



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter*

Volume 44 ✦ Number 6 ✦ June 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, JUNE 19, 2011**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Genealogy Research Online  
by David Werts**

**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General SPEAKER: Alice Volkert  
Meeting Researching in California**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: Genealogy Adventures—Next Steps  
Part 2, by Linda Ivers**

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

<i>Reports</i> .....	42
<i>May Meeting in Review</i> .....	43
<i>Questing Heirs News</i> .....	44
<i>Methods</i> .....	45
<i>On the Web</i> .....	46
<i>Of Interest</i> .....	47
<i>Calendar</i> .....	48



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**JUNE MEETING**  
**INTERMEDIATE CLASS**  
**DAVID WERTS**

Dave Werts has been doing family history research for 30 years and is a long-time member of Questing Heirs. During recent efforts to collect information on ancestors for two family history books, he tried a number of free and pay sites offering genealogical information. The talk will compare Ancestry, Footnote, World Vital Records, Genealogy Bank, Google, and Google Books. The sites are evaluated on ease of use, quantity of information, quality of information, price, and results.

**SPEAKER:**  
**ALICE VOLKERT**

Alice Colby Volkert is a professional genealogist, a speaker, teacher, researcher and coach. Board member of her local APG Chapter and of the CSGA, member of GSG, NGS, NEHGS, UGA, DAR, DAC and MENSA. She is involved with the Orange Family History Library and is with the FamilySearch support team. Alice is the President of the Colby Family Association.

She works mostly in New England, particularly Massachusetts, as well as general United States genealogy. Her specialty is being a coach, helping people make their own discoveries, organizing their data and keeping their record managers.

She has presented at regional conferences and teaches classes for community groups. She is frequently a guest speaker for genealogy events and societies.

**TOPIC**

“Where to Go In and For Southern California”

Researching California family information can be interesting. Or, if you are in Southern California, where can you go to find information in general? This presentation gives some solid information as well as samples of what might be in your own neighborhood.

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

Thanks to our May hosts:  
Larry & Kathy AKAU      Laurie ANGEL  
Linda IVERS

Our June hosts will be:  
Terry HAMILTON      Kathy LATHAM  
Maxine PITTS

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

**MAY MEETING ATTENDANCE**  
Members: 32      Guests: 0

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

April Income:	\$ 103.61
April Expenses:	\$ 297.25
First Trimester Results:	
Income:	\$ 1,184.23
Expenses:	\$ 1,559.03
F&M Bank Balance:	\$ 5,508.72
Operations:	\$ 300.72
Special Projects	\$ 5,208.00
US Bank Balance:	\$26,431.90

**Submissions for the July Newsletter  
are due by June 26.**

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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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### Cowboy, Indian or Mayflower?

Gary Shelton presented a humorous and entertaining program with slides showing the various family lines he has researched and photos of some ancestors who have been important in that search. Like all of us, he ran into some brick walls along the way. Recently, Gary decided to see if he could find out more about his ancestry by taking a DNA test. He found out more than he anticipated: that he isn't a Shelton after all! But he has taken this surprise in stride and now has a different line to research.

#### U.S. Migration Patterns: Seven Strategies for Finding Your "Lost" Ancestors

Kathleen Trevena's handout outlined seven strategies to give you an idea of where to look for an ancestor who seems to disappear.

##### Strategy 1: Learn everything you can about your ancestor.

It helps to know his or her occupation, ethnic group, religion, age at the time of migration, and other names the person might have used. You can find this information in censuses, deeds, county histories and newspapers. Besides obituaries, newspapers can provide ads and notices relating to available land and work in the area, runaways, and visits from distant family members.

##### Strategy 2: Trace relatives, neighbors, and other associates.

What was your ancestor's reason for migrating? Was it voluntary? Find the records for siblings and children. Also, note the names of witnesses on deeds, neighbors in censuses, people who belonged to the same church or occupation. Their records may provide information lacking in your ancestor's. Different information was requested at different times and places. They might have had a more uncommon name than your ancestor and be easier to trace.

##### Strategy 3: Become familiar with local maps.

Did your ancestor actually move?

Jurisdictional boundaries often change, which means you have look at the records of the relevant time and place. Or your ancestor might have lived near a county or state border, and you may find records on both sides of that border.

##### Strategy 4: Understand the migration process.

Did your ancestor belong to a common group of movers, such as pioneer farmers, cattlemen, fur traders, miners, etc.? Learn about the conditions at the original location and the new area of settlement that might have pushed people to move or pulled them to the new location. People generally moved fairly nearby and to culturally similar areas. Migration was generally east to west, but with a north to south component.

