



**QUESTING HEIRS**  
**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
*Newsletter*  
Volume 45 † Number 10 † October 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, OCTOBER 21, 2012**

**1:15 Class INTERMEDIATE: Reverse Genealogy: Finding the Living, by Megan Smolenyak**

**2:00 Business**

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

**2:45 General Meeting SPEAKER: Joan Rambo  
Online Queries**

**4:00 Class BEGINNING: Led by Linda Ivers**

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## OCTOBER MEETING

### INTERMEDIATE CLASS

**Megan Smolenyak**

We're trying something new this month—listening to a lecture via CD. The lecture will include:

1. Why Reverse Genealogy?
2. Two basic approaches
3. Techniques to help them find you
4. Strategy guidelines
5. Best reverse Genealogy resources

Megan Smolenyak is a nationally known writer, speaker and TV guest on genealogical subjects. She has appeared on *Good Morning America*, the *Today Show*, CNN, NPR and BBC. She is the author of six books, a *Huffington Post* contributor, a cold case researcher for the Army, NCIS and the FBI, and former Chief Family Historian and spokesperson for Ancestry.com.

### MAIN PRESENTATION

#### Online Queries

Online Queries are an important part of your genealogy research. What have you missed by not using them? Have you missed the distant relative who has old family photos or the handed down family Bible? How about the person who knows the counties for the states which are challenging you? Find out about little tricks for your queries to get the most out of them. Formatted correctly they can be a gold mine.

**SPEAKER:  
JOAN RAMBO**

Joan Rambo is past president of the Orange County California Genealogical Society (OCCGS), a member of the Southern California Association of Professional Genealogists (SCAPG) and an assistant for the OCCGS package trips to Salt Lake City each Spring. Joan teaches, speaks to groups, including philanthropic ones, and staffs the Huntington Beach Library with volunteers to help library patrons. Currently she is included in a group working on the next OCCGS

### REFRESHMENTS

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

Thanks to our September hosts:

Chris ELIA                                      Kathy LATHAM  
Richard TROTTER                              Cherie VELA

Our October hosts will be:

Jeanette JONES                                      Penny NUGENT  
Linda RYAN                                      Connie WILLIAMS

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Members: 37                                      Guests: 4

#### NEW MEMBERS

David KARBER	Individual	9/13
P. J. de MICHELE	Individual	9/13
Gary SHELTON	Individual	9/13

### FINANCIAL REPORT

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

August Income:	\$ 128.55
August Expenses:	\$ 240.33
F&M Bank Balance:	\$ 2,828.60
Operations Balance:	-\$ 814.42
Special Projects Balance:	\$ 3,643.02
U.S. Bank Balance	\$26,489.98

*Submissions for the  
November Newsletter  
are due by October 28.*

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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.*

### GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Guest speaker, David Karber, related how he was able to trace his German ancestors who migrated to Russia before coming to the United States.

Because of upheavals in Germany, when the Russian Empress, Catherine the Great, invited German farmers to come and develop farmland in her country, many accepted the invitation. She offered them special privileges and funds to establish farms and German Villages there. By 1767, 105 villages had been established; but by the late 1800s, the government reneged on Catherine's promises. This caused many of those of German descent to emigrate to North and South America.

David's mother didn't want to talk about her ancestors because times had been so hard that she didn't want to remember it. So, he found information:

- By joining a genealogical society,
- By searching the Internet,
- By attending national conventions,
- Through GRANDMA (General Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry), and
- By reading books to learn about conditions that caused the mass exoduses.

By these means he has been able to trace his maternal ancestors to 1606 in Nieder Seemen, Germany, and his paternal ancestors to the early 1800s in South Prussia. His mother's father settled in a village on the Volga; then in the 1870s, the family moved to Kansas and later to Oklahoma.

