



QUESTING HEIRS
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Newsletter
Volume 45 ✦ Number 2 ✦ February 2012

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, FEBRUARY 19, 2012

1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: 1940 Census: Content and
Controversy, by Joel Weintraub

2:00 Business

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

2:45 General SPEAKER: Joel Weintraub
Meeting 1940 Census: Locational Search Tools

4:00 Class BEGINNING: Genealogy Adventures
by Linda Ivers

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FEBRUARY MEETING

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

1940 Census: Content and Controversy

The enumeration procedures, enumerators, publicity, questions, sampling, and the undercount of the 1940 census will be covered. Actual census forms will be shown. This census will be online on April 2, 2012.

MAIN PRESENTATION

1940 Census: Locational Search Tools for Finding Families

This presentation will be a discussion, with examples, of the free online tools from the National Archives and Morse websites that can be used to find people from known locations for the 1940 U.S. Census.

SPEAKER:

JOEL WEINTRAUB

Our speaker was born and raised in Manhattan. He is an emeritus Biology Professor at California State University, Fullerton, and has won awards for his science teaching. He became interested in genealogy about 12 years ago and volunteered for 9 years at the National Archives and Records Administration in southern California.

Joel started transcribing streets within census districts in 2001 to help researchers search the 1930 U.S. Census (released in 2002). He was joined in the venture by David Kehs and Stephen Morse in 2002; and, together, they have produced a number of online census searching utilities for both the federal and the New York State censuses on the Morse One Step Website. Joel has been working on finder aids for the 1940 census since 2005 and has given talks on that census starting in 2006.

Submissions for the
March Newsletter
are due February 26.

REFRESHMENTS

Penny NUGENT (562) 290-0416

Thanks to our January hosts:

Terry HAMILTON Linda IVERS
Kathy LATHAM Penny NUGENT

Our February hosts will be:

Larry AKAU Marilyn BRASHER
Frances LIEBZEIT Liz MYERS

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Terry HAMILTON (562) 596-9382

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 39 Guests: 4

NEW MEMBERS

Lizzie BREWSTER Individual 9/12
Pat LEUE Individual 9/12

FINANCIAL REPORT

David WERTS (562) 431-7790

December Expenses:	\$ 322.51
December Income:	\$ 112.20
2011 Expenses:	\$ 4,972.19
2011 Income:	\$ 3,821.08
F&M Bank Account:	
Operations	\$ 702.52
Special Projects	\$ 3,918.02
Money Market Account:	\$14,317.19
Certificate of Deposit:	\$12,147.71

The Society's financial books for 2011 are available for anyone who wishes to review/audit them.

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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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GENEALOGY SITES PRESSURED INTO REMOVING SSDI

by Kimberly Powell of About.com

[Editor's Note: In December I reported that the Social Security Administration (SSA) would no longer add entries to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) from state death records. In January I reported that the SSA is blocking out the names of parents of applicants for 100 years from the birth of the applicant. Now Kimberly Powell reports on further restrictions.]

In November, GenealogyBank removed social security numbers from one of their popular free databases, the U.S. Social Security Death Index, after two customers complained their privacy was violated when the Social Security Administration falsely listed them as deceased. This week, Ancestry.com followed suit, removing the entire free SSDI database (aka SSA's Death Master File) which has been online at RootsWeb.com for over a decade. They also made changes to the SSDI database behind their membership wall on Ancestry.com "due to sensitivities around the information in this database," removing Social Security numbers from the results for individuals who have died in the last 10 years.

The reasons for these changes began with a report following a Scripps Howard News Service investigation in October 2011, that complained about individuals using Social Security Numbers for deceased individuals found online to commit tax and credit fraud, and culminated in the recent decision by several major genealogy companies to remove access to the Social Security Death Master File on their websites.

