what day they were born. I’ve searched through passenger lists to determine from what country they immigrated when they came to the United States.

After I put the data I’d found into my genealogy program, I printed a pedigree chart showing my ancestors and a decent chart showing some of their descendants.

The Editor (*See page 80 for the answer.*)

**Columbus Day**  
**October 11**  
**(Observed)**





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### ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY OBITS

<http://www.lawgsweb.org>

Liz Myers passed on this announcement from Los Angeles Westside Genealogical Society.

“LAWGS now has access to a unique collection of obituaries and death notices for people in the entertainment industry. They include actors, singers, directors, writers, producers, composers, and other behind the scenes personnel. The collection is very complete from 1981 to the present, but also includes a large number of listings going back to 1913. The items are culled mostly from the Los Angeles Times, but also from a number of other newspapers and trade journals, however the source is often not cited.

“The collection is not indexed, but if you inquire via e-mail or by post in regards to a specific individual, we can search for their obit at no charge, and if we have it, you may then order a photocopy for \$5.00. Please make donation checks payable to LAWGS and include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

“E-mail inquiries to: [thomaslane@earthlink.net](mailto:thomaslane@earthlink.net) - Postal inquiries to: LAWGS, PO Box 10447, Marina Del Rey, CA 90295-6447”

### NEW DISNEY SERIES

The Disney Channel is starting a new series named “My Family Tree,” expected to air sometime in November. It will star kids from around the country reporting on their interesting ancestors.

One such youngster is 12-year-old Noah Gerry, who lives in Florida but is descended from Elbridge Gerry, a native of Marblehead, Massachusetts. (He was a Massachusetts governor, our fifth vice president, and famous for lending his name to political redistricting that favors a governing party, known as gerrymandering.)

Noah’s family was in Marblehead in late August filming for the new series. The children are reported to “have self-esteem and a gift for story-telling.”

*Story by Leigh Blander in the MarbleheadPatch of 28 Aug 2010.*

### GSNOCC PLANS

Once again this year, the Genealogical Society of North Orange County California has planned four lectures during October for Family History Month. The schedule is as follows.

- Oct. 5 at Placentia Public Library—Norma Keating on “Getting Started”
- Oct 13 at Yorba Linda Public Library—Barbara Renick on “Online Tools for Genealogists”
- Oct 20 at Yorba Linda Community Center—Beth McCarty on “Family History Centers and Library System”
- Oct 27 at Canyon Hills Public Library—Brenda Danielson on “Beginning the Search in Vital and Census Records”

### ELLIS ISLAND IMPROVEMENTS

In an announcement, datelined New York 28 July 2010, the National Park Service revealed that it had “awarded more than \$29 million in contracts to repair the seawall on Ellis Island in New York Harbor, remove contaminants from one of the island’s historic buildings and upgrade the communications infrastructure.”

Between 1892 and 1954, 12 million immigrant steamship passengers were processed on Ellis Island, and over 100 million Americans today can trace their ancestry to these immigrants.

Scheduled to start this summer, the projects are being funded by President Obama’s economic recovery program, providing jobs in the region as well as restoring an historic site.

*The full announcement was posted on Dick Eastman’s blog at <http://blog.eogn.com> on 28 Jul 2010. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.*

*Continued from page 75...*

The Internet is definitely a powerful tool for genealogical research. Checking online for information is part of a good research strategy. Just don’t expect to find everything there.

*Julie Miller is a certified genealogist, a genealogy researcher, lecturer, and award-winning writer. This article appeared online at <http://www.broomfieldenterprise.com> on 27 Jun 2010. Copyright © 2010 by MediaNews Group.*



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### UPPER CANADA LAND PETITIONS

The Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has launched a new online database, “Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865).”

“Before the arrival of the Loyalists and British military settlers, the present-day Province of Ontario was an extension of the Province of Quebec. Following the *Constitutional Act of 1791*, the colony of Quebec was divided to create Upper Canada (today Ontario) and Lower Canada (today Quebec). Many early settlers, both military and civilian, submitted petitions to the Governor to obtain Crown land. Sons and daughters of Loyalists were also entitled to free lands.

The Upper Canada Land Petitions contain petitions for grants or leases of land and other administrative records. This research tool provides access to more than 77,000 references to individuals who lived in present-day Ontario between 1783 and 1865.

The database may be accessed at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/upper-Canada-land/index-e.html>.

