



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 44 ✦ Number 4 ✦ April 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, APRIL 17, 2011

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Leaving Genealogy Data to
Your Heirs, by Christine Elia**

2:00 Business

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Tom Underhill
Meeting Using Social Networking Sites for Genealogy**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: No meeting this month.

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**APRIL MEETING
INTERMEDIATE CLASS
CHRISTINE ELIA**

Chris became interested in genealogy when her oldest son had a school assignment to ask his oldest living relatives what it was like when they were growing up. She was amazed when she saw his completed project, since there was so much information that she did not know. Twenty-some years later she is still surprised at the new things she finds out about her family.

Chris belongs to several genealogy societies and recently joined the Association of Professional Genealogists so that she could improve her genealogy skills and become certified. Her areas of interest are immigration history and travel to the countries where her ancestors once lived.

After looking for, but not finding, a presentation on what could eventually happen to her research results, she decided to put together the presentation she will provide at our meeting. Not only will it discuss ideas and goals to consider, but audience input and suggestions will be sought.

**SPEAKER:
TOM UNDERHILL**

Tom is one of our favorite speakers; and since he visited us as recently as January, I will just remind you that he is the publisher and senior designer at Creative Continuum. He has written a number of books himself and is currently the lead architect for *My Life Story*, an initiative to find a fun and easy way to help people record their personal and family memoirs.

MAIN PROGRAM

Learn the ins and outs of using social networking sites to find and share your genealogy. From setting up your first account to joining groups and creating your own pages, Facebook can become a powerful collaborative environment. We include a focus on safety and security in all aspects of social networking.

**REFRESHMENTS
Penny NUGENT (562) 290-0416**

Thanks to our March hosts:

Kathy Akau George & Polly Johnson
Kathy Latham Penny Nugent

Our April hosts will be:

Robert Collins Sandy Hollandsworth
Barbara Nicholson Fred Speckmeyer

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

MARCH MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 36 Guests: 2

RENEWALS

Vivian LINDERMAN Individual 9/11
Susan STUDEBAKER Individual 9/11

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

February Expenses: \$ 264.57
February Income: \$ 228.91
Operations Balance \$ 783.28
Special Projects Balance \$ 5,208.00

**Submissions for the
May Newsletter
are due by April 24.**

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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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RESEARCH IN FRENCH CANADA Review by Penny Nugent

Our March 20th meeting was well-attended in spite of inclement weather, and what an interesting meeting it was. Liz Stookesberry-Myers spoke first, explaining how to use Google to enhance our genealogical research. She gave us many useful tips that she has learned at genealogical seminars, and her Power-Point presentation was very informative. We learned how to do a date-range search, a tilde/synonym search, and an asterisk search. She also told us about Google Alerts at www.google.com/alerts, Google Books at <http://books.google.com>, and the new BYU Books digitalization project at www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/.

After a break for refreshments, our featured speaker, Joan Phillips, provided a great deal of valuable information for those of us researching ancestors in French Canada. Joan volunteers at the Southern California Genealogical Society library in Burbank and is a specialist in French Canadian research. Her lecture focused on sources which are available at the SCGS library: Genealogies of French Canadian Families compiled by Fr. Cyprian Tanguay; A Dictionary of French Canadian Families from the Origins of Settlement to 1730 by Dr. René Jetté; records available from the Drouin Institute of Genealogy in Montréal which are now on-line at www.ancestry.com and also available in book form as transcriptions at the SCGS library; the Loiselle Index of Marriages 1640-1963; and the PRDH web site from the University of Montréal covering the years 1621-1799 which is available for use at the library. She showed examples of her own research and explained how each piece of information had been found in the sources listed above. During the question-and-answer period after Joan's talk, we learned that Wednesday is "French Canadian Day" at the SCGS library. She also encouraged us to check out the Southern California Genealogical Society web site where we can find much more information about the library, its resources, and hours of

operation. Everyone with French Canadian ancestors left the meeting inspired to research more thoroughly using resources at the SCGS library; and those of us whose use of Google was previously limited to hit-and/or-miss searches went home to try out Liz's suggestions.



Continued from page 29...

search for your posts and fix errors in surname entries, or remove obsolete queries and post an updated message. Don't let your queries be like the fallen tree in the empty forest never to be seen or heard from again.

This article appeared in RootsWeb Review: 9 March 2011, Vol. 14, No. 3.

Across five Apri1s—from the firing on Fort Sumter 12 April 1861 to Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse on 9 April 1865—our country was consumed by the Civil War.