##### Strategy 5: Become familiar with regional geography and transportation routes.

Study county and regional histories, as well as historical and topographical maps. At one time water was the easiest means of transportation. People traveling over distances by land had to follow trails determined by geographical features.

##### Strategy 6: Understand regional migration patterns.

Each area of our country and each time period has typical migration patterns. Learn what they were, and assume your ancestor was typical until proven otherwise.

##### Strategy 7: Put yourself in your ancestor's footsteps.

To understand your ancestor better, write an "autobiography" about him. How did he support his family, and what were his goals? Who were his associates? What would make him want to migrate? And where might he have come from and gone to? Plot a migration map for him from what you know and see if it matches a pattern. Realize that he might have stopped in intermediate areas along the way.

Kathleen's final words of wisdom were not to give up on your "lost" ancestors. Apply these Seven Strategies and expect success!

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

The May meeting contained everything a good meeting should provide--a good healthy dose of humor from our first speaker, Gary Shelton, and really good basic research information from the second speaker, Kathleen Trevena. Gary spoke of his DNA discovery about who his real father turned out to be with a fascinating recap of how, in several steps, he found out the truth about his paternal heritage. Kathleen shared her seven strategies for finding lost ancestors and their relationship to U.S. migration patterns.

Very recently, “electronically challenged” as I am, I decided to sign up for a Webinar. You ask what is a Webinar? A Webinar is Interactive Internet Broadcasting. It is a presentation, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the web that allows for interaction between the presenter and the audience. I registered for one provided by the Southern California Genealogical Society. The subject was: Getting your Notes and Sources Right in Your Genealogy Software. At the time I registered I was able to print out the worksheet/handout that the presenter would be following with a list of resources.

Webinars are offered at a specific date and time and you must register before. An e-mail reminder is sent a day or so before the actual Webinar. Starting fifteen minutes before the scheduled time, I sat down in front of my computer and followed the directions that were on the worksheet/handout. Of course being electronically challenged, I was nervous about having done everything correctly to get connected (which actually was very little). Much to my surprise--right on time the Webinar started, and I settled in for a 90-minute lecture. Even though only 90 minutes was needed for the material, it was a long time to sit in front of the computer without a break. The end of the presentation did include questions from the audience. I definitely see this as a way for personal genealogical instruction and as a tool for genealogical societies. I am looking for another Webinar to sign up for, as well as find out how one uses

what are called the “archived” ones and how one goes about watching them. After more research, I will write a definitive article about Webinars.

Go to our website (<http://www.qhgs.info>) and see the group picture taken at the February meeting. We are a “good looking bunch.”

Before our next meeting, I will have attended the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree. I am looking forward to coming home with information to share with you and also with information to further my own personal genealogical research.

*Jeanette Jones (J.J.)*

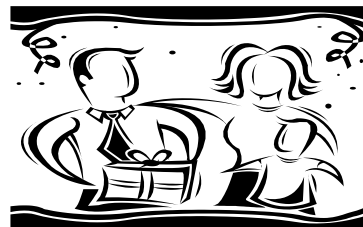


*Continued from page 45...*

Local histories often include profiles of the religious groups and congregations in the area, sometimes mentioning family names. Check, too, with county genealogical and historical societies for information about publications that they may have located and archived.

As you can see, the history of a religious organization may shed some insight on your ancestors’ membership and details of their role in the life of the group and the community. You may find that your ancestors’ arrival in an area coincided with the establishment of a church and, by tracing the origins of other founding members, you may find it possible to trace your own ancestors to a previous place of residence.

*This article appeared in the 24/7 Family History Circle of 27 April 2008. Copyright © The Generations Network, Inc.*



*Happy Father’s Day*



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## YOUR FAMILY'S RELIGIOUS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

by George G. Morgan

Throughout history, religious organizations have provided strength, stability, and support in their communities. Beyond the spiritual aspects of their activities, they also have provided a focal point for social interaction. Members formed strong common bonds with one another, often resulting in marriages between families.

Sometimes you may find that large numbers of a congregation's members relocated to other geographical areas or split from their original group to form a new congregation. Your family may have been part of a religious group that migrated from one area to another. One of my own ancestors came from Scotland-through Ireland-to America in the early 1700s and settled in Cecil County, Maryland. He came with his parents, two of his brothers and their families, his minister, and at least twenty other families. These Presbyterians migrated through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and to Mecklenburg County in the southern part of North Carolina in the late 1740s.

They settled and established a new church in that area which, over time, produced other Presbyterian churches in the vicinity. These people went on to build a community and to become active in civil affairs, including the organization of resistance and rebellion against the English crown. Published histories of the congregations detail the founding of these churches and recount the activities of its members through the centuries.

