



**QUESTING HEIRS**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 44 ✦ Number 10 ✦ October 2011

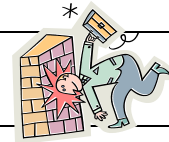
Questing Heirs Genealogical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 15102, Long Beach CA 90815-0102  
<http://www.qhgs.info>

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, OCTOBER 16, 2011**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Brick Wall Breakthroughs**



**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General Meeting SPEAKER: Nancy Hugbottger**  
**Research Documentation: Source Citations**  
(What, When, How, Why, Where)

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: Genealogy Adventures—Research - Traveling in Time, by Linda Ivers**

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## OCTOBER MEETING

### INTERMEDIATE CLASS Brick Wall Breakthroughs

Four of our members—Linda Artuso, Terry Hamilton, Linda Ivers and Jeanette Jones—will be telling you about their experiences with breaking brick walls in their research in the hope that the methods they used will give you ideas about sources you might use to break through yours.

#### SPEAKER: NANCY HUEBOTTER

Miss Huebotter began her genealogical research 30+ years ago as a project in her Masters in History program. Since that time, she has conducted classes and seminars, addressing a variety of genealogical topics. Of course, every genealogist recognizes family research is never a completed project, but after 35 years of research, Nancy and her parents published *The Ancestors and Descendants of Thomas Carroll and Ellis Miller (1610-2005)*. She is currently in the process of writing her father's biography, detailing his service to his country during World War II and his subsequent capture and imprisonment as a POW.

By profession, Nancy is principal technical writer and instructor for Raytheon.

#### TOPIC Research Documentation: Source Citations (What, When, How, Why, Where)

Documenting the sources you use is an integral part to a family history research project, and gives credibility to the work you have done. Learn the methods of recording what you have learned about your ancestors, when you found the information, how you found the data, why you believe the information you have located is attributable to your ancestor, and where you were able to locate that information.

## REFRESHMENTS

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

Thanks to our September hosts:  
Marilyn BRASHER Cynthia DAY-ELLIOTT  
Terry HAMILTON Jeanette JONES

Our October hosts will be:  
Larry AKAU Chris ELIA  
Linda IVERS Kathy LATHAM

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE  
Members: 46 Guests: 4

## FINANCIAL REPORT

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

August Income:	\$ 107.43
August Expenses:	\$ 366.54
*Operations Balance:	-\$ 993.43
Special Projects Balance:	\$ 5,158.00
Marr Bequest Balance:	\$26,451.18

\*Calendar Year 2011

**November Newsletter  
submissions due October 23.**

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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.*





MEMORIZING

### My English Research by Suzanne Boyles

Suzanne’s research in English records started with an interest in her grandmother, Caroline Elizabeth Buteux.

She learned that parish records have been kept since the 1500s, the original records staying in the parish. Each year the records were transcribed and sent to the Bishop. She showed us examples of pages both from old parish books and from a Bishop’s Transcript. These records can be consulted online or on microfilm.

Modern birth, marriage, and death records have been kept since 1837 and can be ordered online from the General Register Office at <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates> (They are color coded: salmon for births, green for marriages and black for deaths.) A free website <http://www.freebmd.org.uk> can help you identify the volume and page on which a record can be found, which makes ordering from the GRO easier.

Suzanne also consulted English censuses and showed examples of several census pages from different years. Censuses in England were taken in years ending in “1,” rather than on even-numbered decades as in the U.S. The first census that included names was the one taken in 1841. All censuses reproduce the enumerators’ pages until 1911, when you can see the actual page filled out by the householder, including the person’s signature.

At the side of a census page, you will find the Record Group number for that year—for example, 1841 & 1851 were in HO107, then 1861 was in RG9 and so on to RG14 for 1911. England keeps its census records private for 100 years.