"While the Revolution of 1776 to 1783 created the United States, the Civil War of 1861 to 1865 determined what kind of nation it would be. The war resolved two fundamental questions left unresolved by the revolution: whether the United States was to be a dissolvable confederation of sovereign states or an indivisible nation with a sovereign national government; and whether this nation, born of a declaration that all men were created with an equal right to liberty, would continue to exist as the largest slaveholding country in the world.?"

Dr. James McPherson

Beginning this year, we will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. Since most of us have ancestors who fought on one side or the other in the conflict, you may want to check at www.civilwar.org/150 or <http://relivinghistory.net> for information and events of interest.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We had a good turnout last Sunday at our March meeting in spite of the weather. “March showers bring April flowers.” There were more than showers last Sunday, however. Our Past-president, Liz Stookesbury Myers, gave a very interesting presentation that covered all the bases on how we can use the various features that Google has available on the internet. For those of you who keep up on current news, it looks like Google Books is in a big “shoot for the moon” endeavor to digitize every out-of-print book in the world—maybe even every book. All kinds of people are not too happy about these plans.

Our main speaker, Joan Phillips, gave a good overview of what is available for all of us who have French-Canadian ancestors. Several years ago, under her excellent tutelage and in conjunction with the Southern California Genealogical Library, I was able to research all my French-Canadian ancestors back to the 1600’s in early Quebec. Truly, with the resources available, we with Catholic French-Canadian ancestors are extremely lucky in being able to totally fill in all the blanks in our family tree.

After two good presentations, the Board meeting was very lively and productive with reports and discussions about what paths we should be going down to ensure the society’s fiscal health, as well as continue to provide you, the members, with the knowledge to best continue your genealogical research. We were approximately \$1,600.00 in the red for 2010, which we had to make up by drawing against our reserves (Betty Marr and Priscilla Nielson Bequests). One way to make up this deficit may be to save on postage for the newsletter by going to an e-mail format. We will be asking you for your input on this. Having a Fund Raiser is another idea to consider to help balance the budget.

Now that we have a young and enthusiastic new Publicity and Public Relations Chairman, we are going to work hard at attracting new members; and that will help somewhat with our fiscal problems. Remember to invite your

friends to attend a meeting with you. Word of mouth is always the best publicity.

We are also faced with questions about our continued support of the Long Beach Library and book contributions from a fiscal angle and from the angle of book research at the library versus computer research. In this issue you will see the announcement of Moscavo.com, the newly launched site which bills itself as the Largest Free Genealogical Search Engine in the world. In just the first fifteen minutes of using it, I found valuable information I might never have happened upon. Try the site out, and let’s have some feedback about it as we chat before the next meeting and during the break. Also, if anyone makes a really big discovery, please share with everyone. Lucky moscavoing to you all!

Jeanette Jones (J.J.)

REMINDER FROM OUR TREASURER

So far this year, we have received \$19.69 from Amazon and \$160.53 from Ralphs.

Don’t forget to check our website (<http://www.cagenweb.com/questing/shop.html>) and see how to enroll in the Ralphs, eScrip, Amazon, CafePress, or Footnote programs. They all provide some money to us; and in some cases, it is VERY easy (e.g., go first to the website above and click on Amazon. That will take you to the Amazon.com page, and we will get a kickback for anything you buy while signed on).

**VELMA STEPP WILSON
1928-2011**

Velma Wilson, a past member of Questing Heirs, was born at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on June 12, 1928, and moved to the West Coast with her family in 1944. She married Harold E. Wilson in Long Beach in 1947. Velma was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was passionate about genealogical history. She published books about her ancestors and her life entitled *The Lowes of North Carolina* and *Footstepps Through Time*, as well as co-writing *Edgar A. Wilson: His Life and Family*. Velma died in Long Beach at the age of 82 on March 2, 2011.



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GENEALOGY TIP by Joan Young

Are Your Genealogy Posts Getting Lost in the Forest?

Everyone has considered the age-old question “if a tree falls in the forest and no one is around, does it make a sound?” Both sides of that issue can be debated with valid arguments. However, when it comes to family history research, there can be no debate about the difficulty in posting queries or data that will help interested people find your posts. This is especially true when your message concerns ancestors with surnames (last names) that are also common words or given names (first names). When you are researching surnames such as FOREST, LANE, ROBINS, or ROBERT, make use of all available options at your disposal at the time you post the message, and also when searching for existing posts. If you are not careful with common-word surnames, your message will be like the tree that falls in the forest and no one will see or hear it.