### PITTSBURGH INDICES

Ann S. Eldredge, an avid genealogist with ancestors in Allegheny County, PA, is the project coordinator for volunteers who are indexing marriages, divorces and deaths in early Pittsburgh. Since the project started in January of this year, over 52,000 death entries and over 11,000 marriages have been indexed and put online at no cost. The data is coming from images of old newspapers that are online. Their years range from 1806-1987.

Eldredge captured the names volunteers put on the list, a page was set up for the newspapers submitted to avoid duplication, and USGenWeb Allegheny County volunteered to get the submitted indices online. You can view the indices at <http://www.usgarchives.net/pa/allegheny/death-index.htm>.

*More information can be found on Dick Eastman's blog of 1 Sep 2010 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.*

### PENNSYLVANIA MAPS

<http://ancestortracks.com>

If your family came through Pennsylvania, you might be interested in a new series of atlases published by Sharon and Angus MacInnes of Ancestor Tracks called Early Landowners of Pennsylvania: Atlas of Township Warrantee Maps of \*\*\* County, PA. These books show atlas pages of the land tracts, drawn in metes and bounds, of the earliest landowners of Pennsylvania. Each page reveals a wealth of information since neighboring tracts were usually owned by relatives, witnesses, and sponsors. Books and CDs have been completed for Berks, Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties. Ancestor Tracks plans to eventually publish books of all counties in Pennsylvania for which such maps exist. They have also published CDs containing .pdf files of all the Warrant Registers on file in the PA Archives in Harrisburg, and will soon produce a CD with the indexes to the Patent Registers in Harrisburg. They are also posting free images to their website ([www.ancestortracks.com](http://www.ancestortracks.com)) of later maps showing landowners which can be used in conjunction with the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses.

### GRIFFITH'S VALUATION

The Primary Valuation was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland. It was overseen by Richard Griffith and published between 1847 and 1864.

You can access this database for free at <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>. Click on the “Griffith's Valuation Genealogy Archive” button. Then you can enter just a surname, or also the county or smaller location if you know them. Next, you will be able to see images showing Details of the record, the Original Page, and a Map View of the property.

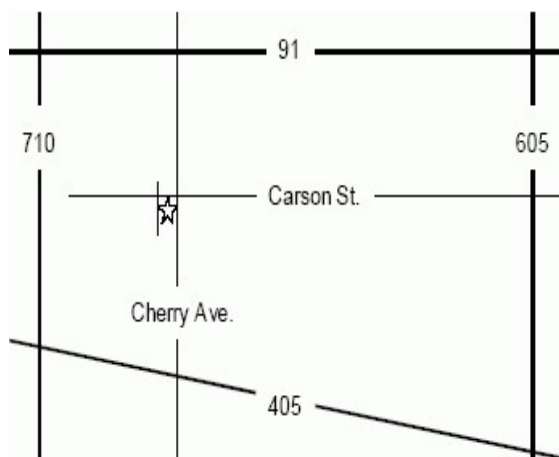
AskAboutIreland and the Cultural Heritage Project is an initiative of public libraries, together with local museums and archives, in digitizing and publishing original records from their collections online.



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Sunday, October 10, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “Ask and You Shall Receive—Help Online” by Barbara Renick.

Sunday, October 17, 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 74.



Sunday, October 24, 1:00 p.m. British Isles Family History Society-USA monthly meeting at the Los Angeles Family History Library, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles. Program: “1939 Movietone Newsreel” by Loring Bunyan. (Note: The library is open until 5:00 p.m.)

Saturday, November 6, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): Claire Santos-Daigle on “Restoring Family History, One Photo at a Time.”

Answer from p. 77 = 11: history, ancestors, ancestry, cemeteries, interred, baptized, calendars, emigrated, genealogy, ancestors, descent. Note: Although “descendants” is preferred, “descendents” is acceptable.

## Upcoming Events

### HEMET—SAN JACINTO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

305 E. Devonshire Ave.  
Hemet, California  
Saturday, 13 October 2010  
9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

The speakers at this conference will be Kerry Bartels, an Archives Specialist at the National Archives in Perris, CA, and Lisa Cooke, the producer and host of the *Genealogy Gems Podcast*. Their topics will be:

- The National Archives at Perris, CA
- What You Must Know to Save Your Research from Destruction
- Solving Family Tree Mysteries with Google Earth
- The Many Facets of the National Archives Website

Pre-registration (by Oct. 13) is \$20.00. For more information, see the society’s website at <http://www.hsigs.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.