Other helpful sites listed in Suzanne’s handout were:

- <http://www.genuki.org.uk>
- <http://www.familyhistory.uk.com>
- <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk>
- <http://www.findmypast.co.uk> (subscription)
- <http://www.londonlives.org/index.jsp>
- <http://maps.familysearch.org>

### Your Story Matters Too by Rachael Rifkin

Rachael points out that the benefits of writing a memoir are:

- To gain a greater understanding of your life,
- To play an active role in creating your history,
- To provide your family with a legacy, and
- To prevent misinformation from seeping into your life.

Begin by creating a timeline of the chapters in your life by breaking it down into categories—for example: early days, schools, jobs, friends, romances, retirement. Develop an outline by jotting down memorable moments in these categories. Memory joggers like old photos, diaries, calendars, letters, music, or friends can be helpful.

Look over what you’ve written and see if a theme is emerging. A theme will help you define and organize your memoir. A theme can be very narrow or quite broad. Examples are travel adventures, a spiritual quest, personal achievements, hardships you’ve lived through, holiday tales, hobbies or pets.

Next, write a first draft. Let your thoughts flow, remembering as many descriptive details as possible. Don’t worry about form or grammar at this point.

In subsequent drafts you can get more critical. Do your stories work? If not, maybe you need more detail or could add dialogue or historical context. Don’t just tell what happened, but how you felt about the events you describe.

Do some final editing and then you can put your stories into a notebook, album, or printed book; create a blog or webpage; or post your stories online at such sites as the following.

- The Elder Storytelling Site at [www.ronni-bennett.typepad.com/elderstorytelling](http://www.ronni-bennett.typepad.com/elderstorytelling)
- Great Life Stories at [www.greatlifestories.com](http://www.greatlifestories.com)
- Stories in Common at [www.storiesincommon.com](http://www.storiesincommon.com)
- Boemoirs at [www.boemoirs.com](http://www.boemoirs.com)

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Wow!!! We had a big crowd at the September meeting. Our Program Chairman, Suzanne Boyles, created the “perfect storm” of attendance by her combination of two programs of great interest to our members and guests. The two presentations: English Research focusing on London and the Beginning Stages of the Life-Story Writing Process were excellent and certainly held everyone’s interest. Suzanne, along with being a very good Program Chairman, also gave a very good overview of what was available in English records during the Victorian period and time surrounding it. The participation by the attendees during the Life-Story Writing segment was very interesting and showed what talent and material is possessed by all of us. Our stories are just waiting to be written. I think most all of us went home really thinking about what we would like to share about our lives with our families and what we would like to leave behind and be remembered for.

Something else I noted starting at the very beginning of the meeting was how much talking and sharing there was between all present. It was hard to get everyone’s attention to begin the programs. This to me is a very good sign that a club such as ours is still needed. I hear people say all the time, “There is no need for genealogy clubs anymore—we can get all the information we need from the internet.” Sharing our research stories—victories and dead ends—can be very important. Just talking over or reviewing a problem with another researcher can sometimes lead you to another more successful path of research. During the first session next month, four of our members are going to share how they broke through some of their brick walls. They may give you some ideas on how to go about attacking your own problems. I am going to be one of those presenters, and what I am going to tell you about is how my problem was solved by really looking at everyone in the family on census records.

*Jeanette Jones (J.J.)*

**WHY E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS?**

Our Society currently sends out approximately 205 Newsletters each month. We must send out at least 200 to maintain our bulk mail permit, which substantially reduces the cost of mailing each item compared to first-class mail. The cost of printing and mailing the Newsletters is approximately \$2,141 per year. That means that most of every member’s annual dues goes to Newsletter expenses. Our remaining expenses—monthly speakers, rent of the church hall, government fees, etc.—come from our other sources of income. These include the monthly donations for refreshments and contributions from Ralphs and Amazon (the latter no longer available). Our deficit, which runs around \$1,200 a year, is made up with money from bequests, primarily those from Betty Marr and Priscilla Nielsen.

