



# QUESTING HEIRS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *Newsletter* Volume 45 ✦ Number 9 ✦ September 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, SEPTEMBER 16, 2012**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Germans from Russian Ancestors: How I Found Them, by Dr. David Karber**

**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General Meeting SPEAKER: Hal Horrocks  
Looking at Some Federal Records**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: This class will be led by Linda Ivers.**

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**SEPTEMBER MEETING**

**INTERMEDIATE CLASS**

**Dr. David Karber**

Dr. Karber served for over 20 years as Vice President of Administration and Finance at CSU Dominguez Hills. He presently serves as President of the Southern California Chapter of Germans from Russia, a genealogical society serving the interests of people whose German ancestors migrated to Russia in the late 1700's and subsequently immigrated to North and South America. Dr. Karber has successfully identified his family origins to 1606 and, along with his wife, has traveled extensively visiting Russian, Ukrainian, and Prussian villages of their ancestors.

His presentation will describe the path he followed in identifying his "Germans from Russia" ancestry, including information about the economic/political climate that motivated Germans to migrate to Russia and why, 100 years later, they began leaving Russia. He will include pictures of ancestral villages taken during recent visits to Russia, Ukraine, and Poland.

**SPEAKER:  
HAL HORROCKS**

Hal Horrocks is a native of Long Beach and a long-time resident of Orange County California. He is a professional genealogist, teacher and lecturer and has been doing family research for 15 years. He is a member of several professional genealogical associations and is the current president of the Orange County California Genealogical Society, headquartered at the Huntington Beach Central Library. Hal owns his own small manufacturing company located in Garden Grove and is a graduate of CSULB. The subjects of his lectures range from why people get involved in genealogy to conducting research in early England.

In this talk, Hal will discuss how to find Naturalization Records, Passport Applications and Tax Records and what you can discover about your ancestors from these records.

**REFRESHMENTS**

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

Thanks to our August hosts:

Terry HAMILTON                      Frances LEIBZEIT  
Gerald LUNDERVILLE              Maxine PITTS

Our September hosts will be:

Chris ELIA                              Kathy LATHAM  
Richard TROTTER                      Cherie VELA

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

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

**AUGUST MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Members: 31                              Guests: 0

**NEW MEMBER**

Robbie CHABIRA                      Individual    9/13

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

July Income:	\$ 50.15
July Expenses:	\$ 579.48
F&M Bank balance:	\$ 2,940.38
Operations balance:	-\$ 702.64
Special Projects balance:	\$ 3,643.02
U.S. Bank Balance	\$26,487.56

**Submissions for the  
October Newsletter  
are due by September 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.*



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## MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES by Kerry Bartels

Following are the facts presented by our August speaker, Kerry Bartels, who is an Archives Specialist at the National Archives branch at Riverside. If you weren't able to attend the meeting, though, you missed all the stories he told to illustrate various facets of research into military service records.

He said that *The Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, prepared by the National Archives and Records Service, is the best single source of information about military service records in the National Archives.

You can also find online at the National Archives website a book entitled *Military Service Records at the National Archives*.

Success in finding documentation on your ancestor's military service depends on knowing the answers to four questions:

1. Was the ancestor a volunteer, was he drafted, or did he enlist?
2. In which branch of the service did he serve?
3. Was the ancestor an officer or an enlisted man?
4. In what time period, or in what war, did he serve?

### **Before World War I**

The most commonly used record series for this time period are compiled military service records, pension application files, and bounty land claims.

Information on the military service records was abstracted from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers, orders, hospital records, court-martial proceedings, prisoner records, etc. They were only prepared for volunteers, not members of the regular army.

Pension application files were created if the veteran, or his widow or dependents, filed for a pension based on his service between 1775 and 1916. They may contain discharge papers, affidavits, depositions of witnesses, vital

records, correspondence, questionnaires, payment information, and more.

The content in bounty land warrant application files is similar to that in pension files, but deal with payment in land rather than money. They apply to service between 1775 and 1855. Payment in bounty land was more common than pensions before the Civil War.

Keep in mind that records for officers are treated differently than for enlisted men. The Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914, contains summary information about a soldier's enlistment. Records also exist for members of the Navy, Coast Guard and Marines.

### **World War I and After**

The National Personnel Records Center, located in St. Louis, Missouri, contains military service records for service in WWI to the present time. Order forms, procedures, holdings information, and contact information may be found at [www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel).

Many databases are available on the National Archives website, including WWII Army Enlistment\_Records, WWII Prisoners of War, Personnel Who Died as a Result of Hostilities During the Korean War, and Records of Korean War Dead and Wounded Army Casualties.