The removal of the SSDI from RootsWeb.com was apparently prompted by a petition sent on December 1, 2011, to the "five largest genealogy services" who currently host the Death Master File (SSDI) online by U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut), Bill Nelson (D-Florida) and Richard J. Durbin (D-Illinois), who have joined in support of recent legislation introduced by Rep. Sam Johnson

R-Texas) to remove *all* public access to the Social Security Death Master File...

In the letter written to each company's chief, the Senators urge companies to "remove and no longer post on your website deceased individual's Social Security numbers" because they believe that the benefits provided by making the Death Master File readily available online are greatly outweighed by the costs of disclosing such personal information. While the letter does concede that posting the Social Security numbers "is not illegal" under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), it also goes on to point out that "legality and propriety are not the same thing."

The letter and the responses by Ancestry.com and GenealogyBank.com concern me deeply. If major genealogy companies aren't going to fight for genealogists' access to publicly available records, who is? I understand and am sympathetic to the concerns surrounding identity theft, but examples presented in the original investigation relate to individuals falsely claiming recently deceased children as dependents on their tax returns (which requires use of a Social Security number) — a practice that should be easily unmasked by the IRS if they just checked the Social Security numbers against the federal SSDI database. That is the reason the SSA Death Master File was originally created — to identify and prevent identity fraud by making it easy for governments, banks, credit agencies, and other authorities to easily confirm that a Social Security Number isn't being used dishonestly.

The letter, also sent to VitalRec.com and FamilySearch.org, claims that "...given the other information available on your website — full names, birth dates, death dates — Social Security numbers provide little benefit to individuals undertaking to learn about their familial history."

[This article will be concluded next month, but you can find it now at <http://genealogy.about.com> as written by Kimberly on 16 Dec 2011.]

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our two presentations at the January meeting started our New Year off with a "home run." Penny Nugent, one of our "own," gave an excellent presentation showing how she went from the unknown to what she called 99% proved by circumstantial evidence. Isn't circumstantial evidence what we all use to prove our genealogical history? Unfortunately, some of my proof is down around 50%. The second presentation, portraying two people journeying on an 1850 wagon train headed for the California Gold Rush, was an excellent example of making a subject fun and incorporating learning at the same time.

Many government and public organizations do an update on the "status" of their organizations at the end of each year and determine their general expectations for the new year. I am going to make a brief attempt to do that for Questing Heirs. Due to the hard work of several of our members, we had many good programs; we have a new public address system; we came to an understanding with the Long Beach Public Library as to what our cooperative role in the future will be; we transferred the delivery of our newsletter to e-mail for many of our members at a cost saving; we had good attendance at all our meetings but did not grow in number of members; we all rated the refreshments at the break excellent.

What we can expect for 2012 and beyond is up to you members who are reading this: we need you to volunteer when we ask for people willing to serve on the Board or share their particular skill or knowledge; we need you to bring your friends who are interested in genealogy to a meeting; we need you to sign up to bring refreshments or provide extra money for their purchase. I guess we are pretty needy. However, if the society is going to continue to be a viable organization, it will take all of us doing our part. Think about what you can do, and next time we ask for a volunteer say "yes."

J.J.

CAROLE OWENS PASSES



Carole Owens passed away suddenly on the morning of 2 January 2012, in Downey. She was an active member of Questing Heirs, having written a two-part article in the July-August 2007 issues of our newsletter that detailed hers and husband, Mike's, search for their Irish roots. She also presented an Intermediate Program in 2010 on doing research in New York state.

Carole was born in Lorain, Ohio, on 18 December 1944 and was reared in Idaho and Oregon. She served in the U.S. Armed Forces, married and moved to Westfalen, Germany. Upon returning to the U.S., she attended nursing school and later worked in that field. She traveled extensively, and started working on family history in 1977.

Besides Questing Heirs, Carole also belonged to several other genealogical societies and worked at the Cypress Family History Center for many years, where she also taught classes in genealogy. She enjoyed working one-on-one or in small groups helping people with their research.

