



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 44 ♦ Number 2 ♦ February 2011

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, FEBRUARY 20, 2011

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Hints for More Effective Research, by Linda Serna

2:00 Business

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

2:45 General SPEAKER: Linda Serna
Meeting Researching Through Maternal and Sibling Lines

4:00 Class BEGINNING: Genealogy Adventures—Research: Traveling in Time, by Linda Ivers

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FEBRUARY MEETING

**SPEAKER:
LINDA SERNA**

Linda has been involved with genealogy for many years and is a member of the following organizations: Association of Professional Genealogists, the Orange County California Genealogical Society, the Polish Genealogical Society, and the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America.

First bitten by this bug at age 12, she has focused in the last 20 years on tracing her own and her husband's families. (Her husband's line goes back to the 1500s in New Mexico; on her side, she is in the ongoing process of tracing her Polish, French, and German background). She also enjoys helping others begin their research.

The last three years Linda has been involved in giving presentations to various groups in Southern California. In addition, she is in the process of writing some articles for genealogical publications. Since she has always loved history, as well as putting together puzzles, she finds genealogy to be a natural fit.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

This presentation provides ideas for maximizing research before you go to a repository, when you are there, and after you come home. The talk intersperses specific examples, along with practical ideas.

MAIN PROGRAM

The main presentation explores options for researching through the women, and brothers and sisters, as well as other relatives in the family. It looks at a combination of sources available, as well as hints and other relevant information of which to be aware, using actual examples for illustration.



REFRESHMENTS

Georgie (Peterson) LYONS (562) 432-4908

Thanks to our January hosts:

George & Polly JOHNSON Jeanette JONES
Kathy LATHAM Frances LIEBZEIT

Our February hosts will be:

Terry HAMILTON Georgie LYONS
Penny NUGENT Connie WILLIAMS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 40 Guests: 2

RENEWALS

Sandra BOURASSA	Family	9/11
Richard HOOVER	Life	9/11
Rellen OWEN	Individual	9/11
Olas & Jo Nell ROOK	Family	9/11
Marjorie TARBELL	Sustaining	9/11

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

The December Report is not available.

**Submissions for the
March Newsletter
are due by February 27.**

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This newsletter is published monthly as a benefit for members of Questing Heirs; it is not meant to be sold. In order to receive the monthly newsletter, one must be enrolled as a member of the Society. To join, please use the membership application on the outer cover of this newsletter.



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CITY DIRECTORIES
by Brian G. Andersson

It is always easy to overlook sources that, at first glance, may not provide any meaningful addition to the family story. The lowly city directory falls into that category. My advice has always been to never leave a stone unturned when compiling information on one's ancestors. A city directory can fill the gap that was looming in the family record.

With new family researchers, I usually get a blank stare when I ask if they've utilized a city directory to chronicle the family residences over time. I must then explain that city directories are like telephone books—but before telephones were invented. And in a way, genealogists can treat them like we do phone books. They're taken for granted, mundane, but infinitely useful. We may still remember the thrill of seeing our own names printed there for the first time. Isn't it still a thrill to see an ancestor's name in print in a contemporary source?

City directories have been in use for over two hundred years. At first they only contained the listings of the prominent members of the city, followed by the services most needed by the citizenry: the barber, the cobbler, the attorney...As time went on they attempted to become a compendium of every person living there. Advertisements helped pay for the printing, and today we view these ads with a smile as they reflect the quaintness and charm of simpler days when we read an ad for bowler hats or prams or saddles.

The obvious usefulness of a city directory is that it is an alphabetical listing of names of people residing in a given location that can help you determine where your ancestors lived at a particular time. It will very often contain that person's occupation, as well as both business and home addresses. Women are sometimes listed as "widow of...", thereby supplying you with a time frame as to when a male member of the family had died. An occupation may assist you in determining

which of the 17 John Kellys is your great-grandfather, or maybe which one certainly wasn't (i.e., he wasn't an undertaker or lingerie dealer).

When I assist people on how to get started in genealogy, I advise them to compile a dossier on every family member with all the pertinent documentation. It is always advisable to perform a directory search, year by year, as it will almost always come in handy at some point in time. It may also turn up some surprises. At the very least, it will serve as further confirmation of other records you seek to compile.

It is also advisable to complement the search of directories with a contemporary map if you are not familiar with the town in question. A modern map can help, but many street names change over time and large-scale developments can obliterate the details of large older sections of the town. The local history desk of the municipal library or historical association can be very, very helpful in this regard and often turns out to be a real treasure.

