



QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 44 ✦ Number 5 ✦ May 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, MAY 15, 2011

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Cowboy, Indian or Mayflower?
by Gary Shelton**

2:00 Business

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Kathleen Trevena
Meeting Migration Patterns in the U. S.**

4:00 Class BEGINNING: Led by Linda Ivers

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**MAY MEETING
INTERMEDIATE CLASS
GARY SHELTON**

Does his DNA have what it takes for Gary Shelton to knock down brick walls that block this Missouri native from a Revolutionary War past? Step with him into the shoes of farmers, medics and clerics—pioneers all—who alongside powerful women, hold fast to key stories...stories their tracks unwittingly brushed clean.

An Eastern Tennessee courthouse visit unlocks doors to Shelton’s past. But, to sort out where on the family tree his rightful perch is, he enlists the help of a long-lost cousin in a sort of “DNA triangulation” with unsettling results.

Gary Shelton, 62 and retired, is a local community activist working to improve the condition of people who live in poverty, homelessness or disability under the clouds of poor air quality. He serves on several local non-profit boards, is a commissioner of Community Development and enjoys free-lance court interpreting, bike riding and yearly usher duty at turn #1 of the Long Beach Grand Prix.

**SPEAKER:
KATHLEEN TREVENA**

A genealogist with thirty years experience, Kathleen gives lectures in the Southern California area. Her topics include names, migration patterns, occupations and money, the effect of the Industrial Revolution on our ancestors, and Colonial research. She is not taking private clients at this time.



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

Thanks to our April hosts:
Robert Collins Sandy Hollandsworth
Barbara Nicholson Fred Speckmeyer

Our May hosts will be:
Larry & Kathy Akau Laurie Angel
Linda Ivers

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

APRIL MEETING ATTENDANCE
Members: 38 Guests: 7

RENEWALS
Evelyn COLES Individual 9/11

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

March Income: \$ 92.26
March Expenses: \$ 331.18
Operations Balance \$ 544.36
Special Projects Balance \$5,208.00

**Submissions for the
June Newsletter
are due by May 22.**

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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.

Leaving Genealogy Data to Your Heirs by Christine Elia

After much time, expense, and often travel, most genealogists have a varied collection of data in various formats, media, and items that mean something to them. Some of the data was organized by themselves (in a genealogy database, albums, DVDs), remains unorganized (boxes/stacks of records), was recorded by others (archivists, authors, photographers), was handed down from earlier generations (family heirlooms) or was made or used by others (artwork, awards, correspondence). Often we wonder what will happen to these things when we're gone.

In *Saving Stuff* by Don Williams and Louisa Jaggar, this question is discussed in the context of what Williams calls "The Museum of You". Although they are not genealogists, Don Williams is a Senior Conservator at the Smithsonian, and he proposes saving the 10 things that are most valuable to you, either emotionally or financially. His reasoning is similar to that which could be used if you knew you had to evacuate your home quickly. After the people and pets were safe and you could only take 10 things with you, what would they be?

To help you identify your top 10 items, list the items that are important to you and why. Then re-order the list with the most important item first and continue until you have 10 items. Record all the information you know about the item, such as where it originated from, who made it, who gave it to you, when and where it was made. Then list what should be done to preserve the item. From a conservationist's view, this would be storing it in a dry, temperature-controlled place for paper and film items to appropriate lighting and framing for artwork. As genealogists, we also need to upgrade items that are on outdated media (microfilm, audio tapes, CDs, etc) as well as the software needed to view the contents of the files.

To make your wishes be known, not only should you discuss them with those close to

you, but you may want to put your wishes in writing. An ethical will (www.ethicalwill.com) can be used for sharing your values, hopes, and dreams. A genealogical will (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~alwalker/Codicil.htm) can be used for specifying or suggesting people and societies who may be interested in your work. Although these are not legal documents, these websites show sample documents.

I enjoyed giving this talk because of the comments, questions, and suggestions I received during the presentation and afterwards. While I am updating my older media and converting to current software versions, why not join me and track my progress in converting older media on a new blog I've started at www.GenealogyMethods.net. I hope you visit, especially if you also have old media to convert, and leave a comment or question.

Using Social Networking Sites for Genealogy Review by Linda Artuso

In his usual engaging style, Tom Underhill discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using social networking sites for your genealogy.

Sites he mentioned were:

- www.facebook.com
- www.genealogywise.com
- Various blogs—You can look for them at <http://blogfinder.genealogue.com>.
- Family websites; start your own.

Using social networking, can help you to:

- Share information with others.
- Connect with relatives.
- Involve the younger generation.
- Find new ways to gather information.

