



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 44 ✦ Number 3 ✦ March 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, MARCH 20, 2011

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Using Google to Search for Your Ancestor, by Liz Myers

2:00 Business

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

**2:45 General Meeting SPEAKER: Joan Phillips
Research in French Canada**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: Genealogy Adventures—Data Mining in Military Records, by Linda Ivers

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MARCH MEETING

**SPEAKER:
JOAN PHILLIPS**

Joan has been involved in genealogy for fifty-plus years. Her interest was sparked by a comment: "Great-Great-grandmother was Indian." This great-grandmother was in her paternal line, and she had very little information about her. However, Joan found a great resource in the Drouin Institute in Montreal. Their information allowed her to extend her paternal grandmother's lines to the original immigrants. She was disappointed, though, when she realized she was not a fraction Indian.

In addition to her French lines, Joan has also researched the families of four daughters-in-law and three sons-in-law—adding England, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico, etc., to her research log.

MAIN PROGRAM

For her presentations, our speaker plans to bring research books (Drouin, Tanguay, Arsenault, etc.) and to discuss the usage of Ancestry.com and their records, as well as the PRDH (an online source). She will also discuss some of the difficulties in French Canadian research and will be happy to answer questions.

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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.

REFRESHMENTS

Penny NUGENT (562) 290-0416

Thanks to our February hosts:

Terry HAMILTON Georgia LYONS
Penny NUGENT Connie WILLIAMS

Our March hosts will be:

Kathy AKAU Sandy HOLLANDSWORTH
George & Polly JOHNSON Kathy LATHAM

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

FEBRUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 34 Guests: 4

NEW MEMBERS

Rebecca FERNANDEZ	Individual	9/11
Glenda GABEL	Individual	9/11
Mary HINDS	Individual	9/11
Barb & Ken VELTEN	Family	9/11

RENEWALS

Pat DANIELS	Individual	9/11
Floyd FARRAR	Individual	9/11
Ginny HUMPHRIES	Individual	9/11

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

2010 Income	\$ 3,334.43
2010 Expenses	\$ 4,943.49
End of Year Status:	
Operations Bank Balance	\$ 515.52
Special Projects Balance	\$ 5,308.00
Value of CDs	\$26,410.53
Net Worth of QHGS	\$32,234.05
January Income	\$ 759.45
January Expenses	\$ 556.03
Operations Bank Balance	\$ 773.94
Special Projects Balance	\$ 5,258.00

As a reminder, the Special Projects fund (such as the recent contribution from Priscilla Nielsen) is money that has been donated to our society to be used for something other than normal monthly expenses. In January, \$50 was used to pay for the second presentation by the speaker.

Our February speaker, Linda Serna, gave two excellent presentations. Her slide show and written material were outstanding. The material she presented could be used effectively by a beginner to genealogy or to a long-time researcher. She had something for everyone. I really was impressed by her recap of DNA. DNA is a rather difficult and complex concept to grasp sometimes. I also learned that I had been making a wrong assumption about the census records as far as “housekeeper” or “keeping house” was recorded. I thought if it listed that statement next to a woman’s name, then she did not have a job outside the house. Our speaker said that was not true. I am going to rethink that on some of my women ancestors.

Jeanette Jones

Following are some highlights from Linda Serna’s handouts.

Hints for More Effective Research.

Before leaving home on a research trip, one should think about different facets of an ancestor’s life that may lead to documents and records—such as family records and traditions (Bibles, letters, scrapbooks, certificates, passports) or activities (religious membership, education, employment, voting, military service, naturalization, etc.).

One should also consult public records for information (censuses; vital, court, and probate records; deeds and land patents; and contemporary maps) and consider the historical events that could have affected your ancestor’s life and created records. Find out what you can about his/her siblings, neighbors and associates.

To save time at your destination, you want to do as much research as possible from your home computer and local sources. Set specific goals and decide on the most direct way of achieving them. Make a timeline and copies of your family group sheets and pedigree charts. Have a separate folder for each family.

At your destination, focus on one family at a time, read the introductions in your sources,

look carefully at each document to glean all the information you can from it, and record complete identification for each source you use. Always keep a research log.

When you get home, put copies in order by family, transcribe them, and analyze what you found.