By reducing the number of Newsletters mailed each month to 100 (giving up our bulk mail permit and paying first-class postage for each one), we would reduce our costs to approximately \$1,584 per year, a \$559 savings. This is in spite of the higher cost per copy for printing fewer Newsletters, as well as the cost of first-class postage. If we can reduce the number mailed to 50 per month, our costs will be further reduced to approximately \$834, eliminating the deficit and allowing us to use the bequests for new services to the members, such as a new sound system, higher-priced speakers, two paid speakers per month (as the Society used to do), research aids, or other items.

*Dave Werts, Treasurer*

**WEBMASTER UPDATE**

After using California GenWeb’s servers all these years, we have decided to host our own site. This will help facilitate the electronic delivery of our newsletter. It will also allow us to put some even older newsletters up for all to view. I have set it all up and moved our site over to the new servers.

I’ve just updated the web page, as well. So if you haven’t visited it lately, please take a look at <http://www.qhgs.info>.

*Mike Powers, QHGS Webmaster*



## USING TAX RECORDS FOR GENEALOGICAL PURPOSES

by Joan Young

In a previous tip on using obituaries in genealogical research, I mentioned the old adage about death and taxes being inevitable. Let's take a look at how and why you might want to use tax records in your research as well as where to find them. Taxation is a hot topic today, but genealogists know that paying taxes leaves a paper trail that can help locate your ancestors at any given time and place.

### How Tax Records Can Help:

- 1) Tax records occur at more frequent intervals than a census. To make use of most tax records (personal property and real estate) you will need to have some idea where to locate your ancestors.
- 2) Census enumerators could have missed your ancestors, but your ancestors are far less likely to have evaded the tax man.
- 3) You can gain information about property that your ancestors inherited by following tax records.
- 4) You can track your ancestors' migration patterns and dates by following when they disappear from tax lists in one area and reappear in another.

I have been able to use property tax records to trace my ancestor, Conrad MYERS, as a single man owning an undeveloped plot of land. A few years later he was listed as a married man and he had built a house on the land. Later he sold that property and paid taxes on a nearby farm. Many years later, his wife, Maria MYERS, appeared on the list as a widow helping to establish the year of Conrad's death. Later, the eldest son, Henry MYERS (my great-grandfather), inherited the farm and appeared on the tax lists. When Henry retired and moved to another county, he disappeared from the tax lists.

There are a few additional fun facts you can learn from the tax records. What possessions and animals did your ancestor own? How many hogs and sheep did he own? Was he

financially well off? Do the possessions being taxed give you a clue about his occupation (for example: carpentry tools or farm equipment)?

My Swiss Mennonite ancestor, Ulrich LEIB, appears on the Mennonite Census in 1724 in Friesenheim (Baden) taken for the purpose of taxing the Mennonite settlers there after the Thirty Years' War. I learned that he "has lived on the von Sickingen estate for three years, but does not pay to the gracious masters nor to the community. No wealth."

For more detailed information about taxes, the various types of tax records available and what you can learn from them, see the RootsWeb Guide Lesson 11, Taxing Tales.

While many tax records are available only at local courthouses and archives, some can be found online at Ancestry.com (search historical records) and FamilySearch.org. (FamilySearch.org can also help you locate a FamilySearch Center near you where tax films may be obtained and viewed.)

Regardless of your personal views on taxation, the records generated as a result of taxes can be used as a valuable genealogical resource.

*This Genealogy Tip was previously published in RootsWeb Review, 14 Sep 2011, Vol. 14, No. 9.*



*Celebrate  
Family History  
Month*

- ◆ Prepare an old family recipe
- ◆ Host a family get-together
- ◆ Review, label, and share photos
- ◆ Start writing your life story
- ◆ Record the history of family heirlooms
- ◆ Prepare for your winter research



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### INSIDER'S GUIDE TO ILLINOIS GENEALOGY

The Illinois State Genealogical Society has announced a handy reference guide for family historians and genealogists. This "quick card" is an 11x17" laminated card printed in color that half-folds to 8/5x11." It contains a timeline of Illinois history, migration patterns as to how Illinois was settled, research strategy tips, and 130 links to websites relating to Illinois genealogy.