Tom also warned about the need to protect yourself when using social networking sites. For instance, you can create groups of like-minded individuals, but you can have public and private areas to control who can see what information. Don't publish data on living persons or other sensitive information.

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I had been wondering whether I really wanted to go to the Southern California Genealogical Association Jamboree. This is the 42nd Jamboree and will be held at the Burbank Marriott Hotel on June 10-12. Go to <http://scsgenealogy.com> and check it out. Many of our members have attended at various times. I have not been for several years; and in recent years I have thought about it and then procrastinated, never getting registered and blocking out the time on my calendar. I have belonged to the SCGA for many years. Joan Phillips (our March speaker on French Canadian research) touted it during her presentation and had almost convinced me. Then when I got an e-mail copy of the schedule, I decided I really wanted to go.

On Friday morning is what is called the JamboFree events from 9:00 to 12:00. During this three hours I am really anxious to hear George G. Morgan speak on how genealogical societies must adopt new strategies and modern technologies to adapt to today’s trends. Also Friday morning Jana Sloan Broglin will give ideas on how to “hit home runs” at every meeting and how to find great speakers who’ll stay within the society budget. I think we are doing pretty well, but I would like to help guide the Questing Heirs Board into the future and thereby benefit all our members as we go farther into the 21st Century.

I guess I better register soon and take advantage of the low-price Early-Bird Registration for the rest of the Jamboree. It is always so hard to decide which lectures to go to. There are always more subjects of interest to me than I have time for. Another thing that is of interest to me is the fact that attendees can take the Metro and not have to drive to Burbank.

One last thing—be sure and come to the May meeting. I am sure both presentations will be great. The first speaker is a good friend of mine. He has been telling me his very

interesting DNA story as it evolved. I am sure you will find it fascinating. However, it may make you think twice about embarking on personal DNA research.

Jeanette Jones (J.J.)

LOOONG TIME MEMBER

Long-time member Kay Foord, who will be 97 years old in May, called and shared with me how much she still enjoys getting the newsletter every month and keeping up to date about the genealogy world and Questing Heirs. Her voice is still strong and vibrant, and she still has her same enthusiasm for life. She now lives in a retirement community by the name of Vintage Cerritos in the city of Cerritos. Kay and Jack Foord, who died in 2009, were active members of Questing Heirs for many years. They shared the duties of faithfully mailing the newsletter every month until they had to give up their home and move to a retirement community. Jack even invented a special slanted board that he used to fold the newsletters. They always attended the Board Meetings and helped with whatever project Questing Heirs was involved in. They had been married 67 years when Jack died.

After talking to Kay, I was reminded about the plans that “are in the works” for Questing Heirs to develop a way to send the newsletter via e-mail. This is the way most clubs are now doing their mailing. It will save the club quite a bit of money and hopefully will allow us to break even at the end of the year without raising dues again. However, there will still be a few people who need to receive their newsletter by regular mail. If you are 97, that will certainly qualify you to get yours via the U.S. Postal Service. I do remember, though, that both Jack and Kay had separate e-mail accounts. Maybe she still has her account and will want to get hers by e-mail. It was good to hear from Kay and to know that the frustration one sometimes experiences in doing genealogy does not shorten your life.

J.J.



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FIND THE MOTHERS IN YOUR FAMILY TREE

by Jana Lloyd

Before 1922, immigrant women were not required to naturalize. If they were married, they were listed under their husband's surname on the census records. And before the 1850 census, they weren't even listed at all—they were just given a tally mark. Combine that with the fact that for many years women couldn't vote, own property, or enter into legal agreements, and you may find researching your female relatives a bit of a challenge.

Follow these seven tips to help find out more about your female ancestors—especially to locate their ever-elusive maiden names.

1. Look for mothers-in-law in census records.

After their husbands died, many women went to live with children. You'll often find mothers-in-law (and other in-laws for that matter) listed in census records. Finding out that Robert Jones's mother-in-law was Peggy Thompson can tip you off that his dear wife may have been a Thompson pre-wedding day. Be careful though—the mother-in-law may be on a second or third last name.

2. Search the vital records of other family members.

Don't know great-grandmother's maiden name? Check grandma's birth certificate. Or marriage certificate. Or death certificate. And if you don't find it listed there, check the vital records of other siblings and even half-siblings. Records changed from year to year and state to state, so information not included on one certificate might have been recorded on another.

3. Search local newspapers at the time.

Besides birth, wedding, and death announcements, the personal columns of local newspapers can be very revealing. You might find that "Mr. and Mrs. X invited their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Y, for Thanksgiving dinner."