A memorial service was held on 7 January, with interment at Forest Lawn Cypress. Carole is survived by her husband, Mike Owens, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren, and her mother.

REFRESHMENT HELP NEEDED

I think we all look forward to the great food provided by members at break time during our meetings. However, in reviewing the sign-up list that's passed around at meetings, it seems the same people sign up again and again. As J.J. mentioned in her column, we would like to see other members participate in providing the goodies. If you have never brought a refreshment item for break, why not consider signing up for a month the next time the list is passed around!



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USING PERSI Lorine McGinnis Schutze

PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) is a wonderful tool. Here is how to use it effectively.

First, find what articles are published on the surname you are seeking. Many large libraries have the index, but if yours doesn't, you can purchase the CD ROM version, or consult the online PERSI Index at Ancestry.com at [Periodical Source Index \(PERSI\)](#).

I used Ancestry.com's online subscription database and typed in BOELEN in NEW YORK. I got 3 'hits' on the PERSI index. There is also a PERSI CD you can use, or your local library may have a copy.

Copy the information—either by printing the page or writing it out, EXACTLY as you see it.

For BOELEN in New York one of the hits I got was for "Boelen Arms" in the NYGBR (New York Genealogical & Biographical Record) Vol. 67, Issue 4, Oct. 1926. I will need all that information to order the article.

Now I go to the online PERSI order form at http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/database/graphics/order_form.html.

Print this page.

Fill it out with as many as SIX articles of your choice. (I had 3 hits on Boelen so could fill it out for all 3.)

Be sure to put all the info required (which you carefully printed or copied from wherever you searched).

Based on my one hit listed above, I have to fill out the form as follows:

- Title of article = Boelen Arms
- Title of Journal = New York Genealogical & Biographical Record
- Vol. = 67
- No. = 4

- Mon. = Oct.
- Yr. = 1926

Put your name and address on the form where indicated, include your \$7.50 and send the form and cheque off to the address given.

When the Allen County Public Library Foundation has photocopied all the pages, they will bill you for them at 20 cents per page.

It's one of the best deals around :-)

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TO WEAR OR NOT TO WEAR WHITE GLOVES

Some libraries and archives require that a person wear white gloves when handling books and documents from rare collections. You may even have bought a pair so as not to damage your photographs. This practice has come into question, however.

Dr. Cathleen A. Baker and Randy Silverman, in an article titled "Misperceptions about White Gloves" (International Preservation News, No. 37, December 2005), state that "Institutional insistence that patrons and special collections staff don white cotton gloves when handling rare books and documents to prevent dirt and skin oils from damaging paper-based collections is inherently flawed; gloves are as easily soiled as bare hands." Also, "Wearing gloves actually increases the potential for physically damaging fragile material through mis-handling."

"Routine hand washing is recommended as a more effective means of preventing the spread of dirt while improving the user's haptic response to and tactile appreciation of the collections."



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GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING CO.

The Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland, has put its complete catalog online. You can browse or download the catalog at: http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_catalog.html.

NUMBERED RECORD BOOKS

From an announcement by Fold3:

“The title, ‘Numbered Record Books,’ doesn’t reveal much about this significant new collection of Revolutionary War documents on Fold3. Yet, anyone familiar with these military records—oaths of allegiance, supply records, orderly books, letters, account ledgers—knows they contain revealing and rather extraordinary documents from the early days of our nation’s military history.

“Whether you have Revolutionary War ancestors, or simply an interest in military activities and history of this time period, you will be well rewarded when searching or browsing the Numbered Record Books...

“Orderly books include rosters, instructions relating to troop movements, camp regulations, reprimands, promotions, and findings of courts martial...

“More information and examples are available within Fold3’s description of this title. Documents discovered in the ‘Numbered Record Books’ round out stories and fill in gaps. They are overlooked evidence, under-appreciated records, and hidden tales from our nation’s history. They now await your discovery.”

