



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 44 ✦ Number 8 ✦ August 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, AUGUST 21, 2011

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: My Puzzling Journey to There and Back, by Terry Hamilton

2:00 Business

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

2:45 General SPEAKER: CHRIS HANSEN
Meeting Military Uniforms

4:00 Class BEGINNING: Classes will resume in September.

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RESEARCH IN PROTESTANT CANADA

Penny Nugent started her talk with a brief history of Quebec and then led us through her research processes in locating information about her father, William Nugent's, ancestors: the Littles, McEwens and McVicars.

She suggests that the following order of record searches will provide the best results.

1. Use census records to establish location and church affiliation.
2. Use the appropriate church records to find baptisms, marriages, and burials.
3. Then use cemetery records to augment the church records.
4. Use notarial records to find land transfers, marriage contracts, etc.
5. Next use land records to find out more about your ancestors' homes and farms.
6. Use local records such as newspapers, directories and county histories to flesh out your ancestors.
7. Use ship records to determine where your ancestors came from and when they arrived in Quebec.
8. If all else fails, look for records in neighboring areas. (Penny found records in the Grenville area on both sides of the river—in Ontario and Quebec.)

Her parting thought was that no one is able to find their ancestors on their own. We all get help from many record sources in archives, libraries, and online—as well as from relatives and people who answer our queries or do research for us.

She also provided a very comprehensive handout that included a list of general Canadian websites, as well as those featuring cemetery, census, church, city directory, emigration/immigration, and land records. Also included were articles on "How Quebec Collects Vital Records," "Using Quebec's Notarial Records" and "Categories in the 1831 [and 1842] Census of Quebec." She will be happy to provide a copy to anyone doing research in Quebec.

LAND AND TAX RECORDS

Joan Rambo's presentation contained details about the importance of land and tax records in our research, as well as where to find them.

Maps, particularly plat maps and those found in county histories or at state or county websites or listed in the Family History Library Catalog, can help you pinpoint where your ancestor lived. Note the political boundaries, waterways, and owners' names that may appear on them.

Tax records, too, are a good way to identify neighbors, since the local militia captain collected the taxes for everyone in his geographic area. It's possible to trace sons growing up by the ages shown from year to year, and be aware that older people became exempt from taxes.

Joan recommended *Black's Law Dictionary* to learn the meanings of legal terms and land measurements. Definitions of other archaic words or phrases may also be found in *A to Zax* by Barbara Jean Evans.

Building an American Pedigree by Norman E. Wright contains excellent maps of land cessions as our country grew, while William Dollarhide's *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920* illustrates the changes in county boundaries over the years.

The "Land and Tax Records" chapter in *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* explains the steps in acquiring land: petition, warrant, survey, patent. It explains about state and federal land states, how school land was used, and how to draw a plat map from a metes and bounds description.

Websites of interest for maps are:

<http://www.n2genealogy.com>

GNIS at <http://geonames.usgs.gov>

BLM at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>

GenWeb at <http://usgenweb.org>

Joan especially mentioned the U.S. GenWeb Archives that can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgenweb>.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We have all arrived at our interest in genealogy from different starting points and backgrounds. For instance, many of us are seeking to know more about our ancestors because of a medical condition, hoping to shed light on which side of the family an errant gene came from.

In my case, my 15-year-old grandson has cystic fibrosis. I know from having my DNA tested and compared to his when he was a baby that I am a carrier, even though I do not have the disease. My daughter, his mother, inherited the gene from me and is also a carrier.

My mother, too, is a carrier, which narrowed the problem down to her side of the family. Her father was French Canadian from Quebec, with Canadian roots back to the 1600’s. My mother’s mother was a German from Russia, whose family had migrated to Russia in the 1760’s. Both Canadian and German populations have the same cystic fibrosis mutant gene, known as the Northern European mutation. I have not found out yet which of my mother’s parents was the carrier.

How many of you have a special medical interest in your genealogy? Let me know if you have a condition in your family that you feel is inherited. We may be able to put together an interesting program on the subject.

Jeanette Jones (J.J.)