David and his wife have visited many of their ancestral villages. Few people of German descent live in them now, but many buildings remain. He says, "Visitations to my ancestral villages in Russia and Poland (formerly Prussia) provided an important visual connection to the geographical setting of my ancestors. It also provided an opportunity for me to imagine what life was like for my ancestors. I have developed a great appreciation for the struggles and determination that my ancestors had to ultimately find a better life in America."

### BRITISH RESEARCH— BEYOND THE CENSUS

This topic was a follow-up to Mr. Horrocks' last presentation (Nov 2011) titled "British Research—Parish Registers and Census."

He pointed out that all a census can tell you about your ancestors is their names, where they lived, relationships in the family, and occupations. It doesn't give you any birth, marriage or death dates, or tell you how they lived, who they liked or didn't like, who they trusted or didn't trust, or what living relatives they had.

Many types of records exist to fill in these details: birth, marriage and death certificates, wills and probate records, town records, church records, poor law records, court records, burgess rolls, poll books, directories, maps, newspapers and magazines.

You may find some of these records on the Internet, some at the British National Archives, some in Local Archives, some at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City (or your local FHC), and some in local Family History Societies in the UK.

A very useful tool for deciding what types of records are available and where you can find them is the FamilySearch Wiki. Mr. Horrocks showed many samples of pages from this Wiki to illustrate his point. He then went into more detail about the various sources listed in the third paragraph above.

Following are some useful websites he listed.

<https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/England>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk>

<http://www.freebmd.org.uk>

<https://www.familysearch.org>

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk>

(a pay site)

<http://www.genesreunited.co.uk>

(a social networking site)

<http://www.mlfs.org.uk/toolbar/toolbar.php>

(The M&LFHS tool bar is free and has links to over 550 research sites.)



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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

I read several newsletters about genealogy from various sources. One of my favorites is published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. I have very few New England ancestors, but this newsletter includes information about many other geographic areas also. This week I was rather startled to see a feature article about the Long Beach, CA Public Library. It turned out to be an excellent article that “turned” my search addiction on full force.

I decided that the information given, including four different topics, would be the subject of this message. That meant I had to review via my computer the information given in the article. The article instructed to go to the main website of the library, [www.lbpl.org](http://www.lbpl.org), and click on the box labeled LBPL Digital Archive (this link is very prominent on this page). At the Digital Archive page access is offered to three different collections: Long Beach City Directories, Long Beach High School Yearbooks, and Long Beach Photos. Starting with the Long Beach City Directories, I went to the 1964 Directory and found myself and husband in two different places: alphabetically and also alphabetically by address, which included a telephone number. True to my addiction--I did check out a couple of other names. Then I moved on to the Long Beach High School Yearbooks. My yearbook was not there (this is not a complete collection), but I found my husband in the Poly High Yearbook.

The third collection under this Digital Archive Category, Long Beach Photos, was very interesting. This collection, containing nearly 5,000 images, covers more than 100 years of the history of Long Beach. There is a search box, or one can browse through the collection. Immediately in the “A” category was an excellent picture of former Questing Heirs member and board member, Aaron Day. There were some very interesting photos of the city, too (many aerial).

The Long Beach History Index is located at a very different place on the library website and is found by putting “Long Beach History

Index” in the search box on the main page. This database is an alphabetical index to published Long Beach newspaper articles going back many years. When you put in a search subject, you get a very brief citation/recap of what the article is about, the name and date of the newspaper and where the article can be found in the newspaper. Then you have to go to the main library and read the microfilm for that newspaper. I put in “Questing Heirs” and there were several citations about QH (one of which included Aaron Day again). So much to search—so little time.

*J.J.*

**DUES ARE DUE**

Just a reminder that your Questing Heirs dues are due in September of each year. If you haven’t paid yours yet, you can mail a check to our post office box (P.O. Box 15102, Long Beach, CA 90815-0102) or give it to our Membership Chairman, Terry Hamilton, at the October meeting. Thanks!