There is a considerable gap in the public record as a result of the disastrous loss of most of the 1890 Federal Census. Many Americans do not have roots that extend back to the point that they can utilize the 1880 Census, and the 1900 Census is just that many years too late to be useful. Here in New York, the New York Police Department conducted its own census in 1890 of the city's residents—by address. By being able to ascertain the correct address of the family you are searching, only then are you able to utilize this resource for information which may shed some additional light on your family's history. Since many immigrant families spent a period of time in New York city before moving on, an address can be invaluable.

In those dreaded cases where there is no index to a particular locale for an important census

Continued on page 13

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We got off to a good start for our first meeting of the year and my first meeting as president. It looked a little bit questionable to start with as our speaker was late due to a family emergency. However, “All is well that ends well” someone once said. Suzanne, our Program Chairman, made a good choice for our first speaker of the new year, and she has two excellent programs scheduled for the next two months.

Tom Underhill, our January speaker, whose middle name must be Back-Up, told us several sad stories about people failing to back up their computer material. I scare easily; so this week I have double-checked that all my material is backed up. For the first time, I actually burned an extra CD and am taking it to my daughter’s home. Tom gave a good review of scanners and digital cameras. I have a scanner and digital camera, but his presentation made me think maybe I should consider upgrading in the near future. Tom covered a great deal of helpful material even though his time was shortened. I am sure everyone took different things away from the presentation. I know all present were challenged to try some new photo shooting techniques that they can apply towards making themselves better photographers.

After the meeting, it looked like the Beginning Class was well attended, and everyone was very focused on the material that Linda Ivers was presenting. Also after the general meeting, we had a good Board Meeting, and I tried to catch-up-to-speed on what I should be doing and worrying about. The Publicity and Public Relations Chairmanship is still open. It can be filled by one or two people. There must be one of you that is reading this message who can fill this opening. Now is your opportunity to give back to the group for all the knowledge you have gained over the years; or if you are a relatively new member, this is a way to pay your non-monetary dues forward.

By the way, at the February meeting we are planning on having a group picture taken in order to update the Questing Heirs Website; so be sure to come to that meeting.

Life is lived forwards, but understood backwards. (*Questing Heirs is here to help you with the “forwards” and “backwards”.*)

Jeanette Jones (J.J.)

**THE GREAT LOS ANGELES
AIR RAID OF 1942**

Questing Heirs member Floyd Farrar has alerted us to an event you might be interested in attending. From 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 19, 2011, there will be a celebration of the “air raid” of February 1942 at the Fort MacArthur Military Museum, 3601 S. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA.

Dean Mora’s Modern Swingtet (dressed in WWII uniforms and renamed the Ft. MacArthur Officers Orchestra) will perform at this popular outdoor event, commemorating the false air raid over Los Angeles. There will be exhibits, historical military vehicles, re-enactment encampments, food and refreshments, all ending in a re-creation of the “air raid.”

This event helps to raise funds for the Fort MacArthur Military Museum. More details may be found at the Air Raid website:

<http://theairraid.com>

**HELP WANTED
PERSONALS**

Fun Questing Heirs Board seeks male or female good at e-mailing for Publicity Position. Work only once a month in the comfort of your own home. A plus is getting to attend all Questing Heirs Board Meetings. Contact Past-President, Liz Myers. (See her listing under Committee Chairs on the “blue” page.)



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CONQUERING THE PAPER MONSTER

If you're having trouble organizing your research findings, you might be interested in Elyse Doerflinger's e-book called *Conquering the Paper Monster Once & For All*. You can find it by going to her blog site at <http://elysesgenealogyblog.com> and clicking on Products.

Elyse says, "Are you tired of drowning in piles of papers? Are you frustrated by all the different organizational systems and still not being able to find one that you can stick with? Is your research suffering because you can't find a piece of paper when you need it? Are you tired of repeating research steps because you forgot that you already did it? This e-book will help you create a customized system for organizing your genealogy papers—a system that you can understand and stick to. Follow this step-by-step guide to understanding the basics of organization and how to create a system that works for you."

Because she has presented her lecture on this subject at many genealogical societies, Elyse decided to record it. "Come learn how to create a customized organizational system that is unique to your needs, wants and personality. This lecture walks you through a step-by-step process to getting your genealogy papers organized. Organization is something that nearly every genealogist struggles with—and this lecture is perfect to help you finally 'conquer the paper monster.'

"This video lecture includes the presentation slides synced with the audio of my voice to create a lecture that can be listened to at any time in the comfort of your home (and pajamas!). Along with the video, customers will receive a .pdf file that includes the handout."

[The e-book costs \$4.50, and the video lecture costs \$7.99. Elyse Doerflinger's blog also contains many helpful articles.]

