



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

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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, DECEMBER 19, 2010



Questing Heirs Annual Potluck

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THE WHITE PAGES WILL DISAPPEAR by Dick Eastman

We are witnessing still another change in our world that is caused by technology. The local telephone company's white pages will probably disappear soon.

In fact, the white pages already disappeared in Indiana a couple of year ago. Verizon has secured permission from New York, Pennsylvania, and Florida to stop mass distribution as well, and it's currently making the same case to Virginia regulators. Most companies are expected to soon follow the same path: petition the lawmakers to make telephone books optional. (I didn't know they needed permission!)

According to Verizon, people have shifted their phone lookups to the Internet. Besides, "the annual printing and distribution of such directories imposes environmental costs in terms of tons of paper used and energy consumed in printing, binding, and distributing the directories." It also costs money to print, and unlike the yellow pages, residents don't pay for inclusion in the white pages.

Instead, Verizon would keep its listings online for no charge and would deliver white pages to any household that requests them. Yellow pages and their included government directories will continue to be printed.

Does anyone care about white pages anymore? I find the phone books to be less and less useful. Most of my friends and relatives have moved to unlisted numbers to escape telemarketers or to cell phones, and a few of them even use computer VoIP phones. None of these are listed in the white pages. When I need a telephone number, I look online first.

I admit I haven't used the white pages or the yellow pages in years. The last time we received new telephone books, I stuffed them in a drawer, and I don't think they have been touched since.

It strikes me that these books are just a waste of trees. I suppose they do need to keep

printing a few phone books for the 23 percent of all US households where no one in the home uses the Internet, but the other 77 percent of us don't need printed directories. What's more, that 23 percent continues to drop every year.

Another effort underway to stop the home delivery of local yellow pages may be found at <http://www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/>.

Of course, it may be a problem for future genealogists who will have to deal with no city directories, no phone books, and minimal census data.

I might keep and use the white pages if they were delivered to me as a PDF file. Then again, if it is online it is probably more current. We might just say, "It's a wired, wired world."

Dick Eastman posted this article in his Online Genealogy Newsletter of 14 Nov 2010 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.

Genealogy is about understanding ourselves and the influences that have made us who we are. It's about understanding the men and women whose genes we carry and whose customs we cherish or purposefully reject. It's about understanding the world we live in, and how the actions of past men and women shaped the issues we deal with today. It's about understanding how the problems of those past societies shaped our forebears and how the individual choices they made affected their families and ultimately us.
Elizabeth Shown Mills



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas to you all!!

Tom Sanford and a student in my Ollie class both found out that the Long Beach Main Library has dropped Heritage Quest when they tried to access it online. I checked with the library, and they said they dropped it due to budget cuts. However, it is available through the Lakewood and Los Angeles Public Libraries if you have a card with them—as well as at your local Family History Center.

This is the major shopping time of the year. Don’t forget that, by buying items through our Questing Heirs website, the Society gets a percentage of your purchase to add to our Treasury! For that to happen, you need to click on the link for the appropriate organization—Amazon, Abe Books, Café Press or Footnote. You can also sign up for eScrip and Ralphs.

I will be teaching only one Beginning Genealogy class next year at OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at Cal State Long Beach. The eight-week class will be on Tuesdays, January 26 to March 15 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Go to www.csulb.edu/centers/olli and join us!!

I am so glad that Jeanette Jones, or “JJ” as some of us know her, will be our President next year. She has always been willing to pitch in whenever I needed help these past four years. She has held Board offices before and is well aware of how our organization runs. I am sure she will bring her years of teaching, accounting, etc., experience to our meetings.

We have had a great group of Board members again this year; each one of them has been willing to offer advice and jump in when needed. Their support and help has been deeply appreciated. I cannot say “**Thank You**” enough.

Also, a big “**Thank You**” to all our members. Each and every one of you has been so important to the sustainability and success of our WONDERFUL Society. I know all the members will continue to support Jeanette and

the rest of the Board officers in keeping our group strong.

God bless you and your families.

Love,

Liz

MEETING IN REVIEW

History of the Press-Telegram

Rich Archbold, currently the Community Liaison Director for the Press-Telegram, presented an interesting history of the newspaper at our November meeting.