**RE-REGISTER AT RALPHS**

Another reminder..also in September of each year you have to re-register to continue your participation in the Ralphs Community Contribution program by which Questing Heirs receives a percentage of the cost of your purchases at any of their stores. The pennies they pay on each purchase add up, as Ralphs contributed about \$250 to Questing Heirs last year!

Just go to <http://www.ralphs.com>, click on the Services tab and then on Community Contribution. Our number is 84877.

**ROSTER UPDATE**

Our Membership Chairman in planning to update the society’s roster soon. If you have moved or changed your phone number or your e-mail address since the last one, please let Terry Hamilton know.

**NOMINATIONS FOR 2013-2014**

The Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominees at our October meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor, with the nominee’s prior consent.



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**WHO WILL CONTROL YOUR ‘DIGITAL ESTATE’ AFTER YOU ARE GONE?**  
by Dick Eastman

You probably enjoy posting information on Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, LinkedIn, and other social networking sites. You may have posted your genealogy online or even have created your own web site. You possibly have posted photos on Flickr, Snapfish, Shutterfly, Photobucket, or other photo sharing web sites. Here’s a question for you to consider: what happens to your information on those sites after your death?

Will your information disappear from the online world shortly after you also disappear? Or will your last pictures and text remain online forever, leaving a haunting message behind? You might not want to leave a Facebook page online forever that says, “Having a great time here in Cancun. I wish I could stay here forever!”

Five states—Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island—have passed laws that grant a designated personal representative control over the deceased person’s “digital assets.” Other states are considering similar legislation. There’s one hitch: either the deceased must have designated the personal representative in writing prior to death or else the courts will designate one many months or perhaps even years after the death. Courts also typically will only designate the “digital assets executor” if requested to do so. Your family member might not recognize the importance of a final update to your web pages.

Yet another problem is posed by the fact that contracts with service providers most often are automatically terminated (by the terms of service) as soon as the customer ceases to exist. That means there is no right for the heirs to access the deceased person’s data.

Some experts suggest creating a digital estate plan, similar to plans you might make for your financial estate. At the minimum, you need to provide a list of user accounts and passwords to family members, somewhat like having an executor of your estate. If nothing else, family

members can post a notice of your demise to your online friends. They also can continue to pay hosting fees, if any, to keep your data online.

One company, SecureSafe, provides a service that will transfer your files and passwords to your associates, friends and relatives that you designate, should something happen to you. You can determine exactly who should receive your data. I find it interesting that SecureSafe is based in Switzerland, a country that knows something about security, secrecy, and financial affairs. Operation is conducted in accordance with Swiss laws.

For each file and password stored in your SecureSafe account, you can assign a beneficiary who will have access to this data in an emergency situation or upon your death. You do not need a lawyer, and the data inheritance is simple and easy to setup. You do, however, have to designate one or more “Authorized Activators” in advance. These are persons you trust, who are authorized to activate the process; they are those persons to whom you have handed an activation code. These Authorized Activators will then activate the data inheritance on your SecureSafe account according to your wishes. In most cases, you will instruct them to activate the data inheritance only in case of your death or total disability.

SecureSafe will store passwords and any files that you wish to pass on. You could even save a “digital last will and testament” on the site as well as an electronic copy of your standard will and any other documents you want to make sure become available to your associates, friends, and relatives after your demise...

*Dick Eastman posted this article on his blog 10 Sep 2012 at <http://www.eogn.com>. Copyright by Richard W. Eastman.*

[For more info on SecureSafe, see <http://www.securesafe.com/en/features/inheritance.html>.]



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## WAYS TO CELEBRATE FAMILY HISTORY MONTH!

by George G. Morgan

We're moving into autumn again, a fabulous time of year. The oppressive heat and humidity of summer has begun to ease up. The days are shortening, the evenings are getting cooler, and, in many places in North America, the fall foliage colors can be glimpsed. Autumn also brings genealogists in the United States the opportunity to celebrate October as Family History Month.