Researching through Maternal and Sibling Lines

Sources to consider:

- Letters
- Diaries, Journals, and Biographies
- Published Family Histories
- Oral History
- Newspapers
- Family Bibles
- Cemetery Records and Tombstones
- Church Records
- School Records
- Medical Records

Besides marriage and divorce records, information may also be found in land records and in court records, such as wills and probates and orphan/guardianship records.

Wives are often mentioned in deeds because they had to relinquish their “dower right” when their husband sold property. This right has existed in America since the 1600s and insured that a wife would not be left homeless or without support during her lifetime. If her husband died, she could claim one-third of the value of her right in the home and the value of income from a farm or other real property.

Benefits to researching all siblings:

- You may find out more about the family
- You may discover additional siblings
- You may find the parents names listed on one sibling’s records that aren’t on your ancestor’s records
- First and middle names may give clues to parents’ and grandparents’ last names
- You get ideas for migration patterns
- It opens the door to other records, such as school, employment, wills, etc.

Prepared by Linda Serna, lindajmj@verizon.net, 714-504-7060.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am beginning to be more comfortable with what it takes to “pull together” a meeting every month. Questing Heirs is very lucky it has so many talented and hard-working people doing things like the newsletter, obtaining good programs, keeping our membership and finances straight, being in charge of and facilitating the snacks, keeping up the website, teaching the beginning class and a multitude of other things that have to be done every month. Luckily we have a very new member, Rebecca Fernandez, who has agreed to chair the Publicity and Public Relations Committee.

The members who serve on the board are reviewing several things that hopefully will keep everything continuing to move smoothly, such as having people who bring snacks help with food set-up and clean-up. Also we are considering new ways to take advantage of cost-saving methods now available for information presentation, such as e-mailing the newsletter and using some videos for special subjects. Remember, this is your club and we welcome your input. The Board Meetings are always open to all members, and we would welcome your attendance. We meet right after the regular meeting.

Jeanette Jones (J.J.)

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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

Rebecca Fernandez
21902 Verne Ave., #2
Hawaiian Gardens, 90716-1644
Phone: 562-335-8730
Email: rfernandez1933@yahoo.com

Glenda Gabel
305 Obispo Ave.
Long Beach, 90814-2539

Mary Hinds
1125 Amelia Dr.
Long Beach, 90807-2403
Phone: 562-424-8975
Email: joanblackman2001@yahoo.com

Barb & Ken Velten
5745 Avenida Estoril
Long Beach, 90814-3231
Phone: 562-498-2813
Email: barbara.velten@verizon.net

A Questing Heirs welcome to new member Rebecca Fernandez—Rebecca comes from a large Mexican family. She is researching surnames Fernandez, Haro, and Acosta in California, Texas, and Mexico. Rebecca found us after reading on Ancestry.com that she should look online for a local genealogy society. She is a young genealogist wanting to feel connected to her ancestors, who led a difficult life but accomplished many things.

Connie L. Williams

REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

Hospitality Chairman, Tina Yanis, needs help with the set-up of the refreshment table at our monthly meetings and cleaning up afterwards. When you volunteer to bring something for refreshments, please allow a little time to help with these chores, too. Thanks!



Submissions for the April Newsletter are due by March 27.

Bring a friend to our next meeting. Introduce him/her to the fun of our favorite hobby!





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BUILDING A BETTER CHRONOLOGY

by Juliana Smith

When it comes to putting your ancestor's life in context, there's nothing like a chronology to flesh out those names and dates. Arranging the records you've found in the order in which they were created allows you to see their lives unfold through time...

Chronologies are also important research tools, and by comparing your family's timeline of events to important dates that go beyond the family, you can learn even more and find clues to your next research steps. Here are some items to consider:

Church Establishment Dates

Knowing what churches were established during your ancestors' time can lead you to valuable religious records. If there wasn't a church of your ancestor's denomination, check the churches of similar denominations in the area. Your ancestor may have had to go to the only church that was nearby, particularly in rural neighborhoods. In urban areas where there were more options, look for ethnic congregations that match your ancestor's background.

Municipal Incorporation & Boundary Changes

Your ancestor may never have moved in his life, but still lived in different counties or municipalities. In these cases, locating the records left by the family is dependent on when they were created. By adding dates of incorporation for cities and towns and any city, state, or county boundary changes, you'll have a better idea of where to look.

Vital Records Availability

Vital records are the cornerstone of family history research, so displaying their availability in your chronology will remind you to go after records for all of these events.