Some pointers that may help you when posting and searching are:

1) Post your queries in places such as the RootsWeb/Ancestry message boards where the database offers a dedicated surname field. Enter only the surnames found in your query in the surname box. Enter the surnames in a manner that will enable proper indexing for future searches. If you enter: ROBERT(S) or LANE/LAINE, your surnames may not be found in a search unless someone were to enter the names exactly as you wrote them, which is unlikely. Enter the surnames and variants individually with a comma and space to separate them: LANE, LAINE, ROBERT, ROBERTS. Do not enter any characters or symbols, dashes or slashes, which may cause the searcher to miss your entries or may introduce non-surnames into the search field. The words “and” “or” “etc.” and “family” are not surnames and should not be entered into the surnames box. Properly entered surnames

in a dedicated field will yield only surnames and no extraneous words in a search.

While most researchers will perform a search to find your message, some people prefer to browse through all messages on a board, scanning the posts for items of interest. Commas separating surnames make it easier for researchers who browse to find names they are seeking. Your VAN WINKLE ancestors might be mistaken for separate surnames VAN and WINKLE unless you make use of commas as delimiters. Surname box entries listed: LANE, VAN WINKLE, ROBERT, ROBERTS make it clear exactly which surnames are included in your message. Don’t let your VAN WINKLEs sleep for another twenty years.

2) If you are posting your query or data in a database that has no dedicated surname search feature (such as the RootsWeb mailing list archives), be sure to include as much information about your ancestor as possible to help others find your message. For example: if your query concerns James ROBERT of Perth, Australia be sure to include the full name and location in your post. Many search engines permit searches for full names such as: “James ROBERT” or perform Boolean searches for James NEAR ROBERT, or James AND ROBERT, or even “James ROBERT” AND Australia. Try various combinations of search criteria to find the maximum number of posts.

3) Make use of online databases for posting or uploading your family tree. Family Tree databases, such as RootsWeb’s World Connect, will always have a search engine that finds the surnames included in your tree and not similarly-spelled extraneous words.

After reading the above information, are you having second thoughts about your existing RootsWeb message board posts? Here’s an additional tip: you can now edit (or delete) your own posts on the boards. So, do a

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MOCAVO.COM™

Press Release by Mocavo.com—Boulder, Colorado—March 16, 2011

“Mocavo.com™ (www.mocavo.com), a free search engine geared toward genealogists and people interested in learning more about their family history, launches today. Mocavo.com enables the search of more than 50 billion words—including billions of names, dates and places, all within fractions of a second. Mocavo.com fills an important industry need by providing the first large-scale, free search engine for family history research. Coupled with the speed and accuracy by which search results are produced, Mocavo.com represents a major technological breakthrough within the genealogy world.

“Mocavo.com has already been met with critical acclaim by several industry experts.

“Dick Eastman, writer of *Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter* and a top blogger in the field, wrote, ‘All my future genealogy searches will start on Mocavo.com. I’ve been using the site for a while during its testing and have been very impressed. I suspect you will always have better luck searching for your own surnames of interest on Mocavo.com than on any other search engine.’

“Randy Seaver, writer of the popular *Genea-Musings* blog, wrote, ‘Mocavo.com promises to be a genealogist’s dream—a search engine focused on free online genealogy resources’...

“Starting today, the general public can use Mocavo.com for free. Visitors to www.mocavo.com are simply required to type in the names or words of interest and click on Search. All related results from industry sources such as genealogy message boards, family trees, state and local historical societies, the Library of Congress, National Archives, Ellis Island, Find A Grave, the Internet Archive, various U.S. state archives, and many tens of thousands of genealogy sites built by individuals will be displayed. Similar to other search engines, Mocavo.com honors site owners by linking directly to their content.”

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN TRANSCRIPTIONS

<http://southerncampaign.org/pen/#m>:

If you have an ancestor who fought in the South during the Revolutionary War, you will be interested in the above website. So far, 10,651 pension applications and 70 rosters have been transcribed and are available for you to read and print. The transcriptions were made from the digital images at Footnote.com.

BRITISH LIBRARY RECORDS

From Findmypast...

“Findmypast.co.uk and the British Library are working together on an exciting project to digitize a treasure trove of family history resources that the library holds. When we launch the collection in 2012, the records will be available online and fully searchable for the first time.

“The project will involve scanning the UK electoral registers that cover the century that followed the Reform Act of 1832, along with records of baptisms, marriages and burials drawn from the archives of the India Office.”

IRISH ARCHIVES RESOURCE

From TheJournal.ie of 24 March 2011 ...

“The website www.iar.ie, launched today, allows the public to search a wide range of Irish archives online. Some of the collections featured include the Irish Film Archive, the Guinness family archives, archives from UCC’s Boole Library and a large number of city and county council archives.