The *Press* had its beginnings in 1897. William Frist later bought and ran it as the *Telegram*. It was also associated with the *Sun* at one time, but that paper went out of business around 1945. Ridder bought the paper in 1952, merging with Knight in 1972. MediaNews Group bought the paper from Knight Ridder in 1997. It is currently published by the Los Angeles Newspaper Group, a division of that conglomerate.

At one time it was known as the *Independent-Press-Telegram*. The *Independent* was published in the morning and the *Press-Telegram* in the afternoon. In the early 1980s the *Independent* was discontinued, and the *Press-Telegram* started publishing in the morning as the paper’s only edition.

The *Press-Telegram* building at 6th and Pine Avenue was sold in 2006 to real estate developers, and the paper now operates from the Arco Center in downtown Long Beach.

Rich Archbold has worked for the paper since 1978 and showed us slides of many important happenings over the years—such as the Iowa Picnic, the Spruce Goose, the Queen Mary, etc.

He assured us that newspapers are not dying; they’re just changing the way they deliver the news. The P-T is now online and has a presence on Facebook and Twitter. He says “baby boomers” still prefer print, while younger readers prefer electronic media.

The Editor



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READING OLD DEEDS MAY REQUIRE A GLOSSARY AND CALCULATOR by Dee Gibson-Roles

It certainly goes without saying that deeds and property transactions are one of the most valuable tools the genealogist has at his or her disposal. But the terminology in older deeds can be confusing to those not accustomed to encountering these terms.

Most older deeds were recorded using the “metes and bounds” method of describing the land in question. This was a system that defined the boundaries of a piece of land in terms of measurement of distances of each straight line and the land’s relationship to natural features—such as a creek, a rock, etc.—and adjacent pieces of land, usually mentioning the names of the owners of the land bordering the piece being described.

The term “metes” refers to the length of a boundary line determined by measurement of the distance between the two terminal points of a straight line, or “run,” and the land’s orientation or direction—north, south, etc.

The term “bounds” is a more general description of the borders of the land, such as “along the meander of the river” or other waterway. “Bounds” could also refer to a simple compass reading.

Poles, rods, chains

Distance was measured in “poles,” “rods,” “chains,” etc. A pole measures 16.5 feet. A mile is 320 poles, and an acre is 160 square poles. The most common chain was the Gunter Chain, which is 66 feet—that is, four poles or 792 inches. One mile is equal to 80 chains.

A link is 1/100 of a chain, or 7.92 inches.

Other, less-used chains include the Rathbone Chain, which is two poles or 33 feet. In early land surveys the “chain bearers” were assistants who were responsible for moving the chain under the orders of the surveyor.

It often pays the researcher to check out the chain bearers, as they were quite often

relatives, even sons, of the person acquiring the land.

Some other measurement terms that may be found in older deeds include hide, hectare, furlong and hundred. A hectare is 2.71 acres or 107,639 square feet.

A furlong is equal to 40 poles—a quarter mile—and the term is derived from “furrow long,” which referred to the length of a furrow that oxen could plow before being rested. Originally a mile was 5,000 feet, but [in] 1595 Queen Elizabeth I changed the mile to 5280 feet so that it would be an equal number of furlongs.

The term “hundred” referred to an area that was between a village and a county in size. Originally it varied in size depending on the location and quality of the land; it was the amount of land needed to support a family but was eventually standardized to around 200 acres.

We have often seen the term “hundred” in early deeds in the area known as “Delmarva”: Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

Grantor or grantee?

It is easy to confuse the terms “grantor” and “grantee.” The term grantor refers to the seller of the land, while grantee refers to the buyer.

An easy way to remember this is to compare the terms with “employer” and “employee.” The employer is the one giving the wages; the grantor is the one giving the land. The employee is the one receiving the wages; the grantee is the one receiving the land.

Another term that is often found in older deeds is “conditional line,” which refers to a line agreed upon by two people but not yet surveyed. It should also be noted that the term “corner” does not refer to a 90-degree angle as we think of a corner today, but simply referred to the juncture of any two lines, no matter what angle was formed where they met.

Continued on page 95

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A CHARTER FOR CHANGE

In the May issue of this newsletter an article by David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, laid out his principles for transparency, participation and collaboration to change the way things are done at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). He has since charged a task force to draft a plan for agency transformation, and its final report, “A Charter for Change,” has now been issued.