Cemeteries Incorporated or Closed

In cases where death-related records don't reveal where an ancestor was buried, you can canvas the cemeteries in the area and try to determine which were open for business at the time of the ancestor's death.

Newspapers Began/Ended Publication

Newspapers chronicle the events of your ancestor's neighborhood. Make a note of the start and end date of publication, as well as availability in collections like those at Ancestry.com. This will serve as a reminder to check these publications for information on family events like marriages and deaths, as well as local events that may have prompted an ancestor to relocate, change occupations, etc.

Historical Event

Of course you'll also want to make note of the dates of historical events that were relevant to the family. This information will be very helpful when it comes time to write your family's history. Your chronology can serve as the skeleton for your story, and these events will help you to flesh it out...

This article appeared 13 April 2009 in The Weekly Discovery. Copyright 2009 by The Generations Network, Inc.



In the digital world, customers now have most of the power, largely because of their willingness to share - - and share for free.

Matt Ridley put it this way in his book *The Rational Optimist*:

"People are willing to share their photographs on Flickr, their thoughts on Twitter, their friends on Facebook, their knowledge on Wikipedia, their software patches on Linux, their donations on Global Giving, their community news on Craigslist, their pedigrees on Ancestry.com, their genomes on 23andMe, even their medical records on PatientsLikeMe."

It's a culture of sharing that's never happened before, even under Marxism, he says. This is the workforce of free agents, the "bottoms-up" world of publishing.



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SPECIAL CENSUSES COUNTED MORE THAN PEOPLE by Sharon Tate Moody

How much corn, potatoes, flax, sugar and honey did your great-great grandfather farmer produce in 1860? How successful was your great grandfather's small manufacturing business in 1880? How many men and women did he employ and what did he pay them?

Where would a researcher find such revealing information about their ancestors? In the census, but not the one we usually refer to as "the census."

Researchers are most familiar with the national population survey taken every 10 years since 1790. Those records vary in the information they provide; the census initially began to determine population for elected representation.

But the government also wanted other information, so it created a variety of surveys, called schedules, which provided insight and clues for researchers.

Agricultural Schedules (1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880). In 1850, you'll find only farms that produced more than \$100 a year worth of products. By 1870, farms less than three acres or those that produced less than \$500 worth of products were not included.

Manufacturing Schedules (1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900 and 1910). The enumeration includes information about the articles manufactured, such as the item's market value, and the kinds, quantities and costs of raw materials; also, the number of men, women, boys, and girls employed; the quantity and kinds of machinery; and the amount of capital invested.

Mortality Schedules (1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880). These have limited value because only individuals who died the 12 months preceding the population schedules were included. For example, anyone who died between June 1, 1859 and May 31, 1860 could be listed on the 1860 Mortality Schedule. Since most states did not require official reporting of deaths

until the 20th century, these mortality schedules may be the only record of a cause of death.

Veterans Schedule (1890). This can be used as a substitute for the 1890 population schedule, which was destroyed by fire. It was intended to record Civil War Union veterans, but some Confederates are listed as are some veterans of the War of 1812. The schedules for 1890 are available (alphabetically) for states Alabama through Kansas, and also half of Kentucky. The last half of Kentucky through Wyoming were destroyed or lost. [Editor's note: Actually, except for fragments, Alabama through half of Kentucky are lost. The last half of Kentucky through Wyoming are available.]

Slaves (1850, 1860). These are lists of slave owners by name with a count of their slaves. The slaves are not listed by name but by sex and age.

Social Statistics (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880). You won't find information on a particular relative, but you'll get a good overview of the community where your ancestors lived. For each community, the schedule lists the number of schools, libraries, newspapers, churches, paupers, and average wages paid to some groups of people.

Finding microfilm of these special schedules is a challenge. In 1918 and 1919, the census bureau distributed the originals to various repositories. Many records disappeared and have never been accounted for.

After the National Archives was founded, it attempted to gather them. The archives has complete sets for some states and none for others. [For availability, you can check *The 1790-1890 Federal Population Censuses* booklet, which is also online at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/genealogy/microfilm-catalogs.html#census>.]

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PROGRAMS AT LAPL

Mary McCoy, Librarian in the History and Genealogy Department at the Los Angeles Public Library, has notified us of the following upcoming programs to be presented in the library's Mark Taper Auditorium.