Even if you live outside the United States, why not join the celebration. "What can I do to celebrate Family History Month?" Well, in this week's "Along Those Lines...", let me offer you a few ways you can enjoy and celebrate your family history and share it with other members of your family.

### Prepare an Old Family Recipe

You probably have a favorite family recipe that you loved when you were growing up. Even if you don't have your mother's or grandmother's handwritten recipe book or card file, you probably remember many of the ingredients you watched being lovingly added to the concoction. Why not visit your library or local bookstore, to browse the cookbooks to find a comparable recipe with all (or most) of the ingredients you remember?

You also can search the thousands of recipe websites on the Internet to locate a terrific recipe. If the recipes you find are missing the "secret ingredient," try a search for the recipe title and the name of that ingredient. Maybe someone else was in on the secret!

Once you have the recipe, why not prepare the recipe for your family and friends. Give them a wonderful memory of a delicious family recipe. Oh, and by the way, why not create recipe cards—as decorative as you like with a drawing, a piece of clipart, or a photograph—and share your recipe with your family for future generations.

### Review, Label, and Share Photos

You've put it off far too long, you know. Family History Month is a great time to sit

down with other family members to share stories. Photographs evoke memories of time, place, and experience. Why not get a group together, pass the pictures, share the stories and, while you're at it, label these treasures at long last?

Make sure you're using acid-free storage albums or boxes and labeling the paper photos with archival-safe pencils or markers.

Don't forget the digital photos you have. Devise a labeling system or index with file name and description. Burn the pictures (and an index) to a CD or purchase one of several photo-album software programs. Don't you wish your parents and other family members had labeled all those photos?

### Start Journaling

What enduring legacy do you want to leave to your descendants? What do you want them to know of your life and your thoughts? Bound journals with blank or lined pages are available at bookstores, office supply stores, and from retailers on the Internet. Why not buy one and make a commitment to fill at least one page with your thoughts. Your journal will be a prompt to you in years to come to "remember" what you've done, experienced, and felt today, and it will be a beacon of insight to your descendants and their families.

### Prepare for Your Winter Research

I've been watching the squirrels outside my office window the last few weeks. They are scampering about and they seem to be getting ready for winter. I recently shopped at my nearby office supply and discount stores and found that they still have some of their back-to-school merchandise I can use with my genealogy. Overstocks in binders and file folders, plastic coated paper clips, and some other items were marked down in price.

Don't overlook a new desk, chair, file cabinet, or new lighting fixtures for your work area. Watch the newspaper ads for office supply and

*Continued on page 79*



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### BEST GENEALOGY WEBSITES

*Family Tree Magazine* has put out its annual list of the 101 Best Websites for Genealogy in a number of categories. It suggests the best for Online Genealogy Tools are:

- \* Cindy’s List
- \* Diigo—to highlight, add sticky notes, sort and share
- \* Evernote—a digital scrapbook for clipping and saving finds online; also notes, photos and voice recordings
- \* Google—besides searching, it has Books, Maps, Earth, Translate, News, etc.
- \* Live Roots—a metasearch site
- \* Mocavo—the search engine just for genealogy
- \* One-Step Web Pages—for the 1940 census, Ellis Island, Castle Garden, etc.
- \* WorldCat—locating books for you

### PUBLIC LAND BOOKLET

“In 1962, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management celebrated the 150th anniversary of the creation of the first organized system of public land management. To commemorate this milestone, it put together a tremendously helpful (at least to me) publication titled *Historical Highlights of Public Land Management*.”

“This 104-page annotated timeline has information on almost every piece of significant legislation affecting U.S. public lands...plus fascinating historical details about how the land sales were handled at various times.”

“Many of the timeline entries go beyond simply identifying the main subject addressed by a piece of legislation. They often describe the historical context and the reasons why the legislation was enacted.”

A free digitized version of the booklet is available in various formats at <http://archive.org/details/historicalhighli00usbu>.