This announcement was reproduced on Dick Eastman’s blog <http://blog.eogn.com> 18 Jan 2012.

HISTORICAL TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

<http://nationalmap.gov/historical>

“For more than 125 years, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps have accurately portrayed the complex geography of the Nation. The USGS is the largest producer of printed topographic maps, and, prior to 2009, USGS topographic maps were created using traditional cartographic methods

and printed using the lithographic printing process.

“Because historical maps are stored in a limited number of collections and are not readily available, the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) is converting these historical printed topographic quadrangles to an electronic format (GeoPDF). This scanning and processing effort serves the dual purpose of creating a master catalog and digital archive copies of the irreplaceable collection of topographic maps in the USGS Reston Map Library, as well as making the maps available for viewing and download from the USGS Store.

“The processing of this invaluable collection is well underway, with more than 141,000 GeoPDF maps of the approximate total 180,000 currently available for download. Over the next months the number of files available, in a variety of published scales, will continue to expand until all of the topographic maps created throughout the Survey’s history are once again available to the public.”

CSGA BLOGS

The California State Genealogical Alliance has announced two new blogs for the genealogical public.

1. <http://www.csga.com/Blog> - The CSGA Blog is a joint society effort to keep the California Genealogical community informed about:

- Legislative issues affecting California genealogists.
- California Projects including their Family Search partnership, the California Online Research Aid, and individual society projects throughout the state.
- California societies, websites, repositories, online materials and events.

2. <http://csgacopyright.wordpress.com> - This blog discusses copyright law, provides links and feeds to other copyright web sites and will highlight blog postings on other sites.

This announcement was reported by Dick Eastman on his blog <http://blog.eogn.com> on 20 Dec 2011.



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HOMESTEADERS WANTED

The Homestead Act of 1862 transferred more than 270 million acres of land from Federal to private ownership. The National Park Service (NPS) is trying to locate people who filed claims under the Homestead Act in one of the 30 Homestead States. The goal is to locate and record the experiences of remaining homesteaders before the opportunity is lost. The Homestead National Monument of America, located four miles west of Beatrice, Nebraska, is developing a database of homesteaders and descendants. If you are a homesteader or a descendant, you can send your name, address, telephone number and e-mail to:

Friends of Homestead
Homestead National Monument of America
8523 W. State Highway 4
Beatrice, NE 68310

To learn about events being planned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the passage of the Homestead Act, you can visit the NPS website at <http://www.nps.gov/home>. You can volunteer to represent a homestead state by carrying its flag in events scheduled for May 20 and/or June 16, 2012.

IRISH HERITAGE CERTIFICATE

Jane Walsh, staff writer for IrishCentral.com, reported on 9 December 2011 that “The Certificate of Irish Heritage is now available in the United States and around the world. The certificate honors those ancestors who sacrificed so much by leaving Ireland and who created opportunities for later generations.

“Up to 40 million Americans, 35 million with Irish ancestry and five million with Northern Irish roots are eligible to apply...

“Each Certificate has a Harp, the official State symbol of Ireland, and is signed on behalf of the Government of Ireland by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamonn Gilmore. There is also a quote from Article 2 of...the Constitution of Ireland, recognizing the special affinity Ireland has with the people of Irish ancestry abroad.

“Each Certificate is unique and includes the name of the applicant, and the names of up to two ancestors including their county and year of birth. Applicants can choose from three beautifully designed certificates depicting an emigrant ship, a Celtic knot, or a west of Ireland scene. The Certificates are available in English, Irish, or Spanish, and they can be bought framed or unframed.”

See <http://www.heritagecertificate.ie> for details.

FOUR MONTHS OF CELEBRITY ROOTS ON AIR IN 2012

Megan Smolenyak wrote the following on her blog of January 15, 2012.