“Brian McGee, archivist at the Cork City and County Archives, told TheJournal.ie that the Irish Archives Resource links to wherever these archives are digitized and searchable online. However, it also carries detailed descriptions of what is in every archive listed and where it can be accessed physically, if the collection is not online. For now, it is primarily a descriptive site, but we see it as the first step on the ladder to digitizing entire collections.”



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**Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2
Department of California & Pacific
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
<http://www.suvpac.org/camp2.html>**

Headstone Dedication Service in Cerritos

At 4:00 am on March 29, 1909 a Civil War veteran, Corporal John W. Miller of Company E, 118th Illinois Infantry, died of pneumonia at the Old Soldiers' Home in Sawtelle, California. Two days later he was buried in an unmarked grave at the Artesia Cemetery in Cerritos, California. That grave has remained unmarked for over 100 years. Through the efforts of Margaret Alley of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, assisted by Floyd Farrar of the Sons of Union Veteran of the Civil War, the cemetery has received a headstone from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On Appomattox Day, Saturday April 9, 2011 at 11:00 am the Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2 and Auxiliary No. 2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), will conduct a Headstone Dedication Service for Corporal Miller. As part of the service, we plan to include the rendering of his military funeral honors. The Sons of Veterans Reserve will provide a musket detail for the three-volley salute, the Millikan High School Army JROTC will provide the color guard, and members of the Mayfair High School Marching Corps will play Taps.

The Artesia Cemetery is located at 11142 Artesia Blvd in Cerritos. The SUVCW invites the public to join us and Corporal Miller's descendants for this service.

NATIONAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND

As of April 1, 2011, the General Register Officer for Scotland and the National Archives of Scotland will be merging into a new body called the National Records of Scotland. It will be responsible for:

- Preserving, protecting and promoting Scotland's national archives
- The registration of births, marriages, civil partnerships, deaths, divorces and adoptions
- Running the census
- Publishing information about Scotland's population and households
- Connecting everyone with Scots ancestry to information about their past

The two bodies already work closely to serve family historians at ScotlandsPeople Centre in Edinburgh and online.

UpFront with NGS, 12 March 2011

AUGUSTA CO. VA RECORDS

"The rich treasure trove of Augusta County's chancery cases is being digitized by the Library of Virginia over the next two years. The Library of Virginia has received a grant of \$150,000 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to support the scanning of the Augusta County chancery records...[They] are comprised of case files from the Augusta County Circuit Court and cover the years 1745 to 1912. Cases are included from the Staunton Superior Court of Chancery, with a jurisdiction over 28 localities, from 1802 to 1831..."

"The Chancery Records Index is available through the Library's Virginia Memory Web portal (www.virginiamemory.com)."

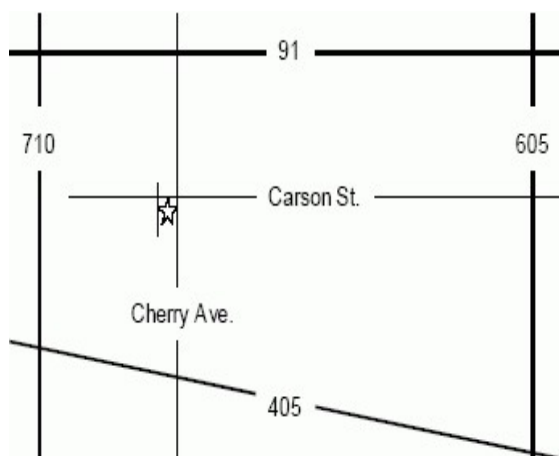
From a press release written by Sandra Gioia Treadway of the Library of Virginia dated 10 March 2011.



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Saturday, April 9, 1:00 p.m. Southern California Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank. Program: "Cemetery Research," by Mary Alequin Sosa.

Sunday, April 17, 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 26.



Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County California monthly meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center (Imperial Room A), Imperial Hwy. & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Program: "Diseases That Ravaged Your Ancestors," by Stephan M. Baird, M.D.

Saturday, May 7, 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): Barbara Renick on "Eleven Layers of Online Research."



Upcoming Events

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGY JAMBOREE

Friday thru Sunday, June 10-12, 2011
L. A. Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel
2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank

The conference will provide 130 concurrent class sessions running over the three days and almost 70 exhibitors. You can download the entire schedule at <http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>. You can register online or print out the registration form to mail or call 818-843-7247.

New this year:

- Thursday evening and Friday morning Registration Packet pick-up.
- JamboFREE sessions—3-hour sessions for librarians, kids, beginners, and society leaders.
- Webinar sessions that can be viewed remotely by 1,000 registrants.
- Three optional tours on Friday morning: the SCGS Library, Hollywood Forever Cemetery, or the remodeled Family History Library
- Ancestry will not be providing scanning.

*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.