Also from this time period, the National Archives holds Headstone Applications, Burial Case Files, and Interment Control Forms.

One thing Mr. Bartels stressed was that, if you have a question about military service records in the National Archives, just e-mail it to: [riverside.archives@nara.gov](mailto:riverside.archives@nara.gov). As a genealogist himself, he is happy to try to help fellow genealogists. Your editor can attest to that fact, as he went out of his way to help me when I was looking for a bounty land application relating to an ancestor who served in the War of 1812.



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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Our speaker at the August meeting, Kerry Bartels, was terrific. He gave us great information about what the National Archives contains relating to the military history of the United States and how to obtain it. He also conveyed his “love” of genealogy by the moving stories he told of his own searches for ancestors. My ancestors on my father’s side are all Colonial Americans (people who were living in the confines of what is now the United States of America before the Revolutionary War). Consequently, my genealogy research touches most of the wars starting with the Revolutionary War and ending with an uncle’s death in World War II.

I have used some of the databases he referred to and have the pension papers of both of my great-great-grandfathers from the Civil War and other miscellaneous material, but he gave me many ideas of new places to look to further my background knowledge of my family. His talk reminded me of a discovery I made somewhat recently that I alluded to briefly in my March president’s column when I was talking about my genealogy addiction.

In looking for something else I happened to see on Ancestry.com that there was now a database titled “U.S. Marine Corps Muster Rolls, 1798-1940.” How could I not attempt to look up my grandfather’s brother who was killed in action at age 20 during WWI? (His picture always hung in my grandfathers’ home.) In other papers my grandfather had written that he had no knowledge of how he was killed and whether he was wounded and died later or killed immediately. Knowing the pertinent information, including his unit and date of death, I went right to the muster roll for that day. It read, “At about 1 pm killed in action against the enemy by a fragment of high explosives at Lucy, France.” That is knowledge I know now that was unknown to our family before I read it. There were no other listings on that Muster Roll that day for a death or wounding. Kelly Bartels was correct when he said, “This is information we as

family members and genealogists want to know.”

*J.J.*

**NOMINATING REPORT**

The Nominating Committee is feeling very disappointed at the lack of interest and willingness of the members to contribute their time and talent to keep *Questing Heirs* running at the same high level we have managed to maintain over the years. We had only one signature on the sign-up sheet that was passed around at the August meeting, and no one stayed after the meeting to inquire whether there was some way they could be of help.

We will ask again for volunteers at the September meeting. **THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPING THE SOCIETY ALIVE AND STRONG.**

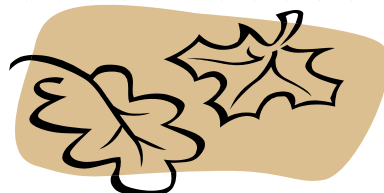
We particularly need a Newsletter Editor. Is there any member who has the skills for this position or who would be willing to learn and develop their skills in that direction? If no one is found, it will mean sharply curtailing the newsletter or doing away with it entirely.

The Nominating Committee

**EDITOR’S UPDATE**

My current plans are to move to Camarillo in early December. This time schedule will allow me to continue producing the issues of the *Questing Heirs* newsletters for the rest of this year. In order to facilitate a smooth transition between editors, it would be helpful for someone to volunteer to take over this position soon, rather than waiting until the last minute.

*Linda Artuso*





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## PLANNING A VISIT [TO AN ARCHIVE]

Andrew Janes

### Step 1: Preliminary research

Doing some research in advance is always worthwhile. It can help you work out what records will be useful to you, save you from wasting time during your visit, or even stop you from making an unnecessary journey.

Doing some initial research online

As I mentioned in a previous blog post, the best place to start your research is usually online. Many archives now have a catalogue and other useful information on their websites, and you might even find that the records you want to see have been digitized.

Depending on your topic, you could also find it useful to look at some books or other printed sources too. If you're going to a library to look for books, don't forget to check whether the library subscribes to any useful electronic reference sources as well.

Another useful form of preliminary research can be to contact the archives that you intend to visit. Do take a quick look at the institution's website before writing an email or picking up the phone, though. You might find that your question has already been answered there.

### Step 2: Preparing for your visit

It's worth checking the following points when planning your visit. They may seem obvious, but it's surprising how many people forget them.

- Where is the archives located and how will you travel there?
- What are the opening days and times?
- Do you need to book in advance? (This varies from place to place.)
- Do you need to bring ID with you? (Very often, you'll need two separate proofs of identity and address.)

Most archives have all of this information on their websites but for some small archives you may need to contact staff to ask.