“For genealogy buffs and those who just can’t get enough of celebrities, there’s plenty of cause to celebrate in 2012 as there will be four solid months of famous roots on air. Barring any schedule adjustments, the heritage of one to three celebrities will be explored every week from Feb. 3 to May 20.

“NBC will launch first with its third season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* featuring a stellar lineup of 12 stars: Jerome Bettis, Paula Deen, Edie Falco, Helen Hunt, Rashida Jones, Rob Lowe, Reba McEntire, Martin Sheen, Jason Sudelkis, Marisa Tomei, Blair Underwood and Rita Wilson. Slotted for 8:00 on Friday nights starting on Feb. 3, this will be the longest season to date.

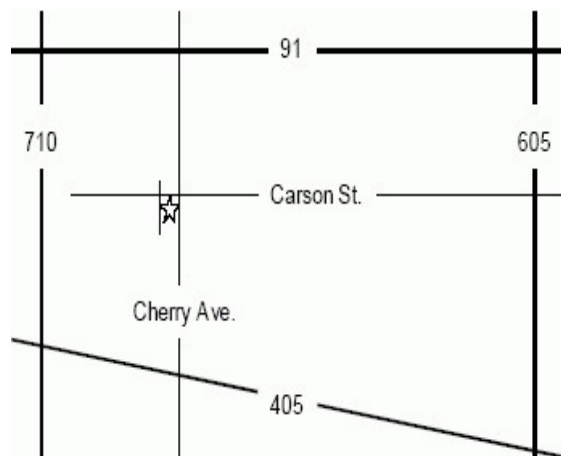
“On Sunday evenings beginning March 25, Henry Louis Gates Jr. returns for his fourth season on PBS with *Finding Your Roots*. With a format that blends two notables each week and places greater emphasis on genetic discoveries, this series will peek into the past of 20 high profile individuals: Kevin Bacon, Tyra Banks, Cory Booker, Angela Buchdahl, Geoffrey Canada, Margaret Cho, Harry Connick Jr., Robert Downey Jr., Sanjay Gupta, Samuel L. Jackson, John Legend, John Lewis, Branford Marsalis, Yasir Qadhi, Condoleezza Rice, Michelle Rodriguez, Kyra Sedgwick, Martha Stewart, Barbara Walters and Rick Warren...”



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Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m. South Bay Cities Genealogical Society monthly meeting in the Meeting Room at the Torrance Civic Center Library, 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance. Program: “Who is that? Why did your ancestors associate with apparent strangers,” by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Sunday, February 19, 1:15-4:00 p.m. 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 10



Saturday, March 3, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon the Orange County, California, Genealogical Society will hold its annual Book Faire at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Then at 12:30 p.m. Linda Serna will present a program on “Sharing Family and Civil War Project Stories.”

ESCONDIDO GEN. SOCIETY
 Family History Fair
 Saturday, 3 March 2012
 Family History Center
 2255 Felicita Ave., Escondido

Classes are free; \$13 for a class syllabus and \$9 for a box lunch. Registration is from 8-9 a.m., opening session 9-10 a.m., and five sessions of classes from 10:10 a.m.-4:20 p.m.

See <http://www.familyhistoryfair.net>.

Upcoming Events

Conejo Valley Genealogical Society
 2012 Annual Seminar
 Saturday, 24 March (8:30-3:30)
 Ascension Lutheran Church
 1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks

John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., one of the most popular genealogical lecturers, will be speaking on the following topics:

- Lesser Used Federal Records
- State Archives
- The County Courthouse
- Breaking Through Brick Walls

Dr. Colletta is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He is the author of books on finding your immigrant ancestor and on Italian roots, as well as *Only a Few Bones: A True Account of the Rolling Fork Tragedy and Its Aftermath*.

Registration for non-members is \$40 by Feb 29 and includes a course syllabus, snacks, and door prizes. For a registration form or information, e-mail cvgs2012seminar@aol.com or visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cacvgs>.

*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. 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.