SOME LAND MEASUREMENTS

- 1 Acre = 160 square rods
- 1 Acre = 10 square chains
- 1 Acre = 160 perches, 160 poles, 160 rods

- 1 Chain = 66 feet
- 1 Chain = 4 perches, 4 poles, 4 rods
- 1 Chain = 100 links
- 1 Furlong = 660 feet
- 1 Furlong = 40 rods
- 1 Hectre = 2.471 acres
- 1 Link = 7.92 inches
- 1 Mile = 80 chains
- 1 Mile = 320 poles, 320 rods
- 1 Mile Square = 640 acres, 1 section
- 1 Perch = 16.5 feet
- 1 Perch = 1 pole, 1 rod
- 1 Pole = 16.5 feet
- 1 Pole = 1 perch, 1 rod
- 1 Rod = 16.5 feet
- 1 Rod = 1 perch, 1 pole
- 1 Rod = 25 links

Continued from page 11...

year, an address found in a city directory will help you immeasurably. One can either translate the address into the appropriate enumeration district (ED) by means of a guide or map, or perform the tedious task of searching the census page by page by address. Boring, yes, but it may very well be the only way to obtain that piece of the family record. Again, when used in conjunction with contemporary maps, it is sometimes possible to find the houses of worship for certain religious congregations that your ancestor may have belonged to, and that in turn could lead you to the religious records of births, marriages, and deaths. Very often, the religious record may be all you have to go by, as suspicion of the authorities by many newly-arrived immigrants kept large numbers of events unrecorded by the civil authorities.

It needs to be said that city directories are by no means complete. A listing may not appear for several years, then suddenly reappear, and misspellings were common. But for all their failings, city directories are those "old reliables" that are too frequently overlooked.

This article appeared on 11 Jan 1999 and may be found at <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Article.aspx?id=2634>.

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L. A. LIBRARY UPDATE

Mary McCoy, Librarian in the History and Genealogy Department of the Los Angeles Public Library, passed along the following news.

Thanks to a federal Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant, the Central Library's data cabling is being replaced and upgraded to the latest standards. The project will begin on January 24 and will take several months to complete. Each subject department at the Central Library will be closed for four weekdays while the cabling project is completed. This will not impact Saturdays.

The History and Genealogy Department will be closed to the public during the week of Tuesday, February 15-Friday, February 18, 2011. While genealogists will not have access to the book collection, access to Ancestry Library Edition, HeritageQuest, American Ancestors and other databases will continue to be available in any of the other subject departments.

A full schedule of closures for all Central Library departments is available at <http://www.lapl.org/central/btop.html>.

U. K. 2011 CENSUS

Dick Eastman reported in his blog (<http://blog.eogn.com>) of January 13, 2011, that the U.K. Census takes place on March 27. Every household is required by law to complete the questionnaire, with the information gathered helping to plan and prioritise resources and public spending on housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. Forms, complete with an individual bar code, will be posted to each household and, for the first time, people will be able to complete their details via an online form, although online access is not a requirement.

Goodbye Rosie...

This is another article that should be of interest to our members who attended the QH monthly meeting of April 2009.



“Geraldine Doyle died Sunday [12/26/10]. She was 86. Doyle was just 17 when she took a job at a metal pressing plant near Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1942. She was there when a United Press

International photographer came to the factory while documenting the contribution of women to the war effort. The picture of Doyle was later used by J. Howard Miller, a graphic artist at Westinghouse, for a poster aimed at deterring strikes and absenteeism

“The poster was not widely seen until the 1980’s when it was embraced by the feminist movement as a potent symbol of women’s empowerment. The image now graces a US postage stamp and has been used to sell lunch boxes, aprons, mugs, t-shirts and figurines.

“Doyle didn’t realize she had a famous face until she was flipping through a magazine in 1982 and spotted a reproduction of the poster, her daughter told The New York Times.”

From Dick Eastman’s blog of 30 Dec 2010. Copyright © 2010 by Richard W. Eastman.

UpFront with NGS

The National Genealogical Society reported on 12 January 2011 that it has made the index to its quarterly magazine freely available to the public on its website at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>. If you find an article you’d like to read, you can buy the relevant back issue from their online store for \$15 (for non-members), which includes shipping.

On 4 Nov 2010, *UpFront with NGS* reported that the National Archives & Records Administration has expanded the formats available to members of the public who wish to purchase copies of records from its holdings. Copies of immigration and naturalization records, land files, military service and pension records, etc., can now be purchased in a digitized version. The cost per page is the same as for paper copies, but the digital copies are delivered via CD or DVD, depending on file size, and usually in .pdf format.



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GENEALOGY NEWSLINE

<http://www.familyrootspublishing.com>

Leland Meitzler, who has been active in the genealogical community for many years, has started a new genealogy newsletter. In the past, Leland has been Managing Editor of *Heritage Quest Magazine* and later of *The Genealogical Helper*. He is now the co-owner of Family Roots Publishing Company and writes a daily blog at <http://www.genealogyblog.com>.