You can buy the guide online for \$7 at <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=182>.

#### ANCESTRY ANNE

Did you know you can get answers to your genealogy questions by asking Ancestry Anne at [ask@ancestry.com](mailto:ask@ancestry.com)?

#### LIZ'S TIP

Our own Liz Myers has been finding obituaries through Google and also using Google Alerts. One day she received a Google Alert regarding a news item for a Stokesberry in an Alabama newspaper. So, on a hunch, she put the name Stokesberry into the obituary section of all four papers in that news group; and up popped more obituaries!

Some of them cost \$2.95 to read the complete copy; but by typing the full name into Google, she usually found a complete copy for free!

#### GENEALOGY TRAILS <http://genealogytrails.com>

This is an interesting free website run by volunteers. Their "goal is to help you track your ancestors through time by transcribing genealogical and historical data for the free use of all researchers."

They are "looking for the 'raw data' folks can use to build their family trees (rather than the actual trees themselves). This includes the transcribed data from the vital records, biographies from the county histories as well as the county history information itself, transcriptions of obituaries, burial data from cemetery trompings and/or readings, the data from military pensions and other service

records, enumerations from census years, any newspaper gleanings for the family members including birth announcements, marriage announcements, death notices/obits and anything in between."

If you'd like to join the group and make more data available online, you can look at their Volunteer Page for more information.

#### 1871 CANADIAN CENSUS

Library and Archives Canada has placed the 1871 census online for free. It covers the four provinces that were part of the Dominion of Canada in 1871: New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec.

The online database provides digitized images of the original census returns featuring the name, age, country or province of birth, nationality, religion, and occupation of the residents. This census is available at [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1871/index.e-html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1871/index.e-html).

*From Dick Eastman's blog of 31 August 2011 at <http://blog.eogn.com>. Copyright © by Richard W. Eastman.*

#### RAKING THE ASHES

The California Genealogical Society has published a book titled *Raking the Ashes: Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research*. Its author is Nancy Peterson, a certified genealogist and Research Director at CGS.

This guide, that circumvents the record loss in the 1906 earthquake and fire, has been substantially updated and expanded to include newly released records and necessary information on post-earthquake resources. The author alerts readers to lesser-known sources, recently published references, and newly discovered documents. These solutions for working around lost records are helpful not only to researchers of San Francisco history but also wherever natural disasters have destroyed historical documents.

For more information or to purchase the book, go to <http://rakingtheashes.weebly.com>.



**Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2  
Department of California & Pacific  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
<http://www.suvpac.org/camp3.html>**

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## **Researching Your Civil War Ancestors ~ Basic Records**

By Rev. Dr. Gary Alan Dickey, M.Div., D.Min., Ph.D., C.G., Dip. English History (Oxford)

Researching one's Civil War ancestors is both interesting and historical. Interesting because they are our ancestors; historical because we learn so much more from history when we study the context in which they were involved in such a conflict as the Civil War.

Where do we start? My last article talked about reading a good history on the Civil War to give your ancestor perspective. Then, talk with your living relatives, parents, grandparents and cousins, to see if they have letters, remembrances, or articles from your Civil War ancestor.