Not every church or synagogue has a history filled with extraordinary events, but the role it played in the community is no less significant. A book titled "Pressing Toward The Mark," written by Bill Page, was published in 1991 by the First Baptist Church of Mebane, North Carolina, on the 90th anniversary of the founding of the church. It contains a history of the church and its place in the history of that area. It provides membership statistics, detailed biographical information about every pastor, the names and details of a number of

prominent members, the names and terms of pastors, clerks, treasurers, Sunday school superintendents, and directors of the Women's Missionary Society/Union, as well as the names of all members at the time of publication.

In addition, there are photographs included of pastors, groups, individuals, and significant events in the church's history. I found my own grandfather in a photograph of the 1947 groundbreaking ceremony for a new building. As a result, I was able to conduct some additional research to learn more about my grandparents' membership and activities in the church, as well as details about my mother and her sisters.

### Locating the Histories

Some congregations' histories may be formally published in book form while others may only be typed and photocopied. You are sure to find a copy in the church or synagogue library, and chances are good you will find a copy at the local public library. Other sources for such histories are the national or regional administrative locations for the religious group, the state archives or state library, and genealogical or historical societies.

If you are researching a congregation that is no longer in existence, contact the office of a current congregation and request the name, address, and telephone number of its national or regional administrative offices. Those offices can usually tell you if a congregation has dissolved or merged with another and where to locate older records. Sometimes originals or copies of records are sent to headquarters for storage.

Any number of these religious groups' histories can be found, too, in online collections of digitized books, such as those at Ancestry. Search the Ancestry Card Catalog by institution name, denomination, and/or location.

*Continued on page 44*



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### NEW IRISH WEBSITES

<http://www.findmypast.ie>

Findmypast, the UK family history site, has partnered with Eneclann, Irish family history experts since 1998, to host the most extensive collection of Irish records available in one place. Findmypast Ireland includes land records, directories, wills, obituaries, gravestone inscriptions and marriages. The Landed Estates Court Records, an important resource for mid- to late-nineteenth century research, is an exclusive publication.

<http://www.ireland-genealogy.com>

“Irish Family History research is often very difficult and time-consuming because of the lack of records, and more specifically the lack of any complete Census records before 1901.

“That is why any records that contain data taken from the Irish Census are of such vital importance in ancestral research. One such source of data is the Irish Pension Records. Our researchers have spent two decades transcribing these hand-written application forms (green forms) that give essential information from the 1841 & 1851 censuses for the whole of Ireland.”

Surname searches are free, but you have to pay to view the records that are found.

**ANCESTRY.COM NEW WEB SEARCH**  
[www.ancestry.com/websearch](http://www.ancestry.com/websearch)

Although Ancestry.com has a very broad collection of historical records available, the company realizes that it isn't completely comprehensive.

At the above website, they explain a new feature that is being launched.

“A wealth of genealogical information is made available online by libraries, local governments, genealogical societies, universities and genealogists. Ancestry.com Web Search makes it easy to find records from many of these content publishers. To help you find genealogy information wherever it exists, we summarize basic information from freely-available web records and provide a link to the

original site where you can view the full record, including any associated images.”

**FamilySearch CIVIL WAR RECORDS**  
[www.familysearch.org/civilwar](http://www.familysearch.org/civilwar)

On 11 May 2011, FamilySearch announced the release of hundreds of millions of online records that commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Many records have already been published on the website, and millions more will be added over the next five years as volunteers enlist in a campaign to provide access to them.

So, take a look at the new website; and, if you have Civil War ancestors, you may want to help with the indexing process.

**FREE ONLINE FILE CONVERTER**  
<http://www.online-convert.com>

This site “converts files from hundreds of formats to any of hundreds of other formats. Want to convert a DOC file to a PDF file? Online-Convert will do that. Want to convert an audio MP3 file to WAV format? Online-Convert will do that. The site has many, many other formats available as well.

“If you can't find the conversion you need, you can contact the site owners and they will try to help you. Best of all, the service is available free of charge.”

*Posted by Dick Eastman on his blog (<http://blog.eogn.com>) of 16 May 2011. Copyright © 2011 by Richard W. Eastman.*

**ANOTHER WAY TO STORE DATA**  
<http://www.chronicleoflife.com>

This non-profit organization promises to save your personal memories forever—whether text, photos, audio, video, or other digital format. You choose your privacy settings. The company will upgrade your stored records as file formats change.

The basic service is free. That includes up to 5 megabytes of permanent storage space, enough to store more than 1,000 pages of text, or your complete autobiography. Additional storage space is available for a fee. Check the website above for more information.



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### BE A CITIZEN ARCHIVIST

On his blog of 19 May 2011, David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States, wrote the following:

“At the National Archives, we’re always trying to think of new ways to make our historical records more accessible to the public. We have only a small fraction of our 10 billion records online, so it’s clear we’ve got to get creative.