Following are the six pillars of how NARA intends to do business in the future.

- **One NARA:** Work as one NARA and not just as component parts.
- **Out in Front:** Embrace the primacy of electronic information in all facets of our work and position NARA to lead accordingly.
- **An Agency of Leaders:** Foster a culture of leadership, not just as a position but as the way we all conduct our work.
- **A Great Place to Work:** Transform NARA into a great place to work that trusts and empowers all of our people, the agency’s most vital resource.
- **A Customer-Focused Organization:** Create structures and processes to allow our staff to more effectively meet the needs of our customers.
- **An Open NARA:** Open our organizational boundaries to learn from others.

To look at the complete document, go to <http://blogs.archives.gov/aotus/?s=A+Charter+for+Change>; then click on “A Charter for Change” in the text. Comments are also welcome and may be left at the blog.

LAPL NEWS

Mary McCoy, Librarian in the History & Genealogy Department at the Los Angeles Public Library, sent some news of interest to genealogists.

The LA City Council is placing a measure on the March 2011 ballot that would increase the Charter-mandated funding for the library’s budget, allowing for the restoration of one or

two of the days that the library had to close in July of this year.

Four more Los Angeles city directories have been added to their digital collection: 1909, 1926, 1927, and 1932. They can be accessed by anyone (no card required) at <http://www.lapl.org/resources/en>. Click on “Los Angeles City and Street Directories.”

The department also now has a Facebook page where it features new and notable books, upcoming events for genealogy buffs, and maps, documents, and other relics from its digital collections.

WDYTYA? RETURNS

“Who Do You Think You Are?” returns for a second season on NBC beginning January 21. It is scheduled for its old time slot on Fridays at 8:00 p.m.

BUILD A BETTER GEDCOM

<http://bettergedcom.wikispaces.com>

“BetterGEDCOM is an independent user community formed to develop internationally recognized genealogical technology standards for the benefit of the entire genealogy community. BetterGEDCOM has no affiliation with any commercial entity or any other particular genealogical organization but welcomes the participation of all interested parties.

“BetterGEDCOM is a place to discuss and work out how to solve technological problems in genealogy and how software programs and services can best interoperate. We are concerned with genealogical technology issues broadly, but initially we will develop a GEDCOM update/replacement.”

DearMYRTLE, a genealogy blogger, pod-caster and lecturer, has provided the Wiki space because she “feels the issue of GEDCOM incompatibility is too important to sit quietly on the shelf for another 14 years. ‘Regular’ folks want to exchange genealogy data and cannot do this without losing important data along the way.”

The site is open to all. Take a look.



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ENGLISH RECORDS

<http://www.seekitfinditfast.com>

This is a new type of genealogy site that helps you find English record sources. It's a "portal" that allows you to search for records on a variety of other websites run by Family History Societies, Historical Associations, Museums, and Records and Archive Departments. It is powered by the Frontis Archive Publishing system.

Most of the work is done by volunteers in each of the organizations concerned. The sources are many and varied, but usually are records of a local or specialist interest not otherwise found on other search sites but which can contain valuable information about how your ancestors lived.

Current archives available include:

- ⇒ Society of Genealogists
- ⇒ Sussex Family History Group
- ⇒ British Assoc. of Cemeteries in So. Asia
- ⇒ Norfolk Family History Society
- ⇒ Families in British India Society
- ⇒ Parish Register Transcription Society

ANGLO-BOER WAR RECORDS

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk>

FindMyPast has recently published on its website the *Register of the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902*. The Register brings together information from over 330 sources, some very rare and others out of print, to create a single record for each participant. The main sources used to build the Register are:

- Official Casualty Rolls
- A Gazetteer of the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902
- Medal Rolls
- Anglo-Boer War Memorials Project
- Winifred Scott's Anglo-Boer War Index
- Kevin Asplin's rolls for the British cavalry, Imperial Yeomanry, Imperial Yeomanry Hospital, Lovat's Scouts and Scottish Horse

This database may help you find the unit in which your ancestor served, where he became a casualty, and what medals or awards he received.