Now, you are ready to go to the historical records themselves. There is much more available online to help you search for the proper archives records collections than ever before. Start at <http://www.archives.gov> where you can search their indexes. NARA (National Archives & Records Administration) has three important records groups available for search and document photoduplicating for Civil War ancestors. All are important records for information. These records are the Compiled Military Service Records (CMSR), Pension Application Files, and Records of Events. The first details your ancestor's service record: when he enlisted, when he was discharged, what he was paid, oftentimes his physical description, where he served, and other important data. If he was wounded, you may find a treasure trove of medical records. The second group includes records relating to a pension, if given—the amount of the pension, proof of marriage for a spouse, and any number of other items submitted to prove a claim. The last is Records of Events. Sometimes, additional information about a soldier's war activities can be deduced from the compilations of the activities of each company known as the "Record of Events." These records, which were compiled from information on the original muster rolls and returns, are uneven in content. Although they rarely name individual soldiers, the descriptions of the activities and movements of the company can be used, in conjunction with the soldier's CMSR and pension file, to determine where the soldier was and what he was doing. These three records groups can provide clues for important relationships for your ancestor and his family. They are more complicated today and much more expensive than even a few years ago, as the government has cut back on public services. But if you can find your ancestor in one of these records groups, you may hit a really important collection of information. They are worth the time and money to explore if you are serious about learning more on your Civil War ancestor.

More to come.

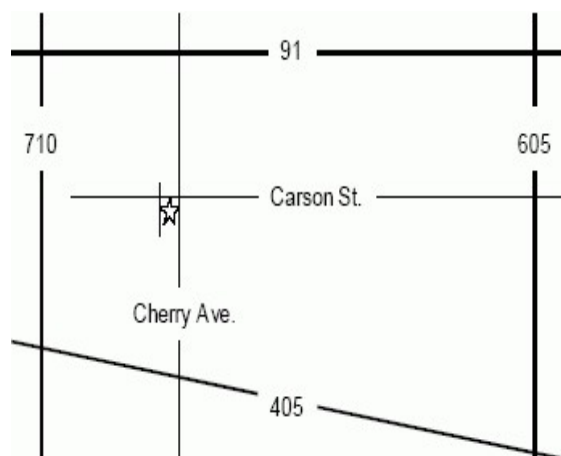
*(Dr. Dickey is a Certified Genealogist through the Board of Certification for Genealogists in Washington, D.C. in the area of English Research and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He is Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of Westlake Village, California and serves as Chaplain of the Gen. W. S. Rosecrans Camp No. 2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Besides genealogy and research, he enjoys travelling and playing the bagpipes.)*





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Sunday, October 16, 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 74.



Saturday, November 5, 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): Joel Weintraub on “The 1940 Census: Controversy and Questions.”

## Upcoming Events

### BIFHS-USA 2011 SEMINAR

Saturday, 22 October 2011

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Whittier Masonic Lodge

7604 Greenleaf Blvd., Whittier

The speaker, Darris Williams, currently helps develop and promote FamilySearch™ Wiki and Forums. He will be talking about those sites as well as British records online and touring the British Isles online by way of 18th-19th century travel accounts.

Registration fees after 28 September are \$60 for members and \$70 for non-members. Lunch can be ordered for \$10 by 17 October. If you have questions, you can contact [president@bifhsusa.org](mailto:president@bifhsusa.org).

### CONEJO VALLEY SEMINAR

Saturday, 8 October 2011

8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Grant R. Brimhall Library

1401 Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks

Three speakers will be featured: Jean Wilcox-Hibbins about “The Music of the Civil War;” Alice Fairhurst on “DNA Testing for Genealogy;” and Richard McBride, Director of the L. A. Family History Library, discussing FamilySearch and associated websites.

The registration fee (\$25 for non-members) includes a syllabus, refreshments, and door prizes. For questions, contact Lois Burlo at [LHBurlo@Yahoo.com](mailto:LHBurlo@Yahoo.com) or (805) 418-7220.

### VENTURA COUNTY SEMINAR

Saturday, 15 October 2011

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

LDS Church, 3501 Loma Vista Rd., Ventura

Karen Clifford, a professional genealogist and Fellow of the Utah Genealogical Association, is the speaker. Among her topics: Tracing 18th Century Immigrants, and Using the Internet Effectively. Registration (\$40 for non-members) includes a syllabus and lunch. Details: [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cavcgs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cavcgs).

\*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.