Although nearly all archives allow you to use a laptop or tablet computer, it's a good idea to bring a notebook and pencil with you too. (It must be a pencil; you won't be allowed to use a pen.) If you've made some notes during your preliminary research, don't forget to bring those as well.

It's also worth checking whether you're allowed to bring a camera with you. Many archives will allow you to use your own camera to take photos of records, sometimes for a small fee. Others don't allow cameras, usually because there are significant copyright or other restrictions on making copies of the records that they hold.

### Step 3: When you arrive

Archives vary a great deal in size and in how they operate so it isn't always easy to know what to expect on your first visit, but the following points apply to most archives.

Original records are nearly always kept in secure storage, not on shelves that you can browse through yourself. A member of staff will bring the records that you want to see to a reading room for you to look at them. The system for ordering records and how long it takes to fetch them are different in each archives, depending on its size and resources, and on how far away the reading room is from the storage areas.

Sometimes you will already have identified exactly what records you want to see during step 1. Other times it can be less straightforward, and you might need to spend some time looking at paper catalogues or indexes before you're sure what records you need.

Handling the records carefully

All archives have strict rules in place to protect the security and wellbeing of the records in their care, and to provide a comfortable research environment for you and for other visitors. You won't be allowed to

*Continued on page 71*



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### KNOW YOUR RECORDS

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration has a number of instructional videos at its website, such as *Genealogy Introduction—Military Research at the National Archives: Volunteer Service*, or *Genealogy Introduction—Immigration Records at the National Archives, Passport Applications, 1795-1925*, and *Let No Man Put Asunder: Freedmen’s Bureau Marriage Records*.

There is also a tutorial on “Beginning Your Genealogical Research at the National Archives and Records Administration.”

To learn more about the Know Your Records program, go to <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records>.

*From Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter of 19 Aug 2012, available at <http://www.eogn.com>. Copyright by Richard W. Eastman.*

### POWER SEARCHING WITH GOOGLE

If you’d like to find out how to become a better searcher with Google, Daniel M. Russell (Senior Research Scientist with Google) has prepared a course to teach you how.

It consists of the following lessons:

- Class 1—Introduction
- Class 2—Interpreting results
- Class 3—Advanced techniques
- Class 4—Find facts faster
- Class 5—Checking your facts
- Class 6—Putting it all together

The classes are free and take about 50 minutes each. They are available as a video or in text. You can find them at:

<http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/course>.

### THE IGI AT FamilySearch

In the older version of FamilySearch, you could search the International Genealogical Index (IGI) separately if you wanted to. In the newer version, although facts from the IGI were in the database, you couldn’t identify

which were from the IGI. Now a new update has changed that.

On the FamilySearch home page, click “All Record Collections.” In the search box that appears on the next screen, type IGI and then click on the Title “International Genealogical Index (IGI).” You then have the choice of searching the categories “Community Indexed IGI” or “Community Contributed IGI.” Then enter your search terms, and the results will provide your source information.

### LONDON GUIDE

A new guide to tracing your London ancestors has been published online at the FamilySearch Research Wiki. It features articles on each of London’s 109 historic parishes with descriptions of records available at these major websites: Ancestry.co.uk, British History Online, BritishOrigins.com, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.co.uk, The Genealogist.co.uk, Google Books, Internet Archive, London Lives, and ParishRegister.com.

Guides are now underway for Essex, Kent, Middlesex, and Surrey.

When you’re looking for information on any location, be sure to check the FamilySearch Wiki to see whether it provides information on the locality of your interest.

### GENEALOGY BOOK LINKS

<http://genealogybooklinks.com>

In case you missed JJ’s handout at the August meeting, this is a great new site created by Mollie Lynch to provide links to freely available digital books online relative to American biographies, genealogies and history. The current focus is on surnames, directories, vital records, and identifying smaller sites with local area-specific books.

The site contains links from more than 35 sources. To find a book, you can scroll through the list of those available or search the site for a particular surname or location of interest. When you find a book you want to see, click on its link and you will be taken to the book where it is stored on another website.



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### Geno 2.0

In April 2005 the National Geographic Society announced the Genographic project. Its goal was to sell 100,000 kits over 5 years to help fund the indigenous part of the project, which was to collect samples from indigenous peoples around the world to better understand population migration.

In fact, the 100,000 kits were sold in 8 months, and between 40,000 and 50,000 kits are sold per year today. The program is now in its 7th year and has collected over 75,000 samples from indigenous people, funded by 750,000 kits sold to the public in 130 countries.

The original project only tested 12 markers for men and the HVR1 region for women. Those results don't tell you much. Because of the advances in DNA technology and understanding over the past seven years, National Geographic has now announced a new chip, Geno 2.0.