NOMINATIONS

Hello everyone!

We are in the process of evaluating how our society’s offices and assignments are working out. The elected officers are pretty well committed to serving another term. However, we have a severe shortage of helpers—particularly for the publicity, program and Bylaws committees. Please seriously consider volunteering for one of these positions, and give me a call at (562) 760-3027.

The nominating committee will be meeting next month to start filling in the open positions. We are due to announce the

nominees for elected and non-elected openings in October. So now is the time to answer the call! Remember, as John Heywood wrote, “*Many hands make light work!*”

Liz Myers

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

Thanks to those of you who responded to our request last month, but we still need to hear from more of our members.

Please let Terry Hamilton, our Membership Chairman, know if you cannot receive our monthly newsletters by e-mail. You can contact her at a monthly meeting or by phone at (562) 596-9382.

**ROBERT (BOB) HALTER
1927-2011**

Our sincere sympathy to our president, J.J., whose husband died suddenly on June 20, 2011. Born on a farm in South Dakota, he came to Long Beach in his late teens with his family. He was a long-time partner in the family accounting firm of Halter and Associates, which he helped establish in 1947. Bob was an active member of the First Congregational Church of Long Beach for over 60 years, and he also served as president and treasurer of the Exchange Club of Long Beach. He bowled in many local bowling leagues, as well as being a long-time golfer. Besides J.J., Bob is survived by two children (Tracy Halter Balin and Brian Halter), two stepchildren (Lori Ingoglia and Steven Karington), several grandchildren, and his sister (June Sangster). A memorial service was held at the church on July 10, 2011.

[Note: An obituary for Betty Bell Feldman, who died on June 27, will appear in next month’s newsletter.]

IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN!
Dues are due on September 1, the beginning of our new membership year. See the back of this newsletter for the current levels.



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WHAT IS FORENSIC GENEALOGY?

by Dick Eastman

I posted an article yesterday about the formation of the Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy. Several newsletter readers asked, "What is Forensic Genealogy?"

The word "forensic" means "relating to the use of science or technology in the investigation and establishment of facts or evidence." In this case, forensic would mean to use science or technology in addition to traditional records. In short, Forensic Genealogy is the use of something OTHER THAN standard records to add to your family history.

This is not to say that forensic genealogists ignore the records. Quite the contrary. Forensic genealogists always start with the available records. If those records are insufficient to prove a relationship, the forensic genealogist then looks for other clues. In other words, forensic genealogists think differently.

Heritage Forensics offers the following definition:

Forensic Genealogy is the use of science or technology by investigation through due diligence to establish facts or evidence in a court of law that pertains to a direct descendant; creating a record, pedigree, or lineage of a person, family, or group from an ancestor.

The term "forensic genealogy" is often misused as part of heir searches: finding heirs who stand to inherit property or goods left by a deceased individual. Actually, heir searchers often do use forensic genealogy to locate heirs, but the terms are otherwise unrelated. Forensic genealogy can be applied to almost all genealogy studies, whether heirs are involved or not.

The standard reference for forensic genealogy is Colleen Fitzpatrick's book of the same name, *Forensic Genealogy*.

GenealogyToday has a review by Elisabeth Lindsay of Colleen Fitzpatrick's book,

Forensic Genealogy, which offers a lot of insight. That review is available at <http://www.genealogytoday.com/articles/reader.mv?ID=628>.

Here are several examples of forensic genealogy:

Forensic genealogists will digitally scan old photos and then magnify them greatly or use photo editing software to emphasize certain colors to find details not otherwise visible. Don't know where the photograph was taken of the old automobile? Scan the picture at very high resolution, and then see if you can decode the license plate information. How about a distant sign in the background? What is unique in the photo?

Would you like to determine the date of an old photograph so that you can find approximate dates of birth of the family members in the photo? If the photographer has his studio name on the photo, you might research the years he was in business.

When you cannot determine the ancestry of some individuals, you start researching the relationships of the person's neighbors. Families often lived close to each other. Sooner or later, you will often find a connection...