*The above information was provided by Kathy Nitsch on The Legal Genealogist blog of 31 May 2012.*

### GENEALOGY PIN MAP

<http://www.uencounter.me>

At this website you can put pins on a map to locate the places where your family members have been born, lived, worked, and died, as well as other milestones significant to your family. Being a social site, each time a pin is placed on a map, uencounter.me will present surrounding or nearby pins to the user, thus helping you possibly find relatives.

*The above information is from an announcement by uencounter.me on 5 Jun 2012 that were included in Dick Eastman’s blog dated that day.*

*Continued from page 78...*

home improvement stores. Don’t overlook thrift shops for items you can repaint or refinish! Your goal is to prepare for those deep winter days when you can become immersed in your family research.

### Host a Family Cookout

While it seems I must have food on the brain today, I will share with you the joy I had as a kid of a family barbecue on a crisp autumn day. Hamburgers, hot dogs, steaks, chicken, shrimp, sausage, roasted ears of corn, potatoes, and other vegetables are all tasty treats that can be prepared on the barbecue grill. Why not toast marshmallows over the hot coals as well? I have a special memory of roasting marshmallows, dipping them in chocolate syrup, and rolling them in chopped pecans. As a diabetic, I can’t consider that treat for myself anymore but, boy, wouldn’t the kids (and adults) in your family love this delicacy? Yummmmmmm!

### Celebrate!

If you’re like me, you savor every opportunity to search for more family information. Let this October be a true Family History Month for you and CELEBRATE!

Happy Hunting!  
George

*This article by George Morgan was published on 10/8/2004 by MyFamily.com. Copyright 2004, all rights reserved.*

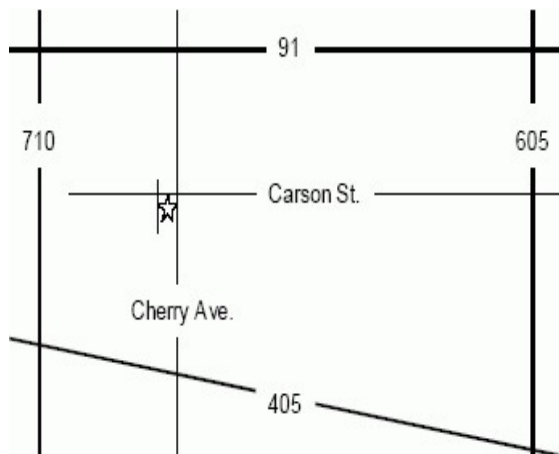


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Sunday, October 7, 2:00 p.m. Immigrant Genealogical Society monthly meeting at 1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank. Program: “An Introduction to the 1940 U.S. Census,” by Jean Wilcox Hibben.

Saturday, October 13, Starting at 11:00 a.m. Orange County, California, Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Huntington Beach Central Library, 7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach. Main speaker (Rooms C&D): Nancy Huebotter on “Researching Cemetery and Mortuary Records.”

Sunday, October 21 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 74.



Sunday, October 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: “Genealogy Resources in Special Collections: Civil War, Scotland, and Beyond,” by Yolanda Blue.



# Upcoming Events

## HISTORICAL CEMETERY TOUR

Saturday, October 27

Sunnyside Cemetery

(1095 E. Willow)

Long Beach Memorial Cemetery

(1151 E. Willow, bet. Orange & California)

This will be the 17th annual tour put on by the Historical Society of Long Beach. Its members look for stories in obituaries, newspaper articles, and sometimes from family members of the deceased. Actors wear period costumes and represent real people buried in the cemeteries. You will hear about city founders, residents and pioneers whose lives contributed to the rich history of the city of Long Beach.

Tickets are sold the day of the tour only, from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the entrance (just inside the Sunnyside Cemetery main gateway on Willow). The tour takes about 2 hours, the last presentations beginning at 2:00 p.m. Park at Sunnyside Cemetery or south of Willow.

For ticket prices and more details, you can call the HSLB at (562) 424-2220 or check their website <<http://hslb.org>>.

\*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.