WELSH PARISH REGISTERS

Another FindMyPast project is to make available online searchable indexes and images of the parish registers of Wales. Around 893,000 images containing 8,000,000 baptisms, marriages and burials from across Wales will be filmed by FamilySearch and transcribed by findmypast.co.uk. Some of the records date back to the sixteenth century. They will be made available over the next two years, with FamilySearch.org providing an index search.

From an announcement by findmypast.co.uk as posted on Dick Eastman's blog (<http://blog.eogn.com>) 29 Oct 2010.

NEW YORK HISTORY

<http://www.newyorkhistoryblog.com>

If you're interested in New York history, you will like this online news-magazine edited by John Warren. He writes, "Each Friday afternoon *New York History* compiles for our readers a collection of the week's top weblinks about New York's state and local history." You can subscribe by e-mail, RSS, or Twitter or Facebook updates.

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One often sees a clause in the deed in which a married woman relinquishes her "right of dower" to a piece of land that her husband is selling.

A married woman by law inherited one third of her husband's estate upon his death, including any land he might own at the time of death; this was referred to as "dower rights." Dower rights should not be confused with dowry, which referred to any property brought to the marriage by the woman.

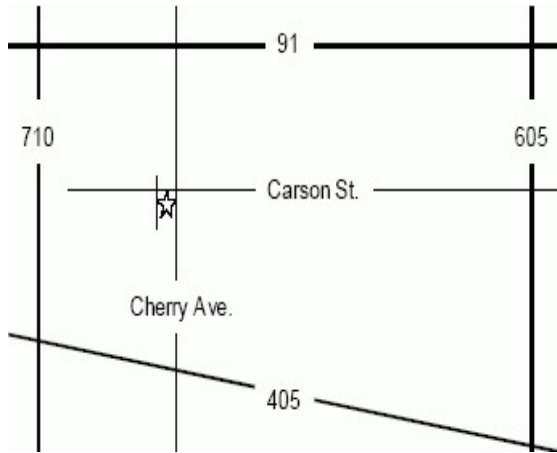
Along the same line, the term "feme covert" refers to a married woman, while "feme sole" refers to an unmarried woman or a woman who owns property independently of her husband...

This article appeared at Citizen-Times.com, the website for the Ashville [NC] Citizen-Times, on 1 Nov 2010. Copyright © 2010 by the Ashville Citizen-Times.



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Sunday, December 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 90.



Saturday, January 8, 2011 will be the next
meeting of the Orange County, California,
Genealogical Society. Program information is
not available yet.

*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 Monday, Friday, and
Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday 9 am to 9 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.lafhc.org>> provides details of
their extensive collection. The LAFHL opened,
following its lengthy closure for renovation, on
Monday, 25 October 2010. 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.

Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION

Mission San Juan Capistrano
26801 Ortega Hwy., San Juan Capistrano
Saturday, Dec. 4, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

For information, you may call (949) 234-1300
or visit <http://www.missionsjc.com>. By click-
ing on “Christmas at the Mission,” you can
access the complete Performance Schedule of
activities and purchase tickets in advance.

At the gate, tickets cost \$2.00 per person (kids
3 and under are free), but tickets are limited.
Online they cost \$2.50. Refreshments will be
available for sale. It’s advisable to dress
warmly, bring your camera, and a canned food
donation for Serra’s Pantry.



RANCHO LOS CERRITOS

4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach
(562) 570-1755

Christmas Open House, December 5, 1-4 p.m.
Guests can explore the adobe home, decorated
for the season, and discover 19th century
Mexican and American holiday traditions.
Children can participate in crafts and activities
from the California frontier and take home
their hand-made decorations. This event is
free, and musical entertainment and refresh-
ments will be provided.

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Dec 11 & 12
Titled “Navidad in Early California,” the tours
will be conducted from 5:30-8:30 p.m. and
include refreshments and a blend of holiday
and classic music by Noteworthy Duo.
Reservations (\$10.00 per person) are required.
You can tour the Temples’ home by candle-
light, meet their guests, and enjoy seasonal
decorations including colorful nacimientos
and greenery. As you tour the site, you will
learn about Mexican and early American
holiday festivities, while also getting a
glimpse of daily life, economic viewpoints and
the changing landscape of the Los Angeles
region.