A more formal definition of forensic genealogy written by Dee Dee King is available at the Forensic Genealogy Services web site at:

<http://www.forensicgenealogyservices.com/ForensicGenealogy/Article.html>.

You can find several definitions online; most of them are similar to each other.

Forensic genealogists look "beyond the records" to gather all available clues.

This article appeared on Dick Eastman's blog at <http://blog.eogn.com> on 20 July 2011. Copyright © by Richard W. Eastman.





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ANOTHER CONTEST

Have you found something at the National Archives that made all the difference in your research? If so, you might want to enter the “I found it at the National Archives” contest at <http://www.archives.gov/contest/found-it.html>

NEW VERSION OF LOWER CANADA LAND PETITIONS

“Ottawa, June 8, 2011—Library and Archives Canada is pleased to announce the release of a new version of the online database *Lower Canada Land Petitions (1626-1865)*. This version includes digitized images of the actual petitions for all individuals listed in the database. Corrections to entries, including suggestions received from users, have also been integrated into this updated version. Many staff members contributed to the success of this project, and their efforts are much appreciated.

“The database is available at: www.collections.canada.gc.ca/databases/lower-canada/index-e.html.”

SWEDISH AMERICAN GENEALOGIST

The Swedish American Genealogist is a quarterly journal devoted to Swedish American biography, genealogy, and personal history. The journal was founded in 1981 by Nils William Olsson and is currently edited by Elisabeth Thorsell. This online collection is now available free of charge to the public and contains issues published as recently as 2007.

The collection was donated by Augustana College to the CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) Digital Collections, a repository for digital content created by member libraries of the consortium. To search this journal, go to: http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/index_aug_sag.php?CISOROOT=/aug_sag.

Please note that the digital version of the journal does not include Peter Stebbins Craig’s copyrighted articles on New Sweden. Contact the Swenson Center at sag@augustana.edu for information on how to access these articles.

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY

In his blog of 14 July 2011, Dick Eastman dealt with the problem of **floppy disks**. He pointed out three problems with them.

1. They weren’t designed for long-term storage; and they are sensitive to dust, condensation, temperature extremes, and magnetic fields.
2. Computers no longer have floppy disk drives.
3. Can you find a program today that can still read them?

So, his advice was to copy the data NOW to more modern media. Then see if you can open the files with a modern word processor or genealogy program. If not, look for someone who still has an old computer with the old software you used. They could create files for you in GEDCOM format that can be read by any modern genealogy program.

In his blog of 21 July 2011, he dealt with the fact that new computers are not being built with **CD and DVD drives**. These disks, also, don’t have too long a life expectancy, and flash drives now have more storage space. With the advent of online downloading of videos, VHS videotapes have disappeared, and DVD disks seem to be following.

His advice? “For long-term storage, the only technology that is cost-effective today is to copy the critical information to standard disk drives and keep them in operation, connected to file servers that monitor the ‘health’ of the disk drives. By careful disk maintenance, maintaining multiple copies, and by the occasional transfer to newer technologies as those technologies become available, information can be safely archived for 50 years, 100 years, or even for centuries; far longer than placing any other storage media on a shelf and leaving it there, unattended. Properly maintained, disk storage can be safer and longer lasting than storing on archival quality paper.”

Dick Eastman’s blog is found at <http://blog.eogn.com>.



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L.A. PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Mary McCoy, of the History & Genealogy department, announced a genealogy presentation entitled “Using a Timeline: Tracking One Family Across the Old Spanish Trail” to be given in the Central Library Meeting Room A at 1:00 p.m. on September 17, 2011. The speaker will be Donie Nelson. He is a member of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America and also the coordinator for Hispanic Saturdays, a genealogy research group that meets the third Saturday of every month at the library.

Mary also announced that July 16 would be her last day in the History & Genealogy department, as she has accepted a new position at the Library. For the foreseeable future, you can direct any questions you may have to Cindy McNaughton, the Senior Librarian in the History & Genealogy department, at (213)228-7402 or cmcnaug@lapl.org.

The August 20 genealogy tour has been cancelled, but group tours will still be offered by appointment.