- L.A. in Focus: Images from the Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection
Eric Lynxwiler
Saturday, March 12, 2 p.m.
- The Hand in the Snow and the Crash of Northwest Flight 4422
Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD
Saturday, March 19, 2 p.m.
- Architects and Architecture of Los Angeles, from Adobe to High-rise
Professor Thomas S. Hines
Saturday, April 16, 2 p.m.
- Overcoming Brick Walls in Your Genealogy Research
Linda Serna
Saturday, April 30, 12 p.m.
This program will be in Meeting Room A.

Validated parking is available at the Westlawn Garage at 524 S. Flower St. to LAPL cardholders. On Saturdays, parking is only \$1 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with validation.

ANCESTRY.COM SWEEPS

Ancestry.com is sponsoring The Ultimate Family History Journey Sweepstakes. The Grand Prize includes \$20,000 in travel money, plus:

- Up to 8 hours of consultation time with an expert genealogist
- Help from up to 5 experts in fields relevant to your family history
- A yearlong Ancestry.com World Deluxe membership for you and 5 family members

20 First Prize winners will get an annual Ancestry.com World Deluxe membership.

To enter the contest, go to:
<http://www.ancestry.com/wdytyasweeps>.

SCOTTISH CENSUS

The Registrar General for Scotland has announced that on April 5, 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland will release data from its 1911 census.

The records will include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911 census, as well as details about their children. For the first time, the census data will be presented in full colour rather than black and white.

The 1911 census was the last population survey carried out before the First World War and will feature, for the last time, the names of many Scots who later died in service or left the country for overseas.

You will find information about searching this census at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

NGS FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

This 2011 national conference, titled "Where the Past is Still Present," will be held from 11-14 May at the Charleston Area Convention Center, 5001 Coliseum Dr., North Charleston, SC 29418.

The registration fee before 11 March is \$175 for NGS members and \$210 for non-members. Attendance for one of the four days is \$95.

A detailed conference registration brochure can be viewed and printed at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info.

Continued from page 22...

Ancestry.com has the mortality schedules online for 1850 through 1880 and two state mortality schedules (Colorado and Florida) for 1885. Ancestry also has digitized the available veterans schedules...

Researchers should check with specific state archives that may have acquired the records for their areas. Local areas with good genealogy libraries also sometimes have microfilm of these records.

This article appeared in Tampa Bay Online on 24 January 2011.

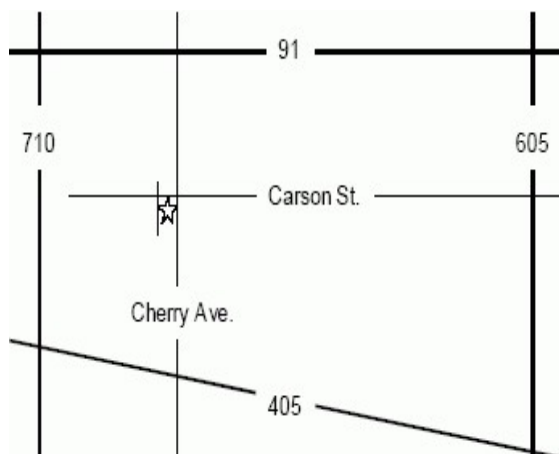


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Saturday, March 12, 1:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: "Remembering the Ladies," by Gena Philibert-Ortega.

Sunday, March 13, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "California Dreamin'," by Gena Philibert-Ortega. (Information about California repositories and archives.)

Sunday, March 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 18.



Sunday, March 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: "PowerPoint: Not Over (Your Head)," by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Saturday, April 2, 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): Gena Philibert-Ortega on "Increasing Your Genealogical Knowledge."

Upcoming Events

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Saturday, 9 April 2011
8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Goleta Presbyterian Church
6067 Shirrell Way, Goleta

This "One Incredible Genealogy Seminar" focuses mainly on Germanic genealogy. Four sessions will be presented with a choice of two lectures in each time slot. Dr. Roger P. Minert, from Brigham Young University, will give four talks specifically on Germanic topics. For those not having Germanic ancestry, Lloyd D. Bockstruck, formerly of the Dallas Public Library, will present an alternate track on U.S. Genealogy.

A list of the topics and registration form is at www.sbgen.org. As an affiliated organization, the registration fee for Questing Heirs members is \$35. You can choose one of four different box lunches for \$10 if ordered by 1 April. Registration starts at 7:45 a.m. A Book-Nook and sales room will also be open.

*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.