“It’s vital that we learn how other institutions address this challenge. One approach we’re seeing is for institutions to engage citizens in crowdsourcing or microvolunteering projects. These projects leverage the enthusiasm and willingness of online volunteers to transcribe or geotag historical records online.”

Mr. Ferriero was thinking of projects like the World Archives Project and invites everyone to become a citizen-archivist for NARA. With NARA’s limited resources, it’s impossible for the staff members to index records, but citizen activists could index record sets in which they are interested.

### L.A. PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAM

Mary McCoy, of the Los Angeles Public Library, has informed us of a new program being offered at the Central Library. It’s title is Genealogy Research at Central Library: Where Do I Start? It takes 30 minutes and includes a department tour, catalog and database searching tips, and assistance from a librarian to help plan your research strategy.

No reservations are needed for individuals or groups of less than 6. For larger groups, you can schedule an appointment by calling (213) 228-7400. Upcoming dates for the program are June 18, July 16, and August 20. Participants should meet at the reference desk in the History & Genealogy Dept. at 11:00 a.m.

### RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

If you have an ancestor who worked for a railroad in the United States after 1936 and applied for benefits from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, it can supply you with information about that person’s railroad career

history, date and place of birth, parents, spouse and children.

This agency administers a Federal retirement benefit program covering the nation’s railroad workers. The records they maintain deal primarily with the administration and payment of these benefits. They will provide information on deceased persons for the purpose of genealogical research.

A fee of \$27, payable in advance, is required for each employee for whom records are requested. The fee is not refundable if the Board determines that no records exist.

Since the Board’s records are kept by the railroad employee’s social security number, that is the best information to supply. If you don’t have that, they may be able to find records based on the employee’s full name, including middle name or initial, and complete dates of birth and death—if the name is not too common.

Requests for information, with your check, should be mailed to:

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board  
Congressional Inquiry Section  
844 North Rush Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092

Effective October 1, 2010, many requests are now handled by the National Archives and Records Administration at its Southeast Region/Atlanta office, but you should still contact the Chicago headquarters first. It will determine whether the RRB or NARA has the information you request.

### NEW COPY SYSTEM AT FHL

As of 26 April, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City has installed 18 all-in-one copiers, replacing the 14 book copiers and 15 print release stations. The new machines will copy or print or scan to flash drives and will be operated by a touch screen rather than with a mouse. Also a new copy card system has been implemented. Cards will be available in \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 values. When the total has been expended, the card is deposited in a recycling bin and another one purchased.

More at <http://blog.ddowell.com>—April listings.

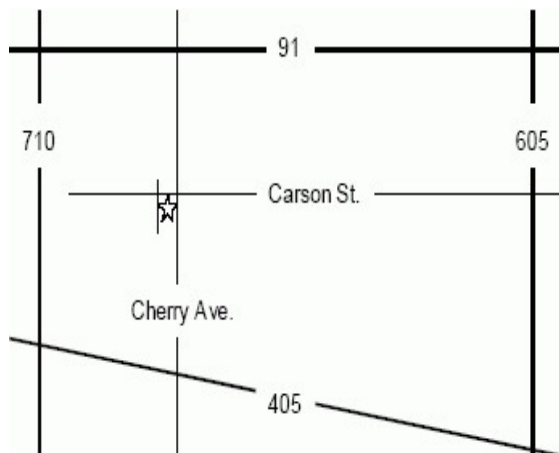


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Sunday, June 5, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: "Find-A-Grave: A Virtual Cemetery on the Internet-improved," by Cheri Mello.

Wednesday, June 15, 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: "E-Publishing," by Barbara Renick.

Sunday, June 19, 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 42.



Sunday, June 26, 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: "Personal Data Storage and Organization on Computer," by Tom Underhill.

Saturday, July 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): Jean Wilcox Hibben on "Deliveries in the Rear: Get Family History Information through the Back Door."

## Upcoming Events

### WHOLLY GENES, INC. ANNUAL GENEALOGY CRUISE November 13-20, 2011

Wholly Genes, Inc., the company that produces The Master Genealogist genealogy program for Windows, is sponsoring its 7th Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise.

The Holland America Line msWesterdam will leave Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on November 13 to sail in the Southern Caribbean and return on November 20. Ports that will be visited are Half Moon Cay in the Bahamas, Aruba, and Curacao.

Nationally known speakers will be on board to present genealogical lectures, and passengers will be able to attend 15+ hours of instruction as well as having the opportunity for one-on-one consultations.

You will find more information on the cruise, speakers, prices, etc., at the Wholly Genes website:

<http://www.whollygenes.com/cruise.htm>

\*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.