THE PEOPLING OF AMERICA

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum will have a new feature in 2011. It will attract even more visitors than it does today with the opening of a center called The Peopling of America. The state-of-the-art \$20 million project will be brought to you through a partnership between The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service.

The center, designed by ESI Design, will tell the story of the entire immigration process. It will not only cover the Ellis Island immigration period, but also the arrival of immigrants before it... The entire American immigration story will be shared with the public. Descendants of Ellis Island immigrants will not be the only ones who can track the history of their families. People who came to America after that time will also be included through this center. Therefore, a broader scope of visitors will relate directly to this center.

The Peopling of America will also tell the story of what the immigrants went through once they reached the shores of America... It will allow people to further appreciate their past and ancestors who brought them to America. When the center is complete, the Ellis Island Immigration Museum will be called Ellis Island: The National Museum of Immigration. One of the existing galleries of the museum will be redesigned, two spaces will be restored, and the New Immigration Building will be transformed to contain the curatorial center of the museum.

This center will be the only place in the United States where all immigrants can find their story. It does not matter if your ancestors came to America in the 1900’s or in the 1990’s, you will find your story at the Peopling of America... You will see exhibits that depict immigration from 1920’s to the present. You will notice changes in economics, immigrant policy, and transportation means, as well as depictions of the emotions that the immigrants experienced.

You can also see how towns and the world changed through immigration. You can choose American towns and see how they changed as new floods of immigrants settled in, bringing with them their culture and traditions. You will notice how shops and architecture were affected throughout the years. The Peopling of America also displays how migration changed the world. Visitors can also listen to diverse community radio programs from various locations in the country. After all, radio has been an important medium for immigrant families who want to keep their culture alive. Further, another exhibit allows you to submit your name and details and it will give you the immigration route of your family.

Through its various exhibitions, The Peopling of American center at Ellis Island will help connect people to their past... Open to the entire family, it will act as a great educational tool for children.

The above information may be found at <http://www.visitliberty.com/coming-soon-the-peopling-of-america>.

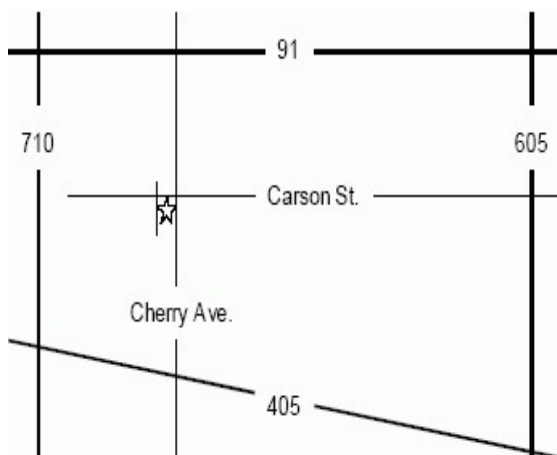


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Sunday, August 14, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “Find Your Living Cousins,” by Warren Weimer.

Wednesday, August 17, 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: “British Research—Beyond the Census,” by Hal Horrocks.

Sunday, August 21, 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 58.



Sunday, August 28, 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: Open Research Day with a panel of experts to help with your brick walls. Send your written problem in advance to: president@bifhsusa.org.

Saturday, September 3, 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): “Family Stories: Genealogy Beyond Just the Dates,” by Linda Serna.

Upcoming Events

IOWA STATE PICNIC

Saturday, 6 August 2011
9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Long Beach Lawn Bowling Club
1109 Federation Drive
Long Beach

Come to the 111th Annual Iowa State Picnic for Southern California. Potluck will start at about 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to share, your own beverage, and your own eating utensils. The Lawn Bowling Club has picnic and other tables/chairs. It is handicapped accessible with plenty of parking. However, extra chairs may be needed.

Take East Anaheim Street West, left at Park Avenue, and left on Federation Drive. The 22 Freeway-West turns into 7th Street. Take 7th Street West, and right on Federation Drive.

Please call Jo Ann Kock at (562)421-0726 or e-mail her at countrygaljo@aol.com to let her know you’re coming.



*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.