4. Conduct a thorough search of the husband's records.

For better or worse, you often find out about the women in your family tree by researching the men. The husband and father's records usually offer the most information, but you may want to try those of brothers and other male relatives as well.

One researcher looking through records from the Corp of Engineers in the 1890's was surprised to find a letter written to John Brown saying his sister had been turned down for a job. They had written to her brother—not her—to inform her that she had not been hired! A descendant would only have found this information by researching the brother's name—not the woman's. (See "10 Tough Ancestors," in *Ancestry Magazine*.)

5. Pay attention to witnesses, neighbors, and friends.

Witnesses were often family members, so male witnesses on a record may have been brothers, fathers, or uncles to any female mentioned. Neighbors on censuses, directories and town maps are also potential in-laws. And, finally, women sometimes married brothers' friends.

"So what if John and Permelia died too soon to apply for a military pension?" writes Elizabeth Shown Mills, author of "Finding Wives, Mothers, and Old Women with Suitcases," in *Ancestry Magazine*. "John's presence on a muster roll gives us a list of fellow soldiers who could have lived longer, could have applied, and could have talked about John. 'Me and John,' one old veteran wrote in his pension affidavit, 'me and John Pettypool dug them trenches together. Me and John were buddies, just like brothers. He married my sister.'"

6. Locate cemeteries.

Records might not mention women's last names, but headstones usually do. If you can locate a woman—either in person or on a list of cemetery records—buried beside her

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Continued from page 37...

husband, you can often find out her unmarried name.

7. Understand the laws of the time.

Get to know the culture and laws surrounding the area and time-period when your female family member was living. Understanding what records she may or may not have left behind can help you know what to search for.

For instance, throughout most of the 19th century a single, divorced, or widowed woman, known as a “feme sole,” often produced more paperwork than a “feme covert,” or a married woman. She could enter into contracts, sue her debtors, and create a will. However, she lost most of these rights when she married.

Beginning as early as 1850, though, married women in many states did exercise ownership over any property they had personally inherited or been given. This meant she could create a will or deed for her own personal property, apart from her husband’s.

What detective work have you employed to find out about the women on your family tree?

This article appeared in the Ancestry Monthly Update, 4 May 2009. Copyright © The Generations Network, Inc.

CIVIL WAR NEWSPAPERS
<https://dcr.emd.vt.edu/vital/access/manager/Index>

Virginia Polytechnic Institute is working on a project to make Civil War-era newspapers available online.

William C. Davis, Director of the Program, points out that “All of the daily affairs of the common people play out in the pages of newspapers...Moreover, thousands of soldier letters, military reports, general orders, and even occasionally diaries, found their way into ink on newsprint, many of them available nowhere else...

“The goal of the American Civil War Newspapers database is to select a representative group of journals to index, with digital

images of the newspapers themselves, for use by students and scholars. The newspapers selected will be a representative sampling of Union and Confederate, urban and small town, Eastern and Western, pro- and anti-administration.”

Searches are free and may be made by using a keyword or by browsing. Pre-defined topics are available. Printable digital images may be downloaded and viewed. The first newspaper to be indexed is the Macon, Georgia, *Daily Telegraph* for July 1860 to June 1865.

MORE CIVIL WAR RECORDS

In a joint announcement dated Washington, DC and Provo, UT on 6 Apr 2011, Ancestry.com and the National Archives launched millions of newly digitized Civil War records that are now available online for the first time. This effort is part of an ongoing partnership between Ancestry.com and the National Archives to make important historical records more easily available to the American public.

The highlight of the Civil War Collection is the newly digitized *Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865*. These records are among the most popular in the National Archives Civil War holdings and served as a virtual male census for the northern states during the war period. There were four drafts between 1863 and 1865, which included 3,175,055 people in its rolls, although just over 46,000 of those actually entered into service.

Ancestry.com is providing another special experience in searching for Civil War and National Archive information through the new interactive Military Headstone Archives. Dynamic visuals and multimedia tools will enable users to ‘virtually’ explore the cemeteries of the Civil War’s most famous battlefields at Gettysburg, PA; Sharpsburg (Antietam), MD; Stones River (Murfreesboro) TN; Petersburg, VA; Shiloh, TN and Vicksburg, MS. Users can search for their family’s heroes in Ancestry.com’s unique collection of headstone photographs from 33 national cemeteries in the North and South.



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LOCKSS

Apropos to Chris Elia's presentation at our April meeting about how to leave your genealogy data to your heirs, Dick Eastman had an interesting idea on his blog of 12 March 2011.