In the first issue (January 10-16, 2011), Leland writes:

“This is the first edition of the FREE *Genealogy Newsline*. It is an outgrowth of the *Family Roots Publishing newsletter*, and the *Everton Newsline*, which I once edited for Everton Publishers. The *Genealogy Newsline* has been in the planning for about six months, and with the start of the new year, I felt now was the time to launch.”

You can subscribe to this new newsletter by going to the website listed above in this article’s title and signing up in the upper left corner of the page. The newsletters are scheduled to be sent out on Tuesdays.

LIBRARY & ARCHIVES CANADA

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca>

The Library and Archives Canada announced on 7 December 2010 that, “within the next seven years, [it] plans to put most of its services online, transforming the country’s leading memory institution into a fully engaged digital organization, just in time to celebrate Confederation’s 150th anniversary in 2017.

“Taking advantage of new digital information technologies will change not only the way we acquire and preserve our collection but also how we make it accessible to Canadians,” explained Dr. Daniel J. Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada...

“As part of an overall strategy designed to provide more online public access, LAC will take a multi-faceted approach: adapting

services and transforming business processes to make access easier, and increasing online content by switching to digital formats.”

For instance, LAC currently sends out about 750,000 photocopies each year and hopes to completely phase out paper copies by April 2011. It also plans to double its online content in the next year by working with ancestry.ca.

FREE CHARTS AND FORMS

People often ask where they can find genealogical forms to use in their research. There are a number of sites on the web that provide many styles and sizes of free downloadable charts and forms.

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

Cyndi’s List provides links to a multitude of sites that provide various types of forms when you click on “Charts & Forms to Print or Download” under her Free Stuff category.

<http://www.ancestry.com/charts/census.aspx>

This URL will take you to a page containing all the census charts, but on the right side of the page you can also download an Ancestral Chart, Research Calendar, Research Extract, Correspondence Record, Family Group Sheet, and Source Summary. Ancestry.com also has forms for Canadian and English censuses.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html>

Besides the basic ancestral chart and family group sheet, this site also offers forms to track and organize your research, census forms, immigration forms, record worksheets, and forms to keep track of oral history and heirlooms.

http://genealogy.about.com/od/free_charts

About.com has ancestral charts in decorative, wall, and fan styles. Some charts are interactive, meaning they can be filled in online and shared with others. It also has a research checklist, a relationship chart, and access to form letters in five different languages from Genealogy.com.



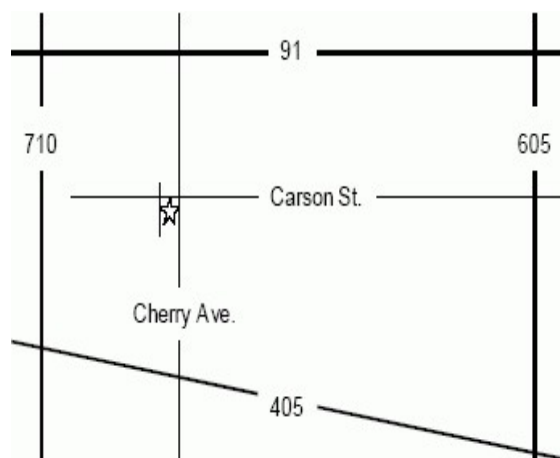
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Saturday, February 12, 1:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: “Finding and Using Los Angeles County Records,” by Mara Fein.

Sunday, February 13, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “Pre-1850 Census Research,” by Lisa Schumaker.

Wednesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting in the Meeting Room at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: “The New Family Research and Updated LARFHC,” by Lorna Rice.

Sunday, February 20, 1:15-4:00 pm. 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 10.



Sunday, February 27, 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: “Reading Old American and English Handwriting,” by Gene Cheney.

Saturday, March 5, 10:00 a.m.– Noon Orange County, California, Genealogical Society will hold its annual Book Faire in Rooms C&D at the Huntington Beach Central Library.

Upcoming Events

NORTH SAN DIEGO CO. GEN. SOC.

Saturday, 26 March 2011
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine St., Carlsbad

Stephen P. Morse will present “The One-Step Website: Its Tools and Its Applications.” His topics will cover:

- One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Tools
- One-Step Webpages: A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Gems
- Phonetic Matching: An Alternative to Soundex with Fewer False Hits
- From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask

Registration for Members is \$20.00 and for Non-Members \$30.00, with lunch provided for an additional \$8.50. For more information or a registration form, you can contact Nina Anderson by phone at (760) 599-9958 or by e-mail at ninaanderson@sbcglobal.net.

*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.