To find out more about the project, take a look at the new National Geographic webpage at [www.genographic.com](http://www.genographic.com).

### GENETIC GENEALOGY

For those of you who are wondering what Genetic Genealogy is all about and whether you should get a DNA test, CeCe Moore has written a good overview of the basics for beginners. You can find it at <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/2012/08/getting-started-in-dna-testing-for.html>.

There are four parts to the series, which is being hosted on Geni.com:

- Part One, Intro and Y-DNA
- Part Two, mtDNA
- Part Three, autosomal DNA (23andMe, Family Finder, AncestryDNA)
- Part Four, ancestral origin tests and summary

### SCOTTISH CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

"Columba House in Edinburgh, which houses the archives, has closed its doors indefinitely because there is no-one left to look after the

service." The Curator, Andrew Nicholl, is absent on long-term sick leave, and his assistant has submitted her resignation.

The archives contain more than a million documents dating back 800 years, which were centralized in 1958. Now they are to be dispersed again—the pre-1878 documents to Aberdeen University and those post-1878 to eight separate dioceses.

*Written by Helen McArdie and Victoria Weldon, this article appeared on the Herald Scotland website (<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news>) of 1 July 2012.*

### OGS NEWS

Ohio Genealogical Society members will be able to receive the Ohio Genealogical News and/or the Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly digitally on the OGS website (<http://www.ogs.org>) starting in 2013. Also, Ohio Records and Pioneer Families and Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal, which formerly required a subscription, will be merged into the OGS Quarterly and available at the website.

*From an Ohio Genealogical Society news release of 27 Apr 2012.*

*Continued from page 69...*

take food and drink, bags, pens, erasers or sharp objects into the reading room, and you should work quietly to avoid disturbing other people.

It's very important to handle original records carefully. You don't normally need to wear gloves but it is often necessary to use special blocks or weights to support the records while you're reading them.

Throughout your visit, a member of staff will never be far away. Staff can't do your research for you, but they can give you some advice about the records, show you how to place orders or explain the reading room rules. If you're not sure what to do, please ask!

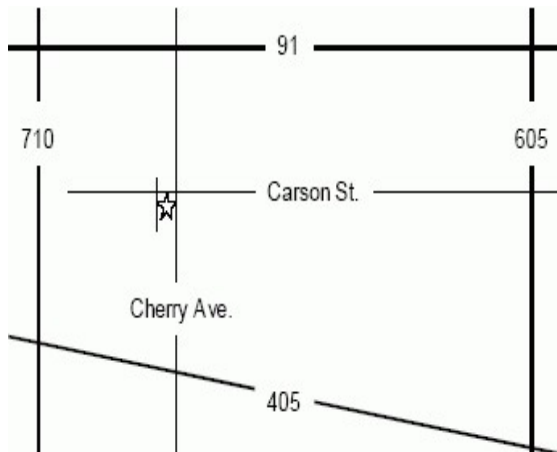
*This article appeared on the National Archives UK blog on 2 Jul 2012. It may be accessed at <http://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/blog/planning-a-visit>.*



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Saturday, September 15, 1:00 p.m. Whittier Area Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Masonic Lodge, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier. Program: "Using DNA to Solve Genealogical Dilemmas," by Dr. Douglas Daniels.

Sunday, September 16, 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 66.



Wednesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California monthly meeting at the Yorba Linda Community Center, Imperial Hwy. & Casa Loma, Yorba Linda. Speaker: Barbara Renick, her topic not available yet.

Note that the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society has a new and improved website at: [conejovalleygenealogicalsociety.org](http://conejovalleygenealogicalsociety.org)

The changes in the human condition are uncertain and frequent. Many, on whom fortune has bestowed her favours, may trace their family to a more unprosperous station; and many who are now in obscurity, may look back upon the affluence and exalted rank of their ancestors.

Alexander Hamilton, "The Farmer Refuted"

# Upcoming Events

South Orange County California Gen. Soc.  
Family History Seminar  
Saturday, October 20, 2012  
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
City Hall, Saddleback Room  
100 Civic Center Drive, Mission Viejo  
(corner of La Paz & Marguerite)

This seminar, titled "Breathing Life Back Into Your Ancestors," features Loretto Dennis (Lou) Szucs, lecturer and Community Relations VP for Ancestry.com. Her topics will be:

- What's New at Ancestry.com
- Finding Biographical Details
- Finding Naturalizations, Passenger Lists, and Immigrant Origins
- A Dozen Ways to Jumpstart Your Family History Project

Pre-registration (by Oct 17) is \$20 and lunch for \$9. Information and registration form are available by calling (949) 492-9408 or at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casocggs>.

\*FHC stands for Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. FHCs are open and 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.