"Many authors, myself included, have written tens of thousands of words about the advantages and disadvantages of storing on paper versus microfilm versus digital images. We have described the technical ins and outs of PDF files in comparison to DOC, TXT, JPG, GIF, PNG, TIFF, and the entire alphabet soup of file formats. We have described the advantages of acid-free paper in excruciating detail. We have talked about the chemical consistency of ink versus toner. Yet, most of us have overlooked the most obvious solution."

He suggests we introduce a new acronym into the vocabulary of every genealogist: **LOCKSS**, which stands for **Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe**.

"In short, all the discussions about which is better, paper, or microfilm, or digital, is a waste of time. The obvious answer (to me) is 'all of the above.'

"Who cares if microfilm will last longer than digital files? The wise genealogist/archivist saves documents on **BOTH**...Let's look at all the available solutions and then use all of them that make sense...

"With today's technology, making duplicate copies on digital media or on paper is easy, and prices are manageable...If a new technology appears next year or in the next century, let's add that to the list of copies to be made.

"Recent experience has proven that paper is not a good preservation mechanism, and microfilm isn't much better. The news reports frequently mention earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, building collapses, fires, and other great disasters that have destroyed thousands of paper and microfilm documents within seconds...

"Digital archiving has its own set of problems and solutions. Disk drives crash, home computers occasionally erase data, huge data centers are occasionally destroyed in major disasters, and sometimes files simply grow obsolete by a change in technical standards. The biggest cause of computer data loss is the 'oops factor,' the accidental loss of files. Any single copy of any digital file is almost guaranteed to be unavailable within a few years.

"Yet the solution is simple!

"I know of no requirement that says we must preserve information on only one medium...In fact, I would suggest that storing a **SINGLE** copy of anything is a disservice to future genealogists and historians. We need to make multiple copies of every piece of paper, every microfilm and every digital file and then store those copies in as many different locations as possible...

"Ideally, you should make sure that someone knows how to retrieve your copies after you are gone. However, wouldn't it be easier to simply **GIVE** them copies while you are still alive?"

You can read the article in its entirety at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © 2011 by Richard W. Eastman.

BABY BOOKS AT UCLA

The Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library has collected more than 1,100 baby books.

"Baby books are the kind of ephemera that don't have a place. Technically books, they're not exactly plot-driven, thrill-a-minute reads. Although they contain useful information, once the baby has grown into a healthy child, the book isn't needed—many in the collection are only partially completed. And few people have room on their shelves for baby books of now-deceased relatives.

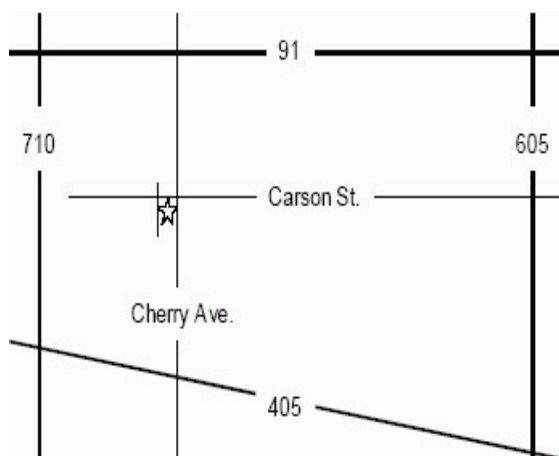
"The collection, does, though, if you've got some you want to de-acquisition."

Written by Carolyn Kellogg and appearing in the Los Angeles Times on 12 June 2010.



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Sunday, May 15, 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 34.



Wednesday, May 18, 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: "Introduction to the National Archives," by Kerry Bartels.

Sunday, May 22, 1:00-3:00 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: "An Overview of Wales and Its Records," by Annie Lloyd. A Welsh Study Group follows with Annie talking about where Welsh people settled in the U.S.

Orange County, California, Genealogical Society will have no meeting in June.

From the earliest times the old have rubbed into the young that they are wiser than they, and before the young had discovered what nonsense this was they were old too, and it profited them to carry on the imposture.

W. Somerset Maugham

Upcoming Events

REMEMBER MEMORIAL DAY May 30, 2011

- By visiting a cemetery and placing a flag or flowers on the graves of fallen heroes.
- By visiting memorials.
- By flying the U.S. Flag at half-staff until noon.
- By participating in a "National Moment of Remembrance" at 3:00 p.m. to pause and think about the true meaning of the day, and for Taps to be played.
- By renewing a pledge to aid the widows, widowers, and orphans of our fallen dead, and to aid the disabled veterans.



*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.